



# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

THURSDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2025



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA  
IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FOURTH SESSION - 15TH SITTING - THIRD MEETING

Thursday, 20 February 2025

*Parliament met at 1.59 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.*

PRAYERS

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

*The House was called to order.*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I welcome you to this afternoon's sitting.

Over the last few days, the country has lost two previous Inspectors General of Police, Mr Boniface Okoth Ogola, who served between 1981 and 1985, and Mr John Cossy Odomel, who served between 1992 and 1999. As a House, we shall pay tribute to them and send our condolences to the bereaved families and the people of Uganda, for losing such gallant men.

Additionally, in the spirit of *Ubuntu*, the Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Amason Jeffar Kingi, lost his father, Kingi. In our tradition and the spirit of brotherhood, we condole with the family of our colleague and pray for them to find comfort in this trying time. May we rise and observe a moment of silence?

*(The members observed a moment of silence.)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have been notified by the Government Chief Whip that the Minister of Defence and Veteran

Affairs intends to withdraw the Uganda People's Defence Forces (Amendment) Bill, 2024, pursuant to Rule 140 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament. Accordingly, I will invoke Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure to allow the minister to withdraw the Bill immediately after my communication. Thank you.

I also have – that is okay. Thank you. Yes, LOP.

2.04

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi):** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

In the past couple of days, we have been grappling with some challenges as Parliament. I am glad that we have taken a stand, as Parliament, to be what we truly are within the law; that is “A people-centred Parliament” speaking out for people whose rights are being violated, and there are some steps in that regard, we are waiting to see how they get quickened. What I am referring to is the situation of Dr Kiiza Besigye and other political prisoners belonging to the National Unity Platform (NUP) and others.

We were here and we pushed the Government to take action, especially after the ruling of the Supreme Court. Yesterday, we were in court. We thought that they were going to attain their freedom. The court said that in a few days, we shall hear from them. We are waiting. What we are insistent on is to see that these people get to attain their freedom.

Madam Speaker, as we are dealing with that situation, again there is another attendant issue. Kidnappings of citizens have resumed. As a political party, so far, seven of our members and leaders, whom we know about - because we hear several others have been kidnapped, and we are yet to connect with the families - have been kidnapped by goons. I am saying "Goons" because these are people who come in ordinary cars - as we call them "Drones" - in plain clothes, having guns, and they pick people from their cars or kidnap them from the road, some from their homes. These are unidentifiable people -

**THE SPEAKER:** Can we use the words "Unidentified people" instead of the word "Goons"? If they are goons, why would the Government look into issues of goons? Let us be polite enough for us to get a solution to this. Kidnap is not correct. Let us use a better word; a parliamentary word.

**MR SSENKYONYI:** Madam Speaker, the reason I have used that word is that it is just like if people attack you in your home -

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Leader of the Opposition, let us use parliamentary language.

**MR SSENKYONYI:** Let me call them "Unidentifiable bandits" because they are wielding guns - *(Interjections)* - yes, because somebody who comes in plain clothes and has a gun, but they have not identified themselves - *(Interjections)* - I will not use the word "goons", but I will use the word "bandits". This is because bandits are people who roam around with guns and you cannot identify them.

If you find a police officer with a gun, that is different. If you find an army officer with a gun, that is different. It could be a Criminal Investigations Department (CID) operative in plain clothes and they identify themselves as such; that is different. However, for somebody who is wielding a gun, I honestly do not know. Maybe the Government will help us understand.

**THE SPEAKER:** Can you remove the word "goons"?

**MR SSENKYONYI:** I have replaced the word "goons" with the words "Unidentifiable bandits", especially because they are wielding guns. If the Government comes and owns up that these are their police officers or security officers, I will come here and withdraw that word, and I will say, Government, since your people are the ones who kidnapped these fellows, where are they? That is the question I am putting to the Government.

Madam Speaker, on Sunday -

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Ssenyonyi, Leader of the Opposition, you are being generic that people are being kidnapped. Who are these people? Can you give us the names, for the Government to ably follow up; that it was Ssewungu kidnapped from this place, Anita kidnapped from here, that kind of thing?

**MR SSENKYONYI:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given that I am organised, I came very well prepared with the lists, and I am going to Table them. Number one is Rashid Kinobe - *(Hon. Enos Asiimwe rose)*

**THE SPEAKER:** There is clarification.

**MR SSENKYONYI:** No, I do not want the clarification. Honourable colleague, I have not accepted. Clarification is supposed to be allowed.

**THE SPEAKER:** I have allowed it.

**MR SSENKYONYI:** Let me finish - I have not tabled yet.

**THE SPEAKER:** I have allowed a clarification on the previous submission.

**MR SSENKYONYI:** Maybe clarify to the Speaker, but I have not allowed it.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, please sit.

**MR ENOS ASIIMWE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Based on what you have said, can the Leader of the Opposition tell us whether, when these people were kidnapped, their

families reported to the police because that is the standard procedure? Possibly then, the Government can take it on from there. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, this is what we should do: let the Leader of the Opposition finish submitting and lay the document on the Table - I do not know what the source of the document is, but after, I can ask him if those people have reported the matter to police.

**MR SSENKYONYI:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me table the names here with their pictures, by the way. And they are:

1. Kinobe Rashid was abducted from Nansana Wakiso;
2. Kiyimba Sharif from Mini Price;
3. Nyanzi Fred Sentamu from Wandegaya, who is the head of mobilisation, NUP;
4. Mercy Walukamba is the head of the Election Management Committee of NUP;
5. Alex Rovans Rwanyaga is a member of the Election Management Committee of NUP, was abducted from Mpigi;
6. Rahma Juma, a member of the NUP Election Management Committee was also abducted from Mpigi;
7. Kayabula Eddie, a member of the NUP Election Management Committee, abducted from Mpigi.

I am tabling their names and the pictures -

**THE SPEAKER:** Just clarification, which Nyanzi is that?

**MR SSENKYONYI:** Chairman Nyanzi.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay, that is our Chairman.

**MR SSENKYONYI:** Madam Speaker, a colleague has asked: has this matter been reported to the police? Yesterday, the families of these people -

**THE SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition - somebody is disturbing me here and asking whether I am a member of NUP. Chairman

Nyanzi was our chairman. He was the chairman of NRM for years in Kamwokya and that is why he got the name "chairman" and he is still a chairman.

**MR SSENKYONYI:** Yes, and people do change parties. I will not talk about the presiding officer. *(Laughter)* Let me proceed with the issue I was raising.

Madam Speaker, yesterday, the families of these people, together with our lawyers, went to police stations from all the areas where they were abducted from, here in Kampala and Mpigi. A group of our election management committee members went to bury the mother of one of them in Rakai. On their way back, they were kidnapped from Lungala in Mpigi. All those police stations nearby said they did not know what we were talking about.

Madam Speaker, today, the Uganda Police Force, on its verified social media account, has put out a statement saying, they are not the ones who arrested these people. Can the Government then account? If it is not the Government, then it is probably some rebel outfit within town. The Government needs to tell us whether it is no longer in charge.

Nevertheless, as far as we are concerned, Madam Speaker, of course, it is the Government because many people have been abducted in a similar fashion and they end up at the military court, wherever, in torture chambers and so forth.

Madam Speaker, as I wrap up, on Sunday, the Government was celebrating the Janani Luwum Day. The Prime Minister led government officials to Kitgum to celebrate an incredible man who fought against injustice in this country. The government officials kept talking about how Idi Amin's regime was abducting people and it was evil, but you people are doing the same thing. The law prescribes if you want to arrest somebody - how you get to do that.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable member -

**MR SSENKYONYI:** I do not know why the Government does not want to follow the law. We are not even saying that we are above the law.

**THE SPEAKER:** LOP, we have not confirmed who was abducted. I am going to issue an order; I need a report on the people whose names you have laid on the Table, by Tuesday. You cannot start saying, “the government has...” First of all, you said “goons.” Now you are saying “the Government”. We do not know who has arrested these people. Therefore, we will find out who has arrested these people, and if it is the Government, they will take responsibility.

**MR SSENKYONYI:** I thank you, Madam Speaker. The reason - and I just want to qualify why I am insistent on the fact that -

**THE SPEAKER:** I am saying you have brought your case. Leave it to us to investigate.

**MR SSENKYONYI:** Let me wrap up, Madam Speaker. I would like the Government to account for these people because many others have been kidnapped in similar fashion, including Members of this House by the way; on both the Opposition and NRM side. Therefore, the Government knows where these people are. Previously -

**THE SPEAKER:** Who was kidnapped from this House?

**MR SSENKYONYI:** Hon. Paul Akamba. He is an NRM Member of Parliament. He was granted bail by a High Court in this country, but within court precincts, he was arrested, kidnapped actually, by similar gun-wielding men in plain clothes; they took him in a drone. That is one of us and we were here asking the Government where our Member was.

**THE SPEAKER:** There is a point of order.

**MR SSENKYONYI:** It is okay.

**MR ENOS ASIIMWE:** Madam Speaker, I am not very sure whether the honourable Leader of the Opposition is in order to keep making one

allegation after another without any serious evidence against the Government. Even in your own statement that you are saying everything is unidentifiable; no one knows the goons and/or the bandits. Then, you are heaping everything on the Government. I do not think you are in order to keep insinuating - I am wondering whether the honourable member is in order.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, listen to the point of order. LOP, you started very well. It is a valid concern; people cannot be kidnapped just like that. In addition, we need to know who is kidnapping them. What you should ask the Government is: we want to know where these people are. One of the roles of the Government is to make sure they protect the people and the property of the citizens.

**MR SSENKYONYI:** Thank you for that guidance, Madam Speaker. I know Hon. Enos, who I am told is a former Resident District Commissioner, is ambitious to become a minister of state or something. When you eventually join the Government, I will ask you. This question was to the Government, where are these people? The Government needs to tell us.

Madam Speaker, the reason we become apoplectic over these issues is because people are kidnapped, they come back with their fingernails removed and so on. The Government needs to account for these people; where are they?

**THE SPEAKER:** LOP, the presiding officer you have is very understanding and understands quickly. Government, can I have an accountability report on those people by Tuesday?

2.08

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang):** Madam Speaker, I am not the Prime Minister.

**THE SPEAKER:** Today is Thursday, are we sitting tomorrow?

**MR PETER OGWANG:** Madam Speaker, I would like to say the following because I am also a member of this House. Irrespective of you saying that I am the minister in charge of sports, it is true I am, but I am also part of the Executive, unfortunately.

First, I think it is important we make the following -

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, can I finish with my point? Attorney-General, the list is there. We need accountability for those people. We need to know where those people are, who did the abduction, and if it is true, then you report to the House.

2.09

**THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Jackson Kafuuzi):** Madam Speaker -

**THE SPEAKER:** Can I have silence?

**MR KAFUUZI:** We will respond as you have requested. I, however, want to be on record that we are not comfortable with the language that my colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, is using. While it is the obligation of the Government to protect everyone, based on that obligation, we agree to account. Therefore, on Tuesday, we will come here and make a statement.

However, I want to reiterate my protest to the diction or the choice of words used by the Leader of the Opposition. We cannot ascertain things like abduction unless confirmed.

The right thing is that the Leader of the Opposition has presented a problem to us. We are going to investigate that problem and respond to Parliament on Tuesday.

Thank you, very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Kindly, give me a response on Tuesday, on the people that are alleged - you know, it reminds me of what "Ow'ekitibwa" once said: "*How to hug a porcupine*". You can get whatever you want, depending on how you behave. Yes, Hon. Ogwang, are you done? Okay, Hon. Derrick.

2.20

**MR DERRICK OGWANG (NRM, Gogonyo County, Pallisa):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. You all know that the late former Inspector General of Police (IGP) was from Pallisa District. The family contacted me that they are having difficulties in accessing the Minister for Internal Affairs to - (*Interjection*) - please, I am talking to - Madam Speaker, please, I am requesting for your intervention. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Derrick, the Leader of Government Business is in the House. If you wanted me, for heaven's sake, did you need to come to the House? You are the one person who gets me anywhere, anytime. Let us not cause alarm that the ministers are unreachable, no.

2.22

**THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja):** Madam Speaker, yesterday, I had an interaction with my brother Hon. Orone. I think he got this information today. I promise that the Government will come in and assist.

**THE SPEAKER:** Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I have just seen the note he wrote to me, it says, "*The government has accorded the former IGP Ogola an official burial but they are yet to find out what the Government is saying about Cossy.*"

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, I have remembered that the President, while chairing the Cabinet meeting on Monday - I was not well informed whether he was from Pallisa or elsewhere - he allowed the former IGP to receive an official burial with the honours of police. And when they talk about an official burial-

**THE SPEAKER:** There are two former IGPs who have died. You are talking about the one from Tororo -

**MS NABBANJA:** It is okay, honourable members -

**THE SPEAKER:** Members, can I have order?

**MS NABBANJA:** The fact is that I was not aware of the second one. Now that the second one has also died. *(Laughter)* Madam Speaker, I need your protection.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, please!

**MS NABBANJA:** The fact is that I was not aware of the second one who passed. Madam Speaker, our President is an understanding person, he will accord him an official burial.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable members, in the Public Gallery this afternoon we have a delegation of honourable councillors and the technical staff from Nyakyera Town Council, Ruhaama East County in Ntungamo. They are led by the Mayor, Mr Nyagua Kenneth. You are most welcome.

They are represented by Hon. Kamukama Benjamin and Hon. Kamateneti Josyline. Thank you for coming. They are here to observe the proceedings. Under which rule do you want to raise the procedural matter?

**MR SSEWUNGU:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am happy we have the Prime Minister here. On several occasions, I have requested the Government, through you, Madam Speaker, to bring a law here governing offering official burials to individuals in the country. That one is very serious. You have just said, "We have a debate here". You can see what has happened now.

One of the former IGPs was given an official burial but the Prime Minister, who is the Leader of Government Business, cannot make a decision before this House that the second former IGP who passed on should also have an official burial because she has to first seek permission from His Excellency, the President.

Why don't we have a law that clearly specifies who is supposed to get an official burial so that when such an issue happens, you just address it and we go on officially?

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable member, whether there is a law or not - by the way, we have a law. We only need an amendment to that law. Some of these things are discretionary to the President. When the President makes a discretion and says, "I want this kind of official burial", you will not say, "No".

MOTION FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE  
UGANDA PEOPLE'S DEFENCE FORCE  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, Hon. Atkins.

**MR ATKINS KATUSABE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am bringing you feedback from our fellow citizens, especially for your kindness and national leadership during the last sitting.

Madam Speaker, I, and so many others in this Chamber had the opportunity to be in court. Yesterday, as you might have followed, the judge said the health condition of Dr Besigye could not give him the ability to attend court.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Atkins Katusabe, I want to remind you of the constitutional provision on separation of powers. We did our part. The issue is before the court. We cannot discuss what is before the court. Let us respect the court, and the court will equally respect the executive and legislature.

**MR KATUSABE:** Madam Speaker, I ask that you kindly hear my procedural issue. This has nothing to do with court proceedings. It has everything to do with human life. Everything that we have on the Order Paper can wait, but not a human life. We heard what the personal doctor of Dr Besigye said - and the prison doctors tried to explain the condition and the urgency he needs. Therefore, everything that we have on the Order Paper, with due respect, can wait but not the life of Dr Besigye and everybody else.

My procedural issue is just simple: we are citizens and leaders by the grace of God. The reason we are here is that, as you rightly ruled, we represent those who do not have

the privilege and the opportunity to be here. Madam Speaker, we have become, and including myself -

**THE SPEAKER:** What is your procedural matter?

**MR KATUSABE:** My procedural issue, Madam Speaker, is while certainly we are barred from discussing court proceedings, I do not think human dignity or a human heart bars anybody in this House, including yourself, to appreciate the urgency. I want to call -

**THE SPEAKER:** Before you bring your procedural matter, Article 128 of the Constitution addresses the independence of the judiciary and it says: “In the exercise of judicial powers, the court shall be independent and shall not be subjected to the control or the direction of any person or authority”.

I will not sit in this House and start directing court on what to do. We did our part and spoke for the people out there. Everyone is aware of the doctor’s health, and if somebody cannot see it, then that is not Parliament’s fault.

**MR KATUSABE:** Madam Speaker, my procedural issue is, and I am so happy that you brought and cited the Constitution - I want to make my position very clear by citing the same Constitution. Article 143 prohibits anybody, including the courts, any judge on earth, underneath or above the earth to conduct any trial -

**THE SPEAKER:** You are saying Article 143?

**MR KATUSABE:** Yes, 143, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is on the qualification of judicial officer appointments. I am the custodian of these laws, and I will tell you what it is supposed to be. Next item.

**MR KATUSABE:** Madam Speaker -

MOTION FOR WITHDRAW OF THE  
UGANDA PEOPLE’S DEFENCE FORCES  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members do not seem to be more concerned about Dr Besigye than other people. Dr Besigye -

**MR KATUSABE:** Are we reading the same Constitution, Madam Speaker?

**THE SPEAKER:** It seems yours is –  
(Laughter)

**MR KATUSABE:** Article 143 -

**THE SPEAKER:** Let us first have this and then I will give you space. Hon. Atkins, I will give you space.

2.32

**THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Denis Obuga):** Madam Speaker, I move under Rule 140 of the Rules of Procedure, that a Bill entitled, the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (Amendment) Bill, 2024, be withdrawn.

**THE SPEAKER:** Is it seconded? Okay, it is seconded by the Leader of Government Business, Hon. Rukia, Hon David Bahati, by the minister for finance, Avuru, Hon. Ogwang, Hon. Alex, the Deputy Attorney General (DAG), Minister of Public Service, minister of Luweero, Hon. Kabanda, Hon. Omoding, Hon. Margaret, “Alebtong”, Hon. Komakech, and the chairman of science and technology, Hon. Muwuma, plus Hon. Chemaswet. Then, Hon. Betty Amongin, Hon. Achan, Hon. Lokii, the committee of defence chairperson, Hon. Esenu, and Hon. Sarah also seconded. Would you want to speak as to why you want to withdraw?

**MR OBUA:** Madam Speaker, the withdrawal of the Bill is primarily to enrich it and to ensure that we comply with the ruling of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uganda.

I beg to submit.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable members, you heard what was in the ruling



of the Supreme Court. The issue was about who heads the Court Martial, how they are appointed, who qualifies as a civilian or a military personnel, and whether one is allowed to appeal a decision made by the Court Martial. These are things which, I think, honourable Government Chief Whip - *(Laughter)* - we need to comply with what the court ruled. Do not tell me about Article 92 - honourable members; having listened to the minister's justification for the withdrawal of the Bill, I now put the question that the Uganda People's Defence Forces (Amendment) Bill, 2024, be withdrawn as proposed.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the UPDF (Amendment) Bill, 2024, stands withdrawn and as we wait for the new Bill, which he is proposing, they want to bring a comprehensive Bill on UPDF -

2.36

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi):** Madam Speaker, our rules do allow the withdrawal of a Bill, but I just want to caution the Government that in all that we are planning to do in the next couple of days, hopefully, it will be in tandem with the Constitution. Article 92 provides that you cannot pass a law to defeat a court ruling. I am hoping that the government is cognizant of that. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** You are now debating in anticipation.

**MR SSENYONYI:** No, I was just cautioning them. My duty is to keep them in check. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, if I read that ruling very well, those were orders to Parliament. Article 92 says, "*Parliament shall not pass any law to alter the decision or judgment of any court as between parties*". We are not siding with any party to the judgment. That is a redundant provision in this context.

Next item - *(Mr Katusabe rose)*- read it together with Article 91. Why don't you listen? Article 91(1) reads, "*Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the power of Parliament to make laws shall be exercised through Bills passed by Parliament and assented to by the President*". Whom do you want to make the laws? It is us here to make the laws and we shall pass the laws.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE  
UGANDA EXAMINATIONS BOARD  
GRADING SYSTEM UNDER THE NEW  
CURRICULUM

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me hear Hon. Atkins Katusabe; it seems he is burning.

**MR KATUSABE:** Madam Speaker, specifically, Article 23(1) prohibits -

**THE SPEAKER:** Presumption of innocence.

**MR KATUSABE:** Yes, Madam Speaker. It prohibits any continued detention without an ongoing trial. We can read it with Article 120, about transfers.

On Friday, 31 January 2025 - it was the Supreme Court of the land. The judgment, Madam Speaker, cannot be negotiated.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Atkins Katusabe, my very good friend, were you in the House the other day when we discussed that issue?

**MR KATUSABE:** Madam Speaker -

**THE SPEAKER:** I am asking: were you in the House when we discussed that issue?

**MR KATUSABE:** Madam Speaker, I was in the House.

**THE SPEAKER:** If you were in the House - we cannot - *(Mr Kafuuzi rose)* - yes?

**MR KAFUUZI:** Madam Speaker, you asked my friend, Hon. Atkins Katusabe, whether he was in the House the other day, and he said: "Yes." However, I believe and I am sure that he was not.

We can be vindicated by the electronic registration system. I am very sure that Hon. Atkins Katusabe was not here when we were discussing this matter, and he is trying to reopen the debate. So, I believe, he is not in order.

[Mr Katusabe: "Order, Madam Speaker."]-  
(Members rose\_-)

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, take your seats.

Honourable members, we made orders in this House, which orders have and are being followed. I am following the issue very keenly and the Leader of Government Business is equally following it up.

I do not want people to start thinking as though they are more bereaved than others. No, no! I came out myself, without any of you talking. Do you get it? (Mr Katusabe rose\_) I am saying: please, next item.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE  
UGANDA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
BOARD (UNEB) GRADING SYSTEM  
UNDER THE NEW CURRICULUM

**THE SPEAKER:** (Members rose\_) My rules still work. I will throw you out of the House. Hon. Basalirwa, sit.

2.44

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)**  
(Mr Peter Ogwang): Madam Speaker -

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, you will recall that on Wednesday, 12 February, Members raised concerns about the Uganda National Examination Board grading system under the new curriculum.

The presiding officer directed the Minister of Education and Sports to present a statement addressing the Members' concerns, the concerns of the public and the misinformation that is in the public. However, before the minister presents the statement, I wish to clarify the following:

The new UNEB grading system, under the competence-based curriculum, has ushered in the change in reporting, grading and certification of learners.

Two, there has been a lot of misinformation and disinformation regarding the category of results issued for Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE). The ministry will clarify on how they categorise these and the implication on the results – where somebody gets "Result One", it means a person has passed; if you get "Result Two", what happens next? The misinformation out there is that you go back to Senior One, which is not correct.

Honourable minister?

**MR OGWANG:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Honourable colleagues, you recall that in 2020, the Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Education and Sports, rolled out the competence-based curriculum for the lower secondary school level. This presented a requirement for assessment reforms that introduced the new components of continuous assessment and project work, on top of the existing end-of-cycle examination.

Madam Speaker, the shift from the old system of grading to the new system was warranted by the changes in the curriculum requirements. The previous system was based on content assessment, while the new system is based on competence-based assessment (established standards).

The products of this curriculum are confident, can communicate better, have developed the skills to do research and projects in various areas, and can apply the required knowledge, skills and attitudes in real life situations, rather than just memorising information for examination. It also focuses on measuring practical proficiency and the ability to solve problems, rather than simply recalling facts.

On 11 February 2024, the Ministry of Education and Sports released results for two sets of the 2024 Uganda Certificate of Education Examinations. These were:

- (a) The transitional examinations, and;
- (b) Examinations for the first cohort of the lower secondary school curriculum, which is competence-based.

Under this new curriculum, the reporting of achievement levels has changed from the stanine system (a method of scaling test scores on a nine-point standard scale) of 1–9 (Distinctions, Credits, Pass and Fail) used in the previous content-based curriculum to latter grades; A, B, C, D and E.

The achievement levels for each subject is arrived at from scores generated from the continuous assessment of competencies from school level, that is, through continuous assessment and the scores from competences assessed in the final end-of-cycle examination.

#### Reporting, grading and certification

Madam Speaker, the new lower secondary curriculum is competence-based. It focuses on what a learner can do by applying acquired knowledge and skills to solve real-world problems. This has necessitated the changes in its assessment. The new assessment comes with a change in the reporting, grading and certification.

Uganda National Examination Board, in close consultation with the National Curriculum Development Centre, came up with a reporting mechanism that presents a learner's level of achievement in each subject with letter grade (A, B, C, D or E). This was approved by the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Madam Speaker, the levels of achievement were arrived at through systematic and technical processes that combine scores generated from the assessment of competencies at the school level, through continuous assessment and end-of-cycle examination scores.

Additionally, the project work is assessed at school, and the achievement level is presented as a standalone on the certificate. The achievement level on the project reveals a

learner's creative competence in dealing with actual and contemporary world problems.

Madam Speaker, the overall score is constituted by the achievement at school level (20 per cent) and end-of-cycle examination scores (80 per cent).

#### Structure of the transcript and certificate

The Uganda Certificate of Education transcript is an academic document issued by UNEB to all candidates, who registered for the examination. The key features on the transcript include: the levels of achievement in each subject, represented by letter grades A, B, C, D, and E, as illustrated below.

Madam Speaker, I expected my statement to have been uploaded, so that colleagues access it on their iPads. It is uploaded.

#### Achievement Levels and their Generic Descriptors

If you look at this table, A is the grade; we have achievement levels and then a descriptor. Under Grade A, which we must have seen our children getting, that is exceptional under achievement level. The descriptor demonstrates an extraordinary level of competence in applying innovatively and creatively acquired knowledge and skills in a real-life situation.

Grade B is outstanding. It demonstrates a high level of competence in applying the acquired knowledge and skills in a real-life situation.

Grade C is satisfactory demonstrates an adequate level of competence in applying the acquired knowledge and skills in a real-life situation.

Grade D demonstrates a minimum level of competence in applying the acquired knowledge and skills in a real-life situation.

Grade E is elementary. It demonstrates below the basic level of competence in applying the acquired knowledge and skills in a life cycle.

b) Conditions for certification under the competence-based assessment.

1. A candidate is eligible to obtain a certificate when he or she sits for a minimum number of eight subjects as provided by the curriculum and must obtain at least a Grade D in any of the subjects sat. This is what is referred to as “Result 1”.
2. A candidate who sat for less than eight subjects or did not sit for compulsory subjects or did not have continuous assessment scores or project work scores is not eligible for a certificate. This is what is referred to as “Result 2”. Note that for the Academic Year 2024, all the candidates had continuous assessment scores, as submitted by the respective schools.

Candidates who score only Es in the subjects taken will not get a certificate but will receive a transcript which shows their level of achievement. This is what is referred to as the “Result 3”.

3. Candidates who registered for examinations and did not sit for examinations or sat for a few subjects are not eligible for a certificate but will obtain a transcript. This is what is referred to as “Result 4”.

Madam Speaker, all candidates who registered for examinations are eligible for a UCE transcript.

Sample transcript

Madam Speaker, the transcript and certificate will indicate, among other features, the candidate’s photograph, student’s biodata, subject code and name, the grade in each subject and project work. On the reverse side will be explanations.

You can see an example of what we call a transcript for the Uganda National Certificate of Education examination. We have a student there called “UNEB”. The school is also called “UNEB High School”; the box number is 7066, Kampala, Uganda. The candidate’s date of

birth, subject codes, subject names and grades are there *-(Interruption)*

**MR BASALIRWA:** Thank you. Madam Speaker, the rules of this House require that as a presiding officer, you ensure that every MP is seated comfortably. For those with specific challenges, you make provisions.

There are honourable colleagues here who have specific challenges and cannot comfortably sit on the provided seats and you have always made some special cases here. My colleague, Hon. Nambooze is standing here. I also have challenges with my knee; I have to sit in a relatively more spacious place. Here we are, seated with difficulty.

Madam Speaker, are we proceeding well, when some of us are under difficult challenges in the seating arrangement?

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Asuman, I had already ordered the Sergeant-At-Arms to bring for me three chairs and not separate chairs. Take back your chairs. I told you I want three chairs; one for Hon. Akol, who is so tall that he cannot fit in those seats. The second one is for Hon. Basalirwa, who has a back problem and then “Madam Teacher” - Hon. Nambooze. They are bringing them.

**MR OGWANG:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Not to deviate from my statement, for purposes of the Chairman of the Parliamentary Football Club; for a man to have back problems, I leave it to us here. Let me continue with my statement. *(Laughter)* - I have been told that the Minister of Gender is asking if he has a wife or wives, but that is not the purpose as to why I am here. Let me proceed with my statement.

Madam Speaker, I was showing members a transcript for the Uganda Certificate of Education examination and you can see from the screen there that we have what you call a “Subject code”. We have the subjects - English, Mathematics, History and Political Education, Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, ICT, CRE and Project Work. If you look at the grades, the UNEB candidate got A, A, B, C, A, B, A, B; the scores are all there.

Let me now go to the descriptors. The samples are shown below under grade, achievement level and descriptor. I would like to repeat that Grade A talks about exceptional. If your child has scored A, under the descriptors, it demonstrates that that child has an extraordinary level of competence by applying innovatively and creatively the acquired knowledge and skills in a real-life situation.

Why are we insisting on acquired knowledge and skills? This is the main purpose of the new competency-based curriculum. I know it will take us some time, but this is the best we want for our education.

Two is B for outstanding. It demonstrates a high level of competency by applying the acquired knowledge and skills in a real-life situation.

Grade C is satisfactory. It demonstrates an adequate level of competency by applying the acquired knowledge and skills in a real-life situation.

Grade D is basic. It demonstrates a minimum level of competency in applying the acquired knowledge and skills in a real-life situation.

Grade E is elementary. It demonstrates below the basic level of competency in applying the acquired knowledge and skills in a real-life situation.

My honourable colleague from Mbale - if I am correct - is telling me that Grade E is a failure and I confirm that it is a fact.

Important to note:

- i) The subject grade was computed from continuous assessment at the end of the cycle scores course; and
- ii) The transcript is not a certificate. Any errors detected, of course, must be reported to the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) immediately. UNEB reserves the right to correct the information given on the transcript, which will be confirmed by the issuance of a certificate.

Explanation notes:

Result 1 - candidates who qualify to get a certificate.

Result 2 - candidates who did not fulfil the conditions for award of a certificate.

Result 3 - candidates who do not meet the minimum level of achievements in all subjects.

Result 4 - absent candidates.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to give this information to the august House on the senior five selection criteria. The computerised system at the Uganda National Examinations Board will provide the selection list for senior five students, as has always been the case and this will be a basis for admission and placement.

Conclusion

I thank the Rt Hon. Speaker and honourable colleagues for allowing the Minister of Education and Sports to clarify issues regarding reforms in the assessment of candidates under the new lower secondary curriculum. I say this for God and my country. We will continue, as a ministry, to engage the public, and even as Members, to make sure that we all come to par with this new development.

**THE SPEAKER:** There is a procedural matter before the shadow minister comes to submit.

**MR KATUSABE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, and my honourable brother and minister for education. There is no trade-off and there will always be a possible conflict. The death of any nation on earth begins with that country compromising the quality of education.

Honourable minister, like everybody in this Chamber, education is the engine and the heartbeat of this nation. I do not know for how long we are going to have changes in the curriculum. We are destroying the future of our sons and daughters and as a result, the future of this country.

My procedural issue to the minister is just simple. That was a brilliant submission,

honourable minister. Can the minister give this House and the country at large, how much research you did before you arrived at this? Procedurally, the reason we support universities is to generate knowledge. I want to know from our minister how much of the knowledge produced by universities was consumed by his ministry in arriving at this particular decision. Without which, the future of this country specifically education, is at stake.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable minister, keep writing. There is another procedural matter. Sergeant-At-Arms, as you remove that, you can put single-seat chairs there.

**MR BASALIRWA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Earlier on, Hon. Atkins raised the issue of human rights. I thought he would raise it again because we said this can actually wait. We know this grading and Hon. Ssewungu will give us a version.

When the issue was raised, there was insinuation that this is a matter before the court. We agree. However, Dr Besigye was brought to court at the intervention of this House - not directing but intervention. Ideally, I would have expected that the Executive comes and reports on what the status is at the moment because we agreed here. There was even a meeting that I attended. The Government Chief Whip and the Deputy Attorney-General were there.

The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs reported that Dr Besigye would be brought to court. That was yesterday. Wouldn't it be procedurally right – (*Interjection*) – information? Yes –

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Attorney-General, this thing keeps coming up all the time. Can you just give us information?

**MR KAFUZI:** Madam Speaker, Hon. Asuman's prayer is that we brief the House on the status of the matter – (*Interjections*) - that is in court. Regarding what the Minister of Education and Sports has presented, given the right opportunity on Tuesday, we will be in position to respond.

**THE SPEAKER:** Regarding Dr Besigye?

**MR KAFUZI:** Madam Speaker, the question that Hon. Asuman brought, if I understood it clearly, was not in respect of Dr Besigye. Maybe he can clarify.

**MR BASALIRWA:** Madam Speaker, in this House, the Government undertook, through the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, that Dr Besigye would be brought before the civilian courts. Indeed, he was brought to court.

The procedural issue I raised is whether we are proceeding right without a status report pursuant to the agreement we had here from the Attorney-General. It was at that point that I had ceded space to Hon. Mwijukye to provide more information, then I conclude on that issue before the Attorney-General comes in.

**THE SPEAKER:** Can you conclude on the issue?

**MR BASALIRWA:** I had ceded ground for information from Hon. Mwijukye, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Which I am not granting.

**MR BASALIRWA:** Now that you are not granting it, which is your discretion, and we respect it; learned Attorney-General, since there were commitments and undertakings made on the Floor, wouldn't it be better for you to come and update this House on the status report or progress, without necessarily delving into the merits of the case?

**MR KAFUZI:** Madam Speaker, in the past few weeks, our honourable colleagues across the aisle have been pressing and demanding that Dr Besigye be produced in court –

**THE SPEAKER:** Civilian courts.

**MR KAFUZI:** Civilian courts. On behalf of the Government, we have time and again committed to meeting all the requirements as stated by the Supreme Court.

Pursuant to your ruling the other day, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs did commit, once again, to fulfil the requirements of the Supreme Court decision. Indeed, yesterday, Dr Kiiza Besigye was produced before Justice Dr Singiza. I believe the prayer that my colleagues across the aisle have always been pressing for was for Dr Besigye to be produced before a civil court and that was done yesterday.

For now, that is what I can report because the process is still ongoing. I need not delve into what may be considered to be *sub judice*. Thank you. (*Mr Kabuusu rose* )

**THE SPEAKER:** There is no lie; it is additional information. But what the Attorney-General has said is correct; he was produced before the court yesterday. What happened? Are we in the management of the court process?

**MR KABUUSU:** What was done yesterday was not what this Parliament had intended. Madam Speaker, Parliament wished that Dr Besigye be produced and tried in the civil courts. Who produces Dr Besigye in the civil courts? It is the State.

Dr Besigye appeared in court yesterday on an application made by his lawyers about a different issue. As we speak, he has not been charged or aligned before any court as Parliament had intended; it is a lie.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Prime Minister? Let the Government speak.

3.11

**THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja):** Madam Speaker, use your Constitution or iPad. Article 128 is very clear on the independence of the courts. Therefore, we cannot order the courts to do anything.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Ssewungu, Shadow Minister of Education and Sports – honourable members, if you feel that the court is not doing enough, it is very near; let us walk there and

ask the judge why he is not doing what he is supposed to do. – Just a minute; before you come in, there is information the Attorney-General wants to give you.

**MR KAFUUZI:** Perhaps to add to my earlier statement, it was a requirement of the court that several files that were originally before the court martial be transferred to a civil court.

**THE SPEAKER:** To the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)?

**MR KAFUUZI:** Yes. I wish to report to the House that the transfer has been done. Now, I humbly request that you allow the technical people to look through the files and advise on the next step of action.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Mwijukye?

**MR MWIJUKYE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. My concern is that the purpose for which we met and asked the Executive to bring closer the appearance of Dr Besigye is being defeated. Because remember, you raised this issue very passionately and we had a purpose.

Yesterday, when Dr Besigye appeared, the judge said, “This man is too sick; he can’t even sit here for 30 minutes. Let him go back to prison.” Today, he could not even make it to another court at Buganda Road, and the magistrate had to set a trial for two months because he could not appear in court.

At least, yesterday, he was able to be there for 20 minutes. Today he could not appear.

Therefore, for somebody to say “Let the technocrats go and look at the files,” when somebody is dying in prison; how inhumane can we be? Why did we have to sit and say, “No, the 25<sup>th</sup> is too far; let him appear tomorrow?” And that is what we did.

**MR KAFUUZI:** Madam Speaker, I need to be protected.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members-

**MR KAFUUZI:** Permit me to clarify to my honourable colleagues – Hon. Mwijukye and others. Once files are transferred to the DPP, they have to be perused and the DPP will decide whether there is a case or not. (*Members rose*) Please, allow me to finish.

**THE SPEAKER:** Let him finish.

**MR KAFUUZI:** Once the DPP receives a file, the DPP is supposed to read the facts on the file, and if the DPP is convinced that the facts and evidence reveal a case, then the file will be transferred.

**THE SPEAKER:** So the file is with the DPP?

**MR KAFUUZI:** Therefore, I would like to tell you that the files have been transferred to the civil court and the DPP. I humbly request that you await the determination of the technical people on the matter. (*Mr Basalirwa rose*)

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, can we urge Dr Besigye’s lawyers to follow up this matter with the DPP and if some of you are lawyers to Dr Besigye, kindly follow up with the DPP and then to court.

**MR SSENYONYI:** Much obliged, Madam Speaker. I thought that the Attorney-General would clarify a statement he has made here.

He has said that files have been transferred and they are with technical people. Kindly elucidate. Who has transferred files to where? At what point does the DPP come in?

According to our Constitution – for those of you who may not know – the DPP is meant to operate independently. The DPP sanctions police files, not court files; so, we want to know about that process.

What exactly happened? Have you, as Attorney-General, gone – (*Hon. Kafuuzi rose*) Hold on; calm down. Have you, as the Attorney-General, gone and ordered the DPP to sanction those files because that is an important matter of the law and Constitution?

How does the DPP come into this situation? Or did you just say that you got these files from this court and took them to a court registrar and said, “Schedule these ones”? Please elucidate.

**MR KAFUUZI:** Madam Speaker, the Supreme Court ordered that the files be transferred –

**THE SPEAKER:** To the civil court.

**MR KAFUUZI:** On Tuesday, when we were here, the Speaker gave an order to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the Minister of Internal Affairs and me, as the Deputy Attorney-General, to go and see to it that the transfer is done.

We went and immediately returned here. The minister for justice reported to this House that the transfer processes were ongoing, and now I am here to confirm to you that those files have been transferred. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, you have heard the files have been transferred and are in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). We are going to make a follow-up, and I will also personally make a follow-up. Next item - Honourable members, I gave you time, but you diverted the debate. Let me hear from the shadow minister.

**MR SSEWUNGU:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. In the first place, I would like to thank the Government Chief Whip, Hon. Hamson Obua, for the practice he developed since he took up office. Whenever we raise our matters here, he writes to the relevant ministers and gives us copies of the correspondences. I would like to affirm that I received the letter you wrote in regard to the matter I raised here.

Madam Speaker, allow me to also thank the Minister of Education and Sports for attempting to respond to this issue. However, I am seeking your indulgence if you could permit the shadow minister to give a careful response to the minister’s statement. I wish to briefly quote, as you allow me –



**THE SPEAKER:** You want to write a response. You do not need to quote; bring a response and we will debate both of them.

**MR SSEWUNGU:** Madam Speaker, I just want to give a brief justification.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, bring a written response and we shall discuss both of them. Next item.

**MR SSEWUNGU:** Most obliged, Madam Speaker. You have not given us a date. Tuesday?

**THE SPEAKER:** Tuesday.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON WEATHER PATTERNS IN UGANDA

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, as you may have observed, many parts of this country are experiencing unfavourable weather conditions or patterns which may affect various livelihoods.

Pursuant to Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure, I now invite the Minister of Water and Environment to present a statement to that effect. Honourable minister of water?

#### MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023 AS RETURNED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 91(3)(B) OF THE CONSTITUTION AND RULE 143 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Prime Minister – Leader of Government Business, we cannot afford to have business on the Order Paper, and your ministers just decide not to come to the House. They should equally know that we also have work. If you are in the House, who are they?

Honourable members, as you may recall, the Employment (Amendment) Bill, 2022, was passed by this House on 25 May 2023 and transmitted to H.E. the President of the Republic of Uganda for assent in furtherance to Article 91(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

The President evoked Article 91(3)(b) of the Constitution and returned the Bill for reconsideration by the House through a letter dated 13 November 2023.

The Bill was referred to the committee for reconsideration and pursuant to Rule 143(2) of the Rules of Procedure, the committee has reconsidered it and is ready to report.

In furtherance to Rule 143(3) of the Rules of Procedure, I will invite the sponsor of the Bill, that is, the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, to move a motion for reconsideration. Honourable minister?

3.24

**THE MINISTER OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Betty Amongi):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to move that the Employment (Amendment) Bill, 2023 be read the second time.

**THE SPEAKER:** Seconded by the Attorney-General, Hon. Ogwang, Hon. Musasizi, Hon. Obua, Hon. Public Service, Hon. Leader of Government Business, Hon. Lawrence Songa, Hon. Goli, Hon. Derrick, Hon. Gafabusa, Hon. David, Hon. Patience, Hon. Werikhe, Hon. Wandwasi, Hon. Okwir, Hon. Annet Mugisha, Hon. Anthony, Hon. Committee of Defence – Hon. Musasizi was there of course. Hon. Aruu, Dr Acuti, Hon. Emmanuel, Hon. Connie, Hon. Namutebi, Dr Apea, Hon. Tusiime, Butaleja, Hon. David, Hon. Sharts, Hon. Finance, Hon. Okot, Hon. Amos, the “*Karachuna*” Hon. Lokwang, Hon. Afidra, Hon. Avur, Hon. Awich Jane and then the honourable member from Fort Portal, Hon. Jessica, Doctor and my lecturer, Hon. Kyooma. Hon. Daisy, Hon. Kunihira Agnes and Hon. Atima.

Would you like to speak to your motion? Justification?

**MS AMONGI:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. His Excellency the President wrote to you on 13 November 2023, pursuant to his power under Article 93(3)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and returned for further consideration about four of the clauses in the Employment (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

The first issue is on the definition. His Excellency the President would like us to reconsider the words “arbitration” and “adjudication”. Adjudication is a legal word that is majorly used by judicial officers, and His Excellency the President felt that we should remove the word “adjudication” because – here, we were saying Labour Officers, under the Act, are the first court of instance for labour-related disputes between the employer and employees. The two words that we had given for the purpose of the power of the Labour Officer is to “adjudicate” and “arbitrate”.

However, the President is saying the power of adjudication should remain with judicial officers and we retain the power of arbitration with the Labour Officers. That is the first issue – His Excellency the President feels that we narrow the power to arbitration only.

The second issue is the casualisation of workers. In the Bill, Clause 6, which proposed Section 34A(2), provided that when a casual employee works with an employer for six months, it becomes mandatory for his employment terms to be transitioned or converted from a casual labourer to a permanent one, without any condition, without any assessment and without any criteria. His Excellency the President gave an example that in Karuma Hydropower, we had over 5,000 casual workers and those positions were not anywhere in the structure of the hydropower plant construction.

He also gave an example of Tian Tang Industrial Park, where you have over 2,000 casual workers who come on a daily basis, and they work and go away. You cannot accommodate 2,000 casual workers in the structure of the organisation. Therefore, if you say that after six months, it is automatic and compulsory that you transition a casual worker to a permanent worker, first, you are violating their right. This is because everybody has a right to consent if they want that form of employment or not.

Secondly, all the employers have the right to also decline, based on the assessment of the workers and the availability of the positions.

Thirdly, international law also requires that there are certain criteria and procedures you follow when you are converting an employee from casual to permanent.

Therefore, His Excellency the President guided that we should delete the provision that makes it compulsory that immediately after the six months lapse, the person compulsorily becomes a permanent employee.

The other issue which His Excellency returned is the definition of “foreign recruitment agency”. In the Bill, which was sent to him, we were defining “foreign recruitment agency” to be an agency that has been accredited by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. However, under international law, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development does not have jurisdiction to go and accredit a foreign agency in another country. We cannot go to the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia or London and accredit a foreign recruitment agency.

So, His Excellency the President guided that we return it and say that the accreditation be done by the Ugandan Mission responsible in that particular country, so that the employees here and the companies here can link up with our embassy that has vetted and accredited those foreign employment agencies. Those are the areas and the rationale for returning the Bill.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Now that the minister has almost given everything, would you summarise? Committee chairperson, this is a returned Bill.

3.33

**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Agnes Kunihira):**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is the report of the Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development on the Employment (Amendment) Bill, 2023, as returned by His Excellency the President.

Madam Speaker, as you have mentioned, the minister has already taken us through pages 1, 2 and 3. I will now go straight to the role of the committee on the reconsideration of the Bill returned by His Excellency the President.

His Excellency the President returned the Employment (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2022 under Article 91(3)(b) of the Constitution, with a request that some provisions of the Bill be reconsidered by Parliament. The Article provides that the President shall, within 30 days after the Bill is presented to him or her, if not assented to under Article 91(3)(a), return the Bill to Parliament with a request that the Bill or a particular provision of it be reconsidered by Parliament.

Article 91(4) of the Constitution provides that where a Bill has been returned to Parliament, Parliament is required to reconsider the Bill –

**THE SPEAKER:** Committee chairperson, could I ask something? Do you have a point of departure with the president's letter?

**MS AGNES KUNIHIRA:** Yes, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** On which clause?

**MS AGNES KUNIHIRA:** We have a point of departure on the issue of the amendments suggested by the President on Page 2; the amendment Act removes the powers of adjudication from the Labour Officer. The President had suggested that the amendment – let me read it as it is because it is a definition.

“‘Adjudication’ means a form of dispute settlement in which the Labour Officer considers the evidence and arguments of both parties to a labour dispute upon which he or she makes a decision binding on the parties to the dispute.”

We have amended to remove the part of “binding” because it violates the right of appeal. That is an improvement on what His Excellency the President suggested.

Then, on the issue –

**THE SPEAKER:** What have you done?

**MS AGNES KUNIHIRA:** His Excellency the President suggested that the decision of the Labour Officer should be binding to both parties. However, we are saying it cannot be binding because there is an option of an appeal. It would be violating the right of individuals to appeal. That is the only part that we have dropped.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, it can be binding but where one party does not feel contented, then they can go to court.

**MS AGNES KUNIHIRA:** However, the way it was captured in the definition, it says – because we are making a definition.

**THE SPEAKER:** Let us first sort out that.

3.37

**THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Jackson Kafuuzi):** Madam Speaker, the problem started with the word “adjudication”, which ordinarily means hearing a dispute inter-parties and making judgement. Judgement comes from adjudication. Once judgement is passed, legally, it is binding, yet in this case you are using a Labour Officer as an arbitrator.

His Excellency the President's position is that the adjudicator should be an arbitrator so that his decision is not binding on the parties. That is why the committee is proposing the removal of the word “binding”. The parties are at liberty to either agree or seek redress in a higher court.

**THE SPEAKER:** And you?

**MR KAFUUZI:** I am in agreement with the proposal of removing the word “binding”.

**MS AGNES KUNIHIRA:** Madam Speaker, the other point of departure is on the insertion of the new clause 34(a) on casual employment.

According to His Excellency the President, maintaining 34(a)(2) which proposes that

a person working as a casual employee continuously for more than six months is deemed to have entered a contract of service, will attract legal obligations on the part of the employer that had not been anticipated and are more likely to increase unemployment as employers will shun persons willing to be employed.

We are not in agreement. The committee recommended that we keep the proposal as it is in the amendment Act. We have justification –

**THE SPEAKER:** What is the proposal?

**MS KUNIHIRA:** Madam Speaker, allow me to read it from the amendment – This is 34(a): Casual employment, as per the amendment Act that was passed by Parliament.

*“A person shall not employ another person as a casual employee for a continuous period exceeding six months. Where a person employs another person as a casual employee for a period exceeding six months, the person shall, at the expiration of the six months, be deemed to have entered into a contract of service with the casual employee.”*

**THE SPEAKER:** That is what we had suggested.

**MS KUNIHIRA:** That is what was there. Allow me also to read –

**THE SPEAKER:** Even in the Parliament here, we employ you for six months, assess your performance, and if it is satisfactory, we can give you a contract for two and a half years. How can you say that? Yes, that is very dangerous.

Let us first hear from the Attorney-General.

**MR KAFUZI:** Madam Speaker, I would like to emphasise the position of His Excellency the President on this. For us to sit here and say a casual labourer who works for you for a period exceeding six months automatically gains a contract of service would be a contradiction from the definition of a casual employee under

the law. A casual employee is defined as a person who works on a daily or hourly basis where payment of wages is due after each day of work.

Now you are saying you have 5,000 employees because your target is that you want to finish this work within six months. However, beyond that, you are now saying that they automatically would have gained a contract. It is wrong. In addition to being wrong, it is also going to scare away investors. Or even you yourselves. You will start to think twice before employing someone. Or what you will do is that after they serve for the fifth month, you fire them. It will therefore kill job security.

Therefore, I humbly pray that clause 34(a) be dropped.

3.43

**MR GEOFFREY EKANYA (FDC, Tororo North County, Tororo):** Madam Speaker, our rule of handling Bills that are referred by the President is clear. Normally, once the committee has established the areas of dissent and agreed, the committee reports to the House, indicating the areas that they have agreed on and then the House then only looks at those areas of dissent. Now that those issues have been harmonised, isn't it proper that we move to the committee stage?

This is because some of us have very serious matters that you guided on, on Tuesday. The issue of the life of Col Dr Kiiza Besigye. You gave directives and there were five areas in which you gave directives.

We want to thank you, Madam Speaker, that on Tuesday, you dedicated hours and raised important issues. Even the House was suspended. The people of Uganda took the decision that you took as very serious. You suspended the House for 15 minutes, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs went out and this issue was handled very well.

Madam Speaker, we want to seek your indulgence further that the same spirit in which

you guided the House on Tuesday that the Prime Minister and the Attorney-General go out to engage and ensure that medical service is provided to Dr Col Kiiza Besigye so that we save his life. I beg for your indulgence.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Prime Minister will make a follow-up on the issue of the life of Dr Besigye. Please do that with the Attorney-General.

He also raises a pertinent issue that we go to the committee stage since you have only two issues of dissent.

**MS AGNES KUNIHIRA:** Much as the Attorney-General has already submitted, allow me to mention –

**THE SPEAKER:** You will do it when we reach that clause.

**MS AGNES KUNIHIRA:** I wanted to bring out the justification that the committee –

**THE SPEAKER:** You will do it when you reach that clause. Is the motion that we go to the committee stage seconded? The motion is seconded by Hon. Pius, Hon. Milton, Hon. Ekanya, Hon. CPA Masaka, and the Leader of Government Business, my uncle from Karamoja, Hon. Shartsi, and Hon. Margaret and by the whole House. Thank you.

I now put the question that the Employment (Amendment) Bill, 2023 as returned by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda in accordance with Article 93(3)(b) of the Constitution and Rule 143 of the Rules of Procedure, be reconsidered by this honourable House.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

## BILLS COMMITTEE STAGE

### THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023 AS RETURNED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT

Clause 1

**MS KUNIHIRA:** Madam Chairperson, Clause 1: Interpretation.

Clause 1 is amended:

- a) By inserting the following new definition in its appropriate alphabetical order. “Adjudication” means a form of dispute settlement in which a Labour Officer considers the evidence and arguments of both parties to a labour dispute upon which he or she makes a decision.
- b) By substituting paragraph (e) with the following: “A foreign recruitment agency” means a legal entity registered under the laws of a country other than Uganda which is accredited by the Uganda Mission abroad and licensed by the ministry to recruit Ugandans to work abroad.

The justification is:

1. The amendment is in alignment with the President’s proposal to reinstate the power of adjudication to Labour Officers, and to define the word in the context of the Act.
2. To ensure that the foreign recruitment agency has legal recognition in the laws of its country.
3. The proposal is in line with the current practice where foreign recruitment agencies are being accredited by Uganda Missions abroad.
4. To ensure that the definition of “foreign recruitment agency” – that it is an agency accredited to “recruit migrant workers abroad” – is in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Employment (Recruitment of

Uganda Migrant Workers) Regulation, 2021, which requires a person that intends to transact recruitment business, has a licence issued by the ministry.

- 5. To ensure that Ugandan migrant workers are lawfully recruited to work abroad.
- 6. To ensure that the line ministry remains involved in issues of foreign recruitment agencies, since it is the one mandated with the regulation of recruitment of labour business under the Employment Act Cap 226.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you.

**MS AMONGI:** Madam Chairperson, I concur.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you. Attorney-General?

**MR KAFUZI:** Madam Chairperson, I am in agreement.

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

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.*

Clause 4

**MS AGNES KUNIHIRA:** Madam Chairperson, Clause 4; Amendment of Section 13 of the principal Act.

Clause 4 is substituted with the following-

“4. Amendment of Section 13 of the principal Act

Section 13 of the principal Act is amended in sub-section (1)(a), by repealing the word, “arbitration”.

The justification is:

- 1. To reinstate adjudication as one of the methods that a Labour Officer, who is the

first point of contact in a labour dispute, to apply in settling a labour dispute.

- 2. To ensure proper case management of matters in the Industrial Court by reducing on the referrals made to it under Section 4(1) of the Labour (Arbitration and Settlement) Act 227.
- 3. The amendment is in line with the recommendations of HE the President.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you. Minister?

**MS AMONGI:** Madam Chairperson, I concur.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Attorney-General?

**MR KAFUZI:** I concur.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you. I put the question that clause 4 be amended as proposed.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.*

Clause 9

**MS AMONGI:** Honourable chairperson, the committee skipped clause 6.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Why did you skip clause 6 when it was part of the letter?

**MS AGNES KUNIHIRA:** Madam Chairperson, we were guided by the legal team because the committee had dropped the amendment on it to retain what is already in the amendment Act. We did not take it because of our justification – as you said, I should read out the justification. I request you allow me to read it.

First, the proposal to drop the clause that had already been approved in the amendment Act is in line with the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy of the 1995 Constitution, which impose a duty on the State to ensure that all Ugandans enjoy the rights, opportunities and access to work, pension, retirement, retirement benefits

and international instruments, such as the International Convention of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention on the requirement for just and decent conditions of workers, for all employees.

Two, the proposal does not contradict the definition of a casual employee under Section 2 of the Employment Act, and neither does it deter investors from employing Ugandans as casual employees. The definition states that a casual worker will be paid on the day worked.

Three, the proposal is already in force according to the Employment Act, 2011, under Regulations 39(1) and (2), which states that a person shall not be employed as a casual employee, engaged continuously for a period exceeding four months, and shall be entitled to a written contract, and shall cease to be a casual employee, and all benefits enjoyed by other employees shall apply to him or her.

Therefore, the committee sought to provide the same principle in the Act.

Madam Chairperson, the employment regulation gazetted, states exactly that.

Number four, the proposal –

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Let me first refer you to Rule 143(2). It states:

*“The Speaker shall refer the Bill to the relevant committee, and the committee shall consider the request of the President, and report to the House...”*

You do not have to choose what to report and what not to report. *(Applause)* You report according to what the President has asked you to amend. You do not bring in your issues.

Secondly, define what a casual labourer is.

If you are saying that a casual labourer automatically becomes permanent and pensionable – these are industries. Assuming the industry works for a period of say five

to eight months, how does a casual labourer become permanent and pensionable? Will you continue engaging the casual labourer, even when the time has ended, like at the Bujagali Dam construction site, that the President referred to.

In addition –

**MS KAAYA:** In addition, Madam Chairperson, there are some people who accept to work as casual labourers –

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** This one is like a seasonal crop, like sugarcane. Sugarcane has its time. Will you say that even at the time when the sugarcane is being planted, you are still my labourer?

**MS KAAYA:** It is like the grasshopper business; somebody gets casual labourers for a period of one month. Then there are some people who accept to be casual labourers in the period they are working with you, and they are okay with that status. We do not want this business of an investor chasing away labourers when the six months elapse and getting others.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** You are going to chase away our investors.

**MS KAAYA:** Casual labouring is not the same as probationary labouring.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Attorney-General?

**MR KAFUZI:** Madam Chairperson, I do understand the committee chairperson’s position. She is an MP for workers. However, the dynamics are such that we move to have this proposal deleted because its justification is not tenable. It will cause a bigger problem for us all.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Draft?

**MR KAFUZI:** I am not redrafting, Madam Chairperson. I move to have the proposal deleted.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Therefore, it should be deleted. Committee chairperson, we are in agreement, as a House, with the President.

**MS AGNES KUNIHIRA:** Madam Chairperson, before I concede, I have to put the record right. This is a statutory document from the Government and it states exactly like it is in the law. For us – (*Interjections*) - It is here.

**THE SPEAKER:** This is a subsidiary legislation and that is a statutory instrument. Honourable members, differentiate between a principal legislation and a subsidiary legislation. Okay? In addition, the Act is principal. – Yes, I want to first finish with these two people.

**MS AMONGI:** When I appeared before the committee, I made it clear that when a regulation is inconsistent with the national law or international law, the regulation becomes void. And I pledged before them that we shall amend the regulation and remove that provision.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you.

**MS KUNIHIRA:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson, but I wanted her to come and comment on this record-

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** She has rectified.

**MS KUNIHIRA:** I painfully concede. (*Laughter*)

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** No, committee chairperson.

**MS KUNIHIRA:** I concede.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable members, Clause 6 is amended by deletion as proposed by His Excellency the President.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Clause 6, deleted.*

Clause 9

**MS KUNIHIRA:** Madam Chairperson, Clause 9: Amendment of Section 9 of the principal Act. The Bill is amended, clause 9, in the proposed sub-section 39(B)(1) by inserting immediately after the word “may”, insert the words “on the recommendation of the Permanent Secretary.”

Justification

- (i) The mandate of the technical team is to advise the minister on the business of the Ministry in accordance with Article 174(3) of 1995 Constitution and yet there is need to hold someone accountable for the licences issued by the Ministry. And so, it should be the minister who is the head of the ministry.
- (ii) To ensure that Parliament is able to hold the minister answerable directly on the prevalent issues pertaining allegations of abuse of migrant workers by recruitment agencies. The proposal is in line with the submission of the Attorney- General and the ministry, which stated that Parliament reconsiders that the technical team handles the matter and make recommendation to the minister, under this case the line technical person is the Commissioner.

**MS AMONGI:** Madam Chairperson, the proposal, which we had mooted, was that it is the Commissioner, not the Permanent Secretary, because His Excellency the President guided the Attorney-General that the technical person who fails to do their work at a departmental level is a Commissioner.

Now, in the case of a Permanent Secretary, they might not even have the technical knowledge of that department.

For example, in the Ministry of Energy, you have a Permanent Secretary who is not qualified and you put that person as the one to scrutinise and recommend. When something happens, the person would not have had the technical expertise. So, the Attorney-General had advised that we put Commissioner instead



of the Permanent Secretary. Maybe he can guide me further.

**MR KAFUZI:** Madam Chairperson, the clause we are referring to, is about licensing recruitment agencies, and our proposal is that it should be the Commissioner in charge of labour to do the licensing.

**MS KUNIHIRA:** The committee had proposed the Permanent Secretary, but I will concede if that is what the Ministry prefers.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable members, the Permanent Secretary (PS) that we have in an institution is a PS for all the sectors. However, the direct person is a Commissioner in charge of labour and the President also needs to be guided. Much as he could have said the PS, he needs to be guided that the direct technical person in this, is a Commissioner. When there is a change of Commissioner, the next Commissioner takes over.

**DR BWANIKA:** Yes, we might put the nomenclature of the Commissioner and the ministry changes. You find that the one who is in charge is no longer a Commissioner, but he is an assistant Commissioner.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** How does the ministry change?

**DR BWANIKA:** No, they have been changing the structures; it is not the first time. It must be the person who is in charge of labour.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** The title of Commissioner is standard in Government.

**DR BWANIKA:** Madam Chairperson, when legislating, it must be worded “the person who is in charge of labour”, not the title, because they can change the title anytime. We are not going to be coming back here every day.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Abed, we could stick to what exists; the legal regimes change as time passes. When they change, we make changes. They are not cast in stone. Could we hear from the Attorney-General? (*Hon. Ekanya rose*)

**MR EKANYA:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The practice when we are doing legislation and Bills here is that we put the “Permanent Secretary” because the Permanent Secretary is the accounting officer. The aspect of saying the Permanent Secretary is not qualified – the Permanent Secretary has professionals below him or her and they always delegate, files are prepared...

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable member, this is specific on labour and employment issues. We have issues of youth, children, and social development in the Ministry of Gender, but this is a specific responsibility.

**MR EKANYA:** Madam Chairperson, according to the appointment even provided within the Constitution, the Permanent Secretary is the accounting officer and is in charge of all actions and omissions of that ministry.

**DR APEA:** Madam Chairperson, the provision concerns the mandate of issuing a licence. It does not concern supervision or management. It is not general; it is specific. Thank you.

**MR KAFUZI:** Madam Chairperson, I would like my colleagues to understand. You apply to the Ministry of Gender seeking for a licence. The Permanent Secretary is the technical head of the ministry. He has to look at the ministry from A to Z. So there is also a time factor. You want a licence but the Permanent Secretary has several other things to do.

However, good enough, the ministry has a specific desk or department for labour under which the licence you are seeking falls. So that is why we are saying the Commissioner in charge of labour should be in charge of licensing. I beg to submit.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** To answer Hon. Ekanya, I want to refer you to Article 164(2): “*Any person holding a political or public office who directs or concurs in the use of public funds, contrary to the existing instructions, shall be accountable for any loss arising from that use and shall be required to make good the*

[The Chairperson]

loss even if he or she has ceased to hold that office.”

Now, it is not only the Permanent Secretary (PS); even you, when entrusted with responsibility, are accountable for whatever you have been assigned to do.

I put the question that clause 9 be amended as proposed by the committee, and amended by the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, and further amended by the Attorney-General.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Clause 9, as amended, agreed to.*

Clause 10

**MS AGNES KUNIHIRA:** Madam Chairperson, clause 10: Amendment of Section 55 of the principal Act.

Clause 10 is amended by substituting for paragraph A the following:

- (a) In sub-section (1)(a) by substituting for the words “first month” with the words “first two months”. The proposal is in line with the recommendations of His Excellency the President. It removes the ambiguity. Thank you.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you. Minister?

**MS AMONGI:** We concur.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** The Attorney-General?

**MR KAFUUZI:** We are in agreement with the proposal.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** I put the question that clause 10 to be amended as proposed.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Clause 10, as amended, agreed to.*

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Minister?

4.10

**THE MINISTER OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Betty Amongi):** Madam Chairperson, I beg to move that the House do resume and the Committee of the whole House report thereto.

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

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*(The House resumed, the Speaker presiding.)*

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE HOUSE

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable minister? Hon. Wakooli and your team, kindly come back.

4.11

**THE MINISTER OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Betty Amongi):** Madam Chairperson, I beg to report that the Committee of the whole House has reconsidered the Bill entitled “The Employment (Amendment) Bill, 2023” and passed it with amendments.

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

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, kindly move for the adoption.

4.13

**THE MINISTER OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Betty Amongi):** Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the House adopts the report of the Committee of the whole House.

**THE SPEAKER:** I put the question that the House adopts the report of the Committee of the whole House as returned by His Excellency the President.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Report adopted.*

BILLS  
THIRD READING

THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT)  
BILL, 2023

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister?

4.13

**THE MINISTER OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Betty Amongi):** Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill entitled “The Employment (Amendment) Bill, 2023” as returned by H.E. the President be read the third time and do pass.

**THE SPEAKER:** I put the question that the Employment (Amendment) Bill, 2023 as returned by His Excellency the President, be read the third time.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, “THE  
EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) ACT,  
2025”

**THE SPEAKER:** Bill passed and title settled.

BILLS  
SECOND READING

THE EXCISE DUTY (AMENDMENT)  
BILL, 2025

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, would you like to move a motion to the second reading of your Bill?

4.14

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Madam Speaker and colleagues, I beg to move a motion that the Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2025 be read for the second time.

**THE SPEAKER:** The motion is seconded by the Prime Minister, the Government Chief Whip, chairperson of the finance committee, the Attorney-General, Defence, Karamoja Affairs, Hon. Shartsi, Hon. Pius, Hon. Butaleja (Hon. Yusuf), Hon. Pascal, Hon. Milton, Alebtong (Hon. Samuel Okwir), Dr Apea, Hon. Omoding, her granddaughter, Hon. Emanuel Ongiertho, Dr Elisha, Hon. Connie, the whole side on my right and Hon. Asuman Basalirwa.

Yes. Would you briefly justify? It is a straightforward Bill.

**MR MUSASIZI:** Madam Speaker, this is a straightforward Bill seeking to revise the excise duty payable in respect of undenatured spirits; as simple as that.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. We passed the Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill here and the amendment is what is being brought back. Now, can I call the chairman to give us a brief.

4.16

**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Amos Kankunda):** Thank you, Madam Speaker and colleagues. The assignment was given to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development on the 4<sup>th</sup> of this month. The committee has sat and considered the amendment and hereby reports.

Madam Speaker, allow me to lay the minutes.

**THE SPEAKER:** It is a self-explanatory Bill. Can you give us a summary?

**MR KANKUNDA:** Let me lay the original report and the minutes and I go directly to the observations and recommendations of the committee.

Madam Speaker, I would like to agree that this amendment should be straightforward and these are the observations and recommendations made by the committee.

The committee observed that indeed the COVID-19 epidemic is now under control and there is no longer a need to provide for exemption.

The committee agreed with the minister that the proposed amendment is timely.

The committee further observed that Parliament last amended the excise duty in July 2024 and therefore the amendment has operated for a period of at least eight months.

The minister, however, did not inform the committee about the performance of the previous amendment – but promised to avail the information – the impact and, therefore, the actual justification for the amendment.

The committee noted that there are no projections of the collections or any analysis of the losses to the Government, therefore, necessitating the amendment.

The committee observed that the equal treatment of the two other un-denatured spirits makes locally produced un-denatured spirits uncompetitive alongside the imported, thus discouraging local manufacturers.

The stakeholders agreed with the proposed amendment. They submitted that the reduction in excise duty on locally produced raw materials will encourage local manufacturers, promote more sales and also help to curb illicit trade in alcohol. Of course, that goes far to encourage local employment and growth of the industry and purchase of the raw materials from the farmers.

Therefore, the committee recommends that:

1. Proposals of amendments of any tax Bill should be based on research in the future.
2. The Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2025 be passed.

I hereby report. *(Applause)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable chairperson. Honourable members, since we

are in the budgeting process, it is prudent that whatever is outstanding on the tax Bills should be in line with the accounting process. We must finish the accounting cycle, and in finishing the accounting cycle, we must finish what is pending. The two Bills that are pending are the Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill and the Income Tax (Amendment) Bills. This is a straightforward Bill.

4.18

**MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to agree that this Bill is straightforward. However, the committee raises serious issues and omissions which, I hope, as we process the other Bills that will be coming the next financial year, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development complies with these very serious requirements because it is wrong for us to make amendments without proper research.

The committee even states that the ministry for finance did not present the performance of these eight months that the Act has been in operation. It is important that the ministry for finance does not take this House for granted and think that we are just senior six leavers. We read -

**THE SPEAKER:** No, they did not talk about senior six leavers.

**MS OPENDI:** No, it is my statement, Madam Speaker -

**THE SPEAKER:** We are not senior six. I am a senior don, for your information. *(Laughter)*

**MS OPENDI:** Madam Speaker, of course -

**THE SPEAKER:** All we need is a commitment from the minister that they will do what the committee has recommended.

**MS OPENDI:** Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. That is my statement.

4.21

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

**(Mr Henry Musasizi):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The committee has expressed concern that our proposal should always be informed by research, and I want to commit that when we are handling the other Bills in April, we shall, as much as practicable, ensure that we provide all the information that the committee and Parliament requires.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. I now put the question that the Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill be read for the second time.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

THE EXCISE DUTY (AMENDMENT)  
BILL, 2025

BILLS  
COMMITTEE STAGE

THE EXCISE DUTY (AMENDMENT)  
BILL, 2025

4.22

Clause 1

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** No amendment. I put the question that clause 1 stands part of the Bill.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Clause 1, agreed to.*

Title

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** I put the question that the title stands part of the Bill –

**MR MUSASIZI:** Madam Chairperson, I need your guidance. We are only proposing to amend the schedule, not the clause.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Which is a clause.

**MR MUSASIZI:** No, it is a schedule.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Amendment of Cap. 336 – I put the question that the Title stands part of the Bill.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*The Title, agreed to.*

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

4.25

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

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

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

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*(The House resumed, the Speaker presiding.)*

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE HOUSE

4.25

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

**(Mr Henry Musasizi):** Madam Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of the whole House has considered the Bill entitled, “The Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2025” and passed it with no amendments.

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

4.25

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

**(Mr Henry Musasizi):** Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion that the report from the Committee of the whole House be adopted.

**THE SPEAKER:** I put the question that the House adopts a report of the Committee of the whole House.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Report adopted.*

BILLS  
THIRD READING

THE EXCISE DUTY (AMENDMENT)  
BILL, 2025

4.26

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

**(Mr Henry Musasizi):** Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill entitled, “The Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2025” be read for the third time and do pass.

**THE SPEAKER:** I put the question that the Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2025 be read a third time and do pass.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT TITLED, “THE EXCISE DUTY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2025”

**THE SPEAKER:** Bill passed and title settled.  
*(Applause)*

BILLS  
SECOND READING

THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL,  
2025

4.27

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

**(Mr Henry Musasizi):** Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion that the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025 be read for the second time.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, Section 8 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, highlights the importance of tax Bills in achieving the objective of the Charter for Fiscal Responsibility, and as such, the timeliness of consideration of the Tax Bills by Parliament is very important.

Today, we shall exercise our efficiency in the disposal of all the pending Tax Bills, including the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which the committee has not finalised because we cannot hold the budgeting process because we are waiting for the committee yet it is on the same matter. It has only one amendment and we will not wait for that.

Is the minister’s Motion seconded? It is seconded by the Deputy Attorney-General, the Government Chief Whip, the Leader of Government Business, Hon. Esenu, Hon. Pesh, Hon. Margaret, Honourable Member from Nakasongola, Hon. Mamawi, Hon. Mugisha, Hon. Sarah, Hon. Atima, Hon. Donald, Hon. Milton, Hon. Pasca, Hon. Jessica - When I see you seated yet you know very well —

Honourable members, you know what they call the accounting cycle. Hon. Okwir, Dr Aabuka, Hon. Akifeza, Hon. Wokorach, Hon. Gafabusa, Hon. Ogwang, Hon. Phyllis, Hon. Ochwa, Hon. Babungi, queen dancer; Hoima, Hon. Kabanda. Yes, Honourable Minister.

One thing that I want to reiterate is what Hon. Sarah Opendi said, that next time, you must have sufficient study on all these rules and because of that, you must be able to give figures in your study to the committee. Yes, honourable chairperson.

4.27

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

**(Mr Henry Musasizi):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. This Bill seeks to amend Section 21 of the Income Tax Act to exempt the income of the Bujagali Hydro Power Project from tax. Why are we doing this?

Madam Speaker, when the Corporate Income Tax Waiver

is not extended, the projected Bujagali Energy Limited Generation Tariff will increase by 15.5 per cent from US cents 8.31 per unit to US cents 9.60 per unit. The electricity end-user tariff is projected to increase by a weighted average end-user tariff, from a weighted average of Shs 459.8 per unit to Shs 481.7 per unit.

In addition, not extending the Corporate Income Tax Waiver affects the economic position of Bujagali Energy Limited because the Corporate Income Tax is recovered from the electricity tariff through UETCL. I submit.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, there is a procedural matter. Hon. Asuman?

**MR BASALIRWA:** Madam Speaker, when there is a motion and it is being seconded, oftentimes, the presiding officer mentions and describes certain people. Sometimes, he will say, *Hajji* -

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Akiiki of Masindi -

**MR BASALIRWA:** Sometimes the queen dancer, *mukatuliki*, sometimes *Karacuna*. For *Hansard's* purposes, it becomes extremely difficult.

Madam Speaker, would it not be procedurally right for the presiding officers to mention members' names and constituencies first? I am a *Salongo* and you can say, 'Basalirwa Asuman *Salongo*' so that the record captures -

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable, what is your name? Hon. Akiiki Florence of Masindi is there and she happily loves the name. Yes?

4.34

**MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO (Independent, Kampala Central Division, Kampala):** Madam Speaker, I think the continued exemption of Bujagali, which we have done for over five years now, should exemptify the burden that Ugandans have that operate their private

businesses with the taxes that we mount on them.

If a multinational company comes here seeking exemptions every other time, that means an ordinary Ugandan investor doing business cannot survive in this framework. We have to revisit the tax regime which we have vis-à-vis business performances.

Madam Speaker asked, how much are we exempting them. You have never made this computation. It is like we are giving them blankets all the time. You will not pay corporation tax. Can you tell us how much revenue they raised in income the other time that we are going to exempt them?

It is five years. Have you exempted them US\$ 600 million or US\$ 700 million? Is this a bottomless pit? I beg your pardon that ordinary Ugandans have to pay tax but Mr Bujagali should not pay corporation tax and live with all the profits in the name of subsidies at the power tariff. Ugandans deserve a better answer. We deserve much better.

The fact that for every investor that comes to Uganda, the only promise the Ugandan Government gives them, other than free land, is tax holidays shows that the tax regime that we have cannot guarantee success to anyone ordinarily doing business other than leading to collapse.

Therefore, please address that. I know you always tell us the tariffs will go high so that we start shaking. Please, give us the computation of what we are exempting these guys. At the end of the day, you bring it every single year and this Parliament is being held accountable for passing such exemptions without doing due research.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Members, the issue of these agreements and tariffs – (*Hon. Kabuusu rose*) Just a minute. The issue of these tariffs arose from the power purchase agreement between the Ugandan Government and Bujagali Energy Limited, which was passed on 8 December 2007. I do

not know whether you were in the House at that time. The people who made -

**MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO:** Madam Speaker, I was not here in 2007.

**THE SPEAKER:** I do not see the people who were here in 2007. Those are the people who made a mistake at that time. We are – (*Mr Kabuusu rose*) Hon. Moses, you were not there. Are you sure? We are inheriting – (*Mr Kabuusu rose*) - I have not allowed you to talk. We are inheriting the problems of that time. Yes, LOP?

4.37

**MR JOHN BAPTIST NAMBESHE (NUP, Manjiya County, Bududa):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The fundamental question about this exemption of Bujagali should be on how it is going to lower the end-user electricity tariff. Already, the generation tariff by Bujagali has threatened to go up to almost US cents 10 and the extra-large industrial consumers will be up in arms because they were only waiting for this to happen.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, you have heard that we need a study on this. The mistake which was made in 2007 needs to be corrected but we cannot do that now. Since we are going into the budgeting process, I now put the question that the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025 be read the second time.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

BILLS  
COMMITTEE STAGE

THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL,  
2025

4.37

Clause 1

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** I put the question that clause 1 stands part of the Bill.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Clause 2, agreed to.*

*The Title, agreed to.*

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

4.40

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion that the House do resume and the Committee of the whole House reports thereto.

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

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*(The House resumed, the Speaker presiding.)*

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE HOUSE

4.41

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Madam Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of the whole House has considered the Bill entitled, “The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025” and passed it without amendments.

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

4.41

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion that the report of the Committee of the whole House be adopted.

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



*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Report adopted.*

BILLS  
THIRD READING

THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL,  
2025

4.41

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

**(Mr Henry Musasizi):** Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion that the Bill entitled, “The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025” be read for the third time and do pass.

**THE SPEAKER:** I put the question that the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025 be read the third time and do pass.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, “THE  
INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2025”

**THE SPEAKER:** Bill passed and title settled.

Honourable members, I know Hon. Asuman is looking for his votes outside there. The voters have already agreed to give you.

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF TAX  
WAIVERS FOR SELECTED LOCAL  
ENTITIES

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, you will recall that in 2024, this House amended section 40(2) of the Tax Procedures Code Act to condition the grant of tax waivers by the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development for parliamentary approval.

In 2024, the minister tabled a request for parliamentary approval for proposed tax waivers to selected local entities. This request was referred to the sectoral committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The committee is ready to report with its findings.

However, to fulfil the procedural requirements, I will invite the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to move a motion for approval of tax waivers. Thereafter, I will invite the chairperson of the committee to present his report to the House.

4.44

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

**(Mr Henry Musasizi):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to move a motion for consideration of my request to Parliament for tax waivers, pursuant to Section 40 of the Tax Procedures Code Act. Madam Speaker, I will mention the companies at the next stage. I beg to move.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Is it seconded? *(Members rose)* It is seconded by the Chairperson, Committee on Finance, the Attorney-General, the Chairperson of the Committee on Public Service, the minister in charge of veterans, the minister in charge of Karamoja Affairs, Hon. Ogwang, Hon. Kabanda, Hon. Nekesa, the honourable member from Bunyole, the honourable member from Rwampara, the honourable member from Serere, the honourable member from Koboko, Hon. Emmanuel Ongiertho, Hon. Akifeza, Hon. Avur, Hon. Faith Kunihira, Member representing the elderly, Hon. Afidra, Hon. John Faith Magolo, Hon. Patience Nkunda, my uncle – you know, we do not mention the name of an uncle - Hon. Basil Bataringaya, Hon. Donald Katalihwa, Dr Aabuka, Hon. Ochwa, Hon. Phyllis Chemutai, Hon. Atima, Hon. Maximus Ochai, Hon. Esenu, Hon. Mugisha, Member for Sheema, Member from Kyankwanzi – Kyankwanzi and Nakasongola are close to each other – Member from Buhweju, Dr Otaala, Hon. Sarah Najjuma, Hon. Faith Nakut and Member from Jinja. Would you like to speak to your motion?

**MR MUSASIZI:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I presented a list of companies to be granted a tax waiver by Parliament, pursuant to Section 43(2) of the Tax Procedures Code, Act. The companies are the following:

- i) Makerere Business Institute (MBI), Shs 239,306,340 is owed in tax liability.
- ii) Nkumba University is owed Pay-As-You-Earn in excess of Shs 4.4 billion.
- iii) J2E Investment Corporation Limited, which is owed an amount of Shs 2.7 billion in Value Added Tax (VAT).
- iv) Donati Kananura, who is owed rental income tax of Shs 2 billion and Shs 1.695 billion. These are two.
- v) M/s Nicotra Limited, which has a tax liability in VAT of Shs 931.9 million.
- vi) Mr Peter Lokwang –

**THE SPEAKER:** Is Hon. Lokwang our Member of Parliament?

**MR MUSASIZI:** No. Madam Speaker, this is another Lokwang. The only company, which has a Member of Parliament behind it, is Makerere Business Institute but this other Lokwang is not in Parliament.

**THE SPEAKER:** Who is the Member?

**MR MUSASIZI:** The Member is Hon. Itungo Nathan from Kashari.

- iv) Mr Lokwang is Shs 385.1 million.
- v) Busoga University has a tax liability in Pay As You Earn of Shs 783 million.

Madam Speaker, I do not know how much time - Can I go into detail?

**THE SPEAKER:** We do not have much time.

**MR MUSASIZI:** Under MBI, what are the grounds for the waiver?

**THE SPEAKER:** Did you read Kisiizi Hospital?

**MR MUSASIZI:** I am about to come to it. The grounds under Makerere Business Institute are the following:

- i) The liability arose from an assessment done by Uganda Revenue Authority (URA).

ii) The institution faced financial hardships due to the after effects of COVID-19 whereby the students' number drastically dropped from 326 students in 2018 to 162 students in 2023. This made it difficult for the institution to survive while paying the tax liability.

iii) The institution is of strategic significance to achieving the Government's development objectives, particularly in the area of human capital development. The financial hardships faced by the institute posed a big threat to its continuity as a viable academic institution, thus, there was a need for Government's intervention to ensure the continuity of its normal operations and avoid disruptions.

Madam Speaker, the grounds under Nkumba University are the following:

i) The university has faced financial hardships due to a reduction in revenue, majorly because of a drop in the number of students from 6,000 to 3,500 students. This, among others, pushed the university to defer salary payments during the COVID-19 lockdown. The university's monthly wage bill of Shs 415.17 million was deferred due to financial difficulties faced by the university. All staff contracts were suspended effective 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

ii) The university has a huge number of unrealised accounts or accounts all accounts receivable from students that default in paying tuition.

iii) Additionally, the university is battling with a number of court cases, while at the same time servicing a lot of loans.

J2E Corporation Limited is in the business of building and construction. The company was registered on 29 August 2010. It paid taxes amounting to Shs 1.796 billion prior to COVID-19 and Shs 81.56 million after COVID-19 with respect to VAT, Pay-As-You-Earn and income tax. Overall, the total VAT

contribution by the taxpayer is Shs 1.74 billion to date.

J2E Investment has faced financial challenges that have constrained resumption of works at Kaweweta Recruits Training School, an Army School for A2 Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF) soldiers following suspension of the construction works due to several reviews by different Government agencies.

To that end, the contractor is unable to pay the tax liability and at the same time resume and complete works at Kaweweta Recruits Training School within the contractual budget.

Under Donati Kananura, the grounds for the waiver are that the company faced hardships occasioned by his medical condition, which required expensive treatment abroad – *(Interruption)*

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

**MR KATUSABE:** Kindly, take your seat. Madam Speaker, as you are fully aware, today is Thursday and the Rules of Procedure of Parliament are very clear. It is once in a blue moon for us to have a Prime Minister. Madam Speaker, your fellow citizens marked this date because it is gazetted specifically for the Prime Minister's Question Time.

Wouldn't it be procedurally right for us to have the Prime Minister take us through what is on the agenda today, and then we can have this accommodated in next week's plenary? Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Amos, can you give us observations and recommendations and we give the Prime Minister an opportunity. After all, the report was uploaded.

4.56

**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Amos Kankunda):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The honourable minister has done justice to the details. Allow me to lay the minutes and a copy of the report.

As guided, I will go straight to the observations and recommendations

Honourable colleagues, I will start with Busoga University where we made the following observation: The Ministry of Education and Sports' budget is constrained to settle the said obligation since it is still facing challenges in mobilising funds to clear the other bulk of liabilities that the university owed to various entities and individuals.

The committee recommends that Parliament approves the request of Busoga University for a waiver of Shs 783,180,494.

Madam Speaker, the next person that was requested was Mr Donati Kananura and the request was withdrawn by the minister because it had gaps. That was not considered by the committee.

Kisiizi Hospital Power Ltd

The committee considered these observations:

The committee observes that Kisiizi Hospital Power Ltd -

**THE SPEAKER:** Procedural matter?

**MR GAFABUSA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a very important issue. Now that you have guided the chairperson to go straight to the recommendations of the committee, I see on my iPad - I do not know about others but the report is corrupted and we cannot open it. At least when we are supporting, we should support something that we have details of.

We seek your indulgence, Madam Speaker, to direct that the report is uploaded again so that we can follow. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** How come mine can download?

**MR GAFABUSA:** It cannot open on our iPads, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** IT, can you help?

**MR KANKUNDA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I had mentioned the next entity that we are considering for a waiver is Kisiizi Hospital Power Limited (KHPL).

The following are the observations of the committee:

1. Kisiizi Hospital Power Ltd (KHPL) has contributed to the economic and social stability of its area of operation, supplying over 60KW to the hospital and the balance sold to over 500 households.

Therefore, there is an economic case to be made that due to the company's positive contribution to the community, its application for a tax waiver should be scrutinised with due regard to its contribution to the area of operation.

2. KHPL has faced various challenges that have increased its fixed costs, including the replacement of the aged electricity poles.
3. KHPL has been a compliant taxpayer since its inception by missionaries in 1958.

#### Recommendation

Having analysed the grounds upon which the waiver of the VAT arrears is sought, the committee recommends a waiver of outstanding VAT arrears for Kisiizi Hospital Power Ltd equivalent to Shs 77,696,058. I submit.

Next is Mr Lokwang Peter. The committee observes:

1. The tax obligation as a licensee

Mr Lokwang Peter is designated as the licensee and requires to withhold tax on payments made on non-exempt supplies. As per Section 119 of the Income Tax Act, CAP 340, this obligation is a fundamental part of his tax responsibility as a mining licensee. He has accordingly complied with all the assessed withholding tax remittances since 2013.

2. Preregistration, assessment, and tax liability.

Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) has done audits resulting in the assessment of withholding tax not being registered with the withholding tax agent at the time. Mr Lokwang informed the committee that the price he had charged for his supplies did not provide for withholding tax allowances.

3. Before 2013, the suppliers of limestone from whom Mr Lokwang supplied were not sensitized about the requirement of paying withholding tax. From 2013 going forward, the suppliers were sensitized and have been paying their tax obligations.

Madam Speaker, the committee recommends:

- i) That Parliament approves this tax waiver for Mr Lokwang Peter's withholding tax liability equivalent to Shs 385,145,772 only as principal and interest.
- ii) The committee further recommends that URA registers all mineral value-chain participants in the country for purposes of tax remission as provided for in the various tax laws.

Madam Speaker, the next entity is J2E Investment Corporation Ltd.

The committee observed that the corporation was contracted by the Ministry of Defence to construct the following facilities at Oliver Reginald Tambo Leadership -

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, clarification?

**MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The committee chairman has been very emphatic in his presentation and disclosure to this country. You disclosed Mr Donati Kananura and Mr Lokwang - I know the company is a person but it has shareholders. You even disclosed one of our Members, Hon. Itungo, in Makerere Business Institute. Who is J2E? Please, give us the owners of J2E so that we know.

**MR BASALIRWA:** Madam Speaker, I would like to inquire from the committee chairperson whether they undertook to understand from the minister the way people get to know and access these waivers. It is not there.

**THE SPEAKER:** J2E Ltd is also from one of the Members, a representative for older persons. I remember the person coming to my office.

**MR KANKUNDA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. You have exactly said it.

**THE SPEAKER:** There is a procedural matter -

**MR ENOS ASIIMWE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would to ask -

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, you know why you made that provision. It is for those people to be able to request for a waiver in case - Mine is also going to come. Anyway, we made a provision and it is upon the committee to determine whether it is eligible or not. So, let us allow the committee to present.

**MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO:** Madam Speaker, since in our Rules of Procedure there is full disclosure – *(Mr Enos Asiimwe rose )*

**THE SPEAKER:** Full disclosure is very important.

**MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO:** Full disclosure because of conflict of interest. In any case, it would look very ugly if we, the people who impose these taxes on the public, come and sit here and exempt ourselves from paying taxes. At least let us name ourselves so that we know and that the headline does not come out and say, “MPs presented their companies and exempted themselves”. Let it be known like Hon. Itungo was named through MBI, which is not bad. The justification was given.

**THE SPEAKER:** Just like he has a right to do business, and if he has a problem, it does not stop him -

**MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO:** Exactly, let that person be named other than a headline coming out in the papers that MPs -

**MR ENOS ASIIMWE:** Madam Chairperson, I wanted to defer from Hon. Nsereko. All this information is laid down in the minutes and the report. My suggestion would be -

**THE SPEAKER:** We are not all members of the committee. Honourable chairperson, we are not privy to that information. Hon. Elijah, please sit. Honourable chairperson, we are not privy to that information and, like the honourable minister said, this institution belongs to Hon. Itungo. He had challenges and all that – I mean, it is understandable. There is no illegality there.

Mr Lokwang’s exemption - not Ogwang’s - is allowed. *(Laughter)*

**MR KANKUNDA:** Madam Speaker, we received the details and I was trying to remember. Like you have said, one of the shareholders is a Member – I do not remember the name off the top of my head.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Busingye.

**MR KANKUNDA:** Yes, Hon. Busingye and the son, Eriya. I remember only one name, “Eriya”. However, the records are in the minutes.

Madam Speaker, this company did construction of:

- a) 24 classroom blocks
- b) 36 dormitories
- c) Parade square
- d) Valley dam with 1.2 trillion litres of water
- e) Water reservoir for special forces training centre
- f) Staff quarters for 180 families
- g) 112 kilometres of security roads
- h) Grading of internal road networks
- i) Fencing of the barracks
- j) Construction of seven senior staff quarters

- k) Construction of the administration block
- l) Construction of the armoury
- m) Construction of prison cells.

We have observed, therefore, that this company has done construction since 2017 and the committee established that the principal tax and the accumulated tax arrears arose out of VAT-able supplies from which the company should have remitted appropriate VAT to Uganda Revenue Authority (URA). Due to the delayed payments from the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs, the taxpayer was not able to remit the assessed taxes.

Seven years after the works stalled, prices of the materials have risen significantly and even if the entire contract price was paid, the company would not be able to pay both the tax arrears and complete the works on the unfinished buildings.

Therefore, the committee recommends that M/S J2E Corporation be granted the tax waiver amounting to Shs 2,718,116,592.

#### Nkumba University

Nkumba University, as we are all aware, is a private chartered university through Legal Notice No.3 of 2007.

#### Observations

The committee observed that:

1. The reduction in enrolment was very sudden, as a significant number of students on private sponsorship or scholarships were forced to drop out when their benefactors failed to pay tuition. Management was forced to downsize the number of employees while at the same time faced with an immediate provision for gratuity.
2. The committee observed that the university cash flow situation forced management to ration cash available between wage, gratuity and other supplies. The effect of this was the inability to remit Pay As You Earn (PAYE).

3. The university is currently tax compliant. Awarding the university the sought tax waiver would enable them to maintain a tax compliant position and afford the institution the ability to operate normally.

#### Recommendation

The committee recommends that the tax waiver equivalent to Shs 4,479,421,190 be granted to Nkumba University to settle their outstanding PAYE tax arrears.

#### M/S Nicontra Ltd

M/S Nicontra is a fully owned Ugandan company. The main business activity of the company is civil engineering, majoring in road construction. Other lines of business carried out by the company include stone quarry, sale of aggregate, quarry dust, concrete products, and rental.

#### Observation

The committee observes that:

- a) The company is not able to benefit from the waiver of interest and penalty under Section 40D of the Tax Procedures Code Act since it requires that the principal must be settled/remitted first as a prerequisite requirement.
- b) The company has fulfilled its tax obligation despite its financial constraints.

#### Recommendation

The committee recommends that Parliament approves Shs 931,935,420 for Nicontra to enable it to settle its outstanding VAT liability.

#### Makerere Business Institute

As you are aware, this is a tertiary institution offering higher education both at certificate and diploma levels.

The committee observes that:

1. The institution has since become tax compliant. Awarding the institution the sought tax waiver would enable them to maintain a tax compliant position and afford the institution the ability to operate normally.
2. There was a drastic reduction in enrolment within the timeframe, which the institution is stating as the cause of the tax liability.

#### Recommendation

The committee recommends that a tax waiver equivalent to Shs 239,306,340 be approved for Makerere Business Institute to enable it to settle its outstanding obligations.

Madam Speaker, I beg to submit.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable chairperson. Honourable members, it is a direct thing. They have explained each of them. Hon. Asuman?

5.14

**MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri):** Madam Speaker, I raised an issue that I thought the committee interrogated, and it relates to the transparency of, generally, waivers and exemptions, the provisions in the law notwithstanding.

It is important, as a committee and also as Parliament, to provide guidance to the public so that at the end of it all, we know some - because the provision in the law, in itself, is not complete. How does a peasant from - Where does Hon. Musasizi come from? Where does a peasant deep down in Kabale, where he comes from, get to know about these opportunities?

I thought that, perhaps, we would have some sort of -

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable member, the peasant from Ik or Bukedea is represented in the House. It is the Member of Parliament representing that peasant who is not doing his or her work.

**MR BASALIRWA:** Madam Speaker, I am raising it -

**THE SPEAKER:** Let us avoid sleeping on our jobs. We must tell our people what they are entitled to.

**MR BASALIRWA:** So, let me put it to the committee. I will not go into a fight with the presiding officer because I cannot manage, as you are aware. *(Laughter)*

Let me ask the committee chairperson whether they interrogated the issues of transparency, information, and the provisions in the law, notwithstanding. Hon. Muhammad Nsereko, *Al-Hajj*, and the President of the Revolutionary Front talked about the danger of being misunderstood as Parliament. The committee chairperson may throw some light. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, one thing you should remember is that the chairperson of the committee has delegated powers of Parliament and -

**MR KANKUNDA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I agree with how you answered the honourable member, but I just want to add something small. The procedure is that if you wish to have a waiver, you apply through the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA). It does an audit to go through the process and recommends it to the ministry, which brings it to Parliament for us to handle.

**THE SPEAKER:** One thing you need to know is that finance does not pick up cash and give it to the company. Yes?

5.18

**MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO (Independent, Kampala Central Division, Kampala):** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I hope you will not complain about the Prime Minister's time.

**MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO:** No, Madam Speaker. When it comes to matters of taxation, we are all passionate. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been reported that over 15,000 small businesses closed shop due to overhead costs, including taxes. Many people have had

their businesses closed down and seals put on them by URA.

I believe you when you say they probably do not have the information on where to go, and we probably could have done more to alert our people that there is an avenue of waiver.

However, today, all businesses in Uganda are struggling — in fact, if we stated that today, you would probably see a queue of people from here up to Masaka. The reason would be that nearly all businesses are struggling because of the heavy burden of taxes.

Therefore, the issue we should box ourselves into is whether it is still tenable to operate under this tax regime and whether we have survival businesses to see their third or fifth birthdays because businesses are going under as a result of the burden on taxes.

It is expensive to access capital, as you know. At the end of the day, you compete with people in the name of investors, which is okay, who are given tax exemptions as the ordinary Ugandan borrows heavily at a high cost and meets all taxes. I do not say that these people do not deserve it; they indeed do, just like other Ugandans who are struggling with their businesses, deserve this.

The best thing we should do, ladies and gentlemen, as legislators, as people who are responsible for taxation, now that we have realised that it pinches us, just like the way it pinches the ordinary people, why don't we sit down and realise that for someone to pay those high taxes, they might never see business growth and we sit here and agree with the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development to lower the taxes so that businesses survive?

In any case, we can also agree to waive penalties because very many people are struggling with penalties, including the committee chairperson. If we can waive penalties for this financial year and the next financial year, we might save many businesses — *(Interruption)*

**THE SPEAKER:** There is information from the committee chairperson.

**MR KANKUNDA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, and my colleague, the senior friend, Hon. Muhammad Nsereko. Indeed, he is spot on in trying to support our small businesses coming up. In that spirit, we have just approved the amendment of Section 40D of the Tax Procedures Code, where we waive off the interest and penalty. Indeed, we think in the coming amendments that are being proposed, it would be proper that we equally do it to encourage them to pay their obligations and encourage them to keep in business. He is right.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable members, you have all heard and that will solve the problem of the small taxpayers. I put the question that the House approves the proposed tax waivers for selected local entities as contained in the minister's motion.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

**THE SPEAKER:** This will take effect from the day of the approval, which is today. Next?

STATEMENT BY THE RT HON.  
PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER  
OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON  
GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FOR  
THE SUCCEEDING WEEK 25 TO 27  
FEBRUARY 2025 PURSUANT TO RULE 28  
OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

**THE SPEAKER:** Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

5.22

**THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja):** Madam Speaker, I move under Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure to — below is the business for the succeeding Week:

1. The Mortgage Refinance Institution Bill, 2024;
2. The UPDF (Amendment) Act, 2024;
3. The Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries will present a



statement to the House on the financing scheme to private large-scale commercial farmers under the strategic intervention to boost food and animal feed security;

4. The Minister of Works and Transport will update the House on the status of roads and drainage systems in Kampala Capital City and the metropolitan area.

Madam Speaker, I beg to submit.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Prime Minister. Yes?

5.24

**MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the Prime Minister for informing us about the Business for the next week. However, I was trying to look through some of the statements that the Prime Minister brings here, and then you find that the ministers do not bring the statements to the House.

Therefore, I am wondering what we should do if the Prime Minister tells us that in the succeeding week, we shall have statements from a minister. For example, there was a statement promised by the Minister of Health on monkey pox; this was on the 6<sup>th</sup>; there was one on the Uganda Railways Bill, 2024; and there was also one to be brought by the Minister of Water and Environment. However, these ministers did not show up.

Madam Speaker, I am just seeking your guidance. Procedurally, what should we do if these ministers do not show up? Shouldn't the Prime Minister look at what was not done and then tell us why these ministers did not present these Bills or statements?

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, indeed, that happens. It is good we have passed the rules. We are going to have a Committee on Legal Scrutiny. This committee will follow up. If what has been brought to the Floor is not what is being passed, the committee should be able to follow up and see how it can be handled.

You will find the Prime Minister pledging it here and she may not know whether these people have come to present, because she is a very busy person. Therefore, that committee should be able to help us. It will be a whip. Yes?

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, it is my responsibility to whip ministers to come and present the Government business as agreed.

For example, today, I want to apologise on behalf of the Ministry of Water and Environment. The minister, Hon. Cheptoris, is very sick, so he could not come. The minister of state is representing our country in Ethiopia. The other minister of state had a problem yesterday. She has some health problems also. Today, if I was consulted, I would have told you that that ministry may not be present.

Madam Speaker, before the business is put on the Order Paper, I request that you consult me. I have been asking for this because I would have told you that that ministry has a problem. We can discuss this on the phone with our technical people. It is good practice that we consult one another. I am the Leader of Government Business. I usually find the Order Paper already out.

Sometimes, when my ministers Travel — I know because I am the one who gives them permission to travel — I would have told you that Hon. Anywar is out of the country, the line minister is sick, and the junior minister is also sick.

**THE SPEAKER:** Prime Minister, one of my cardinal roles is to respect government business. That is number one. We have an Office of the Leader of Government Business. These people should have given you that information. The Order Paper came out early. If we were to put work coming from the Opposition or private Members, the Government would complain.

We are going to do it, we will continue, but the Office of the Leader of Government Business should always inform you. The good thing is

that you have a very good director who reports directly to you.

On the issue of the Order Paper, we always circulate it early and if you tell us that these people are not there, we shall not read their item when it comes to that time. Some of these things are for internal management.

#### PRIME MINISTER'S TIME

**THE SPEAKER:** The Prime Minister has asked for time to go and meet another Prime Minister.

5.26

**THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja):** Madam Speaker – (*Mr Basalirwa rose*)

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Asuman, can't you respect your *Jjajja*?

5.30

**MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri):** This one is my grandmother. She cannot stop me from talking. How can my grandmother stop me from talking? *Jjajja, atte onvuddemu?* Let me talk.

**THE SPEAKER:** I have stopped you.

**MS NABBANJA:** Honourable members, my grandson knows that my office is quite busy. We have a visiting Prime Minister from Belarus, and I want to go and welcome him.

I would like to suggest, Madam Speaker, that since the responses to the written questions are already uploaded and Members can access them, I could just sit for some time to get urgent issues.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay. How many are you ready to receive? Ten? Okay. Hon. Richard.

5.31

**MR RICHARD GAFABUSA (NRM, Bwamba County, Bundibugyo):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The people of Bundibugyo

District are in fear. In a period of one week, two schools have been burnt. Nyahuka Parents Secondary School was burnt last week in broad daylight. That school belongs to Hon. Acrobert Kiiza Moses of Bughendera County, but it is in my constituency in Nyahuka Town Council. Yesterday, another school, St Padre Pio Primary School, was burnt in broad daylight. Property worth millions of shillings was lost.

In a period of one year, we have had eight fires targeting schools. About six of them are in the same town council, Nyahuka.

Our prayers –

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Gafabusa, let us go straight to the point.

**MR GAFABUSA:** Yes. Our prayers are:

1. We need the Government to come in and help us find out what is causing these fires.
2. The most important one is that we do not have firefighting equipment in the neighbourhood. The nearest is in Fort Portal. The journey from Fort Portal to Bundibugyo – those who have been there – the shortest time it will take you is two and a half hours. By the time they reach, they will not save anything. Police responds, but they are incapacitated. Would you give us firefighting equipment in Bundibugyo, considering our unique location and terrain? This is so that we are able to respond and save property and life.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Semakula? Please write them down, then you answer at once and go.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, I know the Minister of Education and Sports is here, but this requires a multi-sectoral approach. I request the Member to put that one in writing so that I can arrange a meeting involving the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Member, and the district officials for safety measures. I will do that next week.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Semakula and Hon. Jesca.

5.34

**MR PAULSON LUTTAMAGUZI (DP, Nakaseke South County, Nakaseke):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Four days back, in the villages of Semuto Subcounty, many people were attacked by panga-wielding men. Many of them were cut, and right now, they are living in fear. We wanted to know – because the people who are supposed to respond –

**THE SPEAKER:** Did they die when they were cut, or were they cut, and they are living in fear?

**MR LUTTAMAGUZI:** They were injured. There were many who were injured. They were demanding for money and mobile phones. Whoever could not produce either would be cut. Many villages of Kalege-Bbanda, Nvunanwa – I am mentioning them because I understand you know most of these areas. They were cut, and people are living in fear.

The nearby police station, which was supposed to respond, does not have fuel or motorcycles. Therefore, we do not know what to do, especially in the neighbouring subcounties to Semuto. We want to know what the Government can do right now, Madam Prime Minister.

**MS NABBANJA:** The line minister, that is the Ministry of Internal Affairs, is directed to investigate. However, we are also implementing the presidential directive to have police posts per subcounty with 18 police officers. We have started. We are doing this in a phased manner. I believe some Members know that we have been providing police officers in your respective areas.

Therefore, I would also direct now that the IGP provides a police post in that place so that the panga-wielding people are arrested. We are also going to investigate. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** It is also good for you to put it down in writing. Hon. Jesca and Hon. Sarah.

5.36

**MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity.

My problem is that many patients in Adjumani General Hospital are stranded. Others have resorted to local herbs for the following reasons:

1. Internet connectivity is very poor, and therefore, we cannot use the computerised system.
2. We have obsolete ultrasound and x-ray machines.
3. We do not have adequate space for our mothers and their babies.

Prayers: Madam Speaker, let the Prime Minister ensure that the old system is revived to provide an alternative – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us first hear from the Prime Minister, but for heaven's sake, do you need an internet system for a doctor to do consultation and make a prescription? Yes.

**MS ABABIKU:** They have been directed to use only a computerised system. The old registers have been brought back to the ministry. That is the directive. Thank you.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, we are currently trying to computerise our systems. The President recently launched the provision of the internet, and we are rolling it out. We were in Karamoja. I believe that we shall also go to Adjumani District up to the last mile connection.

I request members to be patient but I will also talk to the Minister of Health to find out why we have gone full blast when we do not have the internet.

In other areas where we are yet to connect, the internet, the process can be delayed. We are moving at a high speed because of what you know. *(Laughter)* We do not want to leave anybody behind. We are trying to digitalise almost all our systems.

5.38

**MS SARAH NAJJUMA (NRM, Woman Representative, Nakaseke):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Prime Minister briefly mentioned my issue. However, it is true that the Government has deployed police officers in our subcounties

And they are big in numbers, by the way. I know a subcounty that has 16 and another subcounty has 15, but they have no accommodation, no offices, no motorcycles, and sometimes, as Members of Parliament, we are called on to intervene.

Some police posts already had issues. There is a police post in Kangwaje that occupied someone's building for almost a year without paying rent.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we request that you intervene because these police officers are supposed to keep law and order. However, they sleep in different places. How will they rescue a situation? Thank you.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, the security of our people and their property is important. Even in my area, there are some subcounties that were provided with police, but they have no accommodation. As communities, we are looking around because we are overwhelmed by thugs stealing our animals.

We are also going to provide some funding for the police in the coming supplementary budget. I request that we support the police when this one comes.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Francis Mwijukye and Hon. Francis Kazini Twinomujuni (Buhaguzi County, Kikuube) and Hon. Christine Kaaya, not the Kikuube MP. He can speak after those who have been mentioned.

5.40

**MR FRANCIS MWIJUKYE (FDC, Buhweju County, Buhweju)** Madam Speaker, over the weekend, we were attacked by heavy rains. It was an attack - *(Laughter)* - to use the

language of Buhunga Subcounty. Almost four villages lost gardens, animals, schools, and plantations.

We have written to the Prime Minister through our Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), and they asked me to come to this House to officially, in addition to writing, inform the Prime Minister to come to our rescue. Madam Prime Minister, can you direct?

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, I do not know what the Prime Minister can do to stop the rain, but the fact is, there are times when we have harsh weather conditions, and some people need support. I do not know whether the letter of the CAO has already reached our office, but we shall provide our usual humanitarian support, which includes food supplies and many other things.

Are you aware that recently, my office gave you iron sheets to roof the church? Do you remember? I thought you would appreciate that one. *(Laughter)* [*Hon. Christine Kaaya rose*]

**THE SPEAKER:** Let Hon. Francis finish and then you will speak Hon. Christine.

5.42

**MR FRANCIS KAZINI (NRM, Buhaguzi County, Kikuube):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. Last week, officials from the Kingdom of Bunyoro visited Kyangwali Subcounty in Kikuube District and surveyed land in the villages of Mandiga, Nsozi, and Wairarapa.

They said they were going to evict people and that the land belonged to the Kingdom. They said they had been sent by the Government and were escorted by police and the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF).

When we called the District Police Commander (DPC), he kept quiet. I beg that the Prime Minister - good enough she is from that area she belongs to that same Kingdom - help us visit the places, and perhaps give us wisdom or hope or to send the state minister in charge of that region to come and give us answers;

whether our people are going to be evicted –  
(*Member timed out.*)

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, the laws that govern us are very clear. Nobody is supposed to evict a bona fide occupant. I will call a meeting involving the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, the local population, and the representatives, like the LCVs, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) and the DPC.

As of now, using the powers vested in me as the Prime Minister, I stop that eviction.

5.44

**MS CHRISTINE KAAYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Kiboga):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Community radios, which I call community microphones, have been selectively cut off, and in districts like Kiboga, where many hills hinder connectivity, we do not receive coverage from national radio stations.

Community radios were helping us with communication, but now, our district has been cut off. Why are you implementing this law selectively? If all microphones do not fulfil the requirements of community radios, why are some districts enjoying those rights?

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, can you help us re-establish our microphones so that we get equal treatment with other districts?

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, I will consult the Member and the Ministry of ICT; I do not have a definite answer now.

5.46

**MS PATIENCE NKUNDA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kanungu):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I want to first thank the Government for the electric fencing around Queen Elizabeth National Park in Kanungu. However, they did not do a good job because they left a gap through which elephants could pass. Unfortunately, two days ago, a man by the name of Agaba Albert

was killed by an elephant because they were agitated after being fenced in. (*Laughter*) This guy had come from Ibanda to make a living in the Kanungu District.

The elephants attacked him in his tomato garden. Madam Speaker, my prayer is that the Prime Minister directs the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and the Ministry of Works and Transport to install electric fencing or put gates at points where the elephants pass. Two weeks ago — (*Member timed out.*)

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable members, what Hon. Patience is saying is absolutely correct. The elephants can get agitated because their route has been blocked. They will get annoyed and do something.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Member for the question. I am going to inform and also direct UWA to make sure that that is covered. Secondly, we also had a problem in northern Uganda to mention, Kitgum and Agago in the Kidepo area. We are also struggling to make sure that we fence it. We are lucky that we have tried to fence, but those small loopholes will be covered I promise.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Edakas, Hon. Enosi, and Hon. Barungi. How many do you still need? Then Kisoro.

5.48

**MR ALFRED EDAKAS (NRM, Kaberamaido County, Kaberamaido):** Madam Speaker, you are aware of the executive order issued by President Trump, which took effect on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January. It has affected service delivery, especially the HIV and AIDS care in our health facilities and the private places that give these services. It is important that the Minister of Health fast-tracks the funding because the funding gap is about Shs 300 billion from the information we are getting from the Uganda AIDS Commission.

When we met His Excellency about a week or so ago, he promised to find the money to fill the gap, especially for laboratory testing and ARVs.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is the USAID money. First, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we need to investigate where that money was going and which NGOs were receiving it. Allow us to investigate so that we can put it on the board for everybody. Yes, Prime Minister.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, the President has directed that the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development receive this money through a supplementary that is coming soon. In addition, we have long-term plans; we want to support our pharmaceuticals in starting to produce and also produce more ARVs instead of relying on importation. That is a long-term plan.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, we request that, given these challenges, people should try to behave responsibly to avoid the problem. Thank you so much.

5.51

**MR ENOS ASIIMWE (NRM, Kabula County, Lyantonde):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question goes to the Prime Minister relating to one of my health centres in Mpumude subcounty, which was earmarked for an upgrade. It serves Sembabule, Lwengo, and, of course, Lyantonde District and it was earmarked for upgrade to Health Centre IV. The UPDF engineering brigade came to us, we launched the works, they worked for almost one month and they somehow stopped. Apparently, there are no funds from the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development. I now put it to the Prime Minister, could you help us look into these matters? Actually, there are 17 other health centres, according to the letter from the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health. My question would be: could you also include it in the supplementary budget so that the work can continue? Thank you so much.

**MS NABBANJA:** I request Hon. Enos to help me put this in writing.

5.52

**MR EDDIE KWIZERA (NRM, Bukimbiri County, Kisoro):** This Parliament appropriates money to Makerere University to have all the

positions filled. For eight years now, they have not had a substantive deputy vice-chancellor for finance. Worse still, the chief registrar is now doubling as deputy vice chancellor for academics. Therefore, can the Ministry of Education and Sports tell us why, for eight years, they have not had a substantive deputy vice-chancellor? I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Even MUBS does not have a deputy principal.

5.52

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang):** Madam Speaker, through the Rt Hon. Prime Minister, allow me to make a statement here to answer the question the honourable colleague has raised. In that statement, I will also be able to address the one of MUBS. I thank you.

5.53

**MS JOSEPHINE BEBONA (NRM, Woman representative, Bundibugyo):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yesterday, Bundibugyo Hospital lost two babies who were on oxygen because the generator was down. In 2014, Bundibugyo General Hospital was supposed to be rehabilitated together with Yumbe and Kayunga hospitals under the BADEA Project. The others were commissioned in 2021, but Bundibugyo Hospital has never been rehabilitated.

We have not had a functioning X-ray machine for seven good years now. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, when will Bundibugyo Hospital be reconsidered for rehabilitation? Thank you.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, I am lucky that I worked as a Minister of State for Health General Duties, so I know most of these things. We are rehabilitating hospitals in a phased manner. We started with three: Kayunga and Yumbe hospitals. We are going to add Bugiri and Masindi hospitals *-(Interruption)-* No, but I am telling you the truth. I am giving information from the main source. Yes, because I am the Leader of Government Business.

*Muzukulu*, you are getting information from the source. Madam Speaker, Busolwe Hospital was renovated. We are going to do this in a phased manner depending on the availability of funds. Therefore, Bundibugyo will be renovated.

**THE SPEAKER:** Including Aturutur

**MR WOKORACH:** Thank you so much, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I rise on a matter on -

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Wokorach, I gave Hon. Phyllis and Hon. Moses, and then it will come back.

5.55

**MS PHYLLIS CHEMUTAI (NRM Woman Representative, Kapchorwa):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to report to this august House that three weeks ago, we lost a Ugandan student who has been studying in the USA. He hailed from Kapchorwa District. His name is Kiprodech Samuel Sugut. He has been pursuing studies in food science and technology at Minnesota University. He has been there for some years. He went there in 2023. He did his masters and then continued with a PhD, and he was now ready to come back home. He died suddenly. We have not yet known the cause of his death, but the body lies in a mortuary in Minnesota. This boy has been a total orphan – both parents are dead.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, how can the Government help to repatriate his body? Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**MS NABBANJA:** Our President has always helped. I will definitely inform him today if I get an opportunity to talk with him on the phone, but I need the details. We shall also consult our mission abroad so that the body is brought back.

**THE SPEAKER:** On the same issue, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we may need to lobby for funds for medication abroad for former Members of

Parliament and for their burial. You need to take it up so that we have it in the next budget. It has become a very big burden.

6.58

**MR MOSES KABUUSU (NUP, Kyamuswa County, Kalangala):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given the rising water levels on the lakes, in Kalangala, crocodiles are eating women and children when they go to fetch water on the lake shores.

Madam Speaker, as we speak, in my fishing village, Misonzi, a 14-year-old boy went to fetch water, and the crocodile “went” with him. People watched the boy “going” with the crocodile. It has now taken four days, and the boy has not resurfaced.

My prayer is that the Ministry for Tourism and Wildlife sends for us a team of people who can harvest or pick these crocodiles.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, UWA could give some basic skills or training on how our people can harvest these crocodiles and hand them over to the Uganda Wildlife Authority people. Those crocodiles are eating women -

**THE SPEAKER:** The crocodiles stay in the water, right?

**MR KABUUSU:** Yes, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** So, you cannot harvest them – and, where do you take them?

**MR KABUUSU:** Madam Speaker, elsewhere, UWA has harvested some and transferred them.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay.

**MR KABUUSU:** Not all of them, but where they are dangerous to settlement, UWA has a remedy, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Peter, do you have the same issue?

6.00

**MR PETER OKEYOH (NRM, Bukooli Island County, Namayingo):** Madam Speaker, it is the same. Actually, UWA could help us by constructing cages or safe places.

Madam Speaker, in most of the islands, we cannot dig boreholes, so we depend on lake water. If the Government cannot pump this water for us, then let them build safe cages where our people can go and fetch water.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, how are you going to help the islanders?

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, I have taken note and want to use this opportunity to direct the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, together with UWA, to go to Kalangala and Namayingo. Where possible, we shall definitely budget for the caging so that members of the community know the safe areas.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Is it still on water issues?

6.01

**MR ROBERT MIGADDE (NRM, Buvuma Islands County, Buvuma):** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I thank the Prime Minister, but the response should be to all island areas, because it is everywhere, including the communities around. Some are not islands but peninsulas. Therefore, the problem is everywhere.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Kasilo?

6.01

**MR ELIJAH OKUPA (Independent, Kasilo County, Serere):** Thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, Kasilo is in peninsula, so, have it on board.

However, I want to thank the Government on behalf of the people of Buyende, Kamuli, Kasilo and Kaberamaido for the two wonderful ferries that have been completed. They are

now floating. The only challenge now is that we cannot use them because the contractor who was responsible for building the docks abandoned the sites because of non-payment of Shs 2.7 billion. We have had these wonderful ferries floating on the water for the last four months.

Can the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provide the resources to complete the docks in Kamuli, Buyende, Kasilo and Kaberamaido? We do not want to have white elephants on - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable members, the issue of human-wildlife conflict affects all areas. Therefore, the Prime Minister will handle all the areas.

On the issue of the ferry, Madam Energy? *(Laughter)*

6.03

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Madam Speaker, the issue of the ferries is about money. We are looking at a number of critical items under the Ministry of Works and Transport.

Madam Speaker, in the next one or two weeks, I should be able to give the country good news about most of the outstanding payments under the Ministry of Works and Transport. We are making arrangements. *(Applause)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Wokorach?

6.04

**MR SIMON PETER WOKORACH (NRM, Aswa County, Gulu):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise on a matter which involves my district and Amuru local governments. There has been an issue over the boundary between Amuru, from Okidi, and Aswa, from Palaro Subcounty.

The Minister of Local Government has long been engaging the two parties. About a year ago, he pledged to find a lasting solution to that



conflict, and up to now, the feedback is still with him. I wonder whether the Prime Minister can intervene and ensure that this is settled to avoid many other things.

Right now, we have challenges with services that are supposed to go to our people. They cannot access them from either the Amuru or Gulu district local governments.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Annet, you will come after.

**MS NABBANJA:** The Minister of Local Government and the minister for lands – we have a number of other districts with such conflicts; the Sebei areas and other regions -

**THE SPEAKER:** Tororo.

**MS NABBANJA:** We need to have a comprehensive way forward and I request that the Members with boundary conflicts - because we have been handling them in a piecemeal manner. I request that they put their questions in writing so that we can engage the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and the Ministry of Local Government so that we can handle these issues conclusively.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us have Hon. Annet and Hon. Wilson.

6.05

**MS ANNET KATUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Bushenyi):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to raise a matter -

**THE SPEAKER:** The Prime Minister wants to. Let that be the second last.

**MS KATUSIIME:** I am raising a matter that has caused a public outcry in Bushenyi District. Madam Speaker, on 6 January 2024, the Ministry of Health allocated ambulances to some districts – constituencies – including Bushenyi. The ambulance for Bushenyi District was given to Igara County East.

Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister presided over the function but up to now, the ambulance

has never been handed over to the district, despite Bushenyi District Local Government writing several reminders.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I ask you to intervene and hand over the ambulance-

**THE SPEAKER:** That you presided over. Rt Hon. Prime Minister that you hand over the ambulance you presided over.

**MS NABBANJA:** A number of districts have not yet received their ambulances. They were being upgraded to class B, which has now been concluded. They will be handed over before the end of February.

6.06

**MR WILSON KAJWENGYE (NRM, Nyabushozi County, Kiruhura):** Madam Speaker, in seven days, my constituency has been heavily battered by destructive wind and hailstorms, especially in three subcounties of Kinoni, Sanga Town Council, and Sanga Rwararata, and in the cells of Kyanga, Kinoni, Rwobusisi, Rwomujina, Kishunzu, Kyakatejere, Kakagati, and Kiribwa. Houses have been de-roofed, churches have been destroyed, and shops and crops.

I request the Prime Minister that my people get relief and temporary shelter if possible, but also iron sheets to re-roof, especially teachers' accommodation at primary schools that have been de-roofed like - *(Member timed out.)*

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, as I answer my colleague's question, I am supposed to be at the airport by 7.00. I request to leave because the visitor may arrive before I am there, and this is for you and the nation. The Prime Minister of Belarus is arriving at exactly 7.00.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, can we all put our questions in writing and then forward them to the prime minister?

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, I wanted the Member to put this in writing so that we provide support where possible. Thank you so much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, please bear with the Prime Minister and put all our questions in writing. Then, we can let the Prime Minister go and receive her colleague. I hope we are okay with that.

I now adjourn the House to 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday.

*(The House rose at 6.19 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 25 February 2025 at 2.00 p.m.)*