PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION - FIRST MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIRST SESSION - 4TH SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Wednesday, 10 June 2026

Parliament met at 10.11 a.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker, Mr Jacob Oboth, in the Chair.)

The House was called to order.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS

THE SPEAKER: Please allow them in.

The oaths were administered to Mr Sam Mayanja.

THE SPEAKER: Welcome, Hon. Dr Sam Mayanja. You have an oath to sign and after signing, we shall give you the instruments of power that make you a Member of Parliament. Congratulations, once again.

The oaths were administered to Ms Justine Kasule Lumumba.

THE SPEAKER: Welcome back home, Hon. Justine Lumumba Kasule. (*Applause)* For those who did not know, she was in this House for many years and she is back as an Ex officio Member. After signing, I will give you a copy of the Rules of Procedure. Next?

The oaths were administered to Col. (Rtd) Tom Butime.

THE SPEAKER: Welcome. Please make Hon. Butime feel welcome – *(Applause)* – An ever-smiling gentleman who makes work easy. Welcome back home. This is where you belong.

The oaths were administered to Ms Alice Kaboyo.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Alice Kaboyo, welcome back to the House and congratulations. Come, sign the oaths and receive copies of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament and the Constitution. They will be helpful to you in executing your duties as a Member of Parliament.

The oaths were administered to Mr David Bahati.

THE SPEAKER: Welcome back, Hon. David Bahati. You are really a survivor - *(Laughter)* - Those who know you know why they are laughing. I only said, you are a survivor, and I think you have been surviving for a long time. Congratulations.

We shall give you a copy of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament and the Constitution so that you can familiarise yourself with them. They will assist you in the administration of your work. Next.

The oaths were administered to Ms Beatrice Atim Odwong Anywar.

THE SPEAKER: Congratulations, Hon. Atim, also known as “Mama Mabira”. Please come, sign, and get a copy of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament and the Constitution. Again, welcome back home.

The oaths were administered to Gen. Wilson Mbadi Mbasu.

THE SPEAKER: Congratulations, General. A four-star General still submits and seeks the help of God. Welcome and thank you for being so humble. Come right here. You will append your signature and then get a copy of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament and the Constitution.

The oaths were administered to Ms Cissy Mulondo.

THE SPEAKER: Congratulations, Hon. Cissy Mulondo. You sound so soft. I believe that when we give you a copy of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament and a copy of the Constitution, it will empower you to sound a little stronger. Please make her feel welcome. *(Applause)*

The oaths were administered to Dr John Chrysostom Muyingo.

THE SPEAKER: Congratulations, Hon. Dr John Chrysostom Muyingo. Please make him feel welcome, once again. Welcome back home. *(Applause)* You have always been here, and we welcome you. *(A Member rose_)* Is that a point of procedure during the administration of oaths? Unless one is not signing or the person being sworn in is not the minister - *(Laughter)* - that would be a procedural question, but anything else, ignore.

The oaths were administered to Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka.

THE SPEAKER: Congratulations, Hon. Kiryowa Kiwanuka. You will allow me to say both your two names today rather than the short form, KK. You know how happy I am for you. Congratulations. *(Applause)*

When we keep on referring to you as Attorney-General, do not – it would be a slip of the tongue. Also, Dr Mayanja, do not feel offended because he had established himself here for five years as the Attorney-General. *(Applause)* Now, since he has been holding out as a General, they have taken him to work with the real Generals. *(Laughter)*

The oaths were administered to Mr Tanna Sanjay.

THE SPEAKER: Congratulations, Hon. Tanna Sanjay. Welcome back to the House. You have come back in style this time around as the first Ugandan-Indian appointed as Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives. We expect a lot from you - *(Applause)* - Thank you. You will append your signature and receive a copy of the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure.

The oaths were administered to Mr Simon Mulongo.

THE SPEAKER: Congratulations, Hon. Simon Mulongo. Welcome back to the House. We congratulate you on catching the eye of the Appointing Authority. We expect you to come and append your signature, confirming what you have just said, and we shall give you a copy of the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure.

The oaths were administered to Ms Grace Mary Mugasa.

THE SPEAKER: Congratulations, and we welcome you to the House once again. Please, make Hon. Grace Mary Mugasa feel welcome - *(Applause)*

You were very faithful when you were in Public Service. We expect the same when you are handling Bunyoro affairs; you will even double.

The oaths were administered to Mr Balaam Barugahara.

THE SPEAKER: Congratulations, Hon. Balaam, upon your promotion from the youth vibe to, now, the Local Government vibe. We expect more *bidongo. (Laughter)*

The oaths were administered to Dr Monica Musenero.

THE SPEAKER: Welcome, Hon. Dr Monica Musenero. Congratulations on your new appointment and being sworn in as Ex officio Member of Parliament. We expect no more load shedding. Why don't we assure her by giving an applause? *(Applause)* Let the transformers work.

Get your copy of the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure. You are a fully-fledged Member of Parliament, with all rights, except the voting right.

The oaths were administered to Ms Amina Mukalazi.

THE SPEAKER: Congratulations, Hon. Amina Mukalazi, upon your appointment as Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Privatisation and Investment). We need more investors. Append your signature and get a copy of the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure.

The oaths were administered to Mr Jonard Akiiki Asiimwe.

THE SPEAKER: Congratulations, Hon. Jonard Asiimwe, upon your appointment as Minister, Office of the President (Science, Technology and Innovation). We expect more technology, science-oriented solutions and innovations. You are now a fully-fledged Member of Parliament and minister with all rights except the voting rights.

Get a copy of the Rules of Procedure and the Constitution. The Prime Minister and the Government Chief Whip should find for you a seat somewhere.

The oaths were administered to Mr James Magode Ikuya.

THE SPEAKER: Congratulations, *Mzee* Hon. James Magode Ikuya, our elder from the East, an ideologue of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) and a "historical" of the Front for National Salvation (FRONASA). Make him feel welcome to this House. When you see him, he is an encyclopaedia of some sort. Even Hon. Ofwono Opondo and Maj. Gen. Henry Masiko respect him. *(Laughter)* Those are ideologues; when you see him, do not greet him with your *kofiira* on, some of us respect him - *Kofiira* is what I am putting on my head. Congratulations, once again. Get a copy of the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure. We are happy for you to get back here again. Thank you.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: I welcome the Ex officio Members of Parliament to the House. Honourable members, I welcome you all this morning.

You may recall that on 4 June 2026, I adjourned the House to Thursday, 11 June 2026. However, the need arose for a prior sitting given the urgency of some emergent business, notably the swearing in of Ex officio Members of Parliament, or ministers who were appointed from outside Parliament. Actually, we have handled 18, two are not available for the oaths today.

Secondly, the approval of an urgent loan to finance the second phase of solar-powered irrigation. Honourable members, as you may be aware, the Committee on Appointments undertook the constitutional vetting process of nominees to Cabinet on 1st and 2nd of June 2026, pursuant to Articles 113(1) and 114(1) of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, and Rule 173(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

Rule 176 of the Rules of Procedure of this House requires the Committee on Appointments to report to the House on any appointments approved by the committee, and the report shall not be subjected to debate.

Accordingly, I hereby report as follows:

The report of the Committee on Appointments - as you know, the composition of that Committee on Appointments has everybody, including the Leader of the Opposition - I think the report should have been uploaded.

All ministers who were presented in the Committee on Appointments were approved, and most of them have been sworn in, from the Vice-President to the last one, except four appointees who are still under some scrutiny, not by us. We did our part.

Honourable members, pursuant to Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of this House, in order to accommodate the numbers, for the time being, we shall have free sitting on either side of the House except the front benches. I need to just explain that. The front bench on this side is for the leaders from the Opposition. The front bench on this side is for the leaders on this side, and by leaders, I mean ministers and shadow ministers. I hope that is clear. Since on this side we still do not know who the ministers are, we shall know them very soon.

I will ask the Clerk to upload the report of the Committee on Appointments for everyone to look at but in summary, that is what happened. We have received some of the Members here already. Thank you very much.

Yes, Leader of the Opposition?

10.59

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join you to welcome the colleagues who have joined us in Ex officio capacity. We have been waiting for them on our end. We hope that they will be present in the House. We have had battles previously where the House convenes and there are two or three ministers. A number of times, the presiding officer has had to suspend the House because there are no ministers. Now that you are 80 plus, please be present for the business of this House.

Mr Speaker, you have indicated that you do not know the shadow Cabinet ministers yet. I am here to inform you of the same. However, do allow me, and I seek your indulgence, to raise just two critical issues before I notify you of the shadow Cabinet, now that the colleagues on this side are here.

Mr Speaker, the media has been awash, and I have seen some communication from government officials, about a critical concern of medical interns in our country. Medical interns form the crux of the medical infrastructure of our country. They literally run Government hospitals and health centres in all our constituencies. *(Applause)* Sometimes they work 36 hours, other times they work 48 hours nonstop to take care of the people of Uganda.

The Government has historically facilitated them to do this work. They have finished the training, and then they have done the one-year internship of work. We understand the Government is now mooting a policy to cease facilitating medical interns, to cease paying them for the laborious work that they do. That is a bother, Mr Speaker, because we are going to have a challenge. These medical interns are professionals like anybody else. If they do not have money for accommodation and feeding, how shall we expect them to show up even without transport to take care of us in this place and our constituents out there.

I would like to urge and entreat the Government to immediately drop this problematic policy. *(Applause)* The question of the lack of resources does not arise. The Government recently suspended public holiday functions to save money. As Parliament, we had already passed that entire budget and so that money is available. About Shs 20 billion is going to be saved. Now that those national functions are not going to happen, beginning with yesterday, Heroes' Day, why don't we channel that money to the medical interns? *(Applause)*

In other words, money is available. Government, let us find this money so that we can pay medical interns.

THE SPEAKER: Do you want to ask the Leader of Government Business to respond to you?

MR SSENYONYI: Certainly. Mr Speaker, allow me finish in a minute and then she will come through with a response. I urge her to marshal her Cabinet to find resources for medical interns.

I would like to emphasise that this is not one of those political issues that we should debate about; the National Resistance Movement (NRM), Opposition and so on. This is a matter of concern to all of us. *(Applause)* I hope that the Government will find resources for that.

Finally, Mr Speaker, for the response of the Prime Minister, there is again a concern of human rights violations that are not ceasing. We talk about these issues and many times we hope that the Government will move and do better, but it does not happen.

I am concerned about persons who are missing to date. Some belong to the NRM side as well as the Opposition side. One of our colleagues, Hon. Margaret Etilu, who is the Woman Representative, Amuria District - we took oath here with her, among others. We understand that she was arrested on 23 May 2026 before we went to elect the speakership. I have seen her family on media asking for the whereabouts of their person. Lawyers are asking where she is and we, too, are asking, Mr Speaker.

I am the Leader of the Opposition, but I should also be concerned when an NRM member, who is a colleague in this House, disappears and we do not know her whereabouts. It should concern all of us. *(Applause)*

Just like it should concern colleagues on the NRM side if it happens to any of us. So, that is how I am concerned. Where is this honourable member? Can Government account for this Member?

This is happening to a Member of Parliament. If she has committed any offense, Article 28(3) of our Constitution provides very clearly that somebody is innocent until they are proved guilty. Why is she not produced in court? Where is she being held? Take her to court. If she stole money, for example - I am always speaking out against corruption - take her to court, so that she gets charged. If she needs to go to jail, she goes there but for now, can due process happen?

Similarly, Mr Speaker, there is a young man called Christopher Godi, also known as King Zale. He belongs to my political party. He was picked up by the military in Kamwokya on 21 April. His whereabouts to date are not known.

Why does the Government not want to follow the law? You and I, as leaders, can be suspected to have committed an offense but what does the law say? Why don’t you produce people in court? When you abduct - and we call it abduct because you are not following the prescribed procedure of arrest - Rt Hon. Prime Minister, why don’t you want to follow the law?

Mr Speaker, we were here sometime back speaking about missing persons. There is a gentleman called John Bosco Kibalama. He was abducted on 3 June 2019. It has been seven years since. The Rt Hon. Prime Minister told us that Kibalama was arrested. Up to now, the Government has not accounted for Kibalama and 17 others, and we are adding onto that list. Why? The Government needs to account for these people, both NRM and the Opposition.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, talk to us on these issues.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

11.06

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, I will start with the interns. As you are aware, Mr Speaker, I was once a State Minister of Health in charge of General Duties.

It was the President who directed the Ministry of Health to put money so that interns can be facilitated. It was not the Opposition. It is NRM, and it was *Mzee* who said, “let us facilitate these people”. That credit should go to the President. It is not the Opposition that brought this idea.

Two, regarding our young people who are the medical interns, as you are aware, the number has been growing over time because of the number of universities that have come into place. A comprehensive report will be brought by the Minister of Health, now that he is new, for us to understand the gist of the matter. I do not want to give you half-baked information.

Mr Speaker, I beg that the Minister of Health come with a comprehensive report. As you are aware, the Minister of Health is new, and he was just sworn in the other day, and I congratulate Hon. Dr Chris. *(Applause)*

As for our sister, the Woman Member of Parliament from Amuria District, I shared with the Vice-President sometime back, and even today, and the Vice-President has concrete information about this. But briefly, she has told me that the family has been informed and they know where our sister is, and very soon, she will join us here in Parliament. That is the answer I can give for now.

Honourable members, a detailed report will be brought by the Minister of Internal Affairs. As for other missing persons - In 2021, while we were here, in a place called Kavule, there is our chairman called Kibalama. That was the man I meant. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Your Excellency, the Vice-President? Leader of the Opposition, kindly allow the Vice-President.

11.09

THE VICE-PRESIDENT (Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Alupo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to thank the Leader of the Opposition for raising those fundamental issues.

THE SPEAKER: Order, let us listen to the Vice-President.

MAJ. (RTD) ALUPO: I would like to thank the Rt Hon. Prime Minister for the clarifications that she has given to the House.

Mr Speaker, I am here to supplement on the clarification, which the Prime Minister has just given to the House.

Firstly, the teaching and learning of sciences has caused the medical doctors to more than double or triple in number in our education institutions, as a fundamental policy issued by the Government. When I say the Government, it includes the members of the Opposition who supported that policy in the committees. Therefore, we are talking about the positive impact on the deliberate channelling of resources to the human resource development of our country.

However, I would like to make a short response to this House, which I request the House to support; that we, as the Government, go, discuss and review the proposal that is now across the media and the country, and the issue that the Leader of the Opposition has raised on stopping the facilitation of interns. It can be reviewed. The policies and laws that we make are not cast in stone. We are here to solve the problems of the people.

Therefore, my supplementary clarification to what the Rt Hon. Prime Minister has said is, allow us, as Government, to return to the drawing board, discuss the issue, and at an appropriate time, the Minister of Health will come here with a clear statement, which we shall discuss with facts.

Secondly and lastly, Hon. Margaret Etilu, the Woman Member of Parliament for Amuria, is my daughter. She is a sister to some of you and a *muzukulu* to some of you, but she is my daughter. We all know that she is being detained.

The clarification I would like to give, in light of what the Prime Minister has said, is that she has met some of her family members who were permitted to interact with her. She is safe, healthy, and will be joining us soon. We have been speaking to the law enforcement officers in the police, on phone and some of them we have met physically. We did not want to involve cameras. The concern that the Leader of the Opposition has on Hon. Margaret Etilu is the same concern that we all have about her.

However, from the messages that we have received from law enforcement officers, the assurance is that she will be joining us anytime this week. That is the last message I got as of yesterday from the concerned parties.

The Attorney-General may wish to clarify on the procedures because the Leader of the Opposition is concerned about the legal aspects. Is it legally done or is it not being legally done? I think that also can be done at an appropriate time with a statement from the Attorney-General.

Finally, from the last Parliament, we discussed about the people who have disappeared - so and so is not seen, including that name - Kibalama. In the last Parliament, we used to discuss – you, Members of Parliament who were here in the last Parliament, we used to share.

Every time that matter would come up, we would agree that it is not a flimsy matter. It is a matter that should be presented to this House in black and white. Therefore, I request the Leader of the Opposition to agree that the Minister for Security returns here, next week, with a statement about those names which he has mentioned. It is a matter that affects all of us.

We all have relatives and friends who are in the Opposition. You also have relatives and friends who are in the NRM. This issue we are discussing does not affect only you, as members of the Opposition. It affects all of us as Members of Parliament, as leaders, and as Ugandans.

I thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to make the supplement.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. LOP, now you can give us your ministers.

11.15

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Mr Speaker, allow me to first express my appreciation to the Vice-President for her prompt and easy-to-understand response. This is because when you compare it to the Rt Hon. Prime Minister's, she was mocking this House. Prime Minister, meet more often with the Vice-President so that she can coach you on how to respond to some of these issues. You see, even when you are being given bitter medicine, somebody can put a coating of sugar so that it is easy to take the medicine down. That is what the Vice-President has said.

I may not fully agree with everything she has said, but she has clothed it in a motherly way and, therefore, it becomes easy for me to follow up. Now that she has promised, number one, the question of these intern doctors, that you are going back to the Cabinet to review, and you have said nothing is cast in stone -that is what the Vice-President has said. It is better than what the Prime Minister said mockingly, that we increased the numbers and so on. There is no harm in learning from your senior, the Vice-President. Is that a bad thing? Don't you want to learn? *(Hon. Nabbanja rose_)*

THE SPEAKER: Order. Go for it.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I would like to inform you that I have been in this House for quite some time, and you know how much respect I give people. My brother was with me. He is my friend from the time he was still in NTV. We are very close, by the way.

In my submission, I was very clear. I even told you that I consulted the Vice-President. The Vice-President is closer to me than you. Therefore, is he in order to insinuate that I do not consult the Vice-President? Is he in order? *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: LOP, now you know that the Rt Hon. Prime Minister is closer to the Vice-President, and she has been consulting. But then, you need to know that the two offices are different. You should not expect the Prime Minister to speak like the Vice-President.

MR SSENYONYI: Most obliged, Mr Speaker. I am glad she says she always consults the Vice-President. I was only encouraging her to continue to do it more regularly.

But you see, Government, now that you are reminding us that you passed that policy to promote sciences, for us who are saying, it is a good thing you are paying science teachers better, we also said, pay the arts teachers better.

Away from that, now that you promote sciences and young people are graduating as medical interns and so on, do not make it ironical by failing to facilitate them and then discouraging the younger ones who will say, maybe it is not attractive to study sciences. Please follow through.

Finally, Mr Speaker, it is good that the Vice-President has given us an assurance to follow up on these missing persons, including the name that I have mentioned, the most recent one, Christopher Godi, aka King Zale. Let us follow up, produce these people in court, including John Bosco Kibalama. The Prime Minister is mocking us here by saying, the Kibalama I meant was the chairperson of her village. Which one? You said Kibalama was arrested; he killed people. You need to come with a report because it is here that you told us.

We were asking you about John Bosco Kibalama, and you told us that the person was arrested for certain offences. That is the one we are talking about. Please, do not mock this House. We are waiting for the responses.

Mr Speaker, pursuant to Rule 15(2) of our Rules of Procedure, which mandates the Leader of the Opposition to constitute and designate colleague Members of Parliament to the shadow Cabinet, I have the honour to submit the duly constituted shadow Cabinet for the 12th Parliament.

Hon. Harriet Nakweede, Kayunga District Woman Representative, is our Deputy Chief Opposition Whip and shadow Minister for the Presidency.

Hon. Eugenia Nassolo, Rubaga Division South Member of Parliament, shadow Minister for Cooperatives and Microfinance.

Hon. Ssewungu Gonzaga, Kalungu County West MP, shadow Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs.

Hon. Sheilah Amaniyo, District Woman Representative, Mukono - Shadow Minister for Information and Anti-Corruption. *(Applause)*

Dr Eunice Apio Otuko, Member of Parliament for Oyam County North - Shadow Minister for Science, Innovation, and Technology.

Hon. Ismail Kasule, Member of Parliament for Hoima West Division - Shadow Minister for Trade and Industry. *(Applause)*

Hon. Patrick Okello Onguti, Member of Parliament for Aswa County - Shadow Minister for Local Government.
Hon. Ssebina Gyaviira, Member of Parliament for Nyendo-Mukungwe Division - Shadow Minister for Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Hon. Charles Tebandeke, Member of Parliament for Bbaale County - Shadow Minister for Animal Industry and Fisheries.

Hon. Alobo Joan Acom, City Woman Representative, Soroti City - Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs. *(Applause)*

Hon. Sumayah Nabawanuka, Member of Parliament for Mubende Municipality - Shadow Minister for Lands, Housing and Urban Development. *(Applause)*

Hon. Moses Musanje, Member of Parliament for Njeru Municipality - Shadow Minister for Energy and Minerals. *(Applause)*

Hon. Kaluya Andrew Kiiza, Member of Parliament for Kigulu County South - Shadow Minister for Education. *(Applause)*

Hon. Kizza Hakim, Member of Parliament for Bukoto County South -Shadow Minister for East African Community Affairs.

Hon. Jimmy Kanaabi, Member of Parliament for Buikwe County South - Shadow Minister for Public Service. *(Applause)*

Dr Timothy Batuwa Lusala, Member of Parliament for Jinja South Division West -

Shadow Minister for Health. *(Applause)*

Hon. Denes Sekabira, Member of Parliament for Katikamu County North - Shadow Minister for Internal Affairs. *(Applause)*

Hon. Betty Naluyima, District Woman Representative, Wakiso - Shadow Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development. *(Applause)*

Hon. Robert Maseruka, Member of Parliament for Mukono County South - Shadow Minister for Youth and Children's Affairs. *(Applause)*

Hon. Fred Jalameso, Member of Parliament for Ajuri County -Shadow Minister for Tourism and Wildlife. *(Applause)*

Hon. Jamali Ayagalachi, Member of Parliament for Bukooli County North - Shadow Minister for Water and Environment. *(Applause)*

Hon. Patrick Kuteesa, Member of Parliament for Kimaanya Kabonera Division - Shadow Minister for Agriculture.

Hon. Okot Peter, Member of Parliament for Tochi County, Shadow Minister for Special Regions.

Hon. Hassan Kaps Fungaroo, Member of Parliament for Obongi County - Shadow Minister for Human Rights.

Hon. Abdallah Kiwanuka, Member of Parliament for Mukono County North - Shadow Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs. *(Applause)*

Hon. Zahrah Luyirika, Member of Parliament for Makindye Division West – Shadow Minister for Kampala Capital City Authority. *(Applause)*

Hon. Asinansi Nyakato, City Woman Representative, Hoima City - Shadow Minister for Works and Transport. *(Applause)*

Hon. Zambaali Bulasio Mukasa, Member of Parliament for Nansana Municipality - Shadow Minister for Sports. *(Applause)*

Hon. Hussein Muyonjo, Member of Parliament for Jinja North Division - Shadow Minister for Culture and Performing Arts. *(Applause)*

Hon. Elias Luyimbazi Nalukoola, Member of Parliament for Kawempe Division North - Shadow Attorney-General. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Who is the Shadow Minister for Human Rights?

MR SSENYONYI: Hon. Kaps Fungaroo.

THE SPEAKER: Whom is he shadowing?

MR SSENYONYI: He is shadowing issues to do with human rights. Mr Speaker, the provision of the law is for us to have workable dockets that will hold the Government accountable. That is why we have 30 shadow ministers. We would have had 82 but we said: No, we are going to shrink all of those to 30 workable documents, which is allowable within the law so we can hold the Government accountable.

Mr Speaker, we are not going to have 82. We believe 30 ministers are able to run the government effectively. We have shrunk all the 80 plus ministries into 30 and we are going to effectively hold the Government accountable.

My appeal, Mr Speaker, to colleagues from this side as, I end - *(Mr Waluswaka rose_)*

THE SPEAKER: Can we have some order?

MR SSENYONYI: Hon. Waluswaka, the Speaker is saying, be orderly. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: First, resume your seat. We need to get this done well and if it is done well from the beginning, we should be – honourable members, the shadow ministry must be a shadow of somebody existing. When you said you wanted to reduce it to 30, I heard someone say off the record that you actually do not have the numbers to come to 81 or so. *(Laughter)*

MR SSENYONYI: Mr Speaker, that is not true, and you know it because your Members on this side are more than 100. We are your Members too, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The Member is now informed that you are doing rationalisation. You should not shadow what is not - do not split when you can actually merge. You are the appointing authority - Hon. Chris, did you want to give information to the Speaker?

Honourable Leader of the Opposition, you can make amendments since there are more ministries still available. Give Hon. Fungaroo something. *(Applause)*

DR BARYOMUNSI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I take the opportunity to congratulate you and the Members. Rule 15 of our Rules of Procedure speaks to the role and functions of the Leader of the Opposition. Subrule (2) states: "*The Leader of the Opposition shall, in consultation with his or her party leadership, appoint a shadow cabinet from Members of the Opposition in Parliament who shall have portfolios and functions that correspond to the portfolios and functions of Cabinet Ministers"*.
This presupposes that a shadow minister will be corresponding to a cabinet minister. Now, if there is no Cabinet minister for human rights, whom is he shadowing? I think the Leader of the Opposition should harmonise and respect the rules of the House.

THE SPEAKER: On the Government side, the one handling human rights is the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. Thank you very much, Dr Baryomunsi.

With the information you have now, Leader of the Opposition, do you want to make some amendments?

MR SSENYONYI: Mr Speaker, human rights is very critical to us. We are putting two shadow ministers in that docket. That is why we have the one for human rights as well.

Even according to reports of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the biggest perpetrator of human rights abuses is the Government and its institutions. I hope you read those reports. We are saying, we want to hold you accountable as the Government in that regard. *(Hon. Alioni rose_)*

THE SPEAKER: Procedure.

MR SSENYONYI: Hon. Alioni, you came and sat on our side. Why are you putting our side to procedure? *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: That is why he is raising a procedural matter.

MR ALIONI: Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I believe you already ruled and guided on the matter of having a shadow minister for justice. You properly guided the Leader of the Opposition. Is he procedurally right to continue lamenting and insisting on that position? I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, stick to the rules. Can we go to the next item? Apparently, when the Government brings a list of ministers and the Vice-President, the House debates. For this one, they do not need to go to the Committee on Appointments; how lucky they are. They do not even need any debate. The House has taken note but with reservations on human rights. Let that one be hanging; that is the guidance I can give.

MR SSENYONYI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let us sort it out easily so we do not have unnecessary back-and-forth. The security docket is where most human rights abuses are committed. Hon. Kaps Fungaroo is our Shadow Minister for Security. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: The House has taken note. Let us go to the next item. Let us handle it after this because we need – Honourable members, there are two people with matters of national importance, which we shall consider. Let us do this quickly and come back to Hon. Dr Patrick Wakida and Hon. Julius Nakiyi Muntu. I have taken note. Please, next item.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT TO AUTHORISE GOVERNMENT TO BORROW UP TO €168,976,354 FROM THE UK EXPORT FINANCE (UKEF) AND CITI BANK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR POWERED IRRIGATION SYSTEMS PROJECT PHASE II

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, Article 159(2) of the 1995 Constitution requires parliamentary approval for Government borrowing. Aware that we are yet to constitute the Standing Committee on National Economy, and yet we are faced with the urgency of this particular loan request, I will invoke Rule 8(1) of the Rules of Procedure of this House and have this particular request directly considered by the House.

Ordinarily, we are supposed to have treated any such request through Rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure. However, we are faced with the reality that this was not envisaged by the framers of these rules, hence recourse to Rule 8(1) of the Rules of Procedure.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 34(1) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2025 and Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure, I will now invite the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to move the Motion, seeking the approval of the House. Before he comes, given the situation we are facing, we do not have the committees. That is a reality of fact.

This loan is as important as water itself. Minister of Finance, move the motion. *[Mr Nsamba: "Procedure -"]* Before the motion? *[Mr Tebandeke: "Thank you, Mr Speaker -"]* Hon. Tebandeke, you do not access the microphone before you are allowed to. No, no, no. Please, let us respect each other.

MR NSAMBA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to appreciate that you have quoted the rules and highlighted that this loan is probably very urgent. However, Mr Speaker, while in Kololo, you promised that this House was going to go back to the foundation, and among what we have been looking forward to is for this House to follow its own rules, to begin with.

We are in the formation stages of this House. We do not have the committees of Parliament. What do we lose? We want the minister to begin from there, Mr Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, what is the procedural issue you are raising because if you are referring to the rules, I have not cited the rules of the Kenyan Parliament; I have cited the rules of procedure of the Ugandan Parliament. I would be glad if you came and said, "Mr Speaker, what you have cited is not the position." I would benefit from that. I said Rule 8(1); is it not applicable?

MR NSAMBA: Mr Speaker, Rule 162 requires us to take many of these matters to the committee that is not available. It is not sufficient to simply tell us that we do not have committees, even though the people who are supposed to form them are available. Can't we begin by formulating the committees?

The other side is fully constituted; this side is fully constituted. Let us formulate the committees so that we know which committee is going to deal with this particular loan.

Mr Speaker, allow me to say that for this particular loan, I was here in the previous Parliament. When we acquired -

THE SPEAKER: Which loan now? We are just going to move. Why don't you wait, and that will form part of your debate on the loan, for or against? The procedural issues that – *[Hon. Betty Nambooze: "Procedure -"]* Please, please.

MR NSAMBA: The procedural issue is; why don't we formulate the committees first?

THE SPEAKER: The question you have put is that the committee is not here. That is a question of fact. This is purely one of the first sittings we are having. If you can listen to the motion and justification, this House will be at liberty to make a decision whether this loan satisfies the urgency or not. So, these procedural issues you are raising now are very premature. *(Applause)*

The Minister of Finance is well guided. *[Hon. Mwiru: "I seek guidance from you -"]* I have just guided, Hon. Paul Mwiru. Let the minister present the motion. You will have a good opportunity to debate this motion, for or against.

The minister has to move the motion to provide us a platform where you will say everything, Hon. Paul Mwiru, *Ssabakristu*. *(Hon. Mwiru rose_)* Hold on a bit; allow the motion. Minister?

11.38

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker,

"*WHEREAS Article 159 of the Constitution empowers Government to borrow from any source, as authorised by or under an Act of Parliament;*

AND WHEREAS Section 34 of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171, vests the authority to raise money by loan for and on behalf of the Government solely in the minister responsible for finance, with the approval of Parliament by resolution;

AWARE THAT the Government's request to borrow up to €168,976,354 from the UK Export Finance (UKEF)and Citi Bank for the Development of Solar-Powered Irrigation Systems Project Phase II has been laid before this Parliament;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Parliament authorises Government to borrow up to €168,976,354 from the UK Export Finance (UKEF) and Citi Bank for the Development of Solar-Powered Irrigation Systems Project Phase II."

I beg to move, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded?

HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: It is seconded by the Vice-President, the Prime Minister, the Government Chief Whip, the Minister of Agriculture, who knows the value of water to the crops, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Keefa, Hon. Alenyo, Hon. Wakida, everyone, the whole House. For the record, by the majority of the Members of the House.

Can you justify your motion? *(Hon. Mwiru rose_)* - please, a point of procedure does not come before justification. I know this thing well - justify.

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The proposed project will develop 427 irrigation systems across the country, aimed at enhancing rural incomes through increased production and productivity arising from irrigated Agriculture for coffee growing.

His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda cleared this project for implementation in his letter dated 15 December 2021 under reference number PO/10 addressed to the honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Minister of Water and Environment. I have attached a copy as "Annex".

To date, Phase I of the project has achieved over 99 per cent physical completion, with 434 systems developed across the country delivering verifiable economic benefits countrywide. They include the following:

1. 148 rural water supply systems benefiting 98,521 households and 433,492 individuals;
2. 83 urban water supply systems serving 107,390 households and 472,519 people; and
3. 203 irrigation systems irrigating 2,000 acres while supporting 554 households and 2,436 residents.

Collectively, these initiatives have enhanced water security and productivity for 206,465 households and a total population of 908,447 across the country.

Mr Speaker, it is important to note that Phase II of the project had been envisaged to cover an additional 700 sites. However, to preserve the vital fiscal space for other key projects that the government is implementing, the project was rescoped to fit within these fiscal parameters, optimising 427 systems.

My objective in bringing the motion here is to brief Parliament on the following:

(i) To note the required financing of up to €168,976,354 from UK Export Finance (UKEF) and Citibank for the implementation of the development of the solar-powered irrigation system project phase II; and
(ii) To seek your authority to proceed to borrow up to €168,976,354 from UKEF and Citibank for the implementation of the development of the solar-powered irrigation system project phase II.

Justification, strategic alignment, and the financing terms

As the effects of climate change continue to escalate, the available water resources for agricultural production are constantly decreasing. Currently, farmers are losing a lot of crops due to prolonged dry seasons, and this in turn affects their livelihoods.

The National State of Environment Report (NEMA 2024) indicated that on average, 800,000 hectares of crops per year are destroyed by climate-related events. The drought that occurred in 2000 resulted in damage to crops estimated at $47 million, which is approximately 3 per cent of the value of all cash and food crops. Between 2010 and 2013, damages and losses in the agricultural sector caused by the 2010/2011 rainfall deficit were estimated at $907 million. It included crop production losses, animal death, livestock production losses and higher production costs.

Irrigation is, therefore, one of the responses to the adverse effects of climate change in the agricultural sector. If no action is taken, the cost implications will remain high. For example, between 2010 and 2050, damages are projected at $140 billion to 260 billion arising from failure to apply irrigation.

The need for irrigation across the country is, therefore, very crucial. Securing the availability of water for Agriculture will guarantee food security and the livelihood of the farmers, including the most vulnerable groups and address the needs of the very poor in society. Well-developed irrigation infrastructure and good water management can increase yields by 2 to 5 times for most crops.

Project Justification

Uganda's Agricultural performance has been constrained by frequent occurrences of severe drought and flooding, particularly over the last 20 years. In 2010, drought accounted for a 38 per cent loss in bean harvests and a 36 per cent loss in maize harvests, thereby contributing to food insecurity and poverty.

I wish to inform honourable colleagues that a study by the Office of the Prime Minister estimated the loss and damage of Shs 2.8 trillion, equivalent to $1.2 billion, to the Ugandan economy, equivalent to 7.5 per cent of the country's GDP in 2010, due to erratic rains. According to the status of the Environment Report 2014, on average, 800,000 hectares of crops are destroyed every year by climate-related events.

Coffee has been identified as a priority commodity due to its strategic importance to Uganda's economy and livelihoods. Uganda is currently the second-largest coffee producer in Africa after Ethiopia and a leading coffee exporter on the continent. Coffee remains the country's leading source of foreign exchange earnings, generating approximately $999.8 million from the export of 6.06 million 60-kilogramme bags between March 2023 and February 2024.

In addition, approximately 1.8 million Ugandans directly depend on coffee as their primary source of livelihood, with the sector dominated by smallholder farmers operating on less than one hectare of land. However, coffee productivity remains highly vulnerable to rainfall variability, prolonged drought spells and increasing climate change impacts, particularly during critical crop growth stages such as flowering and cherry development.

Honourable members, despite Uganda's substantial Agricultural and water resource potential, irrigation development in the country remains very relevant to the estimated national potential. Uganda's irrigation potential is estimated at approximately 3.03 million hectares.

However, only about 23,595 hectares, which is 0.78 per cent, representing less than 1 per cent of the total potential, are currently under irrigation.

Consequently, agricultural production remains predominantly dependent on rainfall, exposing farmers to seasonal rainfall variability and climate-related production risks.

Limited access to irrigation infrastructure has therefore continued to constrain agricultural productivity, commercialisation, and farmers' ability to undertake year-round production.

Solar-powered pumping has demonstrated up to 70 per cent savings in energy costs compared with previously diesel-powered pumping systems and has therefore been prioritised for this project.

Records from towns implemented under the Energy for Rural Transformation (ERT) with funding from the World Bank, as well as the Water Supply and Sanitation programme with funding from the African Development Fund, currently utilising solar water pumping, indicate that the systems are providing safe water at very low tariffs of Shs 1 to 1.5 per litre.

This is because of the very low operation and maintenance costs requirements. In addition, the adoption of solar-powered pumping systems contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and supports national and global efforts towards climate change mitigation through the transition to cleaner and renewable energy technologies.

Project objectives

Goal: To contribute to increased yields of coffee production through the provision of water for irrigation.

Objective: To establish solar-powered irrigation systems across the country in support of coffee farmers.

The project outcome: Increased access to water for irrigation as well as improved coffee production and productivity.

The project description

Mr Speaker, the project shall target the development of 427 irrigation systems to enhance coffee production in the project areas across the country. The total potential irrigable area is to be developed in about 4,768 acres. Each system has an average of 11 acres with the potential to be expanded to 20 acres and consists of a water abstraction system, transmission mains, a solar pumping system, a storage tank, and on-farm irrigation infrastructure.

Each system shall serve progressive farmers/organised farmer groups, benefiting an average of six households, which is equivalent to 27 people.

Annex 2, Mr Speaker, indicates the list of proposed sites per district across the country. Additionally, each system will ensure capacity building for beneficiary communities to operate and maintain the installed facilities.

The project will leverage and strengthen existing extension service infrastructure at sub-county, parish and district levels in Uganda, working through the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, extension programmes, and the coffee department.

District and sub-county agricultural officers will participate in farmer identification, mobilisation, and ongoing agronomic support, ensuring that technical guidance on irrigation and coffee production is contextually relevant and delivered by trusted local actors who possess deep knowledge of smallholder realities.

By formally integrating Government extension personnel into the project infrastructure, rather than relying on parallel or temporary systems, the intervention builds institutional ownership, creates an accountable pathway for knowledge transfer, and addresses Phase 1 lessons.

Project benefits

Mr Speaker, the project is expected to directly benefit about 2,562 households, translating to approximately 11,785 direct beneficiaries. A key focus of the intervention is improvement of coffee production, where yields per tree are projected to increase from the current average of 1.3 kilogrammes of Kiboko to approximately 6.5 kilogrammes under irrigation.

This improvement is anticipated to result in an annual coffee yield of about 8,893 tonnes, thereby contributing significantly to increased agricultural output, rural livelihoods and economic growth.

At the project level, the intervention is projected to generate approximately Shs 66.7 billion in average annual revenue to the beneficiaries.

The project is also expected to produce approximately 5,336 tonnes of Fair Average Quality coffee, equivalent to about 88,939 bags of 60 kilogrammes annually.

At the household level, the intervention is expected to significantly improve incomes, with the average household expected to realise an annual revenue of about Shs 26 million.

In terms of productivity, the average household is expected to produce approximately 2.1 tonnes of Fair Average Quality coffee annually, equivalent to about 35 bags.

Site readiness and rigorous selection are fundamental for Phase II, drawing on practical lessons from Phase I. Prior to any works, beneficiaries are required to sign formal land consent agreements following extensive stakeholder engagement with communities, local government authorities and leadership structures to secure social license, prevent future disputes and foster long-term ownership.

Water for production

Regional teams conduct thorough field verification of all proposed sites to confirm they fully satisfy the project's established site selection criteria before inclusion in the project scope.

Over 627 potential beneficiaries have already been profiled based on rigorous criteria, in partnership with the Department of Coffee, formerly Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA), district local governments, Operation Wealth Creation, and individual applications, and continuous assessment is ongoing.

Selection of sites for irrigation

The selection criteria considerations include;

a. There should be access to a potential source of water within 500 metres of the beneficiary.
b. The irrigable land area to be served will range from 10 to 20 acres.
c. The farmer should have a coffee plantation that is at least a year old.
d. The site can be individual or communal (with consideration for commercial coffee villages for big systems).
e. The farmer should possess proof of land ownership or land user rights.
f. There should be no encumbrances along the outline of the proposed scheme infrastructure, that is, within the distance from the water source to the command area.

g. The land management of the field should be adequate, showing evidence of good agronomic practices and sanitation.
h. The farmer should not have benefited from the project's Phase I interventions and should not be under the planned development of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa Project, UGIFT and Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project.
i. The route to the farm should be accessible to facilitate construction activities.
j. Equity considerations in line with the ministry's policy of "Some for all AND not all for some".
k. The youth, women and organised coffee farmer groups will be given special attention.

The project, Mr Speaker, has the following components:

1. Consultancy Services for Design Review, Construction Supervision and Complementary Support Service Provisions for Solar-Powered Irrigation Systems. The unit cost here is €13,678.81; and
2. Design, Supply and Installation of Solar-Powered Irrigation Systems across the Country – Phase II. The unit cost is €337,229.16.

What are the loan terms and conditions?

Mr Speaker, the financing for the Development of Solar-Powered Irrigation Systems Project – Phase II will be primarily through a loan covered by the United Kingdom Export Finance (UKEF), worth €148,509,420. This includes the insurance premium of €18,979,504, equivalent to 12.78 per cent of the loan, and a commercial facility of €20,466,934 from Citibank.

It is important to note, Mr Speaker, that the Export Credit Agencies, for example, UKEF, do not directly lend to sovereign countries like Uganda. They provide the export cover required, and commercial agencies such as Citibank arrange the financing as further explained below.

The commercial banks charge fees for providing such services – I now detail the particulars of the Export Credit Agency Facility, which is 90 per cent UKEF cover. The loan facility, as I had mentioned earlier, is €148,509,420. This includes the insurance premium of 12 per cent or €18,979,504.

The tenor is up to 13 years with a grace period of three years, and the interest rate is 3.65 per cent per annum – and this is fixed. The commitment fee is 0.2 per cent per annum on the drawn loan amount. The facility agency fee is €20,000 per annum, and the upfront fee is 1.15 per cent flat on the facility amount – and this comes to €1,707,858.33.

Commercial terms facility from Citibank

The loan amount is €20,466,934. This is 10 per cent of the commercial contract amount and the Owner's Engineer. The tenor here is up to seven years. The grace period is two years. The margin is 4.95 per cent per annum. The interest rate is six months Euribor of 2.55 per cent plus a margin of 4.95 per cent, which gives 7.5 per cent. The commitment fee is 1.25 per cent per annum on the committed, but undrawn amount.

Mr Speaker, I wish to note that the Euribor is a variable rate that keeps changing. As at 31 May 2026, a six-month Euribor was 2.55 per cent.

Mr Speaker, I now come to the project readiness. The feasibility studies for the project have been undertaken. The project is a design and build, which implies that the contractor, who is Nexus Green Limited, will do the final studies, designs and construction.

The comprehensive economic analysis update in April 2026 confirmed the project's feasibility, yielding an economic internal rate of return of 14.02 per cent and an economic net present value of €29.83 million. To ensure adherence to the Public Investment Management System (PIMS) policy, the Ministry of Water and Environment has secured an Owner's Engineer, SGAPI Consulting Engineers Limited, to exercise strict technical oversight over the contractor during the design and construction.

The loan and the current debt situation of the country

Mr Speaker, as at the end of 2025, Uganda's total debt stock amounted to $34.86 billion, which is equivalent to 52.7 per cent of GDP. The table is there. I invite honourable colleagues to look at the breakdown of our debt – and the source is the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Mr Speaker, in line with the Debt Sustainability Analysis Report of December 2025, which reports debt statistics on a financial year basis, Uganda's debt remains within sustainable limits, with the total debt stock at $32.24 billion, approximately Shs 116 trillion, for the Financial Year 2024/2025. This comprises $15.46 billion, equivalent to Shs 55.6 trillion in external debt, and $16.79 billion, equivalent to Shs 60.35 trillion in domestic debt. Public debt as a share of GDP is estimated at 50.86 per cent, aligning with the targets in the Charter for Fiscal Responsibility.

This project is already included in our debt sustainability analysis and in the fiscal framework for the budget for Financial Year 2026/2027 and the medium-term fiscal framework. Consequently, this borrowing will not breach Uganda's long-term debt sustainability threshold.

Mr Speaker, I now wish to present to the House the measures we have in place to manage debt.

To manage and reduce our debt levels, the Government has adopted fiscal consolidation measures that include increased revenue mobilisation, particularly through the implementation of the Domestic Revenue Mobilisation Strategy (DRMS), as well as controlling and reducing Government borrowing, expenditure, and prioritising interventions in the growth-driving sectors.

In addition, the Government is implementing the Public Investment Management System (PIMS) policy and strategy, which aims to streamline the preparation, appraisal, approval, and management of all government projects and ensure that these projects are ready before being presented to Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I now come to other conditions attached to the loan.

THE SPEAKER: The other conditions, I think you can refer Members to them**.** These are about documentation. Can you go to the conclusion? Members can look at the rest.

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. With your guidance, I now come to the conclusion, and I wish to conclude as follows:

In light of the above, I request Parliament to;

1. Note the need to borrow up to €168,976,354 from the UKEF and Citi Bank for the development of solar power irrigation systems project, Phase II;
2. Note the financing terms for the loan facilities of up to €168,976,354 from the UKEF and Citi Bank for the development of solar power delegation systems project Phase II;
3. Authorise the minister responsible for finance to borrow up to €168,976,354 from UKEF and Citibank for the development of solar-powered irrigation systems, Phase II project.

Mr Speaker, before I yield the Floor, I wish to lay the accompanying documents in accordance with the rules.

Mr Speaker, this request is accompanied by the agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uganda, represented by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and the lenders, namely Citi Bank and UKEF. I beg to lay, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Let the record capture that.

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report on public debt, grants, guarantees and other financial liabilities as at the end of December 2025. I beg to lay.

Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the performance of projects under the Ministry of Water and Environment from 2016 to 30 April 2025. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Let the record capture.

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the clearance by His Excellency the President, on behalf of Cabinet, authorising the loan to proceed, and that Parliament go ahead and consider the loan. This letter is dated 8 June 2026. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Let the record capture that.

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the feasibility report, prepared by the Ministry of Water and Environment. I beg to lay.

I also beg to lay on the Table the sector performance report of all projects being implemented in the sector through externally financed resources, including grants, as at March 2026. I beg to lay.

Mr Speaker, I have also submitted in soft copy the following documents:

1. Commercial contract, which is the project appraisal document;
2. The environmental report;
3. The procurement plan;
4. The resettlement action plan;
5. The project implementation plan; and
6. The development committee approval for evidence of consistency with the National Development Plan.

Mr Speaker, thank you very much. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable members, I now open the debate on the motion, which will be limited to 30 minutes. We are going to debate, so raise any procedural matters in your submission as you debate.

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I am beginning with this side. If this other side does not rise. I do not want to - I am beginning with this side and not necessarily that it is opposition. I will pick any Members here, and Hon. Nambooze, my MP, please begin the debate. In your debate, you should be clear whether you are for or against the record of Parliament.

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It was your ruling that I would raise this procedural matter after the justification has been done. Allow me to inform you that I have read Rule 80(1) upon which you based, to allow the presentation of this Motion.

It talks about issues that are in doubt; whenever there is a matter, and Parliament finds itself in doubt, and it is not provided for by the Rules, that Mr Speaker, you become the rule and guide the House. I want to say-

THE SPEAKER: Can you restate your statement?

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE: I was summarising the provisions of Rule 80(1).

THE SPEAKER: Everybody here has the Rules. You cite it, and we shall have the patience to read it together with you. Do not summarise.

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE: Rule 8(1) provides that, *"In case of any doubt and for any question of procedure not provided for in these Rules, the Speaker shall decide, having regard to the practices of the House, the constitutional provisions and practices of other Commonwealth Parliaments in so far as the practice may be applicable to the Parliament of Uganda."* Mr Speaker, I would like to say that this particular matter is provided for under our Rule 159. Therefore, with your guidance, is it proper for a matter that is provided for in our Rules of Procedure to be handled under Rule 8(1), more so when the matter we are handling -

THE SPEAKER: Did you say Rule 159?

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE: Rule 162, Mr Speaker. If you allow me to read it also.

THE SPEAKER: Actually, if you read Rule 162, you would not raise the procedural matter, but you go ahead and read. Please.

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE: I am reading Rule 162, Mr Speaker. It reads, *"The Speaker shall commit the proposal to loans or guarantee request to the Committee on National Economy and to the relevant sectoral committee under which the subject matter of request falls."* That is Rule 162(2) and all other rules that follow thereunder.

Mr Speaker, the issue we are handling touches on Article 159 of the Constitution: the powers of the Government to borrow or lend. If we are to go without a committee consideration, or we are to disregard some of the provisions, are we also suspending the provisions of the Constitution as provided for under Article 159?

I beg that you guide me, not that I do not support the loan, but because this loan is so important to us, I would like to have it processed under our Rules of Procedure as well as the Constitution of Uganda.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, and let me do this again. Please sit down.

I did this at the beginning. I am very much alive to Rule 162. When you read Rule 162(1), which says, "the minister responsible for finance," you can refer to that.

Rule 162(2) mandates me to directly refer the matter to the Committee on National Economy. Is it there? Since it is not there, I went to Rule 8.

The framers of these rules never envisaged the situation - please, do not intimidate me by standing - that at the beginning of the Parliament, before all the committees are constituted, we shall have a very urgent, relevant, important motion - a request for a loan like this one. That is why I said we should go to Rule 8, and it should guide us. I love to play by the rules and here I am playing by them. There is no single provision of the rules or of the Constitution that has been breached.

The guidance is that we are doing it this way – please, you know the rules. You do not argue with the Speaker. *(Laughter)*

Honourable members, I want to reassure you all that when I got this request, it was time-barred, so we cannot even push it by one day. I am the one telling you. We cannot form the committee tomorrow; we have the Budget reading.

Further guidance from the former Attorney-General, now the Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs.

12.25

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Mr Speaker, as we clamour to follow the rules, let us follow them to the letter. Rule 8(2) says, *"the Speaker's ruling under subrule (1) shall become part of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament until such a time when the substantive amendment of these rules is made in respect to the ruling."* You cannot deal with it. He has finished. The Speaker has given a ruling; even if he is wrong, it is part of the rules.

THE SPEAKER: Order. For your information, in this case, the Speaker is right. I want the lawyers on this side. Hon. Paul Mwiru, you are beginning to debate.

12.26

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr Paul Mwiru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to make a contribution to the motion, but before I do that, I want to state from the onset that, actually, the facts of the loan, as packaged, the loan has no problem. We have a problem with Parliament being stampeded.

Mr Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to Rule 182. This rule constitutes the Business Committee of this House, where

I am a member, where you are a member, the Deputy Speaker, the Leader of Government Business, the Leader of the Opposition and two independent Members, and chairpersons of committees.

The importance of that rule is that, whereas you are the Speaker – and there is no doubt about that – there is a Business Committee of this House. When business comes from wherever it comes from, it must go to the Business Committee. The composition of the Business Committee is by law. This rule sets up the Business Committee.

Mr Speaker, the manner in which we are proceeding fast, there is an Auditor-General's report which questions the first loan, and it raises a number of issues. The movers of this motion know that if we are to go through the normal scrutiny of loan processing, our committee would question that loan. When you look at Article 90, it establishes the committees of Parliament, and the rationale is for the efficient running of Parliament.

The question is: I did not want to look like I was questioning where the Speaker got this business, without calling us as a Business Committee, so that we could deal with this business and have a discussion and guidance. It is like they are setting up the members of the Business Committee –

THE SPEAKER: Can I help? Do you want to know where the business came from? The motion was raised by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. That is where the business came from.

The roles of the Business Committee, where I was a member for several years, are very clear, and you know it. It is not on a day-to-day basis. How many times does the Business Committee – I know you are the new Chief Opposition Whip, and you are really dying to have that first meeting. Very soon, when all the committees are – Please.

MR MWIRU: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: You are dying to be in the first meeting. We are going to have that meeting when the House is fully constituted with the committee chairpersons.

MR MWIRU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. On close reading of Article 159(2), I noticed that it vests the power to borrow in the Government, subject to the approval of Parliament.

Therefore, we cannot do it casually because people are running away from the committee of Parliament questioning this loan. I would like to implore you, Mr Speaker, about this loan - Mr Speaker, I started by saying that the loan has no problem but there are things, which the movers of the motion for the loan are running away from. I have the Auditor-General›s report, which raises –

THE SPEAKER: Yes, point of order, Hon. Waluswaka? I did not want us – This means we are taking off with a big plane; there is need for taxing. You allow this. That is why I was not entertaining orders but –

MR WALUSWAKA: Mr Speaker, the point of order I am raising to my senior brother, learned counsel – He mentioned that we are sitting here casually – *(Interjections)* – It is on record. The Clerk can replay the recording.

Mr Speaker, is Hon. Mwiru in order to say that this Parliament is sitting here casually when we have the Vice-President, the Speaker, and all members, and even the Leader of the Opposition here? Is he in order to say that we are just sitting here casually?

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Paul Mwiru, this is not a leisure park. This is the Parliament of Uganda. Nobody is here at this time casually. Therefore, I think you need to withdraw that matter for –

MR MWIRU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I withdraw the statement in the context that my brother understood it.

However, Mr Speaker, I wanted to summarise by saying that the Auditor-General's report of

2025 – whose copy I have stated – out of the 1,009 sites handed over by the Government to the contractors, 162 – which is 16 percent – were marked failed at a feasibility study stage. That was one.

Two, similarly, 58 schemes – which are 21 irrigation and 37 water supplies – failed at the design phase, resulting in financial loss of 208,530 Euros. That is the Auditor-General's report.

THE SPEAKER: When was it tabled and adopted here?

MR MWIRU: Mr Speaker, this is a report of 2025. The Auditor-General presented the report to Parliament, and it was supposed to be dealt with by the relevant committee, adopted by the House, and then the Ministry of Finance would issue a Treasury Memorandum to show action taken on these issues raised.

THE SPEAKER: Therefore, this report has not been adopted by the House, right?

MR MWIRU: Mr Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: You have the Auditor-General's report in the accountability committee, or was it brought here?

MR MWIRU: MR Speaker, as I took the oath to defend the Constitution –

THE SPEAKER: Clerk, can you establish when it was adopted here?

MR MWIRU: Mr Speaker, the Auditor-General's report is a public document. It has raised a red flag. Mr Speaker, you need to get me right: I said that I had no problem because personally, I am a farmer and I will want to take advantage of this loan. But what the movers and the technical people have done is to stampede Parliament so that there is no scrutiny of the loan.

Mr Speaker, I would like to implore you, finally, that I know you because you were my chairperson of the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. You are a very careful person, and I think they are just stampeding you and giving us more of the same.

Therefore, I call upon you to reconsider and we follow the law. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, for the debate, and I believe the Government side is listening to the issues being raised. That is a healthy debate. Please continue to raise such issues; they will help us.

Yes, Hon. Kirumira?

12.27

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luweero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, given our budget constraints, as a country, we have to borrow but we have to borrow right and smart. This particular loan is completely non-concessional and contrary to the laws of the land.

Mr Speaker, the Public Investment Financing Strategy, 2022, maps financing options. On pages 32 and 37, the strategy is very categorical on programmes – we must borrow and the source of funding.

Mr Speaker, this particular project, under environment, climate change, land and water management states that we must borrow concessionally from grants, concessional loans, and government revenue.

Mr Speaker, these particular loans, from UKF and Citibank, are commercial and expensive loans; very expensive loans. If you look at the terms and conditions of these loans, you will notice that they are more or less similar to those of money lenders.

Also, the project we are borrowing for is one of the worst-performing projects. In phase one of its implementation, many projects were incomplete, and as we speak, it is redundant; there is no productivity from those projects.

Mr Speaker, this particular project made so many of our honourable colleagues not to come back to the 12th Parliament. This is because they marketed it amongst their voters. The voters were up for it, only to be disappointed at the implementation stage. And when it came to voting time, they paid back the Members of Parliament.

Therefore, honourable colleagues, this loan is a bad loan for our country. And as we speak, so many of our colleagues are seated down at their homes and are not here because of this very project that they marketed.

Therefore, supporting it implies that the voters will be disappointed with us, and therefore, we have to reject it and reject it in the highest way possible. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us hear from the Hon. Ssebiina Gyaviira. Okay, let us hear from the Hon. Masaba, if you are ready?

12.34

MR KARIM MASABA (Independent, Industrial Division, Mbale City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I do want to refer you back to Rule 162(5). With the exception of loans raised through the issuance of securities, any loan request submitted before Parliament for approval shall be accompanied by the following documents – and the honourable minister laid some of those documents – I kept ticking them, one by one, and there are some that have not been laid. For example, the list of financing options considered when identifying the creditor – one of the things I have noticed is that the interest rate is quite high. It is not concessional as Hon. Kirumira has stated.

Actually, I can confirm that I have a loan at a lower interest rate than this. So, the Government – I got a loan from one of the banks or facilities at a lower rate than 7.5, which is stated here.

Therefore, this is –

THE SPEAKER: As in your personal loan or loan offers?

MR KARIM MASABA: What I am stating is that the Government has gone to money lenders and private banks. Citibank is a bank that can issue me, you, Mr Speaker and the honourable minister a loan.

Therefore, the Government going out there borrowing and committing generations of our people at this interest rate is quite huge.

Mr Speaker, when you look at the documents, you realise that not all of them have been listed because we needed to know what options were available? How many people did the Government look at, and what were their interest rates, terms, and conditions before getting this loan?

Therefore, I believe in my view that this loan is not good for our country. There are documents that are missing, which the minister should have brought.

THE SPEAKER: Kindly highlight them so that the minister can respond to why he has not complied with –

MR KARIM MASABA: He has presented the list of the financing options considered when identifying the creditor.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, state what he has not submitted.

MR KARIM MASABA: He has presented the financing agreement. There is a list of financing options considered when identifying the creditor –

THE SPEAKER: Yes, state what he has not submitted.

MR KARIM MASABA: Loan disbursement and repayment schedules, a letter from the NPA clearing the project, and evidence of consistency with the National Development Plan and strategy. All of these have not been laid.

Lastly, I have seen the documents he has laid: the agreement alone is maybe 400 or 500 pages. I was part of the committee that investigated the loan to Bujagali Energy Limited, and the former Attorney-General can confirm. We had interactions, and the matter even reached the President. One of the things that came up was that everyone agreed that it was a bad loan. The terms were not favourable to the country; the interest rates were high, but the President said we were in a crisis because we needed electricity at that moment.

Therefore, those who signed the agreement committed the country to very poor loans, but we were having a financial crisis in the country, and we agreed with our ad hoc committee report, and the Attorney-General can confirm that.

Mr Speaker, we have been accusing the 11th Parliament of passing loans without reading the documents, without understanding the terms and conditions that are in these agreements. I am certain we are passing this loan, as Parliament, without looking at this agreement.

The agreement has now been laid by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Let it be on record that I have declined, and the 12th Parliament has started from where the 11th Parliament was – passing loans without looking at the documents, the various agreements. We have – none of us –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Masaba.

MR KARIM MASABA: Yes?

THE SPEAKER: You speak for yourself, that you have not looked through.

MR KARIM MASABA: No, they have just been laid right now, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: No, I have information that most of this – I am quite patient enough to follow a debate, and a good debate. Hon. Masaba, some of these documents were uploaded – Let him conclude his statement. He was raising something very pertinent to the effect that there are some documents which are not listed or submitted.

MR KARIM MASABA: Yes, I have stated that the documents – and the documents that have been laid – I have an iPad. I have been looking at it. The agreement is not there. Let the Clerk show us, or let the Clerk give you and you show me on the iPad where this agreement is. It is nowhere to be seen.

So, let us agree that as the 12th Parliament, we are passing this – because you have said you cannot even push it for a day. Let us agree that we are passing this and we are confirming to the public that, as Parliament, we pass loans without understanding them, without looking at the terms and conditions that are in the – because the minister's justification – this is not a contract –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Masaba, I do not want to interrupt you but when you say, "What is in the agreement was reproduced in the statement of the minister…" What makes an agreement are the terms and conditions. Have you not looked at the terms and conditions of this loan?

MR KARIM MASABA: That is why I have stated that documents like the loan repayment – There are things that are –

THE SPEAKER: It is there.

MR KARIM MASABA: That is why I am stating that the minister's submission is 17 pages – the agreement alone could be about 300 pages. I have seen a big document like this one. So, some of us are interested in reading the details; they say "the devil is in the details".

THE SPEAKER: Okay, you want the details.

MR MASABA: So, for us to pass a loan on the minister's justification, Mr Speaker, I believe is not right, and as Parliament, my humble request, if permitted, is that I move a motion, under Rule 61, that you give us time, you suspend or adjourn the House and give us some time. We could come back at 2.00 p.m. after looking at some of those documents.

THE SPEAKER: You rose to debate?

MR KARIM MASABA: No, I am moving a motion without notice, under Rule 61.

THE SPEAKER: First, go and advise on that one. Can we have Hon. Asinansi?

MR KARIM MASABA: Mr Speaker, I have moved a motion, upon which I think you need to put the question because we need to see who will vote to pass this loan without reading the agreement, and who – we do not just need to pass these loans the way they are. We want to understand them.

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded?

HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: Do you want me to put the question to this?

HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR MASABA: Mr Speaker, put the question and we vote on it so that we can see who will support the passing of a loan without reading the agreement; who just wants to pass money?

THE SPEAKER: I do not think that the way you are saying – You are blackmailing; can we get the Members to sit down?

MR KARIM MASABA: Mr Speaker, I am stating facts; I am not blackmailing.

THE SPEAKER: Can you sit down? Most of us – I have been a Member here, and I thought I was a good Member. What I need to know are the details of the loan; I agree with you, Hon. Masaba, when you say that you have not read all the details. Even if some of you are given 10 hours, still, the details – What I need to appeal to you about is that the details of the loan; the silent details of the loan, are captured in the motion.

You cannot read the whole document and ignore the terms and conditions of the loan. This House would be at a loss if we approved the loan without knowing what the terms and conditions are, yet that is the preoccupation of this House.

So, for you to say that I want to put to a motion that those who pass the loan without reading it is like – Yeah. Yes, Hon. Asinansi?

12.45

MS ASINANSI NYAKATO (PFF, Woman Representative, Hoima City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I stand to oppose the motion, which the mover made, the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development, under Rule 67 –

THE SPEAKER: You have two minutes. Let us learn to time ourselves.

MS ASINANSI NYAKATO: I stand to second Hon. Karim's motion, which says that under Rule 67 –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, there is no motion before me other than the motion for the loan.

MS ASINANSI NYAKATO: The motion raised by Hon. Karim Masaba, under Rule 67, which says thus: *"A motion for adjournment of debate – a member who wishes to postpone to some future date further discussion of a question, which has been proposed from the Chair, may move a motion."*

Mr Speaker, I stand to support the motion that we close this debate to borrow – the matter be adjourned.

THE SPEAKER: Those are two motions. There is a motion for closure of debate, and then the motion for adjournment. So, which one should we process?

MS ASINANSI NYAKATO: For adjournment of the motion.

THE SPEAKER: So, you move it properly. Move properly if you want to.

MS ASINANSI NYAKATO: Mr Speaker, and honourable members, I second the motion that we adjourn the debate on borrowing Euros 168,976,354 from the UK Export Finance (UKEF) and Citibank for the development of the solar-powered irrigation systems project Phase II.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Betty, please be kind to yourself and to me. Do we want to have a Parliament that we can be proud of? Do we have to follow the rules? [HON. MEMBERS: "Yes."] This is what we are doing. When you follow the rules, you allow the rules to speak louder than you. You cite one rule, and everybody is disarmed.

But here, when you go on circumventing, you become something else. I would like to be a Speaker of a Parliament where, when a Member gets to speak and cites the rule, I will be proud of that. I had decided that we do this side, but it seems that from what is going on, let me get this side now, or should I dispose of – let me dispose of the Motion moved by Hon. Karim Masaba, that we should not continue to – You are not even following the Motion.

Please, do not push me to the wall; I want to be a very good Speaker of very good Members of Parliament. A good Speaker makes good Members of Parliament, but also, good Members of Parliament make a good Speaker. You will get to know me as we play along. This one has come too early to test us. Let us do this, and do it very well.

I now put the question to the Motion moved by Hon. Masaba Karim that we should suspend debating this matter.

(Question put and negatived.)

THE SPEAKER: We continue with the Motion for borrowing. For the record, I said, "*The Nays have it"*. They were louder. Please, can we get seated? Let me go to this side.

12.51

MR JULIUS NAKIYI (NRM, Budadiri East, Sironko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Julius Nakiyi, Member of Parliament for Budadiri East, Sironko District. I stand to contribute to this debate. Why do we need to borrow? One –

THE SPEAKER: Please, Hon. Julius, allow the Speaker to pick you. There will be no difference between a *Malwa* group and Parliament if everybody speaks. For now, you are forgiven.

MR NAKIYI: Mr Speaker, this is my first time in Parliament, but I have now understood the rules. I stand to say that I support the Motion moved by the Minister of Finance because I need to justify what he moved.

I have been reading the budget of Uganda, and Shs 44 trillion is what we are going to raise from our domestic revenue – by the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA). Shs 1.4 trillion is expected to come from the oil revenue, making it Shs 45.4 trillion. That money that we collect as the Pearl of Africa can only fund two things – paying our debt, which is Shs 33.6 trillion, and the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs, Shs 10.2 trillion.

This means that all of us, as a country, can only fund two items in our budget. The rest, including our salaries – whenever we go to get salaries from the bank, we are borrowing money. Whenever you see people going to school, and whenever you see a road in your village being constructed, just know we are using borrowed money. Whenever you see any activity taking place in Uganda, just know we are using borrowed money and donations.

This is now based on the figures and real mathematics. It is not just science. Our budget is Shs 84 trillion, and Shs 31 trillion will be going into debt repayment. Only Shs 51 trillion will be going for public service and whatever. If we are raising only Shs 44 trillion from revenue, it means we have a deficit of about Shs 38 trillion. Where do we get it? It has to be through borrowing.

What do we do now? The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development needs to develop a strategy to increase our local revenue. Our debt-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio currently is 13 per cent. If it moved to 30 per cent, we would be able to finance our budget 100 per cent.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, honourable member. Let me have the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. You know the value of water for irrigation. Yes, Hon. Frank?

12.53

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY, AND FISHERIES (Mr Frank Tumwebaze): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I really did not want to debate for the sake of debating. I tried to listen, but I want to make a humble appeal to colleagues to thank the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for prioritising financing for irrigated farming.

Honourable members, we stand at 2 per cent, below our irrigation uptake. We did not mind in the past putting so much investment in irrigation because God had given us our two guaranteed and predictable seasons. We would quite often experience bumper harvests of most of our crops. Now, crop failure is predictable. It is more predictable than a crop yield.

I hear the issues that colleagues are putting up, the procedural concerns, and the need for scrutiny. I, however, appeal to you to make an exception, prioritise, and pass a loan that is going to support smallholder farmers because the 10 to 20 acres are for smallholder farmers who are not able to borrow money from Uganda Development Bank (UDB) or the Agricultural Credit Facility (ACF) to invest in massive irrigation systems.

This is mainly to support the smallholder farmers who vote for most of us. I appeal to you, colleagues – we have just finished the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers Programme (UgIFT) implemented by the Agro-Industrialisation programme, ministries of Water and Agriculture. When you go to your villages, you see farms funded by UgIFT Phase I. There are quite a number.

The issues you point out are critical. The Ministry of Water and Environment should take note of them, the Ministry of Agriculture should take note of them, and the Ministry of Local Government should take note of them, because that is where the staff who identify farmers are resident.

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) takes note of them, because it monitors Government programmes – *(Interjections)* - Let me finish my submission, just for your benefit - *(Interjections)* - It is my right to take or to decline it. I appeal to you, colleagues – We can do a lot of filibustering with the rules, but the farmers want an answer. The answer is the stability of their farming, and stability does not reside in anything else. We have given the money through the Parish Development Model (PDM). Money alone will not support soil health. We must put water in the soil, and you do so through irrigation. I, therefore, support the Motion.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Namara Dennis?

12.57

MR DENNIS NAMARA (NRM, Buyaga West County, Kagadi): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. At the onset, I support the Motion because irrigation is the only way to go. You can talk about the percentage of the loan being a bit high, but what are the repercussions of global warming? What are the repercussions of climate change? What are the repercussions of hunger?

I am a farmer myself, and I deal with the farmers at the village level. It is very important - if you look at our irrigable coverage right now, you will realise that it is only at 0.5, yet the one for Burundi is at 1.6, Kenya is at 3.6. This means we are still below. It is very critical. As we talk, people's crops are drying.

The analogy and the argument of saying technicalities have not been followed, I request you, honourable members, to support the Motion and get water for irrigation. Some of you are Members of Parliament for Kampala Road. You may not know what is going on in the villages.

I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Yes, Hon. Bahati? – Well, there are so many. Please allow us. Okay, Hon. Bahati, but two minutes, then Hon. Angura will speak next.

12.58

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to support the Motion of approving a loan to implement solar-powered irrigation schemes in our country for two reasons: one, to support our industrialisation drive, and the other is to support our exports.

As we speak, we have secured markets for coffee and cocoa in different countries. We have secured markets in China, Serbia, and Algeria, but we are facing a challenge of production capacity to export to these markets. The reason we are facing this is because of the seasonality of the production of these crops, like coffee. So, this particular project will help us to guarantee production all year round to supply the markets that we have secured.

Secondly, we have been talking about agro-industrialisation, which will need the production of these products. I have seen the report of the previous performance; this is Phase II. Work has been done on the irrigation of this particular project.

I implore you, honourable colleagues, that approval of this project will support industrialisation, exports, and the development of our country. Therefore, I support this motion. I yield the Floor.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Angura, then followed by Hon. Keefa, Hon. Ann Nankabirwa, and then we will see how to move on. I have come back this way; there is one person here.

1.00

MR FREDRICK ANGURA (NRM, Tororo South County, Tororo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I also stand to support the loan. From the parliamentary perspective, it is important that we get institutional memory. I am one of those who was overseeing the first phase. I would like to inform you that the challenges we encountered in the first phase, others notwithstanding, is the scope. We actually have many of our people who are interested in getting their land irrigated but the scope has been small.

We have been told here today that it is going to move from 11 acres to 20 acres. The communities out there are expecting more. The rain patterns have disappointed us. It is high time we stood as a House and supported this loan, such that we improve on the livelihoods of our people.

Mr Speaker, I also request that this time, the Ministry of Water and Environment, through the consultant, should supervise the contractor for us to achieve timelines in terms of delivery. The other loan could have had its own problems of a bit of delays here and there, but it is high time we moved on.

We are moving from 434 irrigation schemes, in Phase I, to now about 427. In fact, what we should be talking about here is how the Government can request other development partners there, including maybe the one that Hon. Masaba was talking about, to come on board, such that we widen the scope and make sure that we get many of our people supported by these irrigation projects.

Finally, Mr Speaker, they have listed the beneficiary – *(Member timed out.)*

1.02

DR KEEFA KIWANUKA (NRM, Kiboga East County, Kiboga): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I stand to support the motion. If I had any doubt, I drew assurance from Hon. Mwiru. He has said it is a good loan and project, which he also supports. His concern was with the audit. I think Hon. Mwiru knows that if there is an audit query in an organisation, you do not close it. You do not stop operations. Whatever the audit queries are, have to be addressed, but that is a separate issue. Yes, we need the Treasury Memorandum, but that will be a separate issue.

Secondly, Hon. Kirumira mentioned that this is money from commercial money lenders. Actually, it is a semi-concessional loan. It is not exactly concessional; concessional loans are normally up to around 3 per cent. The interest rate on this one is 3.6 per cent. The commercial bit is what is more expensive, but that is only 10 per cent. So, 90 per cent of the loan is semi-concessional.

I also see this project as revolutionary. I have looked at the districts that will benefit; 126 of our districts will benefit. Over 700 sites will be involved. That is revolutionary, which I believe will help – *(Member timed out.)*

1.04

MS ANN NANKABIRWA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kyankwanzi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to support the motion to borrow. As farmers, we are attached to how much loss we are suffering because of climate change. We can do mitigation; we can do adaptation.

Irrigation is one way of adaptation to climate change. These days, you can experience rain in your compound, yet on the other side of the house, there is no rain. Those are effects of climate change.

I do take recognition of what Hon. Masaba is saying about the issues but I think there are two, three, or four issues. One of the issues is the approval of the loan. We have been informed that we are behind schedule. I am seeing here 126 districts, including mine, and many where colleagues here come from. We can address the issues after approval of the loan when we constitute the Committee on National Economy. The Speaker can take cognisance of the issues raised by the Members.

For example, we can also raise some issues about the cost. When you look at the 427 sites, this means every site will take about Shs 2 billion on average. When you look at 10 to 20 acres, you realise that the cost is, on average, Shs 100 million per acre. Those are issues Parliament can address after securing – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. That is - whom did I pick – Hon. Nankabirwa. We can now come to Hon. Gyaviira; I gave you and Hon. John Teira. I gave Hon. Gyaviira, but since he is still new, he was looking behind for the microphone - *(Laughter)* - and somebody else took it.

1.07

MR GYAVIIRA LUBOWA (NUP, Nyendo-Mukungwe Division, Masaka City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. There is an image being painted that maybe one side of this Parliament does not wish Ugandans well, in terms of agro-modernisation, which is not correct.

We are talking about having these loans that we have secured over time processed under the rules, as guided and to the satisfaction of the Ugandans who are going to pay back this money through the taxes they pay.

In the justification that the minister presented, we have a list of conditions on page 8 that are supposed to be met by these sites that are being prepared to undertake this irrigation.

However, when you look at the documents that the minister laid, you notice that there is no confirmation that these conditions have been met. For example, farmers have coffee plantations that are at least a year old -

THE SPEAKER: I know that is a maiden speech, but these conditions will be in the criteria for selecting beneficiaries, not for the loan. Give him one minute to conclude; he started quite well. It is his maiden -

MR LUBOWA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. What I am saying is that it is bad that we first fight to get money, bring it in Uganda, then we start evaluating the activities that this money is going to be used for.

I propose that for better utilisation of these loans, we first have all these conditions met before we start on the acquisition of the loans. Otherwise, it adds to the under-performing loans that we have accumulated over time, yet the interest keeps accumulating, and Ugandans are suffering with these loans.

THE SPEAKER: He is the Shadow Minister of Finance – yes, Hon. John Teira?

1.10
MR JOHN TEIRA (NRM, Bugabula County North, Kamuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: I am this way now. So, Members this side, do not stand up again, for now.

MR TEIRA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to support the motion to borrow this money for a few reasons. One is that this money for irrigation - many of us are grappling with dry crops in our localities. The highest percentage of betrayal of our people is to deny them the opportunity to irrigate while we hide under technicalities. These are issues, which we have discussed, and we keep on getting better every day.

The project we are talking about is in Phase II. Nobody would misuse an opportunity to get wiser than he was yesterday. We made mistakes during Phase I. I am glad the minister has alluded to this. We shall keep correcting these mistakes while we give our people water because they badly need it. I stand to support the motion.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Dr Wakida and then Hon. Dr Kikabi Edward. People at the back also need to - Then I will come to the middle, and then close the debate. Yes, Hon. Dr Wakida?

1.12
DR PATRICK WAKIDA (NRM, Kabweri County, Kibuku): I have listened to one of my colleagues who raised an issue that needed information. In economics, when we refer to concessional, we have three levels, and that is the price – which he emphasised here; the terms of borrowing - which he did not emphasise. I want to clarify to my colleagues that this loan is good; it has good terms. It is good in terms of price, and it is also good for the country. I, therefore, support the loan.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Dr Kikabi Edward, but one minute.

1.13
DR EDWARD KIKABI (NRM, Ntwetwe County, Kyankwanzi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am profoundly honoured and exceedingly humbled to have been granted this opportunity, more so when it is my maiden speech in this august House.

First and foremost, I understand there are technicalities that the Speaker has waived, all in honour of the Rules of Procedure, but we should remember that we are honestly working tooth and nail to raise the economy of this country. That is why we are saying in the operational theme, "Protecting the gains as we strive to make that particular stride into the high middle-income status."

Honestly speaking, look at the coverage of this loan once obtained. How many districts? Case in point, Kyankwanzi has three of such systems that are going to be constructed. My neighbours, Kiboga, are going to have two. Actually, the situation on the ground is that 98 per cent of our produce is affected, more so in areas that grow coffee. The worst disservice we shall do to Ugandans is hiding behind the technicalities, and we fail to grab this opportunity by its horns. Trust you, me. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: I have to balance the Independents. Let me first hear from Hon. Pex or Rex?

1.14
MR PETER PEX PAAK (NRM, Dodoth East County, Kaabong): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Peter Pex Paak. I am a Member of Parliament for Dodoth East Constituency in Kaabong District. I stand to support the Motion to borrow this money. I request the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to remind themselves that Karamoja is the driest place in this country, yet there is no single district on that list from Karamoja. As we speak, the whole place is dry, and the crops are drying. I thought that is the area that requires irrigation more than the others.

THE SPEAKER: Do you want to accept -?

MR PAAK: It is a practice in this Parliament that when a loan comes, the President has to give approval to it. The President wrote a letter approving this loan. Actually, he did not only approve this loan, but also approved Karamoja multipurpose water development projects at Lokopei in Napak District, but the minister has never presented it. They were supposed to be moving to the same money lenders or whatever the case may be, but Karamoja is missing in this.

I want to seek clarification from the minister: Why did you come with half information? There is no information about Karamoja yet the President cleared it. You presented a wrong letter from the President. This letter was on 15 December 2021. He is presenting something else, but he was not talking about this. This is the information we have, as Members.

THE SPEAKER: Now, let me go to the middle. Honourable member for Terego. The minister should prepare to answer some of these issues as we close.

1.16

MR MICHEAL AYEPA (NRM, Labwor County, Abim): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We have a huge problem in this country where the majority of the youth and women are engaged in farming. As you know, underemployment and unemployment in rural areas account for between 65 and 70 per cent of the rural communities. We all come from rural communities. It is important that we cater for the underemployment and unemployment of our youth, to avoid the drivers that take our youth to external odd jobs. We need to create capacity and capabilities to help our youth find employment that is productive in this country and back home. As we deal with the external challenges of the youth who go out there, let us start with resetting the table back home so that – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, I had picked –

MR AYEPA: I take it that we support this Motion. We need it as a matter of seriousness for our rural communities.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, honourable member for Terego? Let the women talk about water. The men have talked a lot, but women are the majority who suffer about water.

1.18

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I arrived from Terego this morning. I have a maize farm of over 80 acres and it has totally dried. I was in tears yesterday – and not only me; the farmers in Terego are in tears too.

This is a loan request that did not really need any debate. However, now that we are having the debate, Members, I am telling you – as a champion and the most rural Member of Parliament in this House – for the sake of the rural people, I request that we pass this loan to support agriculture, which is the backbone of our economy. *(Applause)*

I stand to support this Motion and promise that you will not go wrong if you join me in supporting it. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Rwakoojo? *(Members rose_)* Men, first give women a break. *(Applause)*

1.19

MS ROBINA RWAKOOJO (NRM, Gomba West County, Gomba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to think that all of us have been affected by the irregular rain patterns. As it was said, it may rain in your compound, but when in your neighbour's, there is no rain. We know that coffee is a household crop that has educated many of us. People are waiting. They keep asking us for seeds and irrigation opportunities.

We shall have done them a disservice. The women and youth are going to lose opportunities. Women are the ones who fetch water. Why don't we have this irrigation system to help them avoid that? Why are we avoiding employment opportunities for these groups that are out there, yearning?

THE SPEAKER: Dr Sylvia?

1.21
DR SYLVIA ALINAITWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Rukiga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand in support of the borrowing. Colleagues, we have just come from the State-of-the-Nation Address, where the importance of commercial agriculture was elaborated to all of us by His Excellency, the President. We are required to go back to our constituencies and support the call for everybody to go into commercial agriculture as much as possible.

So, if we are going to make a step in that direction, we cannot fail to support this loan request because it is one of the ingredients for us to prosper, as far as commercial agriculture is concerned. The Parish Development Model (PDM) money is out there - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Member from Kiryandongo - *(Members rose_)* - I see Hon. Paul Omara; are you also a woman? *(Laughter)*

1.22
MS JOVIA KATUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Kiryandongo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I support this loan because Kiryandongo farmers lose crops every dry season. Solar irrigation means water without diesel, more food and more income. This is capital for production, not consumption. I beg to move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Wanyoto, followed by Hon. Pacuto. There is some conclusion that will be here.

1.22
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE (Ms Lydia Wanyoto): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to support the motion for the loan. I recently had a meeting with many farmers and their biggest challenge is the cost of fertilisers, which has gone up.

So, colleagues, let us support the farmers by lowering the cost of agriculture. This facility will help in lowering the cost of agriculture, in terms of inputs.

I am always very firm on issues of the rules. However, for the sake of this loan – this is work in progress. We will support each other and ensure that whatever is not done can be done.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

1.24
MS JANE AVUR (NRM, Woman Representative, Pakwach): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to support the loan, basing on the following:

Firstly, it resonates with the Tenfold growth agenda very well because it is going to boost production and exports, which will improve our balance of payment through foreign exchange.

Mr Speaker, this loan is going to spread throughout the districts, including mine – Pakwach – where coffee has been minimally grown. I, therefore, support it because it is going to create employment for our young people and promote crops that other areas of Uganda have limited knowledge about or have not been growing. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Member for Moyo District? That should be the last woman.

1.25
MS BERNADETTE CHANDIA KODILI (NRM, Woman Representative, Moyo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to support the motion to take this loan. My reservation will only be on the criteria. I see that we are looking at areas that occupy about 10 to 20 acres.

In Moyo, Adjumani and Obongi, because of the dry spells, we do not have this capacity. So, as we acquire this loan, let us take into consideration areas that have as small as five acres, so that it reaches all the areas.

When I look at the other criteria, which considers farms that are a year old – we clearly do not have farms that are one year old with a 10-acre capacity. Therefore, for that matter, this loan is required by areas – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Omara. You have been standing when women were standing. *(Laughter)*

1.26

MR PAUL OMARA (NRM, Otuke County, Otuke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to support the Motion. I want to dispel the assertion that this facility is expensive. This is a blended facility. There is no bank in Uganda that can offer a loan - on a foreign currency-denominated loan – at 3.5 per percent; it is not possible.

If you look at the yield curves, in the treasury bills and bond markets now, although they have declined, you will notice that they are going at 13.5 to 16 per cent. So, any foreign currency-denominated loan in Uganda cannot go below 11 per cent. Therefore, what we have got is a big deal and something that we must grab and make the best use of. I submit.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Nameere. I have to give opportunity to those who are also seated very far away.

1.27

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Ms Justine Nameere): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable members, please, bear with me. I am a woman representative of an agricultural city.

Mr Speaker, I stand to support this Motion. Farmers are living a real nightmare because of climate change challenges. Members, I am giving you the reality on the ground, from an area where millions of lives survive on farming. The Speaker assured us that no law has been broken.

THE SPEAKER: I was not just assuring, but reading from what everybody has a copy of. *(Laughter).* Let us hear from Hon. Shyam - the corner and I am going to come here, then to Hon. Christopher.

1.28

MR TANNA SHYAM JAY (Independent, Tororo Municipality, Tororo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In my maiden speech, I stand to support the loan. I feel it is a favourable time to borrow given that the country has a stable inflation rate and stable exchange rate, which is a benefit. With $66.7 billion in average revenue within 10 years, we will surpass the principal amount we are borrowing. Therefore, it will be beneficial. It will improve the local economy. As Tororo, we are looking for a cash crop. With this and coffee, it will benefit the people of Tororo. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: You are hearing from businessmen and technocrats. Yes, Hon. Christopher?

1.30

MR CHRISTOPHER KIBANZANGA (Independent, Bughendera County, Bundibugyo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, Sir. My name is Christopher Kibanzanga. I come from Bughendera County in Bundibugyo District.

Mr Speaker, I do not know why we are rushing this loan, and maybe it should be clarified. When are we constituting the Committee on National Economy?

Mr Speaker, this is not the first loan of such a kind. I am detecting something. First of all, they have gone for an expensive irrigation scheme – solar. This country is highly endowed; we have gravity water schemes, which are a bit cheap. You have gone for a higher-interest loan. If we pass this, I can assure you we are sleeping on the job. The country is bleeding from corruption. Let us scrutinise the papers and see what has happened in the first – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Waluswaka?

1.31

MR JAMES WALUSWAKA (NRM, Bunyole West County, Butaleja): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to second the borrowing, but with an amendment. As someone who studied Engineering, we have engineers in the Ministry of Works and Transport, and elsewhere in Uganda who are underemployed, but the minister is bringing a consultant.

Mr Speaker, the engineers are there; they have no work. The contractor is going to design, and then they bring a consultant to supervise. I want to request honourable members that we approve the loan, but with an amendment that the consultancy fee here goes to the Ministry of Water – You can even give this to the Uganda Institute of Professional Engineers (UIPE); they can handle it instead of paying out that money.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I know some Members may be disgruntled, maybe we missed out somewhere, but let us be honest. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable at the back there. That is Kibaale or -?

1.33

MR ALLAN ATUGONZA (NRM, Buliisa County, Buliisa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Allan Atugonza, Member of Parliament for Buliisa. Every Member here supports the loan, but they have some issues. Literally, I have been on the Committee on National Economy for the last four years; it is so painful. I think there is something here being hidden because everyone is saying that the first loan did not perform well. Why are we rushing with this one? You can hear what Hon. Waluswaka and what Hon. Kibanzanga are saying; these are our concerns. Why don't we –? *(Interjections)* – No, why don't we -?

THE SPEAKER: Do you want to take the information from -?

MR ATUGONZA: No, Mr Speaker, there are very many bad performing loans in the ministry. Adding this loan without scrutinising it, I am very sure -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, why are you not scrutinising it here?

MR ATUGONZA: Here, the time we are given, Mr Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Are you saying a committee does more scrutiny than -? So, it is a policy issue here.

MR ATUGONZA: Yes, I am telling you I opened my email today, and that is when I interacted with documents relating to this loan. Mr Speaker, at this speed -

THE SPEAKER: You got the details of this loan from the documents you received through your email?

MR ATUGONZA: Yes, we have a number of non-performing loans in this ministry. If you scrutinise Phase I of this project, I know that is where Hon. Kirumira is coming from – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member for Abim, and then Hon. Kakooza. We are here.

1.34

MS JOYCE AYOO (Independent, Woman Representative, Abim): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Joyce Ayoo Makamoe, Woman Representative, Abim District. I stand to support this motion because it addresses one of the problems we are facing as a district. Yes, we want irrigation water as Abim District, and the Karamoja Subregion at large.

However, I am disappointed that the entire subregion is not included in this project. When we talk about regions affected by climate change, the first subregion that comes to our mind is Karamoja. Why isn't Karamoja featuring in the project? Why is it not part of the project?

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development - Honourable members, please resume your seats first - You should take care of - because Karamoja was planned for. Minister of Water and Environment get up and tell us. Why not - oh, Finance, tell us. Dispose of this matter.

1.37

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In my justification on page 9, I stated thus: "For the farmers to benefit, this is the selection of sites for irrigation and the criteria was the following:… (h)The farmers should not have benefited from the project's Phase I interventions and should not be under the planned development of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa project, UgIFT and the Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project."

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I want to believe that the districts, which are not included, were subjected to this test. They had previously benefitted from these programmes.

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Water and Environment, on Karamoja, let us dispose of this matter. It is painful to discuss a loan for other regions when we have Members from Karamoja. They are saying, "We support it but how about ours?" So, Hon. Aisha, do you have water for Karamoja?

1.38

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER AND ENVIRONMENT (Ms Aisha Sekindi): Mr Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank honourable colleagues for the support, and for airing out the worries they have. I want to thank them because they are guiding us.

In particular, to the honourable members from Karamoja, and other honourable members, first of all, Phase II is different from Phase I because Phase II is affirmative. It is mainly for coffee farmers. This loan is going to – *(Member rose_)*- Wait. Honourable member, cool down, please.

THE SPEAKER: You are protected. Please go ahead.

MS SEKINDI: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Leave the work for protecting you to the Speaker here.

MS SEKINDI: Karamoja is not under coffee farmers since you are not a coffee-farmer area. Phase II of this project targets coffee farmers only.

Two, the smallholder farmers in Karamoja for other enterprises – *(A Member rose_)*

THE SPEAKER: She is giving very important information, please resume your seat, honourable member.

MS SEKINDI: …will continue to benefit from the UgIFT Programme.

Three, Karamoja is suitable for medium to large-scale irrigation. Therefore, the Ministry of Water and Environment is in a process of implementing Namalu Irrigation Scheme, which is going to cover 1,510 acres.
For the Karamoja area, we are considering other 10 sites - and big ones - which have been identified for large-scale irrigation schemes.

Therefore, I want to -

THE SPEAKER: Please, conclude.

MS SEKINDI: I am protected. Therefore, Karamoja, just cool down. We are coming with big plans and you are going to be happy. This is an affirmative directive from His Excellency to consider - especially when you look at that paper, you will find that areas in the north are considered with many more than those ones in central.

These are for the starters; the coffee farmers who are just beginners. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members of Parliament from Karamoja, I would like to guide that you need to engage the two ministers, including the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Minister of Water and Environment because I saw a document where the President – Give them an opportunity before the close of this month so that you tell them about what is going to happen.

Leader of the Opposition, do you want to -? You do what you always do best.

1.42

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Mr Speaker, I will take that as a compliment. For the record and to comfort colleagues here, those of us across the aisle by the way - from the Opposition side - and I have seen a number of colleagues from the National Resistance Movement side that are raising concerns, we are interested in every effort channelled at improving agriculture, including irrigation, which we are discussing here. It is important that that record is set straight.

Agriculture is our backbone; we need to improve and better it. Mr Speaker, before South Sudan and DRC joined the East African Community (EAC), 48.9 per cent of all the arable land in East Africa was here in Uganda. We need to establish now that two other countries joined EAC, what is it like - but that gives you a picture of the potential that we have.

We have got a lot of arable land. We should buttress it with irrigation and the like. The idea is a good one and we have raised these concerns severally in our Alternative Ministerial Policy Statements to say; why are we not engaging irrigation? We cannot just rely on nature because many times, it has let us down because we have let it down ourselves.

Our concern is that let us follow the right procedures and ensure accountability of the money so far extended into this project – the Phase I that is being talked about. If we do not take care of the challenges - all the goofs that were in Phase I - you have no guarantee that you are going to do very well in Phase II. That is the concern that we are throwing out there.

Mr Speaker, this commercial loan, which is estimated at about Shs 735 billion actually, when you do the conversion, it is about Shs 735 billion. This year is the single largest external borrowing proposed for the Water and Environment Sector and the minister for water is here – she can attest to that. This year is the largest so far in her docket. That is why we are saying that we want to handle it right. We want to make sure we dot the i's and cross the t's. That is why it was very important for committee scrutiny.

Some of the concerns there have been, even with Phase I. Mr Speaker, sites were handed over without feasibility studies. That is a critical concern. It is not right for us to say that let us just jump to Phase II, but you have some cleaning up to do. Why aren't you interested in that?

Only when studies were eventually done, Mr Speaker, it was discovered that many of the sites were not viable. I saw the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development conceded on a few things. However, as you concede, why don't we do this clean-up? It is very important. Money is gone for project Phase I and even that project is incomplete.

By 30 September 2025, Shs 366 billion had been released and spent. This figure represents 100.3 per cent of the approved budget for Phase I. That means Phase I overshot and yet it is incomplete. Why don't we want to deal with these issues? You overshot the amount for Phase I, and it is incomplete. We are saying, can we do that cleaning up, even as you are rushing us to Phase II?

The other concern is that the systems were built, but many are not working. That is Phase I. We are being rushed into Phase II, but we are saying, why don't we take stock of Phase I? That should be for the good of all of us because even where this project is being implemented in the various districts, I have heard colleagues saying, "Our farmers are suffering; let us pass this."

This accountability is good for your area also because if money is spent and you are not getting the value that you ought to, why aren't you concerned? If you are struggling with Phase I, what guarantee do you have that Phase II will go right? That is our concern, Mr Speaker. We want to go to Phase II, and whichever other phase there is – I do not know. However, as we proceed down that road, take stock, deal with all the challenges there are in Phase I, because you have not dealt with them. You now want us to quickly rush and appropriate money, and now we are appropriating a lot more money – Shs 735 billion. It is the single largest in the sector of water and environment.

Why don't you want us to do it right? I am at odds, Mr Speaker. All of us here are in consensus. We must be able to fund irrigation. We have raised that severally in our Alternative Ministerial Policy Statements here on this Floor. We are in consensus on that - And why don't we be in consensus as well?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable LOP, at individual level, do you irrigate? Farm practices. *(Laughter)*

MR SSENYONYI: You are asking whether I irrigate?

THE SPEAKER: At home?

MR SSENYONYI: That is immaterial, Mr Speaker. There are many things I do not do but we pass them here. I am not in the oil and gas industry but we pass laws here.

THE SPEAKER: I just wanted to know whether in Nakawa you have some vegetables where you practise irrigation.

MR SSENYONYI: In Nakawa, we may not have them. I am a Member of Parliament at a national level. That is why you did not ask those of us in cities where there is no irrigation to move out because you will not have quorum, if it is only the farming areas that do so.

Seriously, Mr Speaker, the point that we need to take care of – the Government needs to be accountable for Phase I. It has not been accountable. That is why we thought that that would be captured at committee level. Here we are struggling to tease out those issues, to hold the Government accountable for that money to be properly accounted for.

THE SPEAKER: What we are saying here is like a committee, and I want the Government side to take seriously the issues being raised by the Opposition side. This is what would have happened in a Committee on National Economy. You get Members to freely speak. For some of you who are doing this for the first time, there is nothing wrong. We need to take this in good faith. I believe you are concluding.

MR SSENYONYI: Yes, I am. Mr Speaker, you did quote Rule 8 of our Rules of Procedure, and I do not want to get into a back-and-forth with the Speaker, but I thought I should tease this out, even for your further guidance.

Rule 8 provides for a procedure that is not provided for and precedence. Mr Speaker, with due respect, this particular one is provided for under none other than our country's grand norm, the Constitution. Article 90(1) of the Constitution says, *"Parliament shall appoint committees for the efficient discharge of its duties."* It is my considered view that this is not one of those that fall under Rule 8 because it is provided for. We are meant to formulate those committees.

Mr Speaker, yesterday I informed you that we, the Opposition side, are more than ready to allocate Members to committees. I do not know if our colleagues on the NRM side - I see the good doctor who is the Government Chief Whip now is here - I want to believe they are ready. I hope I am not wrong. This is provided for and we can scrutinise.

You did bring in the rider of the time limit. Again, I want to beseech the Government; please stop stampeding us. We know about these timelines. We did not get to know last night that the 12th of June is around the corner. We knew about it. Why did we not come much earlier, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development? I would forgive if we had a new docket holder in the ministry for finance, but Hon. Musasizi has effectively, in the 11th Parliament, been the minister for finance. He was the one who was always here borrowing; he would come every day and borrow.

When it came to the budget, he was the one always here; so, he is not new in this docket. When did you discover that now the deadline is around the corner? You could not have discovered it last night. You come into Parliament, you stampede the Speaker, telling him we need to do this very quickly. Why are you making us look bad? *(Applause)* We knew about this. This is not one of those emergencies.

Mr Speaker, many times colleagues raise emergency situations in their area; soil has fallen on people, there is a tragedy, floods and so on. Those ones are understandable. This one is not an emergency. We knew about it. Why did we not plan ahead?

THE SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I agree with you on that one – that we should not be seen, first, to dispose of your matter on the rules. I will say it again: The rules do not provide for a situation where Parliament has no Committee on National Economy. I can go with you to the highest length and depth of legal interpretation or understanding. In this case, there is no committee. The committee is provided for in the rules, but we have not constituted them. That is why I had to use Rule 8, the framers did not use that.

Two, on the issue of why you make me appear like we are smuggling something, this is a baptism of fire. Minister for finance, do you know what it took me to be here? - *(Laughter)* - when did you realise? Say something and then the Vice-President will come and conclude.

1.52

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Hon. James Kakooza rose_)* – Please, through the Speaker, Hon. Kakooza, you know the rules. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Procedure?

MR JAMES KAKOOZA: Under Rule 60, interruption of the debate of the minister.

THE SPEAKER: We have almost concluded the debate.

MR JAMES KAKOOZA: No, he is submitting something; it is a debate.

THE SPEAKER: He was responding to the request, but anyway, what do you want to say, Hon. Kakooza?

MR JAMES KAKOOZA: Mr Speaker, you have stated – I think this is a serious issue because as someone who has been here for some time, it has become a habit of the minister for finance to stampede Parliament. *(Applause)* Let us call a spade a spade. There is no way - When you look at the Public Finance Management Act, it gives you a timeframe for you to come here to pick money. This loan was from 2021. You are talking of a timeline, which is on the 13th of June but we have been around. Do not cause this Parliament to look shabby because of your own interests. We have been blaming the last Parliament. I have the record -

THE SPEAKER: Point taken. Allow the minister.

MR JAMES KAKOOZA: Can I conclude so that he can answer it? Please, assure us - You are passing a loan today, the closing of the books of accounts of the financial year is ending on the 30th - Are you going to submit that money to the votes and get it appropriated? Please, help us. Our work, as Members of Parliament, is the oversight function to check what the Government does. It is not proper. It is unprecedented for a loan to pass here without being scrutinised - of that amount! I stop there.

THE SPEAKER: I know you are supporting the image of this House, and we thank you. Honourable minister, will you continue doing this thing? *(Laughter)*

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Let me begin by thanking colleagues who have supported the borrowing in the debate. Mr Speaker, I am sorry for not concluding the processes in time because of the circumstances, which were beyond my control. I want to commit to this House that in future, save for the circumstances beyond my control, we will try as much as possible to bring loans in time. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, I now want to respond to the following issues: Number one, Hon. James Kakooza is asking when we shall spend this money yet the financial year is closing on the 30th of June. I am seeking this amount to finance the Budget for Financial Year 2026/2027, which is beginning on the 1st of July.

Question two, the timing; why can't we wait for the substantive Committee on National Economy to be formed? Mr Speaker, we have an offer from the UK Export Finance (UKEF) which is semi-concessional, but UKEF is telling us that if we go beyond the 12th of June – which is the day after tomorrow – this offer will expire. That is why we are moving very fast so that we are able to catch up with the timelines of the lender.

Mr Speaker, point three was on the concern of the cost – but before I respond to that, I want to propose a small adjustment in my earlier submission about the interest rate on the export credit agency facility of 90 per cent under the UKEF cover. The interest rate I presented of 3.65 per cent was as of March 2026. The interest rate now as of June 2026, is 3.92 per cent. What this means is that I propose to replace 3.65 per cent per annum fixed to 3.92 per cent.

Mr Speaker, I think it was Hon. Omara who submitted that this loan is not as expensive as my brother Hon. Karim thought. The effective interest rate all in, is about 5.1 per cent.

In the market, as Hon. Omara informed the House, the average interest rate on foreign currency is about 11 per cent. You can see that it is not concessional as we would wish it to be. It is in between commercial and concessional.

Mr Speaker, in the market, as Hon. Ssenyonyi stated, I have been very active in the Ministry of Finance business for the last five years. This means that I also monitor all the markets looking for where cheap money is. The current market shows that it is very difficult to get an interest rate lower than this. You can compare because this information is public.

Lastly, I know we are all constrained. With my past experience and the kinds of questions I used to raise in this House - Some of you, colleagues who know me know that I would be raising what you are raising. However, this is not the first time we have used the Committee of the whole House to consider urgent business of the Government. Therefore, I want to plead with you, colleagues, to take this as an urgent business of the Government, which cannot wait. We pass the loan; it is under good stewardship.

The Ministry of Water and Environment, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Parliament are here. We shall do oversight on this loan to ensure that it is fully utilised and it meets its intended objectives.

Mr Speaker, I pray that the House considers the loan and authorises me to go ahead and sign off the loan so that we are able to give water to our coffee farmers in the country. I submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Her Excellency the Vice-President?

DR BATUWA: Mr Speaker, according to –

2.02

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA (Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Alupo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thought you said, "Her Excellency the VP".

THE SPEAKER: Doctor, I wondered. The Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda is on the Floor. Your Excellency, you can proceed.

MAJ. (RTD) ALUPO: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I rise to speak as a farmer and I know that many of us here are farmers. Even if you are not a farmer, maybe your parents or grandparents were farmers.

It is indeed true that a cross-section of Members of Parliament have raised concerns on the technicality of this loan and the discomfort on the implementation of Phase I of the loan that we passed with the same components that we are discussing today.

I would like to appeal to all of you, Members of Parliament, that there are issues that can be handled introspective, others retrospective. The Attorney-General can choose one word which we shall use to handle those technical issues but also the other issues of the first phase of the loan. Is it retrospective or introspective? Mr Speaker, it is one of those and you know it.

I stand here to say that as a farmer, there are three issues that affect crops, especially productivity. The availability of water for production, the availability of fertilisers, and the control and management of pests and diseases. The crop that we are discussing today is being propelled by the agriculture ministry to become a national crop.

In Teso, we did not hear about coffee when we were children. Now, we have model farmers who have planted coffee under the guidance of the agriculture ministry. I am sure also in Bukedi - because on the 27th of this month, we shall be in your district. If you have not yet been notified, I respectfully use this opportunity to notify you, Mr Speaker. We shall be there to discuss issues of coffee in Tororo District Headquarters on the 26th of this month.

THE SPEAKER: Note is taken.

MAJ. (RTD) ALUPO: The 27th will be for Katakwi while the 26th will be for Bukedi. This is a new cash crop in our area. We are very enthusiastic as farmers and leaders to make sure that it succeeds.

Mr Speaker, we know the people we are leading and the status of their per capita income. It is a major role and responsibility that we need to respond to.

This Motion of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has presented to us an opportunity to make a contribution to the productivity of coffee growers across the country. We, also, earlier on committed ourselves that this is a Parliament that is extraordinary and it is going to do things in an extraordinary way.

The extraordinary way I am talking about is to take note of the technicalities we have raised and make a follow-up to ensure that they are tackled by the responsible authorities. If it is an audit, let it be an audit etc. That should not constrain us moving with another opportunity that the finance ministry has presented to us this afternoon.

In short, therefore, Mr Speaker, I would like to appeal again to Members of this House to speak with one voice; support the minister's motion so that we can implement water-for-production policy to the coffee growers, knowing that globally, coffee has a stable market and knowing that coffee will provide a sustainable income for our households across the country.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Notification for the coffee meeting in Bukedi and Teso is taken. In Tororo, we had cotton and it is not adding up.

I am told the Member of Parliament from Sheema District was an accountant. She was denied the opportunity to speak and give testimony about this project during its Phase I. Let us take note that next time, minister, you should know she was a consultant who assessed the project. You can imagine the kind of people we have here. Honourable minister?

Is there a point of procedure? We have exhausted.

DR BATUWA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In our Rules of Procedure, Rule 63 is amendments to motions. Mr Speaker, this motion has three parts. Part A has asked us to associate with the need to borrow. However, it is this Part B that is of concern to my procedural matter. It is worth noting the financing terms. The minister has made amendments to the financing terms expressed by way of wish, that the interest rate be raised from 3.7 to a figure that is 3.9.

Will it be procedurally okay if we take it on as a Motion, so that when you put the question, we procedurally take on the amendment suggested by the minister as it is stated in 63?

THE SPEAKER: The Motion would be adopted with amendments. So, the minister moved the Motion, and he stood up and he said that it is not a Motion that would again want us to debate the interest rate. If that was an error, you corrected it from 3.65 to 3.92, right? So that would be cured by me putting the question to the motion as amended by the minister. So, there is no other amendment.

Honourable members, having subjected the minister's Motion as amended, to the extensive debate, I now put the question that this House authorises Government to borrow up to Euros 168,976,354 from the UK Export Finance (UKEF) and Citibank for the development of the solar-powered irrigation systems project Phase II; the Motion moved and amended by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, thank you for executing your constitutional mandate, pursuant to Article 159(2) of the Constitution. I direct the Clerk to extract the resolution and transmit it to the relevant authorities to enable them to execute the financing agreement.

Before I call for the next business, I would like to acknowledge that I have Hon. Wakida Patrick, who had notified us for a brief, in two minutes, and then Hon. Ojok, Hon. Julius Nakiyi Muntu and Hon. Nyakato. Those are people who have matters of national importance. Kindly listen to them as the Government will – two, minutes each.

2.11

MR PATRICK WAKIDA (NRM, Kabweri County, Kibuku): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of national importance under Rule 40 (1) of the Rules of Procedure. We lost one of our own, Hon. Juliet Rainer Kafiire, on the 4th of this month.

THE SPEAKER: Speak to the microphone, sir.

MR WAKIDA: Hon. Rainer Kafiire died on the 4th of this month. As we sit here, they are paying last respects in Rubaga Cathedral. Hon. Rainer Kafiire, was a member of the Constituent Assembly, 1994-1995, that enacted the 1995 Constitution.

She later became a Member of Parliament from 1996 to 2006, representing the then Pallisa District. During that period, she also served as the National Vice President of the Democratic Party up to about 2006, providing leadership at the highest level of multi-party politics in our country.

Her service to constitutionalism, to us, to the members of her constituency, and the political party development remains a legacy that this Parliament must recognise. I pray that this 12th Parliament pays tribute to her memory, observes a minute of silence, and that a formal condolence message be sent to the family through your office.

I also beg to move a formal Motion of condolence under Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure, which I request to lay on the Table immediately after this statement. May her soul rest in eternal peace. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, may we rise for a minute of silence.

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

THE SPEAKER: As tradition demands, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you will take note of this. The late member of Parliament, Hon. Juliet Kafiire Rainer, was well known to you and to the Government. I believe the Government should do what you have been doing better. You can say something. I would like to inform the Clerk to do what they do for former Members of Parliament. Everyone here will one day be a former MP.

2.15

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I know the late Hon. Rainer Kafiire. She was a Member of Parliament representing Kibuku. Kibuku, I believe in the 7th and the 8th

Parliament. At that time, I was a Deputy RDC in Pallisa.

She was such a developmental woman. She used to help her farmers, especially those who were growing cotton. She even had a ginnery in the district – then Pallisa, but now Kibuku. So, I know her, and unfortunately, we did not receive this information early enough.

I will inform the President because I know the President knows the late very well. I know he will definitely send his condolence message. I will deliver the message, and I want to thank the Member for having brought this message to the House.

Honourable members, the person we are talking about was once a Member of Parliament, and she did a very good job. So, the message delivered should be taken in good faith.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Asinansi, then Hon. Olanya and Hon. Muntu.

2.16

MS ASINANSI NYAKATO (PFF, Woman Representative, Hoima City): Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, over this weekend, Hoima City and some parts of Hoima District were struck by a heavy downpour with hailstorms, leaving many farms destroyed, several livestock destroyed, and some houses destroyed.

My prayer is that the Department of Disaster Preparedness and Management under the Office of the Prime Minister comes to the rescue of those people who are affected by the disasters, with relief items like shelter, seeds, and food. I beg to submit, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

2.18

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker and honourable members, I already got information from Hoima City and Hoima District. I request that the Member helps us by going through the right channels and write formally. I will then send a team and we provide the needed support. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. That should go as an instruction to all new Members of Parliament. When a disaster befalls your district, there is a whole procedure you can follow while following it up but have the documentation.

Hon. Oulanyah Ojok?

2.18

MR ANDREW OJOK (NRM, Omoro County, Omoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on the matter of National Importance under Rule 56(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament. Yesterday, we laid to rest a 27-year-old young man in Sironko. His name was Sydney Gongodyo, a rugby player with the Uganda Rugby Cranes and the Black Pirates Rugby Club.

This is not an isolated incident. He was killed on Friday on suspicion that was not proved. He was beaten and killed by the people that he plays to represent out of this country. Year in, year out, on average we lose 1,000 people according to the police annual crime report. In 2023, we lost 1,039 people. In 2024, we lost 1,019 people. Just last year, we lost 950 people.

Mr Speaker, what happened to Sydney can happen to any of us here. It may not happen to the Speaker because he has security but any of us walking around the street. Anyone shouts "Thief!" without any proof and you are lynched by those we represent here.

My prayers, under Rule 56(6), are that:

1. We give the Members of Parliament here time, about 15 minutes, to condemn mob justice in very strong terms;
2. The Minister of Internal Affairs gives us a report within seven days of what is happening in terms of investigations;
3. We know that the challenge usually is the response time. Can we have a strategy from the Government on response times? The police are called but they come three

or four hours later. A person is supposed to be presumed innocent under Article 28(3) of the Constitution, that a person is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty or unless the person confesses under a competent court.

If you look at the videos, Sydney was bundled like a thief onto that police wagon. We want a strategy from the Government on what they are going to do about future incidents. We buried him yesterday on Heroes' Day because we knew it would mark the end of mob justice.

The challenge is that according to our records, 25 per cent of the murders reported are pushed forward to court and prosecuted. Out of over 4,000 cases, only 1,000 are processed to their logical conclusion.

I request that let us try to make mob justice as discouraging as possible. Many of our Ugandans do not know that mob justice is actually illegal. Counsel Mpanga once advocated for a nervous system where we feel each other's pain. Many of us have lost that feeling and feel that every thief is guilty or every suspect is already guilty. Many are not but are just victims of circumstances.

Therefore, in a way to make it prohibitive, can we have a public trial just as it happened in the case of Uganda v. Christopher Okello? Through that process, we got to know so many things. Even those who are not lawyers have to understand what actually happens in a courtroom. I request, on behalf of the rugby community, but I must declare that I have an interest because I serve as a vice-president of Uganda Rugby Union. That was one of our members.

I suggest that this House openly condemns this particular trend of events. I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, it is very painful for the young man who was very promising and did not know anything about theft. It is very tragic to lose a life under such circumstances. It reminded us about somebody who wrote about a similar mob justice in Iganga. The area MP is here.

Several years ago, a young man was sent by his father to the nearby shop, not far away from Hon. Kaluya's home, to buy something in the evening. The young man decided to escape from home and look for his mother, who had left a long time ago. They could not find him.

The parents went after three people who were suspected of being witch doctors and that they could have killed the boy. They over-powered police and killed the three people. After a few days, they heard news that the young man was with his mother. How do you administer justice to those who killed? Until recently, I think some of them were arrested and given about 10 or 15 years but is that adequate? How do you take the law into your hands?

These days, as he said, it is just enough to say, "*Wuyo, wuyo"* and they will pounce on you. Even the Speaker is not safe. Security also has its limits. They can stone you from the car. The Speaker also walks; so, everyone is threatened.

Prime Minister, what comment do you have to make about this undertaking by the Ministry of Internal Affairs? It is a bit of reassurance. It is very painful.

2.31

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I thank our son, Hon. Oulanyah, for bringing this matter here. It is painful that we have lost such a young man at such a tender age, just like that. I want to use this microphone, on behalf of the Government, to condemn the acts of mob justice. *(Applause)*

At one time, traveling from Kakumiro to Mubende, I witnessed how, somewhere, they killed a young man who was a coffee middleman. He had his small weighing scale in a *kaveera* then they said that he was a thief. Thieves had robbed that area a day before. Just like that, we lost a young man.

Honourable members, we need to condemn this act in the strongest terms possible – *(Applause)* – I want to direct the Minister of Internal Affairs to come up with a report, so that we can debate this matter because it is big. None of us is safe. Our relatives are not safe.

Mr Speaker, you may be safe for now but what about tomorrow? What about your relatives? What about your voters? This matter is quite big. On behalf of the Government, I want to commit that we shall, using police and all security agencies and intelligence, try to make sure that we stamp out this act of mob justice. The culprits should be brought to book and this must stop.

Mr Speaker, once again, I want to direct that the Ministry of Internal Affairs comes here with a report, so that we have this debated at length. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kirumira – I think the same thing was raised by the area Member of Parliament, Hon. Julius. Do you want to repeat the same?

MR NAKIYI: No.

THE SPEAKER: Okay. We shall have time to debate all this.

2.28

MR JULIUS NAKIYI (NRM, Budadiri County East, Sironko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The matter was to state exactly what he has raised, although I wanted to go a step further. I would like a resolution of this House, urging the Government to ensure a fair and speedy trial of the suspects through a public court at the scene of crime, just like it happened in Ggaba, following the killing of the kindergarten children.

THE SPEAKER: I think that will be part of when we are debating the report. The undertaking by the Prime Minister is not a light one; I think that is deep. Hon. Kirumira?

2.29

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luweero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In South Africa, there is a wave of xenophobic attacks, where nationals in South Africa are pouncing on foreign nationals, beating them up and killing them. It has affected many Ugandans. The Ugandan community in South Africa is huge; it is across the entire country.

As of yesterday, a citizen of South Africa was killed - I think he is a Tsonga - because he could not speak Zulu. The Zulus pounced on him and killed him. If they can kill their own because they do not speak a language, it is definitely possible that Ugandans in South Africa are at risk.

Mr Speaker, my prayers are:

1. For the Office of the Prime Minister and the line ministries to reach out to the leadership of the Ugandan community in South Africa and find out the current status quo;
2. For the Government of Uganda to repatriate Ugandan citizens stuck in South Africa, because as of yesterday, many Ugandans were at the High Commission in Pretoria looking for documents to come back home; and
3. For the Uganda High Commission in South Africa to process travel documents for Ugandans who have the means to come back to their country.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

2.31

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, while at home about two or three days back, one of my daughters brought me a clip - I think that clip has been shared to almost everybody here - where a Ugandan who said he was from

Uganda was being asked by a gang of people that "Why are you doing our business?".

I took the trouble to find out about this from our diplomatic mission in Pretoria, which is doing everything possible, as we speak, to make sure that Ugandans who are in South Africa are secure. However, that is not enough.

You are aware that we have not been having Cabinet meetings. We were sworn in the day before yesterday, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and a few others are not yet sworn in. So, I will undertake, as the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business in Parliament, to do something so that our Ugandans in South Africa are safe.

I promise that we are going to get ministers to hand over today and tomorrow morning before the Budget. If you can give me one or two minutes tomorrow in the House, either before or after the Budget reading, I will give you an update.

I would like to condemn the act because we are all Africans. We have South Africans who are here and we have been respecting them. I implore Ugandans to continue doing the same but condemn the acts that are being done to our people in South Africa. It is not only Ugandans; all Africans who are working in South Africa are facing the same. I saw they were even pushing out the Zulus; those are neighbours and I believe they are culturally related.

Honourable members, I promise that we shall come, maybe tomorrow – if I am given an opportunity or maybe another time – with a conclusive report on what has so far been done, what we intend to do as the Government, and whether we can repatriate our people, depending on the situation. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, would you advise Ugandans to go to South Africa at this point, including your Speaker who is supposed to go there? I need assurance that I will be safe.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I would like to suggest that we need to protect our lives first. For now, I cannot advise you, Mr Speaker, because we usually say life first before any endeavour, isn't it?

Therefore, honourable colleagues, I would like to end by saying that, as Africa – that is why we had to pass this loan, so that we make Uganda favourable and create a very good working environment for our people to have jobs in the country.

That is why this time round, the NRM Government is saying that we need to do more with less, so that our people can benefit from all these programmes to avoid people going out to look for greener pastures elsewhere, where they are losing life. Thank you so much. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. Honourable colleagues, we – *(Hon. Zambaali rose_)* Hon. Zambaali, I am afraid we know each other, but we need to close this. *(Laughter)* You know how much I know you.

2.35

MR BULASIO ZAMBAALI (NUP, Nansana Municipality, Wakiso): Just briefly, Mr Speaker. Allow me to notify this august House about the resurgence of crime-related gangs and ransom-related crimes in the country.

Recently, *Ow'ekitiibwa*, the former Prime Minister of Buganda lost a daughter called Babirye. The criminal gang targeting innocent people killed his daughter for financial gain.

My prayer, Mr Speaker, is that the security agencies must act decisively to protect lives and restore public confidence in safety and the rule of law. That is what I would like to notify this august House about. There is a resurgence of ransom-related crimes in the country.

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, take note of that. You will come back and give us assurances. Ugandans need to be safe while they are here.

There is sports training from Tuesday to Friday from 7.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. for all MPs at Lugogo. Do not say you do not know. The contact person is here, Hon. Linos Ngompek, and he says sports is wealth and health. Please go for that training because very soon, you will know the benefits of belonging to the sports arena. Clerk?

ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the House stands adjourned to tomorrow, Thursday, 11 June 2026, at 2.00 p.m. at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds for the Budget Speech.

(The House rose at 2.37 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 11 June 2026, at 2.00 p.m.)