



# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

THURSDAY, 17 APRIL 2025



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA  
IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FOURTH SESSION - 29TH SITTING - THIRD MEETING

Thursday, 17 April 2025

*Parliament met at 2.18 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.*

PRAYERS

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

*The House was called to order.*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, I welcome you to today's sitting. We shall be handling matters of national importance during Prime Minister's Time. Next item.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS ON:

I. DELAY IN PAYMENT OF SALARIES FOR POLICE OFFICERS

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, I received a call from the Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Gen. David Muhoozi. He had already submitted his statement but he got a situation that needed his immediate attention. So, we agreed that Hon. Bahati should read the statement on behalf of the Government. Hon. Bahati? Do you have a procedural issue, Hon. Ssewungu?

2.20

**MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I cannot go against your ruling but I

am raising a procedural matter on a previous directive you gave to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to come and provide a statement here on the transfer from Umeme to UEDCL. Up to now, we have not got any answer.

However, we are having challenges, Mr Speaker. Where do we report power breakages, vandalism, and all those issues dealing with power? My procedural matter is whether it would be procedurally right to continue directing the same minister who is representing the Minister of Internal Affairs to go and ask the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development to come and give a statement. This House must know the process that has taken place from Umeme to UEDCL for us to know where to raise our issues. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. The issue was about payments – I am the one who requested the minister to make a statement; so I know what I requested. Okay? I requested the minister to update us on the issue of payment. As you are looking into it, you can look into issues that the Auditor-General had raised. That was the major point.

I remember even the Leader of the Opposition said that even if we had adopted that, we would need to look through the Auditor-General's report. This is the only window that we can use to look into it. Specifically, I was looking at that. However, that does not mean that the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development cannot come and give a full update.

The other one I needed was from the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. I will request the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development to also come and update us on the issue of – Honourable colleagues, you see, I have a problem. When one colleague stands up on a point of procedure, procedure becomes an item. Please. Honourable minister?

2.22

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati):** Mr Speaker, this is a statement by the Ministry of Internal Affairs on alleged missing salaries among some police officers. Concerns have been raised by the Tororo District Woman Member of Parliament, Hon. Sarah Ochieng Opendi, on the Floor of Parliament, and also across various media platforms -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Point of order?

**MS SARAH OPENDI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have been in this Parliament with Hon. Bahati for 10-plus years now. Is it in order for Hon. Bahati to refer to me as Ochieng when I am actually not Ochieng? My name is Sarah Opendi Achieng; Ochieng is a man. Is he in order to mispronounce my name?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** My fear was about the other name, which they had not added – (*Laughter*) - I feared causing a crisis between – Hon. Bahati, I think that is safer; you can correct the name.

**MR BAHATI:** Mr Speaker, I have corrected a statement of the Minister of Internal Affairs from Hon. Sarah Ochieng Opendi to Hon. Sarah Achieng Opendi – (*Interjections*) - No, as a clan, we are yet to receive that officially.

...on the Floor of Parliament and also across media platforms, including, the *New Vision* publication of 10 April 2025 and 14 April 2025, regarding missing salaries for some police officers.

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Uganda Police Force clarify that police

officers are regularly paid their salaries at the end of each month. However, there are some cases of salary delays affecting individual officers due to circumstances that vary from one officer to another.

These include:

1. Failure to meet validation requirements

In 2023, the Auditor-General conducted a validation exercise for Government employees. Some officers failed to meet the validation requirement due to the missing National Identification Cards in their names or dates of birth. These officers were categorised as partially validated.

2. Bank identity mismatches

Salaries sometimes bounce due to inconsistencies between National Identity Card details submitted to banks and those provided to the payroll system.

3. Deletion of deserters from the payroll

Officers who desert work are removed from the payroll. When such officers reappear, they are subjected to a disciplinary process, which sometimes takes long, hence salary payments delays. Since January 2025, 86 officers were declared deserters. 65 returned and are undergoing disciplinary trials.

4. Inconsistency in Date of Birth records

Some officers were retired in March 2024 before their retirement date, according to other documents. This was due to inconsistencies in date of birth records in the payroll system, personal file records, and the NIRA records. As at March 2024, the number of officers who are retired were 426. We have so far cleared 104. Those retired are 179 and those with varying dates of birth records are 143.

5. Salary payments on HCM and IPPS

The data migration from IPPS to the Human Capital Management System started in October 2024, involving reorganising data records. The migration of data is still ongoing. Payments

on the two systems do not run concurrently. Salaries on HCM are paid first, then the process of payment on IPPS starts. This is to avoid double payments. The two systems, however, do not cause missing salaries, but delays for those still on IPPS. The process is underway to ensure all are migrated to the HCM system.

Mr Speaker, before removing officers from the payroll, Unit Commanders flag concerns to the Directorate of Human Resources Administration, which reviews the justification and approves the deletions.

Similarly, reinstating an officer on the payroll follows a structured procedure. The verification process begins at the officer's unit and progresses to the Directorate of Human Resource Administration, where their concerns are assessed and managed.

The issue of police lawyers demanding salary pay of DPP lawyers and the court judgment has been referred to the Attorney-General for guidance and implementation.

Mr Speaker, the Uganda Police Force is committed to addressing these human resource challenges as they arise, ensuring that all officers are paid their salaries accurately and on time. The verification is always on a case-by-case basis due to the varying causes.

This is a response by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Maj. Gen. Kahinda Otafiire, to the question which was raised by Hon. Sarah Achieng Opendi. I beg to submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Opendi?

2.29

**MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the minister for his response.

However, as you will note, the issue I raised was regarding serving police officers. He actually went on to talk about officers who had deserted and officers who had retired and this

was not my point. My point is serving police officers who have not received their salaries – some for six months, some for four months and so on.

In the statement that he has presented, he is actually giving a table of the officers who retired, the numbers of those who are cleared on the payroll, and those with varying dates of birth. These are 143. He does not state in his statement how many of these police officers are affected by the transition from the Human Capital Management system (HCM), to the IPPS system. Actually, these are the ones who are now being affected.

I would really greatly appreciate it if the minister had actually mentioned how many from their records are affected by this migration.

He also does not state when they are actually going to conclude this system migration from the IPPS system to the HCM system. You will note that at the end of this financial year, if you look at the audit report, we shall find unutilised salaries of police officers.

Mr Speaker, this is a critical matter. The police officers cannot come and open up for fear of victimisation. They fear to be victimised and that is why I am here to speak for them. We are here to speak for them.

The minister must come out clearly. I am glad the Minister of Public Service is here. Let the Minister of Public Service explain why this system should take so long; from last year up to now. How long does it take to integrate from one system to another? If you are integrating, must that cause a challenge to those who are serving? They must get their salary.

Secondly, I am glad the Attorney-General –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Have you just finished only one point?

**MS OPENDI:** Yes, I have two issues.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, I am glad the Attorney-General has come in. The minister has actually

indicated that he referred the issue of the lawyers serving in the police force to the Attorney-General for guidance.

We all know that it is unconstitutional for someone's salary to be revised downwards. It is completely unconstitutional. These are serving police officers with appointment letters indicating they were supposed to earn Shs 5 million plus. Their salaries were revised downwards. They went to court under Miscellaneous Clause 22, I think, of August 2024. The judge, Justice Ssekaana then, who was the High Court judge indicated in his judgement that it is actually unconstitutional. Could I read specifically what the judgement said? *"A declaration that the decision of the Ministry of Public Service to revise the salary structure of the Uganda Police Force legal officers downwards below the enhanced salary scale was unconstitutional, illegal and ultra vires."*

Mr Speaker, how long does it take for Government to correct this anomaly? By the way, this was also a presidential directive because lawyers across the board should earn the same.

Could I hear from the Minister of Public Service when you are going to conclude? How many officers are affected? Can I hear from the Attorney – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation comprised of Local Council I chairpersons from Agule County, Pallisa District. They are represented in the House by Hon. David Ochwa and Hon. Kaala Kevin Ojinga. They have come to observe proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)* Thank you.

Honourable colleagues, there are issues which can be settled here so that we do not continue rotating on them. Honourable Minister for Public Service, how do you think these police officers are surviving?

2.34

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE (Ms Mary Grace Mugasa):**

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Regarding the survival of police officers, I cannot answer adequately but – *(Interruptions)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, please do not pay attention to voices that are not on record.

**MS MUGASA:** I will give an answer to two issues. Regarding the question about why they have not given a table of all the police officers who are affected, it is true they have not given it, but the answer is the same. If you have been a police officer and been verified by the Auditor-General, and your documents are not adding up, it will take some time. It depends on how fast you furnish the HR with information. In actual sense, some of them might be deleted. *(Interjections)* Yes, that was the essence of having an audit. We noticed many ghosts were on the Government payroll, and Government is losing almost Shs 5 billion per annum.

It is still a work in progress. People will be arrested if you want to see it. It is going to happen. That is why they are still validating and giving people second chances. You never know, they might get their papers and fill in their files but those who will fail, I am sorry. I am really sorry.

Why is it taking too long? It is taking too long depending on the cooperation. If there are 20,000 police officers, it cannot be done in one month. Therefore, we request for patience. Each entity is handling their human resource.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, do you have a deadline for people to know that "within this period, I must have brought documents, and if I do not, I will be totally deleted"?

**MS MUGASA:** Mr Speaker, I do not want to give an answer for the sake of giving it. Let me go and inquire from Police because the salary issues were decentralised. Therefore, Police should tell us how long it will take them to absorb their staff. I will do that, sir.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, do you mean each entity will give their deadline? I thought, as Public Service, you have worked with the Auditor-General and you have said that “All public servants, by this date, you should have validated; if you do not, you will be totally deleted from the payroll.” Will you leave it to each entity? You must have a deadline.

**MS MUGASA:** We did not set deadlines for each entity but I am going to consult the technical people to help and give us a deadline really. At the moment, I do not want to tell you any lies here. Please give me some time and I will give you the appropriate answer. I beg to submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Attorney-General, respond to the issue of police officers who are supposed to be paid as Government lawyers.

2.38

**THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I thank the Member who has raised the issue.

Mr Speaker, I am fully seized of this matter. It is true that the lawyers in the Police did take a matter to court against our office for allegedly reducing their salary downwards. We made an argument in court that this reduction downwards was not done in accordance with the procedures laid down in Government. We lost the case. We appealed the matter.

Mr Speaker, the issue of changing salaries of any person or any group of people in Public Service is done by the Public Service Commission. What happened in this case, from the facts that we have, is that an individual in the Police, after receiving a public pronouncement by the President that the salaries should be enhanced, went on the system and changed the salaries. That is the issue in contention.

Mr Speaker, it is true that all lawyers in Government are struggling to have that issue resolved and we are trying to get that resolved.

The matter is in court. The Government does not agree that the enhancement was done in accordance with the law, and the matter is on appeal. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Attorney-General is saying the matter of police officers is on appeal. Hon. Sarah Opendi, he appealed the matter, as the Attorney-General. The moment he appeals, that becomes a settled matter.

I am going to allow the Leader of the Opposition. Just allow me to pick one person and then I pick the LOP. Let me allow Hon. David Ochwa.

2.40

**MR DAVID OCHWA (NRM, Agule County, Pallisa):** Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to thank you, first of all, for accepting our leaders from Pallisa, especially Agule County. These are the pillars who are doing a lot of work for the NRM government. *(Applause)*

We have not only come to Parliament but we have visited some villages within Buganda Subregion to appreciate how *Emyooga* and the Parish Development Model are operating. This is because the President has often come to our area in Pallisa, and said –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable member, there is a subject matter on the Floor, and you stood up to debate. Kindly, limit yourself.

**MR OCHWA:** It is true, Mr Speaker. Sorry for that. Indeed, a good number of police officers, even within my constituency, are complaining that they have not been paid. *(Laughter)*

My humble request to the minister - like Hon. Opendi said, most officers go hungry without pay, and they force our people to pay bribes on a daily basis.

Honourable minister, come out clearly and give us the right indicative figures of the officers who are not getting salaries. There are those who have gone even beyond six months without getting salaries. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Politicians can fit in any condition. *(Laughter)* Leader of the Opposition, did you want to go first? You had your shadow minister here? Yes, shadow minister?

2.43

**THE SHADOW MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Ms Betty Namboozie):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, allow me to thank Hon. Opendi for raising this matter. You talked about the fact that the Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Hon. Muhoozi, was not present. However, when Hon. Bahati rose to read the statement, it was from Hon. Kahinda Otafiire. This shows that this ministry has many other people who can stand in.

This is a very important matter because it touches people's payments. You cannot imagine people who are armed working for over six months without pay and the Government is still dilly-dallying about that. Once an armed person is not paid, in essence, we are saying that they should use the tools they have to look for payment. This is very worrying.

Mr Speaker, there is also an issue of policemen who are scientists, and were supposed to be given a professional allowance when the Government policy to pay scientists more than other people who studied other things, was effected. The policemen, who are scientists, still say that their salaries were not enhanced. The problem is that when these salaries do not come, any policeman - that is what they tell us - who complains is taken for disciplinary action.

We are going for Easter. Let us be human, Mr Speaker. You heard the Minister of State for Public Service saying that others will have to wait for much longer. The problem is that every other time Police is recruiting whereas they are not paying those who are already in service.

Mr Speaker, I would even insist that Police stop recruitment until it clears the salaries of the personnel who are already in service. It should come out as a resolution of this House, because you cannot go on recruiting – they

have already submitted that they are going to recruit 10,000 policemen.

We cannot allow this matter to go on without giving these people a deadline. The Government should commit itself to paying the salaries of these people as soon as it is possible, and in any case, not later than two weeks from today, Mr Speaker. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable members, don't you think we would be overstepping our mandate for us to come here and say: "Police, do not recruit"? I think we should push harder so that they pay the officers who are not being paid. On recruiting, we would be overstepping our mandate.

2.46

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am happy to see the Local Council I chairpersons and other leaders who have joined us. Unfortunately, they are leaving very quickly. We are happy to see them. I see they are clad in their colour. *(Interjections)* Next week, I will have some guests who will be clad in red. I hope they will be allowed to access the precincts of Parliament. *(Applause)*

That said, Mr Speaker, police officers in this country are paid a niggardly salary, and the same goes for soldiers and prison warders. They earn very little that they barely get by with their lives. That is problem number one. It becomes another problem when their salary does not come on time, or when they go for quite a bit of time without accessing their salaries.

I have heard the statement by the minister and the Attorney-General. Our bigger concern is not so much the matters that are in court, because the court should be able to handle them, hopefully expeditiously. However, there are those, as the statement does say, concerning mismatches in names, identity cards and so on and so forth.

A couple of these police officers have approached us, telling us they keep running to

office after office and they are not helped to see that this matter is worked on. They will not come out because action will be taken against them. That is the challenge.

You see, even where they would be running for help - they have a Saving and Credit Cooperative (SACCO) called, Exodus SACCO. We have talked about it here and it is a big issue. They cannot access their money. A couple of them are not accessing their salaries. Where they would run to get a loan, to pay fees for their children and live is not happening.

If the Minister of Internal Affairs was very serious, this matter could actually be resolved in one week. This is because, according to his statement, he knows a couple of those who are facing challenges. Meet them and deal with this matter in a week's time. It is possible because the Government is the one with whom the buck stops. There is Public service, on the other hand, the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) and all of that. Why don't you get all of these together and deal with this matter?

These serving officers, as we are saying, earn very little. They move around with guns. Many times, they brutalise people because they are angry. The fellow left home, there is no food, the child was sent away, no school fees and he is angry while holding a gun. What do you expect them to do?

I think that we should task the Government to deal with this matter in one week's time because you have not said that there is no money. I am glad that is the issue. Now that there is money, can we deal with these procedural issues and take keen interest in this matter and deal with it in one week?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Some of these things are confusing. Honourable minister, when you were recruiting these people, what did you ask for? Did they not have documents during recruitment?

Didn't you create files for these people?

Hon. Onzima, Hon. Okwalinga, Hon. Ssewungu and then the former committee chairperson.

2.50

**MR GODFREY ONZIMA (NRM, Aringa North County, Yumbe):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wish that the issue of migrating people from the Integrated Personnel and Payroll Management System (IPPS) to the Human Capital Management System could be interrogated. The problem raised here is an issue that concerns the policemen.

However, I also have teachers who have called me and said that they have gone for over four months without receiving their salaries. The challenge is that they have not been moved to the Human Capital Management System from the IPPS.

We are now saying that the same case also happened with the Police. The issue of the Police might have been raised but there could also be many other people who have not migrated on to the Human Capital Management System.

I want to challenge the Ministry of Public Service. Almost every two or three years, we introduce different systems. These systems are bought very expensively from outside. We train people to use them and as they get used to them, we move away from them and another one is introduced. What is the intention?

Why don't we bring a system that can serve the country for at least 10 years? You bring a system, it serves for only two, three years, and you migrate to another one. What is the problem? This becomes very expensive.

Mr Speaker, we used to move to do oversight in some of these local governments. There was a time we were in Bukwo and they told us that it would take time for them - if they were to work on their people - because they had to come up to Mbale. That was where they could access the internet and the system.

I think we need to interrogate this. The issue is not only with the Police. It has affected very many people. Like I had said, teachers are also affected. Maybe if you opened up, we could even find that there are many other employees who have not got their salaries.



I will charge the Ministry of Public Service, which is responsible. It is not enough to say, we have decentralised services, let those other people do their things. The teachers who called me said, when they went to the human resource officers of the districts, they told them to follow up from Kampala yet the people of Kampala said they have decentralised salaries. I think we need to look into this comprehensively. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Okwalinga?

2.53

**MR SIMON OPOLOT (NRM, Kanyum County, Kumi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

First, on this matter, I implore the minister responsible because security forces are supposed to be the most organised structure. They have sections and their section commanders. A section goes to a platoon plus a platoon commander. How can a commander of a section fail to know the personnel under his section and he does not raise the absence of that person? This is because the code provides one week for them to raise the message of absence. After 14 days, somebody is declared AWOL; absent without official leave. How did this come about without the section and the respective commanders knowing that the personnel under their command were missing?

Secondly, in the Police administration, there are cases of those who could have gone on official leave, but the system did not capture that and they now need to also be put back on the payroll. Have they opened a complaints desk in each division so that all of them are registered accordingly, given a deadline for registration, and a message is flashed out giving them a deadline to register those with the complaints? This is in order for us to know the actual numbers.

Hon. Sarah Opendi, whereas the complaint was genuine, it fell short of the specific list because she is contesting the list that the minister provided. Could she also provide us with a specific list of those so that we can use those as examples to reach the rest? I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Ssewungu?

2.55

**MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. We should tell people the truth. Sincerely, a police officer who can record a statement from Ssewungu Joseph, a complainant, or the accused, but fails to fill his forms; documents that require him to get his salary, is not proper. There is somebody sleeping on the job.

Honourable minister, let me tell you that all the issues you have raised are on the part of the Government, not police officers. These are people who are earning a very professional - I was a teacher; I know how to fill forms. They would not have complained to Hon. Sarah Opendi if they had filled their forms wrongly, but there is somebody sleeping on the job at the cost of the police officers. That type of person is worse than the Jews who killed Jesus.

When you talk about desertion from the Police, that is a criminal. I think the Attorney-General can bear witness to that. If somebody deserted from the Police, then there are other procedures. Mr Speaker, let me say that those who desert can even continue getting salaries until they discover they deserted after almost a year. This is because they are out of station and nobody knows about them until they look for them. Therefore, why do we tell lies?

Their only remedy, which is the Exodus SACCO, is also under attack for failure to recognise their savings. Then, when it comes to their legitimate payment, you play on the job.

Mr Speaker, let us be serious with this matter. Let us not give - and I want to tell the Attorney-General facing me that the issue of professional allowance has no other remedy. You cannot deduct somebody's salary as long as it goes on the pay slip. It is improper, null and void. That was why you lost that case in court and even if you appeal, you will lose another round until you go to the Supreme Court. They will laugh at you there; I can assure you. It is the legal regime.

You cannot give a teacher his salary of Shs 400,000 and say that the Government has gone poor and you are reducing it. Under which legal regime is that, Mr Attorney-General? That is why you lost the case.

As I conclude, Mr Speaker, let us be fair to the policemen. They are like teachers. Whenever you see Hon. Ssewungu talking about teachers, he is also talking about the police because they are on the same salary scale, but there is somebody sleeping on the job. Look for those particular individuals who are making police officers suffer. They are the real killers of Jesus. They should come out and repent before we go for Easter. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Nyakikongoro.

2.58

**MS ROSEMARY NYAKIKONGORO (NRM, Woman Representative, Sheema):**

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Hon. Sarah for raising this issue. As the former Chairperson of the committee, I have been receiving calls, some of them think that I am still chairing, about failure to get salaries, and they are frustrated.

When I looked at the statement from our good minister, I think it is not right to stop people from accessing their salaries because of the mistakes made by the Government and the system, which is manned and paid by Government officials.

How do you say that police officers have a mismatch of identity cards, yet when you are recruiting? - By the way, that is one of the issues they rotate around. When they are going to throw out people, they say they do not have an identity card. They are very, very strict. So, you cannot give us this excuse of identity cards.

That means, there is a problem with the recruitment process. Someone somewhere, who is working on the recruitment is bringing in funny people who do not have the identity cards. In this era, how does someone fail to get an identity card, when they are working for Government?

Mr Speaker, when I was chairing that committee, the issue of lawyers came up, and I think it is not right to really deduct their salaries. As Government, we keep on shooting ourselves. We favour certain institutions but undermine those that are protecting and serving the country. How many lawyers are in police that really- not only in police by the way, even in prisons- (*Interjection*)- There are those that have really been specific in serving the Government, not private practitioners. If we had - (*Interjection*) - yes and in military. If that policy is wrong, why don't we scrap it for all institutions that are serving the Government so that we are at par?

The issue of scientists has also been talked about. They are crying; those in prisons are crying. For the military, I do not know whether they have worked on them. We need to find out. It is really unfair to find that you are favouring a certain institution and you do not favour the one that keeps protecting the learned Attorney-General, who has an escort of police officers and everything. What if they turn those guns against you?

These are some of the frustrations. I am not saying that they will, but these are the frustrations that those guys have. When you find that, these policemen - by the way, in rural areas, they cannot even have an opportunity to access headquarters. The spokesperson - (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Chairperson of the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs.

3.01

**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Mr Wilson Kajwengye):**

Mr Speaker, I thank you so much. What is true is that whenever such matters have come here, this Parliament has listened. The matter of Exodus SACCO was thoroughly investigated by the committee that I chair. It was tabled here, recommendations were made, and I can report that it was streamlined and is working for the police.

Two, this Parliament, last financial year, we passed salary enhancement for juniors, both in the military, police, and prisons. At implementation, there were some discrepancies. That is enhancement. Others got, others did not. During the ministerial policy statement, we held them to account, and explanations were given. We have, at the same time, just passed a report and made the recommendation to that effect, to go back to the original recommendation that was passed during the last financial year.

It is unheard of and completely unfair that a human being, individually, unilaterally and without good reason, actually maliciously, should access a payroll system of an institution and change the salary. I think that is a crime. I am happy that it enjoys bipartisan support here. We should condemn it.

Otherwise, if it happens in an institution that guarantees our security of property and life, what will happen to other payment systems?

Mr Speaker, it is incumbent upon us to pass a stern resolution to the effect that such a person should be severely punished. We all stand for the policemen and women of this Republic, just like we stand for the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces UPDF, just like we stand for the Uganda Prison Service, just as we stand for the teachers and medical practitioners.

Nobody has the right to access a payment system and change downwards and is not punished. We have done the best we should be held to that extent. I beg to submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, colleagues- but Hon. Sarah, I gave you an opportunity to talk. Do you want to lay it on the Table? Please do.

**MS OPENDI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank colleagues, for standing up and speaking for the police officers who cannot speak. Just to state that the enhancement of the police officers' pay, followed a presidential directive after they had actually complained.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, it is a matter in court.

**MS OPENDI:** Mr Speaker, allow me to lay this High Court judgment, Miscellaneous Cause No.22 of 2024. It was *Ms Christine Nanding and others V. the Attorney-General*. This was a ruling by Hon. Justice Ssekaana Musa, dated 16 August 2024.

Mr Speaker, since the matter of the police officers who are not earning their salary seems not to be resolved, would it not be procedurally right to refer it to the committee? Maybe the committee could look into it further and then give a report so that a decision can be made. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, this is a straightforward matter. If we take it to a committee, it again takes some months. What we need is a minister to come back and update us here.

Honourable minister, how long do you think you will need? Minister for Public Service. By the way, this should be beyond police officers. Honourable minister, before that, just a minute, let me allow Hon. Namugga, deputy chairperson of the Committee on Public Accounts (PAC-Central).

**MS NAMUGGA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. You know, whenever they are speaking about matters of accountability, at least PAC-Central) gives you information.

Mr Speaker, this matter cuts across. We had a consolidated report on the payroll. Most agencies and ministries are suffering the same. Why do we not we consider that report, yet it was laid here?

Secondly, please pick interest in the report for pension and gratuity. We have the same issues. That is what I wanted to update you on, Mr Speaker and I beg that we pick interest in both, so that we can have those matters considered. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. For now, honourable minister, you can be looking into it because we have been in the budgeting process and you know, when we are in the budgeting process, we first stand over all other items. We are going to look into it since we are about to complete. Honourable minister, for how long do you think?

**MS MUGASA:** It has finally worked. Thank you very much. I want to commit that within 14 days, we will have brought here a report and I know by that time we will have sorted out all these issues.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable minister, please give us an update in two weeks' time, as you requested. Next item?

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE DEGAZETTING OF LAND OCCUPIED BY GULU UNIVERSITY

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Point of procedure, Hon. Atkins?

**MR KATUSABE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I belong to the Committee on Public Service. Madam Minister, this is for you through the Speaker.

My procedural issue is that when she appeared before the committee, we had a petition from science teachers. The Ministry of Public Service raised or scaled up salaries for science teachers. As a result, the science teachers went to the banks to acquire loans. However, the same ministry suddenly struck off the enhancement, and as I speak right now, some of your science teachers are in prison, and others are losing property.

Wouldn't it be procedurally right, Mr Speaker, for the minister to come back here with a commitment from the Government because she got the petition addressed to the Attorney-General? The science teachers need that

enhancement reinstated to pay the bank arrears. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. There are two things. One, the petition was not addressed to this House because I have heard you it was to the Attorney-General.

**MR KATUSABE:** Mr Speaker, the petition preceded the legal action, but you have the petition in your office that was served to our committee.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Has the committee reported back? If it has not, then rule 80 on anticipation does not allow me to make such a directive.

**MR KATUSABE:** I do not know. The minister should maybe be given the opportunity to address that because this has already been exhaustively processed.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleague, rule 80 is on anticipation. We refer a matter to a committee until it reports back. If you want, you can suspend the rule and then we handle the petition here. For now, let us wait for the committee to report back. Committee, if you have that petition, please handle it expeditiously, so that we can handle it.

**MR KATUSABE:** Much appreciated, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister of Water and Environment?

3.11

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER AND ENVIRONMENT (ENVIRONMENT) (Ms Beatrice Anywar):** I am happy, as directed by you, Mr Speaker, to give the status on the degazettement of Gulu Central Forest Reserve.

Gulu Central Forest Reserve was among the 16 selected forest reserves that underwent assessment and possible recommendation for degazettement and gazettement. To date, my ministry has guided the process and Gulu University, while working with both Gulu

City Authority and Nwoya District Local Government, has provided alternative land in Nwoya District which has been converted into freehold title in the name of Gulu University.

Both the lands have been surveyed, including boundary opening and are now in the final process of doing valuation, in accordance with sections 8 and 11 of the National Forest and Tree Planting Act, 2003, which provides for amendment of the order declaring the forest reserves.

Mr Speaker, the pending intervention is for the National Forestry Authority, Gulu City Authority and Gulu University to complete undertaking the Environment and Social Impact Assessment for both the Gulu Central Forest Reserve and the alternative land in Nwoya, which shall be submitted to NEMA for final approval and subsequently, this status shall be submitted to Cabinet for approval.

Upon Cabinet approval, my ministry will submit the outcome to this Parliament for further consideration. That is the status of the Central Forest Reserve in Gulu. I beg to submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, this is just an update. We now know that the process is ongoing. Our major interest, honourable minister, is that you support the university to expedite the process, so that these issues get out of the House. *(Hon. Betty Nambooze rose)* This was just an update, Hon. Nambooze. Show us how important it is.

**MS BETTY NAMBOOZE:** Mr Speaker, now that the minister is here, allow me to give her this information. One, in my municipality, we have a forest reserve called Namyoya, but it has been greatly encroached on.

Yesterday, I got a telephone call from the LC1 chairman of that area, Mr Andy Kaweesa, that he is receiving a number of people sent there by one gentleman called “Toyota”, with documents clearing them to survey the land and even create titles on Namyoya Forest Reserve in Mukono Municipality –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, Hon. Nambooze; first take your seat. Honourable colleague, we have a clear subject matter on Gulu. If you have an issue which you want to bring up as a matter of national importance, kindly bring it that way. Please, Hon. Nambooze.

Honourable colleagues, this is your House. Let us not take shortcuts and say these matters are cousins or related. *(Laughter)* It can be a critical matter, and I will give you space for it specifically, so that we give it attention. *(Hon. Kaaya rose)* Is it on Gulu?

**MS KAAYA:** Mr Speaker, thank you so much. I have read the statement, and we are happy about the procedure because it is in line with our Forest and Tree Planting Act, 2003. However, the Environment and Social Impact Assessment must be done by Gulu University and the recipient district. So, Nwoya must also give us a response because they are the ones to host the alternative forest reserve.

All these proposals must come into play when the forest reserve is already standing, not to pass a resolution here when the trees are not already standing. That is the clarification I wanted to give.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable member, the university planted the forest long ago. Hon. Lee, as Government, we are the ones delaying them.

3.18

**MR DENIS OGUZU (FDC, Maracha County, Maracha):** I was in the Committee on Education that was sent for that exercise. Mr Speaker, I thank you for making it clear that this House has never degazetted that forest because some people have been peddling lies that the Gulu Forest Reserve was degazetted; that was misinformation.

We saw two pieces of land. One had some eucalyptus, and another was still vacant. I think it is appropriate that the ministry is following the right procedures to execute this degazettement.

Also, most critical, and I wanted the House to take note of this, is where those new forests will be established. The Physical Planning Committee needs to gazette that area as a forest, which has not been done.

There were procedural and technical requirements that had not been met, and it is important that those things are met. We do not want to have a Namanve-like case where they just grab the forest and do not use it in accordance with the law.

Cabinet must be mindful that the President signed a declaration to end deforestation by 2030. If you move without using the right procedures, you will be indicting the president before the global community, and Uganda will pay a very heavy price when climate activists begin to work against our interests.

We already have a problem with the oil pipeline. Because of climate change, we are failing to explain it in all global forums. We must move carefully so that little international attention is drawn to Uganda. That is the information I wanted to give.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable, for putting that straight. The same Government - and I wish the Attorney-General - I know how strict he is, if you could recall that file and ask.

The same Government went to the African Government Bank, borrowed money, drew plans for a forest reserve, approved the plans, put up buildings for the investors, and cut down everything. It is now a fully functioning University.

Then the same Government is saying, no, it is a forest reserve. You have not followed the procedures of a forest reserve. Did you follow procedures when you were approving plans in a forest reserve and borrowing money to put up a university, as the Government? Hon. Felix-

3.21

**MR FELIX OKOT-OGONG (NRM, Dokolo South County, Dokolo):** Mr Speaker, if my memory serves me right, the minister moved a

motion requesting Parliament to degazette that land in Gulu City. They said the replacement was also there in Nwoya, and Parliament accepted –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When was that?

**MR OKOT-OGONG:** That was about two years ago –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No.

**MR OKOT-OGONG:** Let me recollect my memory, but that is what I think.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, let me make it very easy for you. I received a petition when I was still a Government Chief Whip, I received a petition and I shared it with the minister.

The minister said that they had not yet followed the procedure, and they were going to support them in doing so. When we had our sitting in Gulu, the university hosted me.

They again asked, “Please, we request that the Government expedite the process. We have the land ready, we have planted the trees, and we need the Government to assess and see whether indeed we have met the conditions.”

Since the minister has updated us, let us wait; honourable minister, help the University so that we can expedite the process. Thank you. Do you want to say something?

**MS BEATRICE ANYWAR:** Thank you, Mr Speaker and thank you, colleagues, for your input. I want to be very clear from the submission of Hon. Okot Ogong, my friend, that the Minister of Water and Environment has never been on this Floor of Parliament, moving a motion to de-gazette the Gulu central forest reserve.

We are happy that colleagues have seen, and I would like to thank my shadow minister, who has also noted that the Government follows procedures. It is not because we are frustrating the efforts of Gulu University; the mandate we were given is to follow the law strictly.

Otherwise, we would lose all the forests at ago, and therefore, we want everybody to take note that we are not going to do anything outside that law to gazette or degazette any forest reserve because we hold it in trust.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues in the public gallery, this afternoon we have students of the Makerere University School of Law. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me in giving them a warm reception. Leader of the Opposition (LOP) -

3.24

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Firstly, I am happy to see my Old Boys (OBs) and Old Girls (OGs). I was at Makerere Law School a couple of years ago.

I have two matters for your quick procedural guidance. One is something that I have raised several times and I am not about to tire because you gave some direction.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of January this year, the Supreme Court issued a ruling to the effect that the military courts have no jurisdiction over civilians. We have tasked the Government severally, which committed to transferring those files to civilian courts and that does not seem to be happening.

I raised it again and the Government promised that they were ready for Thursday. I have not seen it on the Order Paper. I do not know what the matter could be because there are people who are still being held in jail because of decisions of court-martials which have no jurisdiction over them.

We will not get tired of asking this question. When is the Government going to transfer those files or has it chosen to be in contempt of court? It is important that we know and you guided us on that matter.

Finally, we have processed and are processing the ministerial policy statements. The Budget Committee is now handling the process is still on.

Of course, as and when some information does come, it is good that we raise it for the Government to take note because this budget process is still ongoing. It has become obtrusive that the Government continues to use and occupy vital national installations without paying rent to landlords and it is worrisome.

In 2013, the Government returned a number of properties to the Kabaka of Buganda and Buganda Kingdom, for that matter. Afterwards, the Government was either meant to begin paying rent or to compulsorily acquire, as provided for in Article 26 of the Constitution, which says that “before you compulsorily acquire, you should pay what is fair and adequate and you should do it promptly.” It has now been about 12 years.

There are a couple of these installations that Government continues to occupy, Makindye military barracks, Makindye court martial, Kigo prisons, Katabi Air Force school land, Bukakata Air Force school land, 70 prisons built by Uganda Kingdom, courts of judicature, local government structures and headquarters, part of the land at Mbuya barracks, electric power transmission lines going through some of this land.

The debt that the Government owes to the Buganda kingdom through these and other properties is Shs 529.7 billion. However, the Chief Government Valuer has so far verified Shs 160 billion of this, but even that Shs 160 billion has not been paid to date, despite numerous reminders of the same.

The budget does not reflect this year after year. The worry is that the landlord can potentially sue the Government, which will be condemned to costs – we will have unnecessary legal issues over matters that can be dealt with amicably.

The Government has offered Shs 60 million to the Kabaka of Buganda and other cultural leaders as a monthly salary. I have it on good authority that the Kabaka of Buganda has never picked this salary. In fact, according to the kingdom’s administration, they are saying: “Pay what you owe us and the salary will not be a big issue - the Shs 60 million.”

Mr Speaker, the Government has on numerous occasions sent Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) to demand Shs 3 billion in taxes from the kingdom establishment, yet the same Government owes the kingdom over Shs 500 billion. The kingdom is engaged in several projects such as building schools, hospitals, universities and other tertiary institutions. Recently, a hospital was opened in commemoration of the Kabaka's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The kingdom recently gave out tractors to all 18 counties of Buganda. When the Government holds back this money, it frustrates these developmental projects by the kingdom.

Does the Government know about these concerns? If so, what steps are being taken to remedy the situation? I am glad the Attorney General is here. Hopefully, he can respond to us on this matter. Thank you.

3.29

**THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I also thank the Leader of the Opposition for raising this issue. One, I am fully seized with this matter because I chair that committee. Unless I hear from the people you speak of, whom I engage with regularly on these issues, I would rather you leave that to us, because I have not received any complaint from the kingdom about the way I am handling this matter. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker – *(Interruption)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Point of order?

**MR SSENYONYI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I had, honestly, expected the Attorney-General to talk to us about the steps being taken to remedy the situation, but he seems to say: "I have got no say on this matter." We are the ones who appropriate and this is the taxpayers' money we are talking about. The Government is occupying this property.

The Government is not an individual entity belonging to anyone. We are all part of the Government. Therefore, when we raise

these matters, you cannot say: "It is none of your business. The people we should pay are comfortable." Surely, is the Attorney-General in order to say that we cannot raise that matter?

For sure, this money has not been paid over time. As leaders, we have a right to raise this matter the same way we have been raising it - by the way, the government has domestic arrears to a tune of Shs 14 trillion. Ugandans who have received Government services and products have borrowed from banks to do business, but the Government is not paying them. When we raise these issues, you cannot say: "We are engaging the people that we are meant to pay. They are comfortable, so it is none of your business." It is our business because this is not your money, but the taxpayers'.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Both you and the Attorney-General are right. *(Laughter)* You are right as a Member of Parliament and leader to raise issues concerning your people. However, the Attorney-General said: "I am in touch with these people." You cannot dispute what he is telling you because he is in touch with them.

Therefore, I do not know what would be wrong with the Attorney-General saying: "I am in touch with these people." Some of the things you can say here, but for others, you cannot; you engage. I know because I have also been involved in these matters of Buganda by the way, when it comes to their payments. I know a lot of discussions are going on.

Maybe, they have chosen two routes: going through our colleagues and engaging the Government. I hope we shall meet at the centre and ensure that we solve this issue. That is what is critical. Since both of you are correct, listen to each other. *(Laughter)*

**MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA:** Now that we are both correct, I can assure you that we are handling this matter and there are things that I do not want to discuss here. I will check on how many files have been transferred and what has not been.



**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs had confirmed that he was ready – Hon. Mao. I do not want the Attorney-General to carry that burden.

**MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA:** That is why I said I was going to check and remind him to come back and advise the House.

**MR SSENKYONYI:** Mr Speaker, I am restraining myself not to say that the senior counsel is taking Parliament for a ride – perhaps both he and the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. That has been the same response every time we raise this matter, week after week: “We shall check and update you.” When does the update get to happen? They told us that: “For sure, on Thursday, we shall be ready.”

Initially, they talked about Wednesday. Then, as Wednesday was approaching yesterday, they asked for Thursday. Why are we being taken for a ride, Mr Speaker?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Can I request the Attorney-General or the Government Chief Whip to get in touch with the minister so that he brings in the statement as we are still here. Then, I will give it space. If he has it ready, even if he is not around, but he has signed it, the Attorney-General can ably present it on his behalf, like we did for internal affairs. Hon. Bahati, the acting Government Chief Whip, kindly, help us on that. Thank you.

Honourable colleagues, for item four, remember – can we have one meeting? Procedure, Hon. Nambooze?

**MS BETTY NAMBOOZE:** Mr Speaker, some of us here represent constituencies from Buganda. When we go back to our constituencies, the Baganda, on whose behalf the Kabaka holds the property that were mentioned here, ask us questions. It is from this House that we are supposed to get answers.

Wouldn't it be procedurally right, if it would please you, that this House is briefed,

specifically about the issues that have been raised by the Leader of the Opposition, instead of the Attorney-General keeping information to himself and saying “I am discussing with those people”? For some of us, this is where we are supposed to get information from. He has said that nobody is complaining. The Baganda in Mukono are; so, you cannot say that no one is complaining – you are negotiating. Those are the people that I represent here.

The matter that has been raised here, Mr Speaker, came out prominently during the celebrations of the Kabaka's birthday. They are saying the Kabaka is owed a lot of money that is supposed to run the kingdom's activities and his personal administration, but that the Government is not paying him. Up to Shs 150 million that has already been cleared -

Wouldn't it be procedurally right for the Attorney-General to come with a report to this House instead of hiding in talks, the outcome of which he cannot prove are taking place? This is an official matter, where we cannot allow the Attorney-General to hide information from Parliament. In any case, the money is supposed to be appropriated by this House.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, we all stay in Buganda. Even for me, I am a Muganda, by the way. I engage with senior leaders in the Buganda Kingdom at a high level on these matters. The approach they are taking – I do not know what they agreed with the Attorney-General on how to handle it. However, like I said, it is okay for us, as leaders, to raise these things here because we are the people's representatives.

Attorney-General, do you think you have a format for updating this House after this budgeting process so that we can bring leaders on board?

**MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA:** Mr Speaker, I have assured the House that this matter is being handled and it is inappropriate for me to stand here and discuss what is being done. I can assure honourable colleagues from Buganda, such as myself, that this matter is being handled, and

the figure you are quoting, which has been verified, is incomplete. The process is ongoing, and we are handling this matter. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, here, we trust each other. I know the Attorney-General is a very obedient Muganda; so I do not want it to look like he has abandoned his people.

Again, Toro Kingdom also brought me the same. Fortunately, we, the Bakiga, have nothing to claim. Let us get a way of communicating. We have channels of communication; let us not explode here.

Honourable colleagues, I am guiding you - (*Hon. Katusabe rose*) I know even in Kasese, the Bakonjo are demanding, and the Attorney-General is looking into this matter.

Remember, we stood over item four because we wanted the Government to go and reconcile their position. Today, I consulted with the Attorney-General and the Ministry of Works and Transport, and they have not yet reconciled their position. Therefore, we want to give them a chance since it is a government Bill and there were differing positions from the two ministries.

Therefore, Attorney-General, I will give you time to reconcile those positions so that in about two weeks, we can handle this Bill and have it sorted. Next item?

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF  
PARLIAMENT TO AUTHORISE  
REALLOCATION OF BUDGET  
ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR  
2024/2025 AND REVISION OF WORK  
PLANS FOR INSTITUTIONS AFFECTED  
UNDER RATIONALISATION OF  
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC  
EXPENDITURES (RAPEX) REFORM  
UNDER THE BATCH THREE

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, go first so that I can allow honourable members to ask you a few questions. I have been informed that the Minister of Justice and

Constitutional Affairs is coming to deliver the statement.

3.40

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. In accordance with Section 19 of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap 171 and rule 56 of our Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to move a motion for a Resolution of Parliament to authorise reallocation of Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2024/2025, and revision of work plans for institutions affected under Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure Reform under Batch Three. I beg to move.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is the Motion seconded? (*Members rose*) Okay, it is seconded by Hon. Mudimi, the Member from the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF), Hon. Afoyochan, Hon. Kamuntu, Hon. Feta, Hon. Nyakikongoro, Hon. Gabriel, Hon. Achayo, Hon. Akifeza, Hon. Kajwengye, Hon. Twesigye and many Members of the House.

Honourable minister, would you like to speak to your motion?

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Speaker, His Excellency, the President, assented to an additional two Bills, following approval by this august House. These are: The Technical and Vocational Education Training Act, 2024 and the Tier 4 Microfinance Institutions and Moneylenders (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

In order to ensure uninterrupted service delivery, there is a need to transfer the respective budgets of the affected institutions to enable the receiving institutions to take on the rationalised functions during the fourth quarter. The effects of the two laws are as follows:

- (i) Uganda Microfinance Regulatory Authority(UMRA) has now been mainstreamed to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;

- (ii) Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB) has now been merged to form Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board;
- (iii) The Directorate of Industrial Training, under the Ministry of Education and Sport, has also been merged to form the Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board;
- (iv) Uganda Nurses and Midwives Examination Board, under the Ministry of Education and Sports, has been merged to form Uganda Health Professionals Assessment Board under the Ministry of Education and Sports;
- (v) Uganda Allied Health Examination Board, under the Ministry of Education and Sports, has also been merged under the Health Professionals Assessment Board in the same ministry; and
- (vi) Management and Technical Advisory Centre (MTAC), under the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, together with Nakawa Vocational Training Institute, under the Ministry of Education and Sports, have been merged to form the National Vocational Training College under the Ministry of Education and Sports.
- (ii) Vote 165: Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board - an amount of Shs 9.36 billion to be transferred to Vote 169: Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board; and
- (iii) Vote 013: Ministry of Education and Sports, Directorate of Industrial Training, Shs 1.42 billion to be transferred to the Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board.

Mr Speaker, I wish to note that there are no savings from the above rationalised institutions in the Financial Year 2024/2025 because the terms of employment have not changed for the months up to June for UMRA staff transitioning to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Similarly, under Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions, the terms of employment have remained the same. I submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable minister. I want you to repeat what I asked yesterday; that there is no new money being allocated to these agencies. I want you to confirm that this is money we appropriated to the agencies, you have been spending and now you want us to complete the financial year and expedite this from their balances for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. This is from their balances so they are not getting new money.

The approved budget for the rationalised institutions amounts to Shs 62.45 billion, as at the end of Quarter three, Shs 49.12 billion had been released, leaving a balance of Shs 13.33 billion. The balances of this financial year under the rationalised institutions will be transferred to the receiving entities to ensure continuity and seamless transition of service delivery.

Arising from the above, the details of the required budget transfers are as follows:

- (i) Vote 162: Uganda Microfinance Regulatory Authority - an amount of Shs 2.55 billion to be transferred to Vote 008: Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;

3.42

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Mr Speaker, as I stated yesterday, I wish to repeat that my motion is not seeking Parliament to appropriate new money to these agencies. We are only seeking Parliament to authorise the movement of money from the previous votes where they had been allocated prior to rationalisation to votes where these entities have been transferred.

Also to note, is that we are in the last quarter of the year. The total amount under these entities which are moving was Shs 62.45 billion. This was the total approved budget. Out of which

Shs 49.12 billion has already been released to the votes before rationalisation.

It is assumed that this has already been spent. And what is remaining is Shs 13.33 billion, which we are seeking to move and this clearly aligns with your concern and the concern of Parliament that my motion should not authorise me to draw more money from the Consolidated Fund than what had earlier been appropriated by Parliament. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Lee, do you have something to say?

3.49

**MR DENIS OGUZU (FDC, Maracha County, Maracha):** Thank you, Mr Speaker and again, thank you for asking that pertinent question. I have read the motion of the minister, which has been uploaded with what seems like a schedule, but the schedule does not speak with precision on where this money is coming from and where it is going.

Government money must be spent in accordance with the work plan and the minister just said that he is also here to ask permission from us to revise the work plan? Because this House needs to know what this money is going to do in the new entity? If he is revising the work plan, what is that activity? And will it result in maybe, recruitments? What does the recruitment or procurement plan look like?

From the data I have here, honourable minister, I think you have contradicted yourself a lot. I would like you to reflect on the question that the Speaker has asked, and maybe ask for time to reconcile. Otherwise, because the Shs 13 billion you are talking about is not even in your schedule. Even if you got a calculator and did some additions, you would not arrive at the money you are talking about and it is a contradiction. I would invite you to clearly show us what amount of money is coming from which vote, and going to which other vote, and what the work plan looks like, so that we can reconcile the figures. I already see that there is a lot of contradiction, which I do not want to go into now.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, but honourable member, you said that when you add, you will not get this total which the minister has here. I added the numbers and got that total. For you, what did you get when you added? *(Laughter)*

**MR OGUZU:** Mr Speaker, maybe you could point to me so that I can -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, you said that when you look at the money he has put in the schedules, and you add it up, it does not match the total. That is what you said, but I only added this money, which the minister has provided. Honourable colleagues, I also revise. I do not just come here to preside; I have to go through with the technical teams. That is why I consulted Hon. Lee also.

Honourable minister, do you want to clarify the same as -

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Speaker, I want to refer to Annex 1, which my motion refers to, too. Under Annexe 1, there is a reflection of the total balances for transfer - *(Interjection)*- I would like to move at the same pace with him.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** He is consulting with the technical bench. Can you share with Hon. Lee because he says the uploaded document is different?

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Speaker, under total balances for transfer, the schedule has approved the budget for the Financial Year 2024/25 and we have total releases and a column, which gives you Shs 49.12. Then we have total balances for transfer under the Uganda Microfinance Regulatory Authority (UMRA) transfer to the ministry for finance, Shs 2.554 billion, under the Uganda Business and Technical Examination Board, Shs 9.363, and under the Directorate of Industrial Training, Shs 1.415. When you total this, it will give you Shs 13.33 billion.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay. Yes, Hon. Mayanja?

3.55

**MR ALLAN MAYANJA (NUP, Nakaseke Central County, Nakaseke):** Mr Speaker, the documents which the minister is reading and the ones uploaded are different.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, it is not confusing - why do you use – you people suspect yourselves on each and everything? Honourable minister, if it is different, can you lay on the Table and have it uploaded? Because I checked, the document is the same.

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Speaker, for avoidance of doubt, I wish to lay Annex 1 on the Table, which I referred to for reference by the House.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, Hon. Lee?

**MR OGUZU:** Mr Speaker, I have examined these documents in accordance with our rules and noted that there is a glaring disparity, which I want us to reconcile. What he has laid here is not what has been uploaded for consumption of Members.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is Annex 1 uploaded?

**MR OGUZU:** Yes, it is uploaded

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay, so Annex 1 is uploaded? Hon. Musasizi, is that Annex 1? Honourable minister, can I give you 5 to 10 minutes? So, is it the same? Is that Annex 1?

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Speaker, I want us to go to the figures.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Annex 1 is even on the screens.

**MR MUSASIZI:** Annex 1 is on the screen. You go to Uganda Microfinance Regulatory Authority (UMRA) and to reallocation – *(Interjections)* - Sorry?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, in fact, honourable minister, I wanted to ask Hon. Lee to show us what is different because we have Annex 1 there. Is it different?

**MR MUSASIZI:** You go to the total budget for transfer - 2.554 for the one which is bracketed. Go to 9.363; go to 1.4. Add them up. They will give you 13.33 – *(Interjections)* - Sorry? 2.55 plus 9.363 plus 1.415 will give you 13.33. This is what we are proposing to transfer.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, the documents are here; we can see, okay? The figures are the same. For the comfort of my brother, I would like him to confirm that, indeed, the figures are the same. Hon. Omara?

3.58

**MR PAUL OMARA (Independent, Otuke County, Otuke):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think what the minister has laid is very simple. This Parliament appropriated money to these agencies during the budget consideration process, and the work plans were clearly presented. So, what the minister is doing is basically transferring the remedial amount of money from those entities to the line ministries.

Therefore, we do not have to take into account the work plans and so forth. It is just basically moving those block figures, and the work plans are already embedded within the relevant ministries.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, you did not answer the issue of work plans, which Hon. Lee asked.

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Speaker, the motion is seeking to transfer funds together with the work plans, as had already been approved at appropriation by Parliament.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. John Twesigye?

4.00

**MR JOHN TWESIGYE (NRM, Bunyaru-guru County, Rubirizi):** Mr Speaker, in line with what is being discussed, I propose that I move under Rule 16 and Rule 59(1), suspend Rule 153(5) of the Rules of Procedure to enable the process, as the minister has presented, to go ahead and we consider the reallocation and division of the work plans.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable member, let that come after he has moved the motion. Yes, Hon. Ssewungu.

4.00

**MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. We just want to know where the money for the Higher Education Students Financing Board is put in all of this. These students were studying on loan, and they were paying during that time. It is going to the Minister of Education and Sports, but we are already aware that students are applying for university vacancies. Could we know where the Higher Education Students Financing Board's money is before it disappears into the saucepan of your Government?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister?

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Speaker, this saucepan of Government is highly traceable. There is nothing that can disappear from the saucepan, so I would like to allay your fears. The money for the loan scheme is in the Ministry of Education and Sports Vote.

**MR SSEWUNGU:** Mr Speaker, this was one of the entities that were rationalised. All of us on the Committee of Education and Sports had refused. My committee chairperson can bear witness. So, as you bring this motion, we must also see how that money is moving from the Board to the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Honourable minister, through the Speaker, these students were studying on a loan basis, and after qualifying, the Higher Education Students Financing Board would collect funds from them, and it was going to be revolving on those who are borrowing. When you give all these entities, you should also show us the money for the Higher Education Students Financing Board.

When I talked about your saucepan, I was talking about theft. Be careful; that saucepan I am talking about is theft. Can you tell us where that money is in all the transfers you are making? It cannot come in abstract.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Ssewungu, please. Supplementary is specific; you cannot bring other matters. Even if this money is not there, the minister cannot amend the schedule to include it. Listen, he cannot amend this schedule now to include it. Do you get it, honourable member? It is very specific - No, a supplementary is specific when you are handling a budget item.

Where you cannot get a remedy, how do you proceed? We would say the remedy we get out of what you are raising, Hon. Ssewungu, which is a very strong concern that I share with you, we would say, "honourable minister, please amend the schedule to include this money for ABCD".

Therefore, honourable minister, can we be assured that the students loan scheme is going to go on? Let us first get assurance from the minister.

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Speaker, the student loan scheme is going to go on and we shall continue financing it under the Ministry of Education and Sports.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. So when we go into the budgeting process, let us look at that. Hon. Lee, conclude now. We have to move.

**MR OGUZU:** Mr Speaker, I do not think the minister has answered the questions I asked. If you look at the money, you notice that the total balance for the transfers he is talking about is Shs 13 billion. But again, if you go to the total reallocations now, what we are supposed to reallocate, the figures are less. Yeah, they are here, the totals are less. That is why, if you took some time and listened to the Speaker, and these things are reconciled somewhere first, I suspect it would be good -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let him clarify it here.

**MR OGUZU:** You have shown Votes from which money is originating, but you are not showing the Votes to which it is going. Do you

want to be left with the opportunity to play somewhere? *(Laughter)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Lee, we shall supply somewhere. We must supply somewhere. Honourable minister?

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Speaker, thank you. My colleague, Hon. Lee, should not get worried. We are going to supply, and you will call every Vote where money is going together with the amount. It will total to the amount I have just stated, at 13.33. So, you should not get worried, Hon. Lee. Our numbers are accurate.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I put the question that the motion for resolution of Parliament to authorise the reallocation of budget estimates for the Financial Year 2024/2025 and revision of work plans for institutions affected under Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditures (RAPEX) Reform under the Batch 3 be adopted.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Motion, adopted.*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable minister. Next item?

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESOLVE ITSELF INTO A COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY TO CONSIDER THE SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULE NO.4 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister?

4.06

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to move a motion for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the Supplementary Schedule No.4 for the Financial Year 2024/2025. I beg to move.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is the motion seconded? Okay, it is seconded by Hon. Mudimi, Hon. Muwuma, Hon. Omara, UPDF, Hon. Ruyonga and many others. Thank you.

Now, honourable colleagues, I was asking these questions because yesterday, I informed you that if the committee is not able to process - because this money is needed for this quarter, they have released for other quarters, now they need to go on operations for this quarter; where we took the agencies.

I told you that if not, then we would be able - but Hon. Lee, there is no figure we shall approve here until we look at it. I can give you that. I will allow you to propose any figure we read at the committee stage. Even when you do not stand up, I will call you so that you can confirm for us that the figure is exact. Hon. John -

4.08

**MR JOHN TWESIGYE (NRM, Bunyaru-guru County, Rubirizi):** Mr Speaker, under this motion for the House to resolve itself into the Committee of Supply, as the honourable minister has raised it, I would like to move under Rule 16, 59(1) to suspend Rule 153(5) of the Rules of Procedure to allow us move on with this exercise for purposes of ensuring that what Parliament had done already is formalised. I beg to move.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Is the motion seconded? It is seconded by Hon. Muwuma, Hon. Mudimi, Hon. Gabriel. Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I put the question that Rule 153(5) be suspended as proposed.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Rule 153(5) suspended.*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have students and teachers of Kingdom High School from Busiro County East, Wakiso. They are represented in Parliament by Hon. Medard Ssegona and Hon. Betty Naluyima. They have come to observe the proceedings of

this House. Please join me in welcoming them.  
(*Applause*) Thank you.

Honourable colleagues, I put the question that the motion for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider Supplementary Schedule No. 4 for the Financial Year 2024/2025 be adopted.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY  
SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULE NO.4  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025  
RECCURENT EXPENDITURE

Vote 008: Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you. Colleagues, I want you to be attentive if you have an issue with the figure, raise it before I put a question on it. I now propose - yes, Hon. Lee?

**MR OGUZU:** Mr Chairperson, we are going into a very critical issue. I do not know if we have ascertained whether there is quorum to process this issue.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable, we have quorum.

**MR OGUZU:** If we have, you could tell us what the quorum is and then –

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** I now propose the question that a total sum of Shs 2,243,918,691 be provided to vote 008: Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, as supplementary recurrent expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 2,243,918,691 be provided for under Vote 008: Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, as supplementary recurrent expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

Vote 169: Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** I propose the question that the total sum of Shs 9,389,233,330 be provided for under Vote 169: Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board as supplementary recurrent expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

I now put the question that the sum of Shs 9,389,233,330 be provided for under Vote 169: Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board, as supplementary recurrent expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULE NO.4  
FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025  
DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE.

Vote 008: Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** I propose the question that the total sum of Shs 100,000,000 be provided for under Vote 008: Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, as supplementary development expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

I now put the question that the total sum of Shs 100,000,000 be provided for under Vote 008: Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, as supplementary development expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

Vote 169: Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I propose the question that the total sum of Shs 241,000,605,000 be provided for under Vote 169: Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board, as supplementary development expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.



I now put the question that the total sum of Shs 241,000,605,000 be provided for under Vote 169: Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board, as supplementary development expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULE NO.4 FOR  
FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025 STATUTORY  
EXPENDITURE

Vote 008: Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I propose that the total sum of Shs 210,425,000 be provided for under Vote 008: Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, as supplementary statutory recurrent expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

I now put the question that the total sum of Shs 210,425,000 be provided for under Vote 008: Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, as supplementary statutory recurrent expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

**MR OGUZU:** I have noticed that we are supplying money without a source. The total transfer we had from the reallocation we did earlier was Shs 13,333,586,780. If we now go to the monies we are supplying, the minister should tell us where he got an excess of Shs 2,554,343,691.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable minister?

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Chairperson, the source is where money is coming from. We are moving money from the Votes, which have been rationalised, to entities where the functions have gone. From what you are reading, it will give us a total of Shs 13,333,586,777. I submit.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Those in favour say "Aye" and to the contrary "Nay".

*(Question put and agreed.)*

Vote 169: Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** I now propose the question that a total sum of Shs 1,148,404,756 be provided to Vote 169: Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board as a supplementary statutory recurrent expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 1,148,404,756 be provided to Vote 169: Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board as a supplementary statutory recurrent expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

*(Question put and agreed.)*

Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No.4 for  
Financial Year 2024/2025

Total recurrent expenditure

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** I now propose the question that a total sum of Shs 11,633,152,021, be provided as total supplementary recurrent expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 11,633,152,021 be provided as total supplementary recurrent expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

*(Question put and agreed.)*

Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No.4 for  
Financial Year 2024/2025

Total development expenditure

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** I now propose the question that a total sum of Shs 341,605,000, be provided as total supplementary development expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

I now put the question that the total sum of Shs 341,605,000 be provided as a total

supplementary development expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

*(Question put and agreed.)*

Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No.4 for Financial Year 2024/2025

Total statutory expenditure

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** I now propose the question that a total sum of Shs 1,358,829,756 be provided as total supplementary statutory expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 1,358,829,756 be provided as total supplementary statutory expenditure, for Financial Year 2024/2025.

*(Question put and agreed.)*

Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No.4 for Financial Year 2024/2025

Grand total

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** I propose the question that a grand total sum of Shs 13,333,586,777 be provided to the various Votes as supplementary recurrent, development and statutory expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

Honourable colleagues, I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 13,333,586,777 be provided as the total supplementary recurrent, development and statutory expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

*(Question put and agreed.)*

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

4.22

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

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

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*(The House resumed, the Deputy Speaker presiding\_)*

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF  
SUPPLY

4.23

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Mr Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Supplementary Schedule No.4, amounting to Shs 13,333,586,777, and passed it.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable minister.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE  
REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF  
SUPPLY

4.23

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

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, I put the question that the report of the Committee of Supply be adopted by this House.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Report, adopted.*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable colleagues, for understanding because these are issues where we have to look into the situation and understand.

Honourable minister, do you want to make any comment?

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Speaker, thank you so much.

I wish to comfort Hon. Ssewungu that the monies, under the loan scheme, are in the Ministry of Education and Sports. The entity was existing under the Ministry of Education and Sports, and there was no need to move the funds. The funds remained in Vote 013. That is why we did not come here with a motion that had the loan scheme. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Procedure from Hon. Enos Asiimwe?

**MR ENOS ASIIMWE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Through you, Mr Speaker, honourable minister for finance, today we made a relocation for the entities under the Rationalisation of Agencies and Government Expenditure (RAPEX). Would you also give us a final revised budget after RAPEX, and possibly with the figure of the savings that you could have made after the rationalisation? This is because you had promised to make a saving of almost a trillion shillings plus.

The information on how much was saved, per entity, can be brought for us to understand. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

4.26

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi):** Mr Speaker, after this sitting, I will look for Hon. Enos Asiimwe to shake his hand. It is one of those days that he is right on the mark.

That is the comment I had sought to make. It is two-fold: We said “Let us rationalise such that we save the Government money,” but we are now reallocating the same figures. I thought we would be helped to understand what happened along the way.

Mr Speaker, the money that had been meant for these entities has been moved now to the mother ministries, I hope we are not going to

have issues arising out of salaries not being paid. They told us people are going to get job contracts. Many of them are reaching out to us and are saying that is not happening. Therefore, what is this money going to cater for, especially when there are still these concerns?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Leader of the Opposition (LOP) has a point. I did not want Parliament to be indicted that we have not moved the money and they are stuck. We have done our part. I am very sure the Executive is also going to do its part because we have enabled them. Hon. Oguzu Lee?

4.27

**MR DENIS OGUZU (FDC, Maracha County, Maracha):** I want to let the country know that we would have wished for this thing to be done in a much better way, but there are people who chose that we should use shortcuts so that all these emerging questions cannot be asked. We only pray that this money will be used properly and help us achieve the objectives of rationalisation.

There is a lot of mismanagement spearheaded or supervised by the ministry for finance. The country continues to incur arrears. We borrow money which does not help. Therefore, everything is going wrong and it is through this kind of shortcut. You do not know what the intent was but it has been done. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, you provided for rules to handle emergency situations so go and amend your rules. The presiding officers have a duty to ensure that we play within the rules. There are rules that are provided for addressing emergency situations. Other entities have already received money for their Fourth Quarter and you here, at Parliament, have been paid your salary.

However, you have said that us to enabling someone to receive their salary is a shortcut. That is being selfish. You cannot accuse the House of using a shortcut. That is unfair. We have people who need salaries. We have received ours so we must also enable them to

receive theirs. Our rules allow us. To accuse colleagues here of using a shortcut, I think, is being unfair.

Honourable colleagues, the minister for justice is here, ready with a statement - sorry, the honourable minister for finance, wants to clarify something.

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Speaker, I know that there are a number of unanswered questions about the savings that will accrue to the Government, as a result of rationalisation.

From the financing side, we would prefer to report at the year end. That is when we can be able to tell how much we have collected, spent, and whether there is a favourable variance or an unfavourable variance.

I seek the indulgence of this House that after 30<sup>th</sup> of June, I report on the financial statements so that we are able to analyse them. We will be able to tell whether we have saved or not.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. It is a requirement of the law and there is a clear framework for reporting. Honourable minister, follow that framework and report here. We shall be able to look through.

Before we go to this statement, Hon. Sekabira had a matter and he informed me that the affected persons are in the public gallery. We have some elders, whom I do not want to be here for long. Therefore, I will allow Hon. Sekabira to raise that one matter and we go to the statement.

4.31

**MR DENES SEKABIRA (NUP, Katikamu County North, Luweero):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity and for the guidance. You guided me to formulate a question during the Prime Minister's time, and I want to give facts, then I can raise issues.

One, we have 167 families that lost land to land grabbers, purporting to be officials from the National Forest Authority.

Two, or the other fact is that during eviction, two people were shot dead -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, you need to tell us which area that is. The Attorney-General is taking note; that is why we need those details.

**MR SEKABIRA:** Mr Speaker, it is Yandwe and Mbaali Villages in Katikamu North County, Butuntumula Subcounty, Luweero District. Two people were shot dead. Two people are now lame because they were injured during the eviction, but they have also lost everything, including shelter and food.

I have three prayers:

1. In the meantime, I ask the Prime Minister to provide some relief items for them as we investigate the matter on how these people lost land to NFA or land grabbers.
2. Those that were damaged, be compensated because the police used a lot of brutality to evict them.
3. These people need back their land because part of the land, where they were forcefully evicted, does not form part of the forest reserve. It is a fact that we have a forest reserve.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, some of those people you see in the public gallery are very old. They have not even had the chance to benefit from PDM money, *Emyooga*, *Entandikwa*, among so many programmes that the Government is advocating for. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable minister for environment, and then I request the Attorney-General to make a comment.

4.34

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER AND ENVIRONMENT (ENVIRONMENT) (Ms Beatrice Anywar):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. My sympathies are with our people who lost life, as reported by the honourable member, Sekabira, and those who were injured.

It is a sad incident, but from the submission of the honourable member, I pray that we get in touch and get the facts there and see what we can do in that circumstance, because we do not have the information right now. We need to prove whether the land is under NFA or not, as purported by the honourable member.

Meanwhile, we shall connect and see how to help our people and follow the right procedure. I pray that you allow us to get in touch. Honourable colleague, let me get in touch with you and get more details and then we move forward. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable, I request you to have a minute with those people outside. When you are about to move or when you see them moving, you and Hon. Sekabira can go and meet them outside.

**MR SEKABIRA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the chance. Now that the Attorney-General is also here, I had raised a matter on Tuesday and you had promised that I will have a response today. The matter is on the minimum entry requirement for students that are going to enrol for higher education, based on the new curriculum. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is that a matter for the Attorney-General or the Minister of Education and Sports? That is for the minister for education.

**MR SEKABIRA:** Mr Speaker, the minister for education had said that they are trying to consult the Attorney-General. I do not know why. Anyway, you had also said that you will have a statement today.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have just done you a favour and did everything to accommodate you and now you want to take all the little time I have. *(Laughter)* I request that you meet those people. Attorney-General, do you need to add anything? I request the honourable minister and then Hon. Sekabira. I can lend you my lounge. Sergeant at Arms, I have lent them my lounge, just for 15 minutes. Let the minister talk to them. You also open the

fridge for them. Hon. Nambooze. Thank you.

Honourable colleagues, I am going to amend the Order Paper to accommodate the statement from the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUPREME COURT RULING ON CIVILIAN TRIALS IN THE MILITARY COURTS

4.37

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (Mr Norbert Mao):** Mr Speaker, this statement is long overdue, but we have always had it ready, waiting for your guidance.

It is in two parts, starting with the status of The Uganda People's Defence Forces (Amendment) Bill, 2024, because the Supreme Court ruling, also made recommendations on the need to amend the law, and in addition made a ruling on the need to transfer cases to civilian courts.

The Uganda People's Defence Forces (Amendment) Bill, 2024 has been drafted by the Directorate of the First Parliamentary Council and was forwarded to the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs for scrutiny and comments.

In the event that the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs is satisfied with the contents of the Bill, they will submit the Bill to the Cabinet for approval prior to its presentation to Parliament.

It is important to note that the Uganda People's Defence Forces (Amendment) Bill 2024 was withdrawn by the Honourable Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs. The law has now been revised to take into consideration, issues that were raised by the Supreme Court in the case of *Attorney-General V. Hon. Michael A. Kabazi-Guruka, Constitutional Appeal No.2 of 2021*.

The revised Bill takes into consideration the structure of the court's martial, persons subject

to military law, exceptional circumstances under which a civilian may be subject to military law, arms and ammunition which are the monopoly of the defence forces, and classified stores and appeals from the courts martial to the civilian courts.

#### Part 11

The Status on the Number of Cases Received by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

You recall that Vide, a letter dated 4 February 2025, the Hon. Attorney-General in his advice to, among others, the Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, Director of Public Prosecutions guided that:

1. The General Court Martial in liaison with the prisons' authorities should provide a list of all criminal cases involving civilians pending before the General Court Martial for onward transmission to the courts to determine the appropriate court to handle the matters;
2. The General Court Martial should provide a list of all pending criminal cases involving members of the UPDF pending before the Court Martial that fall within the categories of transfer for onward transmission to the courts to determine the appropriate courts to handle the matter;
3. The Director of Public Prosecution, liaises with the general court-martial and the UPDF leadership to take over conduct of the ongoing criminal trials that have been identified for transfer.

Pursuant to the advice, the Uganda Prison Service did submit a list of 423 cases, as advised by the Honourable Attorney-General, vide, a letter dated 6 February 2025, of the prisoners remanded by the courts Martial.

Further, we are in receipt of information that the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has received 45 cases from the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs. The Ministry of

Defence and Veteran Affairs is still preparing to submit other criminal cases to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution as advised, and we will at the earliest, update this august House when this is done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Leader of the Opposition?

4.42

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi):** Mr Speaker, this statement has been long overdue. I am disappointed that it really does not capture the gist of what we were inquiring.

As the Minister does concede in this statement, files were meant to be transferred to civilian courts. There is no update on that, in this statement, because the update that there is, is that the Uganda Prisons authority, did submit a list of 423 cases, but there is no update on where these files submitted to the civilian courts. That has been our question.

Therefore, for Uganda Prisons Service, to submit to whoever, whether it be to the Ministry of Justice, whether it be to the Ministry of Defence, or to whoever, and so on; that is a process which is not even a very big concern to us.

The big concern to us is transferring these files to civilian courts. There is no mention of that in this statement. It does not comfort us when the minister says, well, Uganda prisons submitted a list of 423 cases, as advised by the Attorney-General. To where?

What we want is these files- not us, it is a decision of the Supreme Court that these files get to be submitted to civilian courts. That is what we want to hear about and it is not captured by the statement.

This statement actually creates a precarious situation, which might be contradicting Article 92 of our country's constitution, which reads; "Parliament cannot pass any law to alter the decision of a court".

I do not know if that is the intention of the Minister, when he begins by telling us, well, we are working on the UPDF (Amendment) Bill. It is as if to say the concerns we are raising are going to be addressed by the Bill, which is going to be brought to Parliament and that is very problematic.

Mr Speaker, I want to beseech you and insist that we get a proper update on the transfer of the civilian files to civilian courts. That is what we want to know about. Why has it taken long, when is it going to happen? This statement here is very insufficient.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I do not know what I will do. Can I allow a few more or, you want to answer this one quickly? Okay, first answer this.

**MR MAO:** Mr Speaker, the Rt Hon. Leader of the Opposition is a lawyer. These are criminal suspects. They have to be prosecuted by the Government. I hope this Parliament is persuaded that the court martial, is no longer going to be the one to try these people. I wish to state the challenges we are facing.

A team of seven was appointed, to traverse various areas where the army courts are. The structure of the Courts Martial is the General Court Marshall, which sits here in Makindye. We have got the unit disciplinary committees that are in the front line.

People who have been in the army, like the Hon. Ssewungu, who was in the military police - *(Interjection)*- Clearly, because it is the Military Police that arrests soldiers who have offended the law. *(Laughter)* Apart from the Unit Disciplinary Committee, we have got division courts martial and then the Court Martial Appeal Court. Some of these courts are in the field.

Mr Speaker, let me share some of the challenges that we have faced and which have been reported.

1. There are cases that have been substantially heard and the exhibits have been handed

over. That means the exhibits are already in the courts and have to be retrieved;

2. For some of the cases, the exhibits were perishable; and
3. Some of the offences were committed outside Uganda. Some of these offences were committed in Somalia, DRC, South Sudan and Equatorial Guinea.

These are technical challenges that we are facing. My duty was to report that so far, 45 cases are with the DPP. To prosecute a case that you have not investigated is a challenge, Mr Speaker. Imagine, those who investigated these cases were from the army; the DPP has to now take over these cases. It is not deliberately slow, but it has got to be thorough.

Lastly, for the information of Members to know, the files that have been handled by the Courts Martial and where people have been remanded in our prison services are 423 cases. We can even juxtapose it with the overall information on the criminal justice system.

As of 12 January 2025, the criminal suspects that are undergoing trial in the whole of Uganda in 254 courts are 25,397 and criminal suspects on remand without trial are 12,893. This is for the information of Parliament. For the first time, the number of those on remand is fewer than those on trial. This has not been the case and we should give some credit to the courts for their efforts to balance this.

As a proportion of the whole population of Uganda – There are those who talk as if 20 per cent of Ugandans are in prison. The people in prison in Uganda are about 38,000. Every society has bad eggs.

I promise, Mr Speaker, that we shall be updating Parliament but the Government denies the allegation that we are deliberately moving slowly. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition (LOP) raised the issue of the information being insufficient. Honourable minister, I have seen that you have more information in your head which you have not

yet put on paper. Kindly, go and update this statement, and give us more information.

House adjourned *sine die*.

*(The House rose at 4.50 p.m. and adjourned  
sine die.)*