



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - SECOND MEETING

TUESDAY, 21 JANUARY 2026



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIFTH SESSION - SPECIAL SITTING - SECOND MEETING

Wednesday, 21 January 2026

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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I welcome you to this special sitting. I am aware that since the last sitting of 16 December 2025, we had a busy festive season and equally an electoral process, which has been partially concluded, with more elections for special interest groups and the lower governments yet to happen tomorrow and in the coming days. I take this opportunity to thank all of you.

I congratulate those who won, and for those who did not make it, we are with you. Regardless of the outcome of the elections, I urge all of you to continue working for the peace, development and good governance of our motherland, Uganda.

In a special way, I congratulate His Excellency President Museveni for securing the mandate of the people to serve as the President for another term. We wish him the best of his term. *(Applause)*

It is also with a heavy heart that we convene here today to pay tribute to our own colleague, sister and friend, Hon. Stella Apolot Isodo,

Woman Representative, Ngora District, who passed away on Saturday, 17 January 2026.

Hon. Apolot was a prominent member of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC), was highly respected, and had a friendly personality. She was a servant leader who was deeply loved by the people of Ngora and colleagues in Parliament.

Her legislative track record was quite impactful. She served with distinction on the parliamentary Committees of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Equal Opportunities and National Economy. She was also an active member of the Parliamentary Sports Club, where she played netball.

Honourable members, the death of Hon. Apolot brings to a total of seven Members of Parliament that we have lost in the 11th Parliament. It is a very painful reality. As colleagues, we pray that the ever merciful Lord grants all our departed colleagues eternal rest.

Death is an inevitable journey for all of us. In 2 Samuel 14:14, the Bible states that, *“For we will surely die and become like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again...”* That is why we should all live to create a positive and lasting impact on our societies. At the end of the day, it is the memories we create that define our legacy. It is not how long we lived on earth, but how impactful we were on humanity.

I, therefore, urge you to be deliberate in shaping your own legacy. What should humanity

remember of you while you are not on this earth?

Honourable members, our departed colleague was very good regarding the advocacy for women. When you listen to all the speeches she made while she was in Parliament, it was all about women. I condole with the 11th Parliament of Uganda, the people of Ngora District and the FDC party.

It is painful that we have lost a resourceful legislator. She will be dearly missed by her people, the community and the Parliament of Uganda.

I thank all of you for coming to this special sitting. I have always said that when it is a special sitting or when we lose a Member, it does not matter whether this person is from this party or the other. We all remain Members of Parliament and this is the time that we get united for one cause. I wish you all the best as you deliberate.

(Entrance of the late Hon. Stella Apolot Isodo.)

The National Anthem

The East African Community Anthem

Laying of wreaths

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, in the VIP gallery this afternoon, we have the immediate family members of the late Hon. Stella Apolot. We have:

1. Mr Samuel Isodo – husband;
2. Ms Joan Apio – daughter;
3. Mr Arnold Isodo – son;
4. Mr Allan Okiror – son;
5. Mr Ariong Etoba – brother;
6. Mr Simon Julius Eseet – brother;
7. Ms Sarah Amuge – sister;
8. Ms Dorothy Ajete – sister;
9. Ms Oliva Iculet – sister;
10. Ms Loyce Ouchokol – sister;
11. Ms Angella Apio - sister-in-law;
12. Ms Harriet Kobusingye - sister-in-law.

They have joined us in paying tribute to the late Stella Isodo.

Still in the public gallery, we also have relatives and friends of the late Isodo. We have:

1. Hon. Dr Francis Epetait, former Member of Parliament from Ngora;
2. Hon. Toterebuka Bamwenda, former Member of Parliament and a member of the FDC party, where the late belonged;
3. Hon. Jacqueline Amongin, a Member of EALA and former Woman MP of Ngora;
4. Hon. Veronica Kadogo, also a Member of EALA; and
5. Hon. Francis Mukula, former Member of Parliament.

Honourable members, we will continue introducing them as they come.

I also have condolence messages: We have a condolence message from Rotary, signed by the District Governor, Geoffrey Martin Kitakule.

We have another condolence message from the Parliamentary SACCO, and attached is Shs 1 million. We have a message from the Speaker's office; attached is Shs 10 million. *(Applause)*

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF
PARLIAMENT TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE
LATE HON. STELLA APOLOT ISODO,
FORMER WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE,
NGORA DISTRICT

THE SPEAKER: The Rt Hon. Prime Minister is represented by Hon. Adoa.

2.34

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (FISHERIES) (Ms Hellen Adoa): Madam Speaker, allow me to congratulate you on bouncing back to the 12th Parliament. I also congratulate all the honourable colleagues who made it. To those who did not make it, God has more in store.

This is a motion for a resolution of Parliament to pay tribute to the late Hon. Stella Apolot

Isodo for her distinguished service to the nation, moved under Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda.

“WHEREAS Parliament of Uganda received with sorrow the sad news of the death of Hon. Stella Apolot Isodo, Woman Representative, Ngora District, which occurred on Saturday, 17 January 2026 and;

WHEREAS Hon. Stella Apolot Isodo was a legislator and leader who served her nation with unwavering commitment and worked as a Woman Member of Parliament for Ngora from 2021 to the time of her death;

AWARE that Hon. Isodo served the people of Uganda in various capacities, including serving as a Community Development Officer in Concern Worldwide, Senior Development Officer in Concern Worldwide, Senior Development Officer in Self Help Africa and Agriculture Programme Manager in Vision for Teso Rural Development Organisation (TERUDO), where she played a key role in advocating for the aspirations of her people;

FURTHER AWARE that Hon. Isodo was a leading promoter of unity, as well as socio-economic transformation, especially for the Teso Subregion. She fostered unity and built consensus on important legislative priorities;

RECOGNISING that Hon. Isodo was a trained and accomplished agriculturist whose professional expertise positioned her to contribute effectively in Parliament on agricultural-related matters and advancement of agricultural policy;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that Hon. Isodo earned recognition for championing women's rights through promotion of financial inclusion and self-reliance initiatives for women involved in rural subsistence farming and girl-child education, where all these initiatives created a more inclusive environment for women to benefit from national development programmes;

APPRECIATING that Isodo possessed unwavering passion for education, women and girls' empowerment and national development, and her legacy is reflected in the diligent representation she provided for her constituents and the nation at large;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

- 1. Parliament collectively conveys its deepest condolences to the bereaved family, relatives, friends, the people of Ngora and Uganda for the loss of a distinguished and exceptional leader of this country; and*
- 2. Parliament takes cognisance of the diligent service that the late Hon. Stella Apolot Isodo has rendered to the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, the Ngora community and the people of Uganda.”*

For the Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, Prime Minister of Uganda.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Is the motion seconded? It is seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, by Hon. Aber, and the Whole House. Thank you. Would you like to speak to your motion?

MS ADOA: Madam Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, before coming to Parliament, Hon. Stella Isodo was a very active person in the Ngora and Teso community, in mobilising farmers. During the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), she formed groups for women in agriculture, and she is one of the people in Teso who encouraged women to get involved in agriculture.

Many people got to know that agriculture was not just about going to the garden, but involved everything from the garden to the processing part, and making agriculture a business. For the first time, women who never used to go to Busia to take oranges as business got involved, and there was value for money through agriculture.

When Hon. Isodo came to Parliament - we who always attended the meetings of the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries -she advocated for the increase

of the budget of the agriculture ministry. She had a dream of stocking Lake Nyaguo with fingerlings because it is a satellite lake. She has died with such a dream which I – I really want to make sure that I put to the table for us as the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to fulfil her dream of stocking Lake Nyaguo.

I remember also how passionate she was about getting tractors to every district, and she made sure that Ngora got two tractors. I thank the late and the entire agriculture committee for always advocating for the agriculture ministry to be funded and to get a good budget. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Adoa. Leader of the Opposition?

2.42

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to second the motion to pay tribute to our departed honourable colleague, the late Hon. Apolot Stella Isodo, former Woman Member of Parliament for Ngora District.

On behalf of the Opposition in Parliament and on my own behalf, I extend our deepest condolences to her husband, Mr Samuel Isodo, her children, the people of Ngora, and the Forum for Democratic Change political party that she belonged to.

The sudden death of Hon. Isodo at about 51 years is tragic and deeply painful. It comes at a moment when Uganda has barely emerged from a highly contentious election marked by killings, abductions, torture, and widespread fear among citizens who dared to participate democratically.

Hon. Isodo was no politician of convenience. As a committed Opposition leader, agriculturalist, and member of the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, she consistently championed the issues of farmers, women, and youth – the backbone of our nation – whose voices are too often sidelined. Her leadership

rested on integrity, courage, and genuine closeness to her people.

Hon. Isodo was a gentle soul, but very firm on her stance about the kind of country she desired to see, as a leader and as a citizen. She desired to see a truly democratic state; a Uganda where the rule of law is respected, and where no one is above the law.

Hon. Isodo desired a country where the voice of the people is respected through the ballot, where leaders do not seek to occupy office at all costs, regardless of the implications.

(Text expunged.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, with due respect, can we stick to the objective of this sitting? On Tuesday, we have a sitting where we can discuss that. Let us first talk about my sister, Hon. Isodo, and then we shall come and pour out our hearts on the election in the next sitting. For now, let us talk about Hon. Stella Isodo.

MR SSENYONYI: Rt Hon. Speaker, I am seconding a motion about a leader whom I led on this side. I knew her aspirations; so, I am talking about somebody that I knew as well. I ask that I am given room to talk about my honourable colleague.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, not the election. Talk about Hon. Stella.

MR SSENYONYI: Madam Speaker, do you now probably want to speak on my behalf? I beg to be guided because I am seconding the motion, and I am speaking about my honourable colleague whose heart I knew, whose aspirations I know. Except if somebody wants to speak on my behalf, I ask that I am given room to speak as long as what I am saying is not unparliamentary. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssenyonyi, and I am saying this with respect, we are paying tribute to a fallen colleague. Let us talk about her legacy. On issues of politics, we will come back and talk about politics in this House.

MR SSENKYONYI: Madam Speaker, we are paying tribute to a politician; a politician who has been part of us. Everybody is going to have a chance to say what they would like to say about her. I am saying what I am saying about her through the lenses in which I saw her. I do not know why I am being barred and stopped from speaking about my colleague leader.

This is the tribute that I am paying to the honourable colleague who is lying here, who was a Member of Parliament on the Opposition side that I lead, somebody that I knew, whose politics I knew, whose heart and aspirations I knew. Please allow me to pay tribute to my honourable colleague. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Text expunged.)

So, I second this motion with the solemn hope that Parliament will honour her memory, not merely with words, but with action by defending democracy and insisting on transparency and restoring dignity to political participation in our country, Uganda.

I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. As somebody who loved agriculture – Hon. Adoa – we should remember Hon. Isodo's legacy by making women move away from subsistence agriculture to modern agriculture.

Also, Hon. Isodo, being a daughter of the soil, the tribute will not come with political statements. So, the political statements in this tribute, just know, will be deleted – because I have to give it to the family. I have a responsibility as one of the daughters from the subregion. Thank you.

2.52

MS LUCY AKELLO (FDC, Woman Representative, Amuru): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me to pass my condolences to the family and to you, Madam Speaker, the people of Teso and this Parliament. From Amuru, we bring our condolences.

I would like to say that our sister was a true definition of what I call "Humility is not stupidity". She was humble, but not stupid. She firmly and humbly stood for what she believed in.

To her daughter, I never met you, but I got to know you because your mother spoke very profoundly about you. Today, I get to see and meet you. She always spoke about you, and that is how much she loved you.

As somebody who values family, I thank you, Mr Isodo, so much. I know that when Stella was sick, you were in the field campaigning for her. Thank you so much. *(Applause)* That is what family brings in politics. I encourage our friends here: Irrespective of what we go through, never ever leave your family. It is always your backup plan and your family should always be your priority.

Thank you, Mr Isodo and the children. I know you sacrificed so much to see her here. Please, celebrate her.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I was one of those who was approached by the late to sign up for the Parliamentary Forum on Cooperatives, and that is how much she loved agriculture.

I would like to challenge this Government, through the efforts of Hon. Isodo, to ensure that cooperatives thrive in this country. For those of us who have remained and have come back to the 12th Parliament, and are part of this forum, please, let us ensure that Hon. Isodo's dream does not fade off, but continues.

I continue to pray for the family. May her soul rest in perfect peace. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Clerk, the first amendment is the improvement of women from subsistence to commercial agriculture. The second one is the revival of cooperatives in Uganda.

Hon. Aber -

2.56

THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES) (Ms Lillian Aber): Thank you, Madam Speaker. My condolences to the family of my sister.

Madam Speaker, allow me to thank you for the support you have been giving the family since we lost our sister. As Members of this House, we feel happy about how you always step in when a Member experiences a tragedy. Thank you so much, and please keep that up.

Madam Speaker, allow me to congratulate everybody who made it and even those who participated but did not make it. I still congratulate them. Politics is quite stressful.

My sister has been sick, but I also want to say that, probably, the stress of politics accelerated the condition that she had. My appeal is that when we go to lay our sister to rest in peace, let us not politicise the entire ceremony. I am quite disappointed when I see the Leader of the Opposition beginning to sneak in some of the issues –(*Interruptions*)- and he decides to take that opportunity – and this is what will happen at the burial -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Aber, I had already made an order on that. So there is no need to speak about the Leader of the Opposition. It is not necessary.

Let us focus on the late Member. The matter of the Leader of the Opposition was resolved. Just withdraw the issue of the Leader of the Opposition.

MS ABER: I do withdraw, Madam Speaker. I would also like to add –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, let us be calm. We are in a mourning moment. We are sending off a friend, a sister, a person who has been sitting there. Today, it is her lying there, but tomorrow, it could be you or me. So, let us be calm.

MS ABER: Madam Speaker, I would also like to note that Hon. Achayo Juliet Lodou, who is the MP for Ngora County, has been working very closely with the Woman Member of Parliament, and I admired that. In most of our constituencies, people do not work together with the women Members of Parliament.

I am very happy that the two worked together, even on the issue of acquiring the tractors. They moved to these offices together and were pushing for all these issues to be achieved together. That is a good sign of unity.

Hon. Isodo was a member of the netball team where I was also very active. She would be there to bridge the gap in case of any conflict.

As my friend Hon. Lucy said, she was a peacebuilder. Sometimes when people see honourable members quietly seated behind, they think they do not have what to say; yet sometimes they sit because they want to listen more because it is not that everybody has to speak. Whenever you had a conversation with Hon. Isodo, you really saw an intelligent woman, somebody very humble who feared the Lord. We will really miss her. I pray that the Almighty God rests her soul in eternal peace. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Milton.

3.00

MR MILTON MUWUMA (NRM, Kigulu County South, Iganga): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Honourable members, allow me to convey my heartfelt condolences to the House, the people of Ngora, and the family.

Hon. Isodo was a member of the Parliamentary Forum on Food and Nutrition Security, and she was very passionate when it came to issues of food production and nutrition. In 2024, the National Water Day anniversary was commemorated in Ngora District. She influenced lobbying for this function to be celebrated in Ngora.

In her speech as the district Member of Parliament, she spoke passionately about the promotion of water for production. She said that Teso was a very fertile area or subregion, ready for production, but only needed to be supported with water for production. I would like to appeal to my Government and pray that we do our best to have her dream come to pass.

Madam Speaker, still in the same vein, when we were having this year's sports events, it took a lot of sacrifice and courage for Members to report for duty. It was difficult to strike a balance between training, coming for duty and at the same time managing campaign demands for us to be there. I saw somebody who was committed because she used to drive herself to Lugogo for training. I would ask her, "How do you make it from Ngora to come here driving yourself, and then back?" I saw somebody who really loved her country, who loved her nation.

Therefore, we pray that God rests her soul in eternal peace. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Ekky?

3.02

MR GEOFFREY EKANYA (NRM, Tororo North County, Tororo): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you upon your victory to be in the 12th Parliament. I would also like to congratulate colleagues who participated, especially those who made it. I would like to assure those who did not make it that life is normal. Another day is coming.

Madam Speaker-

THE SPEAKER: Maybe on the same note, for those who made it, you will be sworn in on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of May 2026. Therefore, take note of the dates.

MR EKANYA: Madam Speaker, as a member of the Forum for Democratic Change, where Hon. Isodo belonged, I do recall in 2011 and 2015, when we were in Teso mobilising votes, I saw the energy in the life of Hon. Isodo in a

manner that I had never seen. She would want to hold meetings – and colleagues, as you are aware, sometimes there were guidelines that police would not accept – I would try to talk to her and ask, "Hon. Isodo, will you make it, even if you want to talk to the people and women?" She would say, "Yes, I will have to talk to the RDC and the Police".

She had such a cordial relationship with the police, to the extent that they would guide her and then the meeting would take place. In some instances, when we would go there with other leaders who did not like to agree with the police, she would shift the date and the venue.

I saw a leader emerging in her because she had the support of her people. Despite the politics that were monetised, she did not have resources, but she was able to make it to the 11th Parliament because of her love for her people.

She loved the women and the youth. The youth fought for her, supported her despite her gaps and challenges with resources. When she entered this Parliament, she really hoped that most of her dreams and desires would be achieved.

She worked across the political divide in ensuring that she would be able to achieve certain objectives and missions that the FDC would not be able to achieve. She is one of the people who remained committed to the party when nine of our colleagues decided to contest in other parties. She remained loyal to the Forum for Democratic Change. When the campaigns were going on, she was very calm and very humble, and she cooperated to ensure that there was harmony during the campaigns.

We would like to thank her children, her husband and the entire Forum for Democratic Change in Ngora for the support that you extended to her when she was bedridden. You gave her support. And thank you for having a peaceful election in that place. May God rest her soul in eternal peace.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Counsel Yusuf?

3.05

MR YUSUF NSIBAMBI (FDC, Mawokota County South, Mpigi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. As the whip of FDC, I would like to make this statement to pay tribute to Hon. Isodo of Ngora District.

Today, we gather with heavy hearts to pay tribute to our beloved colleague and sister, the Hon. Apolot Stella Isodo. Her passing leaves a void in our lives, but specifically to the family which is before us here. We pay tribute to her and assure you that she was a different breed.

Hon. Isodo was passionate, specifically when it came to women's rights, education, sports and health care. She improved the lives of many in Ngora, but specifically for FDC. She bridged the gap because she was a humble lady.

As you are all aware – it is not politics – we had issues with many parties emerging. I remember one of the honourable members from Mityana said that I was in a refrigerator and that as such, they should not vote someone who is sick – I was in the ICU. I am here with a corset. Actually, I met the honourable colleague here when I was going for the operation. Incidentally, NUP insisted the man is a corpse and is in a refrigerator. She called me and told me to take it easy.

Normally, I do not take matters lightly, but I took it easy. I could not believe that the people we were seated with in the Shadow Cabinet would go around saying that “This guy is in ICU and in a refrigerator.” As I speak, I am still under strong medication.

I had to come to pay tribute and thank Mr Isodo for choosing a person who is different. *(Applause)* She was younger than me, but with just one word, she said, “Please, Yusuf, take it easy”, and I took it easy. I forgive Hon. Zaake and colleagues who attacked me by saying that I was in a refrigerator. I am still alive.

Beyond her role as Ngora woman representative, Hon. Isodo also served as the spokesperson of the entire Teso Region. That is a great achievement and responsibility.

We are going to miss her, as the FDC. We needed her guidance and participation. She had a lot of support on the ground.

Hon. Isodo had a lot of respect within our party. As the FDC's Parliamentary Whip, I served alongside her. We will miss her. However, our party is strong and committed to the values she advocated for. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

Hon. Nsibambi, at least we sent you for that treatment. If Hon. Zaake said you were in a refrigerator, in our culture, when somebody dies, even if you have problems with them, you forgive them. Just forgive Hon. Zaake. He could have said it knowingly or unknowingly. Do not hold it in your heart.

PROF. NSIBAMBI: Most obliged, Madam Speaker.

3.10

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. On behalf of the people of Wakiso, I also join you and the entire country to mourn our colleague, a friend we have been with, a fellow netballer. Indeed, we have been playing in the same position, Goal Keeper (GK). She was a lady who could not harm or confront anyone for no reason. This is the person who lies in the casket before us today.

This is a humbling moment. It is written in the Bible – she was a fellow Christian – in Ecclesiastes 3, that there is a time for everything. We were born. That was the time for each of us to be born. As we see now, it was Hon. Isodo's time to die.

It is a humbling moment. We must all reflect on that day when we will die. What will the world remember about you?

As we talk about Hon. Isodo, I used to joke with her. She would always remind me that “My name is I-so-do.” She used to tell us, that Isodo is “I-so-do.”

What lessons do we pick from her? Are we remembered for being chaotic? Are we remembered for causing someone's death? Will we be remembered as people who stood for things that are not worthy, or could not correct what was wrong? Let it be a lesson.

As I summarise, we have already talked amongst ourselves that we should have something in place when a Member dies. Much as Parliament will contribute to the family, what is our contribution as Members? The Parliamentary SACCO is there, and each person contributes to it, but what fund do we have that is supposed to be taken on as a family.

Otherwise, as we remember Hon. Isodo, let us reflect more. What if it is you tomorrow? Did you contribute to another person's death? Did you abuse them? Did you cause someone pain as you lived on this earth?

I pray that we remember Hon. Isodo. Rest in peace, sister.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Naluyima. In terms of the benefits, the bereaved family have; there is a burial policy. Parliament takes charge of everything regarding burial, and whatever remains from the budget is handed over to the family.

Originally, A-Plus used to do everything: provide food and other things. Since these are political burials, now we make the area Members of Parliament sign for the difference in the money and sort it out with the local population so that A-Plus does not provide everything.

We also have the benefits of the late. Those benefits can only be discussed with the next of kin. We already have Hon. Isodo's next of kin. At an opportune time, we will call and explain to them their mother's benefits.

I would like to remind all of you that, in whatever document you fill out, please include your next of kin. We have had scenarios here where we do not have an assigned next of kin. Families end up fighting.

We thank Hon. Isodo. I have checked all the documents. She has the next of kin. Thank you.

[Hon. Opendi rose] Honourable member representing UWOPA, you will come last. You are in charge of women. Let me first hear from Hon. Acom.

3.14

MS JOAN ACOM (FDC, Woman Representative, Soroti City): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I join the family and the entire country to mourn our dear sister and mother. It is painful.

Hon. Isodo and I were very close. We used to sit in the same position most of the time. I am so sad to hear of her demise.

Hon. Isodo was a mother. She kept calling me her daughter and told me her firstborn is also called Joan. She said, "I love you because you are just as humble as her." Each time she saw me, she would say, "My daughter."

Hon. Isodo was very passionate about agriculture. She fought for a tractor for Ngora District. She had promised to fight for more tractors for her constituency to empower women and many other young people in Ngora.

I pray that the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries takes it up as part of our tribute here to send in more tractors to Ngora to ensure our sister's legacy remains burning in Ngora.

I also want to join my colleagues in thanking Mr Isodo. For us in Teso, we kept seeing him in the field even without his sweetheart, who was badly off.

We thank you so much, and I hope many of our husbands and men learn from him. Even without Hon. Isodo in the field, she was doing well. The voters were on her side.

I want to thank us for paying tribute to her. Please rest in peace, my dear mommy.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, humble Joan.

3.17

MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I extend my and the people of Tororo District's condolences to Hon. Isodo's family, the Parliament and the people of Ngora.

Unfortunately, we have started our first sitting of the year by paying tribute to a colleague; a lady who always quietly sat on the third row in that corner.

Madam Speaker, the Hon. Isodo that I knew in this House was different from the Hon. Isodo I travelled with to Tororo, Bukwo and other parts of this country. She was extremely humble and quiet. However, I was shocked when she came to my community to celebrate International Women's Day. I saw a different Hon. Stella Isodo.

I said, "Stella, why don't you bring this energy to the House?"

She was very assertive and knowledgeable. She spoke with passion about women's issues and matters of agriculture. Little wonder, Madam Speaker, that she championed the formation of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Cooperatives, where I belonged. She was passionate every time saying that, as members of this cooperative forum, we needed to push the Government to form or bring back the Cooperative Bank, and I hope that, at some time, we shall see this Cooperative Bank back.

Hon. Isodo belonged to different fora, not only the Uganda Women's Parliamentary Association. She also belonged to the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Children and the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Illicit Financial Flows and Tax Justice, where she was the secretary.

Madam Speaker, it is very unfortunate that we have lost her at such a time. She was such a reliable person whenever we had meetings or engagements at short notice, as the Uganda Women's Parliamentary Association. She was that person, who, if she were in Kampala and you called her, would put aside whatever she

had to come and attend a meeting. That is how passionate she was on matters of women.

The late Hon. Isodo, in addition to that, loved her family. I must say that she often spoke about her children and her husband. Sometimes, when we had meetings, maybe residential, I remember whenever her children were around, they would come to pick her up. She always made fun of and said, "Sarah, this is my family. It is complete. We fit in this car. We are just as you see us." I was like, "Wow." She loved her children; she loved her daughter, she loved her sons, and she often said, "I wish God could keep me until I see my children grow and become adults." Unfortunately, God has taken her at such a time.

Madam Speaker, as I end, the Bible tells us in Romans 6:23, that there will be eternal life for the righteous. I strongly believe that Hon. Isodo will rest in eternal peace.

However, for the sinners in this country, please know that your destiny is death. There are many sinners. It is God who knows them. Rest in peace, Hon. Isodo.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, JEEMA.

3.23

MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I thank you. I join colleagues in paying tribute to our departed sister. In a special way, I thank the Almighty God for the life of Hon. Isodo.

In my capacity, as the outgoing Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sports Club, I wish, in a special way, to remember and recognise the contribution Hon. Stella had to the sports club. She was one of our netballers. I remember one time when we were in Juba, she had engagements here, so she did not travel with the team. She, however, made every effort and joined us in Juba because of her love and passion for sports.

Therefore, as the Parliamentary Sports Club, I know we will remember her for many things,

but as the sports fraternity, we will remember her as our great netballer.

Madam Speaker, death is the only pure form of democracy because everybody must participate, regardless of who you are. We all have to prepare ourselves for where we are going. In my faith, we say, "From God we came, and to him we will return."

When her body was being brought in, a hymn was sung, "*Nearer my Lord to thee, nearer to thee...*" I think it is very important for us to reflect on the words in that hymn for those of us who are very conversant with these biblical hymns. It is important for us to remember that as we live on earth, we have a destiny, and definitely, when we go back to that final destiny, there will be accountability. May the soul of our sister rest in peace.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us listen to Hon. Abdu Katuntu.

3.25

MR ABDU KATUNTU (Independent, Bugweri County, Bugweri): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to condole with the family, my former party, the Forum for Democratic Change, the women fraternity, and all colleagues from the Teso Subregion.

Whenever death knocks, it surprises everybody, but it is a natural phenomenon that all of us will come to it, as Hon. Basalirwa has said.

However, there is one thing. Madam Speaker, colleagues, when we are doing eulogies like we are doing now, we are not talking to our departed sister, Hon. Stella. We are talking to ourselves.

I would like to address my mind to when you hit the other side of the century. Our bodies become vulnerable. Therefore, we must look after them. How do we look after our bodies, colleagues? One, by doing exercises, such that some of these opportunistic diseases do not affect us much, because if we do not, we will take medicine like food instead of taking food like medicine.

Diseases like hypertension and diabetes are now so common and are claiming the lives of our people. Therefore, colleagues, we need to look after ourselves. Our bodies, after 50 years, are so vulnerable that if we do not look after ourselves, we will find ourselves in a situation that maybe my sister is in now.

Lastly, it does not harm anybody to do good. This world, sometimes you may be lying there, you are honourable so and so, and people are finding difficulties getting words to describe you. Colleagues, we need to always think about what it is that people will talk about us when we finally depart. Hon. Stella, rest in peace.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Mutembuli.

3.28

MR YUSUF MUTEMBULI (NRM, Bunyole East, Butaleja): Thank you, Madam Speaker. You realise that I have been sitting there near my sister, but today, I decided to leave because every time I look there, I feel I am seeing her. She has always referred to me as *Mulamu*, for the reason that my learned friend, Mr Isodo, her husband, was with me at school. We enrolled and finished LDC at the same time. We have been friends and brothers.

Unfortunately, Hon. Stella has left us at a time when we needed her most. I was discussing with Sam, saying, "We have not achieved much in the first term." The expectation was that perhaps the second term would be when we would have accomplished a lot for the people and for ourselves. Unfortunately, Stella has decided to go.

As everyone has said, she has been a truly humble and generous lady. She was very respectful to the extent that I do not think any of us here has had any issue with our sister, Hon. Isodo.

Unfortunately, she has left a small family, young children, and a young husband, as Hon. Asuman said, "We came from there, and we are going back there."

To the family, my learned friend, Mr Isodo and your children, please be strong. I remember when I lost my wife, Stella was with me at home and told me, “Be strong because it is God who has brought all this and He will look after you.” I must tell you that the same God has looked after me up to now.

It is not easy, and I know what Mr Sam is going through, but my brother, please remain strong. I know God is in charge, and you have to manage your family. I know you have so many things you are thinking about, but trust me, the moment you trust in God, everything will be managed. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, let us hear from Hon. Mariam, Hon. Emmanuel and Hon. Aisha.

3.30

MS MIRIAM MUKHAYE (Independent, Woman Representative, Mbale): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I join the people of Ngora and the family of Mr Isodo to mourn a friend, Stella Isodo. As the people of Mbale, we remember Hon. Stella Isodo for the good that she did for our district.

In 2023, I organised a fundraising to purchase land for one of our health facilities. Hon. Stella Isodo, being one of my friends and a God-fearing woman, joined me and supported me, and I was able to achieve that. The Bible says that blessed are those who do good, and those who die in the Lord, their good works will follow them, and they will rest from the labours of this world. It is in Revelations 14:13.

I encourage the family, especially the children, that your mum was a God-fearing woman. Pick it up from that and fear the Lord. God will strengthen you because your mum did well, not only for Ngora District but also for other districts where some of us live. So, we celebrate a woman who was good and loving. Hon. Stella, may your soul rest in peace. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Emmanuel Ongiertho.

3.32

MR EMMANUEL ONGIERTHO (FDC, Jonam County, Pakwach): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity. I am seated here; I have not run away like my friend because we have always sat next to one another here. I spoke to Hon. Okot Peter this morning about the same because we are the people who always sat with Hon. Stella here.

First, I want to send condolences to the family, the people of Ngora, Parliament, and every other person who has been close to Hon. Stella.

Madam Speaker, the first time I engaged with Hon. Stella for quite some time was after she had studied me for a period and particularly the hard times when the Opposition would walk out of Parliament.

As a member of the Opposition, she was concerned that every time Hon. Emmanuel, who is a member of the Opposition, would not walk out. And because of that, she engaged me. She said, “Hon. Emmanuel, what has happened?” We had a discussion, and what I stated to her clearly was that for me, after elections, I make sure my heart and my people are ahead of the party that I represent. I told her, “Hon. Stella, I do not walk out, first because I get the opinion from my voters, and second, my own thinking. So, I make sure that the people who vote for me and my feelings are ahead of the party.”

A lot of times, we act as a group, and I keep asking if all of us who are acting in a group our hearts are the same. That is when she carried the discussion further and said, “Hon. Emmanuel, what have you done before coming to Parliament?” I said I worked with NGOs.

That is when we became friends after I also realised that she had also worked with NGOs before. Sometimes the humility and the considerations we give are brought about by our experiences out there. That is when we became friends, and I got to know that she was so passionate about agriculture. Instead, I told her that I am more passionate about education, and yet I am not a professional educator. I am a social worker, although my previous

engagements were in the education sector. So, we kind of connected.

Even when I removed my FDC coat, it became difficult for me to go and sit somewhere else. I had to be stuck with Hon. Stella because I thought that together with Hon. Okot, we had similar attributes. So, we thought we would sit together so that we would consult and discuss at that level. I can only say, condolences to the family, and may the good Lord take her and keep her in a good place.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. We can now hear from Hon. Aisha, the Member of Parliament for Luweero, and Hon. Kirumira.

3.36

MS AISHA KABANDA (NUP, Woman Representative, Butambala): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I join colleagues in mourning our departed friend. I would like to express my condolences to the family, to the House, and to the entire country. We have shared several moments with Hon. Isodo.

As a netballer, she played mostly wing defender, while I played wing attacker. We travelled together several times. I was a member of the Parliamentary Forum on Cooperatives, and when she invited Members of Parliament to launch the cooperative forum, I was the only Member of Parliament who turned up.

She was so passionate about things that – (Interjection) - he reminds me that he also came, but they came later. Madam Speaker, I participated in the recently concluded elections, and I lost. I am thankful to the Almighty that I lost the election, and I am not in the casket.

When she participated, she had lots of hopes for her family, for her constituency; they are no more, she is gone. We pray that the Lord will receive her in honour.

Madam Speaker, it is extremely difficult for one to speak about a politician and not talk about politics at all. No wonder Hon. Yusuf had his own way to talk about it.

One of our colleagues has spoken about the stressful life of politicians that they go through. I want to agree; most times they accelerate conditions in us. That is why you find that around political seasons, politicians will die. I believe that the stress of elections also accelerated her condition.

Just think of a situation in which one of us is, to you honourable members, you may not know that in my constituency, 10 people were killed in a colleague's house. That is Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi. Suppose he had a condition, either pressure or cancer - we are told that cancer thrives under stressful moments - such a person, even his life might be pushed to an end faster than it would.

That reminds me, Madam Speaker, that some of us who have had time to have meaning and to cause action should always remember that for whatever we do, there is life after the life we are living, especially the Christians and Muslims, who believe that there is life after here, and so, we should be mindful of what we shall answer to the Lord, so that we do not cause pain and a lot of losses.

I join colleagues in praying that something should be done to the cooperative movement, which she was so passionate about, and revive the cooperatives - the Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisations (SACCOs) we are talking about are not the cooperatives that will help this country; it is the real cooperative movement.

I think after so many years, the fears that people in governance had in cooperatives should die away, and help our people and the agriculture sector by ensuring that people have a market for their produce, and easy money, so that they can help the agriculture sector.

We shall miss you, Stella. Your constituency and family will miss you forever. We pray that the Lord comforts them and receives you in honour. Amen.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. We have Members here who are members of the

cooperatives. Hon. Elijah is the Chairperson of the Teso Cooperative Union and Hon. Nandala is the Chairperson of Bugisu Cooperative Union.

We need to streamline the operations - Hon. Aisha, as a forum, you need to first look at what is happening in the current cooperatives so that we have credible cooperatives. Let us hear from Hon. Kirumira, and then the Member from Luweero.

3.41

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luweero): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to eulogise and make my submission on the life of our colleague, Hon. Stella. I have known her for the last four years as a very humble person, and we have worked together closely as the Opposition.

Just as other colleagues have mentioned, there is no person whatsoever who has made any negative comment on the life of our departed colleague.

It is Allah/ God who created life and death. Very categorically in the Quran, Chapter 67, Surah Al-Mulk, he says, "It is I that created death and life." The irony about that verse is that God tells us that before he created life, he created death. The implications of that are that each one of us is a candidate to be where our colleague is.

The question is: are we reflecting on the life and death of Hon. Stella so that we can improve our general actions and activities while we are still alive?

Madam Speaker, you have tied our hands when it comes to talking about Hon. Stella politically. However, as the Opposition, and knowing the circumstances under which she died, it would be very difficult to cross out or eliminate the fact that it was because of politics that our honourable colleague departed from this world.

This is because she died during a very hectic political period where so many of our

colleagues are still behind bars, and some of them have been killed. I can only imagine the stress and the pressure that she has been going through during the electoral process. At 51, gone too soon, rest in peace, Hon. Stella.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Brenda.

3.44

MS BRENDA NABUKENYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Luweero): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to bid farewell to a colleague. Hon. Stella was a colleague in the Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA), a good member. We also played netball together, and we were on the same side of the politics of this country.

Hon. Stella had decorum, was a very intelligent woman, and reasonable. When we were playing netball, sometimes we would not make the team, but for her, she was always calm and hoped for the next time, while the rest were throwing tantrums. I really appreciated her.

I know that we cannot give life, but if we could, we would give Stella her life back. I want to tell the family that she lived her life and served her people well. She always thought about the people of Ngora, and she was looking forward to bettering their lives.

She was a good legislator, cared for her people, and was always here. She was here to participate and speak for the people of Ngora unless she was either sick or doing something else.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you -

MS NABUKENYA: Because we would be in UWOPA, like Hon. Sarah said, she would always attend, and you would rely on her to participate. We thank God for her life and pray that she rests in peace.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. There is something I want to put right. Hon. Stella fell sick, and she was even referred to India. She had a tumour, and she went for treatment -

Hon. Joan, you know that - she took a lot of time there.

When she came back, her life was not the same as she used to be. By the time I ordered for Hon. Stella to be brought from Soroti Hospital, her sugar levels - because she was also diabetic, she already had diabetic wounds.

I think the shock that she got was because they said they were going to amputate - because the wounds were too much. By the time she was brought here, the sugar level was around 26 to 28. That was it.

When we say that she died because of political pressure, it is not true. Actually, if politics kills, then we should not go into it because why should we get into something that kills. Let us hear from Elijah before I come to this side.

3.47

MR ELIJAH OKUPA (Independent, Kasilo County, Serere): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today, this House bleeds. We are standing in a place of law and power, yet we are powerless before death. Her seat is empty, and her voice is gone. A servant of the people has been taken away from us.

We mourn the late Hon. Stella Isodo Apolot, the Woman Member of Parliament for Ngora District and a leader whose life was given, not spared in service. Hon. Isodo did not seek leadership for comfort or recognition. She came with fire in her heart, and duty in her bones. She carried the cries of her people into the chamber and refused to let them be ignored.

When she stood to speak, Ngora stood with her. When she voted, she voted with her conscience. When she disagreed, she did so with courage and truth. She believed that Parliament must never become detached from the pain of the people.

She stood for women whose voices are dismissed, children whose futures are uncertain, and the vulnerable whose sufferings are often unseen. Her politics had a moral spine. She reminded us that leadership without compassion is empty power.

Hon. Stella was strong, but her strength was not rooted in pride but faith.

As a devoted member of the Pentecostal Assemblies of God's Church, she knelt before God before she ever stood before men. She prayed before she spoke. She trusted God even when politics was harsh and forgiving. Her Christianity was not a label; it was her compass.

To her family, the pain is unbearable. You may not know, she has left behind two sons and one daughter. The daughter is doing medicine at Nairobi University, the son is doing law, and the third born is doing engineering. She bore children with a brain.

To Ngora District, a champion has been silenced. To this Parliament, a conscience has been removed - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Switch on.

MR OKUPA: Sorry! To her family, the pain is unbearable, to her church, a pillar has fallen, to Ngora District, a champion has been silenced, and to this Parliament, a conscience has been removed too soon. Her death is not just a personal loss, but a national wound, yet even in this deep sorrow, her life confronts us. It asks us hard questions: are we serving or surviving? Are we leading with conviction or convenience? Are we worthy of the people who sent us here?

Madam Speaker, Hon. Stella ran her race but did not finish it because she was tired but she finished because God called her home. Her work, courage and faith now speaks louder than her voice could. Her seat may be vacant, but her spirit still fills this House. Her legacy will challenge every one of us who still has breath to speak the truth, defend the weak and serve without fear.

On behalf of the people I represent in Kasilo County, and the people of Uganda, we bow our heads in honour of a fallen leader, a faithful Christian and a true daughter of Ngora. May the Lord she served receive her in eternal glory.

May her soul rest in perfect peace and may her life forever remind us that true leadership is a sacrifice. Rest in power, Hon. Stella Apolot. You served, you stood and finished well.

3.52

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT (NRM, Woman Representative, Kumi): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. My condolences to the family, on behalf of the people of Kumi and on my own behalf.

I used to call the late my namesake. She was one of the members of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Malaria. We had to divide ourselves in the forum, where she took the lead in being a role model for mosquito repellents. Every time we were in an engagement, she would say, "I want to be a champion of mosquito repellents." She had promised that she would establish nurseries for mosquito repellents so that our people would benefit but now Stella is lying here. This is a challenge to the rest of the members of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Malaria on how that can move on.

Madam Speaker, the late, I want to say because of our big numbers, there are people who like dodging sessions, but Hon. Stella would always be available. Where we had field work, Stella would be available, and she would always contribute for the good of this country. She would always refer to cases in Ngora.

Hon. Stella, yes, she formed the forum on cooperatives, but she was equally active in other fora, very dedicated and concerned about the progress of those fora.

Madam Speaker, allow me to thank you for always being there for us. When I was almost dying, you came to my rescue. *(Applause)* If you had not been there, I would not be speaking. May the good Lord bless you.

The time I was very sick is the same time Hon. Stella Isodo developed complications. When I started improving, I learned that my namesake was equally very sick, and I saw the sores. There was a time when my namesake could not put on shoes, but I did not know that she

also had diabetes. However, in that condition where we had lost weight, we had darkened. Hon. Isodo was very courageous. She would not behave as if she were sick, but rather like a normal person. She did not want to talk about her health. She wanted to behave as if she were very healthy.

My dear friends, the Stella lying before us here - we need to emulate her courage and strength. You can imagine if she were not courageous, Madam Speaker, she would not contest, but because she knew everything happens out of the will of God, Stella went ahead, in that condition and declared her candidature.

I beg that we give glory to God and thank her. She loved her party, the FDC. Every time Hon. Amuriat Patrick Oboi would have programmes to move around Teso, Hon. Stella Isodo would be there and would speak strongly about the FDC. Madam Speaker, I thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

3.56

MR SILAS AOGON (Independent, Kumi Municipality, Kumi): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. On behalf of the people of Kumi Municipality, the people of the greater Kumi, which includes Kumi, Bukedea and Ngora, and on behalf of the people of Teso, I am here to convey sincere condolences. It is a huge loss. For us in Kumi and Ngora, we have a family kind of relationship because Ngora was born out of Kumi. Equally, Bukedea was born out of Kumi, and whatever happens in those two districts affects us directly. The departure of Hon. Isodo affects us, the people of Kumi, directly. We feel the gap, and I feel it on behalf of the people of Kumi, particularly Kumi Municipality.

Madam Speaker, the last time that I had enough time to chat with Hon. Isodo was when she was launching the Parliamentary Forum on Cooperatives at Hotel Africana. The colleague who said that she was there alone did not know that after she had left, we came in and many Members turned up. That is the day I realised that Hon. Isodo was a woman of material.

The way she submitted moved all of us. When she stood in front of us and gave what she had to offer, to convince us to follow suit and support this forum, I realised that Ngora did not make a mistake when they chose her to represent them. A brilliant woman, a woman of character, so humble. I can never forget her corner at the restaurant. Every time I saw her, the password was always, “I -so-do”, and we would all smile naturally. Certain smiles are forced, Madam Speaker, but she always had that natural smile from the bottom of her heart. She will be missed so dearly. She used to sit just behind me here.

Madam Speaker, what I know, and I want to give this to the family: when God has given something to your family, He will always continue giving you that blessing. She has gone, but God will identify another person, and in future, you will live to remember my words. He will do something special again in that family. That is God. Take it from me.

I say all this for God and my country. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Gabriel.

3.59

MR GABRIEL OKUMU (NRM, Okoro County, Zombo): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. First, I would like, in a special way, to thank you for standing with Members in all circumstances. (*Applause*)

Secondly, I would like to pay special tribute to Hon. Stella. We served with her on the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries when we had just joined Parliament. I was very close to her. I remember I had the opportunity to drive her home twice.

She was very passionate - little did I know that by profession, she was an agriculturalist - on the committee and generally in the lives of the rural farmers.

I would like to implore the Government to fast-track value addition, improve water for production systems and harness post-harvest

management policies in this country, in memory of Hon. Stella. May her soul rest in perfect peace. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Rachel.

4.01

MS RACHEL MAGOOLA (NRM, Woman Representative, Bugweri): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to talk about a woman that we served with -

THE SPEAKER: Let us be brief so that a number of us can speak.

MS MAGOOLA: I rise to talk about a woman we served with on the Committee on Agriculture. She was also a member of the Parliamentary Forum for the Creative Industries.

It is true, if you needed Hon. Isodo anywhere, she would be the first there. I will remember her for that commitment. She always looked at things in a non-partisan manner. In fact, many times I even forgot she was in the Opposition because she never made that stand out whenever we were talking about issues. Stella, rest in peace.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. In the VIP Gallery, we have Hon. Akol Rose from the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and Hon. Johnson Malinga, a former Member of Parliament and member of the Education Service Commission. Yes, Hon. Linda.

4.02

MS IRENE LINDA (NRM, Woman Representative, Fort Portal City): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, too, rise to extend my deepest condolences to the family of Hon. Stella Isodo, the people of Ngora, to you, Madam Speaker and the entire 11th Parliament.

We have known Hon. Isodo as a humble and passionate leader in whatever she does. Be it in sports, where sometimes we are rough, she would always remain humble and soft or advocating for women and the people of Ngora.

We have lost a passionate leader, a good woman and a mother. We condole with the family and will always pray for her soul to rest in eternal peace.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Flavia and Hon. Christine.

4.03

MS FLAVIA KABAHENDA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kyegegwa): Thank you, Madam Speaker. From Kyegegwa, I condole with you and my fellow members of the 11th Parliament, the country and the family.

I got to know Hon. Stella Isodo when she started raising issues about the rural women in Agriculture. When I was the Chairperson of the Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development, she came close to me to find out whether in the sector there were any strategies and activities to empower the women who are in Agriculture, to make sure they effectively participate in economic activities.

What I used to get from the discussions with Hon. Stella was the rural women being empowered through agriculture by accessing resources. She knew how difficult it was for women to acquire land and that most of the time they would use land that was borrowed or belonged to their spouses. Therefore, they did not have enough to take care of what came out of the land.

She was looking at financing options for the rural women who are in Agriculture and the technologies available. She wanted to see whether the sector of gender had - *(Interruptions)* - had such business incubation programmes. She was looking at providing skills training and also strengthening the safety of Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) through co-operatives and improving markets for the women, but more so, improving family well-being and stability through food and nutrition.

Her passion for women and girls really calls for not only the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, but also the Ministry

of Gender, Labour and Social Development to tailor strategies that are going to improve women's effective participation, especially since most of the rural women are engaged in Agriculture. That is where they find - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Christine.

4.05

MS CHRISTINE AKELLO (NRM, Erute County North, Lira): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me to join the rest in remembering our sister Hon. Stella. I joined the Committee on Agriculture with Hon. Stella in 2021, and we have been close. She treated me like her maid because each time I sat next to her and did something wrong, she would bark at me. If I tried to find out what somebody said, she would tell me to be attentive. I remember that of Hon. Stella.

She also made me join the forum for cooperatives. I come from Ngora. Madam Speaker, I remember when we went to Bukedea, she picked me from your home and took me to Ngora. We had lost someone dear. She introduced me before the people, saying, "Christine -" she used to call me "my voter." "Please, do not come and vote from home", - my dad comes from Ngora - "You're my voter." I told her, "I do not know the language, so I will not come to Ngora, but I will contest in Lango." That is Stella; we have lost a friend and colleague.

I would also like to bring to your attention, Madam Speaker, that on the 12th, I was going to die before Hon. Stella during the just concluded elections. I was picked up by the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF). They raided and drove me for 30 kilometres on a pickup and with bullets. I made noise to be rescued. Police pursued us - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Okori-Moe

4.07

MS JANET OKORI-MOE (NRM, Woman Representative, Abim): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also join other honourable

colleagues in paying tribute to the late Hon. Isodo. I closely knew the late when I was the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture. We worked very well for three years.

What I know about her is that she was very objective, knowledgeable and resourceful to the extent that sometimes, whenever I got busy as a chairperson and the deputy was not around, I would assign her to chair the committee, and she did very well. She would even report on how she chaired.

For most of the laws that were handled by the Committee on Agriculture, like the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2023, she contributed a lot, especially for the benefit of women.

This is the person lying before us today. I would like to send condolences to the people of Ngora, the family, the Teso community and the Ateker Cluster. Recently, while I addressing my voters, some of whom are Iteso, I kept – *(Member timed out.)*

4.09

MR ROBERT MIGADDE (NRM, Buvuma Islands County, Buvuma): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I shared two committees with Hon. Stella; that is, the one on agriculture and on national economy. I know Hon. Stella was an objective person because I recall on the Committee on National Economy, we had a colleague who had a tendency of writing a minority report on every loan request and would term this report as the Opposition's.

One time, he tried to convince Hon. Stella to sign, being an FDC member, but I remember on that day, she barked at this person that it is not all about opposition. That specific request was for a cancer and oncology centre. That is how objective she was.

Madam Speaker, you mentioned that at least you know the next of kin of the late Hon. Stella. I am here to remind colleagues that up to today, we are still stuck with collections for the late Hon. Ssegirinya, where Members contributed generously, because the next of kin is not clear. Different parties are claiming the same. As the SACCO, we are stuck -

THE SPEAKER: It is the same thing with the pension scheme; we are also stuck. Honourable members, you never know when God has planned for us. Do not leave the people out there to suffer; just give us the name and we will honour it. Once the name is not there, we will not honour it.

MR MIGADDE: As I conclude, Madam Speaker, of course, some honourable colleagues have a tendency to fill in names of drivers and personal assistants because they are always with them, yet the drivers are always changed. In one term, one can have five drivers or three PAs, but when they change them, they do not go back to change the biodata.

My appeal to Members, Madam Speaker, as part of induction, is that the next of kin does not mean the person who is very close to you, but the person who really matters. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

4.12

MS SARAH NETALISIRE (NRM, Woman Representative, Namisindwa): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I captained the netball team in this Parliament, where Hon. Isodo was my player, and she played the position of goalkeeper.

Hon. Isodo was a dedicated lady to her work and duty. She is one opposition leader who never contributed based on emotion. I remember while we were interacting with her, she made a statement and said, "Ugandans are misquoting the President. When the President says agriculture should not be for '*ekida kyonka*' or for food or the stomach alone, he does not mean that you literally sell everything and leave your family with nothing to eat".

She said that we now have many stunted children because people are selling the so-called "good food" and feeding their children only posho. Hon. Isodo said the advocacy should change.

When we come to the netball side, I remember Hon. Isodo in two ways. The first one, when she came to – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: It is okay.

MS NETALISIRE: Thank you. She did not know the game and informed the coach, but said, “I am ready to learn.” The first time we went to Juba, we left her out. She facilitated herself, and found us in Juba, and asked me to book her where the netball team was. She said, “Netball is my family, and I must be part of you”.

This time, during the game, Madam Speaker, Hon. Isodo was unwell. She had informed the coach and myself but still ensured she came and put on the uniform. She forced her sick foot into a sports shoe and asked the coach, “Can you allow me to play for only five minutes?” The coach replied, “No. You are not well; I cannot permit that.”

That is how dedicated Hon. Isodo was and has been to the work that she does. Rest in peace, teammate. Rest in peace, Hon. Isodo.

4.13

THE MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY (OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT) (Ms Milly Babalanda): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am here to pay tribute and to condole with you, the House and the bereaved family. Before that, Madam Speaker, allow me, especially, to congratulate His Excellency the President-elect and National Chairman of the mighty NRM party for the landslide victory, which affirms that the protection of gains under the NRM Government is guaranteed.

THE SPEAKER: I had already communicated that.

MS BABALANDA: Madam Speaker, I would also like to congratulate you on your victory as the unopposed woman Member of Parliament for Bukedea District. Honourable colleagues, I congratulate those who made it back to Parliament. For those who did not make it –

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank Hon. Ssenyonyi's wife for picking his declaration form. That is the love that we should keep. *(Laughter)* Support from the family.

MS BABALANDA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Honourable colleagues, I congratulate you. For those who did not make it – Madam Speaker, just one minute - by the grace of God, you will serve in other areas of expertise.

The Bible says in Psalms 34:18, “The Lord is near to the broken-hearted.” May the soul of our beloved sister rest in eternal peace. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, we have agreed that we will make amendments to:

1. The revival and promotion of cooperative unions in the country, in remembrance of the late Hon. Stella Isodo. Honourable minister, are you getting it? That is the amendment we are making to the motion, and
2. Support for women to promote the transition from subsistence farming to commercial farming and value addition on the products that they produce, as mentioned by Hon. Gabriel.

I now put the question that the Parliament of Uganda pays glowing tribute to the late Hon. Stella Apolot Isodo, former District Woman Member of Parliament, Ngora, with amendments.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Motion adopted.

The East African Community Anthem.

The National Anthem.

(Exit of the late Hon. Apolot Stella Isodo.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, before I adjourn the House, I would like to inform the House that we lost one of our senior leaders, Hon. Namirembe Bitamazire. The old woman passed on, and I am still waiting for communication from the Government on what is next.

As you are aware, honourable members, we only have powers to bring to the House Members of Parliament. So, if the Government communicates to us to bring the body here, we will do it. Otherwise, in the meantime, I would like to invite you to stand up and observe a moment of silence in her honour.

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

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, you recall that on Tuesday, 16 December 2025, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development tabled the National Budget Framework Paper (NBFP) for the Financial Years 2026/2027 and 2030/2031. Pursuant to Section 9(5) of the Public Finance Management Act and Rule 151 of the Rules of Procedure, the NBFP was referred to the Budget Committee and the sectoral committees.

Also, Section 9(8) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, and Rule 152(3) of the Rules of Procedure require Parliament to review and approve the National Budget Framework Paper by the 1st day of February of the preceding financial year.

Honourable members, considering that 1st February falls on a Sunday, the House will, therefore, consider the National Budget Framework Paper on Thursday, 29 January 2026. I hereby notify all the sectoral committees and the Budget Committee to work tirelessly and report to the House by that time or even before.

Honourable members, I would like to inform those who made it to the 12th Parliament that we will have the swearing-in ceremony on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of May. Please take note of these days.

I now adjourn the House to Tuesday, 27 January 2026. House adjourned.

(The House rose at 4.26 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 27 January 2026, at 2.00 p.m.)