

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION - SECOND MEETING

TUESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2026

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIRST SESSION - 18TH SITTING - SECOND MEETING

Tuesday, 10 November 2026

Parliament met at 2.14 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, as I welcome you to today's sitting, I wish to inform the House that the Ministry of Health has proposed to conduct a men's health awareness and screening exercise for male Members of the 12th Parliament. It will commence tomorrow, Wednesday, 11 November 2026, at Parliament, in commemoration of International Men's Day. *(Applause*) The exercise will provide an opportunity for Members to access medical screening, health education, and counselling, including screening for hypertension, diabetes, HIV, prostate cancer, and other common health conditions.

I encourage all male Members of Parliament, including the Speaker, to attend. *(Applause)* I know our busy schedules sometimes make it hard to pay attention to our health needs, but we can only serve our people when we are in good health. I encourage all of us to take advantage of this important initiative. Our health is our greatest asset. In fact, it is our great wealth, and regular medical check-ups and early detection are essential for safeguarding our well-being.

Honourable members, on item three, I will allow the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to respond to an urgent matter that was raised by Hon. Cohen Kyampene Amanya regarding the Igara Tea Factory. I thank you.

Yes, Leader of the Opposition (LOP)? For the first time, we are hearing of International Men's Day.

2.17

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your communication. As men, we are looking forward to getting involved in the activities of that day, and matters to do with our health, which is important.

I see the frontbench is still not fully constituted, except for some of the usual suspects - Hon. Bahati, Hon. Peter Ogwang - and I am trying to recall the nickname people use for Hon. Wanyoto, "The sister." Please be a good big sister to your colleagues and whip them to come to the House.

On 19 September 2024, I went with colleagues on the Shadow Cabinet to Dei Biopharma Headquarters in Matugga. We visited some of the entities the Government has been splashing money on. Dei BioPharma got Shs 724 billion; Inspire Africa Coffee - Shs 180 billion; Atiak Sugar Factory – Shs 68 billion; Roko Construction Limited - Shs 263 billion, et cetera, but on this specific day, we were at Dei BioPharma. In our interaction with the

team headed by Mr Magoola, some of the findings we discovered were disturbing, and I eventually laid a report after that visit.

Now, we were here a few months before that, and Parliament passed more money to be extended to Dei BioPharma. Some of us opposed that because it was problematic. The Government said we were buying shares and we asked for the valuation report. Where is the share certificate? None of that was in place, but the Government insisted on extending money to this entity, Shs 724 billion, saying we are buying shares. Up to now, the Government has never revealed whether it is a share certificate or the worth of this company. We have been dismayed to see in the media that the properties of Dei BioPharma have been listed for auction because of debts; money that it owes.

Here is my worry, Mr Speaker. The Government has injected plenty of money into such an entity, and now, all its properties are to be auctioned. The Government needs to tell us: did you buy air? What exactly did you buy? What did you secure in this entity? This is because we have been asking about all of these different entities.

When we went to Inspire Africa Coffee, we asked the proprietor, Mr Nelson Tugume, how much the Government has extended to you. He was honest with us, and he said, "I do not know, but we are putting the figure together." I said, but it is you that the Government has been giving money to.

Atiak Sugar Factory - Shs 668 billion, and there is no sugar coming out of there for all of these years. Roko Construction Limited - Shs 263 billion: we all know their challenges, and now, Dei BioPharma, Government, what exactly did you use taxpayers' money to buy? This company now seems to be a shell, and yet, we were here the other day, and people were telling us that we need to give them more money, about Shs 1.4 trillion.

I am hoping the Government is not going to come and tell us now, "Give us more money so that we save that company from collapsing." However, you allegedly bought shares saying it is doing well; it is a going concern. What did you purchase on behalf of the taxpayer? I think that the taxpayer has a right to know how these Shs 724 billion were utilised for a company that is collapsing.

THE SPEAKER: Before I ask the Government, there is a similar matter. Hon. Julius Nakiyi, what do you add before the Government responds?

2.22

MR JULIUS NAKIYI (NRM, Budadiri County East, Sironko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I raised that matter yesterday with you. When you look at the advert, it is talking about Dei International Industries Limited, which is different from Dei BioPharma. We need, first of all, the Government to clarify. The assets and photos that have been advertised are for Dei BioPharma. However, in terms of the wording, the data is Dei International, which is a separate legal entity from Dei BioPharma.

Therefore, this is the thing. It is possible that in the mind of the Government, they thought they are acquiring, or were contributing to assets of Dei BioPharma, but in actual sense, the assets were being registered under Dei International, so they bought a shell. They bought a special purpose entity which was for raising capital, but the assets - this is the issue DFCU got with Crane Bank. They thought they were buying Crane Bank, including its assets, the physical buildings. When the time came for acquisition, they said, "No, you bought only computers because Crane Bank is computers, the intellectual property, and the loans." They did not buy the physical assets since the assets of Crane Bank were under Meera Investments.

This must be a trick; the Government must be serious to cross-check. Did the assets register under Dei BioPharma or under Dei International?

Secondly, we need to evaluate this company to determine its actual worth because we need to know whether these loans were acquired before the Government bought the stake or after. If it was after, what safeguards did they put in place?

Thirdly, recently, the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) acquired shares in Marriott Hotel, but what they did is that they acquired only 30 per cent. When you have 30 per cent, you do not have control. Shareholders with 70 per cent are the ones with control. In Dei BioPharma, the Government has 9.4 per cent, meaning they do not have control. However, the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) put safeguards in place to protect their investment. They wrote a shareholder agreement and amended the Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association to say:

1. A company board with five directors; two must be NSSF members, meaning they have 40 per cent representation on the board, much as they have 30 per cent shareholding. Therefore, we need such safeguards.
2. You can never make a decision unless you have 75 per cent of the shareholders accepting, yet the shareholding is 70 to 30 per cent, meaning the five per cent should come from NSSF whenever a decision is to be made.

They said you cannot change the manager running the hotel without NSSF's involvement. What safeguards did the Government of Uganda put in place when they were paying Shs 724 billion to Dei BioPharma? Right now, these people have 90.6 per cent, meaning they have control and can make decisions without the involvement of the Government. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The two are deep. Acting honourable Government Chief Whip?

2.25

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, I thank honourable members who have raised these important questions. It is important that we are accountable, and continue to be accountable to the people of Uganda. I assure this House and all Ugandans that any amount of money invested in any company is safe and will be safeguarded. There is no money that the Government will invest in an institution and lose.

The Leader of the Opposition raised an issue about the investments we have made through the Uganda Development Corporation (UDC), like Atiak Sugar Factory and others. This morning, I was with Hon. Okot, the Chairperson of the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry in Namanve, inspecting East African Medical Vitals Limited that we have invested in, including Atiak. I would like to tell you that most companies we have invested in are doing extremely well, and the chairperson can confirm that we normally go through this while approving it.

Mr Speaker, about Dei BioPharma, we have two ways to look at this. We have an Officer of Parliament who is the Auditor-General, if you want to get specific issues, we can have the Auditor-General look into this matter. The mere fact that assets have been advertised - any lawyer will tell you, or anybody who has done business - that it does not mean you are losing the assets. A mere advert, or intention to sue, does not mean that you are losing assets.

All I can say is that we are not going to lose any money we invested in this. I assure you that the records we have gotten from this company, their engagements, the investment to produce cancer drugs and others, are good innovations that all of us should support. There will be some mistakes, but I can assure you that those mistakes will be corrected.

Mr Speaker, the assurance of Government is that no money will be lost. By the time we invest, we go through the Attorney-General and all processes with due diligence. Therefore, the fact that the advert has come up does not mean that it will be sold; it is not going to be sold. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable doctor?

2.28

DR MONDAY RUDE (NRM, Bukonzo County East, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank you for your

communication. Importantly, on the matter concerning the men's health screening exercise that you just announced, this is a golden opportunity for men in commemoration of the International Men's Day. However, it is coming at a time when we are seeing an increase in non-communicable diseases, and the records continue to point to us; that men are most affected.

Most worrying, Mr Speaker, are the figures from the Uganda Cancer Institute in Mulago about prostate cancer. More than 2,500 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer annually and more than 1,500 die from it, yet when you look at what we call the risk factors, there are some which are modifiable, but most of them we cannot do much about, like advanced age; above 40 years, a category into which most of us men fall, being black by race, things like genetic factors and the rest. We can only do our best by screening early and ensuring that we get medical attention early.

Mr Speaker, even for hypertension, the World Health Organisation (WHO) indicative figures for 2025 show that in Uganda, of men aged 30 to 80 years, 26 per cent of them have hypertension. This means that in every four men, one has hypertension. Worst of all, we do not know; only seven per cent are aware that they have this. That means we are prone to complications and unavoidable deaths.

When you critically analyse some of the reports, like the STEPS Survey of the Ministry of Health, it points to us; that more men have been diagnosed with diabetes compared to females. Even in mental health, the figures show that more men are suffering from mental health illnesses compared to females.

With the current Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) data we have, when analysing that data, men above 15 years, you find - for the record, we are at 4.1 per cent. Look critically at men of 45 to 50 years, 11.7 per cent of them have an HIV infection. However, what is worrying most is not knowing that we have problems. Otherwise, if we knew, we would then seek attention. Can you imagine if one has brain cancer and you are taking Panadol, thinking you are treating headaches, or one has a GIT cancer and you are taking drugs for ulcers, and before you realise, your cancer has advanced?

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Health has organised this golden opportunity for us. I implore all men to turn up tomorrow and be tested. After all, most of the interventions available, like sexual and reproductive health, mainly focus on women and children. Therefore, this is an opportunity, and the women can escort us.

Early detection of medical conditions is a proven method - *(Interjection)*- You will escort us? Thank you so much. They will escort us. When diseases are diagnosed early, and interventions are sought early, we eventually prevent complications and preventable deaths. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Tomorrow is only for serious male members of Parliament. Those we shall not see will have their names be read here, as very unserious because if you value life, you will value everything that concerns life. Hon. Silwany, are you a serious man?

2.33

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Health for the opportunity they have given the male members of Parliament to go for prostate screening, and other health-related matters. A simple common English proverb says, "Prevention is better than cure". I have been on this floor of Parliament several times asking the Ministry of Health, for example, what they are going to do for members of Parliament, why can't they take this sensitisation to our health centre IVs?

Mr Speaker, here we represent the population; the people. What they are doing for us is good, but can we expand this? Doctors say that sometimes people are dying of cancer because they lack information. If this awareness can go to subcounty levels in the different health

centres III, then we can expand this that we are doing to the Members of Parliament, even to the population. Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Health would have done us a great deal.

I have asked that several times; I have asked the minister, who is not even here. I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) because today, he has constituted the shadow cabinet very well. Just imagine a shadow being more constituted than the real Government in power. It is very unfortunate.

Mr Speaker, this is something that is important. If we were talking when the Minister of Health was here - because Hon. Bahati knows more about Christ. He may not synchronise these matters of health. If it is Christ, then he has a lot of information. If the Minister of Health was here, he would be picking up these matters directly and not wait for the Hansard. That is the contribution that I wanted to raise. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Kirumira, you said you are doing procedure?

MR HASSAN KIRUMUIRA: Mr Speaker, with all due respect to the matter which is on the floor, I was just raising a procedural matter regarding the statement which was made by the Leader of the Opposition on the Dei Biopharma Ltd investment.

Mr Speaker, I was part of the delegation that did the oversight. And rightly so, the Leader of the Opposition has mentioned things that are pertinent towards taxpayers' money. The Minister responded to that effect.

The guidance which I wanted to seek from you, Mr Speaker, is whether we can do an audit on what is happening at Dei BioPharma Ltd investments, because there is a lot of Government investment. According to them, their investment was more powerful in terms of intellectual property compared to the investment that the Government did.

When we went there, the then spokesperson of the entity told us that the money which was invested by the Government had actually used to do the construction of buildings. Now, when we see those buildings being advertised for sale, it simply means, or could imply that we are actually selling off the interests of the Government.

THE SPEAKER: You rose on procedure?

MR KIRUMIRA: The procedural matter I am raising, Mr Speaker, is whether it would be procedural enough for us to enact or get an audit in the proceedings of Dei BioPharma Ltd. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I think it would be in the interest of this House that the minister comes with a formal statement regarding the status of Dei BioPharma Ltd, because the Government has interest in it. Minister, would you want to undertake?

2.36

THE STATE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVE (Industry) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, I undertake that the Minister of Health will come with a report stating the facts about -

THE SPEAKER: Shouldn't it be the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development? Who is the shareholder? Who represents us?

MR BAHATI: The Minister of Finance will come with a statement to that effect.

To correct Hon. Solomon, that I might not know matters about males when I am a male. *(Laughter)* I think it was not a right statement. I do not have to be a Minister of Health to know about matters of males when I am a male.

THE SPEAKER: Actually, every man is a Minister of Health about themselves. So, Hon. Silwany, Hon. Minister Bahati knows about Christ, deeply, but also, he knows about his own health as a man.

Men's health is different from the female in many ways. Hon. Nankabirwa Ann Maria?

2.38

MS ANN MARIA NANKABIRWA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kyankwanzi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am not a man and I am not male, but I wanted to give a point of privilege to this House. I am a registrant – I am a scientist and I am a registrant of agro pesticide in Uganda.

Mr Speaker, it is good to go for testing, no doubt. But it is also good to know the causes of cancer, especially prostate cancer. The food we eat is the biggest problem.

The agro-pesticides we use, by the time you harvest the food, it is supposed to be having very low residues. However, the food we eat, because we are using the pesticides, you find it has much residue. When you take in those residues in the food that you eat, much of it you find that it has what they call the ph. It may be having high acidity. The high acidity is the cause of the ulcers. That is why you find that today we are burying people who have died of ulcers. An ulcer causes cancer. How? It will eat up your stomach lining and when it burns your stomach lining, that wound turns into the cancer.

For the males, you need to listen to this. The reproductive organs of the male are the same organs that do excretion of urine. Our kidneys have a role of deamination. When your body detects that you have some toxicity, it will carry that substance, the food, to the kidney for deamination.

During deamination, the body removes that toxicity. Once the toxicity in a male has been removed, the body requires a lot of water, which you will then pass it through the urine.

The same reproductive organ is passing out the urine. When you see blood in the urine, it is because the urethra is burnt. It becomes so thin, and that is why it cannot hold, and that is why it brings blood in the urine. That is the prostate. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister of Health for the arrangement for testing.

The information is - Today, it is no longer a secret. More men are dying from it. They have prostate cancer. People should open up, but the problem is because of the food we eat.

This needs a concerted effort. For the women, it is because our bodies are different, but for the women, that is why you find a lot of humps in the stomach, and we have those diseases of cancer. Mr Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: Would you like to tell the honourable members how different we are?

MS NANKABIRWA: No, but we are saying, when we eat food that has residues, that brings high toxicities, and a difference in the pH in the bodies, what makes the men more affected? It is true, even the women are affected, but for the women, it is concealed inside us, and that is why you find ulcers more common among women. You find other diseases such as cervical cancer, affect women, while for the men, it is the prostate cancer.

Mr Speaker, I wanted to give this House that privileged information, so that we do something in ensuring the safety of the food that we eat, the agro-pesticides that we use. Why is it that many of them are imported? We import the pesticides, but those countries where we import the pesticides do not allow us to sell the food we produce with their pesticides. I submit, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Order. When she was submitting, I do not know why the men were talking so much. I think she is a very caring woman. Hon. Nankabirwa, thank you for – Please, let us appreciate her; all the men should appreciate Hon. Nankabirwa. *(Hon. Apolot rose_)* Yes, you should be the last on that matter, because communication from the chairperson cannot take us 30 minutes.

2.44

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT (Independent, Woman Representative, Kumi): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker, and thank you for the brief. In your communication about the International Men's Day, I expected you to

include the date, just like we know that the Women's Day is on the 8th of March every year.

Then, as the men of Parliament are given that priority, I challenge the Ministry of Health to actually engage all the health facilities down there, so that we go ahead and communicate to the men at the grassroots level, because it will not be proper for the screening to be done for Members of Parliament and our men down there do not have the opportunity.

In relation to that, Mr Speaker, in the 11th Parliament, we approved a budget for the purchase of a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scan, because in your presentation, and what the doctor presented, he talked about early screening.

I remember the time we had a debate about the PET scan; we learned that it is a machine that can allow and enable early detection of cancer. May I get an update from the Ministry of Health on how far we have gone, because the 11th Parliament ended last year without the purchase of that machine, so that we can inform our people across the country?

Otherwise, it is not only men who are suffering. Mr Speaker, last Sunday, I prayed in one of the churches, I discovered a case of a young girl of five years, who had leukemia, and they had no information on how they would go about that problem. Therefore, I implore the Ministry of Health to have programmes for even screening of children who have certain symptoms, and then not forget the women. Women have so many different types of cancer that affect them.

Could this screening be extended, despite the fact that it is an activity for International Men's Day; the women equally would have an opportunity to be screened. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Tom Aza, are you representing the Ministry of Health? *(Laughter)*

2.47

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (COOPERATIVES) (Mr Tom Alero): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Whether it is communicable, non-communicable or cardiovascular diseases, it is all about our lifestyles. All this comes about because of loose and reckless lifestyles, characterised by drug addiction, alcoholism, and so on. My dear leaders-

THE SPEAKER: Why are you stopping at alcohol? What is "so on and so forth"? *(Laughter)*

MR ALERO: Yes, Mr Speaker. Promiscuity and immorality are all bad habits that cause diseases. So, what is my advice to Members? My dear colleagues, we are leaders. We also have medical insurance because it has been given us; let us make use of it.

Secondly, we have been requested to go and have these tests. Let us go for them, because as leaders, and as people who are supposed to mobilise, sensitise, create awareness and educate, we are supposed to be healthy. There is no way you can stand before your voters when you are unhealthy; coughing, sneezing, and so on. Let us make use of our medical insurance. Besides that, let us go for tests for non-communicable diseases, stroke, hypertension, diabetes, and so on. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Linos, you will be followed by Hon. Kiti Peter.

2.49

MR LINOS NGOMPEK (NRM, Kibanda North County, Kiryandongo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In December, during the East African Games, I was injured, but I took it lightly.

Five months down the road, when I went for a general check-up, I discovered that I had a blood clot in my right leg, the Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) type. Eventually, I went to the hospital and I have been on medication for a year. I am taking blood thinners. Therefore,

that means that if we regularly go for tests all the time, we shall know what we are suffering from.

Again, apart from doing health tests, we should also embrace the culture of sports. I remember before you were a Member of Parliament, Mr Speaker, we used to attend a gym in Kireka together, and you were good a boxer. *(Laughter)* You used to do sparring.

THE SPEAKER: Do not tell all our secrets. *(Laughter)* Therefore, because you were a good sportsman, today you are living better. I want to implore Members, to embrace the culture of participating in sports.

However, the negative thing I have seen with the Members of Parliament during our sporting daily exercises, there are some local people who come with enhancing herbs. I hope you know what I mean. Then you find Members of Parliament rushing to buy their local herbs, especially male Members, to give them energy.

They buy these hubs without certification from the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS).

THE SPEAKER: Energy for what?

MR NGOMPEK: They know; the males know the energy we are talking about. The herbs that these men come to sell have not gone through UNBS tests, and you do not know what you are taking.

Therefore, I want to discourage our colleagues from buying that herb. You can take something that will become a problem at home. However, let us embrace exercise, because they give you a better life.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kiti Peter. Where is Hon. Kiti Peter? Of T'oo County. Hon. Mamawi James MP Adjumani. I called Hon. Peter. The proceedings are like a train.

2.52

MR PETER KITI (NRM, T'oo County, Bukwo): Thank you. Mr Speaker. I rise on the issue of my people who were displaced from Mount Elgon National Park around 1993 when they gazetted Mount Elgon Forest Reserve as a national park.

A number of communities, whose ancestral homes were in the forest, were chased. Mr Speaker, up to today, 80 per cent of these communities are still living in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, others are in temporary settlements.

We have the Teriat, Kizito group, Benet, but we also have a group called the Kapkwata IDP camps. All these were displaced after the forest was gazetted to be a national park.

My prayer, Mr Speaker: the Office of the Prime Minister, the Office of the Minister of Lands, take into action to do a real count to see that how many of these families were affected and they are resettled in the shortest time possible so that they can get a decent place to live in.

Secondly, they should be given essential food supplies because they are living in a very deplorable state in the camps. Mr Speaker, I pray that these people's plight, concerning the issue of resettlement and restocking, is considered. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Before the minister comes, I am informed that our Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation was actually tasked by this House, on the 7th of October, to consider matters of Dei BioPharma or something like that. The earlier guidance I gave about the minister bringing a statement would not add value, if our committee is already considering this.

Our committee should instead interact with the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and all the stakeholders, and bring a report that we can debate and make a decision on. That should be before the – Chairperson of the Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), which is not sexually transmitted. *(Laughter)*

2.55

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (Dr Acuti Opio): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is Science, Technology and Innovation. We already commenced the process of enquiring into the valuation and related matters of Dei BioPharma, and one of the key stakeholders we are supposed to engage is the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. As soon as we are done, we are going to report back to Parliament. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Kindly get done in two weeks so that we - and that cancels the earlier guidance I had given about this.

Minister, about the Benet, Kapkwata and resettlement?

MR BAHATI: Mr Speaker, before that, I wanted to give information to the honourable member who raised the issue of the PET scan, that the Minister of Health has given me information that it has already been procured and installed at the Uganda Cancer Institute. It will be operational at the beginning of next year. They are going through the procedures. *(Applause)*

I will take up the matter on resettlement with the Prime Minister, together with the Member, so that the answers can be given to him.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. James Mamawi, one minute.

2.56

MR JAMES MAMAWI (Independent, Adjumani East County, Adjumani): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on an urgent matter for the attention of the Government. We got concerns from our people that there is going to be water irrigation canal project, from River Nile through Ciforo, Adropi, Ofua, Pakele to Atiak Sugar.

Atiak Sugar Factory, being managed by Horyal Investment Holding Company Limited, went ahead to hold a leaders' meeting. However, our community got concerned that if this is a Government programme, why doesn't the Government go on the ground and share this information with the people?

The understanding, as far as the project is concerned, is that Atiak Sugar, together with the leaders and communities in our area, are the beneficiaries. Why are they the ones undertaking this project and moving to the community? Why doesn't the Government take appropriate procedures to introduce the project to the community, so that our – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Actually, the matter there is that people have fears that River Nile is going to be diverted and their homes will be flooded. The information is not clear, and they see private investors without Government involvement.

Honourable minister?

2.58

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, Atiak Sugar was financed and part of the resources that they received was to do irrigation for planting sugarcanes. We want them to produce sugarcanes all year through, so they are doing a programme of irrigation.

We want to assure the people of Northern Uganda that we are not going to divert River Nile and people's homes are not going to be flooded. Nevertheless, we will have a sensitisation programme on radios and meetings to explain what we are doing through that company.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Edson Rugumayo, one minute.

2.59

MR EDSON RUGUMAYO (NRM, Ntoroko County, Ntoroko): Mr Speaker, at the commencement of 2026 towards the lapse of the 11th Parliament, Parliament sat and passed a loan for the Government to borrow euros 115 million to construct Karugutu-Kanara

Road with a link to Rwebisengo. Since then, the contractor has not reported on site and the existing road has been abandoned.

My prayer, Mr Speaker, is that the minister updates this House. What happened? What has transpired? Secondly, when is construction commencing and what is the Government doing to ensure that this road is maintained, as we wait for the contractor to start? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Works and Transport?

3.00

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (WORKS) (Mr Siraji Ali): Mr Speaker, I do not currently have information on this road. I will consult the engineers in the ministry and return to Parliament with information.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Jesca Ababiku, Member for Adjumani and our Commissioner in the 12th Parliament.

3.00

MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani): Thank you, Mr Speaker. There is an outbreak of cassava mosaic in Adjumani. I reported this case to the ministry in February this year but no action has been taken, yet cassava is one of our staple foods.

Mr Speaker, I have two prayers. Let the Government intervene to wipe out the cassava mosaic. Secondly, let the Government prepare to rescue the population of Adjumani and provide cassava stalks for the next season because we have lost it all. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Government?

3.01

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, I will take it up with the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, but we have a former Commissioner of Crop Husbandry, who is now the minister of state for energy in the House. In case he has some useful information to add about the crop, he can give assurance to the House.

THE SPEAKER: Does he have energy himself? *(Laughter)* We see blackouts, you know.

3.01

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (ENERGY) (Mr Sidronius Okaasai): Mr Speaker, on blackouts, my committee is going to present a paper today, so I am not going to preempt my answers on that one.

Secondly, on cassava, there are two different diseases. She has to be very clear. Is it cassava virus? There is also cassava brown streak, so you have got to be very careful. If it is cassava brown streak, there is only one variety which is tolerant to it, and I know you have it in your region.

About getting planting materials, the ministry can provide. However, most of the work can be done by the community because you can actually get clean planting materials with what you have. When the cassava rots, you take the plant where there is no rot and burn the rest of the cassava planting material. You can do the selection yourself. The District Agricultural Officers can give you this information.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Eddie Kwizera Wa-Gahungu, Member of Parliament for Bukimbiri, Kisoro District?

3.03

MR EDDIE KWIZERA (Independent, Bukimbiri County, Kisoro): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. As a senior person in this House, we expect appropriate answers to the issues raised.

THE SPEAKER: Please can you put your –?

MR KWIZERA: Last time, I raised the issue of the murders in Kisoro. The presiding officer then, directed the ministers for Internal

Affairs and Security to be in Kisoro, because there were a number of murders there. Even yesterday, they killed someone.

However, since the presiding officer's directive and because of this kind of incompetent responses, the Government has not gone there to respond to the people. The people of Kisoro are worried because of illegal immigrants, the influx of the Congolese into Kisoro, who at times come with guns unchecked.

Would it be pleasing to you to direct the Government to be visible in Kisoro, especially on the immigration issue. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: It is very much pleasing to me. Government, you are directed to be in Kisoro and handle the matter accordingly. Hon. Alobo? Somebody in my office I think, wanted to put Oboth here but – *(Laughter)* – go ahead.

3.05

MS JOAN ALOBO (FDC, Woman Representative, Soroti City): Surely. Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am rising on an issue that is happening in Soroti now. Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) has been all over the media saying that they are trying to handle the issue of the leopards in Soroti City. For about eight days now, there is no report and nothing has been done, yet the leopards are still moving around the city and are killing livestock and putting people in fear.

As we speak now, in Gweri County, six sheep have been killed, and in Amoru Ward in Soroti City, hens, goats, and cows have been killed.

These leopards have reached a level of breaking into the living room doors to enter houses. When they fail to break into the bedroom, they find refuge in the sitting room and spend the night in those houses.

Mr Speaker, people are now living in fear because by 6.00 p.m., people are in their houses, and it is affecting business. We have Mr David Opolot, who has lost a lot of goats, and Mr Richard Ebuju, who has also lost about six turkeys.

Mr Speaker, my worry is that if these animals are over, they will end up being aggressive enough to eat people. My prayers to the Uganda Wildlife Authority, is that; are they waiting for people to first die before they look for these animals? They are moving around everywhere, and in pairs. So far, three pairs have been sighted in the area.

We need urgent help to ensure that people's lives are secured before they are lost.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, what business would you do if you knew that the paired leopards are in your sitting room? *(Laughter)*

3.07

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, we are going to get in touch with the Minister of Tourism, with all the necessary effort required, before this sitting is adjourned, so that this matter can be attended to. It is extremely urgent according to the way it has been presented by the Member.

MR SILWANY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a procedural matter. Whereas we appreciate the effort that is being put in by Hon. Bahati in trying to answer the questions of members, all members who come with matters of urgent attention come to your office, and you sanction them as very urgent.

Article 117 of the Constitution talks about the responsibilities of ministers. Are we proceeding well for Hon. Bahati to try to casually answer most of the questions? Yet the ministers are not here. By the time you sit here from 2.00 p.m. to almost – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Order on procedure.

MR SILWANY: Is it possible?

THE SPEAKER: You want to say something before I make the ruling? You say it. *(Laughter)*

MR BAHATI: Thank you. Mr Speaker, I want to assure Hon. Silwany that we are here

doing serious business. As I said, I brought in apologies for the ministers. We are getting out to call the minister for tourism to attend to these matters in Soroti. Whether the minister is here or not, the Government is here. There is nothing like responding to this one casually. We are serious, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Silwany raised the matter that Members need instant solutions, Hon. Eddie Kwizera raised the same matter about the murders.

We, the Jopadhola, have a saying which I will not say for the sake of the record. I will try to translate because the *Hansard* will not be able to get anything. It says that; "You can only talk when it has not come to your place."

Where the murders are occurring in Kisoro, if it was your constituency, what would you say? If the leopards are killing people, including even entering houses, sitting rooms – Hon. Bahati, what business would you be doing in the bedroom?

These are serious issues and I believe you are handling them with the same seriousness. Having been a minister – I need just to guide here – You will not hear me even one single day, asking for ministers to be in the House, because that is their work. It is your duty, the MPs, to hold them accountable.

I will not ask ministers to come. If you hear me do that, I would have forgotten; you remind me. Even if there is no minister, we shall proceed. Hon. Kwizera, we have some activities. Then Hon. Ssewungu.

3.12

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu County West, Kalungu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am in total support of what you are saying, because this issue of ministers not appearing has become a norm here.

One time, the fourth arm asked me what should be done to ministers, and I said we should give awards every month. The best minister should be displayed outside at the entrance, as it is done for workers of Parliament.

Of course, we know that the usual suspects will be there. If you want the Deputy Attorney-General, he is here. Hon. Siraj Ali is there. The Minister of State for Sports is very regular.

Mr Speaker, just adopt the culture of giving awards, so that ministers know. We are going to spend 5 years without knowing some ministers, yet they came and confirmed to the Committee on Appointments that they will be around.

They are facilitated, given vehicles and everything to make them carry out their work diligently. When I am moving to Makindye and I see a minister with a lead car, when they hoot, I get off the road because I want the minister to pass. We have accepted that despite the fact that the Traffic Act does not allow them the right of way.

However, I pray that we make an offer of that nature; that every month we display Hon. Bahati as the best minister. The following month, we do the same. Then those who do not come – even the ex-officio Members – you have to look for them. It pains us, but Parliament must go on. Thank you, Mr Speaker. However, we cannot forget to thank those who give time to Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kwizera?

MR KWIZERA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is one thing to be appointed as a minister – These ministers are answerable to Parliament. The President does not appoint one minister. He appoints several so that if the House is sitting, a minister is there. Therefore, when Hon. Bahati or someone else steps in to answer for another, it breeds inefficiency -

THE SPEAKER: What is the procedural matter?

MR KWIZERA: The procedure is: Should we be proceeding without these ministers in the House to answer our questions? Are we proceeding well? The Minister of Internal Affairs is not there.

THE SPEAKER: We are proceeding very well. This House is not about ministers; it is

for Members of Parliament, and if they raise matters that relate to ministers and they are not here, the Members can make resolutions. You have a lot of tools.

MR KWIZERA: Can I make the resolution?

THE SPEAKER: No. *(Laughter)* Hon. Guma come make your submission before the minister takes the Floor. Resolutions are made by Parliament, not Hon. Kwizera.

3.15

MR GUMA GUMISIRIZA (NRM, Ibanda County North, Ibanda): Mr Speaker, this is an old issue. Some time ago, when the late Prof. Nsibambi was Prime Minister, there was an issue of persistent absenteeism by ministers and it was raised here because the House cannot be complete with these big guys; it cannot. Their presence is extremely vital for the functioning of this House. We are following a Westminster model where we meet three times a week. Members go to the constituency over the weekend and are back on Sunday and Monday. Therefore, Members come with many questions from the constituencies that deserve answers from the Executive arm of Government.

I, therefore, request you, Mr Speaker, Sir, that you coordinate with the Prime Minister to police her team so that they are here with answers to the questions raised by Members.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. On that note, minister?

3.16

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, on the issue of leopards in Soroti, honourable member, as we speak, the Minister of Security, Hon. Jim Muhwezi, is in Soroti and is coordinating with the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities to make sure that the matter of leopards is handled. Hon. Jim Muhwezi has just told me a few minutes ago that he is working with the security agencies to handle the matter of Kisoro.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, and on that note, I would like to recognise the following ministers. When I read their name, the whole country should know that they were here today. They include: Hon. David Bahati, Hon. Henry Musasizi, Hon. Tom Aza. *(Applause)*

MR TOM AZA: Present, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Lydia Wanyoto, Hon. Jackson Kafuuzi, Hon. Peter Ogwang, Hon. Ali Siraji, Hon. Okaasai Opolot, Hon. Judith Nalule Nabakooba, Hon. Julius Maganda Wandera and Hon. Margaret Muhanga. *(Applause)*

I would like to tell the President, the appointing authority, that those are the committed ministers today in the House. Ugandans should also see this. When the President is in the midterm and wants to do a reshuffle, he should consult us.

Yes, Hon. Zaake?

3.19

MR FRANCIS ZAAKE (NUP, Mityana Municipality, Mityana): Mr Speaker, thank you. I am the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurance and Implementation. As we thank the ministers who are always attending here - they give us responses, every time the House is sitting.

However, what pains me is that they promise a lot of things and they never fulfill. When I look at the compendium of assurances before the committee that I head, there are over a thousand promises from the different dockets that we have in the country. They have promised a lot. As we are thanking those who have come here, I would like to urge them to keep their promises so that they fulfill the issues that they promised right here in Parliament, so that Ugandans are able to get the services that they need. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: That is the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurance and Implementation. Hon. Peter, then followed by Hon. Emmanuel.

3.20

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): I do not want to be pledged that – First of all, Mr Speaker, I think the records need to be captured correctly. With due respect to the Chairperson of Government Assurance and Implementation – and I am happy that this morning he called me to appear before the committee – First, we come here to make responses on issues which have been raised by honourable members.

Secondly, some of these responses have implications on the national budget. For that matter, if we respond, it is incumbent upon us to follow up on some of these responses to actualise them. Some of them are in our national manifesto; some of them are on NDPIV.

Friends, the only clarification I would love to seek from my brother is that today you have asked me about a school in every parish, and I have told you we will continue working on that to attain that school. Now, if it is not fulfilled, what happens? Does this now come to say that it is a government assurance? It is a plan of the Government to construct a primary school.

I request, Mr Speaker, with your guidance, that this assurance, specifically as an able chairperson and the former Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline, the former Chairperson of the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs of this House, that maybe it is time we try to interest ourselves in looking at our Rules of Procedure. It is my humble appeal because you are not going to tell me whatever I say here is a government assurance. It really defeats then the purpose of why we are dealing with the government assurance. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, I was also a member of the Committee on Government Assurance and Implementation under the leadership of Hon. Odonga Otto Junior. That was the time. I think it is well defined what constitutes an assurance. We all came here. We were all elected; from President Museveni to the LCIs in the village. It is on the basis of promises we made. Some come quickly; some take a while. Every politician is elected because he has made a promise – not because of what you have done, but because of what you promised to do for your people. Hon. Ongiertho?

3.23

MR EMMANUEL ONGIERTHO (Independent, Nebbi Municipality, Nebbi): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance relating to St Denis Afere Football Club that was recently promoted to the regional league in West Nile.

On Sunday, when they were travelling to Arua for one of their fixtures, unfortunately, a trailer that was dodging the potholes knocked them and more unfortunately still, two of their players, Mungudit Alfred and Rotomio Stephen died. Seven of their players and officials sustained serious injuries, ranging from fractures to head and chest injuries. They are now in Arua Regional Referral Hospital.

Mr Speaker, our prayers are three;

1. That the families that have lost their loved ones are supported with some burial expenses.
2. The families whose children sustained serious injuries are also supported with treatment costs.
3. That the repair of the road between Nebbi and Arua be expedited.

I beg to submit, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Government? On the road, on repairs, the sports and then compassionate –

3.25

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (WORKS) (Mr Siraji Ali): Mr Speaker, we condole with the families of the injured and the deceased. The Ministry of Works and Transport is waiting for a release from Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to continue with the repairs on that road. As soon as the release comes, we will commence the repairs.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister of State for Sports?

3.26

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, I want to begin by sending my condolences to the families of our beloved children whom we have lost in that very tragic accident in the West Nile Region.

Secondly, I also want, on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Sports, to convey our condolences. Two things here, Mr Speaker: As far as my ministry is concerned, we do not have a budget specifically earmarked to handle such emergencies, but allow me to commit that I will follow up by communicating to His Excellency the President, on whether there can be any assistance given to the families of those who have lost their dear ones and also to those who are still nursing injuries in the hospital.

I will also try to discuss with my team from the National Council of Sports on whether, as a matter of emergency, they can be able to do something to support those who are already in hospital.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ayagalachi?

3.27

MR JAMALI AYAGALACHI (NUP, Bukooli County North, Bugiri): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance concerning excessive dust pollution caused by trucks transporting sugarcane to Bugiri Sugar Factory, affecting the entire subcounty called Kapyanga Subcounty in Bukooli County North.

Mr Speaker, the people on the road connecting from Naluwerere main road to Kayango up to Bufunda-Buluguyi Subcounty – From the time they initiated this factory, homes and small businesses closed because of this dust. It also has an element of health. The dust and sugarcane particles spreading onto surrounding communities have exposed residents to respiratory challenges – *(Member timed out.)* May I finish, Mr Speaker?

THE SPEAKER: Pray.

MR AYAGALACHI: Okay, my prayers;

1. I pray that the ministry ensures that sugarcane loading along roadsides is stopped to prevent further road damage.
2. As an immediate measure, the factory provides a water bowser to control dust pollution.
3. The Ministry of Works and Transport engages Bugiri Sugar Factory to fulfill its commitment to tarmac the affected road.

Mr Speaker, I conclude by telling ministers: I have raised concerns about a road that connects two districts and they have refused to attend to it. As Members of Parliament, we are here because of those people that we are fighting for. That factory is one of the reasons as to why the former Member of Parliament that I replaced was withdrawn from this House.

Mr Speaker, he was one of the people who opened that factory with the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF). Kindly, help me because I am not ready to move out of this House. *(Laughter)* I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister? There is nobody who was removed from this House who was ready. Nobody gets ready to be removed.

3.29

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, we will send a team of technical people tomorrow to check on that situation of the factory, and I will be working with the Minister of Works and Transport to handle the matter.

THE SPEAKER: You took it to works but the matter is in trade. Hon. Obong?

3.30

MR PETER OBONG (UPC, Maruzi County, Apac): Mr Speaker, Maruzi Central Forest Reserve is being invaded by people from an unknown area. They cross through the Nile, go

and cut the trees, load in the boats and transport to wherever; the destination is not clear.

My prayers are;

1. The National Forestry Authority resident in Apac should be put to task to explain as to why this forest is being depleted and yet it is supposed to be for the benefit of the country.

2. The law enforcement team from within the area should also be put to task to explain the circumstances under which these people come with sharp objects – *pangas*, axes – and cross into the area and it is causing insecurity. Therefore, if this cannot be controlled, the community may at one time rise against these people and cause – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Government? There are invaders in Maruzi Central Forest Reserve.

3.31

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): The Minister of State for Environment will study the matter and make a statement to the House next week.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Alenyo? – *(Interjection)* – No, we are not doing procedure. I am calling Hon. Alenyo.

3.31

MR MARSHALL ALENYO (Independent, Jonam County, Pakwach): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly Article 15, declares the right to internet as one of the rights a human being should have, which right helps human beings to do business and trade.

Mr Speaker, internet bundle providers in this country are cheating our citizens. If you load an internet bundle for three days, by the time you leave the sitting room to the bedroom, the three days are over. Mr Speaker, we need the Minister of ICT and National Guidance to interact particularly with the internet service providers in this country. Students in universities are complaining, those who use internet for tax, business, everywhere in this country – One day and three days are not the same. So, we need guidance from these internet service providers. Otherwise, our people are being cheated, particularly in Pakwach. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Government? This is serious; three days and then from the sitting room to the bedroom!

3.32

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, the issue of the cost of internet is a widespread concern by many people and we will ask the Minister of ICT and National Guidance to look into the matter, and if needed, to come and make a statement to the House.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Moses Musanje, Member of Parliament, Njeru Municipality.

3.33

MR MOSES MUSANJE (NUP, Njeru Municipality, Buikwe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance pertaining to electricity supply in Njeru Municipality, particularly Bugoba Trading Centre.

Mr Speaker, as we speak right now, there is Restore Africa, which is installing a mast next to Bugoba Town Trading Centre. It is six poles short of Bugoba Trading Centre.

Mr Speaker, Bugoba Trading Centre has 7,000 people, with five schools, a health centre and maize mills that operate on runaway fuel prices.

Njeru Municipality is the mother of electricity in Uganda with Nalubaale Power Dam generating 180 megawatts and Kiira Dam generating 200 megawatts of power.

I rise here on that matter, begging and praying to the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development to – Please do not allow Cable-Sult Civil and Electrical Engineering Co. Ltd

to leave the site, but extend the six poles of power and the 50-kilovolt transformer to the people of Bugoba.

Mr Speaker, lastly, electricity is the alternative to charcoal. You ordered the cessation of charcoal burning. Would it be prudent for the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development – *(Member timed out.)* - to come up with, to expedite –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, I do not accept accessing the microphone without permission. That is why you do not have electricity there. *(Laughter)*

MR MUSANJE: My bad, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, you conclude.

MR MUSANJE: With your indulgence, Mr Speaker. You ordered the cessation of charcoal burning. Would it please you, Mr Speaker, for the Ministry of Water and Environment to expedite the presentation of the alternative to the charcoal for the good of the people of Uganda and the people of Njeru Municipality? I beg to submit.

Mr Speaker, please, I –

THE SPEAKER: You are out of order.

MR MUSANJE: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Energy and Mineral Development? We go by the rules; I can be lenient one time. A second time becomes a habit now.

Yes, energy. Why do you not give people enough energy? There is a female honourable member, whom you know – She actually told me that you do not have energy. *(Laughter)*

3.36

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (ENERGY) (Mr Sidronius Okaasai): Mr Speaker, I will start with where you ended. The one who doubts my energy should lay it on Table. *(Laughter)* Okay.

Now, let me take the question which has been asked. Njeru is actually our concern. We understand the desire for electricity in Njeru. We are going to award a contract. The power you have is not adequate to meet your industrial requirement. We are actually going to establish a substation in Njeru. That will answer the questions of supply. Otherwise, you will always have power on and off because of the industries.

Secondly, last week, we were in Njeru, where there is a conflict between an investor and the fishermen on the landing site next to our power generation plant. What you are talking about; I talked about in that meeting and said, "Yes, you are going to be a priority once the substation is established." We shall be able to give electricity to those areas which desire electricity in Njeru.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Olanya Gilbert, you are the last one. You have one minute.

3.38

MR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak South County, Amuru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance. Two days ago, His Excellency the President appointed Permanent Secretaries. From the list of the appointments, there is no one from Teso, Acholi, Lango, West Nile, Karamoja and Jopadhola.

Mr Speaker, we would like the Government to assure Ugandans. We really need fairness. *(Laughter)* Uganda is for all of us. Why is it that when it comes to appointments, only a particular area benefits? I call upon the Prime Minister and the Government to explain to Ugandans. Otherwise, we are not happy as a country. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Government? Now, Hon. Olanya, knowing the ethnic group I come from, had to blackmail me. *(Laughter)* But what he says, sharing is caring. Yes. Even the Jopadhola are qualified to be Permanent Secretaries. Plus Bukedi – Yes, the whole of Bukedi.

3.39

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, the President made the appointments in accordance with the Constitution. However, I advise Hon. Gilbert Olanya to read the list again.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, I think the list, in a few – I mean, the Permanent Secretaries are not appointed by any of us who is here, and they are not political appointments. However, what we are saying is that the appointing authority should have looked – And the minister is saying that probably some people are from some of the regions you have mentioned. Therefore, we cannot go on with that. However, the message has been clear: The President watches these proceedings and will be briefed that you raised the concern. Next item.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE 30 PER CENT TAX DEDUCTION ON PAYMENT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

THE SPEAKER: Yes. Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development?

3.41

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to make a statement in response to a matter of national importance raised by Hon. Opio Acuti, Member of Parliament for Kole County, during the Sitting of Parliament on 14 October 2026, concerning the deduction of 30 per cent income tax from the monthly ex gratia allowances paid to local government councillors.

Mr Speaker, the Government recognises the important role played by local government councillors in representing their communities, overseeing the implementation of government programmes and promoting accountability in service delivery.

The concern raised by the honourable member relates to local government councillors receiving ex gratia allowances of Shs 250,000, from which income tax is reportedly being deducted at a rate of 30 per cent, notwithstanding that the allowances fall below the threshold for payment of income tax.

Mr Speaker, I wish to confirm to the House that any allowance paid to any local government councillor which does not exceed Shs 335,000 per month or Shs 4,020,000 per annum, is not taxable, if that is the only source of income for the councillor.

However, where a councillor has another source of income, such as employment as a nurse, a teacher, et cetera, or self-employment or business – *(Interjection)* - Mr Speaker, how I wish the representatives of the people could listen because this is information they will be giving in their constituencies!

THE SPEAKER: I think they are telling you that the matter is sensitive to them.

MR MUSASIZI: This is why I am inviting them to listen, and then they can ask me questions after. Thank you, honourable colleagues for accepting to listen, and for that matter, I wish to repeat the paragraph.

Mr Speaker, I wish to confirm that any allowance paid to any local government councillor which does not exceed Shs 335,000 per month or Shs 4,020,000 per year, is not taxable if that is the only source of income for the councillor.

However, where a councillor has another source of income, such as employment as a nurse, a teacher, et cetera, or self-employment or business, from which they earn more than Shs 335,000 per month or Shs 4,020,000 per year, then the councillor's allowance would be subjected to 30 per cent withholding tax. This policy is intended to ensure that individuals earning income from multiple sources do not benefit from the tax-free threshold separately in respect of each income-earning activity.

However, where the tax has been paid by a councillor on each of the separate incomes in excess of the tax due on the consolidated

income from all sources, that councillor may file an annual tax return with the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), and would be entitled to a refund of the excess tax paid.

Mr Speaker, the application of the 30 per cent withholding tax deduction is only applicable upon confirmation that the councillor has another source of income, and that the allowance constitutes income from additional sources.

Accordingly, the 30 per cent withholding tax is not applied indiscriminately to all local government councillors. I wish to assure this House that my ministry will engage URA, and the relevant local governments to ensure that proper sensitisation regarding how this policy applies to the councillors' ex gratia allowances is concerned.

In other words, additionally, if you are a councillor, for example, of Kashambya, Rukiga, where Hon. Kiconco Patrick Katabaazi comes from, I know for sure this councillor has no other source of income. If your only source of income is your allowance as a councillor, then you are exempt from the 30 per cent, but if you have another source of income, like you are representing workers where you are working, you are already paying Pay As You Earn (PAYE), then your payment as a councillor qualifies as secondary employment, and there you are charged 30 per cent. I submit.

THE SPEAKER: That may not attract debate. Hon. Opio and Hon. James Kakooza; they will do it on our behalf.

3.48

DR ACUTI OPIO (NRM, Kole North County, Kole): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The concerns are several. One is: Who certifies that you only have one single source of employment? Because if I take for example, Kole District, the 30 per cent is being deducted from all the councillors and several other districts are also doing that.

Relatedly, URA already wrote a letter that says all of them are eligible to pay those taxes; because of that, the Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) are implementing the URA directive to deduct the 30 per cent across the board. That is where there is a big challenge about who is supposed to certify. Can the CAO then certify that they only have a single source of employment? Because, as it is right now, URA's directive is more or less conflicting with the statement that has been presented; so, there is a need for that to be harmonised.

Secondly, the percentages are varying. There are districts where they are deducting 40 per cent; in others, it is 12 per cent and 8.3 per cent. My suggestion would have been to simplify it and say that these district councillors should not be subjected to the tax deductions, because we all know majority of them – in my district at least – are all peasant farmers; they do not have. If we leave it up to who certifies, we can see a lot of variability in implementation. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. James Kakooza, MP for the elderly.

3.49

MR JAMES KAKOOZA (NRM, Older Persons Representative, Central): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the minister because this problem has been going on for the last 10 years. Even when he was a chairperson, and I was a Member, we argued about this.

I want his clarification to be a directive, because the 11th Parliament passed a law of the threshold of Pay As You Earn. Practically, there is no councillor who gets more than Shs 333,000. All of them are below.

Two, there is no way URA can read the law differently, because Pay As You Earn, once the threshold is Shs 333,000 then URA cannot come to implement a law in a different manner. I request the minister that the communication should go down to the Chief Administrative Officers because they do not know the law and URA is using that advantage of taxing.

Three, the CAOs should be warned; instead of disbursing the money for the allowances per

month, they wait for them to accumulate in a quarter, and it becomes deductible. Since the minister has come out – it is clearly the law; the Employment Income Section 19 is clear: The Exemption of Allowances is in Subsection (2) of Section 19. Please help the councillors because they are deducting and cheating them.

I pray that you direct URA, since they are under you, to give that explanation so that they do not continue, because they are depending on that misinformation to deduct money from the councillors.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister. This was a response to a Member, but it touches everyone; so, if we opened up for debate, we would not –

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. This matter touches everyone including His Excellency the President because he has also picked it as a concern from the people of Uganda, especially the councillors. My clarification is satisfactory. What we are going to do is to instruct URA to implement the law as I have interpreted it. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Information, or what is it? You want him to change the position again? Former Speaker of KCCA?

3.52

MS ZAHRAH LUYIRIKA (NUP, Makindye Division West, Kampala): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to inform the minister that the Local Governments Act states it very well that for someone to become a councillor, you have to resign. When you say that someone is earning different salaries, including from being a nurse – You are not allowed to stand as a councillor while still serving in another Government office. So, they are not earning two salaries. Thank you very much.

MR MUSASIZI: I would like to respond to the former Speaker of KCCA. Mr Speaker, the matter we are looking at now is not about Hon. Ssewungu, as a Member of Parliament. We are looking at the income of a speaker. In this case, the current speaker is a councillor whose income is from employment, business, rentals and others.

I invite you to read the law. If you are a councillor earning income from all these sources, we shall trace them. As Hon. Acuti has said, most of the councillors, including those from Rubanda District, where I come from – *(Interjections)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, maintain order.

MR MUSASIZI: Honourable colleagues, I am one of you; so, I have the same concerns as you do. The other day, I was invited to address the Kabale District councillors and this was their biggest concern. The other day, I was meeting my councillors in Rubanda District and they had the same concern. I clearly told them that URA is misinterpreting the law that we enacted here.

I have heard Hon. Acuti saying that some are charged 40 per cent and others 30 per cent. True, in the Employment Act, we have tax bands. If you are earning more than Shs 120 million per month, you fall under the band of 40 per cent. However, most of the councillors in this country have no other sources of income, apart from this one, which they are asking us to increase because it is small.

Mr Speaker, let me undertake before you and this House that I am going to give an instruction to the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) not to deduct allowances of councillors. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: That is what honourable members were waiting for. Next item?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO CIVIL SERVANTS IN HARD-TO-REACH DISTRICTS

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister for finance? Hon. Olanya Gilbert raised this issue of civil servants' allowances in hard-to-reach districts.

3.56

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to make a statement on payment of hard-to-reach allowances for staff in hard-to-reach areas.

The Government of Uganda introduced the hard-to-reach allowance, also referred to as the hardship allowance, as an intervention under the Public Service Reform Programme aimed at attracting, motivating and retaining skilled personnel in local governments experiencing difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff.

The initiative arose from concerns identified through the Ministry of Public Service inspection reports, support supervision exercises and payroll status reports, which revealed that certain local governments consistently experienced difficulties in attracting and retaining staff.

The above challenges were attributed to difficult geographical conditions, remoteness, insecurity, inadequate infrastructure and limited access to essential social services, among others. Consequently, some areas experienced persistent staffing gaps, which adversely affected the delivery of public services.

To address these challenges, the Government developed a Hard-To-Reach Framework comprising short-term, medium-term and long-term interventions. The framework was intended not only to provide financial incentives to public officers, but also to address the underlying conditions that made certain areas unattractive to public servants.

Mr Speaker, on 1 July 2010, the Ministry of Public Service issued Circular Standing Instructions No.2 of 2010, formally operationalising payment of hardship allowance with effect from 1 July 2010 in 24 designated hard-to-reach local governments, namely:

i. Kotido District Local Government
ii. Abim District Local Government
iii. Kaabong District Local Government
iv. Moroto District Local Government
v. Nakapiripirit District Local Government
vi. Pader District Local Government
vii. Kitgum District Local Government
viii. Amuru District Local Government
ix. Gulu District Local Government
x. Nwoya District Local Government
xi. Adjumani District Local Government
xii. Mukono District Local Government – specifically Koome Islands
xiii. Kalangala District Local Government
xiv. Bundibugyo District Local Government
xv. Kisoro District Local Government
xvi. Kanungu District Local Government
xvii. Bukwo District Local Government
xviii. Buvuma District Local Government
xix. Lamwo District Local Government
xx. Namayingo District Local Government
xxi. Napak District Local Government
xxii. Ntoroko District Local Government
xxiii. Mayuge Local Government – specifically Malonge Islands; and;
xxiv. Bugiri District Local Government - specifically Sigulu Islands.

Mr Speaker, it is important to note that the mandate to gazette additional hard-to-reach areas and to guide the implementation is vested in the Ministry of Public Service. The role of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is to provide funding to facilitate the implementation of the programme.

Currently, hardship allowances paid to staff under the above-designated areas amounts to 30 per cent of the respective approved salaries in the salary structure of the Financial Year 2017/2018, as indicated in the Ministry of Public Service Circular Standing Instructions.

The payment of hardship allowance is effected on the payroll along with the staff salaries. Payment of hardship allowances excludes civil servants working in district headquarters, cities and town councils of the designated local governments.

Mr Speaker, with these facts, I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Olanya, a follow-up?

4.02

MR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak South County, Amuru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the minister for the response but the major concern is the staff – medical officers and teachers – that are being transferred from the urban area to the hard-to-reach areas. Some of them have taken more than four years and have never experienced such kind of addition of 30 per cent.

Secondly, some of the newly created town councils are more badly off than the village schools. They are at the same level of the village areas. So, why is it when the town council is created, you immediately remove the name of that teacher? Yet the services within that town council are still poor like the village health centres or schools. Those are the two major concerns. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Shadow Local Government?

4.03

MR PATRICK OKELLO (DP, Aswa County, Gulu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. And thank you, honourable minister, for your submission. From the communication from the minister, there is a big concern because all these districts you have so far mentioned, the law talks about exempting staff who work at the district, town councils and town boards.

However, most of these locations he has mentioned, districts like Buvuma, Kalangala are hard to reach. It cuts across. So, I beg the honourable minister to look into this because this law will be prohibitive because most of these people – If you go to their districts like Buvuma, they are not on ground because the hard-to-reach is even within the very district they are working in.

Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) are taking some of these locations as places of placement for punishment. Please, honourable minister, you need to look into this lacuna. There is a disparity in this in terms of realities. Thank you. *(Member rose)*

THE SPEAKER: Clarification to who? He is not on the Floor. They mentioned Bugiri. What do you want to say about it?

MR SILWANY: Mr Speaker, this is a House of record. The honourable minister mentioned Sigulu Island in Bugiri District; we do not have Sigulu Island. This implies that the data the honourable minister is giving us is old information of 1997 when Sigulu Island used to be in Bugiri District – when I was still a young man – and it is not relevant today.

THE SPEAKER: Now when you got wedded, you think now you are an old man? *(Laughter)* We all know that Sigulu is now in Namayingo District. Yes, Hon. Edakasi, then Hon. Annet Mugisha – We should not debate this; it is straightforward.

4.06

MR ALFRED EDAKASI (NRM, Kaberamaido County, Kaberamaido): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I note that the circular was presented in 2010. Some of the areas being mentioned have become cities. So maybe it is true that this information now needs to be updated. And I think the minister alludes to that.

The other thing that the minister is saying is that this information, maybe, should have come from the Ministry of Public Service, if I heard well. So, if it pleases you, let the Ministry of Public Service present that update.

Otherwise, speaking for Kaberamaido – which is not on this list – we have peninsulas where children access school by boat and teachers also access those same premises by boat. We have Health Centres like in Murem that can only be accessed by boat and yet the staff there is not earning any allowance. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Annet Mugisha? We should not debate this matter. Hard-to-reach?

4.07

MS ANNET KATUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Bushenyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also want to thank the honourable

minister for the statement. I would like to know the *modus operandi* they used to identify these hard-to-reach areas.

A case in point is in my district. We have a sub-county called Ruhumuro Sub-county; it is a hard-to-reach area. When teachers are transferred there, they opt to leave service.

The policy says that each sub-county should have one secondary school. But in that sub-county, girls walk 30 kilometres away from their homes to attend school.

I want to suggest that they go back across the country, get authentic information on those hard-to-reach areas and then we update because 2010 is really a long time when you compare it with where we are today. Otherwise, it is a good idea to facilitate extra finances for those who are serving in hard-to-reach areas. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Amelia, chairperson, Committee on Agriculture. Do you have hard-to-reach areas?

4.09

MS AMELIA KYAMBADDE (NRM, Mawokota County North, Mpigi): Yes, I do, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the minister for the statement. However, there is a big omission of an island off Mpigi called Buyiga Island, which is a hard-to-reach area but also becoming densely populated with a population of about 20,000 people.

I pray that, through you, the minister updates his list and includes Buyiga Island off Mpigi District. I rest my case. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Kabaasa?

MR KABAASA: Thank you. Mr Speaker, the minister presented a list of districts that are considered hard-to-reach in Uganda. The procedural question I want to raise is that data based on districts is extremely misleading because there are particular areas in districts which may not be hard-to-reach but they are hard to reach.

An example I will give is Lake Bunyonyi in Kabale. Kabale is a modern area. But who has not seen pictures of children going to school in a canoe on Lake Bunyonyi Island and many of them dying time and again?

Is it in order for the Government of Uganda to be lazy and focus on districts as areas of determining hard-to-reach when actually hard-to-reach areas are villages, communities, sub-counties? This information is misleading, I submit.

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Finance, first say something before – How lazy are you? *(Laughter)* Do you know about Lake Bunyonyi?

4.11

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you. Mr Speaker, the facts I have provided are from the extracts of 2010. In 2010, I was a staff of Africa Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), working as an accountant and joined here later in 2011.

My opinion is that we need to sit down with Public Service and the Cabinet, to review this list. *(Applause)* Reviewing does not mean that we implement. Implementation will depend on the availability of funds because it has financial implications.

However, Mr Speaker, if I may also, now that I have a chance, with your indulgence, allow me also to represent my people in this House. When this list was determined, Rubanda was part of Kabale District.

Rubanda could not benefit because Kabale had a municipality. Now, when Rubanda broke away, we have places like Ruhija, which are about 70 or 80 kilometres from Kabale Town, and to access this place, you pass through a forest of about 30 kilometres.

We have places in Hon. Bruce's constituency like Kashasha, which are very far. To access them, you have to cross Lake Bunyonyi or use the road, which is more than 80 kilometres.

Mr Speaker, I believe if we subjected this matter to a review, there are a number of areas, which would qualify for hard-to-reach allowance, compared to the districts that are benefitting from that now. *(Applause)*

Therefore, I undertake, on behalf of the Government, that I will propose a review in the Cabinet with a view to finding resources to address the real problem of using hard-to-reach to address the real problem our employees are facing. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Susan?

4.15

MS SUSAN ABEJA (NRM, Woman Representative, Otuke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Just like before the honourable minister had concluded his statement, I wanted to throw this concern to our honourable ministers; that they should behave like Muslim men. When a Muslim man has like three or four wives, he makes sure that he caters for all of them.

When you are given a docket and focus on other areas, and leave out others – That is the reason why each time Members of Parliament come here, they raise matters of national importance and concern.

I am referring to Otuke: In 2023, we went with the Minister of Public Service to Otuke. Otuke was being considered as one of the only two subcounties and there was money being budgeted for those two subcounties. However, for the last two or three years, even the two subcounties have never received the hard-to-reach money. How can you give Agago and Alebtong money and leave Otuke in the middle? It is painful. That is my concern. If you are working, let us work for the whole country; we should not be selective. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: At least there is credit for the Muslim men balancing the boat. *(Laughter)*

Minister of Public Service? After the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, let us have the Minister of Public Service and close at that.

4.16

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE (Ms Lydia Wanyoto): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am from the Ministry of Public Service and I have taken note of the need to review the hard-to-reach areas. I would like to let the House know that we will prepare and make consultations with the relevant stakeholders so that we can bring to the House an updated list of the hard-to-reach areas, as amended.

I also take note of Buyiga Island from Mpigi District by Hon. Amelia Kyambadde. I have received the note. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, after the undertaking – Yes?

MS LYDIA WANYOTO: Mr Speaker, I have said I am going to bring an updated list. I come from the Bugisu Subregion, Elgon. I appreciate the hard-to-reach areas, but we shall do the consultations with all of you and bring the list. I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Actually, there is one in Bugisu where children go through – not a bridge – but some ladders. Honourable members, we all put on suits here, but we represent different constituencies with different – Some of you are in real need of Government help. For example, you see a nurse – Was that in Bududa? – climbing with the tools. How can you imagine that?

MR GERALD NANGOLI: Mr Speaker, it was Elgon County in Bulambuli District.

THE SPEAKER: I am also happy that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development together with the Ministry of Public Service have undertaken that they are going to review this. Let it be transparent. Even where it was not hard-to-reach, these days, with climate change, things have changed. Next item.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON INTERVENTIONS IN THE COLLAPSING TEA SECTOR AND LOW PRICES OF GREEN LEAF

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Cohen Kyampene Amanya, Member for Igara County West, rose and raised the matter seeking intervention from the Government to save Igara Tea Factory. Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, are you ready?

4.19

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, thank you very much. I beg for your indulgence that I report on this matter next week.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation of city councillors. As we were speaking about councillors – they are there. We have LCI chairpersons and NRM leaders from Arua City. They are represented in Parliament by Hon. Muzaid Khemis and Hon. Mourine Osoru. They have come to observe the proceedings of the House. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)*

Hon. Muzaid is here, for those of you who do not know him. He is actually FDC yet he is leading NRM leaders; among the delegation are NRM leaders. *(Applause)* You should learn. That is how people can retain constituencies; not hon. Ayagalachi that is not ready to leave. *(Laughter)* It is not by mouth. Welcome. Thank you.

Next item? As we were here, the Minister of State for – Hon. Anyakun also came in; so, we need to recognise her. Is she still here? Hon. Bright has also come. So, next?

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES INQUIRY INTO PERSISTENT POWER SUPPLY OUTAGES IN THE COUNTRY

THE SPEAKER: This report was presented on Thursday, 5 November 2026, and the debate was deferred to today. I want us to debate now. Is the chairperson here? We shall allocate some little time to the debate about power outages and darkness at noon, since the minister is here.

Leader of the Opposition, you can start right away. Then I will ask Hon. Okot, followed by Hon. Abigaba.

4.22

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to appreciate the colleagues on the committee that put together this report. Power outages in our country are now an economic emergency. The trader whose fridge stops working, the clinic that cannot keep vaccines cold, the welder who sends his workers home, and the student who is revising by torchlight. The entire economy is affected by these power outages, and that is why it is a big deal to us.

Mr Speaker, some of the concerns, which have been pointed out because UEDCL is telling the Government to give them money to invest, to make repairs, and so on. Part of this money is supposed to come from money that is owed by the Government entities. These Government entities owe UEDCL up to Shs 269.84 billion. That is as of the 30th of September this very year. Government, you are not paying your power bills, and so you are part of the problem.

The challenge is that many of these are hospitals, of course, barracks and so on - UEDCL is afraid to cut off that power because for the barracks, maybe the soldiers will deal with them and for the hospitals, of course, we have ailing people, so you cannot cut off power from a hospital.

Government, can we pay this bill of Shs 270 billion? We do not want UEDCL to use you as an excuse: "We don't have money to reinvest and so on." Government, you are using electricity that you are not paying for. I think this is extremely wrong, Mr Speaker.

The other challenge is a managerial one. UEDCL Board is not fully constituted. The head of that entity is in an acting capacity. Let us sort out this issue because it is a challenge too. You know, when somebody is occupying an office in an acting capacity, sometimes they cannot take firm decisions because they are in office today and they do not know if they will be in office tomorrow. They are in an acting capacity.

However, if somebody is appointed substantively, they know they can take decisions; whether they are wrong decisions, they will stand by them, but at least they are firm enough to take decisions.

Maybe UEDCL is failing to take certain decisions because the board is not fully constituted. The head of the entity, the Managing Director, is in an acting capacity. Why don't we sort this out? We have very capable people in this country that can occupy these offices. Can we fix that as quickly as we possibly can?

As I wrap up, Mr Speaker, I will tie that to the charcoal debate we had a few weeks ago. Government, you have not resolved the electricity issue. That is why we should not be seeing people being arrested for vending charcoal bags that are coming from some of these places, South Sudan and so on. People have lost money because they have invested in this charcoal. Yes, Government, you are saying we have to conserve the environment. That is granted. However, the alternatives have not been well taken care of.

Again, Government, you need to commit to us that, as we agreed the other day, charcoal should continue to be available and people should not be arrested as you fix what needs to be fixed. When eventually the alternatives are taken care of, then you can begin to swing into action. Right now, you do not have the moral authority to swing into action when you are not paying your own electricity bills. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Okot? Electrical engineer, we are talking about power outages.

4.26

MR BONIFACE OKOT (NRM, Kole South County, Kole): Thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Provide solutions.

MR BONIFACE OKOT: Okay, thank you. Mr Speaker, indeed, electricity is an integral part of the development agenda. Offering citizens power is good; offering citizens cheap power is better; but offering citizens cheap and reliable power is the best.

Mr Speaker, there are just four points for reflection based on this report. First, there is something called spare power reserve. Technically planning reserve margin. For any power system to be considered able to handle any emergencies, its supply must outstrip demand by an international standard of 20 per cent of the peak demand. In the Ugandan system, we are in a critical state. Our power reserve is only 0.67 per cent compared to the 20 per cent, and the electrical demand, considering the massive industrialisation agenda, is more than 20 per cent every year.

Mr Speaker, my proposed solution is that we must immediately increase our generation capacity. In Karuma, I am told we have two generators that are not functional, but can provide 180 megawatts of power. Immediately getting that on the system will increase our margin to 13 per cent.

Secondly, is our electrical power mix, Mr Speaker. What we have as our electrical power mix is appalling. We are still 82 per cent dependent on hydropower. Climate change is happening. Water levels are changing. It means we are susceptible to some of these climatic changes at any time. The solution is that we

must immediately embark on geothermal, solar or other reliable systems to add to our electrical mix.

Thirdly, Mr Speaker, are electrical losses during transmission. We are still standing at 18 per cent. Our target is 14 per cent. These figures may look small, but the four per cent actually is Shs 130 billion in losses, which can cater for what the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) has just raised about not paying our bills. Shs 130 billion can clear half of these bills. There is need to insist on some of these targets.

Finally, Mr Speaker, based on this report, the target that was set by the regulator, ERA, was that this year, we should only have interruptions of a maximum of 81 hours. However, by mid-year, we already had interruptions of 107 hours. This is unacceptable. What this is doing is that it is translating to a 120 per cent increase in operational costs of industries. We are talking about an industrialisation agenda. How will this happen?

Mr Speaker, the solution in my opinion, is that the regulator, ERA, is actually mandated by the law to punish any institutions that are continuously causing blackouts. However, this is not happening. We must stick to the regulator being a regulator that enforces. Enforcement is critical. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much for the technical - I had already picked Hon. Abigaba - I will also give you some Japadhola names and see if you can pronounce them very well, you know. *(Laughter)* I am trying; you should appreciate.

4.30

MR CUTHBERT ABIGABA (NRM, Kibale County, Kamwenge): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Just like Hon. Okot, I am a professional electrical engineer. I did four years of electrical engineering at Makerere University. I went back for a Master's Degree, so when I am speaking about this, I can speak with authority.

I want to associate with what my young brother has submitted, but I want to concentrate on one issue which I think, if not addressed, we are actually heading for the worst. In the report, I picked a statistic of interest. It states that "47 per cent of transformers in the network are more than 30 years old", and that is not a bad statistic.

Mr Speaker, in my education, we learned that in Uganda and the world over, we use three international standards: the British standard, the American National Standards Institute, and the International Electrotechnical Commission.

Those standards, Mr Speaker, I want to give two illustrations. First, an electric distribution transformer is supposed to have a lifetime of not less than 25 years, and that is why I am recognising the 47 per cent which was done even before Umeme Limited. A standard electric pole, if it is well treated according to those standards, it is supposed to last not less than 30 years functional.

What is happening now? Uganda has massively extended power to every village, but the quality of the installation materials is worrying. Government of Uganda will extend power to a certain village, and in just two years, transformers will be failing. In just one year, poles will be rotten.

Mr Speaker, when a transformer fails, it means the whole village is out. When a pole falls, it means all subsequent villages after that village will not have power. Therefore, if we do not address the issue of installation using standard materials in this country, we are headed for the worst.

I am very happy that the committee noted that 47 per cent of the transformers were installed long before Umeme Limited. Whatever has been installed recently in our network is of key concern. If we do not address the quality of materials we are using, then the worst is just about to come. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: It is good to add value, and such professional values, we need to appreciate them - the two MPs. Therefore, when you see me picking certain people, know that we need

direction. The transformer is as old as 30 years, and the minister says he has power.

Let me get Hon. Nyeko and then Hon. Kariisa.

4.34

MR JOHNSON NYEKO (NRM, Lamwo County, Lamwo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, I do not know if Uganda is moving well, if we have not mentioned another source of power that is vital, less costly and distributed equitably, which is biomass power, for which Uganda has taken six world awards. However, Uganda neither recognises nor implements it.

Mandulis Energy - Google that - won in several climate change meetings internationally, and practically set up two power stations in Got Apwoyo and Got Ngur villages in Nwoya. In Got Ngur, the company has provided power for free for two years; power which can be sold to Ugandans at half the price of the present power generation.

Are we moving right? If a small Ugandan company can provide free power to a region and it is not recognised by Uganda, even when it has been recognised by the whole world six times? Are we moving well?

People are crying for power in the East, West, South, and North, and yet you can provide biomass power, which is sustainable. We actually use agricultural waste so that people can grow more food, and we can hit two birds with one stone. However, we can use grass, which you cut within two weeks, and it grows again. Is that not sustainable? Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, are we moving right? I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: The minister for energy is seated this side, just in case you want to point at him. *(Laughter)*

4.37

DR KOY KARIISA (NRM, Buhweju West County, Buhweju): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

The reliability of power supply depends on a number of factors. Number one is the source, as Hon. Cuthbert Abigaba has talked about, but there is also delivery infrastructure of that power. When you come out of your home, you will be surprised to see that we are - like Kampala metropolitan - in a cobweb of so many cables and poles of electricity, internet and of all sorts of things.

The delivery infrastructure is not well maintained. It has not been well put. There is a serious need to revise the way we lay our infrastructure for electricity in this country such that even when there is a system failure, it is easy and safe to repair. However, the current situation on the transformer poles and on the cable lines, even when there is a small failure; it is very hard to repair, because of the nature of that infrastructure. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Dr Kikabi of Kyankwanzi.

4.38

DR EDWARD KIKABI (NRM, Ntwentwe County, Kyankwanzi): I thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for this golden opportunity you have accorded to me. I will be straight to the point, mainly pointing out the challenge and the would-be solution.

Let us look at our power generation, transmission, and then later consumption. With consumption, we as the Government are also partly to blame. Our institutions have consumed - right now - a debt of Shs 269 billion, which we are yet to pay, yet we are grappling with finances to maintain the transmission lines. That means that in our budgets, we should ensure we pay and clear the outstanding bill, to ensure that we empower Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL) to have finances for the maintenance of the transmission lines.

Number two, look at our substations in Mutundwe, Kajjansi, and Busunju; honestly speaking, from the report, all substations are performing above the percentages they were accorded. Case in point, the one in Busunju;

it is actually performing at 164 per cent. This means that the substation is overloaded.

You are supposed to be loaded to a margin of 80 to 100 per cent, but you have reached your carrying capacity of 100 per cent, and they are adding more consumers to that line. It means the line will continue breaking down time and again. The one in Mutundwe is operating at 134 per cent, overload.

The one at Kajjansi is operating at 108 per cent, overload. What does that mean? It means we have probably not budgeted enough to look at how much we are supposed to have per region. Therefore, we should have more substations, and we should ensure that these substations have no overloads.

I would like to thank my brother, who commented that 47 per cent of the transformers are 30 years old or more. Actually, it is worse, Mr Speaker. Eighty per cent of the current transformers in the report are not protected. That means the installation is there, but there is no protection. It means the rate of breakdown will be high, and we are continuing to grapple with money to maintain these transmission lines. It was a deplorable state – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: I was waiting for when - people who are timing us, it is only two minutes, but we allowed a gynaecologist to speak for five minutes. He spoke very well.

4.41

MR PATRICK MUSINGUZI (NRM, Kashari North County, Mbarara): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I speak from a wealth of experience in distribution for 17 years. I grapple with something. Recently, when I came onto the Floor of Parliament, I mentioned areas in my constituency that had gone without their transformers for over a year after they blew up. It surprises me that in the areas of Rwakigando, in Bitsya Ward, Rubindi and Ruhumba, where a new transformer was brought, it did not even work for a whole day. When you go to Nyantungu Village, in Kariro, another transformer was brought, and it did not work for a whole day. In Akakasi Trading Centre in Kashari North Constituency as well, they brought a new transformer that was very weak, and could not even supply like five distribution centres.

Therefore, I am wondering what could be the problem. Could it be that maybe the infrastructure brought in the form of transformers is too weak, or is it from China, as they normally say, or Taiwan? I beg to ask our honourable minister.

In addition, Mr Speaker, when I used to work in Uganda Telecom, whenever a mast would go off, as a regional business manager, I would know immediately. However, when you call a manager at a station centre and tell him there is no power at this station, the transformer has gone down, and he is not aware. It surprises me. Do they have mechanisms through which they follow up and monitor such infrastructure? Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I have exhausted this side. Who of you is an electrician there? Engineer Nakiyi.

4.43

MR JULIUS NAKIYI (NRM, Budadiri County East, Sironko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. From the report-

THE SPEAKER: But some of you could be *kamyufus*. *(Laughter)*

MR NAKIYI: The current peak demand for Uganda is 1,000 megawatts. Then when you add the one they export, it is about 450; it becomes 1,450 megawatts. The production is about 1,500, meaning we have a gap of 50 megawatts. Now, this means the power we have is actually adequate, but the problem is management in terms of the distribution network. Then, also, the installed capacity of Uganda for power generation is 2,100 megawatts. However, we are producing 1,500, meaning the efficiency ratio is 70; we are producing 70 per cent of what we should produce.

Now, without even starting new dams, we can actually increase our generation by simply improving efficiency. How do we improve efficiency? If we improved our efficiency from 70 to 90, we would add 200 megawatts to the network without building new dams.

We would improve efficiency; one, through environmental conservation. When you protect the environment, you will increase the water levels. In the energy mix you talked about, we have 82 per cent hydroelectric power. It depends on the turbines because they run on water. Therefore, once you have high water levels, it means the turbines will rotate at a higher speed and generate more power. Therefore, we need to conserve our environment.

Two, to the Parliament, perhaps a Member here should bring a Bill called "The Energy Efficiency Bill." What will it do? It will regulate how people use power. I read a report from somebody called Joseph. He did a study, and said if, for example, all these big consumers of power, if the Government passed a law, we require them to put what -

THE SPEAKER: I think one minute for the expert.

MR NAKIYI: For example, he did a study with Uganda Clays. He said Uganda Clays put a capacitor. What the capacitor did, it increased the - you know there is what we call the power factor. Power factor is: if you send 10 watts to an installation to use, say for bulbs or else, you may find that you are actually using six, which is 60 per cent, meaning the four has come to you, but you are not using it. It is lost in the network. Therefore, when you put a capacitor, it corrects that aspect.

Therefore, when you put the capacitor, it will move from maybe 60 per cent to 90. Now, if we pass a law requiring all these big consumers to install capacitors at their premises, it will correct and add more power to the grid. So, we need what we call "The Energy Efficiency Bill" to force big consumers to put capacitors, correct the power factor to raise it, and then get more surplus power for other people to use. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The person who is going to process that private Bill is called the Hon. Julius Nakiyi. You know him. Yes. Minister, would you l to come in now? Let me begin here now. I want those who have not spoken. Hon. William Chemonges, and then, Hon. Rose. You can speak from there; Hon. Rose has given you a microphone.

4.47

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will kindly beg that we add money to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to boost UEDCL. Some of us who have gone into hatching eggs are losing so much. Power is never constant. Any drop of rain or threat of rain, power goes off. Farmers are bleeding, and UEDCL does not have much to do.

Uganda is blessed with a lot of sunshine. I think the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development should really think of other ways of generating power instead of only relying on hydro. This country has wind, and we could go into wind power. We could have a lot of energy coming from solar. I really bleed for this country.

I can tell you, Mr Speaker, honestly, we cannot have development taking this country to the next level without energy. Small businessmen and women need energy. In addition, blacksmiths, people who are doing a lot of things out there, cannot do it without energy. We, Members of Parliament, want to be exemplary by cooking with energy, but it is not there. In the middle of your cooking, everything goes off. So, if there is no charcoal, what will we do next? Firewood? Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. William Chemonges. A female colleague here told me that the Minister of State for Energy and Mineral Development has no energy. Therefore, I tasked the minister to explain today, and he said that it should be laid on the Table. I do not know what should be laid. Yes, honourable.

4.49

MR WILLIAM CHEMONGES (NRM, Kween County, Kween): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We have been talking about the issue of power for the last five years in this House. We have moved to the office of the minister several times. I would like to say that in my district, I have town councils without power. I have seed schools, almost all without power. We have Health Centre IIIs without power.

We have been promised power connections to all subcounties since 2021; up to today, we do not have them. The Government has spent a lot of money building seed schools, and they even put computer rooms for ICT without power. Health centre IIIs without power. We have invested money in industrial hubs. We are training children to go and do welding, and then we release them back to the subcounties where there is no power.

Mr Speaker, it is a big disappointment. I really wish today the Minister for Energy would tell us what this is that cannot come to an end. We are disappointed. So today, I think the minister should give this House the most comprehensive statement on what is happening in the ministry. We are always told there is money.

Members falsely promise voters; the people they represent. Personally, I almost lost an election. There is a town council called Kapnarkut where I promised power because I was told that very soon, you will have power, yet power did not come.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me the longest time in the House. I have never been given such a long time. I think it is because you have understood my problem. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. That is because you are not alone with that problem. The MPs who were here and went — Just a minute: Including the Speaker, I am also a Member of Parliament. There was a contractor; we took them, and they handed over the site five years ago. People in places like Nyamalogo and Mwelo clapped because I had told them that they should not vote for me if there would be no power this time. I am very sure that the minister here, who claims to have power, wanted those people not to vote for me because there is actually no power up to now. You should have seen how I was called a liar.

Now that I am the Speaker, I am here. Does this minister really have power? *(Laughter)* Can I have those who have not spoken? Hon. Ignatius Mudimi Wamakuyu? Did you know all his three names?

4.52

MR IGNATIUS WAMAKUYU (Independent, Elgon County, Bulambuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. Honourable members, the issue of power is something which the Government should really focus on. Many years ago, this House approved loans for both generation and transmission, but some of the loan repayments are tied to the money, which will come from the tariffs.

Honourable minister, if we do not have power for consumers, where are we going to get money to pay back the loans? That means we are going to encroach on other sectors and cripple other service units to pay for power.

On average, I use about Shs 200,000 per week in my home village, but it dropped recently to Shs 46,000. I use that money per week. Therefore, the Government is losing a lot of money because we are ready to pay, but there is no power. You are in the village the whole week, but there is no power, including here in Kampala where we are living.

We really have to look at this issue. There is adequate generation, but transmission and distribution are a challenge. Honourable minister, we have to address the issue of transmission and distribution. We passed a loan in this House some time back; the money came from Exim Bank in China -

THE SPEAKER: For the record, conclude on that one because you were a vice-chairperson of the Committee on Budget.

MR WAMAKUYU: Mr Speaker, we were promised that all subcounties are going to be

covered under the so-called TBEA Company Limited. I have been asking my uncle, Hon. Okaasai, about what happened to TBEA. He does not want to respond to me; I do not know how that thing ended. The money was passed, and the contractor was given but we do not see a report in this House about the performance of TBEA, yet the Government is going to pay back the loan. Where is the performance report on TBEA? I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you also tell us the performance of the World Bank loan on the Electricity Access Scale-Up Project. The World Bank said the Government of Uganda only got 25 per cent disbursement in five years, yet it is expiring soon. We do not know what is happening. I have summoned you with them for - Hon. Eng. Sebadduka? Hon. Nabadduka? Ssebadduka is a man; sorry. *(Laughter)*

4.56

MS ANNET NABADDUKA (Independent, Woman Representative, Kibaale): Thank you, Mr Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Excuse my ignorance.

MS NABADDUKA: It is okay. I love it.

THE SPEAKER: But you understood that between you and me, we know. *(Laughter)*

MS NABADDUKA: I love it. Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question goes to the Minister for Energy. Uganda can generate power, and we have excess to sell outside Uganda. One time, they told us we earn around Shs 60 billion a year. If that money is put into good use, can't we have power transmitted to all our subcounties?

The other issue, honourable minister, is that, particularly in Kibaale, they are bringing those Chinese transformers. They connect it today, then come and disconnect it at night, claiming they are going for repair it but it is not returned. The contractors who connect the wires even come and steal them at night.

I would like the minister to find out about Kibaale because we may not get them; we are in total darkness. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable member for Bbaale? There is now a woman MP there; congratulations. I think you are now firm here.

4.57

MR CHARLES TEBANDEKE (NUP, Bbaale County, Kayunga): Mr Speaker, power outages in the country are alarming. When you look at the statistics from the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA), from only April to December 2025, the average period customers were without power was 135.4 hours, against the actual target, which was 64.95 hours. The cut-off of power was 106 times, against 51.

Mr Speaker, this explains the failure of supply by moreover, a government agency. The community is regretting why Umeme was removed and is praying that maybe we at least bring back Umeme, so that they can restore their supply, amidst the disadvantages they underwent.

This matter has not only affected you, as you have said. I am one of the Members who has a lot of questions from the constituency. The minister knows I was a member on the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. He gave us engineers who traversed the entire constituency. Personally, I made a report on the whole of Bbaale and gave it to him. I gave the ministry a plan, and the engineer came and made designs. In some areas, they even put electricity poles but the community is now asking what happened to the power.

It amazes me because we borrowed money last year to extend power to South Sudan, at the expense of our people who are going to pay for that loan, yet they do not have power. Businesses are raising the alarm because their fridges are not working. Hospitals - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Because it is about power. Hon. Kwizera?

4.59

MR EDDIE KWIZERA (Independent, Bukimbiri County, Kisoro): Mr Speaker, thank you very much. I would like to thank the committee for the work they have done, and I have a few comments to make. Honourable minister, please listen to me.

How much money does the Government invest in the sector to demand that kind of output? The committee has not provided a matrix to show what investment we have made over a period. That should be looked at, honourable minister for finance because if we are supposed to get power, we must invest a lot of money.

Secondly, when the ministry is involved in implementing projects together with UEDCL and others, an institutional conflict arises. The ministry tends to undermine its agencies. You find that when we borrow money, like we borrowed $638 million, instead of giving it to the implementing agencies, the ministry wants to retain the money. Therefore, that is also another problem.

If you look at pages 32 and 33, you will find that the Government has not paid Shs 270 billion. If you look at the Auditor-General's report, is it declared as domestic arrears? Hasn't the Ministry of Finance budgeted and provided for this money to these ministries, or have these ministries diverted the money instead of paying the agencies?

Another issue is the structural problem, which we have, which the minister should be able to address. The ministry currently does not have a planning unit, but has a Project Implementation Unit. If you do not have a planning unit at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, then you can - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: There was planning. You mean it was only there at the Rural Electrification Agency (REA)?

MR KWIZERA: Mr Speaker, for the benefit of the Members, regarding ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), ministries do policy, planning and set standards. Agencies of Government must implement, as Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL) is doing.

However, for the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, you find that they are also involved in project implementation instead of planning. However, they are in operations. That has affected the sector. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Karim Masaba? Hon. Silwany, you have talked too many times today.

5.02

MR KARIM MASABA (Independent, Industrial Division, Mbale City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do want to thank the committee for the report and the minister. I just have some issues that I need the minister to clarify.

The report talks about UEDCL maintaining adequate stock of transformers at the regional level. One of the things I have noted is that since Umeme was removed, it is hard now to replace a transformer because of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets (PPDA) Act and the government procurement process.

Initially, with Umeme, once a transformer had an issue, they would make decisions there and then. Now, the way it is being handled at the ministry, when a transformer gets issues, they have to go through the entire procurement process after the transformer has already been spoiled. Therefore, you will notice that it could even take weeks or months to get a transformer replaced.

Then the other issue I need clarity on: when you look at some of the areas, the committee moved in, some of these transformers' loads were serving smaller populations, which have grown over time now. This is causing an issue in that during peak times of the day, electricity keeps going on and off.

Even at Mbale Regional Referral Hospital, when they are using the oxygen plant to produce oxygen, they have to turn off electricity in most

of the other sectors of the hospital in order to have electricity to run the plant. This is an issue to do with the transformer.

Lastly, the substation in Mbale as well — I see the committee did not go there. It is in a low-lying area where, every time it rains, this place is prone to floods.
That is the area around Mutoto on Tororo Road, where the URA checkpoint is. Every time we have normal rains, not the heavy rains, the entire city does not have electricity because I am told they have to drain the - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Machika. Those are -

5.04
MR RICHARD MACHIKA (NRM, West Budama North East County, Tororo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to start from where the Rt Hon. Prime Minister ended on Thursday when she was in the House. When a Member raised a matter of national importance, she emphasised the inefficiency within UEDCL. Also, she put it in a way that UEDCL inherited a defunct system from Umeme.

I have areas in my constituency, particularly the subcounty of Soni, that had the poles planted and wires mounted, but with no transformer. All those wires have been vandalised. Since the time that the lines were put in place, these people have never experienced electricity.
This is my proposal; if UEDCL have inherited a problem, why can't this House empower it to revitalise all the lines and buy all the transformers so that we get back electricity?

Otherwise, our economy is going down because electricity literally is the backbone of everything. Therefore, I implore this House to fully fund UEDCL so that they are able to rejuvenate the lines. I beg to submit. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Muzaid Khemis, Arua. *Awadifo.*

5.06
MR MUZAID KHEMIS (FDC, Arua Central Division, Arua City): Mr Speaker, power in Uganda is no longer a luxurious issue. It is a fundamental drive for industrialisation and many other programmes. I was on this Floor of Parliament giving very critical statistics about power usage in Uganda and West Nile, particularly.

Since the 11th Parliament, around five pylons that are going to West Nile that collapsed. I want to inquire from the minister what strategic plans he has to repair those pylons. It has been almost five to six months.

Number 2, honourable minister, power from Arua has gone to Congo. Could I know from you, when Arua people are not using power, how did the power reach Congo? Did ERA give that permission? Who is doing that business, minister? When we said you had no power and you lied here.
Again, through tha
t lineage of Zombo, who is trading on that power? Is Uganda benefiting from that money? Alternatively, is it a black business? Thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: I am glad the minister was a little far away from you. *(Laughter)* Yes, the lady, honourable member there?

5.08
MS REBECCA KYARAMPE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mitooma): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Power outages are now an economic agony to the people of Uganda because it is becoming too much, and this is now crippling our nation.

When the Government of Uganda transferred the transmission of electricity distribution to UEDCL, after the expiration of Umeme's concession, there was a very big problem. However, when UEDCL came, it promised Ugandans heaven and earth that there would be a reliable and stable supply of power. Instead, it has become total darkness.

This is an economic emergency because outside, small business owners are suffering: salon operators, welders, and tailoring workshops do not have power. To the extent that even the youth who have invested their hard-earned money are seeing their future in rot. Factory operators out there, health centre facilities and schools are dying in darkness.

I am appealing to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development through our beloved minister who is here, if UEDCL has failed to - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Mubende. Let me finish back there. Hon. Lino, you will not talk. You might even ask about condoms again here. *(Laughter)* This side, do not stand yet.

5.11

MS HOPE NAKAZIBWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mubende): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mubende District, Kasambya Subcounty, houses one of the big solar plants founded by Zabu.

Hon. Obigah talked about the Government putting more money into solar power to supply Ugandans. The solar plant in Mubende District was commissioned in 2024. As we speak, the local council in which it is situated does not have power. I appeal to the minister and the Government to ensure that where they invest money, there is a return.

Secondly, we interacted with Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL) and some of the contractors. One of the most pressing challenges they aired out was the supply of materials. In the recommendation from the Chairperson of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, they discouraged us from walking the talk of Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU) because most of the suppliers these contractors were giving money to supply them with the materials to enable them to transmit electricity were Ugandan companies, and these have failed to meet the standards and the demand of the contractors.

We all know how critical electricity is in us attaining the ten-fold economic growth in this country. If we want this to work out, let us do a clear assessment of the companies that supply electrical materials for us to realise whether we need to give them money to support them, the same way we have given some of the companies that do other things money. Let us also think about – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Karuhanga, my son.

5.13

MR GERALD KARUHANGA (Independent, Ntungamo Municipality, Ntungamo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As of June 2023, Uganda exports electricity to Kenya, Tanzania, DRC, Rwanda, and South Sudan. Uganda makes millions of dollars from this electricity, and many times, for instance, in Ntungamo, people see these wires passing over them, and they are sure there is power in the wires taking electricity to Rwanda in this particular case. They do not only have outage, but some will tell you that "My grandfather, my father, myself have never seen power in my village, but we have seen it up here for all these years, going across." Mr Speaker, two things:

First, I think it is high time we pressed adequately harder, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to ensure that the resources from all these loans and grants over time are put to right use so that we have power; that we have it, not have it in bits.

Secondly, there is some element of either impunity or a culture of people supplying substandard material, but also coming around to literally steal the same material. When you think about these, let us say, transformers, people who empty these transformers, it is not an ordinary citizen or anybody who has no knowledge about – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Conclude.

MR KARUHANGA: My prayer, as I conclude, is that we should not wait for another year or another quarter. Parliament could resolve, in a short period, probably even less than a month that we get a comprehensive report about what

is transpiring in the electricity sector. Then, we would be informed and we would probably raise more issues and hope to get better supply of electricity.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ivan Kyeyune, then the board of Amudat.

5.16

MR IVAN KYEYUNE (NUP, Nakasongola County, Nakasongola): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The issue of power outages is interesting. Nakasongola, a city that the Government is proposing to make a new capital city, has only 16 per cent distribution. With this low percentage of distribution, the wires have been vandalised. When you look at the size of transformers that would probably be made for 20 homesteads, they are supporting a thousand homesteads. These days, we exchange routes with electricity. When you reach home, power is switched off; it is at work. When you are at work, it is at home.

The darkness is happening in most of the centres; during darkness, motor vehicle number plates are being removed. Recently, there was a family that was fighting during darkness; one took food of the other family. It is quite annoying.

My prayer is that if the quality of transformers from China has failed to give us stable power that can sustain us, maybe we should review entirely the transformers that are being distributed, which cannot sustain energy to serve us.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member from Amudat? Hon. Linos, you are insisting; have they not said what you want to say?

5.18

MS RUFINA CHEUTICH (NRM, Woman Representative, Amudat): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to inform the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development that three-quarters of Amudat District is in total darkness. This is sad. Kongorok, Achorichor, Katabok, Losidok and Lokales are all in total darkness for sure. These are subcounties that have institutions like health centres. We are privileged in Amudat that we have enough lighting. I am advising and requesting the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development to bring strong solar power to these institutions – *(Interruption)*

MR LOLEM: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Amudat District has 11 subcounties, and only three out of 11 have power. That is the information I wanted to give.

MS CHEUTICH: Thank you. Exactly as I said, three-quarters of the entire district is in total darkness. Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, we need your total intervention for Amudat. We have a dispensary where one of the nurses narrated to me that she uses her torch or a phone to deliver the mothers. Where do we belong as Amudat? Minister for Energy and Mineral Development?

THE SPEAKER: Minister for Energy, you will make people cry here.

5.20

MR ALBERT LOKORU (Independent, Tepeth County, Moroto): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I represent Tepeth County, people who are known to be minorities at some time before we reached here.

I would like to direct this concern to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. We are tired of lying to our people. Every time we want a new *kisanja*, we go and tell them there will be power. We have also come with the slogans such as, "*Kisanja Hakuna Kulala"*, but without power, what will come out of it?

THE SPEAKER: You want to know what will come when there is no power? People sleep; *Watu wanalala.*

MR ALBERT LOKORU: Mr Speaker, we are talking about taking Uganda to the middle-income status. I come from Karamoja, which has been one of the least developed subregions but by God's grace, we are becoming the richest subregion. We only need power to realise what they used to call the "last becoming the first".

Honourable minister, stop lying to us about transformers. You put a lot of poles and electric wires along the roads. The road is under construction, cars start moving but your electricity takes years, because you put people there. *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Linos, one minute, what is it? Then my brother, the honourable member who usually catches the Speaker's eye.

5.22

MR LINOS NGOMPEK (NRM, Kibanda North County, Kiryandongo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. When Umeme was in charge of power distribution, they would easily replace these transformers because they would not go through the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA). Recently in Diima Subcounty, our transformer blew up and it took about three months to replace it and in Bweyale Town Council, it took about one month.

When I went to the Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL) offices in Industrial Area, they told me that they have procurement challenges. Therefore, I want to implore the ministry to engage PPDA so that if transformers have blown up and we need meters, they should give some leeway to UEDCL to procure these transformers and other electricity gadgets without going through the process of procurement because the process has a lot of bureaucracy. That is what was itching me, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, honourable member; the one who catches the Speaker's eye.

5.24

MR KARIM MUSA (Independent, Aringa North County, Yumbe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The matter of energy should not be repeated several times. It is something that is written and should be implemented as a matter of urgency. It is such a pity also - on the contrary, there is this element of vandalism, which has come out clearly in the report. Is there no other way the ministry for energy can devise certain systems to thwart vandalism? I think it is available. They should research it, have it installed so that those who attempt vandalism will themselves be vandalised in the coffin.

Mr Speaker, I received power in my constituency just two months ago, in the two subcounties of Midigo and Lobe Town Councils. The other five, we do not even know where the poles are. There is no pole installed and we have been in darkness but we are happy that we have at least received power only by the roadside. It does not go deep into the villages where there is supposed to be production. Aringa North is capable of village industrialisation, which I have piloted – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: I think I have exhausted this side. The issue of power cannot be exhausted. Hon. Anthony, Member for Isingiro, is the one I have not heard from. *(Hon. Gyaviira rose_)* You are shadow minister; you will speak.

5.26

MR ANTHONY TUMWESIGYE (Independent, Isingiro West County, Isingiro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the committee for a very good report. Mr Speaker, by 2005, when Umeme started its concession, the connection rate in the country was about 300 connections. By the time they left, it was about 2.3 million. That was business.

The Umeme group came to do business in that field. In just one year, we have gone back to the dogs. There is no power. That means that the production and distribution of electricity in this country now is done at a civil servant level. If today the Managing Director of UEDCL were asked to form a company and take it as his business to distribute power, there would be no loss of power.

The Umeme people were doing business and the people running UEDCL and the entire ministry are civil servants. As long as we continue to look at them as civil servants, earning a salary, and whether power is there or not, power will continue being off.

Therefore, what needs to be done is something different. I do not know what is going to be done. Maybe, you can create an authority with an income-generating company benefitting from the business the way Umeme was doing, and we shall have power. Short of that, we are going to continue with the same problem as we had by 2005 when Umeme was coming in. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: I hate to see Members standing. Shadow Minister of Finance? I wanted to give you a specific one at the end but you insisted.

5.28

THE SHADOW MINISTER FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Sabina Gyaviira): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the team that prepared this report. Umeme closed its 20-year-long business in 2025. I was a mature person when Umeme came in 2005 and I witnessed what happened during that period before, during and after Umeme was in charge.

Mr Speaker, if you look at the service that Umeme used to give and compare it with what UEDCL is offering currently, you will see that there is a very big difference, and all these weaknesses we are experiencing are not only with UEDCL but even with other rationalised services that were offered by private companies.

I would like to suggest that the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development compels UEDCL to offer services that Umeme used to offer. For example, Umeme used to alert us whenever there would be load-shedding, which UEDCL has not been doing. As a result, we have people's machines crashing, people who use power to preserve their items like perishables cannot preserve them. If UEDCL would be compelled to announce whenever there is load shedding so that people's businesses are saved. Mr Speaker, that was what was itching me.

THE SPEAKER: Okay. That is interesting. I have Hon. Baryayanga, and Hon. Ann Maria Nankabirwa. Those were remnants of the energy sub-sector. Now we are back here. Hon. Baryayanga, come and submit. I was their chairperson, now I am the Speaker - We thought we had kicked out this load shedding until, I do not know whether the problem is the ministers or Umeme has cursed somebody.

5.32

MR ANDREW BARYAYANGA (NRM, Kabale Municipality, Kabale): Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, if we can recall what we passed through at the time the ad hoc committee on the energy sector was investigating the sector, you can recall the many problems that Umeme was bringing. The losses where they used to lie to us that you can only calculate the commercial losses, which is stealing power but you cannot calculate the technical losses. We went through all those things.

I had also believed that, indeed, Umeme should have gone yesterday and I still have the same belief. I do not think UEDCL will do the work in one day and load shedding will stop. It is not by some miracle that it will just come and say, "let there be no load shedding" and it happens. Yet, they inherited a dilapidated network.

The lines were very old; the transformers that they were bringing on would be only second-hand transformers - Umeme would not buy new transformers. They would only take them for repair, and then bring them back. When they take your transformer, the one that they have taken for repair, they bring it on your line, the other one also has to wait for some time. So, they were not bringing in new transformers.

What we need to do as a Government is to facilitate UEDCL very fast and make sure they have as many transformers and other equipment as they can get because even the existing lines, especially at the substations, are very old. The people who are getting onto the network are very many.

Personally, I come from Kabale Municipality but we are crying for power. We do not have power in Kabale Municipality, which is yet to be a city yet it was already declared a city by this House. It is yet to be operational. There are many areas that do not have power in Kabale

Municipality. You can imagine what we are going through.

However, we need to give time to UEDCL, facilitate it more, such that they buy all the equipment and put it in place. There, we will stop crying about power load shedding but they cannot do it in one day. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Nankabirwa?

5.35

MS ANN MARIA NANKABIRWA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kyankwanzi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. True, I was the vice-chairperson for the committee and that is why I was not longing to talk. However, for the historical memory of the sector, we are glad that in chair, you were seated and you led us into that investigation.

Honourable colleagues, in our report in 2012 when we investigated the sector, our recommendation was to terminate Umeme because of the losses. Government decided to do a natural termination but if you see what we were going to pay in the buy-out, we would have been better off if we had terminated. Why are we suffering today?

Whenever Umeme would invest in the network, which network belonged to UEDCL, Umeme only had leased it. Whenever they would invest, they would earn a return on investment of 20 per cent. That is why the committee is finding out that now we are asking, how comes that 47 per cent of the transformers are 30 years and above old? The concession of Umeme was only 20 years. What happened to those transformers that had been in the network then? What did Umeme invest there that we were paying a 20 per cent on investment?

Mr Speaker, that is why the committee wanted to show it to this House. Three years to the end of the concession, Umeme literally invested only a quarter of what it was supposed to invest. Every year, it would invest - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Yes, one minute.

MS NANKABIRWA: They would invest between $50- 70 million but when their contract concession was expiring, they were investing between $15-20 million. That meant that for three years, the network had not been well serviced. Now UEDCL was being handed over 12 substations, which are working beyond capacity. Some of them were at 125 per cent. That means we need to do one thing.

Let us agree to hold on to UEDCL, because that is what we wanted, to bring back electricity transmission and generation, and have the distribution.

Mr Speaker, as I conclude, we have put it in the report. We are only looking at UEDCL. The problem is fourfold. It is a problem of generation, where generation is not generating to the capacity. It is a problem of transmission where the network of transmission lines is faulty. It is a problem of rural electrification where many people are on the grid but they cannot get metres.

Mr Speaker, we heard that why the metres cannot be scaled up, Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) charged with testing of metres can only test 200 metres a day. That is 6,000 metres a month. Yet you have tens of thousands of Ugandans who have paid to get connected. That translates into loss. That is why the set loss is 13 per cent. We are paying for loss of 17.9 per cent because you do not store power. Once it is generated, it has to be used.

Mr Speaker, I implore this House, that we need to support UEDCL, we need to support transmission, we need to support generation, we need to fund rural electrification because it is what widens the network. At the end of the day, we shall reduce the losses because the tariff you pay is determined by how much power has been generated and divided by the number of people consuming the power. That will limit the tariff we pay. Thank you, Mr Speaker. We need to support UEDCL.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Edward Makmot Otto, Agago?

5.40

MR OTTO MAKMOT (NRM, Agago County, Agago): Mr Speaker, thank you. The World Bank statistics show that there is a correlation between human capital development and energy consumption. In our Fourth National Development Plan (NDPIV), we have the ATMS, and agriculture is number one. We have met with Operation Wealth Creation, and when they talk about agriculture, the emphasis is on value addition. Yet for many of our areas that predominantly rely on agriculture, electricity is a very big problem.

When we talk about human-wildlife conflict, they are talking about the electric fence, yet in most of these areas, electricity is not accessible. We have schools like in Koromo and Kanyipa. These places have been without power yet these schools have existed for so many years.

Mr Speaker, we cannot keep on lamenting. We need to put money in this sector. However, before we do so, we need to see where the problem is. I think since Parliament has control of the Auditor's office - there should be some sort of audit to troubleshoot where the problem is. I think there is a problem somewhere.

In the 10th Parliament, I remember the World Bank funding for rural electrification. I went to areas where they said they were going to do all this. Now, we are in the 12th Parliament, we are still lamenting and these problems still exist. There is a problem somewhere. We need to know what the problem is and put money into this sector if we are really thinking about development. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: District Woman Representative for Hoima.

5.43

MS BEATRICE WEMBABAZI (NRM, Woman Representative, Hoima): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I thank the minister for this statement. I would like to inform the House that Uganda is already aspiring to multiply its economy tenfold. This means that we have to move ten times in everything we do.

Industrialisation needs power. It needs value addition, which needs power. It needs job creation, which needs electricity. Mr Speaker, can we attain the tenfold strategy without power? To make matters worse, in Hoima, where I come from, we have hydropower energy.

However, the people of Hoima themselves do not have power. In addition, we are hoping to develop very fast, given the fact that we have oil, and energy development going on in Hoima. However, when people hear about Hoima and Bunyoro, they think everything is okay. Mr Speaker, we have a power outage in Hoima District and Bunyoro at large. My question: how are we going to do this? Who is deceiving whom? What can we do?

My prayer to this House: Let us support UEDCL with funds so that we can have rural electrification in our villages at household level. Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Minister.

5.44

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (ENERGY) (Mr Sidronius Okaasai): Mr Speaker, I will start by appreciating my committee for a report, which has enabled the House to debate these issues and to understand the sector. I do not fault them at all. The report is good.

Number two, I would wish to thank the House for raising the concerns. I will go over the electricity value chain. When you point a finger at distribution, it is only one face of the energy value chain. The outages are caused beyond the face of the electricity supply value chain.

Generation in case power is not generated, or there is a fault in a generation plant - for example, recently, two units actually went off in Karuma. What you saw was because there was no power generation and it actually caused

the country a flash of darkness twice because of dysfunctional generation units. Therefore, that is an outage.

Number two, when you generate, you have got to transmit it. If there is a fault, like one of our colleagues said, in Olwiyo, between Olwiyo and Karuma to West Nile, when there is vandalism, it causes an outage for that area, which is supplied by that transmission line- *(Interruption.)*

MR OLANYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to inform the honourable minister. He has stated clearly that the five pylons that fell down between Karuma and Olwiyo, was because of vandalism. I would like to inform you that it was not because of vandalism. The used materials were substandard. Each pylon cost Shs 800 million. Now, five of them are down.

The Ministry of Energy used substandard materials; they wanted to make profit out of that. It was not because of vandalism. If you look at it critically, the five poles fell down and four of them are about to fall just because of substandard materials.

MR OKAASAI: Thank you for giving false information to the House. *(Laughter)* That is false information because it is vandalism. I am telling you the people were arrested and one person has been sentenced to 15 years in prison. That is proof that it is vandalism. I can take you to see the person because it is on record. Therefore, that is a wrong information. Thank you for that misinformation to the country.

THE SPEAKER: Now, the minister has the energy. Minister, please, summarise.

MR OKAASAI: So, let me summarise and then, when the substations- it is true we were overloading our infrastructure; it is very old. Umeme was not investing especially in the last three years. When we got more power, even the Bible says "do not put new wine into old wine skins." We now generated more power but we are putting it into old-skin infrastructure and everything was blowing.

Two, it is true there is overloading of the stations. Most of the substations are actually overloaded; anything, which goes beyond 80 per cent of the capacity is overloaded and they can blow up anytime. Thank you to the engineers who took the Floor. They were actually telling you the truth and the committee observed this.

Then when you come to distribution, our growth is growing. Last year, it was 10 per cent demand for electricity. The demand for electricity has actually gone to 20 per cent now. We cannot cope with that growth without investment in the infrastructure. We need to invest.

You are right to say we should empower the distribution to actually invest and procure transformers. Yes, we insisted – let us support Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU), and we have actually realised- the committee actually observed that procuring transformers in the country cannot meet the demand. We have actually lifted that measure of BUBU to allow UEDCL to import transformers.

As we talk now, UEDCL is going to import 1,000 transformers to inject into the infrastructure. *(Applause)* We have lifted the ban on importations and UEDCL is advertising globally to import transformers. If that is going to happen, then we shall start injecting transformers into the infrastructure. *(Applause)*

Regarding the power, which is generated by UETCL, the infrastructure, which was for transmission, including the conductors, were below the required power and the power we have now. This means we have to upgrade even the conductors. For a line, which was meant to be 130 KVA, the demand on the other side requires more electricity than what the 132 KVA is doing. What we are doing is to upgrade the infrastructure and this is work in progress.

Therefore, the understanding of this electricity supply needs to be translated to everyone. It is not UEDCL; UEDCL has actually performed very well.

I will respond to what the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) said. It is true that many positions are vacant and we are taking it seriously. We are looking at first confirming the Board. We have submitted names to the Cabinet for approval.

Once the Board is approved, it will then take responsibility to fill the positions of the Chief Executive and all the other directors thereafter. It is our priority to put the Board in place. I can report back here in the next two weeks; the Board will be in place.

Leader of the Opposition, you also rightly observed about alternative generation, which other people also talked about. We cannot achieve electrification of this country if we only rely on hydro power. We have it in our strategy to produce 52,000 megawatts by 2040. That cannot be attained if we take up only one source of power generation.

We are pursuing the development of all the potential hydro dams, and we are carrying out a study for Ayago, Kiba and Oriang, which is downstream of River Nile. However, this can only generate about 10,000 or 15,000 megawatts. Out of our proposed electricity generation capacity of 50,000 megawatts, 24,000 megawatts are going to be from nuclear energy, which we are currently pursuing. Mr Speaker, as we talk now, a committee is on its way to Buyende to see where we plan to generate 24,000 megawatts through nuclear.

We are also pursuing solar. Although it has huge potential, it is unreliable. It is only there during the day. What happens at night? We are taking up solar but limiting the amount of power, which we can generate from it, such that we have a firm base where we have electricity.

We are also pursuing geothermal, wind energy, peat generation and co-generation. To the honourable member who talked about biomass, we recognise biomass generation as one source. I would be delighted to see what he is doing. We recognise it as one source. That energy mix is actually what we are pursuing.

Honourable members, vandalism is a vice, which we must fight. As a country, vandalism is taken as a security matter. At that level, it is sabotage of the Government. We are not only looking at control; we are also considering other methods of monitoring our systems, such that we detect wherever vandalism is

Somebody asked why we do not make somebody pay for it with blood. We are considering a proposal to allow power to leak in case there is disturbance on the wire, such that somebody is electrocuted. Those are things in progress. It will not happen, but we are thinking -

THE SPEAKER: The moment you do that, the country will remember you for protecting the lines.

MR OKAASAI: All those things are being considered. We are even thinking of using technology where we can, between the lines, like Hon. Olanya was saying - the ministry has the largest fibre network for communication along those transmission lines. We can use our infrastructure to monitor our system by having drones placed in certain places, where they can take action.

Where there is a disturbance detected by our fibre network, the drone should make an announcement to say, "You are interfering with Government infrastructure." We are thinking of actually spraying that area with a chemical, which will enable us to track people, using the drones. All these thoughts are there and we are to see what we can do to control -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you are overthinking; you will have headache. Please, implement the thoughts. *(Laughter)*

MR OKAASAI: Mr Speaker, you have to start by thinking. This is a new vice. If you do not think, then you will not get it right. You have got to imagine all these things. That is why everybody here is thinking. Somebody said, "Go beyond what is known." It is not actually illegal to do that. What are we doing? I told you it is a security matter. If you are caught in

vandalism, it is not me to handle you. It is now a security matter.

Regarding the quality of materials, we are taking this very seriously. The Energy Efficiency Bill is no longer a Bill; it is actually an energy law that was enacted last year. I thank the Members of Parliament for passing it.

About alerts, it is mandatory for our Agencies to create alerts whenever there are outages. We are strengthening this and communicating. There were some Members who asked me about the outages and when I went back, I heard about the issue on radio and read it in the newspapers. Finally, the outages have a temporal solution. For example, in Kampala, we are making ring electricity circuits, such that every substation will be supplied by Karuma Hydropower Dam, which is from Kawanda but they will also be supplied by the dams on the eastern route.

Therefore, there will be no power cuts. In case there is a problem with the Jinja-based dams, you will be supplied by the other one. I commit that we are going to have that connection done by the end of November. It is supported by the Japanese grant and it is work in progress.

There will be no outages in Kampala caused by vandalism because there is no way somebody can vandalise the line from Karuma Hydropower Dam and from the other side.

To conclude, we thank the committee for a job well done. I also thank all of you for the debate. Power supply is not anything that can be done in a day.

Our priority is to meet the Tenfold Growth Strategy; I will take electricity to the industries, agriculture, mines, scientific institutions, meaning schools. *(Interjections)* Churches, no. I will take electricity to deliver the Tenfold Growth Strategy that we want to achieve. I will supply electricity to the households when we have the money.

Right now, I do not promise I can take electricity everywhere. It is very expensive. I will prioritise what I will do now, tomorrow. By the year 2032, I can actually commit that at that time, every household will have electricity connection.

When I talk about electricity, I am not talking about the grid. You can either have solar, which is electricity, you can have a mini-grid, some source of electrons providing you light.

Finally, we have alternatives for cooking. We have reduced the power tariff for cooking. You can use electricity. You can, - *(Interjections)* - yes. Number two, you can use briquettes for cooking, which is generated from biomass. You can use gas for cooking. Charcoal is a last alternative. It is dirty. *(Members rose_) (Interjections)* - I am now addressing the Rt Hon. Speaker.

The Speaker said he is using sixty bags. *(Interjections)* Can I finish? I am going to demonstrate alternative sources of cooking if the Speaker gives me access to use the parking. I will demonstrate the alternatives to charcoal. You will never see charcoal when I come to demonstrate. The chief cook will be the Speaker. Thank you, very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Bahati, the Government Chief Whip-acting. You have heard.

6.05

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Minister for Energy for the statement. In addition to what he has said, at Cabinet level, we requested for a paper on alternative sources of cooking and he will be making that paper. Once it is ready, he will give a more detailed paper to Parliament, after.

One honourable member said that Uganda National Bureau of Statistics (UNBS) was only testing 200 metres daily. I just want to inform you that we have now improved our capacity as per today. We are testing 3,500 metres daily and the Minister for Energy can confirm this. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Next item. I now put the question for the adoption of the report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources inquiry into persistent power supply outages in the country.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

THE SPEAKER: Procedure, Hon. Alobo. Yes.

MS ALOBO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I raised a matter of leopards in Soroti City, threatening people's lives, but Hon. Bahati, the minister, responded, saying that the honourable Minister for Security, Gen. Jim Muhwezi, is in Soroti handling the same matter.

I was told a few minutes ago that the minister was handling very different matters; he convened very many other security people and arrested a journalist who has been working for Nation Media Group in the Eastern Region, called Kenneth Odele.

Can Hon. Bahati confirm to us that the minister is really handling the issue of the leopards? People are living in a life-threatening environment. Are we proceeding well?

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Alobo, you have given him the information because now, it will be another task for Hon. Bahati; we are not in Soroti. You are the representative, and you have got information that the minister is not handling the issue of leopards.

MS ALOBO: He is actually holding security meetings and has started arresting people. Can the minister confirm?

MR BAHATI: Mr Speaker, what I said was from the field. Gen. Jim Muhwezi said he was actually watching us when that matter was raised. He said he would coordinate with the Minister for Tourism, now that he was in Soroti, so that the matter would be handled. I am assuring you we are going to handle that matter. Be at peace, honourable member.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. So, minister, within 60 working days, you have to bring us the action-taken report, for the House to know what action you have taken about the adopted committee report.

MR OKAASAI: Most obliged.

THE SPEAKER: Sixty working days.

MR OKAASAI: Sixty working days. I will keep them. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Next item.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LANDS ON THE SUSPENSION OF ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL CERTIFICATES OF TITLE BY THE MINISTER OF LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

THE SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, you will do the executive summary. This matter was there when you were the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development - all three of them were here. Make the executive summary and we shall defer the debate to tomorrow.

6.11

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON LANDS (Mr Edson Rugumayo): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I beg to lay on Table a report titled, "The Report of the Committee on Lands on the Suspension of Issuance of Special Certificates of Title by the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development."

Before I read the brief summary of the report, allow me to lay on the Table the report, accompanied by the minutes of proceedings of the Committee on Lands.

The executive summary

The Committee on Lands investigated the temporary suspension of issuance of special certificates of title by the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, which was intended to address fraud and protect

genuine landowners. However, the committee established that the ministry had not provided sufficient evidence to justify a nationwide suspension, which affected genuine applicants, including those with lost or damaged land titles and those seeking titles through lawful court orders.

The committee further established, that Section 69 and 70 of the Registration of Titles Act placed the responsibility for issuing special certificates of title on the Registrar of Titles and do not empower the minister to suspend their issuance. The Attorney-General confirmed this legal position. Although the minister's intentions were well-meaning, the suspension was not in accordance with the law and disrupted land transactions, access to credit, investment, and government revenue. The committee acknowledges that the suspension has since been lifted. It was lifted on 20 October 2026.

The committee recommends stronger verification procedures, improved recording of land fraud complaints, introduction of regulations to address gaps in the law, and adoption of electronic land titles and integrated information systems. It further emphasises the need for prior consultation with the Attorney-General on major administrative decisions. The committee concludes that land fraud must be addressed through lawful procedures, stronger safeguards, and accountability without unfairly affecting genuine land owners.

Mr Speaker, as guided, I only want to stop at this executive summary and lay the report. *(Applause)* I request Members to read this report. I invite Members to read these reports, and at an opportune time, you can invite us as a House to enrich our work as a committee. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Let the record of Parliament, the *Hansard*, capture the entire report. I invite honourable members to read the report, which has been uploaded. We can debate it tomorrow like we have done for the energy ministry.

(The report is attached hereto.)

Therefore, the debate on this matter is deferred to tomorrow.

Next item?

ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the House is adjourned to tomorrow at 2:00 p.m.

(The House rose at 6.13 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday, 11 November 2026 at 2.00 p.m.)

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LANDS ON THE SUSPENSION OF ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL CERTIFICATES OF TITLE BY THE MINISTER OF LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Office of the Clerk to Parliament

Parliament Building

Kampala

OCTOBER, 2026

Acronyms

FY	Financial Year
GIS	Geographical Information System
Ha	Hectare
KCCA	Kampala Capital City Authority
KM	Kilometre
LaVMIS	Land Valuation Management Information System
LIS	Land Information System
LG	Local Government
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MoFPED	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
MoLHUD	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
MZO	Ministry Zonal Office
NFA	National Forestry Authority
NLIC	National Land Information Centre
NLIS	National Land Information System
OAG	Office of the Auditor General
RTA	Registration of Titles Act, Cap 240
SCoT	Special Certificate of Title
TC	Town Council
ULC	Uganda Land Commission
UGX	Uganda shillings
VfM	Value for Money
SLAAC	Systematic Land Adjudication and Certification

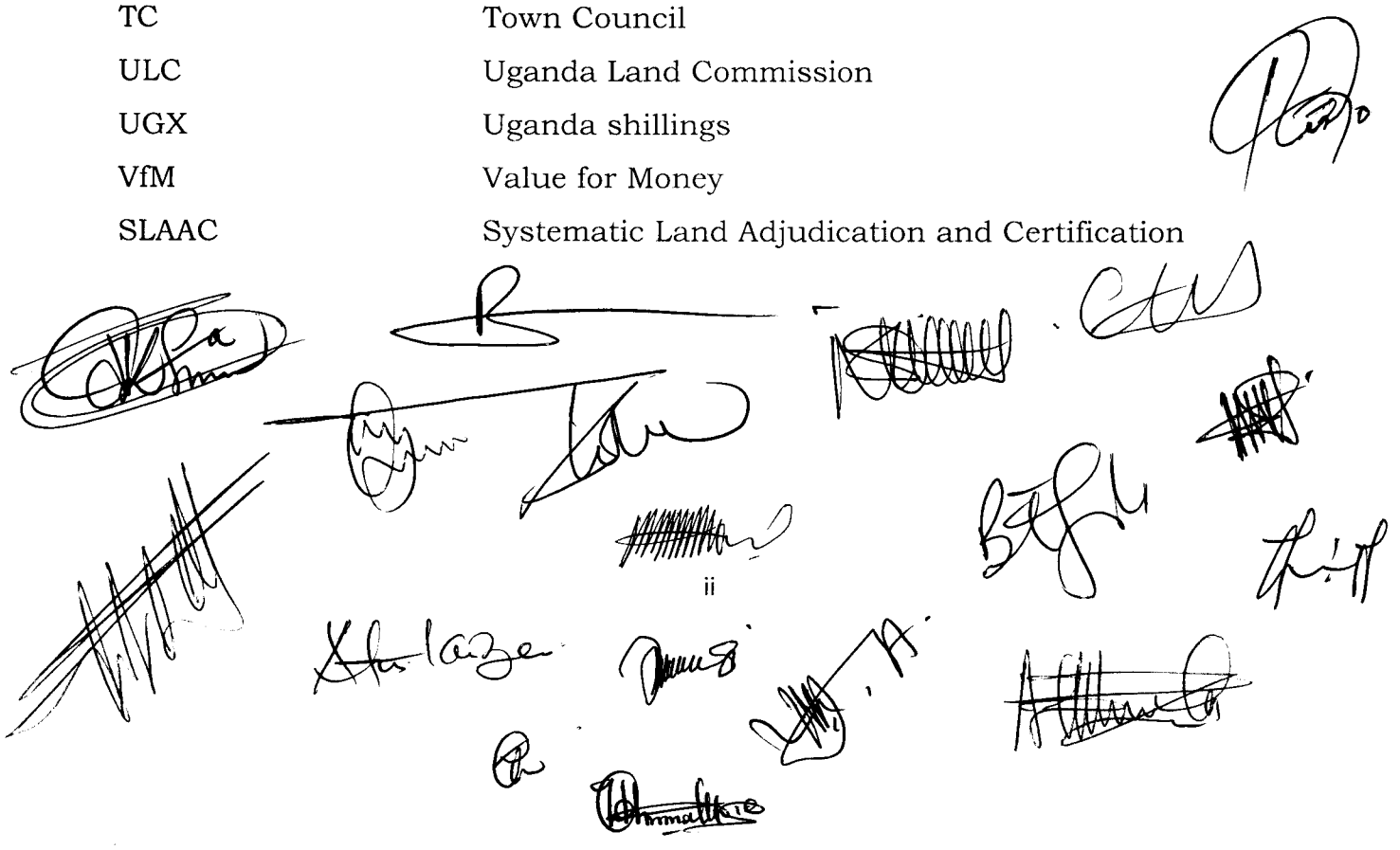


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Committee on Lands investigated the temporary suspension of issuance of Special Certificates of Title by the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, which was intended to address fraud and protect genuine landowners. However, the Committee established that the Ministry had not provided sufficient evidence to justify a nationwide suspension which affected genuine applicants, including those with lost or damaged land titles and those seeking titles through lawful court orders.

The Committee further established that Sections 69 and 70 of the Registration of Titles Act place the responsibility for issuing Special Certificates of Title on the Registrar of Titles and do not empower the Minister to suspend their issuance. The Attorney General confirmed this legal position. Although the Minister's intentions were well-meaning, the suspension was not in accordance with the law and disrupted land transactions, access to credit, investment and government revenue. The Committee acknowledged that the suspension was lifted on 20th October 2026.

The Committee recommends stronger verification procedures, improved recording of land fraud complaints, introduction of regulations to address gaps in the law, and adoption of electronic land titles and integrated information systems. It further emphasises the need for prior consultation with the Attorney General on major administrative decisions. The Committee concludes that land fraud must be addressed through lawful procedures, stronger safeguards and accountability, without unfairly affecting genuine landowners.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Colleagues,

On Tuesday 1st September, 2026, Hon. Harriet Ntabazi, Minister of State for Lands, Housing and Urban development, in charge of Lands, presented a statement in the House on the temporary suspension and review of issuance of Special Certificates of Title in Uganda. The Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the matter to the Committee on Lands to investigate and report back to the House.

In accordance with Rule 197(e) of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda, Statutory Instrument No.43 of 2025, the Sectoral Committee on Lands is mandated to monitor the performance of Ministries, Departments and Agencies that fall within its jurisdiction. In exercise of this mandate and following the referral of the matter by the Speaker, the Committee investigated the matter and hereby reports.

2.0 BACKGROUND

On 14th August, 2026, the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, issued an administrative directive suspending the issuance of Special Certificates of Title in the entire country for a period of three months. The Minister expressed concern on the continued issuance of special certificates of title without adequate verification, which was fueling land disputes and creating opportunities for land grabbers to dispossess legitimate land owners.

On 19th August 2026, Hon. Paul Mwiru, the Chief Opposition Whip, raised a concern on the legality of the directive, and the presiding officer directed the Minister to present a statement to the House explaining the legality and circumstances that led to the directive ***(refer to the Hansard Attached as Annexure A)***

In her statement to the House, the Minister explained that the suspension followed increasing complaints from registered proprietors, financial institutions, traditional institutions, administrators of estates and other stakeholders regarding circumstances under which Special Certificates of Title have allegedly been issued notwithstanding the continued existence, custody or use of the existing duplicate certificates of title.

She further noted that the intervention was instituted to facilitate a comprehensive review of the procedures, controls and institutional safeguards governing issuance of Special Certificates of Title, to curb systemic fraud including double titling, false/fraudulent statutory declarations, manipulation of succession processes and irregular transfers based on illegitimately acquired special titles.

2.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee sought to;

1. establish what a Special Certificate of Title is and the circumstances under which it can be issued,
2. establish the magnitude of the alleged malpractices related to issuance of Special Certificates of Title,
3. establish whether it was necessary for the Minister to suspend issuance of Special Certificates of Title,
4. establish whether the Minister's administrative action was lawful.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

In investigating the matter, the Committee applied the following methods;

(a) Stakeholder Engagements: The Committee held meetings with the following;

1. MoLHUD officials including those from Ministry Zonal Offices and National Land Information Centre.
2. The Hon. Attorney General
3. High Court - Land Division
4. Uganda Law Society.
5. Uganda Parliamentarians Land Management Forum

(b) Document Review:

The Committee examined relevant documents, including: Statistical Data on the concluded cases and pending suits.

5.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made the following observations and recommendations;

5.1.1 Issuance of Special Certificates of Title

The Committee noted that;

(a) Section 38 of the RTA provides for the creation of a certificate of title in duplicate form with one copy maintained as an original copy held by the registry (white page) and the other issued to the proprietor of the land as the owner's copy (duplicate copy). Both copies contain similar particulars.

(b) A Special Certificate of Title is a title issued to replace the owner's copy or duplicate Certificate of Title where the owner's copy or duplicate certificate is lost, destroyed, obliterated or rendered unusable. The particulars on a special certificate of title must be consistent with those recorded on the registry copy and the lost copy (duplicate copy). It was emphasized in the case of *Wasswa Siraji and Another versus Tom Luwalira and others, Court of Appeal, Civil Appeal No. 148/2017*, that the special certificate of title should have the same entries as that in the duplicate certificate of title which is lost or cannot be found or is destroyed.

(c) Section 69 of the Registration of Titles Act, empowers the Registrar of Titles to issue a special certificate of title and is required to;

(i) verify the facts contained in the statutory declaration submitted in support of an application for the issuance of a special certificate of title,

(ii) satisfy him/herself as to the truth of the statutory declaration and the bonafides of the transaction,

(iii) issue at least one month's notice of his or her intention to issue a special certificate of title which is published in the *Gazette*,

(iv) issue to the proprietor of the subject land, a special certificate of title to the land, which title must contain an exact copy of the certificate of title in the Register Book and of every memorandum and endorsement on it, and

(v) state the reasons why the special certificate is issued.

(d) The Registrar is also mandated under section 70 of the RTA to issue a special certificate of title where court, pursuant to any provisions of the Civil Procedure Act, directs him or her to do so. The Registrar is equally required to give notice of intention to issue a certificate of title under this section. Under section 48(4) of the Civil Procedure Act, Cap 282, court can direct the Registrar of Titles to issue a Special Certificate of Title in execution proceedings, where the duplicate Certificate of Title has been lost or destroyed or the judgment debtor cannot be served with an order under the section or the judgement debtor willfully withholds the certificate of title. In *High Court Miscellaneous Cause No. 0018/2023, an exparte application by Anthony Uzzi,* court directed the Registrar of titles to issue a Special Certificate of Title where the judgement debtor had concealed information regarding the duplicate certificate of title and he subsequently died. The order of issuance of the Special Certificate of title was premised on the fact that in light of the prevailing circumstances, the duplicate certificate of title was not within applicant's reach.

5.1.2 Establish the magnitude of the alleged malpractices related to issuance of Special Certificates of Title,

In her media statement dated 26th August 2026, the Minister said;

"The decision follows numerous and increasing complaints from members of the public, registered proprietors, financial institutions, traditional institutions, administrators and beneficiaries of estates and other stakeholders concerning circumstances in which Special Certificates of Title have allegedly been obtained or issued contrary to the laid down procedure."

In her statement to the House dated 1st September, 2026, the Minister stated;

"*The intervention follows increasing complaints from members of the public, registered proprietors, financial institutions, traditional institutions, administrators of estates and other stakeholders concerning circumstances in which Special Certificates of Title have allegedly been obtained or issued notwithstanding the continued existence, custody or use of the original duplicate certificates of title."*

During the interactions of the Committee with the Ministry, the Minister was on two occasions requested to substantiate or justify the magnitude or severity of malpractices as indicated in her statements above, however, the Ministry was only able to avail old decided cases relating to illegal issuance of the special certificates of title including;

(a) ***Mayanja Hussein versus Mubiru Christopher HCSC NO. 129/2010*** where a special certificate of title was issued in the name of the plaintiff on the representation that the duplicate certificate had been destroyed yet the duplicate certificate of title was still intact and registered in the name of the defendant. Court found the issuance of the special Certificate of Title to be irregular and emphasized that issuance of special certificates of title should not be used to fraudulently deprive other people of their property.

(b) ***Patel v Commissioner for Land Registration & Others, HCCS No. 87 of 2009 [2013] UGHCLD 1,*** where the Commissioner for Land Registration cancelled the plaintiff's special certificates of title over alleged irregularities in their issuance. The plaintiff challenged the cancellation, arguing that he was a bona fide purchaser for value and sought for reinstatement of his titles. Court clarified that a Special Certificate of Title merely replaces a lost duplicate and does not create a new title or independent register for the same land.

(c) **Kalyesubula Versus Abaasa HCCA No. 12/2012** where court upheld a decision concerning irregularities in the issuance of special and substitute titles noting that the original title documents had been wrongly reported as lost despite evidence that they still existed.

The Ministry submitted that the cases underscore the importance of proper verification and documentary accountability in the issuance of the Special Certificates of Title process.

The Committee noted that the Ministry relied on secondary data from the courts of law instead of data from the Ministry's own records. This led the Committee to question whether the Ministry had a proper reporting and recording system.

Observation

The Committee observed that the statement presented to the House did not provide sufficient supporting evidence to demonstrate the magnitude of fraudulent applications, including verified complaints, affected titles, investigations, prosecutions or the safeguards that had failed.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the Ministry establishes an efficient reporting and recording system for concerns arising from the public and

the data of cases where the Commissioner has been dragged to court over issuance of Special Certificates of Title.

5.2 Committee engagement with Judiciary

The Committee held an interactive meeting at the Supreme Court premises with a team of judicial officers led by the Principal Judge and the Head of Land Division. The intention of the meeting was to ascertain the magnitude of cases arising from the malpractices as alleged by the Minister.

The Committee was informed that the Total Case Load at the High Court, Land Division is 6,557, of which fraud cases involving Double Titling are 1,173 as of 28th October, 2026. However, the Committee was not furnished with specific data regarding the number of cases arising from malpractices in the issuance of Special Certificates of Title.

It was also noted that previously, there were common cases of people forging court orders and decrees and using them to apply and obtain Special Certificates of Title. Currently, Court has availed an email to the land registry to be used for seeking verification of court orders and decrees submitted to obtain Special Certificates of Title.

Recommendations;

(a) The Committee recommends that the MLHUD liaises with the Ministry of Finance to consider prioritizing funding for the block chain technology to enable the integration of the Land Information System with Judiciary and relevant MDAs such as NEMA, NFA, NIRA, URSB, Administrator Generals Office, etc

(b) The Committee was informed that in the blockchain system, the Ministry will be able to provide an Access Point Interface (API) where if a case is filed in any court in Uganda in respect to a particular parcel of land, the particulars of the case will be entered onto the system

and the Registrar of Titles will be able to verify the status of the case and existence of any court orders/decrees.

(c) The Committee further recommends that the MLHUD should not only adopt new appropriate technology like issuance of electronic titles, just as URA issues e-log books, but also propose amendments to the relevant land laws to give effect to the same. This will completely do away with the need to issue Special Certificates of Title since any one will be able to access their electronic copy.

5.3 Establish whether it was necessary for the Minister to suspend issuance of Special Certificates of title.

The Ministry informed the Committee that the essence of the temporary halting was to enable Government to identify and close existing loopholes and weaknesses in the existing systems, investigate reported abuses, strengthen verification and establish safeguards that protect both registered proprietors and innocent third parties.

The Committee noted that the RTA was enacted in 1924, (102 years ago), However the Minister has never issued Regulations to fully operationalise sections 69 and 70 which are relevant to the issuance of special certificates of title.

The RTA categorizes circumstances when special certificates of title can be issued to include, where the duplicate certificate of title is lost, destroyed, obliterated or when court directs issuance of the same.

Under S.69 of the RTA, the Registrar of titles is required to verify the facts and truth of the contents of the statutory declaration and the bonafides of the transaction, issue the special certificate of title and state the reasons for the issuance after at least one month's notice in the *Gazette* which is applicable to S.70 as well.

Observations

(a) The Committee observed that there could be several registered proprietors whose duplicate certificates of title were genuinely torn, partially destroyed, illegible or obliterated and were verifiable but were affected by the Minister's temporary blanket halt.

(b) The Committee further observed that the blanket halt affected issuance of Special Certificates of Title through verifiable court orders yet such cases would warrant issuance of the SCoT.

(c) The Committee noted that it is a requirement under the RTA for the notice of intention to issue a special Certificate of Title to only be published in the *Gazette* which is read by a few members of the public.

(d) S.69 of the RTA requires the Registrar of Title to verify the truthfulness of the contents of the statutory declaration yet Registrars of Title in the MZOs are largely desk officers who are not facilitated to go to the field to verify some information.

(e) The Committee observed that whereas practice has it that the applicants appear in person and are required to attach; passport size photographs, National Identity Cards, police reports, local council letters, to the applications for special certificates of title, the law is silent on these requirements and there are no regulations issued to that effect.

(f) In one of the meetings with the Ministry officials, the Committee was informed that the Minister was attending a meeting which was considering grounds for amendment of the RTA. The Committee was concerned that the Minister first suspended the issuance of the SCoT and later sat to propose amendments of the law.

(g) However, the Committee takes cognisance of the fact that after a couple of engagements with the Ministry, the Minister lifted the suspension on 20th October, 2026 and issued guidelines for issuance of Special Certificates of Title. The Committee observes that whereas the guidelines are in place, they are not issued under an express enabling provision of the RTA. In *David Martin Nyende versus Institute of Certified Public*

Accountants of Uganda, High Court Miscellaneous Cause No. 33/2014, where the Applicant's application for renewal of practicing certificate was denied on grounds that he had used a generic name contrary to the Respondent's "Audit Practice Guidelines, court found that because the guidelines were issued without an enabling provision of the law, they had no force of law. Court clearly noted as follows;

"Guidelines are just guidelines as the heading states. They do not have the force of law, in that apart from being referred to as Guidelines, it is not stated under what law and section of the law, the maker of the Guidelines derives their authority to make the guidelines. They should not therefore be applied as if they had the force of law".

Recommendation;

(a) The Committee recommends that the Ministry should require the Registrars of Title, Land Surveyors and Land Officers to conduct inspection and boundary opening to enhance physical verification of land before issuance of the Special Certificates of Title.

(b) The Committee recommends that the Minister invokes S.187 of the RTA and issue Regulations to address the identified gaps and loopholes in Sections 69 and 70 of the RTA, instead of issuing mere Guidelines that do not have force of law. Many unscrupulous citizens have taken advantage of these gaps and loopholes to abuse the procedure of obtaining SCoT. The drafting of these Regulations does not necessitate the Minister to first suspend the issuance of SCoT.

5.4 Establish whether the Minister's administrative action was lawful

The Minister suspended issuance of Special Certificates of Title for a period of three months from 14th August 2026.
The power to issue Special Certificates of Title is vested in the Registrar of Titles according to section 69 of the Registration of Titles Act. Section 69 does not confer upon the Minister any powers to suspend issuance of special Certificates of Title.

Whereas the Minister may exercise powers lawfully conferred by statute and may within the applicable public service and administration framework oversee policy and initiate legislative reform, those functions do not without an enabling provision permit a Minister to displace a statutory discretion vested in another office holder or to suspend the operation of an act by administrative direction.

During the interaction of the Committee with the Ministry, the Committee requested the Minister to give the legal basis of her administrative action. The Minister submitted that the action was exercised under sections 69 and 187 of the Registration of Titles Act. As already noted, section 69 confers upon the Registrar of Titles powers to issue Special Certificates of Title where the Duplicate Certificate of Title is lost, destroyed or obliterated.

Section 187 of the RTA empowers the Minister to make Rules, it reads:
"The Minister may make rules generally for carrying out the purposes and provisions of this Act, and the rules may include the prescription of fees either in lieu of or in addition to those prescribed in Schedule 5 to this Act and the fees to be charged by sworn valuers"

The above section neither expressly nor impliedly mandate the Minister to suspend the operation of a statutory procedure for a specified period of time.

In ***Dr. Frank Mwesigye versus Attorney General and Another, (2012) UGHC 473,*** the Minister of Health was by law authorised to appoint (3) three out of over 20 (twenty) members forming the composition of the National Drug Authority. The Minister relied on those appointment powers and dissolved the entire Authority. Court found that the enabling legislation did not confer upon the Minister powers to dissolve the Authority. Court went ahead to distinguish the Minister's limited statutory powers concerning appointments from the wider power to dissolve a statutory body and declared the purported dissolution ultra vires and void. The implication of this decision is that a Minister cannot enlarge the scope of the statutory authority by administrative action merely because the Minister considers such action necessary or desirable.

The Committee interacted with the Attorney General and among others sought his opinion on the legality of the Minister's administrative action. The Attorney General formulated an issue as to whether the RTA expressly authorizes the Minister to suspend the issuance of the special certificates of title or whether such authority arises by necessary implication from another valid statutory provision. The Attorney General submitted that there is no express provision granting the Minister powers to suspend issuance of Special Certificates of Title. In his conclusion on the issue, the Attorney General noted:

"In the absence of an express or necessary implied statutory power to suspend that procedure, a ministerial direction halting the issuance for a fixed period would risk unlawfully displacing the discretion which Parliament conferred upon the Registrar. The fact that the suspension is intended to prevent fraud does not itself supply the missing legal authority. Fraud prevention is a legitimate and important objective, but it must be pursued through the powers and procedures provided by law".

The Attorney General further confirmed that he was never consulted to guide on the Directive before its issuance.

Observations

(a) The Committee observes that the whereas the Minister's action was well intended, it was not undertaken in line with the law.

(b) The Committee observes that the suspension has had consequences beyond the administrative operations of the land registry including delayed conveyancing transactions, credit secured by land, investment and development, public revenue generated through stamp duty, registration fees and related land transactions.

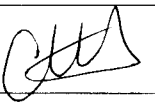
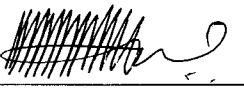
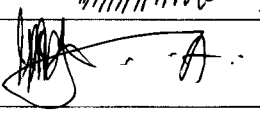
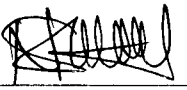
Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the Minister should always act within the confines of the law, study and assess the consequences of certain intended actions and formally consult the Attorney General to guide on the actions before administrative actions are taken.

6.0 CONCLUSION

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Honourable Members, the Committee recognises the legitimate concern about fraud in the issuance of Special Certificates of Title. However, the sustainable response is to enforce the law, strengthen the Registrar's verification safeguards and hold those responsible for fraud accountable, while protecting genuine proprietors from unnecessary delays. The Committee reports that on 20th October 2026, the Minister lifted the blanket suspension, and issued new Guideline for issuance of Special Certificate of Titles. However, the Minister should report to the House on the actions taken during the suspension and issue Regulations on issuance of Special Certificates of Title.

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