



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2025



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIFTH SESSION - 9TH SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Tuesday, 3 September 2025

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

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I welcome you to this afternoon's sitting. I hope you made good use of your brief break. I saw the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) busy in the constituency. During the break, the Government Chief Whip, Hon. Hamson Obua, lost his brother, Maj. Armstrong Obua, in a motor accident in Jinja. The burial is going to be on Friday.

Similarly, our colleague, Hon. Mugema "Panadol", lost his daughter. On behalf of the Parliament of Uganda and myself, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the Government Chief Whip, Hon. Panadol, as well as all their friends, families, and relatives for the loss. We stand with you, and may the deceased find their rest in the Lord. May we rise and observe a moment of silence in their honour.

(Members rose and observed a moment of silence.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the rains in eastern Uganda have ravaged various districts, notably in Kapelebyong, Otuke,

Alebtong, Amuria, Abim, Bukedea, and most parts of Soroti. The transport infrastructure and other livelihoods have been severely affected.

I am told the people in Bulambuli do not have food. Their little bridge that connects Abim and Obalanga in Kapelebyong has been washed away, while the Moroto Bridge remains at risk. Gardens have been submerged. I was also told by Hon. Amero that her little coffee has been swept away, so, I do not know what she is going to use for her retirement.

I urge the Minister of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees to evaluate the situation and take appropriate action to see how we can remedy what is happening.

Honourable members, we may be aware that the prevailing electoral roadmap by the Electoral Commission indicates that the parliamentary nominations are going to be on 15th and 16th October - that is one thing a Member of Parliament would know. We need to be ready for it. Make sure you have all that is required for you to be nominated. Look at the law. Do not reach there, and they tell you that you do not have a clearing certificate. Please do that.

To the committee chairpersons and Members who have work before them, can you have all the work completed before we go for nominations? This is because we are going to be sitting from now until that time. We will not have a break because we need to dispose of all the business that is before committees. I wish all of you well. I know it is not an easy time,

but by God's grace, we will be there. I thank all of you.

Yes, Honourable Member for Buhweju?

2.09

MR EPHRAIM BIRAARO (NRM, Buhweju West County, Buhweju): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am responding to your communication, and I sympathise with the people of eastern Uganda, where the rains have ravaged gardens and infrastructure.

As much as I have notified the Government, I well remember, on 20 September 2023 or a few days afterwards, that I reported about infrastructure that was ravaged by rains in Buhweju, particularly the road between Katerera and Rubengye and Ekirindi Bridge. To date, Madam Speaker, the Government has never come to the assistance of those people, and that road has been blocked ever since.

My concern is, much as you have mentioned and appealed to the Government to assess the situation, what follows after the assessment, when we make reports? The Government has sort of neglected us and we are equally suffering with the communities, with no business and connectivity. I request that the Government respond to whatever appeal we make in this House.

THE SPEAKER: Who is standing in for the Prime Minister? There is a motion.

2.11

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUGU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): Thank you, Madam Speaker. We come here to transact business on behalf of the country, and the government business takes priority. The ministers, who are about five dozen, are not all here. The motion is for you to adjourn Parliament until the Government is ready. A Member of Parliament from NRM, Hon. Biraaro, has just complained that this NRM government has neglected his people. I want to ask him why he supports it. This is a serious matter. If the NRM elections have affected –

THE SPEAKER: You have moved your motion. Can we first get –

MR SSEMUGU: I have not moved, so I am moving it. If this NRM Cabinet of five dozen has been ravaged by NRM internal processes and they can no longer function, we need to adjourn Parliament until one of them is here, or you speak to the President to tell us if he has a functioning Cabinet. The public spends about Shs 2 billion per day to run this House.

I thank Hon. Musasizi. There are ministers here who pretend, even when they are not authorised, that they are representing the Government. I congratulate you. If the Government has not authorised you, you do not come here and represent it.

Madam Speaker, my motion is that you adjourn the Parliament until the Government is ready to transact business on behalf of the public, then we resume. Otherwise, all the issues we are going to raise –

THE SPEAKER: Is that seconded? I am putting the question.

(Question put and negatived.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, we cannot afford to come here and waste our time. Let us continue. Let us work; there are more important things for us to do – yes? The rain in Mityana?

2.14

MR FRANCIS ZAAKE (NUP, Mityana Municipality, Mityana): Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is absurd that the Rt Hon. Prime Minister is not here. The rain has not only affected the region you have talked about, but also Mityana. Specifically, my division of Busimbi in the municipality has been affected so much. I urge the Government to step up so that they give relief.

Also, many homesteads were destroyed by the strong rains that fell last month. I wish the Prime Minister could step up to help our people. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Can you take notes of what the Members are saying?

2.15

MR JOHN BAPTIST NAMBESHE (NUP, Manjiya County, Bududa): Thank you. Madam Speaker, you know that Bududa is synonymous with landslides, but we thank God that even with the heavy downpour, we have had landslides, but they have not claimed lives. However, we know that lots of crops and livestock have been destroyed.

Most importantly, the bridge that connects Manafwa, Namisindwa, and Kenya to Bududa Hospital, as you know, is in ruins. With the pounding, heavy downpour, the situation has been made worse. We have seen the tributary of River Manafwa, which is called River Tutu, burst its banks. Soon, that bridge will be carried away. This means that the matter of disaster in Bududa will be exacerbated because the river will have demonstrated against the road, disallowing any communication or other transport between Mbale and Bududa.

Once that road is cut off - you know Bududa is landlocked - there will be no other road that may connect it to Mbale or the border of Lwakhakha. The situation is as dire as that, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I think Hon. Musasizi would be able to communicate to the responsible ministers. Let us discuss issues of disasters tomorrow. Hon. “Panadol?”

2.17

MR PETER MUGEMA (Independent, Iganga Municipality, Iganga): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I need to extend our heartfelt appreciation to you, as an individual. You took over the medical bills of my daughter when I could not, and thereafter – (*Interjection*)- yes, it was a lot of money. What they call money. Personally, I appreciate.

Also, on a political note, Madam Speaker, you formerly worked as a lecturer at Makerere University Business School (MUBS). They

are witch-hunting our own Musoga, Prof. Balunywa. They say he illegally recruited two staff members whose names are not shown anywhere. What I know is that this is a selective application of justice.

Madam Speaker, recently, they selected you as a Central Executive Committee (CEC) member for the National Resistance Movement (NRM). This could be political to see how you will revamp part of the Basoga, who are your own.

Madam Speaker, Busoga gave you a lot of votes for CEC. Do us a favour and come to its rescue. Prof. Balunywa has not done anything. This is too bad for us in Busoga. Hon. Basalirwa and Hon. Mariam, we all come from Busoga. Let us join voices and rescue Prof. Balunywa.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. “Panadol”, I like the way you smuggle in something. I thought you were on communication from the chair. The issue of Prof. Balunywa is being handled – He has clarification.

MR BASALIRWA: Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you and Hon. “Panadol” for raising this issue. We understand that Prof. Balunywa will be coming back to court on Friday.

The issue he raises is significant in the sense that the manner in which Prof. Balunywa’s charge sheet was amended at the Bar, yet all this time they wanted him in court, speaks volumes. I think it is important for us to ask these people in positions of authority to stop abusing government institutions. You cannot be looking for a person –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Basalirwa, this issue is in court.

MR BASALIRWA: There is nothing *sub judice* about this matter. Those who are saying it is do not know the rules of *sub judice* –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Basalirwa, I expected you to come and give me feedback. I assigned you a duty yesterday. I do not know why you are coming on the Floor instead of coming and discussing it. I gave you work yesterday

to go and sort it out. No, no, no; stop being irresponsible. Do you want to think you are more attached to Prof. Balunywa than I am? Next item – Leader of the Opposition? When you abuse my goodwill -

2.21

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to join you in welcoming honourable colleagues back from this short, long, or whatever the case may be recess. Again, it is sad that the Government is not properly constituted here.

My honourable colleague mentioned that there are five dozen of ministers. That is actually not entirely true. There are six and a half dozen, when you are to do the mathematics, so it is important that the representation here gets to be good.

Madam Speaker, I have two quick issues. There is a lot that has been happening during recess but now that we are here, I thought that I would bring these to the attention of the Government.

We have heard, and Madam Speaker, I am sure you have taken note of international media reports, showing that there is a deal that has been agreed upon between the United States of America (USA) Government and Ugandan Government to bring U.S. deportees here. We do not know whether they are former or current criminals, whatever the case might be.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Okello Oryem, denied these reports initially, but then the reports persisted days later. I think it is important for the Government to help us understand here. Is it true? If so, how? What is the arrangement? What kind of people are these? Don't they have their countries where they originally come from? Why Uganda? And if Uganda, where? All these issues need to come through, and if the reports are untrue, it would be good to clarify here on the Floor of Parliament and say, it is entirely untrue, then we will know how to proceed.

However, if it is true, let us not operate surreptitiously. The country needs to know who these are. Someone might wake up to find a criminal as their neighbour without any idea.

The second and final issue, Madam Speaker, for the umpteenth time, I have raised issues to do with prisoners who are as a result of the Supreme Court ruling on the 31st of January this year, which was to the effect that civilians have no place before military courts and all those files be transferred to civilian courts. That was an order of the Supreme Court. To date, that has not happened.

Each time we raise that issue here, the Attorney-General says Article 120 stipulates that the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) cannot be ordered around. The DPP, who is now exiting that office to become Principal Judge, has not moved. We get back to you, the Government; what is happening?

Madam Speaker, there have been two recent rulings: one, Ssekitoleko Yasin (Machete) vs Uganda, and Agaba Anthony (Bobi Young) vs Uganda. The two were sent to jail by the Court Martial. Now the Court Marshal is *functus officio*; it no longer has any jurisdiction over them.

They went to the High Court to seek bail, as their cases get processed whichever way. There are two rulings here; one, honourable Justice Professor Andrew Khaukha and honourable Justice Emmanuel Baguma, that I would like to lay here. The High Court said that it could not entertain a matter which had not been properly brought before it. Furthermore, the High Court said that the Supreme Court said those files should be transferred to the High Court, which has not happened yet.

Therefore, the court is saying, you go back to jail because we do not have any authority over you. There is ping-pong, rights are being trampled upon, and justice is not being served. Where should these people go? That would also mean that they are illegally in jail.

The Court Martial that sent them to jail is *functus officio* and has no authority over them.

The High Court, which should be entertaining their matters, is saying, "You are not before us, and we do not know you." Where should they run to? The Government needs to clarify this matter. Are they in perpetual violation of the Supreme Court ruling? What is happening? We need to know. I have tabled the rulings, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. We shall get a clarification from the Attorney-General on that. However, on the first one, we have a gateway to it. We should not speculate that there was an agreement. We will ask the minister to bring a report as per Rule 41 of the Rules of Procedure, which is the presentation of treaties, protocols, or international agreements before Parliament. Therefore, we expect that from the minister responsible.

MR SSEMURUJU: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. You did speak about the political season we are in. I came here ready to congratulate you for your victory against the former Speaker. I had also thought that NRM would be generous to celebrate with us what transpired in Kololo. We saw chairs flying in the air, and I thought we would start by congratulating you, the Speaker of Parliament, on your big victory. *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, in relation to that, in this political season, in the last Parliament, I saw you celebrating smaller things. The former Speaker was about - I do not know how many years, and you brought flowers for her. So, I thought when you contest and win an election, Parliament should congratulate you, because in the past it has congratulated smaller things.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssemurju, those are our internal matters as NRM.

MR SSEMURUJU: Madam Speaker, when you say they are internal, I will leave it, but political parties are public institutions.

However, another issue related to politics is the deteriorating civic space. I have just had a conversation with the State Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I had a smaller meeting this afternoon, as Member of Parliament for Kira Municipality, with my constituents near Bweyogerere Police Station and the tents have been confiscated. I was in Mityana as the Chief of Staff and brand manager of People's Front for Freedom (PFF) to open an office, swear in new leaders and introduce my party to that area. The Uganda Police Force said that we cannot have a meeting in a tent, unless we go to a hall.

We walked three kilometres to the catholic church outside the city, and when we were coming back to open the office, they said that we were in a procession and tear gassed us, yet, they were the ones who took us there and later stopped us from coming back to open the office, saying that we were in a procession.

Madam Speaker, since we have the Minister of Internal Affairs, let him tell us if political parties are banned. If a Member of Parliament cannot address a meeting in his constituency saying we should go and look for permits - our leader, Dr Kiiza Besigye, who fought for the freedom of this country and treated President Museveni when he was sick in Luweero, remains in jail eight months later.

That is why, when you were defeating Hon. Kadaga, I was very happy because the senior people have conspired to let down the country - *(Hon. Basalirwa rose)* - do you want to take away my happiness? It is mine.

I saw her saying that she was very senior. There are those who were with Gen. Museveni in the bush, treating him. Mr Sam Mugumya, who was with you in the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) before I joined, was kidnapped, and to date, we do not know where he is. Madam Speaker, my issue is the deteriorating civic space, and I ask the minister responsible, since he is here, to tell us.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, you will hear from the minister. It seems he is not aware of it. Have you spoken to him? You said you spoke to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, not the Minister of Internal

Affairs. So, you need to give information to the Minister of Internal Affairs to be able to respond with evidence. Can we go to the next item?

MR MPUUGA: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the flexibility. Hon. Ssemujju, in passing, mentions the abduction of a citizen well known to all of us, Mr Sam Mugumya, and that up to now, his whereabouts are unknown. Will the Minister of Internal Affairs volunteer information to this country whether he has any knowledge of the whereabouts of Mr Sam Mugumya or not? And if he does know where he is, to explain why he is not anywhere in any court and whatever is happening to him, so that his family can have an idea of how to rescue him in a formal way.

Madam Speaker, abduction is a big thing in this country. We have had issues here with abduction and disappearances. Shall we add Mr Sam Mugumya to the list of missing Ugandans when actually he was in Uganda? Shall we have that clarified?

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. He will come back with a report to give information on where Mr Sam Mugumya is. Next item? (*Hon. Ssemujju rose*) No, you cannot just ambush him about Mr Sam Mugumya. Does he know him? I know Mr Sam Mugumya. Honourable minister, take note of that issue and let us know. Next item.

PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO EURO
9.4 MILLION FROM UNICREDIT BANK
AUSTRIA FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
AND EQUIPPING OF MBALE
ONCOLOGY CENTRE AND \$36.5
MILLION FROM THE ISLAMIC
DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF ARUA ONCOLOGY
CENTRE AND RADIOTHERAPY
EQUIPMENT FOR THE MBALE
ONCOLOGY CENTRE

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, Article 159(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda conditions the Government borrowing to parliamentary approval, and

pursuant to Rule 162(1) of the Rules of Procedure, I invite the Minister for Finance to table the proposal- Yes, order on what?

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, a while ago, you asked this minister whether he had authority to represent the Government and he said he did not. Is it now in order for him to begin trafficking loan requests when we do not have -

THE SPEAKER: He is the Minister for Finance.

MR SSEMUJJU: But he said that the Government has not sent him.

THE SPEAKER: Minister - you know we are in election times. If Hon. Ssemujju does not say anything, he may lose his vote so he is using that to get the vote.

Honourable minister, can you lay the loan proposal papers on the Table? (*Hon. Namugga rose*) Can we have the loan papers laid first, then you come in?

2.34

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the proposal to borrow up to Euro 9.4 million from UNICREDIT Bank, Austria for the construction and equipping of Mbale Oncology Centre and \$36.5 million from the Islamic Development Bank for the construction of Arua Oncology Centre and radiotherapy equipment for the Mbale Oncology Centre.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Pursuant to Rule 162(2) of the Rules of Procedure, the proposal stands referred to the Committee on National Economy for expeditious consideration, and remember, we are going to have a break soon, so we should consider this as fast as possible. Yes, Hon. Gorreth -

2.35

MS GORRETH NAMUGGA (NUP, Mawogoola County South, Ssembabule): I would like to thank you, Madam Speaker, and I also join –

THE SPEAKER: First of all, Hon. Gorreth, where are the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) reports?

MS NAMUGGA: Madam Speaker, some of them are about to reach your desk. We have signed but are still missing a few signatures.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition (LOP), we are assigning you a whole week for all your reports in PAC. If we do not have them, we shall consider them omnibus.

MS NAMUGGA: I know that you have allowed us to proceed to process business without us knowing the clear representative of the Government on the other side. You asked about the whereabouts of the Prime Minister and all the front bench colleagues denied representing the Government.

As much as we did not support the motion not to proceed with the business of the House, I wish you could guide this House on who is representing the Government on the other side because it looks like we are speaking to ourselves. How I wish you could conclude on that matter before we proceed with business. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Next item – (*Hon. Katusabe rose*) – I will let you speak after this.

PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO \$99.56
MILLION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT (IFAD) TO FINANCE
THE PROPOSED RESILIENT LIVESTOCK
VALUE CHAIN PROJECT (RELIV)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to Article 159(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, which conditions the Government's borrowing to Parliament

approval and pursuant to Rule 162(1) of the Rules of Procedure, I invite the Minister for Finance to table the loan proposal.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the proposal to borrow up to \$99.56 million from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to finance the proposed Resilient Livestock Value Chain Project.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, this particular loan request has a significant urgency. The deadline for signing this loan is 12 September 2025, but because we have been on a short recess, we could not accommodate it, and failure to have it processed before that will call for a cancellation of this loan, and yet it has an aspect of a grant. I want to request that the Committee on National Economy consider this loan and report back on Tuesday.

Hon. Atkins -

2.39

MR ATKINS KATUSABE (FDC, Bukonzo County West, Kasese): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to present a matter that is more or less a disaster waiting to happen in Kasese.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Atkins, with all due respect, can we first finish this, and then I will give you time to raise that so that we do not distort the *Hansard*.

PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO EURO 188.18 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO UA 150 MILLION FROM THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND EUROS 28.31 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO UA 22.57 MILLION FROM THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND, AS ADDITIONAL FINANCING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF BUSEGA-MPIGI EXPRESSWAY PROJECT

THE SPEAKER: Similarly, according to Article 159(2) and Rule 162(1) of the Rules of Procedure, we need Parliamentary approval. I therefore invite the minister to lay the proposal on the Table.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the proposal to borrow up to Euros 188.18 million, an equivalent of UA 150 million from the African Development Bank and Euros 28.31 million, equivalent to UA 22.57 million from the African Development Fund, as additional financing for the construction of the Busega-Mpigi Expressway project.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 162(2) of the Rules of Procedure, the loan proposal stands referred to the Committee on National Economy.

REPORT ON PUBLIC DEBT, GRANTS, GUARANTEES, AND OTHER FINANCIAL LIABILITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the Uganda Debt Policy is governed by a robust legal regime, spelled out in the 1995 Constitution; the Public Finance Management Act, 2015; the Treasury Bill Act, 1969; the Treasury Accounting Instructions, 2017 and the Bank of Uganda Act, 2000, among others. Article 159(4) of the Constitution and Sections 39(4), 42(2), 42(3), 44(5) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2025, variously require the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development to furnish Parliament with periodic reports on the public debt, guarantees, and financial liabilities.

Pursuant to Rule 32(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I want to invite the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development to table the report in regard to the public debt.

Honourable minister, please proceed. (*Hon. Mpuuga rose*)

MR MPUUGA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is a matter relating to the record of this House. While submitting the records of Parliament from ICT, it captured me as Nyendo-Mukungwe (NUP). It is a serious misrepresentation, in fact, to capture a whole party president as following another party.

May we know what has happened to our records and the ICT? Are they alien to our systems?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable former Leader of the Opposition (LOP), the vehicle that is indicated there is the one that brought you to Parliament, and the one that you have now is in preparation for the next election. However, I want to ask my people to correct that record. It was a mistake. They are using the vehicle that you used to come here.

MR MPUUGA: It is wrong, Madam Speaker. Unless I went to the wrong law school, that is a wrong record of the *Hansard*.

THE SPEAKER: Please correct the record.

MR MPUUGA: It cannot be captured that way, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Correct the record of each person in their political parties. For us, we are proudly in NRM. Honourable minister?

2.45

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to lay on the Table a report on public debt, grants and guarantees, and other financial liabilities for the Financial Year 2024/2025. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Honourable members, pursuant to Rule 184 of the Rules of Procedure, the report stands referred to the Committee on National Economy for expeditious consideration.

Committee on National Economy, you have a lot of work and we need all these reports. Next?

REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL
ON THE AUDIT OF FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30TH JUNE 2024 FOR THE FOLLOWING
ENTITIES: (A) AGRICULTURAL CREDIT
FACILITIES; (B) SMALL BUSINESS
RECOVERY FUND; (C) THE DEPARTED
ASIANS PROPERTY CUSTODIAN
BOARD; (D) UGANDA SEEDS
LIMITED; (E) SOROTI FRUITS LIMITED

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to Article 163(4) and (5) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, Section 16(2) and Section 19(3) of the National Audit Act, 2008, and Rule 187 of the Rules of Procedure, I invite the Parliamentary Commissioner to table the report of the Auditor-General. Honourable minister?

2.47

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the report of the Auditor-General on the audit of financial statements of the Agricultural Credit Facility for the year ended 30th June 2024. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Members and pursuant to Rule 187 of the Rules of Procedure, the report stands referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises) for consideration.

2.47

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the report of the Auditor-General on the audit of the financial statements of Small Business Recovery Fund for the financial year ended 30th June 2024. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I now refer it to the Committee on Public Accounts (Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises).

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL
ON THE FUND ACCOUNTABILITY
STATEMENT OF THE COVID-19
ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND
RESILIENCE RESPONSE PROGRAMME
IMPLEMENTED BY THE PRIVATE
SECTOR FOUNDATION UGANDA FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2023

THE SPEAKER: Commissioner?

2.51

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the report of the Auditor-General on the fund accountability statement of the COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Response Programme implemented by the Private Sector Foundation Uganda for the year ended 31st May 2023. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 187 (3) of the Rules of Procedure, the report stands referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises) for consideration.

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL
ON THE FUND ACCOUNTABILITY
STATEMENT OF YOUNG AFRICA
WORKS UGANDA - LEAD FIRM
STRUCTURE PROJECT FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

THE SPEAKER: Commissioner? He has so many reports to lay, that is why he is looking at them.

2.54

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the report of the Auditor-General on the fund accountability statement of Young Africa Works Uganda - Lead Firm Structure Project for the financial year ended 31st December 2022. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts. Next?

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL
ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF
THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK
OPERATION SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR
THE QUARTER ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER
2024

2.51

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements of the Islamic Development Bank operation special account for the quarter ended 30th September 2024. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to rule 187(3), the report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government). Hon. Charity, welcome back. Leader of the Opposition (LOP), haven't you seen Hon. Charity?

REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL
ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2024 FOR THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES:
(A) POST BANK UGANDA LIMITED;
(B) UGANDA DEVELOPMENT BANK
LIMITED; (C) HOUSING FINANCE BANK
LIMITED

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to Article 163(4) and (5) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, Sections 16(2) and (19) of the National Audit Act, 2008 and Rule 187 of the Rules of Procedure, I will invite the parliamentary commissioner to table the report of the Auditor-General.

2.54

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to lay the reports of the Auditor-General for the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024, for the following entities:

- a) Post Bank Uganda Limited;
- b) Uganda Development Bank Limited;
- c) Housing Finance Bank Limited. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to rule 187(3), the reports stand referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE)).

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL
ON THE AUDIT OF THE SPECIAL
PURPOSE GRANT FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS OF THE GLOBAL
FUND PROGRAMME, “SUPPORTIVE
OF UGANDA’S COVID-19 RESPONSE
MECHANISM” IMPLEMENTED BY THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH; GRANT NAME:
COVID-19 RESPONSE MECHANISM
FUNDS FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY
2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to Article 163(4) and (5) of the Constitution, Sections 16 (2) and (19) of the National Audit Act, 2008 and Rule 180 of the Rules of Procedure, I now invite the parliamentary commissioner to table the report of the Auditor-General. Honourable minister -

2.56

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a report of the Auditor-General on the audit of the special purpose grant financial statements of the Global Fund Programme, supporting Uganda’s COVID-19 response mechanism implemented by the Ministry of Health, under grant name COVID-19 response mechanism fund for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, pursuant to Rule 183 of the Rules of Procedure, the report stands referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government) for expeditious consideration.

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL
ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR GLOBAL FUND (GF) SUPPORT TO
UGANDA, SUPPORTING UGANDA’S
STRATEGY FOR ACCELERATION
TOWARDS ELIMINATION OF MALARIA,
IMPLEMENTED BY THE MINISTRY
OF HEALTH, GRANT NAME: UGA-
M-MOFPED; GRANT NO. 1886 FOR
THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY 2024 TO 31st
DECEMBER 2024

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to Article 163(4) and (5) of the Constitution, Sections 16(2) and 19(3) of the National Audit Act, 2008 and Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I invite the parliamentary commissioner to table the report of the Auditor-General.

2.58

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements for the Global Fund supporting Uganda’s strategy for acceleration towards elimination of malaria implemented by the Ministry of Health, under grant name UGA-M-MOFPED, Grant No.1886 for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to rule 180(3), the report stands referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government).

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL
ON THE FINANCIAL AUDIT OF THE
SPECIAL PURPOSE GRANT FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS OF THE GLOBAL
FUND (G “SUPPORTING UGANDA’S
TUBERCULOSIS REDUCTION
STRATEGY” PROGRAM, (GRANT NAME
UGA-T-MOFPED; GRANT NO. 3597) FOR
THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY 2024 TO
31ST DECEMBER 2024

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to Article 163(4) and (5) of the Constitution, Sections 16(2) and 19(3) of the National Audit Act, 2008 and Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure, the parliamentary commissioner will lay the report.

2.59

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a report of the Auditor-General on the financial audit for the special purpose grant financial statements of the Global Fund project supporting Uganda’s tuberculosis reduction strategy programme (GRANT NAME UGA-T-MOFPED; GRANT NO. 3597) for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 183 of the Rules of Procedure, the report stands referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government).

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL
ON THE FINANCIAL AUDIT OF THE
SPECIAL PURPOSE GRANT FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS OF THE GLOBAL FUND
PROGRAM “SUPPORTING UGANDA’S
RESPONSE TO HIV”, IMPLEMENTED
BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, GRANT
NAME UGA-H-MOFPED, GRANT NO.
01873 FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2024
TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to Article 163 (4) and (5) of the Constitution, Sections 16 (2) and 19 (3) of the National Audit Act, 2008, and

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure, I will invite the commissioner to lay the report.

3.00

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Audit of the Special-Purpose Grant Financial Statements of the Global Fund Programme “Supporting Uganda’s Response to HIV” Implemented by the Ministry of Health under Grant Name: UGA-H- Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; Grant Number 1873 for the Period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 180(3) of the Rules of Procedure, the report stands referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government).

PETITION OF UGANDA LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION
(ULGA) AND URBAN AUTHORITIES
ASSOCIATION OF UGANDA ON THE
STATUS OF SERVICE DELIVERY IN
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, before we hear from the Member representing the petitioners, in the public gallery this afternoon we have a delegation of the NRM members in the diaspora. They have come to observe the proceedings in the House. Please join me in welcoming them. Just stand up and we see you. *(Applause)* You are most welcome. Thank you for coming.

Those are our members in the diaspora. They are from over 20 countries. Thank you very much for coming. This is your Parliament; a people-centred Parliament. You are most welcome. And they voted very wisely. *(Laughter)*

Whoever has members in the diaspora, please bring them. This is a people-centred Parliament. And members in the diaspora, when we are in the House here, we are all

Members of Parliament. We do not talk about political parties. We represent all of you. Thank you.

Hon. Atkins, you had something - honourable members, can I request you not to smuggle in matters of national importance when the proceedings are going on. After the proceedings, we can bring in matters of national importance. Let us not distort the *Hansard*. Is it a matter of national importance? Is it related to what has been read? Is it related to the petition? Can we have the petition first? The only one who can speak on the petition is Hon. Ethel Naluyima, because she is the shadow minister.

Honourable members, petitions are avenues of public participation in legislative decision-making. Through petitions, the public seeks a specific remedy from Parliament.

I received a petition from Uganda Local Governments Association, (ULGA), and Urban Authorities Association on the state of service delivery in local governments.

As we are all aware, local governments are under the frontline of the public service delivery. Therefore, any concern about service delivery should be treated with urgency. Pursuant to Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure, I would like to invite Hon. Dr Kugonza, MP Buyanja East County, to present the petition.

I am also happy that the Minister of Local Government is in the House. Please go ahead.

3.07

DR EMELY KUGONZA (NRM, Buyanja East County, Kibaale): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

First of all, allow me to congratulate you on the recent resounding victory for the position of the second National Vice-Chairperson of the Central Executive Committee of the NRM – (*Interjections*) – yes, internal to all of us.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

DR KUGONZA: Madam Speaker, allow me to lay on the Table, the petition titled “Uganda Local Governments Association and Urban Authorities Association of Uganda Petition on the Issues Affecting Service Delivery at Local Government Level”. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

DR KUGONZA: I will attempt to read verbatim the petition as mentioned.

“This petition is brought by the Uganda Local Governments Association and Urban Authorities Association of Uganda to draw urgent attention to the deteriorating quality of service delivery at the local government level, across the country.

While national resources and programmes exist, incremental gains in local governance are being eroded by systematic gaps in induction, remuneration, staffing, transport, road maintenance, planning capacity, revenue administration, and electoral timing.

The present communications call for concrete, time-bound action by Parliament and government ministries to restore and sustain local service delivery, strengthen local governments’ accountability, and accelerate sustainable development outcomes for communities.

Summary of issues

The petition identifies ten priority areas where reforms are needed to improve local service delivery. The overarching objective is to secure timely, adequately funded, and well-coordinated interventions that align with Uganda’s development priorities and constitutional responsibilities.

Issue 1: Induction of local government leaders

There has been no comprehensive induction for local government elected leaders this term. The absence of a standardised onboarding process leaves new leaders ill-equipped to navigate the distinctive duties of local governance,

understand their constitutional responsibilities, and internalise the accountability frameworks that govern local public service delivery.

Without robust action, local government leaders struggle to align local planning with national development priorities, miss critical procedures for budget, procurement, and oversight, and fail to establish legitimacy with the communities that rely on them for concrete and transparent action. This undermines the discipline, coordination, and performance expectations embedded in decentralisation.

Proposed actions

- 1. Parliament should allocate funds for a rapid, comprehensive induction programme for local government leaders as soon as they are sworn in, modelled on the induction provided to other elected officers;*
- 2. Establish a concrete completion timeline, for example, within the first 100 days of swearing-in, with progress reports to Parliament every 30 days until the programme is completed; and*
- 3. Include a formal debrief to assess the impact of the induction on local governance performance and accountability, and publish the findings to inform subsequent interactions.*

Issue 2: Salaries for political leaders in local governments

Full-time political leaders from local council one (LC1) through the district to city levels perform critical duties that directly influence local development, service delivery, and citizen trust. Yet remuneration levels fail to reflect the scope of responsibilities, the unpredictability of local revenue streams, and the rising cost of living. Inadequate pay drives low morale, high turnover, and difficulty in attracting skilled personnel, which in turn weakens the planning, budgeting, monitoring, and accountability at the local level.

When leaders cannot be competitively compensated, communities experience slower response times, reduced quality of public service, and diminished confidence in governance structures designed to decentralise power and resources.

Madam Speaker, the table here clearly indicates the remuneration for political leaders. District chairperson and city mayors to date get Shs 2,380,000 as gross. The district vice-chairpersons and the city deputy mayors receive Shs 1,190,000 monthly Shs 1,190,000 gross; district and city speakers, Shs 724,000, gross; district and city executive committee members, Shs 620,000, gross; city division chairpersons and municipal mayors, Shs 1,190,000 gross; city division chairpersons and municipal deputy mayors, Shs 620,000 gross; municipal divisions, subcounty chairpersons, and town council chairpersons, Shs 412,000, gross.

For the category that receives ex gratia, we have district and city deputy speakers, Shs 400,000 per month; city division deputy speakers, Shs 300,000 as gross; district and city councillors, Shs 250,000; city divisions, municipal councillors, Shs 250,000; subcounty, town council, and municipal division councillors, Shs 35,000 per month; Local Council I chairpersons, Shs 10,000 a month.

Proposed actions

- 1. Madam Speaker, we, therefore, petition you to ensure that salaries for all political leaders are urgently enhanced in fulfilment of the Government promise.*
- 2. Commission a transparent, independent review of salary bands, and harmonise them with the government pay policy, producing a revised schedule with clear, evidence-based justification.*
- 3. Implement the new schedule and institute monitoring and reporting to Parliament within a defined period, for instance, six to 12 months, with annual reviews thereafter.*

4. *Create a structured mechanism for ongoing dialogue with local government leaders, and a transparent transition plan to address implementation challenges and minimise disruption.*

Issue 3: The provision of transport for top local government leaders

Local government leaders face chronic transport constraints that impede oversight, timely supervision of programmes, and participation in essential meetings, including those in Kampala. Without reliable mobility, managers cannot promptly monitor project implementation, attend critical planning sessions, or respond to emerging issues, which slows decision-making, undermines supervision, and weakens accountability to communities.

The logistical gaps contribute to uneven service delivery across the districts and erode public trust in the decentralisation framework as communities observe delays and inconsistent responsiveness from their leaders.

We appreciate His Excellency, the President, and Parliament that approved a supplementary budget for the procurement of district, city, and municipal mayors' vehicles. We further appreciate the efforts being taken by the Government to procure these vehicles.

Proposed action

The Government should expedite the procurement and delivery of vehicles for the district, city and municipal leaders with a publicly-released implementation timeline.

Issue 4: The recruitment of staff

Staffing shortages persist nationwide, with current levels of roughly 30 to 60 per cent of approved structures. Newly placed cities and other units face wage bill ceilings and staffing constraints that prevent filling essential positions, hampering core functions such as service delivery, planning, supervision, and community engagement.

The resulting vacancies compromise essential processes; basically, revenue administration, public works, health, education, oversight, and local economic development, leading to backlogs, reduced quality of service, and increased workloads on remaining staff. Communities bear the brunt as essential public functions stall, undermining confidence in the decentralisation framework.

Proposed action

1. *Madam Speaker, they urge the ministries of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Public Service to approve and enable an adequate wage bill to recruit and fill all approved posts across districts, cities, municipalities, and lower local governments; and*
2. *Establish a concrete monitoring plan with targets and deadlines for vacancy reduction, including quarterly reporting to Parliament, and an annual public update on staffing levels and service delivery indicators.*

Issue 5: The provision of road equipment for cities and municipalities

Urban expansion has outpaced maintenance capacities. Cities and municipalities do not possess the necessary road equipment to maintain roads and support economic activity. Inadequate road equipment leads to poor road quality, longer travel times, safety risks, and higher operational costs for local governments.

Without reliable equipment, maintenance cycles slip, potholes proliferate, and investment confidence erodes. This constrains local economic development and public safety, and undermines the Government's ability to deliver reliable infrastructure services that are critical to growth and livelihoods.

Proposed actions

1. *Allocate and deploy essential road equipment as follows:*

- i) Each of the 10 cities is to receive a full set of road equipment.
 - ii) Each of the 31 municipalities to receive a motor grader, a roller, and five tipper trucks; and
 - iii) Each town council is to receive a truck that supports waste management and related works.
2. Implement a phased procurement plan with a defined timeline and funding envelope, including a mechanism for maintenance, replacement cycles and deployment oversight.
 3. In the new term of office, the old district road units should be replaced, given the heavy deployment, as a result of the Shs one billion support from the Government.

Issue 6: Road fund for town councils and subcounties

A substantial number of newly created town councils, approximately 356, and subcounties, over 356, established in Financial Year 2017/2018, have not received road maintenance funds, resulting in impassable roads, hindered physical planning, and stunted local economic development.

The absence of maintenance funding curtails access to markets, health facilities, and schools, disrupts transportation and supply chains, exaggerates the cost of living, and undermines environmental and land use planning. Over time, this neglect entrenches regional disparities, discourages investment, and weakens the resilience of communities to weather-related and economic shocks.

Proposed actions

- 1) Direct the Ministry of Works and Transport to allocate road maintenance funds to these newly created units without delay.
- 2) Establish a robust monitoring and reporting framework to track disbursements, project execution, and measurable improvements in road conditions and local development indicators.

Issue 7: Physical planning grant

Physical planning is essential for harmonious and sustainable urban development. Delays and underfunding threaten the realisation of housing, urbanisation, and integrated settlement envisioned in national planning frameworks. Without adequate grants, districts and urban authorities cannot produce coherent land use plans, invest in infrastructure alignment, or ensure that growth is managed in an orderly fashion.

Poor planning leads to speculative development, inefficient service delivery, and strained public resources as communities cope with uncoordinated expansion, poor housing conditions, and rising demands for basic services.

Proposed action

- 1) Prioritise physical planning funding with annual allocations as follows: Each district and a city to get Shs 500 million; a municipality, Shs 300 million; a town council, Shs 200 million; a subcounty, Shs 100 million; and
- 2) Provide a justification and a staged rollout plan with priority reviews to ensure alignment with the national physical plan and measurable planning outcomes.

Issue 8: centralisation of local government revenue administration

Parliament and the Cabinet's resolution to decentralise local revenues in the consolidated fund have not been fully implemented. While digital platforms have improved transparency, local revenues continue to be remitted to the consolidated fund, undermining local autonomy and revenue management. This fragmentation risks eroding locally specific fiscal discipline, reducing the capacity of local prioritisation, and weakening accountability mechanisms at the community level. It also complicates revenue forecasting and constrains the ability to match funding with local needs.

Proposed actions

1. *Direct the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to implement Parliament and Cabinet decisions to allow local governments to stay remissions of local revenues to the consolidated fund.*
2. *Restrict the applicability of the Public Finance Management Act to the Central Government.*
3. *Recommend a precise Finance Act or regulation that applies to local governments and harmonises with the Local Government Act Cap 138, with a transparent implementation timetable.*

Issue 9: Irregular elections of LC 1 and 2

Irregular conduct and repeated extensions of LC1s and LC2 terms undermine timely local democracy and governance, creating governance gaps at the grassroots level and risking broader governance challenges at the national level.

Delays in local elections erode citizen confidence, disrupt service delivery planning cycles and amplify tensions between communities and the public sector. The lack of timely, predictable electoral timelines also weakens the legitimacy of local leadership and complicates the synchronisation of local with national elections.

Proposed actions

1. *Instruct the Electoral Commission to align LC1 and LC2 elections with the general elections to promote consistency and strengthen local democracy.*
2. *Establish a clear electoral timetable that fits within the national calendar with the defined milestones and a mechanism for accountability if timelines are not met.*

Issue 10: Ring-fencing of Uganda Local Government Association (ULGA) Subvention

ULGA seeks a ring-fenced subvention to strengthen the institutions, capacity building and policy reform research. The absence of protected funding risks fragmentation undermines long-term strategic planning and constrains the ability of local governance reform bodies to deliver evidence-based policy advocacy. Without secured resources, ULGA's capacity to monitor implementation, carry out research and support Local Government in reform efforts is handicapped and reducing the overall effectiveness of decentralisation and the policy engagement with Parliament and the Government.

Proposed actions

1. *Reconfirm and operationalise previous recommended subventions (For example, Shs 2 billion to ULGA and Shs 1 billion to the urban association) within a ring-fenced multi-year funding engagement.*
2. *Establish governance and reporting requirements for the subvention, including milestones, audits, and annual impact reports, with a published timeline for release and disbursement.*

Closing

Madam Speaker and honourable members, given the importance of regular interaction, coordination, and partnership, we further request you to hold quarterly meetings with the leadership of Uganda Local Government Association and Urban Authorities Association, and bi-annual interactions with the wider local government political leaders' fraternity. The regular interactions will promote the sharing of successes, challenges, good practices, and updates on government programmes to the local government fraternity.

Madam Speaker, during this term of office, ULGA and its membership have not interacted with its patron, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, despite several attempts. It is, therefore, our prayer that you secure a meeting between His Excellency and ULGA's leadership and its members.

Finally, the issues outlined in this petition collectively shape the quality and timeliness of service delivery across all local governments. Addressing them is essential to restoring trust between communities and the Government, strengthening local accountability, and accelerating inclusive development.

We respectfully urge you to champion the required actions by directing the relevant ministries to produce concrete implementation plans, funding commitments, and monitoring mechanisms. A successful collaborative response will not only improve local governance but also reinforce the legitimacy and effectiveness of Parliament as the principal accountability institution for Uganda's decentralised system.

ULGA and UAAU stand ready to participate in the design, oversight, and evaluation of these initiatives and to report progress to Parliament at the defined intervals.

This was duly signed by Awany Andrew, the President of ULGA, who is also the district chairperson of Kole, and certainly read by me."

I beg to submit. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Hon. Emely, and this is a very important petition for all of us since all of us come from local governments. They raise very legitimate issues. I have had a discussion with the minister on these issues. Yes?

3.28

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Madam Speaker, because those are key matters in local service delivery, can we have the petition laid? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: He has laid. You know, that young boy is taking your time. *(Laughter)* He laid it on Table.

3.29

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MR Raphael Magyezi):

Thank you. Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Shadow minister, I will give you a copy.

MR MAGYEZI: Madam Speaker, we have a cordial relationship with the Shadow Minister of Local Government and we shall certainly share the documents and the responses.

Madam Speaker, allow me to thank you most heartedly for allowing the petition of the local governments here on the Floor of Parliament. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MAGYEZI: I would also like to thank the Uganda Local Government Association. We have two national associations; the Uganda Local Government Association and the Urban Authority Association of Uganda. The speakers also have their own association; Uganda District Speakers Association (EDCOSA).

They are playing a very good role and allow me to inform the House that I was the Secretary-General of ULGA before I came to Parliament. I am very well versed with these issues and I would like to thank them. These are the real issues we have in Local Government.

Much as I could have answered them right here, I thought it would be prudent to have the minister's response properly documented. I beg to request that you allow me just one day; tomorrow I can bring an orderly response to each of these issues

THE SPEAKER: On actions being taken.

MR MAGYEZI: Yes, Madam Speaker, most obliged.

THE SPEAKER: We need actions being taken, not just lamentations - No, it is okay. We have increased the LC1s. Do not worry. Next item?

Shadow minister, you will speak tomorrow. Put it on the Order Paper as the first item; a report from the minister, then we shall give the LoP and the shadow minister an opportunity to speak.

Honourable members, in the public gallery, we have the former NSSF MD, Mr David Jamwa. You are most welcome. He is here to observe the proceedings. *(Applause)*

In the public gallery, we also have members of the Uganda Local Government Association and the Urban Authorities Association of Uganda. Where are you? Please stand. You are most welcome. *(Applause)* We will have feedback on your petition tomorrow on the actions being taken.

I see Hon. Kitata there. You are all welcome. Thank you for coming. Yes, Hon. Atkins, I am going to give you to speak. Please, my brother. I am going to give you. Even Hon. Suzan is just seated next here. Let us just finish this. Even Hon. Sarah is here, seated waiting. Yes, next

BILLS SECOND READING

THE BUILDING CONTROL AMENDMENT BILL, 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the Building Control (Amendment) Bill, 2024, was read for the first time on 09 April, 2025, and referred to the sectoral Committee on Physical Infrastructure, and the committee is ready to report.

Pursuant to Rule 136(1) of the Rules of Procedure, I will invite the minister who has been designated to do so to move a motion for the second reading. Hon. Musasizi.

3.32

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker - *(Hon. Byanyima rose_)*

THE SPEAKER: Let us first move the motion - do you want to legislate in anticipation?

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill entitled, The Building Control (Amendment) Bill, 2025 be read for the second time.

THE SPEAKER: Is the Bill seconded? Seconded by the Vice Chairperson Hon. Awany Tony, Hon. Charity, Hon. Alanyu, Hon. Nekesa, Hon. Olobo, Hon. Elijah. Hon. Bakkabulindi, Hon. Zaaake and Hon. Kinyamatama, *(laughter)* “the couple”, Hon. Sarah, Doctor, Hon. Patrick, Dr Ruyonga, Dr Bhoka, Hon. Isaac, Hon. Basil, Hon. Noah, those are enough - eh! Hon. Mariam and Hon. Galiwango. Yes, would you want to speak to your motion?

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, the object of this Bill is to amend The Building Control Act, CAP. 136 to;

- i. Provide for the composition of the board;
- ii. Provide for the powers of the board;
- iii. Provide for the composition of the building committee;
- iv. Streamline the procedure for approval of building permits and occupational permits; and
- v. provide for other related matters.

Madam Speaker, this Bill has been considered by the committee, and they have made detailed observations, and I want to believe that they are ready to present their report now.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 136(2) of the Rules of Procedures, I invite the Chairperson of the committee to present the committee report *(Hon. Byanyima rose_)*

MR BYANYIMA: Madam Speaker, this particular Bill -

THE SPEAKER: Which Bill?

MR BYANYIMA: The Building Control (Amendment) Bill, 2025 -

THE SPEAKER: Why don't you first listen to the report, then bring your issue? All these people have read the report. So let us first hear the report, then you bring your contribution to the report. Are you a member of the committee? Okay.

MR BYANYIMA: Madam Speaker, this will be a regulatory body for all the buildings in this country. I found it proper and fitting that we should not have two bodies.

This particular body should be the same body to regulate the road sector. Time immemorial, we have had roads being done, people committing the government to a lot of money, but there is nobody who goes on to check on the standards and quality of the roads we construct.

Therefore, if this body for buildings could be merged with the one for the road sector, we would have a better body that would ensure that our roads, which are contracted to several companies, will be of quality. All over the world, there is a regulatory body for the road sector.

We had the Uganda National Road Authority (UNRA) yes, but UNRA would commit the government, but they would be the same people paying, the same people supervising, and we have had a raw deal. Let us go in the right direction by having this building control body incorporated to look after the roads.

We are having bad deals all over because these people are in charge of everything. This body is going to control the buildings in the whole country because we have had a bad case of people dying. So if we could have that body together with the one for roads-

THE SPEAKER: Did you raise that issue in the committee?

MR BYANYIMA: I did.

THE SPEAKER: And then?

MR BYANYIMA: People did not take it seriously, but I am sure this House can handle.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Asuman.

3.38

MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri): Right Honourable Speaker, I thank you and Papa Hon. Nathan -

THE SPEAKER: He is calling Papa because he is an old man, respect the elders.

MR BASALIRWA: Yes, is there a problem with that?

THE SPEAKER: Sarah -

MR BASALIRWA: He raises a fundamental issue, but with due respect, at the wrong time. If serious as your issue is we will have to consider it here. But even then, if you raised it and the committee did not take it, the rules allow you, by the way, to present it here at committee stage; even as a member of the committee, the rules permit. So, Madam Speaker, I implore Papa that the matter should be brought here and we synthesise it from here -

THE SPEAKER: When we reach that section - at committee -

MR BASALIRWA: When we reach that stage. I am coming there we share points and we see how to do it. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Chairperson, can you take us briefly.

3.39

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (Mr Tony Awany): Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity to give a report of the Committee on Physical Infrastructure on the Building Control (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Madam Speaker, I beg to lay a copy of the report and the minutes of the meetings that processed this report.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

MR AWANY: Madam Speaker, the Building Control (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was read for the first time on 09 April, 2025 and referred to the Committee on Physical Infrastructure for consideration and report to the House. The committee considered the Bill in accordance with Rule 135 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament and hereby reports.

The objective of the Building Control (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is to amend the Building Control Act CAP 136 to:

- i. Provide for the composition of the National Building Review Board;
- ii. Provide for the powers of the board;
- iii. Provide for the composition of the building committees; and
- iv. Streamline the procedure for approval of building permits and occupational permits.

In the interest of time, under methodology, I invite Members to go through the list of stakeholders that the committee engaged in processing this report.

Madam Speaker, the committee analysis, observations, and recommendations

1. Composition of the Board

Clause 1 proposes to amend Section 3 of the Building Control Act CAP 136, to align the composition of the National Building Review Board to consist of nine members.

The members include a representative of the ministry responsible for works, a representative of the ministry responsible for gender, a representative of the ministry responsible for lands, a representative of the ministry responsible for local governments, a representative from the Attorney-General's Chambers, two members of the public nominated by the minister, and two representatives from any of the following professions; an engineer, an architect, a physical planner, a surveyor, a lawyer, each representative nominated for appointment by the relevant professional body or association.

The provision of the Principal Act, which clause 1 seeks to amend, states that:

“(1) The board shall consist of –

- (a) one representative of the department responsible for building works;
- (b) one representative of the department responsible for physical planning;
- (c) one representative of the ministry responsible for water and environment;
- (d) one representative of the department responsible for housing;
- (e) a representative of the ministry responsible for persons with disabilities;
- (f) one representative of each of the following professions nominated for appointment by the relevant professional body or association –
 - (i) engineers;
 - (ii) architects;
 - (iii) physical planners;
 - (iv) surveyors;
 - (v) lawyers;
 - (vi) a public health officer from the Ministry of Health;
 - (vii) a representative of persons with disabilities nominated for appointment by the National Council for Disability;
 - (viii) a representative for workers nominated by, nominated for appointment by the National Trade and Union Centres,
- (g) a representative of Uganda Local Authorities Association of Uganda, nominated for appointment by the Uganda Local Governments Association;
- (h) a representative of Urban Authorities Association of Uganda nominated for appointment by the Association of Urban Authorities;
- (i) one person from the private sector nominated for appointment by the Private Sector Foundations.”

The committee considered the proposal and is in agreement with the principle to have a leaner board. Having a leaner board enhances efficiency in decision-making, increases accountability, reduces administrative costs, and enhances oversight and governance.

Whereas the committee agrees with the principle, the committee is concerned that there are a number of issues that may affect the effectiveness of this provision.

For instance, the committee notes the need to specifically provide for representatives that are relevant to matters of building control from the ministries. The clause proposes a representative from the ministry responsible for gender and a representative from the ministry responsible for lands.

The committee observes that in as far as sections of “gender” and “lands” are components of the respective ministries, it is prudent to make specific reference to the relevant departments and the ministries, namely “social development” and “housing”, respectively. This will ensure effective implementation of the provision by guiding the ministries on the relevant representative for the board.

Madam Speaker, the committee also noted that the proposal to have two members of the public nominated by the minister on the board will pose serious implementation challenges regarding how the members of the public will be selected and the possibility of one of the members of the public becoming chairperson of such a technical board. Section 2(3) of the Building Control Act, Cap. 136 mandates the minister to appoint all members of the board and designate as chairperson of the board one of the members.

Furthermore, the committee observes that the proposal to have a lawyer on the Board nominated by the relevant professional body or association, while also having a representative from the Attorney-General’s Chambers, is unnecessary because any legal or compliance matters before the board can be addressed by the representative from the Attorney-General’s Chambers, who is a professional lawyer.

Committee recommendation

In light of the above, the committee recommends that clause 1 stands part of the Bill, albeit with the amendment to –

- (a) Specifically provide for a representative from the ministry responsible for social development and the ministry responsible for housing;
- (b) Delete the proposal to have two members of the public nominated by the minister as members of the board; and
- (c) Delete the proposal to have a lawyer as a member of the board.

Functions of the board

Clause 2 of the Bill proposes to amend Section 8 of the Principal Act to expand the functions of the National Building Review Board to hear and determine complaints from any person, a Building Control Officer or a Building Committee.

The committee is in agreement with the proposal. However, the committee observes that the provision does not specify what the complaints made by any person, a Building Control Officer, or a Building Committee will be in regard to. This gap is likely to be exploited by persons who may make complaints to the board on matters unrelated to the mandate of the board. The committee notes that the board should only hear and determine complaints on matters related to the approval of building developments or building operations.

Committee recommendation

Based on the above analysis, the committee recommends that clause 2 be adopted, albeit (6:23), with the amendment to specify that the complaints heard and determined by the board shall be in relation to an approval for building development or building operation.

The Executive Secretary

Clause 4 proposes to amend Section 14 of the principal Act by requiring that the Executive Secretary be a person with professional qualifications and experience in the building environment and professional qualifications and experience in either law, management, or public administration.

The provision of the Building Control Act, Cap. 136, which clause 4 seeks to amend, states that: “The Executive Secretary shall be a person with professional qualifications and experience in law, management or public administration.”

The committee examined the proposal under clause 4 and appreciates the need for the Executive Secretary to have experience in the built environment, which comprises human-constructed surroundings that support human activities, including buildings, transport systems, and landscapes.

The committee is, however, concerned that the term “built environment” is overly broad as it encompasses the design, construction, management, and use of these structures as an interrelated system impacting the behaviour and well-being of the people who utilise them.

The committee is further concerned that practically no person can have qualifications in the built environment; however, a person may have qualifications in a particular profession, including engineering, architecture, valuation, and surveying, all of which are pertinent in or related to the built environment.

The committee is therefore of the considered opinion that since the term “built environment” is incapable of exact definition, the term should be replaced with professional qualifications and experience in professions related to the built environment, such as engineering, architecture, and surveying.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that clause 4 be adopted with amendments –

- (a) Remove the requirement for the Executive Secretary to have professional qualifications and experience in the built environment; and
- (b) Expand the qualification for the Executive Secretary to include engineering, architecture, valuation and surveying.

4. Building operations without a permit prohibited

Clause 7 of the Bill proposes to amend Section 33(2) of the Principal Act to increase the penalty for a person who carries out a building operation without a valid building permit issued by a Building Committee to a fine of one currency point for every square metre or per linear metre, whichever might be applicable, of the build-up area or imprisonment not exceeding two years or both.

The provision of the Building Control Act, Cap. 136, which clause 7 seeks to amend, states that: “Any person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding 50 currency points or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both.”

Madam Speaker, the committee considered the provision and is in agreement with the principle to increase the penalty for the offence. This is progressive since it will go a long way in addressing the rise in the erection of illegal structures and the collapse of buildings in the country.

Whereas the committee is agreeable in principle, it is concerned that the penalty is still not commensurate with the gravity of the offence.

The committee notes the increase in the number of illegal structures across the country being erected by persons who have not obtained building permits and worse still, the rise in the number of structures that collapse and claim multiple lives and property in the country.

The committee, therefore, observes the need to increase the fine to two currency points for every square metre or per linear metre, whichever might be applicable, of the build-up area or imprisonment not exceeding five years or both, in order to put more stringent measures in place to deter people from carrying out building operations without valid building permits. Based on the above analysis, the committee recommends that clause 7 be

adopted, albeit with the amendment to enhance the penalty for the offence of carrying out a building operation without a building permit.

Application for building permits

Clause 8 of the Bill proposes to amend section 34 to define what amounts to a multi-storeyed structure or building as a building of a height of more than six metres.

The committee observes that the amendment is intended to guide persons making applications for building permits. The committee agrees with the provision.

However, it is a concern that a building of more than six metres may not always be a multi-storied building. Certain structures, such as warehouses, usually have a height of more than six metres but are not necessarily deemed to be multi-storied in nature. The committee notes the need to increase the height in metres for a building to qualify as a multi-storied building to 12 metres. In light of the above, the committee recommends that clause 8 stands as part of the Bill, albeit, with the amendment to increase the metres in height for a building to qualify as a multi-storied structure or building.

The procedure for issuing building permits

Clause 9 of the Bill proposes to amend section 35 of the Principal Act to streamline the procedure for approval of building permits, where the building committee fails to make a decision on the application for a building permit.

The clause proposes that where a building committee fails to make a decision on an application for a building permit within the period specified, the applicant may make a complaint to the chief administrative officer in the case of a district or the town clerk in the case of an urban council.

The committee observed that the use of the term "*in this section*" is very broad and applies also to the proposed subsection (9).

The committee notes the need to limit the application of the proposed subsection (8)

to subsection (1), which requires a building committee to issue a building permit to the applicant within 30 days after the date of receipt of the application for a building permit.

The committee also observes that the Bill does not provide an avenue to an applicant where a building committee, after having been directed by the chief administrative officer in the case of a district or the town clerk in the case of an urban council, still fails to make a decision on the application for a building permit.

The committee is of the considered opinion that, in the interest of justice and in line with the proposal to expand the powers of the board to hear and determine complaints from any person, a building control officer or a building committee under clause 2.

There is a need to provide an appeal mechanism to the board where a building committee fails to make a decision on an application for a building permit after having been directed to do so by the chief administrative officer or the town clerk, as the case may be.

In light of the above, the committee recommends that clause 9 stands as part of the Bill albeit with the amendment to:

- a) Make specific reference to subsection (1), which requires a person to obtain a building permit; and
- b) Provide for an appeal by the applicant to the board where the building committee fails to make a decision on an application following a directive by the chief administrative officer or the town clerk.

The building operations subject to a time limit

Clause 11 proposes to amend section 37 of the Principal Act to replace the fine for a person who carries on a building operation in contravention of section 37 from a fine not exceeding 25 currency points to a fine of 1 currency point per square metre or per linear metre, whichever might be applicable of the build-up area after the expiry of the building

permit. Whereas the committee is agreeable in principle, it is concerned that the penalty is still not commensurate with the gravity of the offence.

The committee notes the increase in the number of illegal structures across the country being erected by persons who have not obtained building permits and worse still, the rise in the number of structures that collapse and claim multiple lives and property county-wide. The committee observes the need to increase the fine to two currency points for every square metre or per linear metre, whichever might be applicable of the build-up area in order to put more stringent measures in place to deter people from carrying out building operations without valid building permits.

In light of the above, the committee recommends that clause 11 stand as part of the Bill, albeit with the amendment to enhance the penalty for the offence of carrying on a building operation beyond the time limit prescribed by the law.

The use of unconventional methods, technologies, and materials for building

Clause 14 proposes to amend the principal Act by providing for the use of unconventional methods, technologies, and materials for building. The clause empowers the minister, by notice in the Gazette on recommendation of the Board, to approve the use of unconventional methods, technologies, and materials for building.

The committee examined the proposal and is in agreement with the principle to regulate the use of unconventional methods, technologies, and materials for building. The committee was informed that unconventional methods are essential in shaping a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future in the built environment.

They can lead to more sustainable, cost-effective and innovative building solutions, often addressing limitations of conventional approaches. They can also improve construction speed, reduce waste and enhance the overall performance of buildings.

The committee, however, observes that the use of the term “*for building*” limits the purposes for which unconventional methods, technologies and material can be used.

The principal Act provides a definition for building operations, which is in a broader and more encompassing term to be used in this provision.

Section 1 of the Building Control Act, Cap. 136, defines the term “*building operations*” to mean any act done in relation to the following:

- a) The erection of a building;
- b) The demolition of a building;
- c) Any temporary work on a permanent building;
- d) Plumbing;
- e) Drainage;
- f) Repairs, renovations, alterations, and extensions of a building;
- g) Erosion control works; or
- h) The installation of utilities, including electricity and gas.

Madam Speaker, the committee is of the considered opinion that for effective implementation of this provision, the use of unconventional methods, technologies, and materials be in regard to building operations.

In light of the above, the committee recommends that clause 14 stand part of the Bill, albeit with the amendment to using a term that is broader in application than the term “*for building*.”

Occupation permit

Clause 15 proposes an amendment to section 43 to streamline the procedure for approval of occupation permits; where the building committee fails to make a decision on the application of an occupation permit.

The clause proposes that where a building committee fails to make a decision on an application for a building permit within the period specified, the applicant may make a complaint to the chief administrative officer in the case of a district or the town clerk in

the case of an urban council. The committee observed that the use of the term “in this section” is very broad and applies also to the proposed subsection 7.

Madam Speaker, the committee notes the need to limit the application of the proposed subsection (6) to subsection (1), which requires a building committee to issue a building permit to the applicant within 30 days after the date of receipt of the application for a building permit.

The committee also observes that the Bill does not provide an avenue to an applicant where a Building Committee, after having been directed by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), in the case of a district or the Town Clerk, in the case of an urban council, still fails to make a decision on the application for a building permit.

The committee is of the considered opinion that in the interest of justice and in line with the proposal to expand the powers of the board to hear and determine complaints from any person, a building control officer or a building committee in clause 2, there is need to provide an appeal mechanism to the board where a building committee fails to make a decision on an application for a building permit after having been directed to do so by the Chief Administrative Officer or the Town Clerk, as the case may be.

Recommendations

The committee also recommends that, in light of the above clause 15 stands part of the Bill, albeit with the amendment to:

- (a) make specific reference to subsection (1), which requires a person to obtain a building permit; and
- (b) provided for an appeal by the applicant to the board where the building committee fails to make a decision on an application following a directive by the Chief Administrative Officer or a Town Clerk.

General observations on the Bill

The committee notes that there is a need to define the term “urban council” used in the Bill. This need arises mainly due to the fact that the Local Governments Act, Cap. 138, in Section 1, defines “urban council” to include a city municipal division and town council.

The committee was informed by the National Building Review Board that currently, building committees only exist at the city, district, and municipality levels. Therefore, there is a need to define what an urban council means for the purposes of the Building Control Act, Cap 136.

The committee observed that to ensure effective implementation of the Bill, there is a need to include a definition of the term “urban council”.

Recommendation

The committee, therefore, recommends that a provision be made in the Bill for the definition of “urban council”.

Madam Speaker, I beg to report.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, chairperson. When you look at the occupational permit, you are talking about the Town Clerk, in the case of an urban council, the CAO, in the case of the district. What about in the case of a city? Don’t we need to align it in line with the new administrative units?

MR AWANY: Much obliged, Madam Speaker. In case of the city, the city clerk, a consequential amendment can come in.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, it should be across the board; where there is an amendment on that, it should bring issues of the city too. Any other? Yes, Hon. Laura.

4.05

MS LAURA KANUSHU (NRM, PWD Representative): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a comment on the issue of the composition of the board. I think the committee

is proposing the removal of a representative of persons with disabilities. I would like -

THE SPEAKER: No, they are removing the persons who have been - if you look at proposed amendments for clause 3:

- (a) Specifically provide for representation from the ministry responsible for social development and the ministry for housing;
- (b) To delete a proposal to have a member of the public nominated by the minister as a member of the board; and then delete the proposal to have a lawyer as a member of the board.

They are deleting three -

MS KANUSHU: So, they are not removing the representative of persons with disabilities?

THE SPEAKER: Chairperson, are you removing a representative of persons with disabilities?

MR AWANY: Madam Speaker, as you noted, we are not going to delete persons with disabilities.

THE SPEAKER: The essence of deleting a lawyer is that we have somebody from the Attorney-General's office. The issue of deleting two persons from the public is that we have somebody nominated by the public sector, I think they are moving what is being duplicated.

MS KANUSHU: Most obliged, Madam Speaker.

4.06

MS CHRISTINE KAAYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Kiboga): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Still on the composition, there is a provision for bringing on two people. Somebody well acquainted with public health should be part of that, rather than leaving the appointment of two people whose professions may not be known. We would rather put a knowledgeable person in public health than leave it open.

THE SPEAKER: When you look at (f), you notice that it says that one person of each of the following professions nominated for appointment by a relevant professional body or association; one is an engineers, but I want to take you to (g) - a public health officer from the ministry responsible for health is one of them. Hon. Christine, do you have the report? It is one of them. Yes, doctor?

DR BHOKA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the chairperson and the Members for the report. I would like to get clarification on one or two issues. The first is about the representation of someone from an environmental background, given the need for us to have environmentally friendly buildings.

The second is related to access and the respect of road reserves. A case in point is where building committees approve structures near the road. For example, along Kira Road, there are buildings that have been put in road reserves and I believe approved by a committee, and now are becoming a liability to the Government to compensate. Thank you.

4.09

MR ROLAND NDYOMUGYENYI (Independent, Rukiga County, Rukiga): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I hope you are taking note, chairperson.

MR NDYOMUGYENYI: Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the win of last week, but also to raise an issue on the height because the report, as it is, suggests that 12 metres would mean that a four-storeyed building might not need a building plan. We need to be very -

THE SPEAKER: I think you did not hear it very well. Whatever building it is, it requires a building plan. I advise you, Members, to wait to go to the clauses and discuss them one by one so that we can make amendments to the clause. That would be better.

MS NALUYIMA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can I get clarification from the

committee chairperson? At the end, they are bringing the matter to the town council and changing the definition of urban council, yet the town council is already catered for at the district level.

THE SPEAKER: We shall look at that in the interpretation when we are defining a town council. Yes, Hon. Rugumayo?

4.10

MR EDSON RUGUMAYO (NRM, Youth Representative, Western): Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, congratulations on your recent win. Secondly, I would like to thank the Government for finally picking interest and bringing this Bill forward.

As professionals in the building sector, we are very excited. However, I note that when the chairperson was reading the report - it is something that perhaps could have disturbed the committee when they were discussing the issue of the built environment being broad. I understand it could have caused some issues.

When I look at where it says “engineering and surveying”, you lock out so many professionals who are under the school of built environment. They are so many, including land economics, land surveying, all those who have knowledge of the built environment.

Therefore, I request that when we are handling clauses, we think about that. Otherwise, we could be locking out some people from being executive secretaries, yet they have knowledge of construction. Thank you.

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

4.12

MR HILLARY LOKWANG (NRM, Ik County, Kaabong): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Congratulations. I am looking at the issue of utility companies like those dealing in power and water. They do not include them in the plans when making designs. Sometimes, after the construction, you find utility companies destroying some of the plans that have been put in place.

Therefore, there should be agreements or MOUs in place so that when the plans are done, even utility companies are part of those agreements and MOUs. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, we are talking about the building board and also looking at who should be part of that board. The committee gives specifications that the board should be represented by persons, and it also gives the qualifications - persons with disability, surveyors, and engineers. Hon. Hillary is saying that you should also consider persons who deal in utilities. Yes, Hon. Kubeketerya.

MR JAMES KUBEKETERYA (NRM, Bunya County East, Mayuge): Thank you, Madam Speaker. When I look at the report, I notice that the sanctions on whoever builds in a road reserve are not clearly spelt out. Maybe in our amendments, we need to be very stringent.

Madam Speaker, there are other countries where, if you have –

THE SPEAKER: We are looking at a person who builds and does not follow the standards and quality of building. Those are the sanctions that were given. Not so, chairperson? If you do not follow - these collapsing buildings and whichever -

MR KUBEKETERYA: Madam Speaker, I was adding that in other countries, when you build in a road reserve -

THE SPEAKER: No, those ones of road reserves are in the Road Act. Let us not mix it. The Road Act has those that provisions on who build in the road reserve but these ones are about those who do not comply with the quality and standards of the building. So, there is a law to that.

MR KUBEKETERYA: Madam Speaker, I had two issues. The second is about the metres. He said that if it should be six metres, it may not require a plan, and I do not agree with him.

Madam Speaker, we need to have a stronger foundation right at the beginning. Saying that

we move it to 12 metres I think is not proper. I, therefore, urge that when we go to the amendments, let us leave the six metres as the minimum. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Chairperson, do you want to make a clarification?

MR AWANY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In regard to the six metres and the height of a building for it to be considered storeyed or not, the reasoning in our engagement with the stakeholders as the committee was that the six metres may also include some warehouses that are built to that height. So, we thought, in principle, that we could raise it to 12 metres.

THE SPEAKER: That is on the length not the width?

MR AWANY: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: He is talking about the width because that is where we talk about the foundation. Is that all?

MR AWANY: Madam Speaker, allow me talk about the built environment background. We thought we should have - because the built environment may not be so specific - somebody with a built environment background as a profession. So, we thought we could get a dichotomy of these professions - engineers, architects, etcetera. Like Hon. Rugumayo said, we can actually make an amendment to include land economists.

On the issue of the urban council - the definition of the urban council refers mainly to cities and municipalities. We can also make considerations for the town councils to be encompassed in that.

Madam Speaker, as you rightly said, when we were talking about sanctions on those who default on some of these regulations, we actually did not include the issue of those who build on the road reserve because we thought that is included in the Road Act. Thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, I put the question that the Building Control (Amendment) Bill, 2025 be read for the second time.

(Question put and agreed to.)

BILLS COMMITTEE STAGE

THE BUILDING CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

Clause 1

THE CHAIRPERSON: Chairperson, do you have a new clause before clause one or should we start with the current clause 1?

MR AWANY: Madam Chairperson, insertion of a new clause. The Bill is amended by inserting immediately, before clause 1, the following:

“Amendment of Section 1 of Building Control Act, Cap. 136:

The Building Control Act, Cap. 136, in this Act referred to as the principal Act is amended in Section 1 by inserting immediately after the definition of “surveyor” the following –

“urban council”, includes city council and municipal council”

The justification is to define a term that is used in the Bill and limit application of the term “urban council” to a city council and municipal council.

Clause 1: amendment of section 3 –

THE CHAIRPERSON: First leave that. That is the insertion. Minister, are you okay with that?

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Chairperson, I agree with the committee proposal. Thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I put the question that the proposal for the insertion of a new clause stands part of the Bill.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE CHAIRPERSON: Clause 1 is interpretation. Can we stand over the interpretation? We shall come back to it. Yes, honourable member. Is that about the board? Okay.

MRAWANY: Clause 1: Amendment of Section 3 of the Building Control Act, Cap.136 - Clause 1 is substituted for the following: "Amendment of Section 3 of the Principal Act - The Principal Act is amended in Section 3, by substituting for subsection (1), the following:

- (1)The Board shall consist of nine members as follows:
- a. One representative of the ministry responsible for works;
 - b. One representative of the ministry responsible for social development;
 - c. One representative of the ministry responsible for housing;
 - d. One representative of the ministry responsible for local governments;
 - e. One representative from the Attorney-General's Chambers; and
 - f. One representative from each of the following professions nominated for appointment by the relevant professional body –
 - i) Engineering;
 - ii) Architecture;
 - iii)Physical Planning; and
 - iv)Surveying."

Justification

To specifically provide for representatives from the ministry responsible for social development and the ministry responsible for housing.

Secondly, to delete the proposed paragraph (f), which may be subject to abuse due to a lack of clear criteria for the minister to appoint the two members of the public to the Board.

Thirdly, to remove a lawyer from their representation on the Board under the proposed paragraph (g), since the Board has a representative from the Attorney-General's Chambers. Thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON: So, where are people with disabilities represented? (*A Member rose_*) No, just hold on. Where are the people with disabilities represented? Are they under the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development?

MR AWANY: They are under the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MR RUGUMAYO: Madam Chairperson, I propose we make it very specific. Under the ministry responsible for social development, we say that it will be under the department of persons with disabilities so that it is specific rather than putting it blindly. Therefore, people with disabilities are covered. They should be represented on the Board. Thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable committee chairperson, most of the buildings that we have now in Uganda do not cater for persons with disabilities. So, it is very important for us to be specific that there must be a person with a disability to represent the people in that category.

If you say that they are catered for the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the ministry can decide to bring a woman, or a youth, or a –

MR AWANY: Much obliged. I think we should dichotomise it to include people with disabilities, from the Department of People with Disabilities.

THE CHAIRPERSON: To be brought by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, right?

MR AWANY: Yes, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

THE CHAIRPERSON: A person responsible for social development to be a person with a disability. Is that okay with the minister?

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Chairperson, I agree with the idea of making representation from people with disabilities explicit and specific as has been proposed.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Yes, youth representative?

MR RUGUMAYO: Madam Chairperson, whereas we are proposing to echo the representation of persons with disabilities, buildings can be gender-sensitive in several ways. Urban buildings should now be sensitive to lactating mothers; they should be sensitive to occupational safety. When we ask the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to bring a representative, it should be someone who encompasses all those values in the building, not only persons with disabilities.

Or we can say we get someone, a representative from the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, but also clearly indicate that there is someone who represents persons with disabilities. Otherwise, leaving out gender and substituting it with persons with disabilities -

THE CHAIRPERSON: No, what we are saying is that gender ministry should bring a person with a disability, specifically, because under gender we have women, we have youth, we have persons with disability - remember, here we are looking at - we have people coming from the housing ministry. You cannot restrict housing to bring a person with a disability. We have somebody from the Uganda Local Governments Association (ULGA).

MR MAGYEZI: Madam Chairperson, you are on point. The issue of gender is constitutional for all boards and committees. So, I think in this particular case, the ministry in charge of social development - the issue of disability - the ramps, and the aspects for me override. Of course, we shall make sure that the gender aspect, which is a constitutional matter for all boards, is respected.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Can we say one representative of people with disabilities (PWDs) can be nominated by a minister responsible for gender? Is that okay?

MS KAAYA: I thank you for that special recognition, but, like my honourable colleague was bringing out, also environmentalists would be comfortable to see environmental matters being recognised in this building sector. So, I would think that, as and when we would like to co-opt some, there could be a provision for co-opting some of these professionals as and when it is necessary. I am saying this because here you are only considering people with disabilities. Environmental standards have to be observed. Then somebody will say we need an environmentalist on the Board.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Christine, environmental matters are a cross-cutting thing. Otherwise, even we accountants are going to say we also need accountants in this, because of bills of quantity – yes - bills of quantity - *(Laughter)* – anyway, I put the question that Clause 1 be amended as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2

THE CHAIRPERSON: Committee chairperson?

MR AWANY: Madam Chairperson, Clause 2: “Amendment of Section 8 of the principal Act -

Clause 2 is amended by substituting for the proposed paragraph E(a) the following: “Hear and determine complaints from a Building Control Officer -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Paragraph E(a).

MR AWANY: “Paragraph E(a): Hear and determine complaints from a Building Control Officer, a Building Committee or any person in relation to a building or building operation.”

Justification

To clarify that the complaint shall be in relation to a building or building operation and for better drafting.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, honourable minister?

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Chairperson, I agree with the committee position.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I put the question that Clause 2 be amended as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 2, as amended, and agreed to.

Clause 3, agreed to.

Clause 4

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, clause 4.

MR AWANY: Madam Chairperson, Clause 4: “Amendment of Section 14 of the Principal Act

Clause 4 is amended by substituting for the proposed subsection (2), the following: “Subsection (2): The Executive Secretary shall be a person with professional qualifications and experience in engineering, architecture, surveying, law, management, or public administration.”

Justification

To remove the requirement for the Executive Secretary to have professional qualifications and experience in the built environment, since the built environment is neither a profession nor is the phrase “built environment” capable of exact definition; and

To expand the qualifications for the Executive Secretary to include engineering, architecture, valuation, and surveying.

(Hon. Rugumayo rose _)

MR RUGUMAYO: Madam Chairperson –

THE CHAIRPERSON: On clause 4?

MR RUGUMAYO: Yes, on the same.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, you had raised an issue of economists.

MR RUGUMAYO: When we restrict it to surveying engineering - the reason why the Bill proposes the built environment is because that the school encompasses many professionals. For example, I just noted land economists, but there are also urban planners, who are very much qualified in the same.

There are also construction managers. For example, the School of Built Environment at Makerere University alone has over eight courses.

THE CHAIRPERSON: First, tell the House what a “built environment” is.

MR RUGUMAYO: The built environment encompasses professions like surveying, urban planning, construction management, quantity surveying, land surveying and geomatics. All these are people who have information or professional knowledge about the built environment.

What I would suggest is that as we go ahead with engineering, architecture, we include all persons with professional knowledge in the built environment, to encompass all of them, because in future, such a law can be used to segregate them and knock them off from taking that particular management job. Thank you.

MS OPENDI: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. The committee interfaced with various stakeholders on this matter and, after consultations, came up with this proposal.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Let us first sort out what honourable -

MS OPENDI: I want to agree with him, and that is why I say that built environment is not a qualification -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Just a minute. The term “built environment” refers to a human-made surrounding that provides a setting for human activity, ranging in scale from buildings

and parks or green spaces to neighbourhoods and cities, which can often include their supporting infrastructure, such as water supply and energy networks. That is the definition of the built environment. What did you say you want to replace what with a built environment?

MR RUGUMAYO: What I was suggesting is that, whereas the committee proposes to be specific, there should be engineers, surveyors, and architects.

The word “built environment” was coined and put there to encompass many other professionals that are not clearly indicated, like these. I noted them: land economists, urban planners, valuers, and surveyors.

All these are people with professional knowledge in the built environment. Therefore, you cannot limit them by only restricting it to architects, surveyors, and that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

THE CHAIRPERSON: In your proposal, you are saying that we maintain the Bill as it was, without changing. Committee, you need to appreciate what he is talking about. That means if we go by what the Youth Member of Parliament is saying, then it is done as part of the Bill.

MR AWANY: Thank you. Madam Chairperson, the honourable colleague raises a pertinent issue. I think it is important that all the professions under the umbrella of built environment should be catered for. I think his case makes a point. We concede.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Honourable members, I put the question that clause 4 stands part of the Bill.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 4, agreed to.

Clause 5, agreed to.

Clause 6, agreed to.

Clause 7

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, committee chairperson.

MR AWANY: Madam Chairperson, clause 7 is on the amendment of section 33 of the Principal Act. Clause 7 is amended in the proposed subsection 2 -

- (a) by substituting the phrase one currency point, with the phrase two currency points; and
- (b) by substituting the phrase two years, with the phrase five years.

Justification is to enhance the penalty for the offence of carrying out building operations without a building permit.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Minister, a deterrent - honourable minister, we are moving from two to five years because we do not want these people to start building houses that are -

MR MAGYEZI: It is justified, but I am looking at the magnitude of the penalty. One currency point is Shs 20,000 per square metre, multiplied by the square metres in that -

THE CHAIRPERSON: One currency point for every square metre. The committee is saying we make it two currency points per square metre.

MR MAGYEZI: Since we are moving progressively to improving the building environment, I think it is too much to move so drastically to five years' imprisonment. Shs 40,000 multiplied by the square meters in a building - I think I would retain the Shs 20,000, the ones -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Members, what do you think?

MR RUGUMAYO: Madam Chairperson, to have a debate on penalties, I think, will drag us on for so long. Indeed, if you say a currency point per square metre, it is a good penalty, but is it deterrent enough? That is what we should think of.

We have many people who are forcefully constructing, ignoring the recommendations and approved plans. So, is it deterrent enough? That is what should be the question. I think two, it would be good -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, the essence of these penalties is to prohibit people from doing wrong things. Do you get it? If you know you are not going to have - do the right thing so that you do not get the penalty.

When you are wrong, should you be given a lenient punishment?

MR MAGYEZI: We concede, as the Government.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Honourable members, I put the question that clause 7 be amended as proposed;

(Question put and agreed to)

Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 8

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, committee chairperson.

MR AWANY: Madam Chairperson, Clause 8 is about the amendment of section 34 of the Principal Act. Clause 8 is amended in paragraph (b) in the proposed subsection 3(a) by substituting for the word "Six", the word "Twelve."

The justification is to increase the metres in height for a building to qualify as a multi-storeyed structure.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, Hon. Bish.

MR NDYOMUGYENYI: Thank you. This is what I was talking about earlier. When you increase the height to 12, it would mean that a four-storeyed building may not qualify. I am suggesting that we leave it at six metres for purposes of this Bill.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, honourable minister.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Chairperson, I agree with the amendment proposed by the committee.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

MR RUGUMAYO: Madam Chairperson, I am of the opinion that six metres – you see in engineering, it is not a gamble, it is facts. Now, when I am constructing a residential house, I am certain that should I provide for all issues like aeration and what, the maximum I should go is, let us say, four metres above. Now, when you say that because they are warehouses we should not categorise them, the structural engineer has to provide for the structural forces of that building if it is six metres - it can be a warehouse of six metres above ground but with forces acting on it equivalent to a storage building.

So, I propose that we leave it as it is because either way, it would not make sense to have a building that is standing at six metres; it is not a normal building. There are strange forces already acting on it.

Therefore, I propose that special planning be done for such a particular building because there are unique structural forces acting on such a building. Thank you.

MR AWANY: Madam Chairperson, the decision to increase the levels to 12 was arrived at in consideration of other structures that have been built in this country, like the warehouses, where you find it stands at about seven or even more than seven metres. Would we be able to consider those as storied buildings?

THE CHAIRPERSON: No. So, we go with a committee proposal. I put the question at clause 8 be amended as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE CHAIRPERSON: Understand what he is saying; that you have buildings where – like

what he said – and they are about seven metres. Do you consider that a storeyed building?

MR RUGUMAYO: Chair, we are making a law that will stand for generations. What I think we should consider is maybe making exceptions for warehouses, but not –

THE CHAIRPERSON: No, we have not made an exemption for warehouses. We cannot make exemptions in the law. We can do it in the regulation, not in the law.

MR RUGUMAYO: Yes, but what I would think of is that any building above six metres; you would start thinking differently as a designer. This is because this is not a normal building anymore. Therefore, I propose that we maintain the six metres.

THE CHAIRPERSON: You cannot do that.

MR MAGYEZI: Madam Chairperson, we take note of the comment of the honourable member, but it would be fallacious to say a single building, although it is up to six, becomes a multi-storeyed building. I think your guidance is right. Those are details we can define in the regulation next to the law.

Clause 8, as amended

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that clause 8, as amended, stands part of the Bill.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 8, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 9

MR AWANY: Madam Chairperson, clause 9 is about the amendment of Section 35 of the Principal Act. Clause 9 is amended in paragraph (b) -

“(a) in the proposed subsection (8) by substituting for the words, “*in this section*”, the words, “*under subsection (1)*”.

(b) by inserting immediately after the proposed subsection (9) the following -

“(10), where a building committee fails to make a decision on an application for a building permit within the period specified in subsection (9), the applicant may appeal to the board.”

The justifications are:

1. To make a specific reference to subsection (1), which requires a person to obtain a building permit; and
2. To provide for an appeal by the applicant to the board where the building committee fails to make a decision on an application following a directive by the Chief Administrative Officer or the Town Clerk.

THE CHAIRPERSON: What about cities? Is it a CAO and a Town Clerk or City Clerk?

MR AWANY: Madam Chairperson, like we noted earlier, to take care of the city, we can think of having the City Clerk.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Yes, minister.

MR MAGYEZI: I think the committee chairperson is right because in the interpretation, we are making an interpretation of urban council to include the city and municipal councils. Therefore, if the city clerk needs to be defined and differentiated from the municipal clerk, then we can do that in the interpretation.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I put the question that clause 9 be amended as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 9, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 10, agreed to.

Clause 11

MR AWANY: Madam Chairperson, Clause 11 is about the amendment of Section 37 of the Principal Act. Clause 11 is amended in paragraph (b) by substituting for the words,

“one currency point”, the words, “two currency points”.

The justification is to enhance the penalty for the offence of carrying on a building operation beyond the time limit prescribed by the law.

THE CHAIRPERSON: That is a consequential amendment from the other amendment. Yes, minister.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Chairperson, as you have said, this is a consequential amendment consistent with what we adopted earlier. I, therefore, agree with it.

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

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 11, as amended, and agreed to.

Clause 12, agreed to.

Clause 13, agreed to.

Clause 14

MR AWANY: Madam Chairperson, Clause 14 is about the insertion of section 41(a) in the Principal Act. Clause 14 is amended, in the proposed section 41(a), by substituting for the words, “for building” in the head note and wherever the words appear in the provision, the words, “in building operations.”

The justification is that the term “building operations” is defined in section 1 of the Building Control Act, and it is broader in application compared to the word “building”, when used in the context of clause 14.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, honourable minister.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Chairperson, the intention is good and I, therefore, agree with the amendment.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I put the question that clause 14 be amended as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 14, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 15

MR AWANY: Madam Chairperson, clause 15 is about the amendment of section 43 of the principal Act.

Clause 15 is amended-

- (a) in the proposed subsection (6), by substituting for the phrase, “in this section”, the phrase “under subsection 2”;
- (b) by inserting, immediately after the proposed subsection (7), the following-

“Subsection (8), where a Building Committee fails to make a decision on an application for an occupation permit within the period specified under subsection (7), the applicant may appeal to the Board.”

Justification

1. To make specific reference to subsection (2), which provides for the period of a building committee to make a decision on an application for an occupation permit; and
2. To provide for an appeal to the board by an applicant where a building committee fails to make a decision on an application for an occupation permit, within the period specified by the Chief Administrative Officer or the Town Clerk.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Chairperson, I agree with the amendment.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that clause 15 be amended as proposed. You cannot even answer!

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 15, as amended, and agreed to.

Clause 16, agreed to.

Clause 17, agreed to.

Clause 18, agreed to.

Clause 19, agreed to.

Clause 20, agreed to.

The Title, agreed to.

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

4.55

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

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

4.53

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

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

(Question put and agreed to.)

(The House resumed, the Speaker presiding.)

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

4.55

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of the whole House has considered the Bill entitled, "The Building Control (Amendment) Bill, 2025", and passed it with amendments.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the Report of the Committee of the whole House be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

BILLS THIRD READING

THE BUILDING CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister - (*Hon. Naluyima rose*) - why were you sleeping when the Bill was being handled? Now you want to recommit it?

4.56

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill entitled, "The Building Control (Amendment) Bill, 2025" be read the third time and do pass.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ethel Naluyima, do you have marital interest here?

4.57

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Madam Speaker, not only am I married to an engineer, but I have knowledge of architectural engineering -

THE SPEAKER: What recommital do you want?

MS NALUYIMA: I request that we recommit clause 8 on the matter of the height, for a structure to be considered as a multi-storeyed structure because from the engineering professionals –

(The House rose at 4.59 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 4 September 2025 at 2.00 p.m.)

THE SPEAKER: Can you rephrase what you want to be recommitted?

MS NALUYIMA: Madam Speaker, I request the House to recommit clause 8 on the matter of - on 3(b), where we are having – *(Interjections)* - no, it is on clause 8, where we have the matter of a multi-storied structure or building to be considered for six metres. As the House, we have agreed to 12 metres, which according to engineers, is not okay.

THE SPEAKER: So you want six metres, not 12?

MS NALUYIMA: Yes, that is what I ask the House to recommit, because it is an engineering matter. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I put a question to the recommitment.

(Question put and negatived.)

THE SPEAKER: Yes, minister Continue.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill entitled, “The Building Control (Amendment) Bill, 2025” be read for the third time and do pass.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that “The Building Control (Amendment) Bill, 2025, be read for the third time, and do pass.

(Question put and agreed to.)

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

THE SPEAKER: The Title is settled, and the Bill passes. Congratulations!

Honourable members, the House is adjourned until 2.00 p.m. of tomorrow.