



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

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FIFTH SESSION - 13TH SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Wednesday, 10 September 2025

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

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I would like to welcome you to this afternoon's sitting and to inform you that the Tooro Kingdom will be commemorating their 30th Coronation Anniversary of His Majesty, King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV through various activities scheduled between the 10th and 13th of September 2025 in Fort Portal City.

As a House, we want to recognise the immense contribution of the kingdom in promoting education, health, tourism, sports and ensuring preservation of the Tooro Kingdom's rich cultural heritage.

On behalf of the Parliament of Uganda and on my own behalf, we would like to congratulate the Kingdom of Tooro and wish the king an enduring and historic reign.

We also want to congratulate the minister of tourism who happens to come from the same region for successfully starting the naming ceremony of the rhinos today.

As Parliament, we named one rhino - and paid for it because naming comes with a cost. The name we gave it is Kira, which means "the Source of the Nile" and that is your Rhino. I, therefore, urge all of you to make friends with that rhino. Thank you, have a nice deliberation.

2.03

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Myself, together with all Ugandans, join you to wish Tooro Kingdom a happy anniversary.

On the matter of rhinos, we have noted that ours is "Kira, the source of the Nile". We wish to request the Ministry for Tourism, once again, to take further stock of the kind of tourism we have in the country. It is quite enormous. When you get to a country like Zimbabwe - at least I have benefited from the Parliament of Uganda which has taken me to see how Zimbabwe is strengthening tourism. Zimbabwe showcases everything, especially the Victoria Falls. Let us also enhance whatever detail we have and at the end of it all - Ugandans might find someone busy going to Victoria Falls yet he or she has never seen the source of the Nile. It is therefore key that the Ministry for Tourism leads this.

Not only schools should go for tours. Let us also strengthen and enhance tourism as a country because we are the pearl of Africa. Other countries do not have anything but are busy talking and selling their tourist sites and yet Uganda has a lot. We urge the Ministry for Tourism to strengthen its marketing skills as

far as our beauty and the sights of the country are concerned. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, the next item on the Order Paper is actually going to be on tourism so, you can react to the issues of tourism after the minister has presented his paper.

2.06

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Mr Martin Mugarra): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Out of your communication, especially to do with Tooro Kingdom, I would like to thank you, for the support you have given the kingdom. I know that the relationship between you and the kingdom is beyond just the office. You have grown a relationship with the family; with the queen mother and the king. *(Applause)*

You have visited the palace and I am aware - from the king himself. I would also like to pass on his appreciation to you for the continued support towards Tooro Kingdom. We thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Sarah followed by Hon. Jane.

2.07

MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. We, the people of Tororo, do not have a kingdom. We have traditional leaders because kings are born but ours are elected. So, on behalf of the two cultural institutions that is the Iteso Cultural Union and the Tieng Adhola Cultural Institution, I want to wish the people of Tooro a happy celebration.

I would also like to congratulate all those, specifically the Ministry for Tourism and Wildlife but also the various stakeholders, who have ensured that this country restores the rhino population that was almost extinct in the early 1980s.

I know that there was a deliberate effort to ensure that we grow the rhino population in the country and I want to thank those individuals

who took this up because today, if they had not done so, the rhinos would be extinct.

However, Madam Speaker, when you move to certain countries, friendly animals like rhinos are within certain hotels. If you go to Zimbabwe, you will find hotels with animals like zebras, rhinos and the tourists - even within Kampala, we would not need to travel.

They could travel but it is something that hotels that have land can adopt so that they have these animals within these hotels. I would like to call upon the Ministry for Tourism to interest themselves and the various stakeholders with land and hotels to have these friendly animals. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Jane –

2.09

MS JANE PACUTO (NRM, Woman Representative, Pakwach): Thank you, Madam Speaker. On behalf of Ker Kwaro Jonam - that is from Pakwach, I want to congratulate the people of Tooro as they celebrate today.

On the issue of rhinos, Pakwach is a neighbour to Madi-Okollo where there are plans by the Ministry for Tourism to transfer a number of rhinos to Ajai Reserve National Park.

As the Ministry for Tourism plans, I would like to implore the Government that in planning, there should be synergies whereby different ministries work together. Even us locals, if we wanted to promote domestic tourism, we are unable to as people of West Nile and as people of Uganda. Why? The roads are so bad. If you went now and moved on the road from Panyimur, Pakwach, Wadelai, that takes you to Ajai Game Reserve.

I would like to request the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities together with the Ministry of Works and Transport that as they plan to take the rhinos, how will people go to the park to look at the rhinos?

Besides, the area has no power. Nobody wants to go to such a place and you just stop looking at the rhinos. You may decide to stay overnight. You may need to charge a phone.

Really, in planning and allocation of resources, and looking at what our cash cow is, I think tourism is next to coffee or even more than coffee now in Uganda. Therefore, we cannot understaff the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities with resources, together with the Ministry of Works and Transport.

We need perfect roads for tourism to thrive in every part of Uganda. I, therefore, want to plead to the Government - we, the people of West Nile, the people of Madi-Okollo and Pakwach are eagerly waiting to see road equipment as the rhinos pass through our villages. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: It must be a multi-sectoral approach where we need the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Ministry of Works and Transport and the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities.

Also, as we do that, honourable minister, we allocated money for fencing. I hope that is one of the things you are going to address in your statement; the fencing of the game parks. As we said the other time, the people have started eating each other. When the animals get the children, they eat the children. When the big people get the animals in their compound, the big people also eat the animals. Therefore, we need to preserve the animals and also preserve the people. Yes, Hon. Olanya?

2.12

MR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak South County, Amuru): Thank you, Madam Speaker. On behalf of *Rwot* Acholi, I would like to congratulate our brothers from Tooro.

Madam Speaker, I would like, in a special way, to thank the Government for uplifting the cultural leaders in this country. Two months ago, the Government provided cars for our cultural leaders. I would like to appreciate the Parliament for appropriating that money.

Now, our cultural leaders are living a modest way of life. I recall three years ago, about 53 houses were constructed for the cultural leaders in Acholi. The Government managed to remove them away from the grass-thatched to permanent *mabati* houses. I would like to appreciate that so much.

Finally –

THE SPEAKER: Remember, we also increased their pay to Shs 60 million in the last appropriation that we made.

MR OLANYA: Madam Speaker, that is why I am quite happy with the manner in which the Government is uplifting and really trying to help our cultural institutions.

To the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, Madam Speaker, as you stated, it seems the animals are over-multiplying and the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities are failing to control the animals' movement.

Two months ago, we had more than 100 elephants. They are based in my constituency, in Amoro, Lakang Subcounty. They are destroying people's crops and even if the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) moved, they cannot chase them away. They are always firing bullets to chase them away, and it seems they are used to bullets.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, the minister needs to find another method of controlling the animals' movement. If the animals are becoming too many, let us give the people the authority to slaughter them just to reduce the number.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Olanya, can you withdraw that statement? That is not what conservation is about. Can you withdraw that statement?

MR OLANYA: Madam Speaker, I withdraw that part but I am trying to emphasise –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Olanya, all we need is to fence off the game parks and reserves but

not eating animals. If you are used to eating animals, stop.

MR OLANYA: (*Laughter*) Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let the minister get a way of controlling the wildlife movement. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Yes. Let us hear from Hon. Afidra and then the Leader of the Opposition (LOP).

2.15

MR RONALD AFIDRA (NRM, Lower Madi County, Madi-Okollo): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to comment on the issue of naming the white rhinos. You are well aware that I come from a Rhino Camp and the white rhinos are called rhinoceros. I was born in a Rhino Camp and it has been many years, during the past Government, that the rhinos became extinct in my own location, that is Ajai Game Reserve.

At this point, I want to credit the Government of Uganda for playing a crucial role in restoring these white rhinos. A number more than 50 is a very significant intervention that our Government has played.

However, the second important thing, as the people of Lower Madi or Madi-Okollo, is that the white rhinos were known to be in Madi-Okollo or from Madi-Okollo. The Government and Parliament, which you preside over, should allocate resources to translocate these animals from Ziwa to Ajai Game Reserve.

Ajai is my great-grandfather and was the chief of the area. This is a very significant step in ensuring that there is some equity in tourism appropriation in this country so that the people of West Nile can benefit from the incomes from tourism. I want to say, thank you, to the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities that has played a crucial role in this.

As far as the people of Madi-Okollo are concerned, Madam Speaker, we are more than willing to receive these animals because we have already started receiving them. Allow me just to make this statement on their behalf. The road passing through Ajai Game Reserve -

THE SPEAKER: That has already been said. We are going to work on the road. Okay? The rhinos are from 1980, when these poachers started eating - You know, Hon. Olanya is telling people to eat.

They were six and they have now grown to 48. We are happy that they are multiplying. They are going to work on the road. LOP?

2.17

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr John Baptist Nambeshe): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me join you to congratulate the Tooro Kingdom, on behalf of the Bamasaba cultural institution, upon the 30th coronation anniversary of King Oyo.

Madam Speaker, the Bamasaba cultural institution enjoys lots of cordial relationships with the Tooro Kingdom. Whenever there are these functions that are locally termed *Mpango*, and even on this one, *Mpango* 2025, the cultural leaders of Masabaland will definitely participate. I have ever benefited from such visits, courtesy of the first Umukuka We Bamasaba, the late Wilson Wamimbi.

However, Madam Speaker, the Bamasaba are soon paying you a courtesy call with a petition, putting the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development on notice for meddling in the affairs of the kingdom.

As we talk, there is a serious rift, Madam Speaker, of a clique of self-seekers among the Bamasaba who have created their own kingdom called Inzu Ya Bagisu, which is parallel to Inzu Ya Masaba. The rest you will see, which is well articulated in that petition by your humble petitioners, Madam Speaker.

Otherwise, I want to thank the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities for the construction of the Mbale Zoo which is still under construction. I must salute you for the work that is progressing and are in the advanced stages. Thank you, for supporting the *Imbalu* Festival, though some of the money disappeared mysteriously, but you did a lot.

Madam Speaker, I know from sources that the rhino is part of those species that are earmarked to be brought to that zoo but it is an endangered species. It has to be - I would like to make a call to the ministry to have it highly protected. In the places where rhinos are, they are hunted for their meat. I do not know what is in that meat but their meat and skin are a hot cake - *(Interjection)* - The horns? Otherwise, thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: I think you only like the meat. Rhino horns are also important. Yes, elder -

2.21

MS PEGGY WAAKO (NRM, Older Persons Representative): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I would like to add my voice and thank the people of Tooro for today's celebrations.

I would like to also thank His Excellency, the President of Uganda who undertook to look after that young child from the age of three years until now when he has become of age and is able to manage the affairs of the kingdom by himself. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Honourable members, allow me to vary the Order paper, under Rule 26(1) of our Rules of Procedure. I see the players here so we should handle their issue before they go.

I am also aware they have a dinner this evening so it is prudent for us to let them go. Can we vary the Order Paper and first look at the motion? Protocol, can you take some people to the VIP gallery? Do not squeeze them.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF
PARLIAMENT TO PAY GLOWING
TRIBUTE TO THE UGANDA NATIONAL
FOOTBALL TEAM, THE UGANDA
CRANES, FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING
PERFORMANCE AT THE 2024 AFRICAN
NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, you will recall that last week when the Minister

of Education and Sports was speaking about the Uganda Cranes in the House, we urged him to bring a motion for the Uganda Cranes' outstanding performance during CHAN 2024. Bearing in mind that it is the first time Uganda is reaching that level, they therefore deserve this kind of tribute from the Parliament of Uganda.

Honourable members, as the Parliament of Uganda, we want to commend His Excellency, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the First Lady who is also the Minister of Education and Sports for their consistent commitment in promoting sports as a component of our development plan. The President specifically pledged Shs 1.2 billion per win for the boys. That message was delivered to the boys and it is going to be fulfilled.

I also want to thank you, the Parliament of Uganda, for always appropriating sufficient money to sports. *(Applause)*

Allow me also to appreciate the Federation of Uganda Football Association for its stewardship of the game led by Hon. Eng. Magogo Moses *Saloongo*, the Member of Parliament for Budiope East. *(Applause)* Honourable members, if they were not there, we would not have the team. Engineer, thank you so much. Please thank our family. *(Applause)*

I also want to thank, on a special note, all Ugandans. Honourable Minister Ogwang, you did a very great job and we want to thank you and Ugandans, for encouraging and morale boosting our boys. To the boys, we are very proud of you. I can see that Okello is smiling. As Parliament, we will continue supporting sports. You are very good patriots.

Honourable Members, pursuant to Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure, I want to invite the minister to move the motion. Before you move the motion, can I introduce the people up there?

In the public gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation of players and officials of the Uganda National Football Team, the Uganda Cranes. For your information, this is not the

only team of Uganda Cranes. Uganda Cranes has several teams. This is just the CHAN team.

We have -

1. Ssemugabi Jude, who is a player. Please stand up and wave. You are welcome.
2. Torach Rogers Ochaki;
3. Kakande Patrick Jonah;
4. Mutakubwa Joel;
5. Kizito Mugweri;
6. Ssebagala Enock;
7. Okello Allan;
8. Watambala Abdu Karim;
9. Mpande Reagan;
10. Achayi Herbert;
11. Serunjogi Joel;
12. Mukundana Hillary;
13. Ivan Ahimbisibwe;
14. Sentamu Yunus;
15. Odong Arnold;
16. Odong Gideon;
17. Usama Kiza Arafat;
18. Ngonde Elvis;
19. Anyama Emmanuel;
20. Kwikiriza Shafiq;
21. Mwere Nicholas;
22. Kiggudu Stephen;
23. Youngman Marvin;
24. Muhindo Lazaro;
25. Kusiima Chrispas;
26. Kirya Jerome;
27. Mutabazi Deo, Leader of delegation;
28. Byekwaso Morley, Head Coach;
29. Paul Joseph Put, Supervising Coach;
30. Muhumuza Fred, Assistant Coach;
31. Kiggudu Stephen, Goalkeeper Coach;
32. Louis Mandon, Physical Conditioning Trainer;
33. Petros, performance Coach;
34. Massa Geoffrey, Team Manager;
35. Nakabago Emmanuel;
36. Ssewanyana Ivan;
37. Ntege Patrick;
38. Kirunda Hassan;
39. Kimumwe Mansoor;
40. Mulondo Samuel;
42. Bumpenge Frank;
43. Ibrahim Bashir;
44. Kazibwe Ashraf; and
45. Kabali Ahmed, the bus driver.

We also have First Vice President, Mr Mugisha Justus, Hon. Nakiwala and Mr Edgar Watson, CEO. *(Applause)* We also have the President of FUFA, Hon. Eng. Magogo and the young Minister of State for Sports. Please, can you move the motion. Thank you so much for coming. If I have not introduced you, I will.

2.30

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR
EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)**

(Mr Peter Ogwang): Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion for a resolution of Parliament to pay glowing tribute to the Uganda National Football team, the Uganda Cranes, for their outstanding performance at the 2024 African Nations Championship. I move under Rule 58 of our Rules of Procedure.

“WHEREAS Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania co-hosted the African Nations Championship, 2024 between the 2nd and 30th of August, 2025, under the successful PAMOJA Bid, with 19 African countries participating, including Tanzania, Kenya, Morocco, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Mauritania, Niger, Guinea, Senegal, Sudan, and Nigeria, among others, with the games in Uganda being held at the newly-renovated Mandela National Stadium;

AWARE that Uganda competed in the very competitive Group C alongside Niger, Algeria, and South Africa, and historically made it to the quarter finals for the first time after six previous attempts;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Uganda Cranes’ teamwork, resilience, extraordinary efforts, and determination in the CHAN 2024 tournament brought honour and glory to Uganda as they topped Group C ahead of Algeria and South Africa and exhibited a strong fighting spirit, holding the Ugandan flag high, despite losing to the defending champions Senegal in the quarterfinals;

RECOGNISING that His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, played a vital role in the success of Uganda Cranes in the

CHAN Tournament through permitting the bidding for the tournament to be hosted in Uganda albeit in collaboration with sister East African Community countries, namely Kenya and Tanzania, permitting the financial appropriation for strategic investment in vital infrastructure, including the renovation of Mandela National Stadium, Namboole, consistent messaging that rallied national pride and support for the Uganda Cranes, pledging Shs 1.2 billion financial incentive for each win and created a peaceful and stable political and social environment that significantly boosted the team's historical performance;

FURTHER RECOGNISING the pivotal role played by the First Lady and the Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni who is the Chairperson of the Local Organising Committee for both CHAN and AFCON, 2027 whose physical presence at the tournament's grounds at Mandela National Stadium, Namboole and strategic leadership to the Ministry of Education and Sports has boosted the sports subsector as clearly seen by Uganda's co-hosting of the CHAN 2024 tournament as well as Uganda Cranes' success in the tournament;

APPRECIATING the Parliament of Uganda under the able leadership of Rt Hon. Speaker Anita Annet Among, which has seen Parliament reform the legislative framework and champion increased funding for sports infrastructure and talent identification and development and in this regard, we further appreciate the Speaker for her personal commitment and contribution towards the organisation of CHAN 2024, as well as her individual financial support to the Uganda Cranes team in particular;

APPRECIATING the combined efforts of the Local Organising Committee and the Federation of Uganda Football Association which were crucial in ensuring that Uganda successfully co-hosted CHAN 2024 and provided the Uganda Cranes with the necessary logistical and training support to achieve their best-ever performance in the history of the tournament;

FURTHER APPRECIATING the unprecedented fantastic support of the Uganda Cranes fans exhibited by the over 34,000 fans who were in physical attendance at both the stadium and the fan zones, tickets and jersey purchases which created a strong home advantage for the Uganda Cranes team and further boosted its energetic performance in the CHAN 2024 tournament;

RECALLING that it is the practice of Parliament to appreciate, honour, recognise and reward Ugandans who have deservedly excelled in various fields of human endeavour, including sports;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Parliament:

- a. congratulates and pays glowing tribute to the Uganda National Football Team (the Uganda Cranes) for its outstanding performance in the African Nations Championship (CHAN) 2024; and*
- b. appreciates the President and the First Lady of the Republic of Uganda as well as the Federation of Uganda Football Association, the Local Organising Committee and the Uganda Cranes fans for their support, stewardship and coordination towards the success of the tournament."*

Madam Speaker, I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Is the motion seconded? Yes, it is seconded by the shadow minister, Hon. Solo, Hon. Tebandeke, Hon. Ethel, Hon. Oulanyah, Hon. Zaake, Hon. John Baptist, Masaka representative, Hon. Aguti, Hon. Hanifa, Hon. Isingoma, Dr Abed, UPC President and the President of Motorsports, Hon. Emmanuel, Hon. Acrobat, Hon. Okot, Hon. Margaret, Hon. Ochen, Mbale City representative, Hon. Nekesa, Olympian, Hon. Mbayo, Hon. Ismail, Hon. Omara, Kween representative, Hon. Akiiki, Hon. Afidra, Hon. Chemonges, Ntungamo representative, the Kanungu woman representative, the woman Isingiro representative, the FUFA President, Hon. Emily, Hon. Mavenjina, Hon. Kato,

the Rukungiri woman representative, Hon. Angora, Hon. Itungo, by the whole House, including the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities.

Would you like to speak to your motion?

MR PETER OGWANG: Madam Speaker, above all, the person who I need to recognise is the self-appointed Leader of Government Business, Hon. Sarah Opendi.

The African Nations Championship, 2024, which Uganda proudly co-hosted alongside Kenya and Tanzania under the successful East African PAMOJA Bid, was not only a football tournament but also a landmark achievement for our country across several dimensions.

First and foremost, the Uganda Cranes delivered a historic sporting milestone by advancing to the quarterfinals for the very first time, for which I want to ask all of us to clap for them. (*Applause*) This has been done after six previous attempts.

Secondly, the Uganda Cranes were able to top a highly competitive group that included Algeria, South Africa, Niger, and Guinea. This unprecedented success elevated Uganda's football profile on the continent and inspired renewed confidence in the "domestic league players." I want to underline the words, the domestic league players. I congratulate the Federation of Uganda Football Association because they are the ones who manage the league.

This tournament, furthermore, made the Government invest and all this was because we wanted our national team to be proud of us hosting the tournament. The investment brought a long-lasting infrastructure gain, most notably in the full renovation of Mandela National Stadium to the "Confederation of African Football (CAF) standards," again other words to underline. There is a particular reason why I am saying those words. There is having a stadium, and there is a stadium meeting the standards of International Federation of

Association Football (FIFA) and CAF. As I speak, we meet the standards of CAF for the African Nations Championship (CHAN) tournament, let me be specific.

After meeting the CAF standards - the investment we were to put in for Kyambogo University training pitch - friends, if some of you go to Kyambogo today, you may think that it is not Kyambogo.

Madam Speaker, if you permit this august House, I am ready to take them for a tour of some of these facilities. The reason I am saying this is because when the coaches of South Africa and Algeria moved out of Uganda through their embassies and ambassadors - particularly Algeria and even Morocco - when they came here and left, they were able to appreciate our facilities as a country. I want us to clap for ourselves. (*Applause*)

Madam Speaker, FUFA Stadium - Kadiba, which I thank the Federation for, Muteesa II - Wankulukuku Stadium were also upgraded with modern facilities leaving Uganda with improved assets for football tournaments.

CHAN 2024 served as a rehearsal for the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027. I ask my children up here; the ball now is before you because we have two years to go for AFCON 2027. (*Hon. Zaake rose*) Hon. Zaake thinks that I am still young but I have fairly –

THE SPEAKER: Minister, you are speaking to the Speaker.

MR PETER OGWANG: Madam Speaker, I want to say that the tournament acted as a rehearsal for AFCON 2027, allowing Uganda to successfully test the organisational systems in logistics, security, accreditation, medical preparedness, ticketing, and funds management. Never did you ever hear that there was a fans breakup in the stadium during the competition. You used to see helicopters parked at the stadium. All these were in conformity with the CAF standards.

The Local Organising Committee, with about 13 specialised committees under the guidance of CAF, gained valuable experience while over 500 volunteers acquired practical skills in events management, building a pool of young Ugandans who are mobilised for the future tournaments.

Economically, the tournament stimulated business opportunities, job creation for hotels, transport operators, vendors, service providers, procurement for publicity, merchandise, logistics, name it. Friends, during this tournament, for the first time, the Entebbe International Airport recorded the highest number of arrivals ever since it was created and was opened. *(Applause)* This all came because of the arrivals during the CHAN Tournament.

Socially, CHAN 2024 strengthened national pride and unity. The Uganda Cranes' fighting spirit, coupled with the unprecedented support of over 38,000 fans at Mandela National Stadium Namboole, created a powerful atmosphere that symbolises Uganda's spirit of passion. I congratulate Allan Okello. Every time, he rose to the occasion to call upon the fans to rally behind the team. Thank you so much, Allan Okello, for your wonderful spirit. *(Applause)*

The event also demonstrated the country's ability to provide safe, secure and peaceful conditions for international events, thanks to the interagency collaboration on security and emergency medical preparedness. Friends, during the tournament, we never ever had any incident among the teams that came here, of any security breach or glitch. I confirm that this is thanks to the leadership of the Interagency Security Coordination Committee.

CHAN 2024, according to the CAF President, Dr Patrice Motsepe, and I quote, "This has been the most successful CHAN tournament in the history of CHAN competitions." I want us to clap for the President of the Confederation of African Football.

Madam Speaker, this recognition enhances our reputation as a credible destination for sports

tourism and boosts confidence in Uganda's co-hosting of AFCON 2027. In several debrief meetings, CAF continued to recognise the dedication and tireless efforts of the Local Organising Committee from Uganda. They appreciated the infrastructure at Namboole and all training pitches.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, CHAN 2024 has left Uganda with a renovated world-class infrastructure facility, operational know-how to handle these key tournaments, strengthened institutions, enhanced human capital, economic benefits for our people, and above all, made the country to be united under one spirit of supporting the Uganda Cranes.

The Uganda Cranes' historic performance is therefore not just a football story but also a testimony of resilience, determination and unity of purpose that defines Ugandans. It is a national achievement because it elevated the image of our country in the continental football and reaffirmed that Uganda can indeed compete at the highest level, thus deserving this highest recognition of the August House.

Madam Speaker, as I sum up, the H.E., the President and the Minister of Education and Sports have this evening organised a dinner for the national team, the Uganda Cranes, at State House, Entebbe, beginning at 6.00 p.m., to recognize the outstanding performance during this tournament.

The Shs 2.4 billion is no longer a word for me and the country. It is now a word which is within the accounts of the individual players and the entire team which participated. *(Applause)* This evening, the President will be able to show the world what he has done.

Madam Speaker, on a special note, on behalf of the people of Ngariam, as a "certified hustler", let me thank you for this initiative. I wish you all the best. I say all this for God and my country. Glory to Uganda Cranes. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. As the person who delivered the message, I am also happy

that the boys are also smiling. I am very happy that I did not deliver air, thank you.

The motion will be seconded by the FUFA president first. Those are his boys. Can I have order from those ones? (*Laughter*) Hon. Magogo, just a minute. Before you make your statement, can the minister lay on the Table my gift - the gift of Parliament, not mine?

MR PETER OGWANG: Madam Speaker, I would have loved my brother, *Saloongo* –

THE SPEAKER: There are two. One will be laid by you, and the other will be laid by *Saloongo*.

MR PETER OGWANG: I want my brother, *Saloongo* to decide which one he is going to lay. (*Laughter*)

THE SPEAKER: You lay the T-shirt because you are not a ball person.

MR PETER OGWANG: Madam Speaker, allow me to officially open this t-shirt and it is going on record as a replica jersey, which our national team; the Uganda Cranes, used during the African Nations Championship (CHAN) Tournament 2024. Can I request that this picture be taken? *Saloongo*, come closer. There is a reason why I want him to come closer.

Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table, a yellow jersey, for the Uganda national team. Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. No, that was our official jersey; yellow.

2.50

MR MOSES MAGOGO (NRM, Budiope East County, Buyende): Madam Speaker, may I also -

THE SPEAKER: Members, it is only football that brings everybody together. Irrespective of politics or religion, we are all one when it comes to the Uganda Cranes.

MR MAGOGO: Madam Speaker, may I also take this opportunity to lay on the Table the Zakayo Ball - (*Interjection*) - that is the official name; Zakayo, under the brand Jazzy, which is owned by the Federation of Uganda Football Association (FUFA). I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Please lay.

MR MAGOGO: Madam Speaker and dear Members of Parliament, I would like to add my voice to that of the minister in thanking his Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda for the support because when we mooted this idea of hosting CHAN and Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), we went to him and within a blink, he accepted to do two roles for us; first of all, to align all the Government apparatus to support the bid but also to talk to the Presidents of the other sister countries to buy into the project. He not only did that but he also engaged the CAF President in various calls and meetings to ensure that *PAMOJA*, as we called it, was awarded the rights to host AFCON 2027 and consequently CHAN 2024.

I also join the minister to thank the First Lady and the Minister of Education and Sports. I am very sure that by the end of this tournament, she has learned a lot about football and its terminologies because of the meetings she has chaired. For us, as football, it is advocacy done very well to the extent that she chaired meetings, including during Christmas time, to ensure that things are done well. Not only chairing meetings, not only guidance, but also attendance at the matches and prayers.

It is a day of thanking. I also thank the honourable Minister of State for Sports for his personal effort. We had so many meetings, sometimes getting home extremely late to ensure that the facilities were ready and he did not tire to ensure that all doors of the different government offices were opened. Thank you so much, honourable minister.

I also take the opportunity to thank you, Madam Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, in your capacity as the Speaker, but also in your personal capacity, because on a number of

occasions we needed you, especially to bridge to the CAF President, sometimes to the President, and you were very available. (*Applause*) You also did not stop at that, but you checked on the team and gave them encouraging words and of course delivering that wonderful message of the Uganda Shillings 1.2 billion per win that motivated the players for the kind of performance that we achieved.

We also thank the Deputy Speaker because he was engaged. He led the team that went to present the bid. It was not easy, but with his support and presence, we were able to pull off the bid.

Madam Speaker, I want to use this opportunity to thank the Members of Parliament for the support that you have given us as the House, because whatever we have presented here, whatever we brought here, was passed without any question. Thank you so much. All I can say is, may the Almighty God help you come back to the 12th Parliament of Uganda. (*Applause*)

At this moment, I also thank the CAF President because, personally, he did a lot to ensure that East Africa - because East Africa was not ready. It was going to be the first time for us to host but it needed his personal effort to appreciate that we are part of Africa and indeed, at the end of the day, like it has been mentioned, CHAN 2024 has turned out to be one of the best-organised CHAN competitions in the history of CAF. The staff and the other members of CAF, we thank them.

I also take the opportunity to thank the Local Organising Committee chaired by the Minister of Education and Sports, the First Lady, for the work done to organise the event.

I also take the opportunity to thank the security agencies, particularly the Special Forces Command (SFC), for the support they gave, because for the first time at our events, there was free access without any hassle at the entrances, and Ugandans are very happy with the support that was provided.

Madam Speaker, this brings a challenge; that the moment the CHAN competition was finished and we went back to organising other competitions, we went back to our usual organisations where we use, particularly the Uganda Police, to be able to provide security, and we have gone back to challenges where fans struggle to access the stadium. I want to use this opportunity to call upon the respective offices that we need the support for Ugandans to be able to access the stadium and to be able to go and reach home with their property without them being attacked on their way home.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to thank the FUFA executive and the staff for the work they have done. We did not get here by chance, but with a lot of planning and hard work, and please, we need to respect the work they have done and thank them because without them, some of these innovations may not have seen light. (*Applause*)

I also thank the coaches; Coach Morley Byekwaso, and the entire coaching staff supported by our supervising coach, Mr Paul Put, for the work you have done. Ugandans are now very happy with the style and quality of football that the team is exhibiting. It is very entertaining. We really to take this opportunity to thank you so much. I remember in the beginning, it was a slow start when we lost to Algeria and the head coach had very many questions to answer, but we continued to say that we will do well going forward, and we were able to turn the wheel around and today, we are being recognised and thanked by the Parliament of Uganda.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gallant players who fought for the country, who fought for the badge, who fought for the flag. (*Applause*) I think we need a big round of applause for the players - (*Applause*) - because they are the soldiers who go on the front line, they are the ones who score the goals, they are the ones who give us the kind of happiness that we received.

Madam Speaker, it would be unfair for me to conclude without thanking the fans of the Uganda Cranes. Another big round of applause.

(*Applause*) The fans of the Uganda Cranes, stand up. The fans of the Uganda Cranes, may we give them a standing ovation. (*Applause*). Thank you so much.

Madam Speaker, I want to -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Magogo, when you are in this House, it is only I who has the power to tell anybody to stand up. (*Laughter*) So you do not have those powers.

MR MAGOGO: Madam Speaker, I have not borrowed your powers, but it is the excitement of what the fans did because we had full house for all the matches that the Uganda Cranes played in Mandela National Stadium.

THE SPEAKER: Including the First Lady.

MR MAGOGO: Madam Speaker, I also take this opportunity to inform the august House and the entire country that this is the highest level that this team has reached and some of the players who have performed very well in this team composed of players who are playing in the domestic competitions, in the clubs that are domiciled in Uganda.

As we speak, some of these players, out of their performances in the African Nations Championship (CHAN), have gone on to be part of the senior national team; the Uganda Cranes, and have also delivered and performed.

The two goals we scored against Somalia in the World Cup qualifiers were scored by players from CHAN; Jude Ssemugabi and Allan Okello, who are all in the House today. It means that this was a successful competition because the objective of this competition is to give the home-based boys an opportunity to be able to be seen and also to be considered for the senior team, when our players playing outside the country eventually come to play for the team.

I conclude by raising an issue that these players come from clubs. When we invite them to the national team where they have grown up, where they have been identified and where

they live every day, it is within the football clubs in the country. Today, as we speak, club football in Uganda does not have the financial resource required to ensure that these players are fed well, are trained well, sleep well, and get motivated well. What happens is that the countries we compete with on the African continent like Algeria, Ethiopia, and others, their respective governments are directly funding and supporting these clubs for them to be able to finance and fund these players so that by the time they come for the competition, they are ready to compete on a levelled ground.

We lost some of our key players who would have been part of this team just before the competition because they had to join leagues outside Uganda for them to make a living. For example, Denis Omedi and Denis Ssekiganda went to Rwanda, because the clubs there are supported by the state and are paying much higher than the Ugandan clubs.

It is, therefore, important that before we see these players in the senior national team, and we call them our boys, we ask where they are sleeping and we make them ours. We should understand that there is work which is supposed to be done in the clubs. Also, many of these clubs are being run by private sector people, using their personal resources and indeed, as a country, if we are to go and compete and qualify even to bigger competitions, we need to support the sector just like all the other private sector players are being supported by the Government as part of the socio-economic transformation.

As a country, we benefited. The honourable minister has talked about it and I do not want to repeat it. However, Uganda's visibility on the continent - I was moved when I heard clips of television programmes in many African countries discussing our players and their performances. I think this gives Uganda visibility and there is nothing like you have rightly said, Madam Speaker, that brings us together like football does in this country.

At the matches, I saw Members of Parliament from both sides of this House supporting,

jumping and hugging because of the performance of the Uganda Cranes. I would be challenged to name another event or activity that would bring together Ugandans the way the Uganda Cranes and particularly football does.

I conclude by thanking everybody that I may not have mentioned that probably made a contribution to this and it is a learning curve. Where we have not done very well as a Local Organising Committee, where there have been some mistakes as a federation, please, we learn from hosting such competitions and I believe that by the time we host African Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027, we will have a better competition. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much. You have heard that the players marketed the country and these players come from the same clubs, which now takes us to our third prayer. Honourable minister will amend the third prayer that we should be able, as Government, to fund the clubs.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: Minister, do you have anything to say?

3.03

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)

(Mr Peter Ogwang): Madam Speaker, the President of the Federation was part of the meeting in State House that His Excellency the President and the First Lady and the Minister of Education and Sports called during that time of the CHAN competition.

The President indicated that he would interest Government to look at how some of these clubs could be supported by the Government. I thank all of us here. As we have agreed, your role and mine is now to support this investment.

The Minister of Education and Sports has pledged, through the Federation, to have a meeting with the clubs and I am happy this afternoon that I am going to raise this matter in

the dinner which we will have in Entebbe before the President and the honourable Minister of Education and Sports. Madam Speaker, I have no objection to the amendment of the motion.

THE SPEAKER: Include the proposal in the next Budget Framework Paper.

MR PETER OGWANG: Most obliged, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Basalirwa and then Hon. Solomon. All of you will speak. We have another President.

4.05

MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri): Thank you, Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Members, let us use two minutes.

MR BASALIRWA: I stand to support the motion moved by the minister and supported by Hon. Magogo. We are all excited by the performance of the Uganda Cranes. There is no doubt about that.

I am fortunate that I watched all the games in Mandela National Stadium, with my father and mother. *(Interruption)* No, the wives did not come. *(Laughter)*

Madam Speaker, as you are aware, my father and mother are number one fans of the Uganda Cranes. For every game, they would come from Bugiri and watch. I thank this Parliament -

THE SPEAKER: His mother is actually the Chairperson of the National Resistance Movement, Bugiri Municipality. *(Laughter)*

MR BASALIRWA: That is her problem. *(Laughter)* It is not my problem. My mother has been in those things. By the time I came of age, she was already there. Each time I ask her, "When are you leaving?" she says, "I will leave when I want", which is really not very good.

Away from that, in a special way, I would like to thank this Parliament that you are presiding over which has played a critical role in promoting the sports subsector in this country. You will recall that when we had an old sports law, it was this Parliament that took the initiative. Hon. Magogo and myself, with the support of the minister together with the shadow minister here moved to have a new sports law that in effect has professionalised sports in this country.

As we appreciate everybody, as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sports Club, I want to first appreciate and recognise this House for the enormous contribution you have made towards the sports sub sector and I know history will be written on all of us for being very critical and developmental as far as the sports sector is concerned.

Number two, I would like to thank the technical team; coach Morley Byekwaso and the team. They have now understood the type of football that Ugandans want and that is exactly what they are doing. It is the reason why fans are going to watch the Uganda Cranes, because they are playing the football that Ugandans want.

In a special way, I would like to thank you, recognise and appreciate you. If you were playing another type of football, we would not be coming to the pitches. Ugandans want football where we attack and score and the excitement comes. That is precisely what we are doing. So, coach Morley Byekwaso and the team, I thank you so much for the kind of football we are playing, and the players for adopting to that kind of football. I know most of these players because I watch the local leagues.

Therefore, I know the likes of Joel Mutakubwa, Allan Okello, Joel Serunjogi, Torach, Marvin, Kizito, that one is KCC, Usama, Mpande, Jude Ssemugabi, who plays like me - *(Laughter)*- Exactly, if you have seen me play. They have adopted to the type of football that our coaches have brought and we appreciate them.

I would also like to appreciate FUFA and the local organising committee for creating technology in sports. We now have online tickets and Ugandans are appreciating that football is shifting.

Madam Speaker, I was here and some colleagues were looking for physical tickets, but I advised them that tickets are now online. I am sure that this kind of technology and revolution that we are witnessing will go ahead and we have to adopt. This kind of revolution shows that we are not moving backwards, we are moving forward.

In a special way, I would like to recognise and thank the local organising committee, especially on hospitality. Hon. Florence Nakiwala there, Edgar Watson, Ntege and your group, Mugisha, we would like to thank you.

I happen to have been to the World Cup in Qatar with the minister. The kind of hospitality that was exhibited here is far much higher than what we witnessed in Qatar. He is here, he can tell you.

I am sure countries will come to benchmark with us on matters of hospitality and I am talking about hospitality in its totality. I would like to thank the local organising committee for what we witnessed.

It is important to note that we now have infrastructure that we are proud of -

THE SPEAKER: Can we have order?

MR BASALIRWA: I am glad that even other countries are now coming to play in our pitches. That in itself - there is no way we are going to develop sports if we do not have the infrastructure.

As I conclude, we would like to thank this Parliament, the Government, the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA), under the able leadership of the Hon. Hashim Moses Magogo Isabirye, for the developments that we are witnessing, especially in the areas of the infrastructure and the rest.

Finally, I would like to appeal to the Government and FUFA that as we engage CAF, there are issues that we are accustomed to. I know that there were many protocols that we had between the Government of Uganda and CAF related to branding, advertising, and the like, which had limitations.

We would like to call for more flexibility and more involvement of local companies in these processes. There was a very big concern that local companies were not fully involved, but we knew where the problem came from. It was because of the strict CAF protocols.

Therefore, in future, we must engage the CAF administration so that there is more involvement of the local players in that sense.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR BASALIRWA: Madam Speaker, through you, as the Patron of the Parliamentary Sports Club and President, I invite the Parliamentary Football Club to have a friendly match with these people here, as one of the ways of integrating ourselves.

I thank you, Madam speaker. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, I do not want my Members of Parliament to lose their legs. *(Laughter)* We will not allow that.

Hon. Ssolo, two minutes.

3.13

MR GEOFREY KAYEMBA-SSOLO (NUP, Bukomansimbi South County, Bukomansimbi): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I join this House and the country to thank the Uganda Cranes CHAN team for reaching such a milestone.

I thank every person involved in enabling the country to host such a big tournament; the FUFA president who brought this idea to the East African region, the local organising committee but most especially, the Shadow Minister for Sports. This is because everything has happened during his reign.

Madam Speaker, this CHAN tournament unified us all. Right from the northern side, to the eastern side, the whole country was together, represented by both the players and the fans. Therefore, as a country, we are happy for that moment and the boys played well, especially in the white jersey, where they scored many goals -

THE SPEAKER: So, there is equity in sports.

MR KAYEMBA-SSOLO: Somehow. Therefore, I request them to wear the red jerseys next time because they will score many goals. As we appreciate the achievements we got, allow me to mention a few challenges that, if worked upon, would help us as we are going to host AFCON 2027, so that we can have a fabulous tournament.

The marketing of this tournament was an issue. Remember, we brought up that issue here but we only got money towards the tournament. Therefore, the country did not get the feel that we desired as a country. Next time, we need to plan and deal with the professionals.

I remember at the opening ceremony which was in Kololo, the ball that I saw was a Premier League ball. The anthem that was sung there was for FIFA World Cup. I think next time, honourable minister, when you are organising such a ceremony, you need to involve the professionals that know football more.

We also needed an opening ceremony at the pitch, at Namboole, because football is not played in Kololo, but in Namboole Stadium.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for the initiative of the presidential pledge. We are very happy and I know the boys are also happy. I saw one of the players, Nicholas Mwere, from Jinja, already looking around for land to buy. We would ask the President that let this money not be taxed. Let these boys -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, that money is not taxed.

MR KAYEMBA-SSOLO: That is great. Thank you, Madam Speaker. That was a very big concern.

As I conclude, I would also like to emphasise the issue of local football investors. The people who run these football clubs and other sports disciplines, like boxing and others, get this money from their pockets.

We could probably have a policy where all investors here; international or local, are made to put a certain percentage in football clubs.

THE SPEAKER: You should not have a briefcase football team and ask the Government to fund. It is going to be selected ones.

MR KAYEMBA-SSOLO: Not a club. Madam Speaker, in Ethiopia, every company in the country has to be affiliated to any sports club, either football, netball or boxing, to get an investment licence. I think that will help us more to see that these clubs grow and we get more and more players. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I would like to refer you to the Sports Act. There is a provision for the incentives and as we prepare the taxes for the next financial year, we should bring that on board.

Yes, president?

3.17

MR JIMMY AKENA (UPC, Lira East Division, Lira City): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am speaking on behalf of the Federation of Motorsports Clubs of Uganda and we would like to send our congratulations to the Uganda Cranes for their performance during CHAN.

As a fellow member of a sports fraternity, I want to send special congratulations to the team. It is a great honour to put on your national jersey and represent your country. It is humbling and a privilege. Whether red, yellow, white, blue, or green, you are there as a national and all of us, as Ugandans, appreciate when Uganda succeeds.

At least from my point of view, when Uganda is winning, we are winning. When Uganda is showcasing, we are showcasing. It is not a

partisan issue. It is a national issue where we must support our athletes and help develop them to the next level.

On motorsport, I have had the privilege of representing the country both on the track and also here on the Floor of Parliament. Last year, we sent a team to Morocco and we came back in the second position. During the occurrence of African Nations Championship (CHAN), we were in Zimbabwe and Uganda emerged third overall.

Madam Speaker, the young lady whom Parliament took up was able to defend her position as a junior champion for another year. I would like to congratulate you for the support given to this young athlete who is carrying the Ugandan flag.

I would also like to extend my support and congratulations to the technical team; because a lot in sports is preparation. It is almost 90 per cent preparation and then the game is where the coaches, managers and the technical people are sitting on the edge and only lending your support to the young people, who are carrying our flag on the pitch. It is a heavy burden on them but I would like to congratulate the technical and professional side on helping to develop character in these young people to enable them carry our flag further.

Lastly, through the minister, and also the president of Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA), I would like to send my apologies because I will not be able to attend the dinner today. Let it be clear; I wanted to attend as Federation of Motorsport Clubs of Uganda (FMU), but due to a busy schedule I have not had the chance of having my COVID-19 test done, so I do not want to go and be turned away. Nonetheless, I am in total support of national sports and what FUFA has done - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you *Prezido, Olympian*. Let us first start with people who know football; those who know sports. *(Laughter)* Hon. Acon Bua?

3.20

MR JULIUS ACON (NRM, Otuke East County, Otuke): Madam Speaker, I think we are all excited. There is nothing much we are going to do. I would like to add my appreciation and congratulations to our Team Uganda. As I speak, when I won my first gold medal, some of you were not born. In 1996, I was 18 years old, the greatest man who won the medal with borrowed shoes; I think your coaches know.

Madam Speaker, sports is one of the highly paying institutions in the world, as we know. I encourage my colleagues and you, the players, to encourage our children, friends and brothers. If you look at other countries that are investing in sports, the entire country or the town changes. For example, in Kenya, we have Eldoret, which is renowned for men's athletics.

I urge this country to encourage and continue building more stadiums. I appreciate the country, mostly the President of this country, His Excellency, President Museveni, for investing in sports. In my time, we would receive \$100 for four years of training for the Olympics, but I am very grateful to His Excellency paying Shs 1.2 billion for each win and appreciating - and sometimes, I wish I could rewind my age. *(Laughter)*

Nonetheless, I am still thanking this Parliament. Since I joined Parliament, we have really made a huge improvement in sports in this country. Our children are getting allowances, stadiums are being constructed and there are so many things happening. I am advising these young athletes, the token that you receive is peanuts; it is very little money. It is nothing.

I am 48 years old but my contract is still paying me until I go to heaven. Even my children's school fees is paid, some before they are born. I encourage you to play more, do not give up, be humble, know God and believe in yourself. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Bua. Let us have Hon. Angura. I am coming to all of you - This one takes players out of the country.

3.23

MR FREDRICK ANGURA (NRM, Tororo South County, Tororo): Thank you Madam Speaker. I take this opportunity to congratulate our gallant sons, the organising committees; both local and CHAN, and the managers.

Madam Speaker, as you are aware, the support you have extended to us as Festoweb Sports Management has enabled us get players out of the country. They are now in various clubs and I know the contacts have already been received by our technical teams. This will be a very big boost when it comes to the main competitions coming ahead.

All I want to say to these young gallant sons of ours - here I speak on behalf of Festoweb Sports Management; you are aware of the many players, your colleagues who are out like Allan, Mbabazi and many others. As I speak to you now, next week we are receiving three coaches from abroad, who were excited by the good performance that you exhibited. You never know, you might be one of those going out and we shall be glad to position you where you want to be.

Thank you once again, Madam Speaker, for the support you are giving us. As we continue to support them and raise up the flag, we have opened the doors and the sky will be the limit for the Ugandan athletes here; both football and other sporting opportunities.

We have scholarships that are coming up now from various universities. Already as I speak, five are going to university in the United States of America because of their athletic performances. Festoweb Sports Management will be partnering with you and I thank the federation for the support you always give us. We are utilising these opportunities for the good of the young ones here and the country at large. *Eyalama noi, emuria koliai.*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Mbayo? She used to be a very good netballer.

3.26

MS ESTHER MBAYO (NRM, Woman Representative, Luuka): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me join the rest of my colleagues in paying tribute to the Uganda Cranes for the outstanding performance. I used to think that football is for the huge, tall and giants. When I saw the Uganda Cranes play, I appreciated the people who scouted the talents of these handsome boys that have managed to hold the Ugandan flag high.

I thank His Excellency the President of Uganda, the First Lady; the Minister for Education and Sports, the coaches and all the stakeholders who have enabled this team to get this far. The team brought us all on board. I am not a fan of football, but this time round, I got involved and I was only concerned about the dates when Uganda Cranes was playing. When the team played with South Africa, I was the most excited because I saw the boys play. I saw Uganda high and really appreciated the talent that these young boys exhibited.

I want to end by urging the young boys out there to continue flying the Uganda Cranes high and high. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: We have very limited time; the boys have to go to State House. Yes, *elder*? Do you have a motion? After the *elder*.

3.28

MR JAMES BABA (NRM, Koboko County, Koboko): Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. For the record, I played for Northern Uganda in the '60s under Coach Peter Aber. My teammates were Peryo Okech, David Oti and the late David Obua. We were in the Northern Uganda team together.

Also, for the record, in 1965, yours truly, Hon. James Baba, was the third fastest man in Uganda. (*Applause*) I wore the Uganda badge for the first All-Africa Games in Congo Brazzaville. My teammates were Omolo, Odongo Duka, and many others. I congratulate the young men and the coaches for the wonderful display they performed.

The journey for your championship going forward is now on. You are soon going to be the champions of football all over Africa and in the world. Hon. Julius has said that sports is a money maker. Aim to be professionals. Be it in Arsenal, Manchester United or my team Liverpool, you will earn tons of money, but my main message is to Honourable Minister, Peter Ogwang. Thank you for all the work you have done.

Let us do three other things. One, talent spotting. Establish an institution for talent spotting among the clubs, among the institutions to bring up these young men and put up an academy where they can be trained to become professionals, as you have done in the sports sector.

Two, scale up the building of stadiums. Keep close to the First Lady - let us scale up stadiums. We, in West Nile, are waiting for the Inzikuru Stadium, like you have started in Lango and elsewhere.

Lastly, the incentives for players must continue apart from supporting the clubs. Let these young men and boys be paid some money at every tournament they play so that they can continue to be encouraged. Thank you very much. (*Hon. Olanya rose*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

3.33

MR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak South County, Amuru): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Looking at the excitement from both sides of the House -

THE SPEAKER: Your acting Leader of the Opposition (LOP) wants to - the LOP has come.

3.33

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr John Baptist Nambeshe): Madam Speaker, I thank you and receive my superior with open hands. Mine is to congratulate the Uganda Cranes and the management for the sterling performance and for doing Uganda and us proud. In fact, with that narrow exit and loss

made to Senegal, you did it with pride, and I was keenly watching.

I also appreciate the investment that has been made in the sports infrastructure. What is remaining is to improve the ecosystem that develops players. We are lacking, in many aspects, as far as the ecosystem is concerned. Of course, it includes good accommodation, nutritional feeding, name it. The rest speaks for itself.

The online ticketing was a blessing. I had been one who was scared of watching football at Namboole because of the crowding and stampedes, but the online ticketing this time round was a huge blessing. I must salute it, and the initiative must be kept up. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. LOP?

3.34

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate Hon. Nambeshe for holding fort and also join colleagues in congratulating the Uganda Cranes on the stellar performance we have seen thus far. They have been putting up good shows. Also, to thank the people of Uganda for showing up in droves each time the Uganda Cranes have a match. It is an incredible thing. We meet there, all forms of colours, tribes, and so on.

Sports is an interesting thing. It unites us. At that point, I forget that Hon. Maj. (rtd) Rwamirama is my political opponent, and we get to support and vouch for the Uganda Cranes. Hopefully, we get to do that continuously.

Madam Speaker, we often make a case for the growth and development of the sports infrastructure. We want to remind the Government to do this a lot more. It is important that our young people who are talented get to have a platform and space to grow their talents. That is why we always emphasise these issues. Let us develop infrastructure for sports. That is the only way we shall get to have stars.

Across, by the way, whether it be in soccer – Sometimes, we over-emphasise soccer, and that is okay because people love it, but there are other sports disciplines too; athletics, boxing, basketball, netball, etcetera. We need to look at an all-around kind of situation regarding sports. I saw the promise that was made to the Uganda Cranes that for each win, they will get Shs 1.2 billion -

THE SPEAKER: It is not a promise; it is now a reality.

MR SSENYONYI: That is a good thing. I am glad it has been fulfilled. I hope it has because for a very long time these sports personalities -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssenyonyi, you are hearing from the head of the Legislature.

MR SSENYONYI: I am appreciative -

THE SPEAKER: That it has been fulfilled.

MR SSENYONYI: That is a good thing because in the past, people would be promised and then you see them coming to the media. There was a time Inzikuru won, and they promised her a house. Every year, she would come to the media and say, “My house has not come yet”, so it is important that when we promise, we fulfil.

Finally, Madam Speaker, can we buttress the lives of these stars not just at the time they are playing? It is good that they get to be promised when you win Shs 1.2 billion, but can we take care of their welfare away from that? This is because it is a process. By the time they get to where they are to play and win, it has been an entire process. Let us support them through the process and not wait for the final time when they have matches and they are under pressure - we have got Shs 1.2 billion to win. Previously, you find they were probably struggling to go to training because of numerous issues, so let us support all of that.

The sports minister should be happy I am saying these things because many times he comes here, makes a case and says, “Give me

more money” and Parliament will give him some, not all. Let us avail them with what they require and then we hold them accountable. That is very important. The stadia that are being built; we want accountability so that this money is put to very good use.

Finally, I saw something that perplexed me. It is good that the Minister of Education and Sports is here; he will respond to this. The standards. Soccer, like all other sports disciplines have standards. We were dumbfounded when we saw on the news the hotel facility at which the Uganda Cranes were staying, somewhere in Kisaasi. The road to the hotel is not very accessible. I am told the bus would stop somewhere, then there alit to access the hotel.

Our opponents were staying at good five-star hotels. I think we can afford for our stars to stay at good facilities. If we can afford to give them Shs 1.2 billion per win, then we can afford to put them in a good place where they are safe. If they have to jump out of the bus to access the place they are staying at, that speaks of insecurity and discomfort. Can we address these critical concerns, honourable minister?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister? The ones who were staying at a five-star hotel, did they reach where we reached?

3.38

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)

(Mr Peter Ogwang): Madam Speaker, first of all, let me begin by congratulating the Leader of the Opposition for the questions and the pertinent issues he has raised. To begin with the latter, all teams which were competing during the African Nations Championship (CHAN) tournament were taken care of by the Confederation of African Football (CAF), including team Uganda.

I repeat in the affirmative. As a country, there were certain items, which CAF agreed to take care of, for example, accommodation and transportation of teams in the countries of the competition and those exiting the country after the competition.

Therefore, the hotel in which the team was staying, was certified by CAF. Let me also go on record on that because it is them who were the owners of the competition.

Secondly, as a country, Uganda did facilitate the team in preparation for the competition. However, when it came to the time for the competition, CAF took over, not only for Uganda, but also South Africa, Niger, Guinea and Algeria. I hope I have answered that question.

The additional infrastructure, for instance, the roads; as of now, if some of you have observed, we are already beginning to prepare for the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027. The roads in areas where, in our considered opinion are prime for this particular competition, are the ones, which the Government will work on. That particular road, I want to say, is in the – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA). Switch on.

MR PETER OGWANG: It is one of the roads under the Kampala Capital City Authority Management. Madam Speaker, I do not know it might even be in the constituency of the honourable Leader of the Opposition – *(Interjections)* - it is Kawempe.

However, I also want to interest you to look at the master plan under the Kampala Metropolitan Development Roads structure. Those roads are there.

The other issue, which I again want to mention here, is the question of welfare of the former national players. We have the law here, under the National Sports Act, 2023. I want to interest Parliament that this law gives us, the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to see what incentives we can offer. For instance, the superstars who are before us now, if you gave me money, I would be able to give them beyond what they have received. That is already taken care of.

The other one for which I want to thank Hon. Baba and the Leader of the Opposition is that when we talk about facilities, the current regime of the infrastructure we are doing is for multi-sport, not only football. When I build a stadium like now the Mandela National Stadium Namboole, I want to redevelop it to include additional facilities like indoor games.

I want to develop Lugogo Stadium to have indoor games. Hoima City Stadium, as I speak now, has a provision for all indoor games. Akii-Bua Olympic Stadium has a provision for all indoor games. Why are we doing this? It is for purposes of talent identification and development as a country. Therefore, honourable colleagues, we are on course.

Are we going to continue working on this infrastructure? It is part of the plan of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) government to provide these state-of-the-art stadia in all regions of Uganda. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Prime Minister.

3.42

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I first apologise for coming in at this time. I was in Munyonyo where we have a Ministerial Regional meeting concerning higher education. I was in charge of chairing it.

I would like to congratulate the Uganda Cranes for participating in the tournament and reaching that level of quarterfinals. We thank you so much and are proud of you.

I also to thank the Uganda Railways, that is the Ministry of Works and Transport, for providing the line that was taking these people from town to Namboole. They made it easier for them. At least there was not much congestion. The Government is committed to supporting sports. It has been evident that for every budget that we have come up with, the sports programme has been given the money by Parliament and as the Government.

I also thank His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda for fulfilling the pledge of Shs 1.2 billion for each win. I know that His Excellency, the President this evening is still inviting these people for a get-together. He is showing the youngsters that “we are proud of you” and is in full support of the sports. The Government is building more stadia in the country. We have Lira, Hoima and others that are coming up. We know all that is support from the Government.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, I thank you together with the Parliament of Uganda, for providing the jersey for this team, which were laid here in the House. You led the process. Many people are proud of you because as a woman, you have shown what sports is in the country. By laying these jerseys here and talking to the Members of Parliament to contribute to that was a sign of support. We know that the young team is also proud of our Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS NAKADAMA: I thank you very much. For God and my country. We are still looking forward to seeing you do more and more and even reaching the finals.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, upon the successful accomplishment of CHAN - remember CHAN is a precursor to AFCON - as an institution responsible for accountability, appropriation and oversight, we will ask the Auditor-General to give us a special audit on how much we have spent on CHAN for us to be able to plan better for AFCON. We want this report in the House by the 30th of October. This will help this institution.

I now put the question that this House pays a glowing tribute to the Uganda National Football Team, the Uganda Cranes, for their outstanding performance at the 2024 African Nations Championship, with amendments.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Motion, adopted.

THE SPEAKER: We will extract the resolutions and forward it to the relevant authorities or institutions. Honourable members, the youngsters here want a picture with us. I suspend the House for five minutes.

(The House was suspended at 3.45 p.m.)

(On resumption at 3.55 p.m., the Speaker, presiding_)

THE SPEAKER: Next item. Honourable members, in the public gallery, we have teachers and pupils from New Heritage Nursery and Primary School from Pader. They are represented by Hon. Okot Santa and Hon. Paska Menya Aciro. You are most welcome. *(Applause)*

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON NAME
A RHINO SAVE A RHINO CAMPAIGN, 22
SEPTEMBER 2025, ZIWA SANCTUARY
NAKASONGOLA DISTRICT

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, as you may be aware, in 1980, Uganda suffered the extinction of the rhino. This had a negative effect on our wildlife conservation efforts.

Since then, there have been efforts to reintroduce the white rhino in the wild. I am aware that the Government together with the local and international partners has made considerable strides to this effect. Today, we will receive an update from the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities on the recent developments.

Pursuant to rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure, I invite the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities to present his statement.

3.56

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Mr Martin Mugarra): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving us this opportunity. The statement will be brief, since it is just an information paper.

However, I would like to thank you for the support and for naming a rhino on behalf of

Parliament; “Kira”. I thank you for supporting this cause.

On 22 September 2025, Uganda will host its first rhino naming ceremony at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary in Nakasongola District. The ceremony will mark a major milestone in the ongoing Name a Rhino Campaign; a five-year, \$11 million fundraising effort launched last year to secure and expand Uganda’s rhino population.

Individuals, corporates and philanthropists will be offered the unique opportunity to symbolically ‘adopt’ and name a rhino, with proceeds directly funding habitat expansion, veterinary care, anti-poaching measures and community conservation programmes.

This will be a celebration of how far we have come from extinction in the wild in the 1980s, and you have rightly said this, Madam Speaker, to now having 48 rhinos in Uganda, including 46 at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary and there are two at Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre (UWCEC) at the zoo.

The naming ceremony is an opportunity for individuals and organisations to leave a lasting legacy by naming one of 17 calves and juveniles, while directly supporting rhino conservation.

Madam Speaker, rhinos were once widespread in Uganda, but poaching and habitat loss drove them to extinction in the 1980s. Since 2006, the breeding programme at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary has seen 40 southern white rhinos born, from an initial founder population of six. I thank the National Resistance Movement (NRM) government, through His Excellency the President, for bringing stability that has seen these numbers grow to the numbers we are speaking to today.

The aim of the Rhino Naming Initiative is to support ongoing breeding, reintroduction of rhinos into the world, starting with Ajai Wildlife Reserve, and strengthen anti-poaching measures with the focus of habitat protection and community involvement.

The translocation of rhinos to Ajai Wildlife Reserve will connect the West Nile region to the tourism circuit, extend the rhinos' range, and bring opportunities to communities through tourism.

The first-ever Rhino Naming Ceremony is a proud moment for Uganda and a powerful symbol of our commitment to conservation. Rhinos are not only part of our natural heritage; they are an asset that can drive tourism, jobs, and sustainable growth for our communities.

This year, we take the next bold step by reintroducing rhinos into Ajai Wildlife Reserve. We call upon every Ugandan citizen - I thank you, Madam Speaker, for taking the lead - company and partner, to be part of this legacy. When you name a rhino, you are not just giving it an identity; you are securing its future and the future of conservation in Uganda.

The naming ceremony, slated for 22 September, will bring together various stakeholders and mark the beginning of the translocation process. This is more than a naming ceremony; it is a platform to showcase Uganda's commitment to sustainable tourism. Our natural heritage is our competitive advantage, and protecting it ensures that visitors continue to choose Uganda for authentic wildlife experiences.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, under the National Rhino Conservation and Management Strategy for Uganda (2018-2028), the country aims to achieve an annual rhino population growth rate of at least five per cent. This will be driven by strengthened security, protection and law enforcement, reintroduction and establishment of new population, building national capacity for effective management and promoting education and awareness of the value of rhino conservation.

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) has put in place a rhino translocation committee to ensure the rhinos are delivered to Ajai before the end of this year.

Protecting rhinos is not just about preserving a species; it is about securing our ecosystems,

supporting tourism and creating long-term benefits for local communities. Individuals, companies, philanthropists and global conservation supporters are invited to join the Name a Rhino Campaign, and help to directly fund rhino protection, habitat expansion and community benefit projects.

Through you, Madam Speaker, I wish to invite all the Members of Parliament and the staff to join us at the Name a Rhino Campaign on 22 September 2025 in Nakasongola, but also name a Rhino. We have shared the different categories in which each individual member can participate.

You raised a couple of issues; I am requesting for your guidance. The next statement is almost similar to what I am reading. I request to tackle it so that I can respond to some of the statements.

THE SPEAKER: Please, go ahead. Thank you.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON WORLD
TOURISM DAY CELEBRATIONS, 27
SEPTEMBER 2025 IN ARUA CITY

4.03

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Mr Martin Mugarra): Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is about the World Tourism Day that we will be holding this month.

Uganda is a founding member of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and participates in the celebrations for the World Tourism Day held annually on 27 September. The UNWTO General Assembly instituted the celebration of the World Tourism Day, commencing in the year 1980. This date was chosen to coincide with an important milestone in world tourism: The Anniversary of the adoptions of the UNWTO Statutes on 27 September, 1970.

Uganda will join the rest of the world to celebrate this on 27 September in Arua City under the theme, "Tourism and Sustainable

Transformation.” The national event highlights West Nile region’s tourism potential and aims to drive socio-economic transformation through sustainable community-driven tourism initiatives.

The celebrations will align with the global theme of tourism and sustainable transformation. The event underscores Uganda’s commitment to using tourism as a tool of social and economic development. This theme also reminds us that tourism is more than leisure and travel. It is a driver of long-term change, creating livelihoods, safeguarding cultural heritage, protecting biodiversity and promoting inclusive growth, hence ensuring that tourism benefits both present and future generations while aligning with global development goals.

Countries all over the world, and Uganda in particular, are increasingly prioritising tourism as a key part of the national development agenda. I thank the Government and this Parliament for the support they have given to this sector through your leadership.

As a driver of economic growth and inclusive development, the tourism sector contributes about 5.7 per cent to GDP and employs around 7.2 per cent directly of the total employment as per statistics of 2024 in this country.

It is, therefore, fitting that this year’s national World Tourism Day celebrations will take place in Arua in the West Nile Region. Arua is a gateway to both domestic and cross-border tourism with its rich cultural heritage, diverse ethnic groups and untapped tourism potential.

By bringing the celebrations to Arua, we want to showcase the tourism opportunities of the West Nile region and integrate the region more strongly into the national tourism development agenda.

Madam Speaker, as we count down to 27th September, the ministry, together with its agencies and partners, has lined up a series of activities across the country. They are there, and the Members can go through them.

On the 2nd, there was a launch, and on the 11th of September, there will be a tourism fraternity which will be held, the Youth Tourism Conference and Quiz at Arua Core PTC.

On Thursday, 18th September, there will be a thematic conference in Kampala, a rhino naming ceremony on the 22nd of September, and on Wednesday 24th to Thursday, 25th of September, West Nile students will engage in a competition on cultural dances, poetry and tourism fraternity will participate in sports and cycling and various other activities at Arua Public School.

Then from the 25th to the 27th, there will be an open day with free park access to all national parks for East African citizens. I encourage Members of Parliament, please, you can mobilise a couple of your voters to access for these two days at no cost.

On Friday, 26 September 2025, Arua City will host a regional tourism forum at La Confidential Hotel in Arua City, and we have invited all Members of Parliament both in writing and I want to still re-echo the same. Please mobilise people; come and we interact, share ideas and see how we grow this region in this conference on the 26th.

On Saturday, 27 September 2025, the main event of World Tourism Day will be held at Arua City Golf Course. Then, we will have an Explore West Nile campaign from the 28th to the 29th of September. We will have a couple of influencers, celebrities and various Ugandans shine a light to showcase what this area has to offer.

In conclusion, this year’s focus on West Nile with Arua City as a host is a demonstration of our commitment to inclusive and regionally balanced tourism development across the West Nile. The promise of tourism is tangible. The region is blessed with unique cultural traditions, vibrant festivals, diverse cuisines and landscapes of extraordinary beauty. I still wish to invite all Members of Parliament and staff to join us as we celebrate World Tourism Day.

Madam Speaker, you raised a couple of pertinent issues, especially those to do with the human-wildlife conflict. I wish to inform this Parliament that we are constructing an electric fence in Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls and we intend to add an additional 100 kilometres around the Murchison Falls; and we have done districts of Nwoya and Oyam. We are currently doing Buliisa, Kiryandongo and Masindi. We have done Kasese, Kitagwenda, Kanungu, Rubirizi, and we are currently doing Rukugiri. We intend to add another 50 kilometres.

One of the areas that has been the biggest hotspot, is the Karenga or the Kidepo Valley Community Wildlife area. Through a directive from His Excellency, the President, but also with support of this Parliament, we are going to start by doing 128 kilometres of the Karenga, that is Karamoja, Kitgum and the districts around. We believe that in the next three to four years, we should be able to have finished fencing all these protected areas.

Madam Speaker, the challenge has been because of the too much demand and pressure we have put as a population on most of these areas, most of the elephant corridors have been occupied by communities. These animals do not forget where they used to go and graze from, even as babies. They usually tend to trace where their parents probably - and it is something that they have in their memory. The only solution is to have them confined and it is something we are dealing with, plus other interventions to do with conversation and the rest.

On the issues of the infrastructure - I want to thank the Government. In most of the protected areas, there is some good access and I want to assure the people around Ajai that with the reintroduction of the rhinos, definitely, you will see an improvement in infrastructure, not only by the Government, but even by the private sector. That is why it is important that we have this circuit completed and Ajai is included in the tourism circuit within the country.

With those few remarks, thank you, Madam Speaker, for your support in the reintroduction of rhinos and your continued support as Parliament to the tourism sector and the support this country has given, because where there is no peace, there is no tourism.

I always tell my brother, Hon. Ssenyonyi, that the only way we can sell this country is speaking good about it and selling the good. Hon. Ssenyonyi, I invite you and the entire Parliament on a one-week tour around the country so that you share, but you have a free invitation so that *—(Interjection)—* No, on our budget, yes -

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. They are OBs. Honourable members, we thank the minister for the report, and what the honourable minister says is that it is out of the peace and security we have in this country that the animals are able to live.

Originally, these animals in 1980 were all killed. The poachers finished them. However, because of the peace and security that has been put in place by the President in this country, these animals are able to live. There is peace for the people, but also for the animals and they are able to multiply. You must really thank the President for the peace. I am not hearing your handclaps. *(Applause)*

Hon. Ssenyonyi, I have not yet picked you. You will speak last; a big drum speaks last. Hon. Acrobert?

This paper is for information purposes. You should not really spend time debating it. If you want, you can go and attend the function. The function is there; you are all invited, please go and attend it.

Yes, and in the opening remarks, we had already discussed this. This report is for informational purposes and it is going to be in the library. If you want any information, Hon. Martin is not far away. *(Hon. Acrobert Kiiza rose_)*

There is a motion.

4.13

MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I had issues with the minister addressing an individual, our Leader of the Opposition (LOP). Procedurally, Madam Speaker, I would have sought your indulgence that the minister addresses us so that you protect our LOP.

However, Madam Speaker, in light of the fact that this is a self-explanatory statement, I beg to move that the statement be adopted and we go to other business. There is a loan for Bugiri, which is coming up. I beg to move that we adopt this document.

THE SPEAKER: Is it seconded? (*Members rose*) It is seconded by Hon. Obua. Anyway, Hon. Acrobert, are you seconding?

4.15

MR ACROBERT KIIZA (Independent, Buhendera County, Bundibugyo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am seconding the motion -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I am only going to allow three people to speak. This is a straightforward document. I spoke about it in my communication. There is nothing more to talk about. If you want, go and attend the function. I will have Hon. Acrobert, Hon. Emely and Hon. Dr Ayume.

MR ACROBERT KIIZA: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I would like to appreciate the honourable minister for the straightforward report and statement regarding the World Tourism Day.

However, as we plan to celebrate this day, I implore the honourable minister to ensure that people who still have human-animal traffic issues, like those in my area, Bundibugyo, be addressed.

Animals have destroyed people's property and crops but they have never been compensated. As we celebrate this day, honourable minister, I call upon you to ensure that the people on

record for compensation are compensated. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Human-wildlife conflict is the term that is used. And the honourable minister had already talked about it. We provided some money for the fencing of these game parks and reserves. Honourable, you should consider compensation. Yes, Hon. Emely.

4.16

DR EMELY KUGONZA (NRM, Buyanja East County, Kibaale): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for the two statements. I also want to thank the Government and all those who have been involved in the preservation and conservation of the white rhino, to be specific. There is also the black rhino that was here in Uganda.

The last reported black rhino was in 1983, and that was in the Kidepo National Park. What is the Government doing about that? Now that we have made strides on this, it is important that we do not forget about this very important animal species that could also enhance our tourism.

The other point is in respect to the human-wildlife conflict. What has been emphasised more are the big animals, the elephants and all that but when you get back to our communities, you will see many households affected and disturbed by vermin, like the baboons.

You will see monkeys roaming and actually if a woman is preparing food, and the monkey is coming up to grab it. This is because the habitat for the monkeys and all these animals has been disturbed.

We need to get a way to support this. Now that we are talking about the Parish Development Model(PDM), I have a county called Kyebando in Buyanja Eastern Kibaale District. The biggest problem they have today are the vermin.

Honourable minister, these animals are under your docket. You need to get a solution to

ensure that your animals, in this respect, if I have to consider your ministry, do not disturb our farmers. Otherwise, they will lose out, and it will be a net loss. I thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Dr. Ayume.

4.18

DR CHARLES AYUME (NRM, Koboko Municipality, Koboko): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will address the minister's presentation on three things. The first is marketing.

As Government, we are not giving a lot to marketing our tourism in this country. It is only when people know about our country and its potential that we will be able to attract them.

The second is: I am happy about the white rhinos. As previous speakers have said, Ajai Game Reserve is the home of the white rhinos. I really want to see the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities expedite the resettlement of the white rhinos in Ajai Wild Reserve.

Finally, when it comes to tourism, one novel area is medical tourism. I think, in the next couple of years, Uganda should be ready to pitch high in terms of medical tourism.

Our geopolitical positioning as a country, the capacity we have built for our neighbours, some of whom are lacking in terms of medical potential, see Uganda as a very big destination for medical tourism. Ours is just to polish and fine-tune it, and it is good the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is here.

Once he gives us the resources, we should be able to be a very big destination. No more going to Aga Khan Nairobi and be able to keep all those foreign domestic dollars that are going out of Uganda. Thank you.

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

4.20

MR WILLIAM CHEMONGES (NRM, Kween County, Kween): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I read the report presented by the minister, and I noticed that it is straightforward. However, we have a problem when it comes to the issue of fencing.

The people of Sebei are not welcoming the idea of fencing because our issue is different. We have an issue with the boundary. We do not know the boundary between the people and the wildlife park.

We have been and are still requesting for resettlement. We think that after the resettlement, we shall come up with the permanent boundary and that is when fencing should take place in Sebei.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Chemonges, they will always first open the boundaries before they do the fencing to know where the animal land and your other land stops. That will be the first thing. They will not just come and put a fence on where has not been demarcated; that is the procedure.

Therefore, for you to find out which land belongs to the game park and which one belongs to the people, you open the boundaries before fencing.

I am not going to give all of you people a chance to speak because this is a small paper and it is informative. Let the honourable minister first respond.

MR MUGARRA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon. Acrobert, on the issue of compensation, we have been discussing this and I have been to your area. I shared an approved list with you, it is just awaiting payment.

I think the issue is also a delay in the procedure but these are Government procedures that should happen before a payment is effected. We understand the challenges, and we have argued that compensation cannot be the solution. We have to fence, so that we can resolve this issue once and for all.

Hon. Kugonza, on the issue of the black rhino, it is true we are in discussion with our neighbours, namely Kenya and South Africa. They have agreed to donate to us some black rhinos after our success story with the white rhinos. Soon we should be able to have black rhinos in the country, multiply them and reintroduce them into the wild.

Vermin is usually an issue we handle with the districts. There are people we call the vermin control officers and they know how to deal with these animals. In the scenario where it is a big issue, we can come in.

I have picked the area you have mentioned in Kibale. We can discuss more about this and see how we can beef up the district team, so that we resolve the vermin issue. It should not be a big problem.

Dr Ayume, on the issue of marketing; I would like to thank the Government because there is an improvement in the tourism budget now. Even through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a couple of interventions to make sure that Uganda is showcased out there as indeed the pearl of Africa.

We will continue coming to the Government and Parliament, to request for more support. Marketing can only be spoken to in terms of the investment you put in. There is no rocket science to it. However, we will also do what we can with the resources we have and our figures are clear.

The revenues we have been bringing into this country have been growing every year. And this shows that some work is being done. I agree, that Uganda is well-positioned for medical tourism and there are a couple of discussions that we are having with a number of investors who have shown interest. I think that at an opportune time, we would have this discussion.

On the issue of Mt Elgon – we have been to Cabinet – it is not only in Mt Elgon, there is an issue that was brought to this Floor to do with *Mbwa* tract, where we erroneously gazetted

some land. This is an issue of the law. The law did away with the degazetating in the Act. We are in Cabinet trying to see how we can amend the Act so that we resolve some of these conflicts, including those around Mt Elgon.

There are actually some areas – because in Elgon, there is land that was encroached on a long time ago. When we were redrawing the boundary, we actually gave that land to the community. The only issue now is that we cannot legally degazette it until we amend the Act. However, the land is already for the community and we have no interest in it.

There are some issues we are handling with the Attorney-General and the law so that we resolve the issues. However, like the Speaker guided, we do not just implement a boundary without proper consultation with the community. These should not be worrying issues. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR NAMBESHE: The clarification I was seeking is in line with Hon. Chemonges' submission and concern. We have a community that has been relocated to some – almost the centre of Mt Elgon National Park – the Benet. They are living inside there. So, if you put or implemented the fence initiative, I do not know where you would – they have been there for 30 years. You ought to visit them.

Equally, in Bududa there is a similar population that has also been relocated to the park and they have lived there for over 10 years. These are the challenges that may make it extremely difficult for you to implement the fencing initiative.

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

MR MUGARRA: Thank you. Like I said, this issue is being handled by the Prime Minister's Office. I do not want to get into the details of what happened between me and you. We have been to Elgon. Actually, the Benet were resettled and land was given but some people took the land away from the Benet and they did not benefit. It is a challenge we are dealing with. We still believe that there should be a provision for them.

We know the affected communities and those that need to be compensated. We will see how we resolve the issue. Honourable, as a leader from Elgon, you should also know that we also have challenges with people that are consistently encroaching on the park. These are issues we are discussing and we should be able to resolve them.

4.28

MS JANE PACUTO (NRM, Woman Representative, Pakwach): Honourable minister, mine is similar to what the people of Elgon are talking about; the boundary. You realise that Pakwach borders the park but there is a water body that separates them.

Many times, our fishermen are arrested by rangers on the water yet there is no clear boundary. There is no effort by the Government to put a clear boundary as to where fishermen can stop.

As I speak – I shared with you already – two of our people, Brian and Boniface, were arrested in May this year. We have looked for them in all police cells but we cannot find them yet they were arrested by rangers on the water while fishing. We also need boundaries on water bodies that border national parks so that there is no – this time it is not even a human-animal conflict but a human-to-human conflict. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Minister.

MR MUGARRA: Madam Speaker, within the Uganda Wildlife Act, access to resources within the park is allowed. How we do it is the issue. Usually we will do it under the supervision of maybe Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) managing the resources so that they are not depleted.

Now - especially in her area, it is a case I need to pick some more interest in and understand it better but usually what we always advise is that when someone is accessing a protected area, they should go through a gazetted point of entry with the proper acceptance from UWA staff so that we know what they are doing.

Otherwise, if they just enter from any part, then somehow, we shall have some poachers get into the park and actually do something else. However, it is an issue we can discuss. Fishing should not be stopped as long as we do it in a regulated manner and we know who is in the park and for what reason. I am going to follow up on the issue you have just raised. We shall see how we conclude the matter. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, as I said before, this report is informative and therefore, you may need to get a copy from the library.

Also, honourable minister, you need to have time and meet Members who come from those areas. Get time so that you hear their problems and see how you can be able to resolve them. Some of them can be resolved without coming to the House. Therefore, have time with them.

Yes, Hon. Atkins?

MR KATUSABE: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. On Thursday, 4 September 2025, you directed the minister, Hon. Dr Chris Baryomunsi, to follow up on the disaster waiting to happen at the RDC's compound.

As I speak right now, I can see all over the Kasese WhatsApp messaging groups showing the presence of teargas and live bullets. Your fellow citizens are being forcefully evicted out of the camp, yet this very Parliament, from that constitutional chair, Madam Speaker, directed the Government to make an undertaking.

I am meant to understand, at least from what our minister, Hon. Dr Baryomunsi committed himself to, to table the same matter and bring it to the attention of Cabinet this Monday.

Madam Speaker, I want to know, are we in this very House declaring that the RDC is above the law? We cannot reduce our constitutional powers because everybody, all of us, are under the law. There is nobody above the law, including the RDC. I do not want to believe that this Parliament is ready to cede its constitutional powers.

Madam Speaker, that is a constitutional seat. You directed. At this point in time, I was not expecting the RDC to go ahead and use violence and terror on law-abiding and peace-loving citizens –

THE SPEAKER: So what is the procedural issue?

MR KATUSABE: The procedural matter, Madam Speaker, is that Government committed that they will ensure that this matter is comprehensively brought to the attention of the President in Cabinet this very week. I do not know whether the Prime Minister, who is in the House –

THE SPEAKER: The time to discuss that is over. You came late, my brother.

MR KATUSABE: I did not come late, Madam Speaker. I have been in the House.

THE SPEAKER: I know everybody who in the House, Hon. Atkins. You came when we were already debating other matters. Let us handle that tomorrow. Come early and raise that issue, please. It is a concern to all of us. However, when you come in the middle of business, then you really distort whatever is happening - I hope the *Hansard* people will remove whatever distortions that are in between there. Come early tomorrow. Honourable Prime Minister, be ready to respond to whatever he is saying after my communication.

MR KATUSABE: Madam Speaker, what happens between now and tomorrow?

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Atkins, that is going to be handled. Just give all the details to the Prime Minister and we sort that out. Provide the details to the Prime Minister and we sort that out.

MR KATUSABE: Can I give the details right now, Madam Speaker?

THE SPEAKER: No, you come and give her the details.

4.35

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Much obliged, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Please come and give her the details so that she can come back and respond. They will not give you an opportunity to speak if I have not allowed you, Hon. Katusabe – no, next item. You cannot cross the Floor? You can give the message to Hon. Sarah Opendi. *(Laughter)*

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF
PARLIAMENT TO AUTHORISE
GOVERNMENT TO BORROW UP TO US\$
20 MILLION FROM THE ARAB BANK
FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF
AFRICA (BADEA) TO FINANCE THE
REHABILITATION, EXPANSION, AND
EQUIPPING OF BUGIRI GENERAL
HOSPITAL

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, Article 159(2) of the Constitution of Uganda requires parliamentary approval for any Government borrowing. On 5 June 2025, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development tabled, in this House, a request of borrowing, and it was duly referred to the Committee on National Economy. Pursuant to Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure, I invite the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to move a motion for the approval by the House.

Yes, honourable minister.

4.37

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Article 159(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, Section 34 of the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Act, 2015, and Rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure, I beg to move a motion for a resolution of Parliament to approve the proposal by Uganda Government to borrow up to \$ 20 million, from the Arab Bank for

Economic Development, BADEA, to finance the rehabilitation, expansion and equipping of Bugiri General Hospital. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Is it seconded? Okay, it is seconded by Hon. Asuman Basalirwa, Hon. Muwuma, Hon. Acrobert Kiiza, Hon. Col Dr Nekesa, Hon. Acon, public service minister, the MP from Luuka, Hon. Minister Rwamirama, Hon. Taaka, Hon. Chemonges, the Member for Isingiro, Hon. Basil Bataringaya, Hon. Hope Grania Nakazibwe, Hon. Emely Kugonza, Hon. Florence Asiimwe Akiiki, Hon. Stephen, Hon. Avur Pacuto, Hon. David, Hon. Akifesa, Hon. Dr Ayume, Hon. Josephine Bebona.

Hon. Katusabe and the deputy prime minister, go and sort out your issues. There is also Hon. Veronica Nanyondo, Hon. Hanifa Nabukeera, Hon. Brenda Nabukenya, Hon. Elijah Okupa, Hon. John Baptist Nambeshe, Dr Apea Atim, Hon. Aguti, Hon. Helen, and the MP from Pallisa. Please speak to your motion.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, the main goal of the project is to attain a good standard of health for all people in Uganda in order to promote health and a productive life.

The proposed project aims, in general, to contribute to the achievements of Goal Three of the Sustainable Development Goals in the field of good health and well-being, as well as Goal One to eradicate poverty, to achieve a broad health coverage for the poor, in addition to Goal Three of the Africa's Agenda 2023 on health and well-fed citizens.

The project also aims in particular to support the Government's policy to:

1. Expand and upgrade medical services coverage;
2. Obtain economic and social benefits for patients, employees, businesses, health, and economy sectors; and
3. Contribute to the strengthening of the health system and its support mechanisms with a focus on primary health care to achieve a comprehensive health coverage, by providing jobs and adequate health

infrastructure, and logistics at the general hospitals.

The project has got three main components: One is on infrastructure, where we shall do the following:

Infrastructure development and improvement
This will target the refurbishment of the hospital to include the overhauling of all the existing buildings, power and water supply, and external works, giving all existing buildings a new look, and the construction new buildings to create new specialist clinics, increasing the ward capacity, establishing a functional accident and emergency unit, given that the hospital is on the main highway.

Component two is on procurement, supply, and the installation of assorted medical equipment, hospital furniture, and transport equipment, according to the medical equipment standard list approved by the National Advisory Committee on Medical Equipment.

Component three is on project management, monitoring, evaluation, and supervision. This component will support the Ministry of Health to carry out regular project management, monitoring, supervision, and evaluation activities, to ensure the project is on track, facilitate enforcement of minimum service standards, support partnerships and stakeholder engagements, compensation of projects supervising consultants, project implementation unit, and political oversight of the project.

I now come to the financing arrangements. The total project cost is \$23 million, of which \$20 million, 87 per cent of the project cost, will be funded by the loan from BADEA. The remaining 13 per cent of the total cost, amounting to \$3 million, will be funded by the Government of Uganda.

The financing terms

The loan amount is \$20 million, maturity period is 20 years, including a grace period of five years, and the interest rate is 2 per cent

per annum on the principal amount of the loan withdrawn and outstanding from time to time.

The expected benefits are the following:

This intervention will increase the bed capacity of the hospital from a 100 bed to a 250 bed hospital, and it will be upgraded to a regional referral hospital. I thought Hon. Basalirwa and Hon. Agnes Taaka would appreciate this strongly. *(Applause)* Thank you. *(Hon. Basalirwa rose_)*

Increase staff accommodation from 83 units to 115. *(Applause)* Thank you.

Improve utilisation of the hospital due to improved delivery of health services. *(Applause)*

Increase life expectancy as a result of increased deliveries in health units, reduced maternal mortality, reduced infant mortality, reduced infant mortality, and reduced fatalities of accident cases.

Madam Speaker, with this justification, I submit the loan request to the House for consideration and approval.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. We now want to invite the committee chairperson, pursuant to Rule 162(4) of the Rules of Procedure, to give us a summary of the recommendations.

4.44

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ECONOMY (Mr Bosco Ikojo): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I beg to lay the report of the Committee on National Economy, on the request by Government, to borrow up to USD 20 million, from the Arab Bank for Economic Development of Africa (BADEA), to finance the rehabilitation, expansion, and equipping of Bugiri General Hospital. I beg to lay.

Madam Speaker, the minister has given the overall brief about the loan, and as the chairperson of the committee, I would like to say that this loan is highly concessional. It is

meant to rehabilitate, expand, and equip Bugiri General Hospital.

Madam Speaker, you referred this loan to the Committee on National Economy, and the committee had an opportunity to interact with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development on this loan, the Ministry of Health, the local leaders from Bugiri General Hospital, and the management of the hospital. We saw, as a committee, that the hospital is in a dire state, and it really requires Government intervention to refurbish and remodel it to modern standards.

The committee made a number of observations and recommendations in line with our scrutiny.

Madam Speaker, the Committee on National Economy, in line with the project impact on the health budget, observed that the rehabilitation, expansion and equipping of Bugiri General Hospital activities are not included in the Financial Year Budget of 2025-2026, which were approved under Vote 014 - Ministry of Health.

In addition, the activities are also not included in the multi-year commitment of the Government plan. Madam Speaker, we bring this so that in future, as we borrow, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should ensure that when they are bringing loans, they should be ready to handle these activities.

The committee recommends that the Government should expedite the process of including the rehabilitation, expansion and equipping of Bugiri General Hospital to form part of the multi-year commitment for the Financial Year 2025/2026 and the medium term. As a result, the Government should adjust the fiscal framework to include any costs associated with the financing modalities of the project for the Financial Year 2025/2026 and in the medium term.

The Government should scale up its commitment to increase the health sector financing if the project benefits are to be sustained beyond the project's life span by ensuring that the current

costs due to the project are timely absorbed into the national budget.

Building infrastructure of the old hospitals

The committee noted that though the Government has been able to construct some new health centre IIIs and health centre IVs with a view of extending services nearer to the people and easing pressure on the major hospital, the renovation and rehabilitation of existing old facilities has lagged behind. The level of dilapidation within Bugiri General Hospital and indeed other old health facilities, for example, Abim Hospital and others, is still shocking. Most buildings need renovation, reconstruction or extension.

The committee recommends that the Government expedite the process of renovating all the remaining old health facilities in the country, in light of the collapsed infrastructure systems in most of these old hospitals.

Staff housing

The committee also observed the continued non-availability of adequate staff houses in health facilities. The majority of staff houses, for example, in Bugiri General Hospital, require renovation because their dilapidated state is not fit for habitation.

The lack of staff accommodation also has been cited as a major cause of failures to attract and retain staff, especially in rural-based health facilities.

The committee recommends for the urgent need for the Government to provide better accommodation facilities for medical workers at all health facilities. Inability for health facilities to provide accommodation for medical workers is of great concern as it has highly contributed to the inability of local governments to attract and retain medical workers, even in the face of increased pay in the form of additional allowances.

Medical staffing levels

The committee further observed that Bugiri General Hospital lacked some of the critical medical personnel. This was in conformity with the general case across all other general health facilities in the country, where most of the critical medical vacancies are not filled up, leading to a high doctor-patient ratio.

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Public Service and Bugiri Local Government should expedite the process of recruitment to fill vacant positions in the general hospital to reduce the doctor-patient ratio.

Increased morale and efficiency

The committee observed that upgrading facilities and working conditions in Bugiri General Hospital is expected to sufficiently boost staff morale and operational efficiency, thereby enhancing the overall quality of healthcare delivery. Modernised work environments, coupled with state-of-the-art equipment and resources, will create a more supportive and effective workplace for healthcare professionals. This improvement not only facilitates better performance but also contributes to a more positive and productive atmosphere, benefiting both staff and patients.

The committee recommends the following:

To maximise these benefits, the Ministry of Health should continuously invest in comprehensive medical staff development and wellness programmes. These programmes offer ongoing training, support career advancement and promote overall well-being, all of which are essential for maintaining high levels of medical staff satisfaction and productivity. By addressing both the physical and professional needs of the workforce, the project can foster a motivated and efficient team.

This holistic approach not only improves workforce morale but also translates into superior patient care and a more successful

healthcare operation, ensuring that the hospital delivers optimum services to the communities.

Management

The committee further observed that deterioration of the health service delivery in the country was also due to the leadership and management challenges in the health facilities. The leadership and management practices and management systems have had major negative impacts on the delivery of health care services.

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Health should devise innovative mechanisms of addressing leadership and management challenges in health facilities across the country as hospital infrastructure improvement without good leadership and management in the health facilities will be a disaster and should be seriously addressed.

Health service delivery improvement

The committee observed that the primary objective of the hospital expansion is to significantly enhance health care services and improve health outcomes for the community. This goal involves more than just upgrading medical facilities and services to ensure that these enhancements are utilised to their fullest potential, it is essential to implement robust strategies for informing and involving local stakeholders.

The committee recommends that in order to maximise the benefits of this project, the Ministry of Health should provide clear and accessible information about the new services and facilities of the hospital upon completion of this project.

This includes creating outreach programmes to educate the communities about improvements and facilitating easy access to the new resources.

By actively engaging with residents, addressing their needs and concerns, and ensuring they are aware of the expanded health care options, the project can be satisfied -

THE SPEAKER: Committee chairperson, can you summarise your - this is a straightforward loan.

MR IKOJO: Let me go to the piecemeal rehabilitation of general hospitals. The committee noted, with concerns, the piecemeal and adhoc nature with which government was coming up with the rehabilitation, expansion, and equipping of this general hospital, yet many of the old general hospitals across the country were in dire need for rehabilitation, expansion, and equipping, with the exception of a few general hospitals recently renovated, such as Kayunga, Kiryandongo, Yumbe, and Kawolo general hospitals.

The Government, through the minister responsible for finance, intimated to the committee that it plans, in the medium term, to prioritise, among others, the construction and rehabilitation of more health infrastructure and the provision of medical equipment to improve quality of care, and the provision of specialised health care services. These include, among others, completion and refurbishment and the equipping of general hospitals that include Abim, Apac, Atutur, Bundibugyo, Kiboga, Kagadi, Kitagata, Kitgum, Pallisa, Itojo, and Masindi. Members noted the need to come up with a project model funding targeting all old and dilapidated general hospitals for rehabilitation.

It is recommended that Government designs a comprehensive project model for the rehabilitation, expansion, and equipping of general hospitals across the country in a systematic way as opposed to carrying out piecemeal arrangements. This help us to match the current practices and technologies which were adopted in the new National Standards Designed for health centre facilities 2012.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, the committee has noted the Government efforts to address health systems bottlenecks and improve the effectiveness of the health sector. This project aims to enhance the quality of care in Bugiri General Hospital by upgrading and equipping it with the modern medical equipment and

facilities, thereby improving patient outcomes and overall health care delivery. Additionally, improved facilities and working conditions will boost staff morale and efficiency, aiding in the retention of skilled health care professionals.

The committee, therefore, supports and recommends to this House the approval of the Government request to borrow up to \$20 million from the Arab Bank for Economic Development of Africa to finance the rehabilitation, expansion, and equipping of Bugiri General Hospital. I beg to report.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, committee chairperson. Honourable members, you have heard from the chairperson; it is a straightforward request. There is a motion?

5.00

MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I want to thank you –

THE SPEAKER: Just a minute. In the public gallery this afternoon, we have teachers and pupils of Kisiek Junior School, in Kween. You are most welcome. They are represented by Hon. Chemonges William, and Hon. Cherukut Rose Emma. Welcome, thank you for coming, but do not travel back at night. Make sure our children are safe. Join me in welcoming our children from Kween. *(Applause)* Yes, Hon. Asuman.

MR BASALIRWA: Madam Speaker, I thank you so much and in a very special way, I thank the committee chairperson, for a very good report, I also thank and the committee members, and the minister, my OB, and formerly a member of my political laboratory, thank you so much. This is the best loan that this House has procured for Bugiri General Hospital.

One time, the former prime minister had a chopper accident in Bugiri – *(Interjection)* - I am building the motion – *(Laughter)* - Prof. Nsibambi was taken to Bugiri Hospital. He could not stay there for three minutes because of the condition of Bugiri Hospital. They had

to call all types ambulances from nearby; he was brought to Kampala immediately. I said, “Former prime minister” because at that time, he was the prime minister.

Bugiri, as a district, and Bugiri General Hospital serve the neighbouring districts, including people from Kenya –

THE SPEAKER: It is actually on a highway.

MR BASALIRWA: Yes, it is on the highway. People from DRC and Tanzania all benefit from Bugiri General Hospital – *(Interjection)* - yes, when the trailer drivers from DRC, get into accidents. Bugiri serves all the neighbouring districts, including Mayuge, where the 3rd Deputy Prime Minister comes from. They find their way to Bugiri General Hospital.

Therefore, I am glad, that the Government is also heeding my advice. When we passed the Anti-Homosexuality Act, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank decided to cut funding, I advised that we should seek funding elsewhere, and I am glad that it is happening, and we are now in the Arab Bank, although we are repairing our relationship with the World Bank and IMF. I am very grateful that you are doing so.

In light of the straightforward nature of this report, and the excellent work done by the committee chairperson and the minister, I beg to move that this House unanimously and unequivocally, adopts the report of the committee, so that Bugiri General Hospital gets the role. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Seconded by the whole House but specifically by: Hon. Hanifa, Hon. Brenda, Hon. Veronica, Hon. Silas, Hon. Acrobert, Hon. Helen, Hon. Nekesa, Hon. Oboth, the honourable member for Luuka, Hon. Acon, the Minister of Local Government, the Prime Minister.

I put the question, that the House authorises the Government to borrow up to USD 20 million from the Arab Bank for Economic Development of Africa (BADEA) to finance

the rehabilitation, expansion and equipping Bugiri General Hospital.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: I direct that the Clerk extracts the resolution for the relevant authorities to enable timely execution. Thank you, honourable members. Next item.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS – LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ON THE ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL
TO PARLIAMENT FOR THE AUDIT YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 21 January 2025, the House received the reports of the Auditor-General for Audit Year ended 31 December 2024.

In furtherance of Article 163(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, the report was referred to the Public Accounts Committee to consider the parts of the report that related to the entities under their purview.

Pursuant to Rule 188(6) of the Rules of Procedure, I now invite the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (Local Government) to present his report.

Remember, the whole of last week and this week, I have been telling the LOP that all his reports must be presented this week. I am happy that yesterday we received a report, a very big report from PAC, which did a very good job. We appreciated it. Today we have Hon. Gilbert Olanya, the local man from -honourable members, I want the report - is the report uploaded?

5.06

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (LOCAL GOVERNMENT) (Mr Gilbert Olanya): Madam Speaker, I beg for your indulgence. As PAC (Local Government), we completed our engagement with the entities. We engaged with

all the municipal councils, city authorities and the districts in Uganda.

We traversed the west, north, east and central. We are in the process of compiling the report; it is quite big because we have 171 entities. We have so far completed the executive summary, whereby we were looking at the cross-cutting issues like the PDM, road funds and the like. We were now in the process of going to the specifics, district by district.

Madam Speaker, that is why I requested you the other time to give us more time, possibly by next week on Tuesday, the report will be ready. I just beg for your indulgence. If it is allowed, we have the executive summary, which is ready. I beg your indulgence to guide the committee, if we can present the executive summary, or if we can wait for the entire report to be uploaded onto our system. I beg for your indulgence, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, for you to derive an executive summary, there must be a report, not so? I need to be guided. Yes, the honourable member from Tororo.

MS OPENDI: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to appreciate the committee chairperson, for informing us that they actually interfaced with all the entities.

However, for you to present the executive summary, you must actually present the detailed report. At least lay it there. Now, in the absence of that report, you cannot present the executive summary. I would like to propose that we could give them time, maybe tomorrow or next week, on Tuesday.

THE SPEAKER: Tomorrow, we have COSASE, and mind you, these reports are time-bound. By the time we set our programme that this week we are finishing accountability reports, which means we have a Parliamentary calendar.

MS OPENDI: Yes, but Madam Speaker, since work has been done, I think it would

be important for us to receive those reports. If they can work overnight, so that tomorrow, we are able to consider the two accountability committee reports, so for now we can handle the next item. I see a Bill on the Order Paper; we can conclude with that Bill.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Oboth.

MS OPENDI: That is my contribution. Thank you.

5.11

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (Mr Jacob Oboth): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would not deviate much from -

THE SPEAKER: Your woman. *(Laughter)* Okay, your woman MP.

MR OBOTH-OBOTH: Yes, my woman MP.

THE SPEAKER: Your woman. *(Laughter)*

MR OBOTH: I know that she belongs somewhere else. When Hon. Katushabe was asked, he feared crossing the Floor and I said, but he crossed a long time ago when he got Sarah on this side.

So this executive summary, like both Hon. Olanya, a PhD holder, knows this very much - when you have done your research, these are specific points of the general overview of the main report. I am even wondering how you got an executive summary. From where now? You needed to start the writing. You should have at least a draft, and we must commend PAC-Central. They did a good job yesterday, and I think the LOP -

THE SPEAKER: At least clap for LOP.

MR OBOTH: You see; you cannot get it all right. On this one, you are not going to get a directive from the Speaker to ask us to clap for you. This one here; you should swallow it painfully and say you are not ready and the report is not there, because an executive summary can only be appended to the main

report. I know that Hon. Olanya. If you could only reduce your trips to Agago on land matters and concentrate on this report, you would conclude it.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, given that the committee is not able to report on the Auditor-General's report, I would like to invoke the rule on the precedence that was set in 2020 and put the question on the report of the Auditor-General as referred to the committee.

I now put the question that the Annual Report of the Auditor-General to Parliament for the Audit Year ended 31 December 2024 as referred to the Public Accounts Committee (Local Government) be adopted by this House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

THE SPEAKER: House adjourned to 2.00 p.m., tomorrow.

(The House rose at 5.11 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 11 September 2025, at 2.00 p.m.)