

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION - SECOND MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2026

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIRST SESSION - 19TH SITTING - SECOND MEETING

Wednesday, 11 November 2026

Parliament met at 2.44 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, welcome to today's Sitting. I wish to inform the House that Uganda will join the rest of the international community to commemorate World Prematurity Day on Friday, the 13th of November this very year. In our case, it will be celebrated in Pallisa District under the theme, "Small babies, big potential; invest in their follow-up care to protect their future".

The national commemoration will take place at Pallisa General Hospital and will include commissioning the newly improved Neonatal Care Unit as well as establishing another Neonatal Care Unit at Butebo Health Centre IV.

This occasion highlights the need to strengthen maternal and newborn health care, particularly for the babies born prematurely. I encourage honourable members to support efforts to improve access to quality neonatal care and reduce preventable newborn deaths across the country.

Honourable colleagues, I would also like to remind you that the men's health awareness screening exercise organised by the Ministry of Health is currently ongoing at the ground-level parking. I strongly encourage us, the male honourable members, to take this opportunity to have ourselves checked and screened. *(Applause)* The former Minister of Health is the only lady who has appreciated that men's health is women's wealth. *(Laughter)* I thank you.

We have a few matters of national importance today that we shall selectively consider. We shall do about seven, and keep it short, beginning with Hon. Kiiza Kenneth Nyendwoha.

2.48

MR KENNETH KIIZA (NRM, Bujenje County, Masindi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter pertaining to the delay in releasing the Chief Government Valuer's Report at Kilometre Zero along the Masindi-Biso Road. This has caused a delay in completing the road. The contractor has no access to the road to be able to complete the work.

My prayers are that;

i. Government pushes the Chief Government Valuer to release the report so that the contractor can access the land and be able to complete the road.
ii. Going forward, the Government should desist from undertaking road construction works without fully acquiring land as it

delays road works and causes Government to lose money.

I submit.

THE SPEAKER: Government?

2.50

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) (Mr Julius Maganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We have heard the comment from the honourable member. I just want to report that we currently have a directive from Cabinet that the Ministry of Works and Transport should not engage, sign contracts, or hand over to the contractors without having acquired the land. Therefore, the right-of-way is our priority before engaging in any development on the road infrastructure.

About the compensation issue at Kilometre Zero, the report from the Chief Government Valuer in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development was submitted to us last week. Right now, the ministry is verifying identification disclosures, and subsequently this will give us an assessment to begin compensating the people affected by the project. I believe we will begin the compensation in quarter three after all these identification and verifications are done.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Okot Boniface, Member from Kole South. One minute.

2.50

MR BONIFACE OKOT (NRM, Kole South County, Kole): Mr Speaker, on the 9th of November this year, the United States Department of State republished Uganda among 23 countries under its "Level 4: Do Not Travel" advisory, following the Ebola outbreak. The Ministry of Health declared the outbreak over on 28 July 2026, which was confirmed by the World Health Organisation and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention after 42 days without a case.

Many players in the tourism sector claim these negative advisories on the country are affecting them and many Ugandans a great deal. My prayer is that the Minister of Foreign Affairs urgently updates the House and the nation on the progress of interventions to downgrade Uganda.

THE SPEAKER: Government? That is very critical for all of us. Is Ebola the only reason?

2.52

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (REGIONAL AFFAIRS) (Mr Haruna Kyeyune): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank my brother, Hon. Okot, for raising this matter. On 28 August 2026, the honourable minister Adonia Ayebare, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, met with the Deputy Secretary of State, Mr Christopher Landau, and the senior officials of the United States of America.

Mr Speaker, the two principals reaffirmed the strong bilateral relations between Uganda and the United States of America and pledged further strength and cooperation for the mutual benefit of our peoples. The United States officials commended Uganda's response to Ebola and reaffirmed the long-standing partnership between the two countries in responding to disease outbreaks.

Hon. Ayebare expressed appreciation for the United States' continued support for Uganda's health sector, which has strengthened the country's capacity to respond to such outbreaks. Both principals committed to continue cooperation on health matters, including health sovereignty.

Mr Speaker, the discussions also covered investment opportunities for the private sector including the critical minerals with an emphasis on value addition. Both principals welcomed the recent Boeing and Starlink agreements signed with Uganda and expressed interest in further investment opportunities under the Trade Aid Policy.

Mr Speaker, Hon. Adonia Ayebare also raised concerns about the economic impact of travel advisories, particularly on tourism, international travel and the movement of

people. He called for regular communications to ensure that such advisories are informed by scientific evidence and reflect conditions on the ground.

Mr Speaker, now that the first engagement has not worked, I pledge that we are going to continue with more engagements and we shall be updating Parliament on any development that we shall achieve.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR HARUNA KYEYUNE: Mr Speaker, with your permission, I wish to also update Parliament on the issues that were raised to do with Ugandans who are suffering in Russia and other countries, if you so permit.

THE SPEAKER: Do you have a statement?

MR HARUNA KYEYUNE: I have a statement, although I am sure it has not been uploaded.

THE SPEAKER: Let us first be sure that it is uploaded, then we can hear from you. Thank you.

MR HARUNA KYEYUNE: Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Al-Hajji. Hon. Patrick Ongom?

2.56

MR PATRICK ONGOM (NRM, Erute County North, Lira): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. On Sunday the 8th, a group of youth travelling from Kole to Aromo for a football match got an accident, and three died on the spot. This accident arose from the road being in a bad state. This road stretches from Lira to Gulu through Oyam and Omoro. This road has not been graded for the last five years.

Mr Speaker, my prayer is that the Government condoles with the family of the three boys who died.

Secondly, the Ministry of Works and Transport considers urgently grading the road that stretches from Agweng, Aromo, through to Gulu, to save lives. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Government? There are two prayers there: One for compassionate contribution by the Government, and then the Ministry of Works and Transport on the bad road condition from Agweng, Ayam and Aromo, raised by Hon. *Aregedeng*. *(Laughter)*

2.58

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) (Mr Julius Maganda): Mr Speaker, I want to thank our brother, the Member of Parliament for Erute North, Hon. Patrick Ongom. It is true that we received this report from Hon. Ongom, about the situation of the Lira-Oyam Road that passes through Agweng-Ayam-Oromo.

We discovered that despite the road cutting through several subcounties, a section of it is part of the national roads network.

Currently, we have been facing challenges with fuel disbursement, but we have been able to mobilise fuel using the release we received for this quarter.

We have also instructed our zonal office of Lira to undertake the maintenance of this road. I believe in the coming weeks, our team should be on the ground to start the maintenance of this road so that it can be motorable and reduce on the number of accidents occurring. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable Minister of State for Transport. Hon. Wellborn Ottober Odia? How can your name be contradictory to that nature, to that level?

2.59

MR WELLBORN OTTOBER (NRM, Aruu North County, Pader): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter which is very imperative. My district, Pader, has 1,329 cases of persons suffering from nodding syndrome.

Mr Speaker, we have got 12 health facilities providing healthcare services to these persons.

But on a sad note, these health facilities are not receiving adequate drug supplies.

I have two prayers: One, it is my humble appeal that these health facilities be supplied with enough drugs.

Secondly, we used to have these persons getting support from the line ministry - that is, the Ministry of Health - in terms of boosting their immunity by supplying foodstuffs. Mr Speaker, it has been more than two years since these persons have not been getting that kind of support. It is my humble appeal that they should be supported with foodstuffs. I rest my case.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister of Health?

3.01

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH (PRIMARY HEALTH CARE) (Dr Charles Ayume): Thank you, Hon. Wellborn Ottober Odia. Mr Speaker, the Member raises a very pertinent point. It is very touching when you go to Acholi Subregion. The scars of nodding disease are visibly present.

However, on a lighter note, Mr Speaker, we have not had any new cases of nodding disease for the last 10 years. The disease came and went on its own. It is one of those diseases that has perplexed the scientific world. The cause to date is not known, but we think it is highly associated with a worm called the Onchocerca volvulus.

What did the Government do 10 years ago? They did mass treatment with Ivermectin, which is a drug they gave to the entire population. The Government also sprayed the rivers in Acholi Subregion. So, to date, we have not got any new cases.

Mr Speaker, the current patients suffer from recurrent seizures, and anti-seizure medication is part of the basic package that we give to health centres III and health centres IV. So, as a line minister, I will interrogate how come these health centres III - if it is true or not - are not receiving these drugs. But most importantly, these people need food. Nutrition is not a preserve of Ministry of Health.

Three years ago, we made a recommendation as the Committee on Health that we could take stock of the current number of nodding disease patients in Acholi Subregion, and the Government, through this Parliament, can take deliberate action to give them a Special Assistance Grant of, maybe, Shs 50,000 per household.

When we went there and interrogated some of these people, the nodding disease affects their brains, so they are tied like goats in their compounds. The mother goes to dig; this girl is left at home. Some were pregnant, meaning they had been defiled or raped. It is very bad out there and traumatising. If you are not of strong faith like me, you might break down and cry.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, let this House take that deliberate action and provide a special nutrition grant, probably through the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Clarification is offered by the - Dr Judas Wanyama. Hon. Silwany is raising a point of procedure.

MR SILWANY: Mr Speaker, yesterday in this House, we had a matter of ministers not attending to the Members. Today, I am very excited that all the ministers, and the senior ministers have come here, and they are responding to the issues of Members.

Mr Speaker, because of your diplomacy, you went ahead and tried to do a roll call just to make them come. Wouldn't it be procedurally right to be on record, to thank the Government Chief Whip who came at 2.00 p.m. with the ministers and the senior ministers? This is all that Members want – for them to come to the House and respond to their issues eclectically, holistically and succinctly, and on time. That is the procedural matter I wanted to raise.

THE SPEAKER: I think Hon. Silwany wanted to be on record because he is the one who started that yesterday. Today, he wanted maybe the chairperson, to acknowledge that there are more ministers than yesterday, but it is not true that they are all here. *(Laughter)* There are some who are not here and my office is aware that they are out of the country, like the Attorney-General; I cannot mention all the names.

However, today, we have seen the ministers who were not here yesterday, but are here now. The Minister of Internal Affairs - do it as we did for those ones yesterday – Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu is here. *(Applause)* We have Hon. Jonard Asiimwe, the Minister, Office of the President (Science, Technology and Innovation), and that particular minister who we have been looking for. They told us you were in Soroti. Then we have the learned former Attorney-General – the Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, Hon. Kiryowa Kiwanuka. We also have the Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister without Portfolio in the House, Rt Hon. Rukia Isanga Nakadama.

3.08

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Mr Speaker, I thank you very much, and thank the honourable colleagues for supporting the ministers to be around. What I want to say is that most of the ministers, when they are not here, are on duty. *(Interjections)* Today, we said we should not continue with any other business. When it is time for Parliament, let us all be in Parliament. Therefore, they are not just seated somewhere; they were on duty. We thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. We have Hon. Haruna Kyeyune Kasolo, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Regional Affairs).

3.09

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (REGIONAL AFFAIRS) (Mr Haruna Kyeyune): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, and I thank you for yesterday's diplomatic way of doing a roll call.

However, Mr Speaker, yesterday I had a very high-level engagement. *(Laughter)* We had an NRM Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting that started at 10.00 a.m.; so, it is not that we never wanted to appear yesterday. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I was just making the record straight. Hon. Amos Lugoloobi is there, and honourable – who was not there? Yes. *(Laughter)* Hon. Ayume, were you there yesterday? *(Hon. Ayume rose_) (Laughter)* Okay, it is fine.

I said yesterday, and I want to say it today, that it will not be my duty to call out the ministers. It is the duty of Members of Parliament who have matters to be attended to by the ministers. The Speaker's duty is not to call out ministers to come. I do not have business with the ministers; the ministers have business with the Members of Parliament. It should be clear. I will be the only Speaker here in this period who will not ask why the ministers are not here. If you people keep quiet, I will also keep quiet.

Therefore, I am inciting you against non-attendance of ministers. *(Laughter)* Of course, the Government Chief Whip never misses Parliament unless there is an NRM CEC meeting on the meeting day. It is true that you can be on duty elsewhere, but ministers should know that parliamentary attendance is also being on duty. We are not asking for too much.

Dr Wanyama, the Youth MP for Eastern Uganda, allow him speak for the youth.

3.11

DR JUDAS WANYAMA (NRM, Youth Representative, Eastern): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, the poverty temperatures in the gold-mining districts are high enough to make us believe that these people are living in hell, yet the gold deposits below them are also enough to make us believe these people are living where heaven is.

In Namayingo District, yesterday, we lost a young person; two months ago, we lost six people in the mines and; three months ago, about 14 of them. Mr Speaker, these people are living in poverty, yet they have wealth beneath them. They are too vulnerable to the dangers of extracting this gold. We believe these deaths are arising from the long bureaucratic processes of getting these artisanal mining licences, and also the expensive procedures.

What happens is that these people fail to get the mining licences legally - and these are unemployed young people – so, in the night they go into these pits without undertaking the required safety measures in these pits. Therefore, these mines collapse on them and they die. They will not stop going there because they need money.

My prayer to this House and the ministry is to simplify the artisanal mining licence procedures and also decentralise them. In Ghana and Tanzania, they have decentralised them and this has grown their economies. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, if these processes are decentralised, these young people are going to get licences, and we shall not have death happening.

The other prayer is to have daily monitoring and registration of attendance before these people enter these pits. If they do so, we shall know how safe these pits are, but if they are not safe for these young people, we shall stop them from mining until they are safe. Therefore, I urge the ministry to make an undertaking on this. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Energy and Mineral Development or the Government?

3.14

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Mr Speaker, we send our condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones through the mining process. I would like to inform this House that there is a paper that was supposed to be presented to Cabinet last Monday. It will be coming here any time, and it includes issues to do with mining certificates and many other things that will include the youths.

Therefore, I request that we give the ministry one or two weeks to return with that comprehensive paper because Cabinet has to pass it first. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The point raised there is the bureaucratic nature involved in the licensing process that has led to the deaths of our young people. If some of your areas have gold and you know – If I said now that there is gold beneath this Parliament, some of you would find a way of coming back and digging it with pens. *(Laughter)*

You can imagine the plight of these people in the East, where the sun rises from and where we are quite blessed, plus a few areas in Mubende and the West. If that gold was in some other places, I am sure the story would be different. Please, let the Government not overstretch those who have gold in their areas.

The statement should come within one week, not two weeks. Thank you, honourable Member of Parliament for the youth for speaking for your people. I heard somebody asking for his number but please, next time. *(Laughter)*

Hon. Patrick Ogwang Obura? *(Hon. Alobo rose_)* Procedure, Hon. Alobo. Did you say your name was Joan Alobo? You are now famously known for leopards or something like that. *(Laughter)*

MS ALOBO: Mr Speaker, the issue of leopards is being handled and I am glad. Yesterday, you made very good remarks on the presence of the Government's Front Bench or ministers and you have done the same today. Wouldn't it be procedurally right that you also do the same for the ministers on your left-hand side, who have always been present most of the time? *(Applause)* Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: It is in order to acknowledge the shadow ministers on my left-hand side. Actually, they overwhelmed this House yesterday; they were all here. *(Applause)* Hon. Ssewungu, are you a minister? (*Laughter) [Member: "Hon. Ayagalachi."]* I think the Leader of the Opposition should furnish me with the list.

We want to recognise the Shadow Minister of Finance who is there; I know him. Hon. Ayagalachi cannot be a minister. *[Mr Ayagalachi: "I am a minister."] (Laughter)* There is Hon. Ismail Kasule and Hon. Nyakato for Works and Transport. Hon. Joan Alobo, which ministry are you charged with? *(Laughter)* Hon. Okot, which ministry are you charged with?

3.20

THE SHADOW MINISTER OF SPECIAL REGIONS (Mr Peter Okot): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I superintend the special regions, and that entails Northern Uganda, Karamoja, Bunyoro, Luweero Triangle and Rwenzori. *(Laughter)* In other words, I actually work closely with the Office of the Prime Minister. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The Opposition could not have all the numbers to match with the Government side. Hon. Haruna, now that you have seen your counterpart – *(Laughter)* – can you acknowledge her?

3.21

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (REGIONAL AFFAIRS) (Mr Haruna Kyeyune): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. We have a lot of work to do – *(Laughter)* – at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I think she needs to keep close contact with the substantive minister. *(Laughter)* Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The next minister is the honourable Member of Parliament representing Kayunga, the Shadow Minister for the Presidency. She shadows Hon. Babalanda. There is Hon. Tebandeke; who do you shadow?

3.22

THE SHADOW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (Mr Charles Tebandeke): I shadow Animal Industry and Fisheries.

THE SPEAKER: Wonderful. Who is the next one there? Yes, Hon. Sumayah?

3.22

THE SHADOW MINISTER OF LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (Ms Sumayah Nabawanuka): I shadow Hon. Judith Nabakooba, the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development. Unfortunately, I am not seeing her in the House. She was here yesterday, but she is not in right now.

THE SPEAKER: She is there; the minister is there. Next? It is important that we balance the House. Tell us your name and the ministry.

3.23

THE SHADOW MINISTER OF COOPERATIVES AND MICROFINANCE (Ms Eugenia Nassolo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am the Shadow Minister for Cooperatives and Microfinance. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Kasolo, do you want to go back to your former docket? *(Laughter)*

MR HARUNA KYEYUNE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I still have memories of microfinance and as Government, we work as a team. In case the Minister for Microfinance is away, she can ably work with me. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: We have Hon. Abdallah and we shall stop there.

3.24

THE SHADOW MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (Mr Abdallah Kiwanuka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Shadow Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

THE SPEAKER: Okay. Then Hon. Zambaali.

3.25

THE SHADOW MINISTER FOR KAMPALA CAPITAL CITY AUTHORITY (Ms Zahrah Luyirika): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Hon. Zahra Luyirika; I am the Shadow Minister for Kampala Capital City Authority. Unfortunately, my ministers are never in the House.

THE SPEAKER: Oh, wow. You just introduced yourself and –

3.25

THE SHADOW MINISTER OF SPORTS (Mr Bulasio Zambaali): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Bulasio Mukasa Zambaali, the Shadow Minister for Sports. My substantive minister is there. Hon. Ogwang, rise up for recognition. Rise Up. *(Laughter)* Thank you, my best man.

THE SPEAKER: Yes?

3.26

THE SHADOW MINISTER FOR EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (Mr Hakim Kizza): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Hakim Sawula Kizza, Shadow Minister for East African Community Affairs. I shadow the iron lady from Busoga, the Rt Hon. Kadaga.

THE SPEAKER: Yes? Hon. Musisi, you are not a shadow - Oh, you are a vice chairperson. You are a backbencher.

3.26

MR JAMALI AYAGALACHI (NUP, Bukooli County North, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I was asked to mention the person I shadow. I shadow Gen. Otafiire. Water and Environment. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: You are the real shadow of - Yes, Dr Eunice?

3.26

THE SHADOW MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (Dr Eunice Otuko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am Dr Eunice Otuko Apio, Member of Parliament for Oyam County North and Shadow Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) but not the other one. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Engineer Jonard - stand up so that we can see you properly.

DR EUNICE: Yes, we have met several times. I shadow you. Yes. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Now, we did not know that you have been meeting. *(Laughter)*

DR EUNICE: We have done that. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, that was helpful because Members need to know one another, especially those with responsibility - No, the Leader of the Opposition is known. If you do not know the LOP, then you do not know the Prime Minister of Uganda. He shadows the Leader of Government Business.

Hon. Joel Ssenyonyi, do you want to stand up for those who have come for the first time today? *(Hon. Ssenyonyi rose_)* Yes, and that is him. Okay. Hon. Ssewungu is for Defence. Having been a *kadogo*, he is actually a deserter. I do not know –

3.27

THE SHADOW MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (Mr Joseph Ssewungu): Mr Speaker, I am for Defence and Veteran Affairs and my minister is Hon. Kiryowa Kiwanuka, the former Attorney-General, and we are both Express FC fans.

And this brings us back; when you bring these ideas, they might think they are jokes but this is what is supposed to happen. From the training we had in this institution, we were told - The former Attorney-General is there, he can bear me witness - where the Leader of Government Business and the LOP had issues that could not be resolved on the Floor, they would go behind the Speaker and harmonise. Then they would come with a uniform position.

Nowadays, of course, we cannot blame the former Commission, but revisiting that should be taken into consideration.

The colonial British system, behind the Speaker - I used to see the Rt Hon. Kadaga or Rt Hon. Oulanyah and senior Members who were here before us. The Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister would take that direction, behind that corridor to harmonise, then they bring a position on both sides. That is how we used to avoid fighting in this House.

THE SPEAKER: And the door was soundproof; you would not hear what they were saying. And not that they were friends but they come and work for the nation.

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, if I may conclude, even the technocrats this side and the other side. However, that will be for the Commission; otherwise, that is very key.

THE SPEAKER: The new parliamentary chambers will take care of that.

MR SSEWUNGU: We are praying to be there before the term ends.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Let me – *[Hon. Acon rose_]* - I think we have taken a lot of time on that, unless your point of procedure is about adjournment or something. *(Laughter)*

MR ACON: Mr Speaker, the procedural matter I am raising is something very small; it will not take long. First of all, I would like to thank you for the recognition of the ministers on the other side. As we are aware, all our ministers on this side got vehicles; wouldn't it be procedurally right to recognise and appreciate them as well? Some of them could be knocked by a *boda boda*. The Government can give them something. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The procedural issue is that one side has vehicles and the other does not have. The issue is that the Leader of Government this side provided vehicles for his ministers. I did not know that this side, you did not provide because they are not the ministers of this side. I tell you if they all got vehicles, then there would be no Opposition in this country. Let them be without vehicles so that they can work hard to come to this side. Thank you for noting that.

He is talking about facilitation. However, the Shadow Ministers are properly facilitated to do their work but not with vehicles. Hon. Patrick Ogwang? Then the last one will be Hon. Bernard Mutebi Mugoya, Bulamogi County.

3.31

MR BENARD MUGOYA (Independent, Bulamogi County, Kaliro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank you for this opportunity.

First of all, I would like to draw the attention of this House and particularly the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development to a serious challenge of rural electrification in my constituency, Bulamogi County, Kaliro District.

Many communities in my constituency are still living in darkness that is even deeper than that in the grave. Our people continue to live without electricity despite the importance of power in supporting business, education, and healthcare.

Even where electricity infrastructure has been installed, some transformers are faulty, while others were installed but have never been connected to consumers. For example, Mr Speaker, in Bwayuya, near the sugar factory, a transformer was installed, but the surrounding communities are still unable to access electricity.

THE SPEAKER: What are your prayers?

MR MUGOYA: My prayers are:

(i) extending rural electrification to unserved communities in Bulamogi County;
(ii) repairing and replacing faulty transformers; and
(iii) ensuring that the already installed transformers, particularly at Bwayuya, are connected and made operational.

I thank you and beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Energy and Mineral Development - the honourable member was yesterday receiving judgment, upon which we congratulate him. He won the

election petition. Therefore, he was not here to interface with the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development. *(Applause)* Now, do you have energy or power?

3.34

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (MINERALS) (Ms Phiona Nyamutoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rural electrification is a challenge that we are facing across the board in the entire country. The prayer is noted for action. I will get in touch with my colleague on the issue of the transformers. Those can be worked on by the Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL) as soon as possible, as we continue to request the support of this House on financing to see us achieve last-mile connections. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you for being very eloquent. Honourable members, let us go to the next item. I am not sustaining any more procedural issues now, unless it is fatal. Next item.

BILLS
FIRST READING

THE ADMINISTRATION OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

THE SPEAKER: Let us read the Bill. The promoter of the Bill, Hon. Dennis Namara?

3.35

MR DENNIS NAMARA (NRM, Buyaga West County, Kagadi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In accordance with Rule 134 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to move that the Administration of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2026 be read for the first time, and I hereby lay the Bill on the Table.

I would like to elucidate regarding the Certificate of Financial Implications. On 8 July 2026, Parliament granted me leave to introduce a Private Member's Bill entitled, "The Administration of Parliament (Amendment) Bill." Following the grant of leave by Parliament, the Clerk to Parliament, by a letter dated 7 August 2026, requested the minister responsible for finance to issue a certificate of financial implications for the Bill, as required under Section 74 of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171 and Rule 124 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda.

The letter requesting the issuance of a Certificate of Financial Implications was received by the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development on 12 August 2026. To date, the Minister of Finance has not responded to the letter requesting a certificate of financial implications.

It is imperative to note that Section 74 of the Public Finance Management Act imposes a mandatory duty on the minister to issue a certificate of financial implications when applied for, which is parametric with Rule 124 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament:

The cost estimates of the Bill

1. Every Bill introduced in Parliament shall be accompanied by a Certificate of Financial Implications issued by the minister.
2. The Certificate of Financial Implications issued under subsection (1) shall indicate the estimates of revenue and expenditure over a period of not less than two years after the coming into effect of the Bill when passed.
3. In addition to the requirements under subsection (2), the Certificate of Financial Implications shall indicate the impact of the Bill on the economy.
4. Notwithstanding subsections (1) (2), and (3), a Certificate of Financial Implications shall be deemed to have been issued after 60 days from the date of request of the certificate.

Section 74(4) obligates the minister to issue a Certificate of Financial Implications within 60 days from the date on which the request is transmitted to the minister.

It is evident that in respect of the Administration of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, the Clerk to Parliament applied for a Certificate of Financial Implications on 12 August 2026. In accordance with Section 74(4) of the Public Finance Management Act, the Minister of Finance was obligated to issue the certificate within 60 days of the receipt of the request. The statutory period afforded the minister lapsed on 11 October 2026 without any response to the Clerk's request for a Certificate of Financial Implications.

This, therefore, means that the Administration of Parliament (Amendment) Bill is deemed by operation of Section 74(4) of the Public Finance Management Act to be accompanied by a certificate of financial implications.

Mr Speaker, I also beg to lay on the Table the request by the Office of the Clerk to the minister to issue the certificate and the date on which it was received by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: When a Bill comes without a certificate, you do not put the question. You know I am a new Speaker. Don't you know that? I am looking at Rule 134 of our Rules of Procedure. The first reading is based on Rule 134, but also Rule 124 of our Rules of Procedure on the Certificate of Financial Implications.

Do you want to make any justifications? I just want to know what efforts you put in as a mover. When the Clerk wrote to you, what efforts did you put in to get the Certificate of Financial Implications for this Bill? You tried and you -?

MR NAMARA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Indeed, I can assure you, without any fear of contradiction, that I made all the possible efforts to ensure that I secured the certificate. However, the Minister of Finance, I think, well knowing that there is a law where it can be implied that it was issued, deemed it unnecessary to issue it. That is from my own interpretation.

As far as I am concerned, the legal procedure for applying is well known; it is not individual – it is not me who applies legally; it is from the Office of the Clerk. Once I have gotten leave, then it is the responsibility of the minister; it is actually an obligation for the minister to issue that certificate. If he fails under Section 74(4), the law is categorical; it will have been deemed to have been issued.

I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The Bill is referred to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. The committee will invite the minister to give his justifications there. The rule does not provide for the minister to come and give it here. Under Rule 135(2) of our Rules of Procedure, I refer this Bill to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, which should report back to the House under that rule within 45 days. *(Hon. James Kakooza rose_)* There is no substantive matter for seeking guidance. I have already made the ruling. Honourable member, you can talk generally.

MR JAMES KAKOOZA: Mr Speaker, I am not against your ruling.

THE SPEAKER: You would not dare do that.

MR JAMES KAKOOZA: Of course. However, this Parliament has its practices and norms when passing Bills or when Bills are brought as Private Members' Bills.

The minister declining to give a Certificate of Financial Implications – I wanted us to recollect it as a practice of this House; Article 93 – The Attorney-General can guide us. Article 93 bars - and it is the supreme law of this House and the Constitution bars any Bill, that has finances and where the finance minister has not – Maybe you could interpret it with the Certificate of Financial Implications in the Bill because the law bars any Bill.

THE SPEAKER: Now we –

MR JAMES KAKOOZA: Article 93 of the Constitution. The Attorney-General could

guide us so that it becomes a clear indication between the law –

THE SPEAKER: So, what –?

MR JAMES KAKOOZA: My procedural issue is: The Bill which has been laid before the House bars – The Attorney-General could help us.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Kakooza, you are a very senior Member of this House. You know the rules provide for everything, including where the certificate is not given. And where a certificate is not given, I cannot put the question for the motion for that to be read for the second time. Did you hear the question being put?

Now, all these things will be interrogated at the committee level. The committee will come and ask – The Minister of Finance now wants to speak. What will you speak about when the committee invites you? Attorney-General, you want to speak now? What will you do when the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs - because what they will say is what will form the report of the committee and the House will be able to debate within 45 days. That is very clear – *(Hon. Kwizera rose_)* – You are guiding the Speaker? *(Laughter)* Procedure can only be raised when there is a proceeding going on. On this matter, we have already proceeded. If – *(Laughter)* – Okay, a point of Order is allowed.

MR KWIZERA: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Kwizera, when you are rising on a point of order, where the Speaker is going to rule – I want to guide: If you are rising on a point of order, there should be a Member holding the Floor, and it is not in order for him to do so, but where the Speaker is the one speaking, you should know – I said it here the last few weeks that I am always right because I am referred to as 'Right Honourable'. I am not left or wrong. *(Laughter)* So, I am right.

I am cautioning you because you are my friend, and I do not want to embarrass you with these rules. If you are going to say "order" and there was nobody holding the Floor, then "procedure", and there is nobody proceeding, it means the point of order will be against me, and I was supposed to make the ruling. Hon. Eddie Kwizera, do you still want to proceed with your procedure and order, even after that guidance?

MR KWIZERA: Mr Speaker, I have taken your guidance.

THE SPEAKER: So, what did you want to say?

MR KWIZERA: I wanted to bring to your attention, and that of Members that all the business in the House is referred to the committee under Article 90.

Secondly, Article 93 also talks about financial implications, meaning that – Is the Bill creating offices? Does it have any requirement of financial implications? So, when you are guiding, we shall be pleased. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: That is the work of the committee. Parliament works through committees and when they bring it back, we take a decision. Next item?

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ON THE OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE NATIONAL LAND INFORMATION CENTRE AND THE MINISTRY ZONAL OFFICES OF WAKISO-BUSIRO, MASAKA, JINJA, MBALE AND SOROTI WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO DOUBLE/MULTIPLE AND OVERLAPPING TITLING

THE SPEAKER: Yes, this matter was there on the 5th and it has come up today for debate and I want the chairperson to just recap so that he moves the motion for the adoption of the report.

3.49

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (Mr Edson Rugumayo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. This report was laid last Thursday, and I gave

brief highlights about it. I, therefore, want to request or move a motion that this report be debated, enriched, and passed by the House. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, the report is up for debate. Before we do that, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation from Kaliro District. Hon. Bernard Mugoya Mutebi, Hon. George Patrick Kasajja and Hon. Brenda Namukuta represent the people of Kamuli and the people of Kaliro -*(Laughter)* - What is the difference? Just to correct the record, Kaliro was part of Kamuli in many ways until not long ago.

They have come to observe the proceedings of the House, and they are right here, led by the Venerable Reverend Canon alongside the District Officer and the Principal Assistant Secretary, the religious leaders and community leaders from Kaliro. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)* That is the delegation from Kaliro. I actually interfaced with them before I came to the House.

Next item? We want to combine these two items so that they can be debated together, if there is any debate.

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

THE SPEAKER: These two items are supposed to be debated together because they are related. There being no debate, I put the question for the motion – Yes, Member for Ndorwa West?

3.51

MR ELIAB NATURINDA (NRM, Ndorwa County West, Kabale): Mr Speaker, I have had the advantage of reading the report and specifically the committee report on issuance of Special Certificates of Title. They recommend, among others, measures that can be made to prevent fraud, especially in the issuance of Special Certificates of Title.

Mr Speaker, there must be an element added, which is the addition of local council leaders because when you send valuers or surveyors on site to issue a Special Certificate of Title, and you do not visit or involve the local council leadership, you are creating another problem. I recommend that among the recommendations being undertaken, the issue of local council leaders should be added.

Mr Speaker, I also want to add that on the issuance of Special Certificates of Title, personally, I have had transactions and, in this case, in businesses, you lose a lot of money because the Government simply issues Special Certificates of Title without serious due diligence. In this case, when you look at a search that is made currently, a search letter does not include a barcode. When an online search letter is issued, it should have a barcode. Without this barcode, we cannot guarantee that a search letter is valid. Anyone can actually print it out or get it from the system.

Mr Speaker, I also want to say that before the issuance of a Special Certificate of Title, the area land committee and the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development must make sure that they create what is called a Geographical Information Survey (GIS), which is locally called a map of the land.

So, you can be in this Parliament, but you can actually get a map in Wakiso. If you are actually getting - Let us use an example of Kitetika or Kyanja; you can actually get the physical location of some house in Kyanja. If I am in Parliament, I do not need to go to Kyanja to actually see what is there. I simply log on to my computer, and I get what is on the ground. Even if I wanted what was on the ground five years ago, I can actually adopt it.

Mr Speaker, when you look at what the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) is doing right now, before NEMA issues a certificate of environmental compliance, they

actually log on to the system and can see what took place on the land five years ago. Every year, the map is updated.

So, Mr Speaker, there must be serious involvement, especially on matters of information and communications technology (ICT), if we are to solve these matters of special certificate of title. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Only those who have read the report, like that honourable Member of Parliament from Ndorwa West, citing a page, relating the report to the findings and actual things, add value. If you have not read the report, do not talk generally. *(Laughter)* Hon. Waluswaka?

3.55

MR JAMES WALUSWAKA (NRM, Bunyole West County, Butaleja): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Having critically read the report, I thank the chairperson, and the committee members. *(Laughter)* Mr Speaker, when we talk about land, in Butaleja, things which can make people die are usually land and women. *(Laughter)*

Now, when we are talking about land, Mr Speaker, the issue which usually brings problems in the land is where technical officers get an old title, and put on that title another title. It has come to our notice that this is usually brought about by surveyors.

I want this House – We highly recommend that the surveyors – because there are private surveyors who do this work under the supervision and monitoring of the Government surveyors – such that whoever does that illegality is held liable.

Mr Speaker, our people go – and especially even Government land – you find Government land has been there; the title is of maybe 1962. Some officers from nowhere impose another title on an existing land title.

Finally, Mr Speaker, we have technical officers who, in case they are moved, for example, from Wakiso to Moroto, find a way of manoeuvring so that they are not transferred. There are people who think that their employment would be basically for the Ministry Zonal Office (MZO) of maybe Kampala and Wakiso. When they are taken to our rural villages, they do not want to work.

So, I request the House that some of these technical officers in the MZOs, specifically, be there for a maximum of three years and they are transferred. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: I did not find any page which had that. *(Laughter)* Hon. Ababiku?

3.58

MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Allow me to thank the committee for a very good report. In the report, the honourable minister gave a justification for the suspension, and the major cause is the fraud.

But, Mr Speaker, I will request that the honourable minister elaborates more because we have stages of fraud. Are the local people being implicated more than the ones in the ministries? If there are cases in the ministries where fraud is being practised, the minister needed to do oversight on them and brief this House properly with the solutions that we need to undertake.

And she even said in the report that the three-month suspension is for a comprehensive review. Therefore, I will request that the ministry comes here and updates us about the reviews that they are proposing so that this House can make amendments.

Mr Speaker, allow me to thank the Government for lifting the suspension because asking for a special certificate of titles at times is for good intentions. There are those who misplace their titles, and there are those who lose them. One time I lost mine, and I was helped to get a special title. So, there are those cases which are genuine. Therefore, I request that the minister comes to update us.

But in the first report, the committee cited the issue of delayed processes to get a land title. There was a time I took almost six months to get my land title. I feel that that needs to be worked upon so that if people want to do commercialisation or borrow money, they can be helped to get the titles that can aid them to do business. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Silwany?

4.01

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I thank the committee for the report that was very elaborate. However, when you look at the report, the committee is also "reading the book of lamentations" and explaining how it is very difficult to process a title.

I expected the committee to come up with possible solutions. This question goes directly to the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, who I see is in the House. What are you providing for the local Ugandans? Somebody who has purchased land is a bona fide owner of the land, but he needs to process a title.

Mr Speaker, under the 1995 Constitution, there are people who got customary land some time back. But when you have stayed on that land for over 30 years, there is a law that definitely protects you. How are you going to help the local people to fasten the process of getting their titles? Because without a title, somebody cannot go and get a mortgage. So, our people end up being stuck and cannot do anything.

Yet when the committee talks, it only shows us the hurdles in getting the land title, but it is not providing solutions. So, I want the minister, in her response, to come up and tell the House: What are the possible solutions that are going to be provided for the local people to get their land titles, so that when people get land titles, they are assured of ownership of property? That is the question I want the minister to come and answer.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Isaac.

4.02

MR ISAAC OTIMGIW (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committee for their report.

In an effort to make sure that a number of communities get land titles, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development came up with a project whereby they were issuing a reduced rate for a number of districts to get land titles; for example, Nebbi District was one of the beneficiaries, but the project did not last long. I think that was a good effort, especially for those communities and ancestral lands, as the honourable colleague has mentioned. That was a good opportunity for them to be able to get land titles so that they can also mortgage it and get money if, at all, it is needed.

If the ministry can also inform us how we can help them, as a House, to extend this project; to make sure that the fee is removed to help some of these communities, which are not financially capable, to be able to get land titles, and to go through the processes of receiving land titles as it was done. We wish that the proposal and the project, which was brought, can be extended further because many communities benefitted at that time and got land titles for their land. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ann Maria Nankabirwa?

4.04

MS ANN MARIA NANKABIRWA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kyankwanzi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the committee for the good report. In the report, the committee raised the pertinent issue of converting Kabaka's land to freehold; I faced it recently. I am the chairperson of Wamala Growers Cooperative Union. When the Government returned Kabaka's land titles, the condition the President gave to Buganda was that people already had leases on the land. Therefore, by agreement, once those leases expired, the Buganda Land Board would consider those people for renewal.

Now, this is a scenario where the lease had expired after 49 years, and we were pursuing a renewal. Working with the Buganda Land Board – which had no objection to the renewal – some of the titles could not be seen. It took us a lot of work to find the file which had then been converted into freehold. That land is in Mubende Municipality.

I thank the Buganda Land Board, which helped us and the Ministry of Lands, and at the end of the day, the issue was solved. What does that mean? In the committee report, I have seen that they went to Kyaggwe and Mukono, but the same happens in Greater Mubende because much of the land, especially in Mityana, is under the Kabaka. It means it is failing people because of converting Kabaka land into freehold.

The second one is about backlog. I faced it personally; I was pursuing a transaction on my title, which I had already had in the bank for some time. When I went to the bank, they said, "No, you have a backlog on your land title." And when these land titles were put on the system, there was nothing like a backlog. Now you find that every land title, when you want to do a transaction -

THE SPEAKER: What is this backlog you are introducing on land titles?

MS NANKABIRWA: The backlog means they are either plotting or registering two land titles on the same plot, and that was an issue that was specifically caused by those who were putting our land titles on the system. What happens is that you have to pay a second time. I had to ask: who pays for the backlog when it is not my responsibility and I hold a title?

However, I thank them for the improvements. Ever since the digitalisation, there has been a lot of improvement, and I wish they could do better.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Opio? That will conclude this side. Then I come to this side.

4.07

DR ACUTI OPIO (NRM, Kole North County, Kole): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the committee for this comprehensive report. In the first report on page 15, paragraph 4, line 2, the committee observed that there is a disclaimer on the search report whereby the ministry states that they are not responsible for the accuracy of the information, and they also do not accept any liability for any loss, errors, misstatement on the search report. This is unfortunate because this is a government document. It is used to purchase land, transactions, and the Government has lost land because of some of these inaccuracies.

I propose and recommend that, in those recommendations, that disclaimer should be deleted. If the ministry has challenges in certain aspects, especially digital migration, then funding should be provided. The challenges should be addressed. Otherwise, having a document in which you are denying responsibility is like a mother producing the child and refusing parental responsibility.

Relatedly, the committee also observed that there is no data recovery site for this digital system. If there were a cyber-attack today, it means we would lose all that data. Again, that is unfortunate, yet Shs 1.4 billion is indicated to have been spent to have a data recovery site. We will be reverting to the manual system.

However, the report also observes that in the Wakiso Zonal Land Office, there is a strong room to keep the files, but it is not sufficient, and some of the files are being kept in boardrooms. That puts it at high risk; so, I propose that where there are financial challenges, additional funding be given to address these deep challenges. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: The citation of the page by the honourable member is accurate, and the committee actually went ahead. The Attorney-General should guide when the committee observed, and they cited the Supreme Court case, *Civil Appeal No. 004 of 2024, Attorney-General v. Henry Property Developers Limited.* The court emphasised that the integrity of the

Torrens system depends on the state's guarantee that its official register is accurate.

Therefore, that disclaimer that the Government puts on when you search – This is the essence of what the committee has. Therefore, when you are adopting this report, you are also adopting and removing that disclaimer. This thing when you search online; they say we cannot guarantee this so – former Attorney-General, you were the one in this case.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Yes, Mr Speaker. I think the disclaimer needs to be read within the framework of our land holding system because the Torrens system would only be accurate to the extent of the registration in the registry. However, that disclaimer is talking about ownership; so, you know, you have the customary owners and the *bibanja* holders. I think what this disclaimer is telling you is that "Yes, you may have this one as the registered owner, but you need to do more because of our land holding system." You could have a registered owner of a property but have a *kibanja* or customary holder in possession of the land.

It is that balance that Parliament needs to be alive to – that these two are not mutually exclusive. I could be the registered owner on a certificate of title in the land registry, but the possessory interest in that land is with someone else who is a *kibanja* or customary holder of that land on the ground. Therefore, the disclaimer is not entirely out of place.
I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: You argued that case. Did you win the appeal?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: No, I did not win the appeal. Not to say that I agree with the court, because it is a matter that is going to be constantly argued, and I am sure it is going to go back to the Supreme Court. I have no doubt they will review that because, as long as we keep in our land holding system a dual channel where I can have a title and I can have title without a document; I am a customary owner, and I am also a registered owner. As long as you have that dual, that disclaimer becomes important to anyone dealing with that land. It is not enough for you to look at the title and not check the land; so, I think what they are saying is to do both checks.

THE SPEAKER: I hope you have appreciated the free information he has given as a person who was involved in the case; that being in possession of the title, yes, you might be a conclusive owner, but when you do the search, you should go and do a physical search. That is because our legal system here allows two. Somebody called Zambaali can be growing potatoes on the land but does not have the title. That is very clear.

Let me come to this side. Hon. Okot, what would you like to add? This should not be very – the committee did a good job.

4.13
MR BONIFACE OKOT (NRM, Kole South County, Kole): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I thank the committee for this good report. On page 7 of this report, it shares with us the extent of the double titling problem. It indicates that one out of six land-related cases in the High Court Land Division is on account of double land titling.

This report labours to explain who bears the burden of double titling. You will notice that it is the taxpayers who bear the burden, instead of the land officer who does not do due diligence. There is a provision under Section 159 of the Registration of Titles Act that these land officers actually utilise.

I propose that there is need for this House to amend Section 159 of the Registration of Titles Act, so that a land officer who is culpable in this matter bears the burden, instead of the taxpayer.

Secondly, the Registration of Titles Act dates back to 1924. This is a 102-year-old piece of law. It lacks regulations in very important sections that deal with special titles. These are Sections 69 and 70. My appeal is that the minister ensures that regulations for this

particular - it indicates that the requirements for the National Identification Card (IDs) and the rest are based on habit, not regulations.

Thirdly, our land records have no backup. We are talking about one of the most important factors of production. This means that if this system is wiped out by cyber-attacks, we shall not be able to trace who owns which kind of land as a country, yet money was provided to the tune of Shs 1.4 billion.

Mr Speaker, if it pleases you and this House, we task the lands minister to ensure that this particular backup is availed as soon as possible.

Finally, there is an indication that there are few staff in this particular sector, yet they are returning money as unspent wages to the Consolidated Fund. In Jinja and Mbale, they are operating at half capacity, and many of the staff are on expired contracts. If you have staff on an expired contract, it means that they are susceptible to corruption. Therefore, there is need for us to task the ministry to ensure that the unspent wages are utilised to fill the positions that need to be filled.

THE SPEAKER: Why should we have people in charge of the land registry on contract? Somebody could do whatever they want, knowing that they will not seek to have their contract renewed. Why can't we use the money we are paying them for contract terms to instead employ them on a permanent and pensionable basis, so that they are proper Government employees?

I will need four people from this side who read the report. If you did not - let me start with Counsel, Hon. Musisi, and then I will evaluate. *(Laughter)*

4.18

MR GEORGE MUSISI (NUP, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank the committee for the report. I have two comments.

The first one is in regard to the recommendation on issuance of the special certificates of title on page 10. I agree with my honourable colleague from Ndorwa that in addition to having local council officials also incorporated before the registrars issue these titles and conducting site visits, they should incorporate physical neighbours of this land, where it is feasible. This is borrowed even from the Registration of Titles Act. When they are issuing a new certificate of title, they require that physical neighbours be included, as much as they can be obtained.

Therefore, you can borrow that to see that where it is feasible, let us include physical neighbours of this land because people who are in faraway places have perpetrated most of the fraud through the issuance of these special certificates of title.

Secondly, they made a recommendation on page 13, Mr Speaker - for your own benefit - of the report.

THE SPEAKER: And the benefit of even your good self. *(Laughter)*

MR MUSISI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Regarding the issue of having the minister get an opinion, they refer to it as "formally consult" - that is the wording they used. You should formally consult the Attorney-General before taking action because the recommendation is that the minister should always act within the confines of the law.

This is on the backdrop of many court cases against the Commissioner for Land Registration. We have even had ministers being held personally liable for actions which are outside the law.

The wording of the report is that you should formally consult. However, I would recommend that the minister should "Seek the opinion of the Attorney-General" because "Formally consulting" and "Seeking an opinion" are two different things, as the former Attorney-General can attest.

Therefore, the recommendation should be stronger: that the minister should seek the

opinion of the Attorney-General before taking some administrative action to avoid litigation. This will even save them because they have sometimes been held personally liable. I submit.

THE SPEAKER: That was a brilliant submission.

MR MUSISI: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: He has set the bar very high. *Olina kyogamba? (Laughter)* Member from Masaka?

4.20

MR GYAVIIRA LUBOWA (NUP, Nyendo-Mukungwe Division, Masaka City): Nyendo-Mukungwe in Masaka City, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: You try. *(Laughter)*

MR LUBOWA: Let me try. Mr Speaker, I will dwell on the conclusion, where the committee indicated that the visit revealed multiple titling. My issue here is about the Uganda National Land Information System.

When you look at the entire report filled with issues on double titling, it is like the land offices are still operating manual systems. I wonder whether all the files have been migrated to the system and whether it has enough controls to bar these fraudsters.

For instance, one, Mr Colbert in Masaka mistitled or double-titled about 265 land titles, and as we talk, he is on the run. I wonder whether this system is helping us.

I implore the ministry to interrogate this digital system on whether it is actually helping us to curb the errors that were being experienced when we were still running a fully manual system. I submit.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu, I see you with a copy of the report.

4.22

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu County West, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the committee for the good report. My comment is on point 5.2 on page 7 about the committee's engagement with the Judiciary.

Mr Speaker, the challenges in Wakiso, Mukono and Mpigi are so big that a lot of attention must also be paid to the Magistrates within those areas. A lot of fraud is taking place, and some of the land dealers work in connivance with some judicial officers.

Somebody is found to have forged over 60 land titles, the judgment comes out and is decreed, but he goes scot-free.

As Parliament, we must revisit the Bailiff Act. These bailiffs are supposed to arrest these fraudsters, people who are stealing people's land, but the law is very strict. You must arrest this person, take him to court that very day and he is committed because they cannot be given bail.

However, the land fraudsters who create titles, who are stealing land in Wakiso, still connive with the records departments in Magistrates' courts. And as a result, these people continue hiding and only come out of their houses at night. These bailiffs cannot arrest them. If they arrest them, they cannot take them to the police because the law does not permit them.

That law was passed by this Parliament. If the court has issued an arrest warrant and the bailiffs are going to execute the warrant as per the laws prescribed on the duties of the bailiffs, why don't they look for these people who have been stealing land in Wakiso, creating forgeries under this page I am talking about?

There is a method of getting them: keep them at the police, then the following day take them to court. But they are finding this work very difficult.

Some land dealers are highly connected with all those small police posts in the areas where

they commit crimes on land. The moment anything comes out of court, they are informed immediately. Either they will threaten or give money, or you cannot get them anywhere.

Recently - as I conclude, and this is in the interest of the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs - I normally don't talk about things I am not sure of; there is a Magistrate in Wakiso around Kakiri who must be investigated.

He issues court orders on matters outside his jurisdiction, grants bail to somebody, takes plea and goes back to his - when you ask him, how did you handle this? He says, "No, for me, I was doing my work, ABCD," and I will deliver that information rightly to that particular person. I do not want to mention the names because -

THE SPEAKER: Is he applying the issue of taking justice nearer to the people, or is he a corrupt person?

MR SSEWUNGU: I like you for that, Mr Speaker. That is what they are doing; because this man is afraid to go to Wakiso, he knows - you see, these days, when you commit an offence, those who take you to court, their best weapon is their phones. And these people do not want to be seen in public. Getting them on cameras is a problem.

Therefore, they connive with a Magistrate, out of Wakiso somewhere; they take a plea, and then he takes off because he cannot appear. The other course -

THE SPEAKER: Is that in Uganda?

MR SSEWUNGU: I will give you information, and I have never been taken out of context, saying that I gave misleading information. However, all this goes to the Judiciary.

Honourable Minister for Lands, Hon. Judith Nabakooba, as I conclude, you need to take these reports very seriously, as you have always done. Take keen interest in Wakiso, Mpigi, Kampala, Mukono. It is terrible, and let me end here.

THE SPEAKER: I would strongly advise that the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the Minister of Lands - this is free information but very helpful. Yes, Hon. Kitiyo Kapchorwa Municipality?

4.27

MR PATRICK KITIYO (Independent, Kapchorwa Municipality, Kapchorwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I seek your indulgence just to make a quick rebuttal to what Hon. Ssewungu has just said. I worked with the Judiciary as a Magistrate.

THE SPEAKER: Okay.

MR KITIYO: I think in this whole House, I am privileged to have had you in my court appearing as a State Attorney while in Mbale.

THE SPEAKER: Now you are appearing before me. *(Laughter)*

MR KITIYO: Soroti was my first station in 2008 , and by then, you were a state attorney in Mbale, the Attorney-General's Chambers, and you used to appear before me, Mr Speaker. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: That is very correct. I used to appear before you.

MR KITIYO: Yes, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: How are you enjoying now? *(Laughter)*

MR KITIYO: The tables have turned. The last time I used to sit the other side, and you used to sit this side. Now I am sitting on this side, you are on the other side. That is life , and we appreciate the gift of life.

However, just to respond to Hon. Ssewungu. For all purposes and intents, taking a plea requires the accused person, the state attorney, and a court police orderly. I really do not think in this current Uganda, one judicial officer can hide a suspect in one corner and proceed without all these organs of the Government. I do not think that is right.

I must, in this occasion, protect the image of the Judiciary that it is not right to come to this august House and make these very wild allegations without proof. Maybe in the near future, if such things are happening - like the honourable member has said - we encourage that he brings these facts, so that the Office of the Attorney-General investigates these errant judicial officers and they are brought to book.

Now, back to my own issue, Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the committee for the good work they did in the report. The issue of double titling through fraudulent dealers is affecting Sebei subregion and Bugisu subregion immensely and that it is causing a lot of tension because we are sitting on a time bomb.

In 1979, we had a tribal clash that arose out of land conflict between the Bagisu and the Sabiny. Currently, in a place called Bunambutye in Bulambuli District, there is double fraudulent acquisition of land and very high classified people are involved in these land dealings. Right now, when our people go back - you know we were displaced by Karimojong cattle rustlers in the 1970s, 1980s. Most of our people ran for refuge to other districts.

Out of that, Hon. Ayagalachi is a product of displaced persons from the lower side, his mother is a Sabiny from our tribe. Out of the Karimojong cattle rustlers and the people ran up to Bugiri, others went to Teso, Gulu and to Kenya.

There was Hon. Odwe's report of 2009, the Government adopted it in 2012. It was in the Government white paper, with direct instructions to cancel titles of plots 100, 101 that involve around 34,000 acres of land. To date, Hon. Odwe's report has not been implemented. We kindly request the minister for lands to quickly come to our rescue, so that our people do not go into the 1979 war of the tribal clashes.

Mr Speaker, I married into the Bagisu. My wife is a mugisu from Bududa. I do not want my children to say their uncles or - no. We want peace to prevail between the two tribes. Whenever our people go down to their own land, they are chased by these fraudulent people, who now are very powerful in Government. Therefore, the ministry for lands should come to our rescue.

We have been crying all along. Hon. Chemonges is here, Hon. Kiti is there, Hon. Brian Kapyagon is there, and now Hon. Tete is here. We have problems at home. Our people are confined. Uganda Wildlife Authority chases people from up. When we go down, we are chased. We are confined to a stretch. What can we do? Our people need correction of historical injustice. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Twinamasiko. *(A Member rose_)* Do you want to clarify whether your mother is - much later.

4.34

MR ONESIMUS TWINAMASIKO (NRM, Bugangaizi East County, Kakumiro): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, I thank the committee for bringing together this good report. However, I want to thank the minister for lands for the position she took, of suspending the issuance of special titles because she was curing a disease of fraud in land transactions.

When you look at this report, page seven, the total case load in the Land Division of the High Court is around 6,557. The double-titling cases are 1,173 as of 28 October 2026. There were cases of people forging court orders and decrees, using them to apply and obtain special certificates of titles. I think the minister was right in this case. This is because the committee was investigating, largely, on whether it was illegal for the minister to give this directive. I think she was partly right because she was curing a disease.

I pray that the Government of Uganda considers funding the ministry for lands in getting this programme of the block chain technology, to enable the integration of the Land Information System with other relevant Ministries Departments and Agencies of the Government (MDAs).

I also pray that the ministry for lands considers the former lost counties. The Uganda Land Fund was mainly created to consider the former lost counties, to correct the historical injustices. Bugangaizi and Buyaga, honestly, have been neglected. We are still sitting on absentee landlord titles, yet money is always budgeted for to handle this item, but it is never responded to.

I pray to the minister for lands to honestly get back to the roots of the Uganda Land Fund. We are still lost in terms of land titling. We were simply discovered politically, but in terms of land titling, we are still lost. Mr Speaker, I pray that you prevail over the minister for lands in this matter. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the debate is going on very well, both generally and specifically. Those who are debating generally, are bringing up matters that concern them, which they would have wished to be in the report. Those who are speaking specifically, are quoting sections, pages and paragraphs.

I put the question for the motion for the adoption of the report of the Committee on Lands, on the oversight visit to the National Land Information Centre and Ministry Zonal offices of Wakiso-Busiro, Masaka, Jinja, Mbale, and Soroti, with special attention to double/multiple and overlapping titling.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question to another motion for the 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.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted

THE SPEAKER: Under rule 229, the minister is supposed to come back and give us an action-taken report on the adopted report. Comply with that rule 229, and you will be admired in this Parliament. If you do not, those who have been thanking you will turn against you. The timeframe is given in that rule. Thank you.

Next item.

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST FOR A WAIVER OF NON-TAX REVENUE FOR KILEMBE MINES LIMITED

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister for finance.

For those who are going out, are they waving? *(Laughter)* I know you are going for a break. You can walk around and come back. You can stretch unless you are Hon. Kiryowa Kiwanuka, who plays golf and keeps in shape. He walks a lot. That is why he has no potbelly like – he is the founding member, I think, of Express Football Club. He tried to convert me. I support Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) Football Club - the KCC, but I refused. We shall still see. Yes, minister, can you move?

4.41

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PLANNING) (Mr Amos Lugoloobi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

I beg to move, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171, that the House approves the request for writing off the annual mineral rent arrears for Kilembe Mines Limited, as at December 2025, amounting to Shs 2,600,000,000. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Is that motion seconded? *(Members rose_)* Reluctantly, it is seconded by the Third Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of State for Public Service, the Deputy Attorney-General, the Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Hon. Annet Katusiime, Hon. Eliab Naturinda, Hon. Jesca Ababiku, and Hon.

James Mawawi, all this way, Hon. Christopher, Hon. Kitiyo, Hon. Tete, Hon. Achola, Hon. Nangoli, Hon. Bassajja, Hon. Nakut, she is my finance minister in the Commission, Hon. Okwere, Hon. Edakasi. So, those ones, even if they have not spoken, are on record for supporting. Go ahead, sir, and justify. Speak to the motion.

MR LUGOLOOBI: Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. Following the termination of the concession agreement with Tibet Hima Automobile, Kilembe Mines Limited was left with unpaid arrears by Tibet Hima Automobile and dilapidated assets, which were returned by Tibet Hima Automobile requiring substantial investment to restore them to operational condition.

Further, Kilembe Mines Limited was faced with declining revenue streams, given that over 80 per cent of the revenue previously came from the Mubuku Hydropower Plant, whose revenue-generating capacity was significantly impaired, having been damaged by floods and landslide episodes since 2020, that caused generation to stop since 2023, to date. Consequently, the purpose of the waiver is to sustain the operations of Kilembe Mines Limited and its continuity as a going concern.

Mr Speaker, in light of these hardships facing Kilembe Mines Limited and its inability to meet its obligations, I pray that Parliament approves the write-off of Kilembe Mines Limited's outstanding Annual Mineral Rent arrears of Shs 2.6 billion pursuant to Section 33(1) of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171, to enable a smooth takeover by the new investors. Mr Speaker, that is the justification. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, before we invite the chairperson of the committee, we should handle the items together. Let us also call item number seven.

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST FOR A WAIVER OF TAX ARREARS FOR K-ROMA LIMITED

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister? We are handling them together.

4.45

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PLANNING) (Mr Amos Lugoloobi): Mr Speaker, I beg to move under Section 43(2) of the Tax Procedures Code Act, Cap. 343, that the House approves a request for a waiver of tax arrears for K-Roma Limited, amounting to Shs 1,864,329,231. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Do want to speak to it?

MR LUGOLOOBI: Mr Speaker, this is a justification for the motion. K-Roma Limited was adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which constrained its sales operations, yet it maintained its production facilities, including retention of employees during this period.

Furthermore, despite being a pioneer local enterprise in the value addition of locally sourced fruits through the production of wine and juice, K-Roma Limited has experienced a significant decline in its market share following increased competition from new market entrants, including producers who benefit from the lower production costs associated with the use of cheaper imported fruit concentrates. Therefore, this waiver is intended to sustain the company's operations and support its continued existence as a going concern.

Mr Speaker, in an attempt to recover this tax liability, URA undertook the following recovery efforts, the results of which were unsuccessful.

The first demand notices/reminders were served to K-Roma Limited.

Number two, a Third-Party Agency Notice was issued to Carrefour Hyper Supermarket.

Mr Speaker, in light of the financial hardship facing K-Roma Limited and its inability to meet its tax obligations, I pray that Parliament approves the waiver of K-Roma Limited's outstanding tax arrears of Shs 1,864,329,231 pursuant to Section 43 of the Tax Procedures Code Act, Cap 343. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Is it seconded? When it comes to these procedural matters, you do not get tired. The motion is seconded by Hon. Edson, Hon. Patrick, Hon. Paparu, Hon. Rwakoojo Gureme Robina, Hon. Katusiime of Sheema, Hon. Charity of Mbarara.

Now, some people will say, "Why do you know certain names"? *(Laughter)* Hon. Sarah, Member of Parliament representing Kasese, Hon. Genensio, Hon. Betty, Hon. Opiyo - I cannot get the names there - Honourable member representing Kalangala, Member of Parliament representing Nakasongola. Then the ministers on the Front Bench; the survivors, thank you for enduring. "Many are called, but few are chosen."

We have the Youth Member of Parliament, Eastern, Hon. Chemonges, Hon. Bright, Member of Parliament representing Apac, Member of Parliament representing Mawogola. Then Butaleja District Woman Member of Parliament - I am exercising to know the names. Who else? Hon. Christopher from Pader, Hon. Nangoli, I mentioned your name on the other one. Then Hon. Mutego, Hon. Musa, Hon. Ababiku, Hon. Obong, and then Hon. Margaret Muhanga. Others who supported the other one, they also supported this one, for the record. That is very important.

Can I now call the chairperson of the committee? I see the first report is quite brief. The second one is quite - you have seen the support. Those ones who have stood up are in support even if they have not spoken. They have spoken by standing. That is why I insisted on putting them on record. I will now only hear the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) who did not stand and a few generals who did not stand, I will hear them while – committee chairperson.

4.52

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Dr Gerald Kasigwa): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay the report of the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development on the recommendation for a waiver of Non-Tax Revenue for Kilembe Mines and the accompanying minutes of the proceedings of the meeting. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Let the record capture that.

MR KASIGWA: Mr Speaker, I request you to allow me to go to Section 5 of the report because the first parts of the report, which are the introduction part, are what the minister has been talking about. I do not want to repeat them.

THE SPEAKER: That is being prudent.

MR KASIGWA: Findings, Observations and Recommendations

5.1 Financial situation of Kilembe Mines

The first thing to note is that the committee was informed by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development that the Government of Uganda holds 99.06 per cent holding in Kilembe Mines Limited. However, the funds provided by the Government are not adequate to meet its operations.

For instance, the Auditor-General's report for the period ending 30 June 2023 indicated that in the Financial Year 2022/2023, the entity had an approved budget of Shs 6,293,826,192, out of which only Shs 1,824,146,991 was released, representing about 28.9 per cent of the approved budget. This release only covered salaries and wages, plus the Director's expenses. We have put a table there to show the unfunded priorities for Kilembe Mines. If you note, unfunded priority 2 includes mining rent and licence fees.

The committee observed that the critical priorities of Kilembe Mines Limited were not

funded, implying that the company was not mining or producing mineral resources, as the minister has stated. Thus, without funding from the Government, it was not able to pay mineral rent arrears and other obligations.

5.2 There were efforts made by the ministry to recover annual mineral rent arrears, but I will jump that. They did not yield any fruit.

5.3 Future Prospects of Kilembe Mines Limited

5.3.1 Redevelopment and Transfer of Assets of Kilembe Mines Limited

The committee was informed by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development that Kilembe Mines Limited is winding up. Operations of the mines were taken over in 2025 by a consortium with shared interest, comprising the Uganda National Mining Company Limited (15 per cent), Sarrai Group (80 per cent) and the Nile Fiberboard (5 per cent).

All the assets of Kilembe Mines Limited, including the Mining Licence, ML 2151, machinery and mining infrastructure were transferred to the new contractor. At the time of the transfer, the mining licence still had annual mineral rent arrears owed by Kilembe Mines Limited to the Government and specifically to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development.

The committee was informed that on 3 January 2025, during negotiations for the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement, the Inter-Ministerial Negotiation Committee agreed to write off the arrears owed by Kilembe Mines Limited, in order to transfer the licence free of any encumbrances.

The committee observed that Kilembe Mines Limited, which is 99.06 per cent Government-owned, was unable to meet its financial obligations because of insufficient funding. All attempts made by the minister to recover the arrears failed. This informed the recommendation of the Auditor-General and the Inter-Ministerial Committee for a debt write-off, to ensure encumbrance-free transfer of the Mining Licence, ML 2151 to a new right holder.

Recommendations

The committee recommended that:

i) The minister responsible for finance should immediately write off the outstanding annual mineral rent arrears for Kilembe Mines Limited amounting to Shs 2,600,000,000; and
ii) The minister responsible for finance should annually present to Parliament a Non-Tax Revenue Performance Report for Kilembe Mines Limited by the end of September of each year.

In conclusion, the committee finds that the request for approval of the write-off of Shs 2,600,000,000 owed by Kilembe Mines Limited in annual mineral rent arrears is justified and should be granted. I beg to report, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. We want you to handle the next item; item 7.

MR KASIGWA: Mr Speaker, I beg that you allow me to call a member of the committee, Hon. Patrick Ocan, Member of Parliament for Apac Municipality to come and present the second report. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ocan?

4.58

MR PATRICK OCAN (Independent, Apac Municipality, Apac): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In accordance with Rule 228 of our Rules of Procedure, permit me to lay on the Table the report of the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development for a waiver of tax arrears for K-Roma Limited, accompanied by the minutes of the committee engagements. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Let the record capture that.

MR OCAN: Mr Speaker, on 14 July 2026, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic

Development laid on the Table a document titled, "Request for Parliamentary approval to remit taxes." The document contained a request for parliamentary approval for a waiver of taxes.

K-Roma was one of the entities for which the honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development sought parliamentary approval to remit taxes amounting to Shs 1,864,329,231.

The Speaker referred the request to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development for consideration. In line with this, the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development considered the request for waiver of outstanding tax arrears for K-Roma Limited.

Background

K-Roma Limited, popularly known as BELLA Wines and Juices, is an agro-business enterprise established in 2004 and is the country's largest producer and distributor of 100 per cent organic wine. It manufactures wines, hibiscus juices and hibiscus tea from local tropical fruits under the brand name BELLA.

The company sources organic raw materials directly from smallholder farmers, integrating hundreds of rural households into a secure, formal market channel and directly supporting the Parish Development Model.

Table 1 shows the company's shareholders with Prudence Ukkonika at 80 per cent and Godfrey Onyang Mugisha at 20 per cent. It is evident from the table above that Prudence Ukkonika holds the largest number of shares at 80 per cent.

Causes of K-Roma's Financial Hardships

K-Roma Limited requested a waiver of outstanding tax liabilities, citing financial hardship. The company's financial distress stems from a post-COVID-19 decline in sales, a severe build-up of slow-moving inventory and mounting trade receivables, including debts from retail outlets which have ceased operations. The company is also facing pressure from the Uganda Investment Authority to fully develop the allocated land in Namanve Industrial Park, failure of which may result in withdrawal of the licence.

2.3 Breakdown of K-Roma's tax liability

K-Roma Limited requested a waiver of tax liabilities amounting to Shs 1,864,329,231 on grounds of financial hardship. The proposed waiver covers the period June 2019 to June 2024, as at 30 June 2024. The liability is composed of a principal tax, panel tax, and interest, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 shows a breakdown of K-Roma's liability across different tax heads: the Value Added Tax, the Income Tax and the local Excise Duty from 2019 to 2024, totaling a liability of Shs 1,864,329,231. According to the table, Excise Duty accounts for the largest share of the tax arrears at Shs 1,389,473,143, approximately 74.5 per cent of the total liability; Value-added tax amounts to Shs 409,444,842, approximately 22 per cent, while income tax accounts for Shs 65,411,246; that is, about 3.5 per cent. Overall, the tax liability is largely driven by local excise duty, which accounts for nearly three-quarters of the total amount proposed for a waiver. The principal tax amounts to Shs 784,435,851, while penal tax and interest amount to Shs 300,600,000 and Shs 779,293,380, respectively.

2.5 K-Roma's tax payment history.

Table three shows cumulative tax, taxes paid, and cumulative tax liabilities between 2010 and 2026, and across different tax aids, showing a total of Shs 1,864,329,231. The table shows that the companies paid cumulative taxes amounting to Shs 1,074,576,072 between 2010 and June 2026.

However, the outstanding tax liabilities amounted to Shs 1,864,329,231 for the period indicated, with the local excise duty accounting for approximately 74.5 per cent of the total. The outstanding tax liabilities exceed

cumulative taxes paid by Shs 789,753,159, raising concerns about the company's ability to settle its obligations.

3.0 Terms of Reference

While considering the request, the committee adopted the following terms of reference:

i) To examine the financial position of K-Roma Limited and the circumstances that led to the accumulation of tax arrears.
ii) To examine the Uganda Revenue Authority's tax recovery efforts.

4.0 Methodology

The committee adopted the following methods while scrutinising the requests for the tax waiver.

4.1 Meetings

The committee held meetings with the following entities:
i) The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;
ii) The Uganda Revenue Authority; and
iii) K-Roma Limited.

4.2 Document review

The committee reviewed and made reference to the following documents:
i) Letter from the PSST for waiver of outstanding tax arrears for K-Roma Limited;
ii) Recommendation by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;
iii) URA tax information and breakdown of the tax areas;
iv) K-Roma Limited's financial information and supporting schedules;
v) The Tax Procedures Code Act Cap 343.

5.0 Findings, Observations and Recommendations

5.1.1 Revenue performance

The committee analysed the financial information of K-Roma Limited; the results are summarised in table four. K-Roma's revenue performance between 2019 and 2024 in Ugandan currency for the six years clearly demonstrates a serious random walk on the revenue pattern.

According to the table above, the company's revenue performance was volatile over the period 2019 to 2024. Revenue declined by 9.6 per cent from Shs 509,966,770 in 2019 to Shs 461,242,569 in 2020 before increasing significantly by 79.7 per cent to Shs 828,983,363 in 2021, the highest level recorded during the period. However, in 2022, revenue subsequently declined by 4.6 per cent and fell further by 46.2 per cent in 2023 to Shs 425,202,632.

In 2024, revenue showed signs of recovery, increasing by 18.1 per cent to Shs 505,525,763, although it remains substantially below the levels recorded in the previous two years, 2021-2022.

Net profit after tax per 750ml bottle sold.

Despite being a top producer of organic wine in the country, the company earns only Shs 200 as net profit after tax from each bottle of wine. Table five describes the factory gate price per 750ml bottle and the local excise duty levied, leaving a net profit after tax of Shs 200.

5.1.2 Statement of financial position.

Table six shows K-Roma Limited's statement of financial position for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The table shows a negative position of the retained earnings, a negative position of the equity, declining cash and cash equivalents, a worrying trend in trade and other receivables and deepening net current assets.

According to the table, the company's financial position deteriorated further in 2025

with accumulated losses increasing from Shs 563,332,176 in 2024 to Shs 668,293,449 in 2025, while negative equity widened from Shs 560,332,176 to Shs 665,293,449.

Trade and other payables increased from Shs 2,159,474,080 to Shs 2,331,121,667, while cash balances declined from Shs 9,216,107 to Shs 4,391,000. Consequently, the working capital deficit widened from Shs 1,688,740,013 to Shs 1,843,616,920, indicating worsening liquidity and an increasing deficiency, difficulty in meeting short-term financial obligations.

5.1.3 Cash flow statement

Table seven shows K-Roma's cash flow statement for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The table is very clear; it shows a decline in the net cash flow from investment activities and a drop in loan repayable and deteriorating cash flow and equivalents in the period stated. According to the table above, the company's net cash flow, cash from operating activities declined by 55 per cent from Shs 235,322,735 in 2024 to Shs 105,825,729 in 2025. Despite a significant reduction in losses before tax, cash inflow from investment declined from Shs 162,040,621 to Shs 79,733,449, while loan repayable reduced from Shs 77,995,525 to Shs 30,917,388.

Consequently, closing cash balances declined from Shs 9,216,108 to Shs 4,391,000, indicating deeper liquidity challenges.

Committee observations

i. Cash flow

The positive operating cash flows depended largely on increasing unpaid obligations rather than the cash generated from the company's underlying operations.

ii. Management decisions

There are weaknesses in the company's management decisions, particularly in relation to sales and inventory management. Sales declined by 40 per cent from Shs 828,983,363 in 2021 to Shs 428,202,632 in 2023, as shown in Table 4. Despite this significant decline in sales, the company continued to increase the stock of inventory, as shown in table eight below.

Table 8 below describes the status of the inventory of wines, wines under process and raw materials between 2020 and 2024 with percentage increments.

It shows that the inventory purchases and production were not adequately aligned with the company's sales performance and market demand. This performance points to weaknesses in generating sales and in the company's sales strategies, which resulted into gradual increase in inventory. There are also weaknesses in the management of trade receivables, as shown in Table 9.

Table 9 describes the trade receivables between 2021 and 2024, clearly indicating challenges in recoveries of the obligations.

i. Inventory

The committee observed that the continued increase in inventory despite slow-moving stock and low sales, together with the rising trade receivables, points to weaknesses in the company's sales, inventory, and receivables management. These weaknesses delay cash collections and adversely affect the company's cash flow planning and its ability to meet its financial obligations.

ii. Borrowing and investment decisions

The borrowing and investment decisions were not sufficiently linked to the company's ability to generate cash flows and clear business outcomes. For example, the taxpayer had been serving loans since 2019. The loan balance of Shs 42.4 million in 2019 later grew to Shs 429 million in 2020. This eventually reduced to Shs 159.6 million in 2023. The loans acquired were not based on the company's ability to generate sufficient cash flows from sales to meet the loan repayment obligations.

In addition, the Shs 292 million of funds invested in a new production facility at Namanve Industrial Park did not have clear business outcomes. The investment appears to have been driven by pressure and the concern that the apportioned land would be allocated to another investor.

5.2 Uganda Revenue Authority's Tax Recovery Efforts

The committee was informed that the Uganda Revenue Authority undertook the following recovery efforts:

i) Issuance of demand notices;
ii) On 19 September 2024, Carrefour Hypermarket was appointed as an agent to collect from K-Roma on behalf of URA;
iii) On 22 December 2024, URA issued an agency notice to recover PAYE of Shs 3,527,480,431;
iv) On 30 September 2025, a reminder notice was served to the taxpayer; and
v) On 13 April 2026, a reminder notice for outstanding Local Excise Duty was issued.

However, due to its financial position, the taxpayer was unable to clear the outstanding tax arrears. The committee observed that the company was unable to pay even a portion of the tax arrears due to financial hardship.

The committee, therefore, recommends that:

i) The minister responsible for finance should immediately waive the outstanding VAT, Income Tax and Local Excise Duty, covering principal, interest and penalty, for K-Roma Limited totalling Shs 1,864,329,231 only; and

ii) The minister responsible for finance should annually present to Parliament a tax performance report of K-Roma Limited by the end of September of every year.

Conclusion

K-Roma Limited is an indigenous company and a pioneer in the production of wine from local raw materials. The Covid-19 pandemic had an adverse effect on the financial position of the company. Additionally, there is increasing competition from informal wine makers in the market, yet K-Roma operates formally.

The committee, therefore, recommends that Parliament approve the request for waiver of tax arrears for K-Roma Limited amounting to Shs 1,864,329,231 only. I beg to report, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Committee on Finance. It is now time for those who did not stand to do so right now. I begin with the Leader of the Opposition.

5.14

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will make very brief comments on both reports. There are about two or three challenges in the one on Kilembe Mines.

The first is a legally related matter, and there are senior legal minds here who can guide us because the committee is asking us to do the reverse of what the law says. Section 33(1) of the Public Finance Management Act requires the minister to obtain Parliamentary approval before it abandons a Government claim.

The committee report states clearly that the Inter-Ministerial Negotiation Committee agreed to write off the arrears on 3 January 2025 and that the licence and all Kilembe Mines assets were transferred to the new consortium in 2025, while the arrears were still outstanding. Parliament is now being asked to approve a decision that was already acted upon, which is legally problematic. It would be important for us to know who authorised this approval before Parliament and on what legal basis.

Secondly, the Auditor-General's report recommended writing off arrears for the period of 31 December 2018 to 31 December 2024, but this request that is being processed now covers arrears up to 10 December 2025. Somebody added an extra year there.

We want to know how that comes about because the initial arrears that the Auditor-General was asking to be approved were Shs 2.297 billion. However, because of that extra year, which we need to know where it came from, we are talking about Shs 2.6 billion. It is important that that gets to be clarified.

Thirdly, Mr Speaker, Kilembe Mines has a lot more problems than we are trying to solve here. Again, I am referring to the Auditor-General's report because that is a Government report. If I was making my own assessments, I would be tasked over those so, I will keep referring to the Auditor-General's report, which I am referencing with the request and the committee report.

The Auditor-General's report for Financial Year 2022/2023 shows unfunded obligations of about Shs 23.9 billion, inclusive of Shs 16.9 billion in court claims, Shs 3 billion owed to minority shareholders, and another Shs 3 billion for restoration and flood mitigation. The committee report is silent on who is going to meet these liabilities and of course the benefits to former employees. Is there clarity that the new owner is taking over that? I think that needs to come through very clearly.

Finally, I have one issue on the second report of K-Roma. Again, Mr Speaker, even on our end, we have always been for Government giving a shot in the arm to private entities that employ many Ugandans to bolster our economy. Our challenge has always been on the *modus operandi* when they choose who to help and who not to. We have always been here complaining about entities that are given billions of shillings. The Government says it has bought shares but then you now begin to see these entities' properties being sold and so on.

The precedent about K-Roma is a bit – "untidy" because it is important that we tidy up whatever it is that we do. This waiver that is being sought is larger than the entire tax record of this company. For 16 financial years, it paid taxes of Shs 1.07 billion. The Government is now seeking a waiver that is about nearly two times their entire tax record payment.

The precedent is a bit problematic because we have been trying to encourage voluntary compliance across the economy. There are people who will now say, "But wait a minute. If a company can…" In essence, what the Government is saying is that "We have returned the entire money that you have paid over the 16 financial years, and we have given you an extra of slightly over Shs 700 million."

We are going to affect voluntary tax compliance. There seems to be a bit of unfairness. I do not have an issue with K-Roma; I do not even know who owns it. I am just talking about a general principle that needs to be looked into.

Also, if we are now giving a shot in the arm to K-Roma, there should be certain conditions from the Government to be sure that this entity here is not going to go under. When you are aiding an entity, be it with resources or a tax waiver, there should be certainty that even this money could return. This company is going to be bolstered and will keep operating, so in the coming years, we are going to reap the benefits of tax being paid by this entity.

I do not know whether there is clarity that there are jobs that are going to be saved. However, for some of the entities, you see that this one is clearly going under, yet we throw money in that direction. I think that this is an important clarification. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Minister? *(Hon. Amos Lugoloobi rose_)* Do you want to inform me where the minister is? Minister, did you have the privilege of listening to issues raised by the LOP?

5.21

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PLANNING) (Mr Amos Lugoloobi): Yes, some of them.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, try. *(Laughter)*

MR LUGOLOOBI: Mr Speaker, on the liability being greater than the tax payment, I think the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) did not take into account the penalties and interest

that were payable. If you look at the numbers, the liability was Shs 700 million-something.

Then you add the penalties and interest, which leads to Shs 1.8 billion; and this request is actually to waive the entire sum. That is why you have the discrepancy in that particular aspect.

And the precedent about K-Roma, I think the law provides - it is not actually blind. It would facilitate anyone who comes to invoke that particular provision.

Anyone is entitled to appeal to the Commissioner-General, and if the Commissioner-General is satisfied that he has done everything and is unable to collect the tax, then he or she refers the matter to the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Then the minister comes to Parliament for final approval.

The law provides for anyone; it does not discriminate. You have a right to utilise the provision of the law. In short, that is my response, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: There is one about your need to have prior approval, but that you suspended it.

5.23

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Thank you. I will -

THE SPEAKER: I must note that you tried, Hon. Amos Lugoloobi.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Of course, my opinion is not binding. However, I think there is no contradiction between what the minister is doing and what section 33 says. Section 33 of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) says that "Before you write off a debt, you must seek parliamentary approval."

This company exists. The minister is telling you that even if you went after them, you will not be able to recover the money. But if Parliament says, "No, do not give the waiver," the minister will be required to go after an entity and still not recover the money.

So, the minister has not written it off; he will say, "I have done what I can." And that is what the law requires you to do. You must carry out all the efforts.

Actually, what Parliament should be checking on in such cases is: What have you done to try and recover this money for us to get convinced that we should write it off? It is not a start-stop. You are right, you cannot write it off. So, legally speaking, the minister cannot write off that debt without the approval of Parliament.

The minister is well within his rights to tell you, "I have done everything humanly possible to try and recover this money, but I have failed." And I think that is what the minister is saying that; "We have done everything, we have failed and I am asking you to write it off."

However, if Parliament says, "Do not write it off," then, of course, the Attorney-General has to sue this entity and probably spend more money, and then they will come back to you and say, "We did not get the money, but we spent more," because I told you we were unable to…"

So, there is no contradiction, but the LOP is correct to the extent that there can be no write-off, and this abandonment is not stopping - the abandonment, in legal terms, when you say, "I am abandoning a claim," is in legal terms, not in stopping the actual activity. So, you are right, but I think it is a procedural issue.

THE SPEAKER: The abandonment actually ends here. "I have given up demanding because I have failed to recover." So, when you do that, you cannot keep quiet. The other side that is the former Attorney-General. We kind of miss you here. I can give you another opportunity to get your mind clear.

MR SSENYONYI: Yes, I am generally at par with the former Attorney-General, who I think is now a shadow general, now that he works with generals and he is not a real general. The

only challenge there was is that after that inter-ministerial position - all of this, by the way, is in the committee report - because that was on 3 January, that the licence and all the Kilembe Mines assets get to be transferred to the new consortium.

Therefore, in future, to do this in a tidy way, before all these transfers happen, first come to Parliament because when all these transfers happen, effectively, you have closed it off. And what you are saying is that you have closed the claim; and told them it is well, but you want your back to be covered by Parliament. It should be Parliament telling you it is well.

However, when all these things happen and you close that chapter, it is you, the minister, who is saying it is well. So, we are saying, "No, minister, you need the backing of Parliament to be protected so that tomorrow no one says it is the minister who decided. Parliament empowered the minister." But the other provisions of the law have been clarified.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. This is a matter that the Government has abandoned and it has come to Parliament because they cannot do that abandonment without the approval. The debate would be, those for and against. And those for stood up in secondment; they were over 30, in representation.

Those against are quite a few also. I want to put the question to the motion for the approval of the request for a waiver of non-tax revenue for Kilembe Mines Limited.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: Those against may continue to keep quiet. *(Laughter)*

I want us to see how we can redeem time. Government's duty is to recover taxes. By the time the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) or anybody has convinced URA to say - I think the last attempt I saw in the report was up to April this year, when they had the last attempt to try to recover.

By the time they go through that process, which the minister said is not selective, we have to look for somebody from Nakawa or from that place which has a bad road. *(Hon. Nsamba rose__)* No, your place. Kassanda. The road is very bad there when you come from Myanzi to connect to Kiboga. I passed there; it is a bad road, and we have to -

So, to test it, we have to make sure somebody comes up to test whether they would be bounced back. Then we can come back here. Because there are so many people struggling on discharging their - there are many people whose businesses have gone bad. Can we do the last one on this, then I can open up? I put the question to the second motion for the approval of the request for a waiver of tax arrears for K-Roma Limited.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: For future referencing - *(Hon. James Kakooza rose_)* Tax expert, do you want to - Hon. James Kakooza helped us in the other term, the Ninth Parliament.

5.31

MR JAMES KAKOOZA (NRM, Older Persons Representative, Central): Thank you, Mr Speaker. What you commented on is just quite pertinent. The 11th Parliament passed a law on companies in distress under the Tax Procedures Code.

However, it now seems, as you have stated, that they are using that law to abuse and to discriminate. Because this is a company that is in business, but there are so many struggling companies that cannot come here for a tax waiver. We should revisit that law. If we are putting a tax on everybody, it must not be discriminatory – *(Interruption)*

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Hon. Kakooza, I need to inform you that it is not the Government that is bringing it here. These people must apply. Those people who are struggling need to be taught that they can apply. It is not the Government that comes here to apply for the tax waiver; that is the law.

I do not want the record to seem like the Government went out looking for particular two people and sourced those to waive their tax. It is those companies that apply, and they go through that process, not the Government that is looking for them.

MR JAMES KAKOOZA: Thank you for the information, but what I am trying to say is what the Leader of the Opposition has said. If you are eroding a tax base where you can collect money - That is why the tax-to-GDP ratio is still down because some people are waived, and the taxpayers are saying "Do not waive." You come here, somebody applies, others do not apply, and you are in the same business.

What I am trying to say is, tax compliance must be key. You can imagine somebody who has collected money, pay as you earn, and mismanaged it in a business, comes back and says, "Please, I have a tax distress in my business; waive it for me."

Whereas the tax law says, please, if you are getting an income, pay. Why do you come back here for others to come and waive them? Whereas the law says you must comply, what about those who have not applied? What do you do to them? They are facing the same distress and are in the same environment. What I am trying to say is that the Tax Procedure Code that you brought in the House is being abused; it is not being used as it is supposed to be.

In canons of taxation, you cannot have a discriminatory measure. It must be equitable, affordable, and it must be flexible to collect. What the Speaker has said is true. Many businesses are struggling, but you are here; you put a law -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Kakooza, there is one businessman who met me at a function. He owns Gaga bus. The man is struggling, and his buses are being sold, but he was looking for the Speaker. What the former Attorney-General has said is what we need to relay to our people, and they do due diligence. It is not that everyone who applies qualifies, but that gentleman of Gaga bus – *[Member rose]* - No, the information will not help here. We need to inform those people struggling. Yes, minister, have you heard the concern?

MR LUGOLOOBI: Mr Speaker, as tax collectors, we want to collect this money, but you reach a point where you cannot drag a dying horse. You do not want the horse to entirely die; you want it to survive so that tomorrow you can get something from that enterprise. This is what we are doing. We do not want these enterprises to die entirely, so we try to give some relief for them to survive. This is what we are doing because we are the Government, and we are here to collect taxes but also help enterprises survive.

If Gaga has a challenge, the window is right open. Invoke Section 43 of the Procedures Code, and then they can be heard. It is that simple.

THE SPEAKER: The owner of Gaga showed me a letter he wrote to the President instead, which is a harder letter to write than coming to invoke Section 43. So, we need to give information. I designate you, Members of Parliament, as the contact. Go and educate the owner of Gaga before they sell away all his – Hon. Patrick Nsamba?

5.36

MR PATRICK NSAMBA (NUP, Kassanda County North, Kassanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the minister because he is saying that they are open to struggling entities and companies. The statement you have made makes it seem like you are not aware of the number of companies that are struggling in the country. Now, if you are aware, you would come to Parliament to say, Members of Parliament, we should not do it piecemeal. We have tried a certain group of companies; they are here. We are failing to collect; if you knew, you would come at once. You give a waiver because you are saying you have tried to collect the taxes and you have reached a point where you have failed.

That will reduce the burden of what you have communicated. Otherwise, many Ugandans

close off their businesses. They choose to close off because of the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA). They choose to run to the villages because of URA. Now, the pronouncement you have made, honourable minister, needs to be clear: which companies are you looking at?

Otherwise, we are going to be barraged with a good number of Ugandans who are struggling with this opening we have made. The minister must be clearer on that, or he comes before this House with companies they are saying they have tried or those companies they want to give relief, as he says. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I think the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in this House committed the last time we handled this, and he said he would come back with more details on how this thing gets to come here. This is because under section 43, it starts with the Commissioner-General who has to form an opinion, and when he is satisfied with that opinion that he could not, then he sends it to the minister. The minister's work - when he is also satisfied that due diligence has been taken and tax could not be recovered - comes here. That is the procedure and the law we passed in this House.

For now, I think most people are not aware. Let the Commissioner-General first be overwhelmed. Then they overwhelm the minister. Then the minister will overwhelm us. Then a clear solution will be found. Next item?

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT URGING GOVERNMENT TO PRIORITISE THE DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING OF CITIES IN UGANDA AS REGIONAL ENGINES OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION, ECONOMIC GROWTH, INVESTMENT AND BALANCED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Joan Acom Alobo Joan, Soroti City, the Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs. I do not know whether they considered your qualifications or appearance. *(Laughter)* Before that, the Government of Uganda had a Minister of Foreign Affairs who nearly looked like you; so, was it what inspired the Leader of the Opposition (LOP)? Yes, go ahead.

5.41

MS JOAN ALOBO (FDC, Woman Representative, Soroti City): I think the LOP can answer that. Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to move a motion for a resolution of Parliament urging the Government to prioritise development and financing of cities in Uganda as regional engines of socio-economic transformation, economic growth, investment and balanced national development. I move this under Rule 58 and 69(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

"WHEREAS Objective XII of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy enjoins the State to adopt an integrated and coordinated planning approach and to take necessary measures to bring about balanced development of the different areas of Uganda and between the rural and urban areas;

AND WHEREAS Article 176 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, provides for a system of decentralisation and devolution of functions, powers and responsibilities to local governments, while Article 193 requires Government to pay unconditional, conditional and equalisation grants to local governments;

AND WHEREAS the Local Governments Act, Cap. 138, gives effect to decentralisation through devolved functions, local government planning, financing, service delivery and accountability, and recognises the role of urban councils in local development;

AWARE that between 2020 and 2023, 15 cities were created with the aim of promoting planned urbanisation and balanced regional development, of which 10, namely Arua, Gulu, Lira, Soroti, Mbale, Jinja, Masaka, Mbarara, Fort Portal and Hoima, have been operationalised while five, namely Kabale, Moroto, Nakasongola, Entebbe and Wakiso, are yet to become functional;

FURTHER AWARE that Uganda is urbanising rapidly, with national planning data indicating that about 27.7 per cent of the population was living in urban areas in 2025, and that urbanisation is expected to continue increasing substantially;

COGNISANT that the Fourth National Development Plan (NDPIV), Financial Year 2025/2026-2029/2030, places sustainable urbanisation, productive infrastructure, industrialisation, private-sector development and employment creation at the centre of Uganda's socioeconomic transformation agenda;

NOTING that Kampala continues to carry a disproportionately high concentration of economic activity, employment opportunities, Government institutions, specialised services and investment, resulting in pressure on transport infrastructure, housing, land, waste management, drainage and social services;

CONCERNED that despite attaining city status and assuming expanded responsibilities, a number of cities continue to face inadequate financial resources, infrastructure, technical staffing, machinery, equipment, physical development plans and functional statutory institutions;

FURTHER CONCERNED that the Report of the Committee on Government Assurances and Implementation on the operationalisation of cities, presented to this House on 5 August 2025, found that the 10 operational cities were only partially operationalised, that cities were operating well below their approved staffing structures, that most cities lacked approved Physical Development Plans, that statutory bodies such as City Service Commissions were grossly underfunded, and that the regulations required to guide city governance had not been issued, demonstrating that legal city status has not always been matched by the capacity required to deliver services and drive economic growth;

FURTHER NOTING that Government's Financial Year 2026/2027 budget framework provides for urban development interventions, including financing for the Uganda Cities and Municipalities Infrastructure Development (UCMID) programme, but that the scale of the urban infrastructure needs requires predictable multi-year domestic financing alongside development-partner support;

FURTHER NOTING that on 31 March 2026, the World Bank approved $540 million in International Development Association financing for UCMID, a six-year programme covering 10 cities, 26 municipalities and 13 refugee-hosting districts, expected to benefit approximately 5.6 million people, including about 600,000 refugees, and to create at least 40,000 direct jobs through climate-smart infrastructure and local economic development;

FURTHER NOTING that the World Bank and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) are supporting the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area Urban Development Programme alongside Government counterpart financing, while the African Development Bank is supporting the Kampala City Roads Rehabilitation Project and related urban infrastructure, demonstrating substantial development-partner interest in Uganda's urban transformation;

RECOGNISING that these development-partner investments present an opportunity to leverage external financing with domestic resources, but that their impact will be greater if coordinated through a common national framework aligned to city development plans, NDP IV, the national budget and local economic development priorities;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that deliberate investment in cities would create employment opportunities closer to communities, expand markets for agricultural and industrial products, stimulate regional value chains, improve connectivity between cities and their surrounding districts through roads, ICT, energy, water, and other infrastructure, increase local revenues and reduce the economic necessity for people to migrate to Kampala in search of employment and services;

CONVINCED that Uganda requires a National Cities Development and Investment Strategy which coordinates Government programmes and development-partner investments, identifies the comparative economic potential of each city, establishes predictable financing and sets measurable targets for infrastructure, employment, investment, own-source revenue and service delivery;

FURTHER CONVINCED that the success of city creation should not be judged by the number of cities gazetted, but by whether city status is accompanied by functioning institutions, adequate financing, infrastructure, jobs, investment, improved services and stronger local economies, and that the results-based planning, budgeting and monitoring required under NDP IV should therefore be applied to city development and reported to Parliament;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by this Parliament that:

1. *Government develops and implements a comprehensive and costed National Cities Development and Investment Strategy to transform Uganda's cities into regional engines of economic growth, investment, employment and socioeconomic transformation, with priorities based on the comparative economic potential and development needs of each city;*

2. *Government provides adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for cities, including increased and ring-fenced domestic budgetary allocations and appropriate financing mechanisms for roads, drainage, street lighting, markets, waste management, sanitation, public transport and other critical urban infrastructure;*

3. *Government aligns and coordinates World Bank, AFD, African Development Bank and other development-partner investments within the National Cities Development and Investment Strategy, ensuring complementarity, timely counterpart funding and measurable regional outcomes;*

4. *Government fully operationalises the 10 legally established cities, fast-tracks the operationalisation of the five cities that are not yet functional, issues the regulations required to guide city governance and the relationship between cities and their mother districts, and addresses outstanding gaps in technical staffing, the funding of the city service commissions, physical planning, land administration, assets sharing, road maintenance, machinery, waste management equipment and other statutory and service delivery requirements.*

5. *Government progressively decentralises appropriate public institutions, specialised services and strategic public investments to regional cities, accompanied by investment in inter-city and intra-city transport, digital connectivity, water and sanitation and other enabling infrastructure.*

6. *Government establishes a city development performance framework with a baseline for financial year 2026-2027 and annual milestones through financial year 2030-2031 for employment, private investment, own source revenue, physical planning, infrastructure delivery, service coverage, mobility, waste management and climate resilience.*

   The framework should incorporate targets already approved under Government and development partner programs, such as the 40,000 direct jobs and the 5.6 million direct beneficiaries projected under Uganda Cities and Municipalities Infrastructure Development Program (UCMID). And where no credible baseline exists, should derive targets from a costed city-by-city assessment rather than set them arbitrarily.

7. *Government prepares and submits to Parliament within six months of the adoption of this resolution, a costed and time-bound implementation framework for the city's development and investment*

strategy, indicating annual budgetary commitments, development partner financing, responsible ministries, departments and agencies and measurable outcomes. And submits annual progress reports to Parliament on the performance of each city against the city development performance framework, and on the use of the results of development partner financing for urban development."

I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? By Hon. Ojara Mapenduzi, the man from Gulu, Hon. Ssenyonyi the LOP himself. Hon Paul Mwiru, Hon. Ayagalachi, Hon. Ssewungu, Hon. Kiwanuka, the Shadow Minister for Finance. The mover you can sit; you do not have to second your Motion, even if people are fewer.

Hon. Ismael, Hon. Okot, Hon. Eugenia Nassolo, Rubaga. Then all the Generals are supporting; Gen. Okiding, Gen. Semwanga, the Colonels, the UPDF fraternity. *(Applause)* That is a serious signal. Then here, Hon. Kirumira and all those in yellow ties and red neckties. *(Laughter)* This side is the majority, the NRM side-this is a popular Motion.

Hon. Ofwono Opondo, the former City Clerk, Lira City. So, they know if you see a clerk is supporting a motion like this, it is an indication that – Hon. Charity, Mbarara City, Hon. Shafiga, Hon. Malinga Isaac, Soi.

Please, this Motion is supported by everyone including Hon. Ottober. *(Applause)* And the ministers, Hon. Muhanga, Hon. Hunter Tukahirwa from Ntungamo. This is a popular Motion. So, do you want to speak to it?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Mr Speaker, of course, the principle of what the honourable member is saying is most welcome, but we need to be very careful because this was a motion to urge the Government to prioritise cities. The prayers you are asking for are that the Government develops and implements a comprehensive and costed national city development initiative and many other things but they have financial implications.

Article 93 of the Constitution does not allow you to make such a Motion, not even to proceed with it. So, are we proceeding well to move a Motion by a Member who is not a frontbencher on a matter which has huge financial implication?

However, if she wants to change the motion to say, "To urge the Government to consider doing all these things, you can urge us to consider, but you cannot pass a resolution for us to implement a comprehensive plan. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, before I make the ruling, what do you have to say about the wording? The spirit is okay but the body is weak. *(Laughter)* Somebody should help. This is a popular motion. Just because what you are saying is different from what you are asking Parliament to resolve.

Parliament cannot resolve on a Private Member's motion, which is not urging. The UPDF and everyone supported it because they knew you were urging. So, can we work on the nomenclature so that we do not lose the baby with the bath water? But at what stage do we? – I think it's a preliminary point –

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: You asked a question on when we proceed? The Constitution wording says; "*You shall not move a Motion or proceed on the Motion once that issue is raised*." So, the Speaker must rule on whether it has a financial implication, and if it does, then the Rt Hon. Speaker will tell us to stop.

THE SPEAKER: Urging does not have financial implications, but the coaching of the words - that is why I am hesitant to make a ruling, because I know that in its current form in the prayers, it is not urging. You are resolving so that the resolution of the House, you know the implication is that - it is advisory but with serious implications because an action-taken report will come here, and then what will they report on?

Hon. Ssewungu, I know you are a fresh graduate of law, so you could have researched on this.

6.00

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu County West, Kalungu): Mr Speaker, with all due respect to the minister whom I shadow, yes, I am on Article 93 but legally, he is saying introduce, on behalf of Government –

THE SPEAKER: No, when you are citing, you just start from the beginning so that those who do not know-

MR SSEWUNGU: Okay, the Article provides that, "*Parliament shall not*, *unless the Bill or the motion is introduced on behalf of* –" This is a Private Member, Member of Parliament.

Secondly, Mr Speaker –*(Interjections)* – Yes, I am trying to see how we can make ends meet. We are having a legal argument now. Normally, when these motions come with the word "urge", it is incumbent on the Government to take it or leave it. At the end of the debate on the motion, we make amendments to the prayers. Where we find that there is an effect on what you have raised under Article 93, learned friend, we can make amendments to that particular effect.

This motion is urging you, and this is a member. Where you feel you will take it, it is incumbent on you, but Parliament is saying the Member urged you. At the close of the debate, the Speaker puts the question, then you go with amendments. Those amendments can be looked at. Otherwise, losing a motion before it takes a debate is also not fair.

THE SPEAKER: Losing a motion before it takes a debate is like premature birth. It is an abortion, actually, not a birth. We can save this pregnancy.

Leader of the Opposition, also a fresh graduate of law.

6.02

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Mr Speaker, it has been a while now.

THE SPEAKER: Well, according to you.

MR SSENYONYI: Yes, because I have since moved on to study other things.

Mr Speaker, when I saw Hon. Kiryowa Kiwanuka skimming through his law books, I knew he was going to shoot-up on something -whenever I see him there doing this. I think we can have a middle ground. Firstly, you see whatever Parliament does pass is normally advisory. We always pass committee reports here and many of them, the recommendations have got serious financial implications when you pay keen interest. Ultimately, as the courts have told us, Parliament is simply advisory, except for the laws, obviously. Even this, in that regard, I do not see how it would be so big a challenge because ultimately, that motion going to be passed is going to be at the discretion of the Government. Of course, we are hoping you will have good manners as the Government, and you act on those things. However, ultimately, it is advisory, really.

However, to have a good middle-ground - because as you can see the motion has attracted bipartisan support - we can have it amended. I do not want the generals to withdraw their support for the motion, and all the other honourable colleagues, since it has attracted bipartisan support. We can amend it to say – *(Hon. Muhanga rose_)* Information? Okay. If you allow, sir.

THE SPEAKER: She represents the city.

MR SSENYONYI: Yes.

MS MUHANGA: Thank you, Leader of the Opposition, for giving way. Mr Speaker, as a ministry we are actually privy to this motion, which the honourable member sent to us through Parliament. We also supplemented it. I think if she can change the wording - because the problem is the wording - and it lands on softer ground – which does not bring financial implications, such that the Government can act within its means and limited resource envelope to implement what she is actually urging us to do, I think that would be the most decent and

neat thing to do as Parliament. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

MR SSENYONYI: Thank you, honourable minister, for that very relevant information. I think, first of all, the word prioritise is not a bad thing. After all, the motion is to pass a resolution urging government to prioritise. I think that is still okay. We can have it amended in that regard, and the colleague does agree. The Government gets to prioritise, but we are urging the Government.

THE SPEAKER: First, that I have to sustain the submission from the former Attorney-General that, yes, what he read was substantive but the attempt – If the wig was a bit longer, I would have covered my eyes. However, since I am alive to the support of the motion, we can allow for the amendment before the motion is passed. If we went by the number of people who stood up, this is not a motion that we are going to debate. Unless you are against it, I will give you opportunity.

Here in Parliament, it cannot be "somehow". You are either for, or against. Please, not when I am here. You cannot come and say "I am somehow for this," or "I am somehow against." We have two sides; either you stand one side, but this motion has united both sides. Even those who are in the middle, they also stood up this time. People in uniform are the only people in the middle, and they stood up. Therefore, the mover, come to the microphone. It is about the change, and I think some experts could help, and then we can go to another one. How do we proceed? Hon. Kiryowa Kiwanuka, come and be patriotic. I know you are on the central committee of Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU).

6.08

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Number PO 061, the most patriotic.

THE SPEAKER: PO what?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: 061. I will propose that we could amend the motion to read: A motion for a resolution of Parliament, urging Government to prioritise the development of cities – Remove "the financing" – in Uganda as regional engines of socio-economic transformation, economic growth, investment and balanced national development by among other things. Now you go to the part where you have your resolutions, where you have "now therefore it be resolved"- consider the following... All the resolutions you had at the back of your motion become advice for the Government to consider. I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition, what is your rebuttal, or concession?

MR SSENYONYI: I concede. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: That is the first time we are witnessing a concession. The mover?

MS ALOBO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I concede and I agree with my elder because he is a fellow minister. *(Laughter)* This is something we need to agree with as a House.

Mr Speaker, can I speak to the motion?

THE SPEAKER: Do, briefly.

MS ALOBO: Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: When the motion is good, in the multitude of words, there is sin. Go ahead.

MS ALOBO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I rise to move this motion because Uganda's future is urban, and how we build our cities today will determine where our young people and the future generation will find jobs, and a good living, tomorrow.

In 2025, about 14 million Ugandans lived in urban areas. This number keeps growing by about 5 per cent every year, and is projected to reach about 33 million by 2050. Yet, about six in every 10 urban residents live in informal settlements.

Mr Speaker, Uganda Cities and Municipalities Infrastructure Development (UCMID) has given us money, about $540 million. However, donor money alone cannot build a city. Without a national strategy, predictable domestic financing and clear targets, these investments will be scattered, and their impact will be short-lived.

I would like to inform you that in 2020, this very House created 10 regional cities so that growth could be shared across the country. Six years later, the city status does not match the resources that were given in the six years.

Our own Committee on Government Assurance and Implementation found that most of these cities were running on less than their budgets. Masaka had only about 68 per cent of their positions vacant and that only four of the 10 cities had approved physical development plans. Many still operate on budgets that were designed under the municipalities.

Mr Speaker, this motion asks the Government for four things, as indicated on the other side. I request that we stop measuring success by the number of cities we gazette and start measuring it by the jobs, investments and services they deliver. I beg to move. Thank you so much. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Mapenduzi Ojara, the seconder. Those who are against it should prepare themselves.

6.13

MR MARTIN OJARA (NRM, Bardege-Layibi Division, Gulu City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I would like to thank Hon. Alobo for this motion. As I second this motion, you will recall that in 2020, when talks for the creation of the regional cities became ripe, many of the municipalities that were earmarked for elevation to city status realised that some of the requirements were a little difficult to meet.

One key requirement among those that were given was the issue of the population size. When the municipalities realised that they were struggling to meet that requirement, they then ended up annexing parts of the districts to the municipalities, especially subcounties and rural areas, to meet the requirement. So, a number of parishes and subcounties were annexed to form part of the cities.

I will give you the example of Arua; Arua City alone got the entire Ayivu County, with its seven subcounties, to form part of the city. This went on in other cities, for example, Lira, Mbarara and so on. You can imagine many of these rural areas were made to become part of the cities.

Unfortunately, from 2020 to date, a number of those annexed areas have not received the services they require. For example, in many of those subcounties that became part of the city, they lack electricity and piped water lines. They even struggle to have road access.

That is a big challenge and so there is need to consider prioritising the development and providing adequate funding, so that some of these areas that got annexed also begin to get the services that a city is supposed to get.

Mr Speaker, the other thing I would like to mention is that when you look at Section 4(b) of the Local Governments Act, it says the city divisions are equivalent to municipalities. However, the regional city divisions are not being considered as such. They are not getting funding at the level of municipalities.

I will give the example of Bardege-Layibi Division. Before we became a city, there were two municipality divisions, Bardege and Layibi. Now that we are a city, those two divisions were merged to form one city division. However, to date, we are getting far less than what the two municipality divisions used to get, including the funding from the Discretionary Development Equalisation Grant (DDEG) that should have been combined.

It looks like the coming of the city has, in a way, punished some of those areas, so the funding has dwindled. Therefore, there is a need to consider having these city divisions

function at the level of municipalities, as the law states.

The other issue I would like to mention, as I conclude, is on districts where the cities were created. The law requires that a local government should have full powers over areas of its jurisdiction. However, you can imagine Lira City still housing Lira District in the city or Gulu City housing Gulu District. We have constant struggles between the two local government entities and they are all higher local governments.

It has taken over five years to have the districts from where the cities were created relocated to their new district headquarters. I am aware of the fact that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provided some money to build new district headquarters for the districts to move. I think close to Shs 3 billion was given to these districts. Unfortunately, they have not moved.

The worst part is that they are now struggling over assets because the law requires that they share assets and liabilities. These cities are now struggling to even find space to accommodate their staff. Some of them have ended up getting places to rent. I would like to really support this motion.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, when you give city status to a place, it comes with many responsibilities. You can imagine the Government has now released money for the Road Fund and cities have to start working on roads, including in those areas that were annexed. However, I got a message from Gulu City yesterday where my city engineer is asking me to find a way to look for machines to help them.

Therefore, it is important that we prioritise giving roads and waste management equipment, and other support to these cities. That should be taken as a priority. I would like to thank you, Mr Speaker, and as I said, I fully support this motion. Thank you. *(Applause)*

6.19

MR ISMAIL KASULE (ANT, Hoima West Division, Hoima City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I rise to support the motion moved by Hon. Joan Acom. Cities are meant to be the engines of socio-economic transformation, and the centres of investment, innovation, and balanced national development. However, this will not be achieved without increased funding.

Allow me illustrate with the example of Hoima City, which has no designated city hospital, the road network is poor, waste management is a challenge, and a few streetlights need repair. Those challenges are not because of lack of city plans, but from insufficient and unpredictable financing for city authorities. Without deliberate prioritisation of development funding through increased grants, targeted infrastructure funds and innovative financing, our cities will remain cities only in name.

I, therefore, strongly support this motion and urge this House to resolve that the Government prioritises the development of Uganda's cities, so that they can really be cities, not in name only.

We have been talking about rural electrification. When you look at, for example, Hoima City, we have 16 wards but out of those, it is only two that have gotten about 60 per cent connection of electricity. Because many wards, divisions and many areas were annexed from other parts of the district, it becomes very complicated. They really need to be prioritised. I strongly urge this House to support this motion for these cities to be prioritised by the Government. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Yes. I thought I was going to guide. After a motion has been properly put before the House, it is the duty of the Speaker to look at those for and those against. Now I want those against. Yes, Hon. Edson Rugumayo and then Hon. Kwizera. We listen as a sample, like they do in test tubes and we make a decision.

6.21

MR EDSON RUGUMAYO (NRM, Ntoroko County, Ntoroko): Mr Speaker, it could be a wonder that as a chairperson of a sector, I am rising to oppose the motion. However, I beg the House to pay attention to what I am going to submit.

First of all, I would like to thank the Government for its visionary leadership to have gazetted and put in place these cities. Secondly, I take cognisance that for these cities to develop, they must develop 2D and 3D.

Thirdly, that for these cities to develop, we must have detailed physical planning, for both the cities and the entire country. I recognise that.

However, we need to appreciate the Government. Years ago, the Government borrowed $150 million under the Uganda Cities and Municipalities Development Project (UCMID). Midway, the project was enhanced to a tune of $510 million invested in UCMID.

Just recently, we passed here a loan of $540 million. All that is going into infrastructure development of cities.

We must cut the coat as how it fits. We should only be able to be realistic. Government is investing money. What we should be discussing here as a Parliament should be: what is our capacity now to do oversight and make sure that every single shilling that the Government borrows is optimally utilised? This should go a long way to help us as a House.

Time and again, we move out as committees of Parliament. I carry my Committee on Lands to inspect projects done by UCMID. How many of us as Members of Parliament have the capacity to say, "Please, open up such a particular road for inspection, and we see whether the construction of that road followed the actual design that was approved." How many of us have that capacity?

Instead of pointing fingers and urging the Government, Parliament should be debating how we can grow our capacity technically, by having quantity surveyors and engineers on our committees that do oversight over these projects. This is to make sure that when we go to the field, the chairperson of the committee should be able to instruct engineer so-and-so to open up a particular road for inspection. Let us compare what is done on ground and what is actually in the design and was approved.

That way, we will have every single unit of the resource invested having a return. Outside that, we shall continue to witness hemorrhage of funds, continuously having motions here urging the Government to invest but we do not get the return.

That is why I want to urge that we should not be the ones now pointing to the Government to put more funds. We should be urging ourselves as Parliament to grow our capacity. The office of the Auditor-General should have enough engineers, enough quantity surveyors who can do reverse engineering.

When you construct a road and an honourable member just sees it, they will appreciate that this is a tarmac road but a technical person will be able to say, how do I break down this road? Was it constructed in the right way? That way, small resources can have optimal returns.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I stand to say that we appreciate the Government. It set out a very good vision but as Parliament, we should help it to achieve it by growing our capacity to do proper oversight. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, I had forgotten. After you, there is a seconder, Hon. Denis Alyela, who did not speak. He will speak and water down or –

6.26

MR EDDIE KWIZERA (Independent, Bukimbiri County, Kisoro): Mr Speaker, Members of Parliament are supposed to be the custodians of the law because we are used as a reference point. I want to invite members to read Article 5 of the Constitution. What forms and the basis of how Uganda is governed.

Article 5(2), states that Uganda shall have regional governments, Kampala and the districts of Uganda. The cities are not provided for. This is a constitutional provision in Article 5. *(Laughter)*

There are some women members of Parliament who are in this House but they do not know that their districts do not exist under the First Schedule. The First Schedule of our Constitution of Uganda provides that Uganda has 75 districts and one city. So, the members of UWOPA some of you could be here illegally. *(Laughter)*

So, it is upon the Government, through the Attorney-General, to amend the First Schedule from 75 districts and one city, in accordance to the resolutions that were used to create these districts, to amend it to 176. Unless we do that, we are not the custodians as we are supposed to be.

Secondly, when you look at Article 63 about constituencies, I hear that when some cities become cities, they go and get some parts of the rural areas in the districts and make them part of the cities. That is unconstitutional; so, I am inviting the Attorney-General to look into this matter before you invite litigation.

Let us amend the Constitution, and before we provide for these cities, let us amend Article 5. Article 178, on regional governments; the regional governments should have started according to the Constitution. *"Regional governments shall commence on the 1st day of July 2006."*

A Government which is functional – which the NRM is – should be able to bring these things and iron them out because some people can say you are operating unconstitutionally. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I was tempted; I was thinking that I was still a Member of Parliament and wanted to respond. The former Attorney-General, okay.

6.29

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Alright, Mr Speaker. I think my learned friend here is reading the law selectively and that is a very dangerous thing.

THE SPEAKER: So, do you still call him your learned friend?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Yes, he is still my learned friend. However, what the honourable member is saying is actually not correct. The Constitution did not state that the number of districts here can never increase or reduce. It did not say that the constituencies must remain as they are.

In fact, the provision if you wanted to read it fully, says, Article 5(2) – the one you are reading in part: *"Subject to Article 178 of the Constitution, which deals with local government, Uganda shall consist of regions administered as regional governments, Kampala, and districts of Uganda as specified in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution and such other districts as may be established in accordance with this Constitution or any other law." (Applause)*

So, there is no Member of Parliament who is here illegally. There is no district, which is not created in accordance with the law. The NRM is a very careful Government. We are very clear about what we are doing. I want to assure all of you, Members of Parliament here that your districts are legal, the women are clearly provided for and all the districts; Schedule 5 was amended.

Therefore, what I was telling you is that Parliament, by the power entrusted to it under this Constitution, did make such other districts and constituencies as it deemed appropriate in accordance with the Constitution. We are okay. I think we should continue with the debate on the cities because the cities are very well set up in accordance with the law. I can assure you, we are legally well placed. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I advise Members to recite the same argument he is making when the issue

of Bukimbiri District comes up. I saw them asking, if for every district you get, you come and amend the Constitution. The Constitution is sacred.

MR SSEWUNGU: Bukimbiri is a new constituency from Kisoro, and I know the language very well.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Denis, are you ready? Members, to come to Parliament and declare constituencies unconstitutional, you are not being fair to yourself. You do not have that mandate to read the Constitution the way you want. Hon. Denis Omodi?

6.33

MR DENIS ALYELA (NRM, Lira East Division, Lira City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. For the record, I am a former Town Clerk of Kampala Central, formerly Nakawa.

I rise to second the motion moved by Hon. Joan Achom Alobo urging the Government to prioritise the development and financing of cities in Uganda as a regional engine for economic development and transformation. I wish to commend the honourable member for bringing this motion, a timely and important motion for the House.

The creation of regional cities was a deliberate government intervention intended to promote balanced national development, bring services closer to the people, stimulate investment, and create employment opportunities beyond Kampala.

However, the attainment of city status must be accompanied by adequate resources, infrastructure and institutional capacity, if the intended benefits are to be realised.

Mr Speaker, it is concerning that several of our newly operationalised cities continue to grapple with inadequate funding, poor road infrastructure, insufficient staffing, weak physical planning and limited capacity to essential services. We cannot expect these cities to become engines of economic transformation, when they lack the necessary resources to fulfil their mandate.

A city should not merely be a change of name or administrative status. It must represent a transformation in infrastructure, service delivery, economic opportunities, and the quality of life of our people. Furthermore, the concentration of economic activities, specialised services and investment opportunities in Kampala continues to encourage rural-urban migration and place enormous pressure on the capital city.

Deliberate investment in regional cities like Lira City would help distribute economic opportunity across the country, promote local industry, strengthen the agricultural value chain and create employment closer to the communities.

Mr Speaker, the Fourth National Development Plan places sustainable urbanisation at the centre of Uganda's socio-economic transformation agenda. It is, therefore, important that the Government translates this policy commitment into practical interventions through predictable financing, efficient urban planning and coordinated investment. I particularly support the proposal for a comprehensive and costed national city development and infrastructure strategy, accompanied by measurable performance targets and regular reporting to Parliament. Such a framework would strengthen accountability and ensure that public resources and development partner support deliver tangible benefits for our people.

The success of our cities should not be measured by the number of cities created, but by the jobs generated, investment attracted, services delivered, and improvements realised in the livelihoods of our people.

I, therefore, urge the Government to prioritise the operationalisation, financing, and sustainable development of our regional cities so that they become genuine centres of economic growth and national transformation.

With these few remarks, I beg to second the motion, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity. As a former town clerk, I note that many of our city budgets are for human

resource management. Sixty-five percent of the budget that you see going to the cities goes to pay the salaries and allowances of the civil servants managing these cities. The development budget is very small. With that kind of arrangement, the cities at their current level will not move at the pace needed to reduce rural-urban migration to our capital city. I submit. Thank you. For God and my country.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Minister of Finance, are you for or against?

6.38

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PLANNING) (Mr Amos Lugoloobi): Mr Speaker, I would like to share some information from the planning perspective. The motion speaks quite a lot on matters relating to financing, but the financing is guided by the development planning frameworks that we have in place. In her presentation, that context was not clearly brought out. It is these planning frameworks that guide effective resource allocation.

I wish to remind the House that we have what we call, a ten-fold growth strategy today that is guiding our next 15 years, and we have all agreed upon this strategy. That strategy is implemented by what we call the national development plans, which are five-year frameworks, whereas the ten-fold strategy is 15 years with clear targets. In these strategies, we have identified the core priorities that are going to drive growth. It is not quite clear where the mover of the motion seems to position the strategy she is trying to push within the prioritised agenda of the Government.

We have clearly stated in that strategy that we have four major drivers of growth, which we have coined as ATMS; "A" standing for agro-industrialisation, "T" standing for tourism, "M" standing for mineral beneficiation, and "S" standing for STI.

These, of course, do not operate on their own; they are key enablers. We have agreed that the enablers include infrastructure and other things. In this line-up of things, I thought that the mover would have made it clear where she is positioning the development of cities the way she wants it.

However, we, as Government, have not ignored the development of cities, and that is why we have a programme on sustainable urbanisation, where we have clearly articulated the key interventions, the basis of which we are doing resource allocation but that resource allocation is not to go far and beyond what we are providing for – the core priority development agenda of the Government.

If we want to accelerate or to escalate the importance of city development, then we should have a discussion about that prioritisation because unless we do that, we cannot change the strategy of the Government in terms of the provision of resources. Mr Speaker, I thought that I would provide that information. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Mbarara City representative? I only want people who are against.

6.41

MS CHARITY KIBAAJU (NRM, Woman Representative, Mbarara City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to support the motion and specifically, I wish to draw attention on three critical urban infrastructure needs that the Government should prioritise and finance. In the interest of time, I will just outline them; that is garbage management, secondary drainage channels, and restoration and protection of urban riverbanks.

Mr Speaker, you know our cities are growing in size because of the growing numbers, and these garbage-disposal facilities are not growing to match the numbers, thereby making this essential and adequate landslide that we would like to improve and finance for cities urgent. In Mbarara City North, we have Kenkombe Landfill, and this requires urgent support from Government to ensure proper waste management, protect public health, and keep our cities clean.

Mr Speaker, you remember the problem that happened at Kiteezi Landfill where the landfill slid and claimed property and lives of the people, and the Government spent a lot of money and resources on compensation.

Mr Speaker, we have an issue of the Kihindi Channel; the channel around Lake View Hotel in Mbarara City North. Such channels are important in controlling flooding, protecting roads and property, and preventing stagnant water that provides breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Mr Speaker, my prayer is that the Government establishes a dedicated financing window for these three priorities. These are not luxury projects but essential public infrastructure investments that protect public health, property, the environment, and economic productivity. I urge Members to support this motion. Mr Speaker, I beg to support. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Public Service? The motion is popular.

6.45

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE (Ms Lydia Wanyoto): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand here as a Member of Parliament for Mbale City and I support the motion. When Mbale, as an example, was made a city – We appreciate the support from USMID, but USMID came to Mbale under the municipality arrangement. We really want to have a clear plan, like Hon. Lugoloobi has said, to grow these 10 cities and the others.

Even basic things like amendment of the Local Government Act - the Town Clerk of Mbale is still the Town Clerk in the city. So, you go to Mbale City and you call the Town Clerk a Town Clerk but it should be a City Clerk. These are some of the basic things, even just amending the laws to align to the city.

In my humble opinion, I think we should have a distinct legislation for cities because there is confusion between cities and local governments. Cities cannot be under local government. I think there should be a law that is between Kampala City, the cities, and then local governments.

My colleague, Hon. Mapenduzi, mentioned the issues of conflict. When the cities were announced, the leadership were not well-sensitised. There is obvious rivalry between the city that is hosting the district offices, but also the sharing of property. Every time we are spending a lot of energy and time resolving conflicts because they do not know that they are under urban development or under local government.

These are basic things, Mr Speaker, that will require alignment to these new entities that may make them at least be a growing engine between local government and the mainstream city of the capital city. Otherwise, those of us that are now leaders in these cities, we are finding a lot of difficulty in supporting or providing leadership without aligned laws to the cities or even administration in terms of even the nomenclature of the officers.

A final example I want to give is on the issue of some social amenities like schools. When they annexed some of the subcounties to the cities and others remained in the district, many of our children had to leave the district schools where they were because some of their homes were annexed to the city. So, you find that we do not even have seed schools and health centres in the city. So, there are gaps there because they tell you, "You go, you belong to the city now. Do not come to the district school." Or "You belong to the city. Do not go to the health facility in the district."

Mr Speaker, I support this motion because there are those basic things that we can do to make these cities take steps to move beyond the USMID which was already under municipalities and beyond the name "cities" so that we are able to grow.

Finally, on the issue of land, for Mbale City, for example, it was difficult to even begin talking about a city master plan for Mbale because of the question of land, but the Ministry of Lands,

Housing and Urban Development has since come and helped to compensate families like Kakungulu and Ndawula who own the land title of over four square miles. You cannot plan without ownership of land. So, the question of ownership of land is also very important for these new cities. I beg to submit, and I support the motion.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Margaret Muhanga, the minister in charge of lands and urban planning, and also an MP in the city, you will be the one concluding, and then the question will be put.

6.49

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (URBAN DEVELOPMENT) (Ms Margaret Muhanga): Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: If you say "No," you will say in the microphone.

MS MUHANGA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would also like to thank Hon. Acom for a well-thought-out idea to supplement our work but we as the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, want to actually support this motion of prioritising financing and development of regional cities as engines of socio-economic transformation.

Mr Speaker, Uganda's cities – the President calls them "*chities"* or something like that. I thank the honourable member who has brought forward this motion, and Parliament, for its continued support towards the establishment, financing and development of our cities.

Uganda's urban transformation is a deliberate national commitment driven by Vision 2040, which originally established a framework for four regional and five strategic cities. This foundation for balanced urban development was expanded in 2020, when Parliament approved 15 additional cities; 10 of which are now operational, creating an urban system designed to support national economic growth. I will not go through the whole paper, but I will just single out a few things that we need to note in order for us to support Hon. Alobo and support these cities to grow to what we really envisage.

The National Resistance Movement (NRM) government's commitment must go beyond creating cities to building infrastructure, institutions and financing economic opportunities that make them functional. Uganda's 10 regional cities are a key driver of the ten-fold economic growth strategy under the Fourth National Development Plan (NDPIV). They are designed to become centres of production, agro-processing, manufacturing, trade, logistics, tourism, innovation and investment. They must connect rural producers to markets, reduce the cost of doing business, attract private investment and generate productive employment, particularly for youth and women.

Uganda's cities and other urban areas generate approximately 80 per cent of non-agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) and account for 88 per cent private sector jobs of all the jobs, and yet it remains structurally underinvested and institutionally unprepared. With an urban growth of about 5.2 per cent per annum, among the fastest in Africa, and one million new labour force entrants projected every year from 2025 to 2035, the urban opportunity is immense and must be harnessed and prepared for.

Only 30 to 40 per cent of urban solid waste is collected and outside Kampala, no city has an integrated spatial or economic detailed master plan. With the urban population growing at 4.5 per cent per annum and projected to surpass the rural population by 2060 - I hope we shall be alive by then - the window to get this right is narrowing. We must act now and act decisively.

The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development implemented the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development Programme (USMID) at that time before the cities came; supporting urban roads, drainages, institutional strengthening, there was physical planning, local economic infrastructure and improved local government performance. I sincerely thank Parliament for approving

and supporting financing for USMID and the Uganda Cities and Municipal Infrastructure Development Operations, which is now the UCMID.

Therefore, we shall build on the USMID experience throughout our implementation for UCMID. The honourable member has already told you it is about $540 million, and this covers 10 regional cities: Arua, Gulu, Soroti, Mbale, Jinja, Hoima, Fort Portal, Mbarara and Masaka, with 26 municipalities and 13 refugee-hosting areas. Note that the money going to the refugee-hosting areas is actually a grant.

I will skip this part in the interest of not taking too much time and I will state what the Government wants to do next.

Mr Speaker, our next phase must deliver a decisive shift from infrastructure provision alone to integrated urban economic transformation and job creation.

We will prioritise infrastructure according to its contribution to economic productivity. Roads, drainage, markets, industrial and commercial areas, waste management and other essential services must be planned as we integrate this system.

We need to strengthen the economic specialisation of our regional cities. I am now reading a few things, not going into detail. We shall also strengthen local economic development so that public investments generate tangible opportunities for the enterprises, for workers and communities, and even the city authorities.

We also need to strengthen performance monitoring. City developments must be measured by more than the kilometres of roads constructed or the amount of money spent. We will focus on the economic and social results of public investment, including improved access to markets, business growth, employment, investment attraction, and even stronger revenues for better living conditions.

We must complete the necessary legal policy frameworks. The ministry will continue advancing the specific legal frameworks for city development and management, building on the completed regulatory impact assessment, and reviewing the National Urban Policy of 2017.

Thirdly, the city authorities require adequate professional staffing, technical expertise, sound financial management, effective procurement and physical planning, development control and environmental and social safeguards capacity.

In that regard, Mr Speaker, we really urge the Government to support the planning department so that they finish plans for all the cities. We are doing this not for now, but for posterity, for the future of this country.

Fourth, we must enforce integrated detailed physical planning to the last mile. The level of physical planning is at 15 per cent, with compliance at less than 50 per cent.

Fifthly, we must mobilise private investment and support enterprise growth. Public finance alone cannot meet all the urban needs. We must create a predictable environment for investment, facilitate appropriate public-private collaboration, and ensure that serviced land and urban infrastructure support productive economic activities.

The sixth is that we must make infrastructure maintenance non-negotiable. Every major public investment must have clear arrangements for operation, maintenance and asset management. We must protect the value of public assets. As citizens, we surely must take personal responsibility.

Finally, we must strengthen accountability for results. Government institutions and the city authorities must demonstrate that public resources are translating into improved services, economic opportunities and better livelihoods. Urban development must be managed as a long-term economic investment, not simply as a construction programme. *(Applause)*

In conclusion, Mr Speaker and colleagues, investing in our cities is investing in millions of jobs, billions of tax revenues, competitive businesses, quality services, and the innovations and enterprises that sustain the productive livelihoods of millions of Ugandans. The transformation of Uganda's cities is at the forefront of the NRM Government's development agenda. It is central to achieving Vision 2040 and implementing the National Development Plan IV (NDPIV) and delivering the Tenfold Economic Growth Strategy, which we all desire.

However, we must be clear about what remains to be done. More financing, stronger city administrations, effective fiscal planning, reliable infrastructure maintenance and a modern legal framework are indispensable to achieving the desired transformation. These requirements must be addressed through coordinated action, realistic budgeting and firm accountability for results.

I affirm the ministry's commitment to working with Parliament, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the Ministry of Local Government and other Government institutions, local governments and development partners to turn this agenda into measurable results. I therefore support this motion and call for sustained national commitment to finance and develop our regional cities.

Our position is unequivocal. Uganda must not merely create cities; we must make them work as engines of economic development. We will pursue the infrastructure investments, financing arrangements, institutional strengthening and legal reforms necessary to build productive, competitive, resilient and financially sustainable cities that generate investment, industrialisation, employment and shared prosperity.

The Ministry of Lands will continue to lead this agenda within its mandate and work with all relevant stakeholders to deliver the transformation our country requires. I thank you, Mr Speaker, and I would like to make one comment: today I think was my maiden speech, and I am Margaret Muhanga. I represent Fort Portal North Division in Fort Portal City.

THE SPEAKER: Government Chief Whip? That is from Triple M (Hon. Margaret Muhanga Mugisa); let us listen. Mugisa from Tourism City. Now this is Lira. Listen to her.

7.03

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng): Mr Speaker, allow me to thank Hon. Acom for the amended motion, and also the honourable members for the passion in ensuring that the cities are developed. I start by thanking the NRM Government for the vision of creating these cities, and this august House for approving that vision. That is why we have the cities.

Mr Speaker, a lot of work has gone into developing our cities, and the Government has invested heavily and continues to invest. We have already heard about the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID) and the Uganda Cities Municipalities Infrastructure Development (UCMID).

Also, allow me to thank Hon. Rugumayo for stressing the fact that we need to carry out oversight to ensure that these funds are used correctly. For example, the USMID that was recently concluded was poorly utilised by many cities, and some of the cities failed to utilise the money. The work done was shoddy, and yet we are still asking for more money because we want our cities developed to the level of a city. While we continue to ask the Government for money, let us do our work and make sure that the oncoming UCMID is well utilised and we get value for money. *(Applause)*

I am also alive to the fact that the issues of water and electricity are largely being addressed. This very august House has approved loans for the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to ensure that our cities have power. We need to follow up as Parliament to ensure that it is done and on time. Also, national water connects our people to running water on time. It is not enough for us to talk and not follow

up. Let us follow up as we continue to push the Government for more developments in the city. Which I am sure will come.

I want to end also by appreciating the NRM Government for the vision of ensuring that every city has an industrial park. We are talking about employment. The President made several appeals to us to provide land to all the cities, and we develop industrial parks in your cities. Sometimes our local governments delay the process, and we do not follow up on the process.

Mr Speaker, there are cities that provided land on time, and the Government has already mobilised resources to develop the industrial parks; there are cities that delayed. As I am aware, the Government requires the land to be 700 acres and above. There are those that only provided 500. They are still seated on land. Sometimes we need to look inwardly even as we urge the Government.

I appreciate the motion. We need more development in the city, but we also need to work to ensure that funding provided to our cities is well utilised, and there is accountability and value for money. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I put the question to the motion for a resolution of Parliament urging the Government to prioritise the development of cities in Uganda as regional engines of socio-economic transformation, economic growth, investment, and balanced national development.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: The motion is passed with those amendments; you remember? Yes, we have two items left. Let us try to go to the next item.

ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER: The House is adjourned until tomorrow at 2.00 p.m.

(House rose at 7.09 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 12 November 2026 at 2.00 p.m.)