


PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

**(HANSARD)**

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OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION - SECOND MEETING

TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2026

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

# IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

**Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament**

**FIRST SESSION - 9TH SITTING - SECOND MEETING**

**Tuesday, 20 October 2026**

*Parliament met at 2.23 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.*

PRAYERS

*(The Deputy Speaker, Mr Thomas Tayebwa, in the Chair.)*

*The House was called to order.*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, I welcome you to today's Sitting. I always find it easy when the House is not full - there is space that each party sits on their side. The National Resistance Movement (NRM) here and the Independents there. We have a *No-man's-land* around where Gen. Masiko is seated, then the Opposition. It becomes very easy for me to balance the House while I am picking on you, honourable colleagues. I see some honourable colleagues this side, yet we have space.

Honourable colleagues, this afternoon I received a delegation from the *Obusinga bwa Rwenzururu* led by the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. Kule Baritazale. The delegation briefed me on the core pillars that the kingdom is pursuing to strengthen its relationship with the Government, the community and neighbouring kingdoms.

We also discussed the payment of Shs 5.8 billion in gratuity to former Rwenzururu Kingdom veterans, which is currently pending with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

I therefore urge the finance ministry to prioritise this payment because this is an issue that has taken time.

The Prime Minister was in the company of Dr Rude from Kasese. We discussed other things, some of which I will be sharing with His Excellency, the President, but there are critical issues that we could sort out here.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, what also came out clearly is that the kingdom is concerned about the public image, in regard to their relationship with the Government. They have talked to several partners, but wherever they go, they are asked about their relationship with the Government because of the incidents that happened in Kasese. That is different from the relationship with the party.

Therefore, they have said that they are implementing the five pillars as agreed. They have a very good working relationship with the Central Government, but it is not coming out clearly. I would like to request you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, to take it on so that the Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development can visit the Rwenzururu Kingdom and show the public that all issues that were there got settled. I know that His Excellency, the President has been supporting the kingdom strongly, especially on issues of health and treatment of the Omusinga, which they have been appreciating publicly. I would like that to come out clearly.

I also received many calls from students of Mbarara University of Science and Technology who are pursuing a degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy, saying that the Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda has officially withdrawn its recognition of the Bachelor of Pharmacy programme of Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) with immediate effect, citing Section 22(2) of the Pharmacy and Drugs Act.

I had to call the Executive Director, National Council for Higher Education, who informed me that this programme is accredited by the Council, a body which is in charge of accreditation of programmes in higher institutions of learning. It has been accredited for the next four years.

Therefore, the students are being taught an accredited course. For anyone to say that "We have withdrawn…get where to go," is bad. The National Council for Higher Education has informed me that the accreditation was done in consultation with the stakeholders, which included the Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda.

These overlapping mandates between regulatory and professional bodies are causing a problem to the learners. I remember when they withdrew the one for dental at Makerere University. It is the learners and parents who pay a very heavy price. Learners apply for these programmes on the basis of the body charged with accrediting higher education programmes, which is the National Council for Higher Education.

Therefore, Minister of Education and Sports, I would like you to present a statement on Thursday with regard to this matter. It is not only Mbarara University but many other universities. You hear that a certain body has withdrawn, yet the mandate is with the National Council for Higher Education.

To present your statement, you should have consulted the Attorney-General who should also be here with us so that we settle this matter. We should know who has the mandate to either accredit or withdraw a course so that our students stop suffering.

I was also checking our record of the 11th Parliament in regard to some of the committees. Parliament created some specific standing committees to help in updating this House on the thematic areas that were getting lost, being under committees with a wide mandate. For purposes of giving prominence to identified core themes, the House created and required such committees to report at least twice a year on their area of coverage.

The Committee on Equal Opportunities under Rule 189(4), the Committee on HIV/AIDS and related matters under Rule 190(2), the Committee on Human Rights under Rule 191(2), the Committee on Climate Change under Rule 192(3), and the Committee on Science and Technology under Rule 193(2).

However, some of these committees have fallen short of the twice-a-year minimum reporting frequency required of them by our Rules of Procedure. The Committee on Climate Change, for example, did not present a single report during the entire life of the 11th Parliament, despite it receiving and utilising funds during that period.

This is, therefore, to require committees to conform to the reporting requirements and justify their existence. Additionally, going forward, funding of committees will be based on results. If your committee is not working, there is no reason for giving it money. *(Applause)*

Of course, as the leadership, we will go the extra mile to link up with the party whips when they are deploying leaders. If we find out that these leaders have never reported but receive budgets and even come to negotiate for more, we shall talk to party whips and request that that one is not suitable to be a leader. They can be a good member, but not a leader.

Also, as you are aware, the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda requires the Auditor-General to submit an annual report on the

accounts audited by him or her. However, this report is submitted at the same time when we are handling the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and the national budget which requires sectoral committees to sit at the same time as standing committees.

There is also competition for space on the Order Paper as we try to pass the budget, the MTEF, Tax and Revenue Bills. Based on the above background and in line with Article 163(5) of the Constitution, I am instructing the clerk to work with the Auditor-General on how best we can handle these reports by giving them the necessary attention that they deserve. Because, accountability is a function we want to give all the attention.

Today, I had a long communication, but it is out of the issues that have been pending and we are reviewing and trying to be better as a leadership.

The Parliamentary Commission is hosting the annual review workshop for the Legislation, Oversight and Representation programme on Thursday, 22nd October 2026 in the parliamentary conference hall starting at 9:00 a.m. Please endeavour to attend this half-day workshop. You are all invited.

Additionally, as the Speaker updated you, the exercise for validation and verification of staff is ongoing. Yesterday, the Rt Hon. Speaker met all staff and assured them that if your papers are okay, there is no need to worry.

I say this because I am receiving calls left, right, and centre. If at verification they ask for your appointment letter, academic documents, or national ID, why do you call the Speaker to help you? And why would you be worried?

Honourable colleagues, I would advise any staff, if you know - because some of you have called both the Speaker and me. If you know that the person's papers are not okay, which I do not think is the case; but in case it is, I would advise that you take a shortcut to somewhere where they would accept papers that are not okay.

So, the Speaker has requested me to inform you that there is no need to worry. The exercise is aimed at ensuring that we have the right people occupying the right positions in the institution of Parliament.

Our colleague, Col Meeme Sylvia, the UPDF Representative, lost her father, "Mzee" Mukasa Matia, and he was buried yesterday, 19th October 2026, in Kiboga. On the 18th October 2026, we also lost a gallant son of Uganda, Mr Geoffrey Onegi-Obel, the former Chairman of the NSSF Board of Directors.

He died in Nairobi. I think this was one of the finest brains we have ever had in the country as far as the financial sector and economics is concerned. So, I request that we rise and observe a moment of silence for the deceased.

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

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Finally, the Minister of Internal Affairs, in coordination with the Minister of Security, was supposed to present a statement to the House. However, the Speaker called and informed me that he had received information from the minister and the Cabinet Secretariat that this matter was tabled in Cabinet.

This matter is to do with the killings in Kazo and other areas, and Cabinet decided to study the situation and make a comprehensive statement next week. I hope that the Rt Hon. Prime Minister will coordinate on that.

Leader of the Opposition (LOP), you had intimated that there is something you wanted to share. Then I will select Members presenting matters of national importance.

2.39

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your communication. I am glad you talked about the pharmacy students of Mbarara University of Science and Technology. This course was accredited by the National Council for Higher Education. In the letter written by

the Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda, I have seen that the department is headed by someone who does not qualify.

In fact, they are saying that it is headed by a nurse. If that is true, we need to encourage the Government to sort that out as quickly as possible because if it is a question of somebody heading a department that requires a particular set of qualifications, that should be sorted out so that students are not in disarray.

They are worried, including those who already graduated from that very university; they are saying, "now people are punching holes in our qualifications." So, whatever it is, it should be remedied so that there is calmness.

Mr Speaker, two quick issues. The UMEME 20-year concession ended and the state took over. That was in March last year through Uganda Electricity Company Limited (UEDCL). But there are numerous concerns among the public.

With widespread power blackouts and transformer failures, power has become a problem for people out there. In fact, I have heard some say, "but while UMEME was the frying pan, UEDCL seems to be the fire itself." I do not know if the Government is following up and whether they are taking steps to remedy this as quickly as possible.

I also understand that there is a gridlock when it comes to new connections. About 400,000 people are waiting to be connected, and that is not happening. I am told there are no meters, etcetera. So, it is a real challenge. The other day we were talking about charcoal here. We were telling the Government, can we -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** LOP, for me not to interrupt you. The committee is handling this matter, and when a committee is handling a matter, it is always good that we wait. I think maybe you were not privy to that. So, Chairperson of the committee, when will the report be ready? So that our rule on anticipation does not make us provoke a matter that is still under consideration.

2.42

**MR DAN ATWIJUKIRE (NRM, Kazo County, Kazo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. We are in the final stages; we are editing the report, and next week, we will ask for space on the Order Paper to report on the issue. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** LOP, do you think it would be good if we waited?

**MR SSENYONYI:** That is fine because it even gives the Government time to prepare a comprehensive report. I had no idea about the committee work, but it is good if it is being processed. I was raising it because it is an ongoing outcry in the public. So, Government has enough room -

Mr Speaker, normally when a report is presented here, sometimes Government will say, Okay, now give us three weeks to prepare a comprehensive response. Now, you have been put on notice. The committee chairperson says that next week the report will be ready. Let us prepare so that we can offer solutions to people out there.

Finally, the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), again in tandem with its mandate, issued a directive on 13th October 2026, banning the vending of Wi-Fi and internet hotspots. It has been a dicey issue because there are about 4,000 vendors, and they are enabling internet penetration to about 1.5 million consumers countrywide.

According to the law, Sections 21 and 22 of the UCC Act, 2013 provide that everyone who wants to operate this way must have a license. That is granted according to the law.

The other day the Minister of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) reminded us that everyone should follow the law. What concerns me, Mr Speaker, and where I want the Government to come in is that we need to make things simple.

Take an example of this small retail vendor of Wi-Fi in Bwaise, Kasese, Gulu, or wherever the case might be. How do we say that this

person should seek to have the same licensing as a multinational conglomerate telecom company? Go through the same process, pay the same amounts of money, and that kind of thing. That is what the Government is saying in reference to the law.

We are requesting the Government to sit down and cascade this downwards. Other jurisdictions Such as Kenya have done it through its Kenya Communications Authority, Rwanda, is doing something similar, so that smaller retailers are licensed in a different way in the fees. They are a lot more modest, but it ensures that there is internet penetration and that we are practical, and also that we do not lose these 4,000 vendors back to unemployment. Therefore, is this something that the Government can consider?

The other day, the ICT ministry said, "The law is the law, follow the law." We are saying the law is clear. However, why not come up with regulations to say, let us cater for these smaller players also because they are doing incredible work to ensure internet penetration. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Ogwang, you wanted to respond on the issue of education or internet?

2.45

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORT (SPORTS)(Mr Peter Ogwang):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I take note of your directive for me to come up with a statement here on Thursday.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Can I clarify? I request ministers - you always get me very well. I can never direct a minister. MPs come to me to direct, but how do I direct someone I do not supervise? I always request you to bring a statement. When you do not, I leave these colleagues of mine to handle you on my behalf. *(Laughter)*

I make a request, but if you do not fulfill it, there are repercussions. I have my army here which can do a very thorough job. However, I usually do not want to go on record that I directed someone I do not supervise. Sorry, honourable minister.

**MR PETER OGWANG:** Most obliged, Mr Speaker. I was thinking of the world where you were at one time and where I am. You know what I am talking about. We work under directives. However, I take note of the decision which this august House has made. I pledge on behalf of the ministry to provide a statement here.

Secondly, I want to correct the record by my very good brother, the Leader of the Opposition, that the National Council for Higher Education is not headed by a nurse. The department -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The department at MUST. Yes, that is one of the reasons -

**MR PETER OGWANG:** At Mbarara University?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes.

**MR PETER OGWANG:** Is it the one which is headed by a nurse?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes.

**MR PETER OGWANG:** I also want to pledge that I will bring a clarification or a statement to that effect. If it is headed by a nurse, I will still confirm it. However, if it is not headed by a nurse, I will still bring a statement to that effect for record purposes. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The public should know that there are nurses with PhDs. We are taking it as if being a nurse is so low. Nurses - Yes, Hon. Government Chief Whip?

2.47

**THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng):** Mr Speaker, I think it is very unfortunate if we start demeaning nurses here. Nurses are very qualified medical professionals. They have a scheme of service that can take them up to a professor level, a senior consultant level, in whatever specialty. Therefore, a nurse can head a department. Thank you. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Maybe for clarity, no one demeaned a nurse here. What

the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) said was that the Pharmaceutical Society said that they needed a pharmacist to head the department, not a nurse. That is their issue.

Honourable minister, we are getting a lot of issues on overlapping mandates. We gave power to the National Council for Higher Education. The rest are supporting it. So, if you start saying everyone will come and accredit, I am telling you we will never have proper education in this country. So, please, involve the Attorney-General and all stakeholders so that you give us a comprehensive statement, which you would have all agreed upon.

Now, Chairperson, Committee on ICT, this issue of Wi-Fi, I know you are technical in that matter. What would you advise the House? How do we tackle it? Hon. Oulanyah.

2.49

**MR ANDREW OULANYAH (NRM, Omoro County, Omoro):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. That matter has been going on for a few weeks now. Unfortunately, it has reached the point of demolition and arrests. However, I want to request through you, Mr Speaker, that you refer this matter to the committee so that we bring all those stakeholders together and we find a workable solution. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, that will be helpful. Why I asked the chairperson is because I met a few players in the sector. They said some of these people are cloning their systems.

Secondly, they pay tax, yet these people are not paying any tax. Someone told me that the Government has lost around Shs 185 billion as a result of that cloned internet.

Therefore, to have internet that you cannot regulate, for whose IP address you cannot track, so if someone commits a crime somewhere, you are not even able to track where it came from because they are bypassing systems; it would be unfortunate.

However, it is important that both sides are heard. They have been sending me messages, but let the minister, UCC, the Wi-Fi operators and telecoms come together, then you come and guide the House, Mr Chairperson, and your team.

Hon. Kimosho, what is the issue? I am picking three reactions: Hon. Kimosho, Hon. Otuko and Hon. Waluswaka.

2.50

**MR DAN ATWIJUKIRE (NRM, Kazo County, Kazo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mine is a small reaction to your communication about the security issue. I came here and requested the Government to respond to the killings in Kazo. Last night, one of the security actors challenged me, saying that yes, when you make an outcry and we respond, also inform the country that now the situation is stable.

I want to report, Mr Speaker, that when we made the outcry, the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) and the police reported on the ground, and now the situation is calm. What we await to hear is to get us a comprehensive report indeed on what was causing the problem. However, I thank the Government for the quick response. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, this is a letter dated 20th October from the Minister of Internal Affairs, addressed to the Rt Hon. Speaker. It says:

*"As you are aware, I was expected to make a ministerial statement in Parliament on the security situation in the country and reported violent crimes in specific districts raised by some Members of Parliament.*

*Subsequently, I was advised to first submit an information paper on the same subject to Cabinet, which I did yesterday, Monday, 19 October 2026. Cabinet advised that I should present the same paper to the National Security Council, which is scheduled to meet on 27 October 2026, under the chairmanship of His Excellency the President.*

*In light of the above, I am requesting that I make the ministerial statement on the subject matter to Parliament after the National*

*Security Council has had an input in the paper. This will make the paper comprehensive and authoritative."*

Therefore, you can see, with such a communication, it is important we give the minister time. Yes, Hon. Otuko?

2.52

**DR EUNICE OTUKO-APIO (UPC, Oyam County North, Oyam):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to react from a different angle the issue of accreditation, which is very serious and has now gone beyond our borders.

In Europe, we have Poland questioning the credibility of degrees issued by Makerere University to students or graduates of Food Science and Technology. Last week, about two students, who had gotten through, were rejected after being given European Union (EU) funded scholarships to universities in Poland.

In the process of getting their visas, the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA), which is the accredited entity of the Government of Poland, claimed in its feedback to the students, that the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) has not accredited Makerere University to offer Food Science and Technology as a degree course.

Therefore, I request the ministry to expand their report to cover this as well. According to NAWA, they went to the NCHE website and saw a list of programs accredited to Makerere University, and Food Science and Technology was not one of them.

I would also like the Government to assist the students to reclaim their spots. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please share the details with the honourable minister, who will handle that issue. Honourable minister, I do not want to keep disturbing you to come here; that is unless you have new information that is going to add value. Otherwise, let us wait.

I had allowed Hon. Waluswaka.

2.55

**MR JAMES WALUSWAKA (NRM, Bunyole West County, Butaleja):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. On the issue of accreditation, I do not know whether the Pharmaceutical Society - Honourable members, you recall that during the COVID-19 pandemic, Prof. Ogwang came up with Covidex. Therefore, for people to come out to write and put the image of the Government at a time when even Members are coming –*(Interruption)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Point of order.

**MR SSENYONYI:** Mr Speaker, I raised this issue and you have given guidance. In fact, in my remarks, I quoted a letter written by the Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda that the Government should tell us what the correct requirement is because they are making an allegation. No one should despise; whether it be nurses, doctors or anybody.

They are saying that this person does not qualify, but we are saying the Government should tell us if it is true and come back to us with a report, and you ruled as such. The honourable member is taking us backwards. I do not know if he just walked in or he was not attentive when raised this issue and when you gave your ruling. Mr Speaker, is he in order not to be alert and to take us backwards?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. If the point of order raised is on being alert, I think Hon. Waluswaka was very alert because when I raised that issue right away, he stood up. Honourable colleague, when I have already guided, for example, to bring a statement, Rule 86 on anticipation applies, so both of you are right. Hon. Ssenyonyi, you are right. He should wait, but then he is also right because he was alert. Hon. Waluswaka, let us kindly wait for Thursday.

**MR WALUSWAKA:** Much obliged, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Angura?

2.57

**MR FREDRICK ANGURA (NRM, Tororo South County, Tororo):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. In your communication, you said you met a delegation from the Rwenzururu Kingdom. I thank you for the engagement you had with the cultural leaders.

Nonetheless, allow me to also take this opportunity to inform you and the Members that His Highness Papa Emorimor will be celebrating his fourth coronation anniversary on the 31st of this month. The celebrations will be held in Kenya. Aware that the Iteso and the Iteso Cultural Union (ICU) start from Katakwi to Katakwa, the celebrations this time will be in Kenya. I take this opportunity to invite you and also the Members to come and join in the celebrations in Katakwa in Kenya. I thank you very much. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable, we shall join you. Hon. Nambooze?

2.58

**MS BETTY NAMBOOZE (NUP, Mukono Municipality, Mukono):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. In your communication, you welcomed the delegation from the Rwenzururu Kingdom, and I would like to join you in congratulating that kingdom for finding health again.

On another note, Mr Speaker, I would like to inform this House that His Majesty the Kabaka of Buganda is pleased to host all of us for the Masaza Cup finals on the 31st of October 2026.

Mr Speaker, Mukono belongs to Kyaggwe County, and we are the finalists. I invite you to join me in cheering for my team. However, the 31st of October falls on the last Saturday of October, and the people in Buganda are worried that it is a national cleaning day. We contacted the Prime Minister's office to know whether we, in Buganda, can be allowed to clean before 31st or the day after.

It is even against our culture for anybody to block roads on the day the Kabaka has chosen to appear before his subjects; it is a taboo. Since this House supports cultural leaders, I hope it would be good for this House to guide the Prime Minister to guide the people. By the way, this is not only for Buganda, but everybody is welcome to that match.

I thank you for meeting the people from the Rwenzururu Kingdom, and I really trust that you will be able to guide on this very pertinent issue, Mr Speaker. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** *Gutusinze,* honourable. *(Laughter)* Luckily enough, you have said you are already engaging with the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, continue with the engagement and give guidance to the people of Buganda and all of us who support Buganda. Hon. Nambooze has invited me. I will join her in Namboole to cheer for her team. I hope you win.

Let me conclude with Hon. Robina on matters arising from my communication.

3.01

**MS ROBINA RWAKOOJO (NRM, Gomba West County, Gomba):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Hon. Nambooze was wise, and she began on Kyaggwe's note, but Kyaggwe is playing against Gomba. Kyaggwe and Gomba are - you have Members who are in both, so if you are a guest, please be a guest to both teams. Thank you. *(Laughter)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** In the first half, I will go to one side; in the second half, I will go to the other. *(Laughter)*. May both teams win. Thank you.

Honourable colleagues, let me pick urgent matters. Hon. Fadil, Member of Parliament representing Tingey.

3.02

**MR FADIL TWALLA (NRM, Tingey County, Kapchorwa):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance concerning Tororo Cement and other mining companies operating in Sebei Subregion. Sebei Subregion is blessed with

pozzolana minerals, which contain 73 per cent of cement content. This has attracted many cement companies to the Sebei Subregion.

Mr Speaker, to my dismay, some of these companies have bought land rights from the local communities, yet our Constitution is very clear. Article 237 is very clear that no investor is allowed to buy land; rather, they lease land.

Even under social corporate responsibility, these companies are not doing anything for our local communities. For example, when we had an accident in Sebei that killed many children of King David Junior School, our local communities approached these cement companies just to help us with a wheel loader to push stones that were suffocating our people. If they had given us their machines, we would have even saved many lives. Therefore, this is a matter that needs intervention.

My prayer is that the Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Natural Resources should visit the site and the affected communities to ascertain the facts. If we continue like this, our people will keep being suffocated. When blasting the stones, the blasts are so strong that they have caused cracks in people's buildings. Even the dust is affecting the fertility of the land.

Mr Speaker, we need the intervention from Parliament. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, before I guide.

3.05

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (ENERGY) (Mr Sidronius Okaasai):** Mr Speaker, I wish to thank the Secretary-General of the Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU) for raising that matter. Yes, it is true that we have pozzolana in Sebei, and it is wrong for the companies to procure land. I request him to provide us the details of the companies that he knows such that we prove whether they actually have the licence.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, he has told you the mining company is Tororo Cement, the big boys.

**MR OKAASAI:** The big boys. We are going to engage to find out whether they actually have the land. There is a clear procedure. It is not buying the land; it is compensation for the surface use of the land. The landholder should be compensated, but the land should not be leased out to a private company. We shall take it up and provide information. I invite him to give us details.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Honourable minister, just let me guide. The biggest concern is how they are mining. He has even said infertility is growing in the area; you heard him. The women are getting infertile. That is what he said.

My guidance is, honourable minister, let the minister for minerals, hold a meeting with the Members of Parliament from Sebei, and they go and visit the communities. When you do that, you get solutions right away, Hon. Fadil, unlike a committee investigating, we go through reports here, and then we take it to the minister; that we delay. As we do that, the committee will also be monitoring the situation. If it does not improve, then we can send the committee.

For now, what we need is action. Let the minister go on the ground with the MPs from Sebei and the affected areas and engage the community. Get facts from the community, honourable minister. My Member will not go to get facts for you. The facts are on the ground; go with them to the community. I expect feedback next week on Tuesday.

**MR OKAASAI:** Most obliged, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable minister. Hon. Shafiga Wanyenya?

3.08

**MS SHAFIGA WANYENYA (NRM, Bungokho County North, Mbale):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of urgent

public importance concerning the apparent disregard of your earlier directive to the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, to suspend all activities along the disputed Mount Elgon National Park.

Mr Speaker, despite your clear guidance on Thursday, these activities continued on Friday, and we lost a life through the riots that we were having in my constituency, that is, Wanaale Subcounty, where they shot down four people, and one died on the spot. The three are nursing injuries.

Mr Speaker, this development is very unfortunate and raises serious concerns about the respect for the directives of this august House. I believe that your directives are not mere suggestions, but they hold the trust of this House.

My prayers are that the responsible minister explains why your directives were not implemented; the circumstances surrounding the tragic loss of the person in Wanale Subcounty are established; and the immediate suspension of these activities is enforced, as we hold different meetings as leaders to come up with a better resolution.

Lastly, I request that the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry takes up this matter because issues surrounding Mount Elgon National Park boundaries are creating more and more tensions on a daily. If we do not do this, we are going to continue losing more lives, which should not be. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honorable minister, the Rt Hon. Speaker guided. Why aren't you heeding the guidance of the House?

3.10

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Ms Susan Nakawuki):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The sole reason why I have come to this House very late is that we have been in a meeting with the very Member and the Members -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Point of order?

**MR ATWIJUKIRE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a point of order to the honourable minister about the parliamentary dress code. It is very clear in our rules - you may need to guide.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Chairperson on Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline, I need your - Where is our elder? I saw you observing – *(Member rose_)* - no, please, honourable, do not access a microphone without my permission.

3.11

**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND DISCIPLINE (Mr Fredrick Ruhindi):** On matters of this nature, you guided well. You said, "Let the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline handle." We are handling. *(Laughter)* Very soon, we are coming here with the report. We shall be home and dry. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. To me, the honourable minister is smart, but I would like to put a rider. Honourable colleagues, when you are dressing, just be cautious so that the dress does not raise debate. You can be smart casually, but when you look at yourself in the mirror, you should conclude that this is the dress, okay? You yourself conclude that with this one no one will raise rules because you make my work sometimes difficult. However, she is smart, and I know she has also heard my guidance.

**MS NAKAWUKI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to remind the Member that this is the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, now on a very serious note. Here, we are not doing tourism stuff. We are in a Parliament. When I give guidance, consider it and take note.

**MS NAKAWUKI:** Much obliged, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable member.

**MS NAKAWUKI:** Back to the question from the Member. Mr Speaker, we have just had an interaction with the Prime Minister regarding this issue together with the Member and all the Members from Bugisu Subregion.

The Prime Minister is going to engage the President on the matter, and she will guide UWA to halt, because we have agreed to discuss this matter in one month. She is going to write to UWA to halt until we finish with the matter within one month.

However, for the record of this House, Mr Speaker, on the 27th of September 2026, UWA received a directive from the President to ensure that nobody grows food in the national park, and this is what is causing problems.

So, sometimes we are in a predicament when you get a Presidential directive, and then a Parliamentary directive, and then a Prime Minister's directive. But the Prime Minister is going to handle the issue, and I think we shall come to a logical conclusion. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable minister, we would not have any of these issues if the cries of this House could be heard on the issue of sorting out the boundaries. If you could sort out the issue of boundaries for Mount Elgon National Park, personally, I told you severally that one day I was nearly kidnapped at Mount Wanale when I was a Government Chief Whip. These people wanted to perform a second *imbalu* on me. *(Laughter)*

Hon. Betty Nambooze, why do you want more details on such a matter? I can tell you, every month you will be having issues of Mount Elgon National Park if you do not sort the boundaries. Even if we halt for one month, then what next? Let us get a solution to the boundaries.

**MS NAKAWUKI:** Mr Speaker, this has been a work in progress. Even Cabinet pronounced itself on this in 2018. The boundaries were reopened, and directives were given to the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order.

**MR NAMBESHE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The minister is in defiance of your guidance. You were unequivocally clear when you requested that she give justification for defying that guidance. She is taking us in circles and has digressed. Can you imagine she is even referring to the Head of State to intervene as people are being shot dead by the trigger-happy UWA staff? Is she in order to defy you twice? *(Laughter)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now, I thought presiding apostles would be kind, but this one has even become tougher. I think the minister gave us information in terms of where they have reached on implementing what the House guided on. She has said that the Prime Minister is to issue a directive to UWA to halt any operations around the national park for one month as they sort out the issues and report back to this House, if I heard her right. This time round, Hon. Nambeshe, it is you who is wrong. The minister is right. She is in order.

So, Hon. Minister, you conclude.

**MS NAKAWUKI:** In conclusion, we just need this one month to work out things with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development that is supposed to put the markstones, and then engage the local community on where the boundaries are. Otherwise, everything has been concluded. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. That would be a great achievement for this ministry. It has been a burning issue for a long time.

Honourable colleagues, I had an issue where Hon. Kazoora Arthur came to my office this afternoon. I had also received calls from my area. However, Hon. Kazoora, before you pick up a microphone, Hon. Annet Mugisha had come in the morning and registered that matter. So, you will supplement her. Hon. Annet Mugisha? Oh, she has just moved out. Then Hon. Kazoora raise the matter, because the Minister for Works and Transport is here.

3.18

**MR ARTHUR KAZOORA (NRM, Ruhinda South County, Mitooma):** Mr Speaker, for record purposes, I am Hon. Kazoora, MP Ruhinda South. The Deputy Speaker, several other MPs, and I pass through Ishaka, Kabwohe, and Rukungiri road.

At St. Kaggwa, there are potholes; every week we register the loss of more than 10 people because of accidents. We are very scared that even our Rt Hon. Speaker, who passes there when going home, is at risk. We urge the Government to release the money so that the Ishaka-Kabwohe road be reconstructed as soon as possible.

Yesterday, I lost two people from my area on that road when they were going to see their relative in prison in Bushenyi. We are burying them tomorrow. Now, people are saying that the Government should incur the burial expenses because that road is overdue to be tarmacked. I thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Annet Mugisha. She had gone to pick up a cup of water and -

3.20

**MS ANNET KATUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Bushenyi):** Thank you so much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I will just supplement that at St. Kaggwa, the trading centre is highly populated. It has several schools adjacent to each other, like St. Kaggwa Primary School, St. Kaggwa High School, St. Agnes Girls School, a Catholic Church, Rukindo Church of Uganda, and St. Kaggwa Mosque. Fortunately, there is also a playground where many people come from all walks of life, to play football and also attend functions at that very place.

Mr Speaker, I have the following prayers:

First, I request the honourable Minister of Works and Transport to immediately deploy a technical team to assess the situation and ascertain the exact number of people who perish there every day.

Number two, to install appropriately designed speed humps, clearly marked zebra crossings and adequate speed limit signs, subject to technical assessment, to reduce vehicle speed and protect pedestrians.

I appeal for urgent Government intervention to protect our children and the wider community and prevent further loss of life. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister of Works and Transport.

3.21

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) (Mr Julius Maganda):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. We received this complaint, which came under a matter of national importance, from the Member. The Minister of Works and Transport had earlier received this complaint even from your office. We already submitted a team, which moved to this area. We already have the designs. The place needs reconstruction, and new designs have been made. We are supposed to also come up with some safety measures that are supposed to be implemented on that road under the new designs and construction.

What is hampering the implementation, Mr Speaker, is that there are no funds. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has not yet given the Ministry of Works and Transport the funds to implement this part of the road. We shall be coming back in November to request this money and want to request the House to support us, especially when it comes to this particular item.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I will also follow up on this personally.

3.23

**MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative Wakiso):** Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I am here to raise a matter of an incident that occurred today in Koboko Cell, Bweyogerere Ward in Kira Municipality.

The ongoing heavy rains caused a boundary wall to collapse onto a residence, killing four people. Three others were rushed to Mulago Hospital, and a lot is still ongoing.

First, we pray that the families get support through the Government's intervention. We also pray that during seasons like this, when many parts of the country experience heavy rains, our local authorities should be empowered. For example, KCCA and other local governments should be able to do spot checks and advise our communities accordingly. Local governments themselves should be able to carry out risk assessments so that our people can be saved during this season. I beg to pray.

3.25

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RELIEF AND REFUGEES (Ms Lillian Aber):** Mr Speaker, I have taken note. As you are aware, through the Office of the President, the Government has always supported families of those who lose their loved ones during disasters. I request Hon. Betty to submit the list of people who died, but also a written submission so that I am able to engage the technical people to support. Thank you.

3.25

**MS BETTY NAMBOOZE (NUP, Mukono Municipality, Mukono):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance concerning the unlawful retention -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Nambooze, wait a bit; we have a procedural matter.

**MR OTIMGIW:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The procedural matter I want to raise is that we always have matters of national importance here, and I am one of the people who attends this House quite often. I have noticed, Hon. Nambooze does not seem to miss on the list. I am wondering what is happening in Mukono. Do we need to establish an Ad hoc committee to go and find out what is happening in Mukono? This is because she keeps raising matters of national importance. My Members are complaining that they are being omitted from the list on matters of national importance, and yet there are some people who are always submitting matters of national importance. I beg your guidance.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. In other words, I am biased. *(Laughter)* I did not see anyone from the Opposition protesting when I picked three people from NRM consecutively. My role here is that of a referee. We assess the matter, and if it is an urgent matter, we give it attention. In fact, you can have a matter every day; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, as long as it is a matter that is relevant.

**MS BETTY NAMBOOZE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your wise ruling. *(Laughter)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Today it is a wise ruling? *(Laughter)*

**MS BETTY NAMBOOZE:** I am here, Mr Speaker, to present a matter of national importance. It is not about Mukono in particular, but Uganda as a whole.

Over 200 Ugandans who are importers of charcoal into this country have had their merchandise confiscated at the borders of Uganda and South Sudan. Over nine tonnes of charcoal are now lying at our borders between Uganda and South Sudan to the extent that the Government of South Sudan, through its customs department have written to their counterparts in Uganda asking them why they are not clearing these products for onward transmission.

Mr Speaker, the problem might be the extension of the presidential directive on charcoal. These people having their merchandise - if you see the photographs - rotting at the border. It is worth billions of shillings.

The intention of the presidential directive was to save forests in northern Uganda but when people are importing charcoal, first of all, it is a business to Ugandans.

Secondly, it is a service to Ugandans, and it lessens the pressure on our forests here in the country.

Mr Speaker, I therefore pray that:

1. The Government immediately clears the merchandise currently retained at the border, having met all the URA and migration requirements.
2. The Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives sits with the importers to design a clear and verifiable method of differentiating local charcoal from imported charcoal.
3. A statement from the Government on the legal basis of blocking charcoal legally imported from South Sudan when the Executive Order does not cover that type of charcoal.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, there is also an allegation that one officer at the border confiscated charcoal worth about Shs 900 million and passed it on for his own benefit. I request that this matter be investigated and a report be given to this House, and the traders who lost their merchandise be compensated.

Mr Speaker, I beg to pray. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Nambooze, we request you to share the details with us so that we can give them to the minister. I also accepted this matter because of the Speaker's guidance the other day. Tomorrow, we are expecting a statement from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development.

Honourable minister, include this aspect in your response -*(Mr Atwijukire rose_)*- Please, information can only happen when there is someone holding the Floor. Honourable minister, ensure that you include this aspect so that it is part of the debate tomorrow. *(Mr Gumisiriza rose_)* Elder, I have noticed that you seem very uncomfortable today. You seem to be having a burning issue.

3.31

**MAJ. (RTD) GUMA GUMISIRIZA (NRM, Ibanda County North, Ibanda):** Mr Speaker, Guma, Ibanda. Hon. Ssenyonyi -*(Interruption)*- *Wewe wacha*. *(Laughter)* The Leader of the Opposition raised a number of observations, among which was an issue concerning power in this country. I did not know that one of the ministers from the sector was here. You know, they are rare to be here. So, -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable member, for the energy sector, the ministers are always here and especially Hon. Okaasai. He is a very good Member. I do not want it to go on record.

**MAJ. (RTD) GUMA:** Mr Speaker, I withdraw that bit of my remark. However, I wanted the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development to respond to the observations made by the Leader of the Opposition. Power outages are horrendous, particularly upcountry. The situation is equally worse in Kampala, but it is horrendous upcountry.

Now that the minister is here, who is well defended for his attendance, I would want him to make a remark in respect to the Leader of the Opposition's observation. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Guma, if you listened to how I guided the honourable Leader of the Opposition, Rule 86 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament does not allow us to debate matters here in anticipation.

The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources is working on this matter. The chairperson has informed the House that this report is in final stages and will be here next week, so that we can have a substantive and comprehensive debate on the matter. It is our rules. Let us keep it that way, so that we have a debate next week.

Honourable minister, unless there is something urgent you feel you should share, the rules are very clear when we are debating such matters.

3.33

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (ENERGY) (Mr Sidronius Okaasai):** Mr Speaker, we are actually providing that information to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. I will request that the House holds on until the chairperson presents it here.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable chairperson, this is one of the items that we are going to have next week and I will ensure we give it enough time on the Order Paper. Hon. Kwizera wa Gahungu?

3.34

**MR EDDIE KWIZERA (Independent, Bukimbiri County, Kisoro):** Mr Speaker, thank you very much. I wish to raise an issue of national importance, where two people from Bukimbiri Trading Centre in Kisoro town were shot dead.

I wish to make some few comments because this is related to the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where we have multiple negative forces. The people in Kisoro are now living in fear because there is no immigration control, yet these people are coming with guns into the country. We do not know if they will end in Kisoro or even come to Kampala.

Lack of employment has also lured some Ugandans into the M23. This is an issue that has been proved yet there is no mechanism to bring peace within the Great Lakes Region. We do not know whether the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region mechanism has died and if the functionality of the East African Community is there; but there is uncontrolled movement of people and guns into Uganda through Kisoro borders.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable member, when you make such statements, they have repercussions. These are still allegations. We closed our borders with the DRC. You are now telling the world that our borders with the DRC are open and people are entering anyhow, yet you do not have the capacity to investigate and make conclusive remarks. Your duty should be to make a request, otherwise, you are endangering our country even further. Let us not make conclusive statements; ask for investigations and action. That is what you do as a Member of Parliament (MP).

**MR KWIZERA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have the original voice of the people from Kisoro. If I do not tell the Government what is there, it will not know. Let them go and conclude on my findings. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is it; very good. Honourable colleagues, we need to be extremely cautious on matters involving other countries. Hon. Kwizera has raised very critical issues, which the Government should go and look into. These are not issues of coming back and reporting here but of action.

As an MP, he has received information from his voters that there are very salient issues that need to be handled. Please take it up with the Minister for Security and, the Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs. Luckily enough, the Minister of State for Defence is from Kisoro, so, they should swing into action very quickly. Hon. Zambaali?

3.37

**MR BULASIO ZAMBAALI (NUP, Nansana Municipality, Wakiso):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to draw the attention of this august House to a matter of national importance, concerning numerous fire outbreaks in the country, especially in the city centre.

On 15 October 2026, fire gutted Wandegeya Police Barracks and Hami Junior School in Kagoma, Nansana Municipality on 19 October 2026. We lost two innocent souls; one is Abdul Shakul Bwette in Primary three (P.3). The other is Raniya Namusoke in Primary One (P.1). A school should not be a place where families lose their future but one where our children discover their future.

While we were trying to combat the fire at Hami Junior School, another community was also trying to control fire at Ivory Hotel in

Nansana. In such circumstances, it was hard to control both fires within one area.

Mr Speaker, my prayer is to ask the Ministry of Internal Affairs to bring a statement to this august House to explain such scenarios. If multiple fires happen at the same time, how can we as a country, have the capacity to handle such scenarios and also help our communities? For example, if you have a fire outbreak in Busega, others in Nansana and Kotido, how ready are we as a country to provide help?

Secondly, I request the Prime Minister's Office to help the families, which have lost their children at Hami Junior School. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I think the country's preparedness to respond to fire outbreaks is important. It can happen anywhere. Let the minister prepare and update the House. We might even have capacity we do not know about, so, this can be a good platform to guide the country.

Hon. Aber, would you like to step in to see how the victims' families can be helped?

3.40

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RELIEF AND REFUGEES) (Ms Lilian Aber)**: Mr Speaker, I implore the honourable member to give me the list - and write it clearly – of the families which lost their loved ones. Also attach the next of kin, then we will be able to support.

We normally give Shs 5 million to families that lose their loved ones. If I get the list today or tomorrow, I will be able to respond immediately. Thank you. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, I have very many urgent issues, but I am time-barred. Let me conclude with Hon. Malinga.

3.41

**MR ISAAC MALINGA (NRM, Soi County, Kween):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance. There is a health centre III in Girigi Sub-county, a one-unit block that serves the communities of Girigi Sub-county and another called Sundet; Lokales in the neighbouring district of Amudat and Bukwo.

The structure of Kiriki Health Centre III has developed an immense crack right from the bottom across the walls. This structure hosts everything that needs to facilitate treatment and help for the community.

Mr Speaker, I appeal to the Ministry of Health. My district wrote a letter to the ministry, however their request was pushed to 2027. I request that the ministry constitutes a team to go and verify facts; look at this health centre and where possible, have a budget that can rescue my people to avoid the different catastrophes that may follow. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. That is Kiriki Health Centre III. Honourable minister, the reason I allowed this matter is that, usually, colleagues come and say, "I do not have a health centre III or health centre IV; it is a matter of national importance," and these things take a long time.

Specifically, on this matter, he said they have only one building; it is cracked and about to collapse. Once it collapses, they will have nowhere to go. That is why I treated it as an urgent. Can you help us, honourable minister?

3.43

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH (GENERAL DUTIES) (Ms Anifa Bangirana):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I note the honourable member's concern about this hospital. This morning, I and my senior colleague had a top-management meeting to discuss how we can address these urgent matters concerning the health centres. This hospital—

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Health centre -

**MS BANGIRANA:** I would like to assure the Member that this health centre has been considered a top priority. We may start working on it even earlier than next year.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Next item. Honourable colleagues, I will start on the matters I did not pick tomorrow. Hon. Eliab Naturinda, procedure?

**MR NATURINDA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Wouldn't it be procedurally right for this House to observe a moment of silence in relation to what Hon. Zambaali said, especially about the two children of Nansana?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Oh, yes. Hon. Kwizera, Hon. Naluyima and Hon. Shafiga, thank you for reminding me. Please, let us observe —

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

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Next item.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS SUB-PROGRAMME FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026 — DEBATE ENSUES

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, as you remember, this statement was presented, and we will debate it. I will pick Hon. Nakiyi, Hon. Alinaitwe, Hon. Acon, and Hon. Byanyima Nathan. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven and twelve. That is it! The Government side is covered. Do not say that I have not picked you.

One, two - okay, the Independents first. *(Members rose_)* Yes, but you are Independent from what? I will start with our elder among the Independents. So, one, two, three, four, five - chairperson, you will come in later. Hon. Kaluya, are you an Independent? Shadow minister – okay, I will start with the shadow minister before we open up debate to anyone else.

3.46

**THE SHADOW MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS (Mr Andrew Kaluya):** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Three minutes.

**MR KALUYA:** Mr Speaker, I have the opportunity to present the response on the state of education and sports in the country -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, I did not give you space to present a response. We are debating. If you wanted space to present a response, you should have approached me, and I would have placed it as a substantive item on the Order Paper, as per rule 55. So, debate.

**MR KALUYA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank my able minister for giving us a very good statement on the state of education in the country. Whereas, everything seemed okay, there are some highlights that I think need our attention.

The state of schools that we have at the moment are not in very good shape, in as far as infrastructure is concerned. The minister stated that most of the schools have good structures but most schools in the rural areas have a problem with structures.

A case in point is Nakalama Secondary School in Iganga. That school currently has very poor structures, and they are also considering a perimeter wall.

When we look at Government policy on feeding these children, most of them have run out of the schools to find something to eat.

I will also draw the attention of the House to the Balaam effect. When Hon. Balaam Barugahara started the anti-corruption crusade, he deterred parents from supporting schools through their contributions.

The schools are now grappling with feeding the children. Whereas that money was looked at as corruption, it was helping to provide - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let me add you time as the shadow minister. Two minutes, Clerk, for the shadow minister.

**MR KALUYA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The issue of the money that the parents were contributing is now affecting the progress and work of the schools because even the capitation grant that the schools are supposed to receive comes late. So, the parents have held back from giving this money, and now the schools are stuck.

That money also helped pay teachers to work extra hours and even recruit more teachers. Some schools have very few teachers. Those schools have been trying to hire more teachers using money from parents.

All of this is affecting education, and we believe that we need to intervene. Either the Government increases the grant given to the schools or the parents come in and give financial support to the schools. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Thank you, honourable shadow minister. I will start on this side and come like that.

3.51

**MR JULIUS NAKIYI (NRM, Budadiri County East, Sironko):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the minister for the statement. I am interested in the 121 traditional secondary schools they intend to renovate. I am requesting the minister to lay before us a list of those 121 schools so that members of Parliament from the areas where those schools are located can follow up.

Secondly, in Sironko, we have a school called Masaba Secondary School, one of the biggest traditional schools in eastern Uganda. It has produced many people, including myself. I studied there in Ordinary Level. It was one of the schools alongside Nabumali High School, Bukedi College Kachonga, and Teso College.

However, this school has been dilapidated. The Old Boys(OBs) have tried as much as we can to keep it afloat. It used to have thousands of students, but now it has maybe 300 students simply because the infrastructure is down. It still has asbestos in the roof, which is outlawed because of cancer.

I want to make sure that Masaba Secondary School is among the 121 schools that are due for renovation. If it is not there, I request that the minister review the list so that they include it. This school is key in our area, and I am sure people from the East know it. It is the only Government School in Sironko, which is a boarding school. We are suffering because of the infrastructure in that school. That was my submission.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable member for Rukiga?

3.53

**MS SYLVIA ALINAITWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Rukiga):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to add my voice to the one who spoke earlier, to appreciate the two ministers who gave us statements on the performance of their respective sectors. It was informative and gave a lot of hope. I will narrow my submission to the Ministry of Education and Sports and to Rukiga in particular. Rukiga has an enrolment in primary school of 23,000 pupils and then secondary school of 7,000 students. Meaning that several pupils do not make it to secondary school.

Also, the land per capita for Rukiga is 0.8 acres compared to 2 acres in the country. This also means that access to land is very limited. If our people do not make it to higher education levels and have little access to land, that means their contribution to the productivity of this country becomes very limited. Rukiga District has not benefited from the policy of one technical institution per district.

My prayer is that we prioritise Rukiga among those to receive technical institutions urgently to address the challenge of these people who are not making it to secondary school and cannot access land. Also request that the Government consider making level one, level two and level three training in technical institutions free

so that Ugandans who want to access skills can access them easily and contribute to the Tenfold Growth Strategy.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I want to guide that since we are not making any resolution on item number three. We debate it jointly, both Health and Education. When you stand up, you can use your time to touch on both, since we are not making a motion or resolution on them, so that we can save time. Let me first ask the Clerk to call the statement on Health, and then we have a joint debate. I will allow the Shadow Minister for Health to respond to a few, and we move quickly.

STATEMENT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE HEALTH SECTOR

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Comments from the Shadow Minister for Health.

5.56

**MS ANNA ADEKE (FDC, Woman Representative, Soroti):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am representing Hon. Batuwa, the Shadow Minister of Health, who is away on official duty, and I will summarise his response -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, I guided earlier. It is you, Hon. Anna Adeke, debating. If you wanted to submit a response, it would be a substantive item on its own, and then we would need a separate chairperson.

**MS ADEKE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The abandonment of health centre IVs and IIIs remains outstanding. Personally, in Soroti, Tiriri Health Centre IV, which is supposed to be a district hospital now, remains abandoned, still operating under the facilities it was given when it was still a health centre II. Gweri and Soroti Counties do not have health centre IVs

Secondly, the issue of underfunding and financial exploitation. You know what the Abuja Declaration requires: that every country that is a signatory to the same dedicate 15 per cent of their budget to health matters, but we stand at a staggering rate of 7.7 per cent. We have not fulfilled our commitments under that declaration.

In addition, there is the issue of brain drain and human resource constraints, wherein many of the doctors and health professionals that we have trained as a country are leaving the country in search of greener pastures in Kenya and South Africa. I am certain many colleagues who go to these countries in pursuit of better medical services find Ugandan doctors there who treat them.

Also, there is the issue of non-communicable diseases that have not been given proper attention, but require it, like hypertension. What we deem as the low-hanging fruit that the ministry can grab onto is number one: to unlock the Wage Bill so that the poorest performing districts can employ enough personnel, operationalise the health centre IV theatres which remain non-functional with simple things: electricity, anaesthesia packages, blood banks, et cetera, which you well know, honourable minister.

Digitise the National Medical Store last-mile delivery by enforcing a mandatory real-time digital stock tracking protocol at each facility. Also, implement mandatory village-level NCD screening so that many of these non-communicable diseases are intercepted at a primary stage.

By and large, we ask that the Government prioritise the issues of health much more than we are doing now by allocating more finances, better budgets and planning better because all of us can be victims of a poor health system.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Protazio?

4.00

**MR PROTAZIO BEGUMISA (NRM, Ndorwa County East, Kabale):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to thank the Minister for Education and Sports for the statement. I have two issues to raise. There was a change in the curriculum for O-level and A-level, and that has caused a problem. There is a shortage of new textbooks that are based on the current

curriculum. The minister stated somewhere that new curriculum textbooks for Math and English had been delivered to government secondary schools.

The private secondary schools are having difficulties finding where to buy the new curriculum-based textbooks. Even the old publishers, after realising that Uganda has changed the curriculum, stopped supplying the old textbooks. The other day I wanted Backhouse 2 for my son. I moved the whole town, and I could not get one. This is something urgent that the minister needs to deal with. We cannot have a new curriculum without new textbooks.

Secondly, you commented on the centres of excellence. Six technical institutes were upgraded; four constructed under the Islamic Development Bank project, and eight others under the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund project.

In my constituency, Ndorwa East, we only have one technical institute called Kizinga Technical Institute. It is in such a worrying state. Honourable minister, I wish you could get time to visit this institute or even send a team to make an assessment and support this single technical institute that is in my constituency. I thank you.

4.03

**MR JOHN TEIRA (NRM, Bugabula County North, Kamuli):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the ministers, Hon. Peter Ogwang and Hon. Baryomunsi, for the report they presented here, and for being steadfast in their disciplines, as we have seen from the way they presented on the Floor.

Hon. Peter, Bugabula North has suffered a very strong historical injustice. The policy of the Government is to have one seed secondary school per subcounty. However, our subcounties have a 20-kilometre radius, which explains why we have very low enrolment in the only existing secondary school. The subcounties of Namasagali and Kagumba are over 20 kilometres from the centre and they are very big. I invite the minister to reconsider this policy of having one secondary school per subcounty. Let us look at the geographical size and the population of these subcounties.

Mr Speaker, that injustice has also been the same with the health facilities. Bugabula North does not have a health centre IV. It also does not have a technical college, and yet it is a very old constituency. I would like to seek the indulgence of the Speaker in this House during this term to have these matters addressed.

4.04

**MR TAR ONGU (NRM, Kwania North County, Kwania):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to comment on the statement from the minister for education.

First, I appreciate the minister for giving a very comprehensive report, especially when he mentioned the issue of technical schools to be upgraded, as well as the Primary Teachers' College (PTCs).

However, the report misses out on one critical aspect, that is, the Uganda Colleges of Commerce. Kwania District has the Uganda College of Commerce (UCC), Aduku. Many parts of Uganda have those UCCs and they are in a very sorry state. My expectation was for the minister to point that out because the infrastructure is dilapidated and operations are very poor. Even Tororo and Soroti have these UCCs. Therefore, can the minister brief the House on the plan they have for UCC, Aduku and others in Uganda? Thank you.

4.06

**MR PATRICK OGWANG (NRM, Oyam County South, Oyam):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank my namesake, Hon. Peter Ogwang, for a great report on the status of education. Oyam District is one of the largest districts in the northern part of the country. To prove that, our enrolment in pre-primary, primary, and tertiary stands at 102,000 learners.

Surprisingly, the number of teachers recruited to facilitate these learners is as low as 155,000. We have a gap of close to 400 plus teachers. The classroom blocks stand at 1,068, leaving a shortage of about 483. In terms of sanitation - we have seen Hon. Balaam chasing around schools with no pit latrines. In Oyam, we have a gap of close to 890.

In terms of accommodation, our teachers are sleeping in grass-thatched houses. My prayer to my brother, Hon. Peter Ogwang, is to interest himself in Oyam County South. First of all, we do not even have a seed school. I see honourable members here saying that they have one or two. For us, we have nothing like a seed school - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Adrine? Hon. Kangwagye, I will pick you later. I just wanted to get a lady, followed by Hon. Paparu.

4.08

**MS ADRINE KATUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Sheema):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. In a special way, I thank the minister for the well-put statement. Mine is about understaffing and I am worried about the unemployment in this country. I did research on very many schools in this country, but I will purposely talk about Sheema.

There are so many schools that I got a report on, but I will talk about Kibingo Girls Secondary School, which has 1,520 students. However, the enrolled staff is 27, the gap is 32, and the expected is 59. I got a report on eight schools. The number of staff enrolled is 231, the staffing gaps are 179, and the expected total is 410, but the staff enrolled are 231.

Honourable minister, for these schools to operate very well, they need staff. Many of our children are educated and they are out there looking for jobs. What could be the problem? My prayer is that this is not only done for Sheema, but for so many other schools that lack staff and are being hindered.

4.10

**MS LILIAN PAPARU (NRM, Woman Representative, Arua):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the ministers for the presentation and the statements they made;

First, I want to start with the issue of health. Honourable minister, we are happy that the Community Health Extension Workers are in place, but there is a silent dissatisfaction in the community because the Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) are going to be remunerated, but the Village Health Teams (VHTs) that have been doing similar work are not given any facilitation. The VHTs are unhappy, and we might find that they are not working. Could you consider giving a humble facilitation to VHTs too?

Secondly, honourable minister, we have investments in upgrading some of the health centres, especially health centre IVs, but they are not functioning at the level of a health centre IV. With our meagre resources, could we fill those gaps so that we get the services for which these health centres have been upgraded? For example, Bondo Health Centre IV cannot even perform a caesarean delivery, and yet it is a health centre IV. Could we fill those gaps so that we can conclude the chain that we have started?

Honourable minister, we know the sports budget has increased – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Hon. Acon, then Hon. Ngompek –

**MR NALUKOOLA:** Point of procedure.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is not how we do it, honourable member, kindly. First, take your seat. Hon. Acon?

4.12

**MR JULIUS ACON (NRM, Otuke East County, Otuke):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the honourable minister, Peter Ogwang, for his report.

I would also like to let this House know that on Independence Day, 9th of October, I placed second in a 10-kilometre race in California. *(Applause)* I competed again on the 15th of October in Washington State and secured another second place. Instead of accepting the monetary prize, I requested that the meet director donate 1,000 goats to my community. So, the goats will be shipped to Otuke.

Mr Speaker, this debate has been very consistent. Last term we debated on the same issue. So, it has become music, honorable minister. You are aware that in Otuke, in one of the subcounties, we have 22 villages with no primary school. This is called Gotojwang in Olilim Subcounty. It is something that I have been talking about for over eight years.

Mr Speaker, in 2018, one of the seed secondary schools was approved in Ogwette Subcounty, and the budget came out: Shs 2.3 billion. That money was approved; it came out, and later on it was sent back to the Consolidated Fund. Honorable minister, can you work it out to make sure this money comes to our subcounty so that they can build a seed school in Ogwette – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us get a procedural matter from Hon. Nalukoola.

**MR NALUKOOLA:** I thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a point of procedure. I have learned that our proceedings are being streamed live on Facebook, a platform officially banned by the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC). Is it procedurally right, Mr. Speaker, for this august house to conduct official business on a facility that the state criminalised?

Mr Speaker, I seek your guidance as to whether an illegal broadcast aligns with our rules of procedure. Should your answer be in the affirmative, I request you to order the immediate lifting of the ban, Mr. Speaker. I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Thank you. I think your point was on how you have concluded. *(Laughter)* I am not privy to that, okay? I am not privy to our proceedings being broadcast live on Facebook. I will need to cross-check with the Clerk, and I will guide after cross-checking with the Clerk. Hon. Ngompek?

4.15

**MR LINOS NGOMPEK (NRM, Kibanda North County, Kiryandongo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of Health for his elaborate submission last week. However, he fell short at mental health. The report indicates that mental health among school-going children is at 60 per cent, and when you go to Butabika National Referral Mental Hospital, at the drug and alcohol abuse unit or department, you find very many young children being treated at that facility.

Therefore, I would like the minister to elaborate more on the remedies that the Government is trying to put in place to curb mental health illness in the country.

On HIV/AIDS, in June 2017, the President launched a campaign to stop HIV by 2030. I remember I was privileged to attend that launch. But you find that the rate of new HIV infections is shooting up, and 2030 is just around the corner. For example, in Western Uganda, the methods that males use, or the styles they use when they are in the process, do not accommodate the use of condoms. *(Laughter)* So, the minister should also tell us the remedies on how to solve that issue.

Secondly, the prices of condoms have also gone high –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, there are issues which go on the record of Parliament and –

**MR NGOMPEK:** But this is reality.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Ngompek, you are sure about your style. Are you sure about mine? *(Laughter)*

**MR NGOMPEK:** All right, Mr Speaker. I would like to withdraw that. But according to what we hear, some styles do not accommodate the use of condoms.

Then two, the prices of condoms have gone up. For example, we used to buy Life Guard at Shs 500, but now Life Guard condom is at Shs 1,500. There is a condom called Kiss, it is sold at -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Conclude.

**MR NGOMPEK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. We have another type of condom called *Skyn*. It is flavoured with vanilla and strawberry. That one is sold at Shs 5,000. Then there is another type called –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** But how do you know all these? *(Laughter)*

**MR NGOMPEK:** I did research. Last week, the Speaker told us to go and come up with a report and also debate these issues. So, there is a condom called *Skyn*. That one is called non-latex. It is sold at Shs 35,000.

Now, a man deep in Mitooma cannot afford a condom of Shs 2,000 on a job that will last for less than 40 seconds. *(Laughter)* I am not saying that in Mitooma, the men do not go beyond 40 seconds. But this is the reality on the ground.

Mr Speaker, for the case of Kiryandongo Hospital, the minister mentioned that there are three regional referral hospitals that are going to be set up, and they are going to upgrade district hospitals. For us at Kiryandongo Hospital, we are on the highway. We continue treating accident victims. We host about 168,000 refugees, and we receive PHC of only Shs 400 million, yet we have a bigger population that we serve.

I am requesting the minister to consider Kiryandongo District Hospital so that if we cannot be given the upgrade, maybe the ministry should provide us with more resources in order to sustain and manage the clients that we receive.

I thank you and I beg to submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now when it came to Kiryandongo, you talked of hospitals. When you came to Mitooma, you went into sizes of condoms. This is unfair. *(Laughter)*

Let me pick Hon. Mutonyi Rose. Then there is the honorable colleague behind Hon. Linos Ngompek; the one at the back. Hon. Brian Kapyagon, I will pick you later.

4.21

**MS ROSE MUTONYI (Independent, Woman Representative, Manafwa):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question goes to the Minister of Education and Sports. In the beginning, when, Universal Primary Education (UPE) was coming in, there was a deliberate effort to put up structures for the primary schools. I will give an example, of schools in my area, they were given a four-classroom structure. Since 1988, nothing has been added and even the three schools neighbouring them, were given a four-classroom block each.

The very old ones, which were constructed by the parents, are cracked, and they are posing a danger to the lives of the children. Mr Minister, what is your deliberate effort now or because they crossed to Universal Secondary Education (USE), now primary schools have been forgotten. There is a danger in those schools, and buildings might collapse on the children.

I am appealing - because people in my area think that since I am now a Member of Parliament there, I should help in putting up the school, particularly the one where I went to school in primary school. Mr Minister, can you help? Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. The colleague – Yes. Then Hon. Aogon. I will come back here, honourable colleagues; I am trying to balance.

4.24

**MR PAUL WANDERA (NRM, Samia Bugwe County North, Busia):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Minister of Health for the good work he is doing. Although I have challenges in my constituency.

Samia Bugwe County North has no Health Centre IV, yet it is one of the largest constituencies in Bukedi region. It comprises six sub-counties and two town councils, that is, Namungodi Town Council and Tiira Town Council. It is served by six Health Centre IIIs and five Health Centre IIs, but has no Health Centre IV. Mr Speaker, this limits access to comprehensive emergency care, particularly for mothers, newborns, and patients requiring services beyond the capacity of such lower-level facilities.

However, the district Local Council has already passed a resolution to upgrade Bulumbi Health Centre III to Health Centre IV.

Secondly, there is a lack of Health Centre IIIs to serve Namungodi Town Council and Tiira Town Council, both of which are highly populated with over 20,000 people. Therefore, I request the Minister of Health to work together with the Busia District Local Government to make sure that Namungodi Town Council and Tiira Town Council to ensure that two Health Centre II are elevated to Health Centre III. I thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Aogon. Then Hon. Muzaale and then Hon. Omara.

4.26

**MR SILAS AOGON (Independent, Kumi Municipality, Kumi):** Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. Allow me first of all to appreciate the Minister of Health, who is also here. He is a senior minister who has been with us in this House for some time, and I am happy with most of the things that they are doing in the ministry. One of them is the issue of advancing preventive health. I think it is the only way that we can save resources for this country.

The issue that I want to raise is the issue of having Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in all health care facilities. If you go to Mulago today and you take a tour to see the kind of facilities that we have inside there, there is a need for us to take action to make it up to a certain standard. All Health Centre IVs must have good facilities for WASH.

When you go to the schools, Hon. Peter Ogwang, you have done a tremendous job in the sector of sports. But I want to request the ministry should also give attention to the issue of WASH in all schools. Most schools, when you enter those facilities, you do not even want to look at what is inside. But we can do something.

In terms of the stadia, we are doing well now. In Arua, maybe there is something coming up. Officially now, Akii-Bua is about to come on board. I think Hoima is on. However, the entire East does not have a good stadium. I think we used to have a Mbale stadium, which is also almost collapsing. The whole of Eastern Uganda does not have a stadium.

So, what am I asking for here? In the budget framework paper for 2027/2028, can we make it a must that there is a plan for us to initiate at least one strong stadium in Eastern Uganda, so that we balance this country. (*Applause)* I am hearing about West Nile. Yes, there is the same thing. But all in all, it is about planning. We are happy that we have started with the rest. Now, it is time to come towards the East and also go to West Nile, so that we cover the entire country. Finally, let me take information first.

**MR KHEMIS:** Mr Speaker, one time I was here on the floor of Parliament pertaining to the issue of sports facilities in this nation. I gave a very long history of particular sportsmen who contributed a lot to the development of this nation. Right from the time of Sadiq Wasswa to the great lady Inzikuru Dorcus. I think my colleague is right, but I want to say that even in West Nile, we do not have - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. No, honourable colleagues, let me guide you. When you give information, you are sharing your time. You are not getting new time. I have colleagues lining up.

No, please. Even Ankole has no stadium. Even Kigezi has no stadium; even Rwenzori, even the whole of Tooro, I can tell you. When you talk of West Nile - a stadium in Hoima does not

serve Ankole, Tooro, Rwenzori, and Kigezi. So, let us be patient, honourable colleagues, if we want to take that line. So now I have allowed Hon. Martin Muzaale, and then Hon. Omara.

4.29

**MR MARTIN MUZAALE (NRM, Buzaaya County, Kamuli):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to thank the two ministers for their presentation. Mr Speaker, we need to realise that as a country there is a high number of dropouts from primary, many of our students do not cross from primary to secondary. That means we should consider the issue of vocational institutions very seriously. Mr Speaker, if we do not plan now, many of these children are left in our villages and they are going to be very dangerous in our country.

Secondly, on the issue of health facilities. There is a policy to phase out Health Centre IIs and transform them into Health Centre IIIs, but of course, they are very slow. Honorable minister, in Kamuli where I come from, in the last, I think three years, we have only been able to upgrade about two health centers from Health Centre II to Health Centre III, yet we have a number of health center IIs.

Thirdly, still on the health sector. Mr Speaker, the Government pledged ambulances. Honourable Minister, some of our colleagues already received their ambulances however, some of us have not yet received these Ambulances. We are still demanding these ambulances. It is unfair that a neighbour gets, and three years down the road, you have not delivered as a Member of Parliament, which is, of course, challenging. People may think that for these constituencies that have not received their ambulances, the MPs are not speaking. Personally, I am demanding an ambulance. Tell me, when are you giving me the ambulance for Buzaaya? I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Omara, then Hon. Masaba, and Hon. Zaake.

4.32

**MR PAUL OMARA (NRM, Otuke County, Otuke):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the two ministers for their reports. Every honourable member who has contributed has raised concerns about either health or educational infrastructure. I remember quite well that, in the 11th Parliament, before one of the budgets we passed was returned, Parliament had approved quite a substantial amount of money to rehabilitate our schools across the country, both secondary and primary schools.

In that budget also, there were provisions for about 79 ambulances. Mr Speaker, we have been building these health centres; just like in my constituency, we build them and do not finish. We put the infrastructure in place, but the facilities, for example, a theatre and the doctors' houses have been built in one of my health centre IVs, but honourable minister, the equipment for the theatre has not been delivered, nor were the doctors sent.

My recommendation to the House is that, to build a health centre IV, you need about Shs 2 billion. The Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers Programme (UgIFT) has been negotiating with the Government of Uganda for a Shs 2 trillion budget that would be sufficient to build a substantial number of health centres across the country.

What we need to do is to have a conversation with the Ministry of Health, for us to look for a facility that would be able to build the infrastructure for health centres across the country. I know that a flagship project, like the International Specialised Hospital of Uganda at Lubowa will cost at about $201 million. That is just one entity, but for the rest of the population outside, we should be able to look for resources so that we do not take a piecemeal approach. We can build these hospitals or health centres across the country with a borrowed fund, and I would like to recommend this to the minister for consideration. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Omara, we have to be cautious on that line. Our role is to demand services. Then the cabinet would go back and see where to get funds from. This is because someone can say, "You have resources,

why borrow?" Once they want to borrow, then they come, and we engage. Yes. Let us have Hon. Masaba, and then the MP from Karamoja. Honourable colleagues, I will not pick all of you. I think that has to be very clear. Otherwise, we would sleep here. I had picked my two ladies- No, I had picked one, two, three - I will come back here, Hon. Kangwagye, I promised you. I also have my colleagues who came in earlier; I want to give them priority.

4.35

**MR KARIM MASABA (Independent, Industrial Division, Mbale City)**: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do want to thank my friend, Hon. Peter Ogwang, and the honourable Minister of Health as well for the good statements. I have two issues concerning education.

Regarding seed schools under the UgIFT programme; you can note that 189 schools have been built. One project has been concluded and another one that is planned.

Unfortunately, Mr Speaker, we, majorly in the new cities, are facing a challenge where most of the rural subcounties which were annexed to municipalities were never considered. I even went to the commissioner in the Ministry of Education and Sports, and he said, "But you people in cities have schools," yet, surprisingly, in the Industrial Division, we are also lacking. There is one particular school; Mbale S.S where you find learners travel from the five sub-counties of Bumototo, Bukasakya Namayonyi, Bugema, Wanale, and Wumboyi that were annexed to the municipality - that is about 20 kilometres - someone has to move that distance to come to Mbale S.S, which is, of course, extremely crowded.

My appeal is that we consider these subcounties as well because they are part of the rural subcounties that were annexed to the city.

The other issue concerns universities. On page 12, I saw you talked about how many have been accredited. You mentioned Busoga, Bunyoro, Kabale, Lira, Gulu - We have raised this matter on several occasions as Bugisu, and we earmarked and provided a substantial amount of land. We have also set up a committee to see how the Government can step in, because, across the entire region, we have to rely on private universities.

On the issues of the health sector, honourable minister, you also noted on page seven that Bugisu is still lagging in terms of ambulances. Over 25 districts with only 11 ambulances, yet you find areas like Karamoja, 17 constituencies with 16 ambulances. I think we need to have equity when we are distributing some of these things because, for us, most of our constituencies are hard-to-reach areas, you find that we are still under-resourced in terms of ambulances.

Lastly, on the issue of Mbale Regional Referral Hospital, you stated that it is the best-performing regional referral hospital at 67 per cent. In my view, I do not think this is right. Maybe you will elaborate on what parameters you used for this assessment. Mbale Regional Referral Hospital is extremely congested, with mothers and their babies sleeping on the floor.

In fact, I had to solicit donations from my friends for some of the incubators being used in those Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) beds. When you look at what is happening there, you will not agree with the statement that it is the best-performing hospital. The Government tried to build a structure that has remained incomplete since the COVID times. *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I have a line of four: one, two, three, four; stopping on Hon. Albert. No, honourable member, I will come to you; do not worry.

4.38

**MR MUSA KARIM (Independent, Aringa North County, Yumbe):** Mr Speaker, thank you very much for catching my eye - *(Laughter)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am glad, honourable member.

**MR MUSA KARIM:** Mr Speaker, I really appreciate the two ministers who gave their

reports. I do appreciate it because they have endeavoured to delve into issues that should improve the delivery of education and healthcare services in this country. What remains is on us because the ministers have pointed out that if there is money - the Minister of Education has consistently been on this Floor saying, "If funds are available, we will finish and do this".

I have a few issues to raise. My constituency, Aringa North, borders South Sudan. It is very difficult to get candidates passing in first grade in the Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE). It is almost a crime. It is only those private schools that produce first grades. You can imagine the problems here. Is it because of lack of school inspectors or are they not effective? There are so many issues. It made me to commission a team of students from Makerere and Kyambogo Universities, to go and do an education outreach. What featured prominently was the lack of adequate staffing in those schools.

Mr education minister, sir, I think the worst PLE result in 2024 was from Aringa North. It was Kilaji Primary School where everybody got F9 except one who got eight. That is a performance to worry about, and we should really work on education.

Mr Speaker, I would like to say that we are actually – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you – *(A Member rose_)* - No, I picked my four people in one line. I have that one line.

4.41

**MS TOPISTA ACAMFUA (Independent, Woman Representative, Zombo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I add my voice to thank the Minister of Education and Sports for the well-presented progress report on education. I thank you for always being there. You are one of the ministers that stay till the end; we are always here together. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, when we talk of progress in education, I would like to say that we progress with access. In Zombo District, we only have access to education and high enrollment particularly in primary education. We have 91 primary schools with 101,000 pupils and eight secondary schools with 4,000 students. We have a tertiary school, Ora Technical Institute and a campus of Kyambogo University established there.

At the university, we do not have enough of our own to study there, reason being that there is a high dropout rate at primary school. The rate stands at 80 per cent. See that the secondary school has only 4,000 learners out of the 100,000 in primary school.

One of the key challenges is inadequate staffing. The ratio of teacher to pupils in Zombo District for primary is 1 to 100 as opposed to the ideal of 1 to 56. We also have problems with infrastructure. As we speak, many of our pupils' study under trees with heavy rain, hailstorms and strong wind –

On the 6th of October, one of our old primary schools, Juloka Primary School, had the roof of the administrative block blown off. All the teaching and learning materials got spoiled. The roofs of three primary one classroom blocks were blown off. In the primary schools we have, the highest number of pupils is in primary one - about 300. They are all now studying under trees.

My prayers:

1. Let us increase our district's Wage Bill so that the enrollment of the teachers is possible and the number is increased;
2. Let us consider constructing new classroom blocks in all the schools in Zombo District;
3. Possibly support us with – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have my four people; two so far are covered.

4.44

**MS HARRIET JOYO (Independent, Woman Representative, Obongi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I add my voice to thank the two ministers for the wonderful report that they presented.

Mr Speaker, the quality of a population is measured from two angles; education and health. When you look critically, the Ministry of Health's Annual Sector Performance Report, 2025, indicated that 30 per cent of the health facilities lack medical equipment. Of these, 40 per cent operate under substandard physical conditions. Power outages are around 35 per cent in rural areas. It is even worse for Obongi and Buvuma because they do not have power. We still have facilities that are using torches to conduct deliveries.

In addition to that, issues of the referral system still remain ineffective, with 70 per cent of the patients bypassing lower-level health centres due to lack of drugs and diagnostic equipment. Therefore, they tend to overcrowd the referral health centres, which operate at 150 per cent bed occupancy.

Much as the Government has allocated over SHs 132 billion to recruit over 16,000 health workers, if we do not invest in health infrastructure and even equip these health facilities, we shall not have done a lot to improve on the health care system. We still have health facilities that do not have equipment, some of which is outdated and cannot even be maintained. It makes life very difficult. That cannot improve health care.

Therefore, we need to invest in the health infrastructure and equip these health facilities with equipment and medicine so that we can improve on the health care.

Mr Speaker, NCD plays a very great – *(Member timed out.)*

4.47

**MR ALBERT LOKORU (Independent, Tepeth County, Moroto):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to join others in thanking the two ministries that happen to be key to human life. It is good that we are debating them concurrently. With the Ministry of Education and Sports, when people are educated, there is hope in life. For the Ministry of Health, when people are healthy, there is hope in productivity.

Members have spoken but I have only a few concerns. In this country, we strive for equity. Honourable ministers, you are all senior ministers. I happen to come from Karamoja, but there are gaps in both ministries. Minister of Education and Sports, the people of Karamoja have embraced education but you are failing to code the community schools. Where is equity in that area? We have sung about coding schools, but you have failed. Where are we going then if you do not support us in this?

To you, Minister of Health, it is true you are doing a good job. You have reached there but there are quite a lot of gaps. You have given to the country ambulances, but there are certain areas you have not. I do not know why. I represent people living in hard-to-reach areas. That is Tepeth, the people living on Mountain Moroto.

You allocated people living in the lowlands ambulances, but left out those who require this service. Where is equity? Equity is equality. Where is it, yet you are senior ministers? Please consider these hard-to-reach areas. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Jane Frances, and then Hon. Komakech.

4.49

**MS JANE AMONGIN (NRM, Woman Representative, Kaberamaido):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to also thank the ministers for their presentation. Let me speak to the Minister of Health.

In the minister's statement, there are quite a number of Health Centre IVs that are going to be upgraded. How I wish that when we upgrade, it is not only the status of a Health Centre IV to the district, but also the infrastructure and everything that comes with a district hospital.

I would like to speak referring to Kaberamaido District Hospital. The hospital was elevated, but the maternity ward remained that of the 1980s. It is squeezed, dilapidated, and even leaking. When it rains, attendants in the female ward have to stand there with basins. The lighting in the hospital is very poor. Actually, the electricity there is like disco lights. It is good the minister for energy is also here.

Mr Speaker, we had an incident the other day where thieves broke into the administration block and even stole a television set that they have been using for learning. Not only that, but last year, we lost a child because the hospital is not fenced.

The beds in the children's ward and mattresses are worn out. The ones that are there were donated by Dr Omona when he was a Member of Parliament.

When you look at the staff quarters, the two rooms that are there were built in 1942. Right now, the health workers are sleeping in the isolation ward. Should we have an outbreak, I do not know where the patients will go.

Mr Speaker, the maternity unit as a whole does not have a senior midwife. As a district hospital of that kind, we were supposed to have 15 doctors, but we have only five.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Komakech, Hon. Abeja, Hon. Spellanza, Hon. Attan.

4.51

**MR CHRISTOPHER KOMAKECH (NRM, Aruu County, Pader):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. My other name is Christopher, meaning I am a Christian. 1 Peter 5:8 speaks of a devil existing in this world. In 2001, Northern Uganda, in particular the Acholi sub-region, faced an outbreak of nodding disease syndrome. It is estimated that over 5,000 infants got infected with this disease that is never going to be cured. It is now 25 years. If that were my son or your son, he would be graduating from Makerere University right now, but some of these infants died. The ones who are alive live on the streets as if they are not Ugandans; it is so painful.

This catches the eye of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education and Sports. I would like to thank the Minister of Education, Hon. Peter. He is a good minister. Everyone here will attest to it, and so will Dr Chris Baryomunsi.

However, today, he fails. From his report, there is no single special needs school in the Acholi sub-region. Where are all the 5,000 children who suffer from nodding disease syndrome supposed to go?

I go to the Minister of Health; the minister knows very well that these children cannot live on their own, meaning they need a rehabilitation centre. I would like to thank him for the health centres that have been uplifted.

However, where is that one rehabilitation centre to cater for these children living on the streets? And when I say that, 1 Peter 5:8 says that there is a devil; a devil can wipe out an entire tribe in this country.

I would prefer that, even when they rebut our debate, let them come up with a way to at least have a special needs school and a rehabilitation centre for special needs children. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Abeja.

4.54

**MS SUSAN ABEJA (NRM, Woman Representative, Otuke):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to appreciate the two ministers who presented a statement and, at the same time, allow me to appreciate the Government for the work they have been doing for our country, though the population is not doing us any good.

When the statement was read, we were kindly guided to get our reports from the district. I know I will not have time to read all this, but after this, I will hand it over to my minister.

Honourable minister, in 2024, the Ministry of Health supported most of the health centres IV with computers to do the digital reporting, but Otuke in the entire country did not receive these computers.

Second, the Otuke District Health Officer retired, and for the last three years we have not had a DHO who is fully employed. We have

one who is just acting. The other Honourable Members raised the other issues.

On education, honourable Minister of Education and Sports, I like you so much. However, our children, whom you are spending money on as capitation grants, paying their tuition, are going to school on empty stomachs.

Why can't we come up with a permanent or sustainable school feeding program for these vulnerable children? We eat a lot of food and pour food here in Parliament. But children from vulnerable households- please, I beg - we have the land - I have a proposal to you, Honourable Minister. I know you are a capable one.

For Schools with gardens, we are talking of coffee planting, *matooke,* climate change is disturbing us. Why can't we, or your ministry, coordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture- the money that we have given for water for production - to be given in every school in this country? If a school has two acres of coffee and one acre of banana, then the other acre, this school can get money out of this - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I had picked Hon. Spellanza and then Hon. Attan.

4.57

**MS SPELLANZA BAGUMA (Independent, Woman Representative, Kyenjojo):** Mr Speaker, I would like to thank Dr Chris Baryomunsi and Hon. Peter Ogwang for their good reports touching the real issues in their respective ministries.

I will begin with education. Honourable minister, there was a rush to close PTCs in this country and now we are running short of primary school teachers. This is a very big concern because we do not know what is going to happen in the next few years concerning primary teachers.

The infrastructure establishments that were; I will give an example of a very big St. Augustine's PTC that used to be in Kyenjojo, is still lying there idle for all these years. There was no alternative plan by the Government for these establishments.

Number two, in my district of 31 sub-counties, 18 sub-counties do not have seed secondary schools and yet these are very big sub-counties, some of which are bigger than most of the constituencies, you know. So, you can imagine what is happening. 68 of our 169 parishes do not have primary schools that are Government-aided.

Mr Speaker, through you, I request the minister to at least consider the 43 that have submitted for coding to begin with.

Lastly, on education, is the curriculum overhaul that we recommended in the 10th Parliament. I personally talked about curriculum overhaul in this country but they only touched the secondary school curriculum, Ordinary and Advanced level, leaving the primary curriculum, which is still strictly examination-oriented, with all the problems that go with it.

I request that the primary school curriculum is also touched to align it well with the current secondary curriculum.

On health, I have 31 subcounties and of those 16 do not have health centre IIIs. One of my three constituencies, which has most of the sub-counties without health centre IIIs, is Mwenge North constituency. It has no health centre IV, and that means no ambulance. I request that some of these are considered so that we can have a healthy population in Kyenjojo.

Lastly, the Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) that you brought in place to cater for preventive healthcare have not been paid for the last six months. I request that they are also considered because they are doing - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Attan, then Hon. Zaake.

5.00

**MR MOSES ATTAN (FDC, Soroti East County, Soroti City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will start with the statement of the Minister of Health with specific reference to Soroti Regional Referral Hospital.

Honourable Minister, Teso has the worst regional referral hospital in the country since 2018, when I worked as National Accountability Advisor with USAID (GAPP). The theatre is condemned; the medical ward collapsed in 2018, and the surgical ward, male and female, is a disaster waiting to happen.

As a medical doctor, if the surgical wards collapse and the medical ward collapsed in 2018, seven years ago, that referral hospital is due for shutdown. It is on that background that the NRM recognised, reported and captured on page 135 - Soroti Regional Referral Hospital as the only referral hospital for rehabilitation.

Mr Speaker, in the statement on page 24, I wish to pick from the Minister's statement on the background that we have the worst regional referral hospital since 2018. However, regarding the budget allocations, I wish to read: Mbale Regional Referral Hospital gets Shs 23.23 billion, and Lira Shs 21.06 billion. Mbarara gets Shs 20 billion, and then Soroti gets Shs 14 billion.

Also, the non-wage recurrent budget. Mbale gets Shs 7.9 billion, Lira gets Shs 8.2 billion, Mbarara gets Shs 9.2 billion, Soroti gets Shs 3.3 billion. Is it a coincidence?

Are we going to see this in the current budget call circular and processes to rehabilitate Soroti Regional Referral Hospital in line with the findings of the manifesto writers and the social contract NRM has with the people of Uganda?

Secondly, we heard on this Floor, the doctors led by Dr Opodoi, on 7 April 2021, a whole term of Parliament ended, no action have been taken on that regional referral hospital.

What could be the failure in the Ministry of Health to address the plight of a regional referral hospital with competent doctors and OB to the - *(Member timed out.)*

5.03

**MR FRANCIS ZAAKE (NUP, Mityana Municipality, Mityana):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. These two sectors are very important in our country, i.e., the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. If only in this country you could put to order those two ministries, Uganda would be a very great country to live in.

The reason as to why there are very many members wanting to talk about this issue, is because these are issues that are dear to everyone. We are here because we are healthy, and we are here because we are educated.

Mr Speaker, I would wish to first talk about the issue of corruption in the Ministry of Health. First, from our hospitals, right from Mityana, equipment gets lost every day; medicine gets depleted the very day it has been delivered.

There is no free medication in our public hospitals. That is being sincere. Each and every now, every Member here is being called, "Please, honourable, send me something so that I am able to treat so and so." This is just the truth and reality.

I would suggest, Mr Speaker, that one thing that we need to work on is the salaries of these people in these health facilities. Especially the hands-on people. You get into a hospital; the health worker will tell you that get me something so that I am able to work on you. That is a fact. Reason being, they are paid badly.

We are getting into the budget process. Honourable Minister, Uganda has money; we have enough money. Let us pay our health workers well. It is the same thing in the education sector. Let us pay these teachers very well.

Mr Speaker, I find my own teacher who taught me in primary school, and I feel like crying. I am paid very well because of that teacher.

Let us advocate for the payment of these public servants, especially the teachers, so that they are well paid, so that they look better - *(Applause)* - You find them in torn shirts, torn pants, the trousers, the shoes - *(Laughter)* - Sincerely, this is shameful. Let us pay these people very well. It is really too much. It is overdue. Where Uganda is, we are no longer – *(Member timed out.)*

5.06

**MR STEPHEN KANGWAGYE (NRM, Bukanga County, Isingiro):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity. I also want to thank the two ministers for their well-detailed and concretised reports from their respective disciplines.

Let me talk about education first. It is imperative to give credit where it is due. When you check on the parish and subcounty school policy, it is a point that was well delivered. For instance, before the coming of Universal Secondary Education, Uganda only had 800 secondary schools that were government-aided, but today; there are more than 2000 schools that are government-aided.

Mr Speaker, as I talk now, we have more than 116 seed schools that are under construction. A job well done in the Ministry of Education and Sports. I thank you, honourable minister, my brother Hon. Peter Ogwang, for the good work. However, Mr Speaker, Bukanga constituency is a constituency that you know very well; it touches the border of Uganda and Tanzania. At the top of it, where it borders Isingiro South, we border with Rwanda as well. We have two subcounties with no government-aided secondary school.

I remember very well, we were the Ministry of Education- in our 10th Parliament, we raised this issue very well and the Government pledged that indeed Ruwambaga Secondary School is going to be among those ones that are being constructed today, but we have not seen anything, Honourable Minister.

Mr Speaker, I pray that the Ministry of Education should also come to us and consider Busheka Secondary School to be grant-aided.

When I switch to the Ministry of Health, Honourable Minister, my elder, my brother, my mentor, I want you to help me on this. I have been in the Ministry of Health for some good time to make sure that at least Bukanga should also be among those constituencies that have benefited from the ambulances. Remember we border with Tanzania and Rwanda- *(Member timed out.) (Laughter)*

5.10

**MS BRENDA NABUKENYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Luweero):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the two ministers for the sector reports. To the Minister of Education, on page six, you say that, the capitation grant has been increased to 24 billion. However, you did not elaborate because, actually, you increased it due to the number of pupils that have joined schools, not the actual amount. It has been stagnant at approximately 20,000 every financial year. That amounts to 6,500 per term. You can imagine the capitation grant is used to run the school on a daily basis. In addition, the same NRM government has been cautioning head teachers not to allow any kind of fundraising or ask parents for money. You can imagine how these head teachers are running schools.

Honourable members, we need to focus on the capitation grant money that we send to these schools because this is what they use to run the schools on a daily basis. It has been stagnant at approximately Shs 20,000 per child annually. You can imagine a term is Shs 6,500 and that is what is in the report.

When you say you have increased the budget by Shs 20 billion, we think that maybe the capitation grant has increased, but in actual sense, it has not. It is due to the number of students that have enrolled in school. I beg that we fund education, so that we can make the classrooms and the school environment better.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, the policy on the School Feeding Programme is stagnant. The minister has always said it is at Cabinet level, but I understand that the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and Sports had moved to start organising for the programme.

You must understand that there is a programme under the School Meals Accelerator. They gave the Ministry of Education this opportunity. If you were funding the School Feeding Programme with - Let me say – Shs 100 billion, they would top up with exactly Shs 100 billion. However, the Ministry of Education in Uganda did not take up this opportunity, which closed by 30th August. Rwanda was nominated by the Ministry of Education in Rwanda, and their schools are now going to roll out the School Feeding – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I am seeing each one of you; let us first take our seats. The Rt Hon. Speaker and I guided you earlier that there are sectors which we are going to give enough attention; education, health, agriculture, infrastructure, water, and service-based sectors.

We have done two hours on this. We cannot conclude it, considering the research you made and the many colleagues who would like to contribute. It would be unfair for me to conclude it now. Hence, we are going to stand over this item and resume tomorrow -*(Applause)*- so that I can give as many of you as possible a chance.

In the meantime, I am going to give the ministers a few minutes each to tackle the direct issues. These issues of "this constituency does not have a health centre or a school" were issues captured most even during the State-of-the-Nation address and are being repeated.

Honourable colleagues, the focus here was on you looking at the status of the sector. If you have a health centre in your area, how is it performing? How is it working? If you have an ambulance, is it operating? Are the theatres operating? The gaps will then be known. *(Hon. Mwiru rose_)* LOP, you are here with me tomorrow; I wanted you to submit tomorrow.

5.14

**THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr Paul Mwiru):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have a serious issue, which you had hinted on during your communication.

I sat in here and have been taking note of the number of people who have contributed to the debate. The Independents and NRM were 28. There are three Members from the Opposition. I realised that the Members are amending Rule 9 of our Rules of Procedure by practice.

You had guided, Mr Speaker, that the sitting arrangement be respected, as per Rule 9(2), which states that:

*"Seats to the right-hand side of the Speaker shall be reserved for the Leader of Government Business and members of the ruling party, and the seats to the left-hand side of the Speaker shall be reserved for the Leader of the Opposition and members of the opposition party or the parties in the House."*

I am alive to Subrule (5), which gives you the latitude, where the situation not practicable, to allow free seating. However, when you were choosing, I saw Independents and NRM members on this side who were eating into our time.

I seek your indulgence, Mr Speaker, that since you had guided on this matter; when we resume debate, take cognisance of the number of people who have contributed on either side, so that we have an opportunity on this side, as the shadow of opinion, to contribute. Thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Mwiru, that is why I postponed the debate. *(Laughter)* Otherwise, I would have concluded. However, for the record, five Members from the opposition have spoken, including you. *(Laughter)* You are also from the Opposition, but you did not count yourself. I want the record to be very clear.

During that same time, even Hon. Nalukoola also presented, so they became six. *(Laughter)* When we say this is the time frame for this; we do not know what you have said. What is important is who has contributed. If it was outside the –

I have taken note of that, Hon. Mwiru, and it is good you have brought it up because, when I start with the Opposition tomorrow,

Hon. Otimgiw will complain. I try my level best; I always calculate to balance. I know the percentages of each group in the House. The NRM has to get 70 per cent of the submissions during such general debates. I also know the Opposition's percentage but I usually go beyond.

Let us stand over this debate. Honourable ministers, did you want to respond to some issues now or do you want to respond at once? *[Honourable Members: "Tomorrow."]* Let us do this tomorrow. Good thing both of you are ministers who give us time; I am sure you will be here. Let us handle other items so that we start with this tomorrow.

I am trying to find a way to do it very well tomorrow. I would have taken down your names, but the challenge I have is if I follow the names and call for a Member who is not in the House, it is usually not good for that Member. I have not yet installed AI in my head to capture all of you. *(Laughter)* I know the Member for Maracha; I can see you are not happy, but you will be here tomorrow. We have a sitting tomorrow.

Honourable colleagues, if you are sure that you will be here tomorrow, please write down your name so that I pick you first. I will follow the list because I will read out names. I need the list from the Opposition and the Independents. I do not know what the arrangement is for Independents. Hon. Brian Kapyagon or Hon. Christine Apolot, can you work on that? *(Hon. Abigaba rose_)* Hon. Cuthbert, you are not an Independent.

Let me coordinate - No, these are beyond committees. The debate is general. Let me assign Hon. Ongiertho; I know you are an independent. Ensure the independents are noted down. Let us do the same on the NRM side, only if you know you are coming and are interested in debating tomorrow. If I read your name and you do not appear, that will be your problem, not mine. I want to state that rider early. You will go on the shame list if you do not appear.

I will then cross check with the Clerk so that those who have already submitted do not repeat submission. The Clerk will verify this. Next item?

## LAYING OF REPORTS

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ON THE STUDY VISIT TO KENYA TO BENCHMARK BEST PRACTICES IN THE APPLICATION OF STI FOR SMART AGRICULTURE, START-UPS, METEOROLOGY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 34 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, let us proceed in an orderly manner. I have noted those who are walking out. *(Laughter)* They are making my work lighter tomorrow.
Yes, honourable chairperson?

5.21
**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (Dr Opio Acuti):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay the report of the Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation on the study visit to Kenya to benchmark best practices in applying science, technology and innovation (STI) for smart agriculture, start-ups, meteorology and climate resilience. I beg to lay.

Mr Speaker, in accordance with Rule 34, I present a brief summary of the key lessons learnt and the committee's recommendations.

Mr Speaker, a delegation of the Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation undertook a study visit to Nairobi, Kenya, between 14 and 21 September 2026. The delegation was hosted by the Action for Sustainability Initiative, which is an innovation hub and a technology-based enterprise that develops local solutions to challenges faced by communities through innovation.

Additionally, our committee focused on two critical pillars of NDP IV. The first was productivity acceleration: to examine how innovations can drive productivity, especially in the agricultural sector. Second, we considered Industry 4.0, which involves fourth-generation technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and machine learning to drive innovation.

The key lessons we learnt are many, but I will highlight three of the practices that can be adopted by the country.

First, digital agriculture can help address some of the challenges we face as a country, especially access to extension services. During our study visit, we obtained practical, hands-on experience of artificial intelligence being used to detect pests and diseases and identify interventions.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, can we have order? Order! Can we have order in the House? Just pass on the paper quietly.

**DR OPIO:** Mr Speaker, as I stated, we saw an innovation in which artificial intelligence, enabled through smartphones used by smallholder farmers, allowed them to scan plants, detect diseases and pests, and identify the interventions needed.

We found this very important in places where access to extension services is a major challenge. Whereas we see phones as communication devices for TikTok and WhatsApp, our smartphones can also be agricultural tools that can improve the agricultural sector.

We also saw the use of drone technology in rural areas for pesticide and fertiliser application within tea estates. However, Mr Speaker, we noted that, as a country, we lack regulations that allow the use of drone technology in agriculture.

We need to develop regulations that facilitate the use of drone technology because it is critical in agriculture. It reduces pesticide and fertiliser use.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, we also observed precision farming as an intervention that can help us, as a country, address the low uptake of fertilisers and pesticides. It targets not just mass application of fertilisers, but spot application, with an almost 40 per cent cost reduction.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, we observed what is known as vertical farming. What we currently practise in Uganda is horizontal farming, where we focus on land space, but vertical farming focuses on airspace. An acre of a horizontal farm is equivalent to four to 20 acres of a vertical farm. This is known as hydroponics, whereby we practise agriculture without using soil and do it vertically.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, these technologies, including artificial intelligence and robotics in agriculture, have enabled young people to establish start-ups known as agri-tech enterprises. These enterprises help address agricultural challenges and create jobs.

Our committee recommends that Government develop a digital agriculture policy that utilises artificial intelligence and robotics, such as drone technology, to advance agriculture. This is not fiction; we saw it happening across the border.

We also recommend that Government develop regulations to facilitate the use of drone technology in the agricultural sector. I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, chairperson. In line with Rule 34(3) of our Rules of Procedure, I will appoint time next week to debate this report. Colleagues, please read through it, and we shall debate it next week. Thank you.

Next item.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION SUB-SECTOR, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 35 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Chairperson.

5.27

**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (Dr Opio Acuti):** Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation on the performance of the Science, Technology and Innovation subsector. I beg to lay.

Mr Speaker, in accordance with Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure, I hereby provide a summary of our findings, observations and recommendations.

Mr Speaker, under Rule 193(1)(d) of our Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation is mandated to undertake research on the performance of the Science, Technology and Innovation sub-sector. On this premise, the committee undertook this study.

Mr Speaker, on this premise, we also reviewed Uganda Vision 2040, which has four enablers: agriculture, tourism, mineral development, and science, technology and innovation. These are expected to lead to tenfold growth and a $500 billion GDP.

Under the National Development Plan IV, the target is to increase the commercialisation of science, technology and innovation products and services. By 2030, products generated through science, technology and innovation in this country are expected to contribute $10 billion to our economy.

We, therefore, conducted a study and assessment to establish the readiness, preparedness, and progress of the Science, Technology and Innovation subsector toward achieving these NDP IV targets.

We had four objectives. The first objective was to examine the administrative set-up and STI ecosystem within which research and innovation are undertaken. The second objective was to examine financial performance under NDP III and NDP IV. The third objective was to examine the legal framework under which we operate. The final objective examined technological progress.

The first three objectives examined inputs into the Science, Technology and Innovation subsector, while the fourth objective examined technological progress, or the outputs of science, technology and innovation.

Under the first objective, we found that Uganda's ecosystem includes research institutions, public universities, laboratories, policy organs, incubation centres, innovation centres, and financing facilities.

However, we made some key observations. I will highlight a few of them under each objective.

The first is that whereas the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation was transferred to the Science, Technology and Innovation under the Office of the President Secretariat, we observe that the interim structure only had 22 staff out of a structure of 151, so they are currently operating with just a 15.9 per cent staffing, which makes it difficult for adequate policy oversight and supervision to be conducted.

We also observed that currently Science, Technology and Innovation is done within different ministries: The Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Defence and Veterinary Affairs, and several other ministries. However, there are challenges with coordination and duplication, but most of all, we observe that we do not have a national research agenda which identifies priority areas for us as a country to research and put our resources into. We have been discussing

issues of renewable energy recently, issues of charcoal. Those are some of the areas that should fall under our research agenda, so that we get solutions for renewable energy that is affordable to our people.

The other aspect that we saw in this ecosystem, the informal sector, the *jua kali* artisans, the people who are in Katwe with their Katwe technology, making brake pads, motor vehicle spares and machines, are not adequately catered for within this ecosystem yet they play a very big role in terms of our economy and driving the innovation sector.

We also noted that a lot of investments have been made in the country in terms of infrastructure. We now have the capacity to conduct clinical trials and to make electronics, including making pacemakers; the technology is available. However, most of this infrastructure is significantly underutilised and needs to be operationalised. We recommend that a national research agenda is put in place, and also the informal sector to be supported and considered.

Secondly, we looked at the financial performance. We have noted that, as a country, we have been able to increase the budget allocations for research and development. However, we have observed that, according to the African Union (AU), research and development expenditure or investment should be at least 1 per cent of GDP, but as a country, we are currently only at 0.4 per cent of GDP. We also noted that our private sector, which can also contribute to Research and Development (R&D), is not adequately incentivised. In other countries and other jurisdictions, when you invest in R&D, you get a tax credit where a percentage of your overall tax is deducted to encourage you to engage in research and development activities.

We also observed that whereas we have a target of $10 billion by 2030, we could not trace how much of that $10 billion we have achieved right now because of limited traceability mechanisms.

We also observed that we have a number of key projects where the Government has invested substantial amounts of money. We have the banana project: Shs 311 billion over the last 20 years, and Kiira Motors: Shs 233 billion over the last 12 years, but these projects have remained as innovation projects and failed to move into sustainable, self-sustaining entities. That has a risk of over-dependence but also creates what is known as rent-seeking behaviour, where the entity focuses more on grant acquisition than research and development output.

We also noted that, as a country, we have multi-year financing. We have clinical trials, which take at least 15 years. So, any appropriation for clinical trials must be ring-fenced because it is a multi-year investment itself.

We made recommendations for increased budgeting; recommendations also for the private sector to be considered. Most of the innovation funds that are coming in for research and development are going to public institutions. The private sector start-ups are not adequately being considered.

Thirdly, the objective we looked at was the legislative framework. Currently, we have the Uganda National Council on Science and Technology Act of 1990. The science of 1990 is no longer the same as the science of 2026. The law itself is outdated and cannot address some of the issues in emerging technologies. We also have the Science, Technology and Innovation policy of 2009, which we reviewed. It is also archaic and needs to be revised.

The innovation funds being provided by the ministry do not currently have a legal framework, and therefore there are risks of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development not making releases, as happened in the Financial Year 2023/2024, because they are not a statutory obligation.

We recommend that, as part of our legislative framework recommendations, these laws need to be amended and updated to be aligned with technological progress.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, we looked at the technological progress as a country. We note that there has been a lot of investment in human resources. There is a lot of investment in infrastructure for technology development, and a lot of investment in legislation. However, when we looked at the outputs under the National Development Plan III (NDP III), the technology development program only performed at 48 per cent. We have a rating for innovations globally known as the Global Innovation Index, which looks at the inputs and also the outputs.

Uganda currently as at 2025 was ranked number 124 out of 139 countries. When you look at these statistics, in 2019, we were number 102, but we have dropped in rank to number 124. Our performance and score have dropped. We were 25.6 per cent in 2019; we are now at 17.1 per cent. What does that show? It means we are investing a lot in innovations, but these innovations are not bringing the desired outputs.

One of the key observations we noted is that a lot of the research that is being done is stuck in the lab. It is not being commercialised and being brought into the market to enable us to achieve some of the gains that we need to.

We recommend as a committee that there is a need for us to strengthen and scale up the commercialisation of different innovations, but most importantly, we have also identified that there is low technological adoption as a country. When you look at the agricultural sector, the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) has 40 varieties of seeds, but the Uganda Bureau of Standards (UBOS) indicates that 96 per cent of farmers are still using traditional seeds.

Our uptake of technology is low. You can see we still use the hand hoe. That was a 17th-century innovation. We are still on charcoal when people have already transitioned to renewable energy.

We recommend that, in addition to scaling up access to technologies, the public sector should also adopt some of the technologies, and as a committee, we said as Parliament, now that Kiira Motors has buses, we should procure some of these buses and coasters and use them for our oversight visits so that we can demonstrate adoption of this technology in the public sector. We are also saying that the drugs being developed, like COVIDEX and the herbal drugs, should find their way into the National Medical Stores supply chain and distribution to the facilities across the country.

In conclusion, we note that there has been a lot of investment in the inputs in terms of financing, human resources, and infrastructure. However, we still face challenges in technological adoption and technological output, which needs a lot of effort to be put in. I beg to submit. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Chairperson. The report is deferred to next week for debate. I can see you had the report in your head –*(Applause)*

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HIV/AIDS AND RELATED MATTERS ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF HIV/AIDS IN WESTERN UGANDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 35 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What are you people – Hon. Linos was emphasising condoms in that same area. Hon. Kisa, you have started from there.

5.40

**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON HIV AND RELATED MATTERS (Mr Stephen Kisa):** Mr Speaker, allow me, on behalf of the Committee on Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and related matters, to present a report on the HIV/AIDS and related matters on the current status in Western Uganda. *(Laughter)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, you are not presenting; you are laying.

**MR KISA:** Mr Speaker, I thought that I was ready to present, but I can-

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, honourable colleagues, let me just guide. This is a report for laying, so the chairperson will only give a summary. This is under Rule 35(3), where you present this report. Then I will appoint a date for debate. You will present a summary of the report and highlight the key recommendations contained in it. As the honourable chairperson for science and technology has done.

**MR KISA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay the report of the Standing Committee on Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and related matters on the current status of HIV/AIDS in Western Uganda. I beg to lay.

I also beg to lay the minutes of the meetings between the Committee on Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and related matters and the stakeholders and the Uganda AIDS Commission. I beg to lay.

Mr Speaker, under Rule 191 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and related matters is mandated to scrutinise HIV/AIDS policies, monitor and evaluate strategies and activities of the Government, local governments and other bodies aimed at HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment, and psychosocial support of infected and affected persons.

The committee is further required under Rule 192 to report to Parliament at least twice a year.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is the same Rule 190, not Rule 192, which relates to climate change.

**MR KISA:** In fulfilment of its mandate, the committee organised an oversight visit to Western Uganda through three regional clusters. Ankole-Kigezi convened at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, Bunyoro converged at Hoima Regional Referral Hospital, and Tooro and Rwenzori convened at Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital. We discussed matters related to 34 districts in that area and three cities.

The committee therefore presents its oversight report on the current status of HIV/AIDS in Western Uganda.

Uganda made substantial progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS. However, the epidemic remains uneven and continues to demand focused action. In June 2017, the President of the Republic of Uganda launched the Presidential Fast-Track Initiative on ending HIV/AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. Uganda has intensified efforts to accelerate HIV prevention, expand access to testing and treatment, eliminate mother-to-child transmission, strengthen sustainability of HIV response and improve coordination across sectors. The initiative provides an overarching national framework for -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable chairperson. I am sorry, I do not like interrupting, but allow me to guide - when I am guiding you, take a seat. That is what the rules say.

Honourable chairperson, the report you are giving is under Rule 35. The report you are expected to bring as a committee under Rule 190 is not a report of a region or what. It is a report of the whole country.

This is a field report that you took when you went to Western Uganda. We shall be expecting you twice to tell us about the status of HIV/AIDS and related matters in the whole country, to get a full picture. I guide that you just give us a brief. That is why when you look on item No. 4 on the Order Paper and it is standard; all three items were given only 10 minutes, meaning you have only three minutes to lay then we go and read, but where you are taking us, you are presenting. This is for laying, and giving a summary. I just wanted to guide that way.

**MR KISA:** Mr Speaker, allow me to mention a few things;

First, when we visited Western Uganda, the district-level HIV estimates ranked Fort Portal City as having the highest prevalence of HIV/ AIDS at 16.7 per cent, Mbarara City at 11.4 per cent, Kabarole District at 10.7 per cent, and Hoima City at 9.7 per cent. All subsequently above the HIV prevalence rates estimate at 4.7 per cent.

Mr Speaker, it was in that context that we undertook an oversight visit, and our objectives in summary were mainly to:

i) Assess HIV risk factors and prevalence rates in the region;
ii) Evaluate availability, accessibility and uptake of HIV prevention, testing and treatment;
iii) Assess the implementation of new HIV prevention technologies;
iv) Assess the implementation of elimination of mother-to-child transmission interventions and identify gaps affecting Uganda's goal of eliminating mother-to-child transmission by 2028;
v) Assess the implementation and utilisation of the 0.1 per cent local government allocation to HIV/AIDS response; and
vi) Identify district-specific challenges affecting the HIV/ AIDS response and propose appropriate interventions.

Mr Speaker, a small hint on this: on our objective number one, we found an absolute burden on the significance of matters related to people living with HIV. For example, in Kyenjonjo, approximately 23,700 people living with HIV/ AIDS were aged 15 and above.

The figures provided an epidemiological context for the committee's assessment of HIV transmission and population vulnerabilities and risk factors in the district. The committee was able to find considerable variations in prevalence and the numbers of newly infected people with HIV/AIDS, and we made the observations as follows:

i) The continued occurrence of new HIV infections was largely attributed to gaps in the consistent delivery and reach of HIV prevention interventions among populations and in locations where the risk of transmission remains concentrated.
ii) The interventions which focus primarily on availability of HIV services without addressing the social, economic and behavioural factors that increase vulnerability are unlikely to sufficiently reduce new infections.

The recommendations on that were;

i) The Ministry of Health and Uganda AIDS Commission, through district AIDS committees should map out hotspots with high and increasing new infections and develop targeted prevention responses based on specific drivers in each area and district.

Allow me to conclude. General recommendations. The committee recommends that:

i) The Uganda AIDS Commission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, within six months, establish quarterly HIV response performance reviews for districts using routinely reported data to identify areas with increasing new infections, poor treatment linkages, low viral load coverage, treatment interruptions or continuing HIV transmission. The reviews should assign specific corrective actions to the responsible Government institutions and track their implementation to completion;

ii) The Ministry of Health, within six months, strengthens HIV prevention, testing, treatment, viral load monitoring, elimination of mother-to-child transmission, and follow-up services in the primary sector care and chronic care platforms at health facilities while retaining differentiated community delivery models for clients and populations requiring additional access;

iii) The Uganda AIDS Commission, through the district AIDS committees, should, within six months, ensure districts maintain a consolidated HIV action plan

linking identified transmission risks, service access gaps, elimination of mother-to-child transmission challenges, and resource requirements to specific interventions, responsible Government institutions and measurable annual targets;

iv) The Ministry of Health, with the Uganda AIDS Commission, within six months, incorporate HIV data quality verification and cascade performance review into routine district health office supervision, with discrepancies identified in facility and district reports corrected before the information is used for programme planning and resource allocation or performance assessment;

v) The committee recommends that the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Service and the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, within twelve months, prioritise the filling of critical staffing gaps affecting HIV, maternal and child health, laboratory and community follow-up services in the districts identified as severely understaffed;

vi) The Uganda AIDS Commission and the Ministry of Health, within the Financial Year 2027/2028, develop an annual domestic sustainability plan for essential HIV programme functions currently dependent on external financing, identifying the activities requiring Government financing and progressively incorporating them into the national and Local Government planning and budgeting framework; and

vii) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Uganda AIDS Commission, within six months provides a predictable domestic finance framework for essential HIV services and ensures that approved HIV/AIDS allocations to districts are clearly identified in budgets and expenditure records.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, committee chairperson. We shall have a debate on this report next week. Well done, Chairperson and your committee. Next item.

## MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE UGANDA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

5.55

**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (Mr John Teira):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to present a report of the Parliamentary Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs on the operations of the Uganda Human Rights Commission. Before that, I beg to lay a copy of the report on the Table for the record of Parliament, together with the minutes of the previous stakeholders with whom we had engagements. I beg to lay.

On 7 July 2026, Hon. Joseph Ssewungu Gonzaga, Member of Parliament for Kalungu West raised concerns about the operations of the Uganda Human Rights Commission and its effectiveness in protecting and enforcing human rights citing media reports about investigations into the institution.

On 15 July 2026, the learned Attorney-General presented a statement on the current state of affairs at the Uganda Human Rights Commission. The matter was referred to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for further scrutiny and we hereby report back on the same.

Mr Speaker, we adopted the usual methodology of interfacing with the various stakeholders who include the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Chairperson of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, Commissioners of the Uganda Human Rights Commission and the Acting Secretary of the Uganda Human Rights Commission. We also reviewed a number of documents.

As a brief background, the Uganda Human Rights Commission was established under Article 51 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable chairperson, why don't you save us that and go to observations and recommendations? The full report will be captured on the *Hansard*, for the record.

**MR TEIRA:** Much obliged, Mr Speaker. I beg to present the background of this matter, which is on page three. The current crisis with the Uganda Human Rights Commission stems from an internal conflict primarily between the chairperson, Ms Mariam Wangadya and Mr Crispin Kaheru on the one hand, and three commissioners, namely; Hon. Simeo Nsubuga, Hon. Stephen Basaliza, and Hon. Jacklet Atuhaire on the other hand.

The commissioners mentioned are concerned about the alleged systematic mismanagement and irregular decision-making in the running of the Commission's affairs, specifically the following:

i) The unilateral exercise of all the powers and functions of the Commission by the chairperson singularly;
ii) The failure to hold regular meetings at the Commission;
iii) Exclusion of the three commissioners from stakeholder engagements and international travel. They accused the chairperson of only sending staff on international engagements instead of commissioners;
iv) The termination of human rights complaints by the chairperson and staff of the commission without the due process and involvement of other commissioners; and
v) Prioritising non-core functions of the commission.

Mr Speaker, in response, this is important because it gives us the background to the recommendations. Allow me to include only this part.

The chairperson of the Commission, in response, alleges that the accusations made by the three commissioners:

i) On termination of human rights complaints by the chairperson and staff of the Commission without due process and involvement of other commissioners, the chairperson conceded to this practice. She reasoned that the same is permissible under the complaints handling and procedures manual of the Commission. She indicated that Section 4 of the Act bestows the leadership and administrative powers to the chairperson of the Commission. She also indicated the lack of funds for an effective tribunal setup;
ii) On the failure of holding regular meetings of the Commission, the chairperson informed the committee that meetings of the Commission had become chaotic and unmanageable. This was as a result of the unbecoming behaviour of the three commissioners who used the meetings to insult, humiliate, abuse, provoke, yell and do everything. It had become a "war zone" - We quote "war zone" as verbatim;
iii) On the alleged exclusion of the three commissioners from international travel, the chairperson informed the committee that the international travels are shared amongst the commissioners as and when the budget allows. She further alleged that some Commissioners including Hon. Atuhaire have been in the past nominated to attend international events but declined. For instance, she was nominated to attend a meeting in Nairobi and Geneva and declined. She did not inform the chairperson of the reasons for non-attendance, yet she had received the requisite funds.

Further, the Chairperson indicated that some international engagements specifically require the attendance of technical staff rather than Commissioners, which makes the attendance of Commissioners at those international engagements unnecessary.

On the alleged exclusion of the three Commissioners from activities of the

Commission like stakeholder engagements, the Chairperson informed the Commission that the three Commissioners occasionally received allowances for field activities but did not participate in the intended activities. The Chairperson averred that on two occasions, Hon. Atuhairwe cancelled tribunal sessions even after receiving all allowances for herself, her driver and her bodyguard.

Submission by the minister

During the interaction, the minister informed the committee that the Government is aware of the concerns publicly raised regarding the administration of the Commission, including matters relating to leadership, governance, conduct, meetings, handling of complaints and accountability for administrative decisions.

He informed the Committee that despite the ministry being aware of the public concerns about the management of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the minister informed the committee that there may understandably be an expectation that if it exercises supervisory authority over the day-to-day administration of the Commission, that is not the constitutional position.

Whereas the ministry coordinates the Government business relating to the Commission, including policy, legislative matters, and budgetary processes, the internal administration of the Commission remains the responsibility of the Commission itself, acting through the structures established by the Constitution and the Uganda Human Rights Commission Act per se.

Therefore, the Government could not lawfully direct the Commission on how to perform its constitutional functions or interfere in its internal decision-making. This constitutional arrangement is deliberate. The framers of the Constitution insulated the Commission from Executive direction in order to enable it to discharge its mandate impartially, including where complaints concern actions of the Government or its agencies.

The ministry, therefore, had exercised restraint because it is indifferent to the matters that had arisen.

On the resignation of the Chairperson of the Uganda Human Rights Commission. The committee was informed that the chairperson of the commission submitted a notice of resignation to the appointing authority on 6 July 2026.

In the statement, the Attorney-General informed the House that notice to resign does not amount to resignation but was merely communicating the desire to resign and could not be treated as resignation.

The Committee makes the following findings:

Failure to hold regular meetings of the Commission and unilateral exercise of the powers and functions of the Commission by the Chairperson.

The Committee notes that the Chairperson does not hold regular meetings, which has resulted in the Chairperson effectively taking over the decision-making of the Commission without involving other Commissioners. This finding is premised on the fact that the Commission no longer holds regular meetings of the Commission or of the tribunal. As a result, all decisions have been made solely by the Chairperson.

The Committee was informed that the last meeting of the Commission was held on 9 March 2026 and since then, no further meetings have been convened. The three Commissioners attributed this failure to the Chairperson's refusal to schedule meetings, while the Chairperson attributed it to the conduct of the three Commissioners who allegedly turned the Commission meetings into chaotic affairs.

The Committee was informed that as a result of the failure to hold regular meetings of the Commission, the Chairperson usurped the powers of the Commission and has taken the following decisions without the involvement of other Commissioners.

1. Termination of human rights complaints;
2. The unilateral and arbitrary increase of salary and other benefits of all members of the Commission and staff;
3. Allocation of Commission property, including vehicles and generators; and
4. Resource utilisation, including the deposit of Commission funds into the private accounts of some staff of the Commission and her personal assistant.

The recruitment and promotion of staff of the Commission and the termination of the former accounting officer's contract.

The Committee makes the following recommendations:

The Commission must, in accordance with Article 51(2) of the Commission, sit: Chairperson and a minimum of three Commissioners while taking decisions of the Commission.

The Commission should hold regular meetings even when we are aware that the law does not provide the specific number of meetings that are supposed to be held and at what period.

The Chairperson of the Commission should not take the decisions without the participation of other members of the Commission, as it denies the Commission the opportunity to be a Commission properly so-called.

The Commission should ensure that decisions of the Commission are made at meetings of the Commission held in accordance with Article 51 of the Constitution.

On the second issue of handling of human rights complaints, the Commission exercises quasi-judicial functions under Article 53 of the Constitution. This mandate is operationalised through the constitution of tribunals which serve as the forum for adjudicating complaints relating to the infringement of or threat of fundamental rights and freedoms. This is the core mandate of the Commission.

The committee notes that the last tribunal session was held in November 2025. The absence of a tribunal session has occasioned the failure to hear and determine human rights violations.

Number two, the unilateral and arbitrary termination of human rights files by the Chairperson or any other individual without the involvement of the Commission and selective admission of human rights complaints.

On the handling of meetings of the tribunal, the committee is aware that the Commission exercises quasi-judicial functions as already indicated. The committee further observes that the Commission exercised this mandate through a tribunal to which any person claiming that a fundamental or other right of freedom has been infringed upon or threatened may apply for redress.

The effective functioning of this tribunal is therefore central to the realisation of the Commission's constitutional role in protecting and enforcing human rights.

Whereas, the legal regime does not prescribe the frequency of meetings, the committee notes that the Commission has not convened a tribunal sitting since November 2025. This failure was attributed to the ongoing wrangles between the Chairperson and the three Commissioners, which prevented the constitution of a tribunal to hear and determine human rights complaints.

The committee further observes that in response to this impasse, the Chairperson usurped the powers of the Commission to determine human rights complaints alone.

The Chairperson informed the committee that she initiates draft judgments which she submits to other Commissioners for input. We note that such conduct contravenes Article 51(2) of the Constitution and Section 11 of the Act, as decisions should be made collectively by the Chairperson and not less than three Commissioners.

This practice undermines the quasi-judicial role of the Commission, erodes public confidence in the process and compromises the protection of fundamental human rights since human rights violations cannot be adequately dealt with.

The committee notes that the practice of unilateral and arbitrary determination of human rights complaints by the chairperson and staff of the Commission without sitting by the Commission.

This failure to function effectively has dire consequences, which include victims being denied remedies for alleged rights violations and public confidence in the Commission is diminished. Parties suffer emotional, financial and psychological hardships due to prolonged uncertainty, and evidence may become unavailable or unreliable over time, affecting the fairness of the proceedings.

There was also the issue of selective admission of human rights complaints. The Committee noted that the selective admission of human rights complaints from persons whom the Commission deems to have committed offenses.

The Committee was informed that the Commission rejects and summarily dismisses complaints when lodged by alleged criminals, convicts or other undeserving persons as determined by the Commission.

The Committee observes that this position cannot be justified since protection of human rights is not contingent upon criminal status. The committee underscores that complaints against violations of human rights must be received and determined without prejudice.

This obligation arises from the constitutional guarantee that rights apply to all persons without discrimination as enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution. By refusing to entertain such complaints, the Commission undermines the universality of rights, weakens accountability mechanisms and contravenes its constitutional mandate.

The committee therefore emphasises that the Commission must uphold its duty to receive and determine all complaints irrespective of the criminal status of the complainant.

The committee recommends that:

i) The Commission should strengthen its decision-making process strictly by complying with the Constitution and the Act that puts it in place;
ii) The Commission should institute substantive human rights tribunals and ensure that all decisions pertaining to the Commission are made by such tribunals;
iii) c) The Commission should also ensure that human rights complaints are handled without bias; and
iv) d) All human rights complaints previously dismissed by the current commission without following proper procedures should be restated and determined on merit.

Supervision by the minister.

Conclusion

The committee's finding is premised on the decision of the Supreme Court case of *Attorney General v Nakibuule Gladys Kisekka (Constitutional Appeal No.02 of 2016) [2018] UGSC 30*, which was a Supreme Court decision in which the Supreme Court held that *"The judicial independence protects impartiality but does not shield judicial officers from lawful accountability and scrutiny."*

Drawing from this decision, the committee finds that the oversight role of the minister could not be diminished on account of the independence of the Commission, since the Commission is still subject to ministerial and parliamentary oversight and supervision.

The committee emphasises that ministerial inaction in the face of institutional paralysis undermines the constitutional and statutory obligations of the ministry to ensure that institutions under its jurisdiction function effectively and deliver on their mandate.

The committee recommends that effective supervision of the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs should establish structured mechanisms for timely intervention in disputes that may arise within departments and agencies under its purview.

The committee was also informed that three Commissioners had filed a complaint with the Inspectorate of Government in March 2026, but since then, investigations have not commenced. The petitioners further informed the committee that upon filing the petition, the IGG assigned two officers to be responsible for the investigation. The officers requested for files relating to the contents of the petition, which the Commission duly prepared as requested.

The committee notes with concern that to date, the files have never been collected from the Commission, and no further action has been taken by the Inspectorate. The committee finds this inaction irregular as it undermines accountability mechanisms established under the Constitution, and frustrates the resolution of disputes that have paralysed the Commission. The committee has examined the laws governing the operation of the IGG and finds the above state of affairs very frustrating in the fight against corruption and abuse of office.

Specifically, we have made reference to Article 223 and Article 225(1) of the Constitution, and to the Whistle-blowers Protection Act, and we make the following recommendations.

The committee notes that the failure by the Inspectorate of Government to investigate this matter expeditiously or at least communicate its decision constitutes an affront to Article 225 of the Constitution as well as Section 8 of the Whistle-blowers Protection Act.

The committee emphasises that whistle-blower protections are designed to safeguard disclosure of information in the public interest and to ensure that such disclosures are acted upon promptly. Such inaction undermines public confidence in the Inspectorate, weakens accountability mechanisms, and frustrates the fight against corruption and abuse of office.

We recommend as follows:

i) The IGG takes all the necessary steps to investigate all petitions against the Commission and other allegations of mismanagement of the affairs of the Commission, corruption, abuse of office, and misappropriation of funds of the Commission;
ii) The Minister of Ethics and Integrity should keep Parliament regularly updated on the progress and status of the investigations into the affairs of the Commission by the IGG; and
iii) The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs shall, in accordance with Rule 229 of the Rules of Procedure, submit an action taken report.

Prioritising non-core functions of the Commission.

The committee notes that the main grievance of the three Commissioners relates to the unfair increase in the salary of the chairperson, the allocation of generators to the chairperson and Commissioner Kaheru, excluding other Commissioners. The inequitable distribution of opportunities for travel abroad and the allocation of new motor vehicles.

The committee finds that this distribution of resources to members of the Commission has created perceptions of favouritism and inequality in utilisation of the Commission resources. The three Commissioners feel that they have been unfairly treated since travel opportunities and resources have been skewed towards the chairperson and Commissioner Kaheru alone. Such disparities have exacerbated internal conflicts, undermined collegiality, and weakened the institution's cohesion.

The committee further notes that such that resources available to the Commission have been directed towards activities such as the purchase of generators for personal use, external travels, and the acquisition of motor vehicles,

rather than being applied to the Commission's primary responsibility of protecting and promoting human rights. The committee finds that such misplaced priorities undermine the effective delivery of the Commission's mandate and erode public confidence.

The committee recommends that:
i) The Commission should establish transparent and equitable policies governing the allocation and use of resources; and
ii) The Auditor-General should undertake an audit into the Commission's finances, resource utilisation, and determine whether the resources are being allocated to the core mandate of the Commission.

Participation in partisan politics by the Commissioners.

The committee notes that participation of some Commissioners of the Commission in partisan politics and specifically, Commissioners participated while holding office as Commissioners:

i) Hon. Atuhaire participated in the 2026 general parliamentary elections as an independent candidate for the position of Sheema District Woman Representative; and
ii) Hon. Nsubuga participated in the NRM primaries in the Kassanda South parliamentary race.

The committee was concerned that participation in partisan politics by serving Commissioners contravenes the constitutional requirement of impartiality expected of persons exercising quasi-judicial powers. A person exercising quasi-judicial powers is required to remain neutral and independent, free from political influence in order to safeguard the integrity of the quasi-judicial function of his or her office.

The participation of the aforementioned Commissioners in partisan politics undermines the credibility of the Commission in the exercise of its quasi-judicial function, since the Commissioners are expected to remain neutral and independent, and their involvement in electoral contests or party primaries risks eroding public confidence in the Commission's ability to adjudicate human rights complaints fairly.

It is the committee's considered opinion that Commissioners at the Uganda Human Rights Commission must resign their offices before participating in partisan politics. The continued holding of office by Commissioners who engage in partisan contests is therefore untenable in law and inconsistent with established judicial authorities.

We recommend that:
i) Hon. Atuhaire and Hon. Simeo Nsubuga be removed from office for participating in partisan and elective politics.

ii) The Commission should adopt internal compliance mechanisms to ensure that no member engages in partisan politics while holding office; and

iii) The Constitution should be amended to specifically bar holders of offices in constitutional Commissions and Government authorities, as well as persons exercising quasi-judicial functions, from participating in elective or partisan politics while holding such offices.

Irreconcilable breakdown in relationship between members of the Commission.

Honourable members, as I conclude, the committee noted that the relationship between the chairperson and Hon. Simeo Nsubuga and the other Commissioners has completely broken down, paralysing the activities of the Commission.

The committee has examined the relationship between the chairperson and the three Commissioners and finds that the relationship has turned personal, resulting in a heated exchange of words in public arena, alleged threats of physical and emotional violence against each other. The relationship is characterised by mistrust, accusations and

counter-accusations, and as a result, meetings of the Commission cannot be held to deliver on the mandate of the Commission.

This has created factions within the Commission, thereby derailing the activities and the decision-making of the Commission. The committee is aware that the conflict between the chairperson and the three Commissioners has paralysed this Commission, making it impossible for the Commissioners to deliver on its mandate, and as a result, the Commission has not met since March 2026.

The committee notes that even when the Commission meetings were convened, the Commission could not take decisions since the meetings were unruly and could not yield any results because of the conduct of its members.

The committee notes that whereas the chairperson, as the head of the Commission, is expected to provide leadership and direction to the Commission, this has become impossible due to persistent disputes between the chairperson and the three Commissioners. As a consequence, the Commission has been unable to discharge its constitutional and statutory mandate effectively, thereby undermining its role to the detriment of the wider public.

The committee observes that the chairperson has failed to demonstrate the requisite leadership expected of her under Section 4 of the Act. As the head of the Commission, the chairperson is entrusted with the responsibility of steering its operations, fostering cohesion among Commissioners, and ensuring the effective discharge of its mandate.

The persistent disputes and lack of constructive engagement with the three Commissioners illustrate a failure of leadership. This breakdown has paralysed the Commission's work, undermined institutional credibility, and denied the wider public the benefit of an effective Commission.

The committee observes that the work of the Commission should ordinarily not be affected by the strained relationship between the chairperson and the three Commissioners, since the Commission is composed of a chairperson and six Commissioners. In accordance with Article 51(2) of the Constitution, the quorum of the Commission is the chairperson and three other Commissioners.

The committee, therefore, notes that notwithstanding the disputes, the chairperson could have called for a meeting of the Commission and realised quorum by sitting with the other Commissioners whom she does not have accusations against.

The committee further observes that the failure of the chairperson to organise meetings of the Commission and to constitute tribunals, albeit attended by the remaining three members, illustrates a failure of leadership on the part of the chairperson to avert institutional paralysis.

By neglecting these fundamental responsibilities, the chairperson has crippled the Commission's ability to function collectively, undermined its statutory mandate, and contributed to the erosion of public confidence in the institution.

In the same vein, the committee observed that the three Commissioners have equally failed to demonstrate the leadership expected of them under the Act. As members of the Commission, they are entrusted with the responsibility of working collectively with the chairperson and other Commissioners to advance the Commission's mandate, provide strategic guidance, and safeguard institutional integrity.

However, their persistent disputes with the chairperson, coupled with an apparent unwillingness to foster consensus, reflect a failure of leadership. This conduct has aggravated institutional paralysis, eroded public confidence, and compromised the Commission's ability to deliver on its statutory obligations.

The committee observed that both the chairperson and the Commissioners must at all times be persons of high moral character and proven integrity as required under Article 51(4) of the Constitution. These

constitutional standards are fundamental to the effective stewardship of the Commission, the preservation of public trust and realisation of its statutory mandate. Any departure from these values undermines collegiality, weakens institutional credibility, and erodes confidence.

The committee observed that the conduct of the chairperson and the Commissioners demonstrates a preference for personal ego over the mandate of the Commission. By prioritising individual interests and strained relationships above collective responsibility to serve the public, both the chairperson and the Commissioners have failed to uphold the constitutional and statutory obligations of their offices, which is contrary to the oath they took under Section 3 of the Act.

The committee observes that the conduct of both the Chairperson and the Commissioners illustrates incompetence, misbehavior, and misconduct, making them liable for removal in accordance with Article 56 and 144(2) of the Constitution. Article 56 and 144(2) of the Constitution are reproduced here below, and I will pick quickly the provision of this Constitution relating to the removal of a judge of the High Court -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable member, just move on to the rest. I have been generous with time really. Just conclude.

**MR TEIRA:** The above conduct of the Chairperson and Commissioners illustrates persistent failures in leadership, collegiality, which has rendered the Commission incapable of fulfilling its constitutional and statutory mandate.

This conduct further illustrates that there are irreconcilable differences between the chairperson and the Commissioners, and all attempts, both external and internal to reconcile the parties, have yielded no success.

This state of affairs illustrates that, in its current form, the differences between the chairperson and the Commissioners cannot be resolved, thereby necessitating the disbandment of the Commission. In the committee's view, disbandment is necessary to restore public confidence, safeguard institutional integrity, and pave the way for the establishment of a new Commission.

The committee, therefore, recommends that in accordance with Articles 56 and 144 of the Constitution, the Commission should be disbanded and reconstituted on grounds of misbehaviour, misconduct, and incompetence. *(Applause)*

The Appointments Committee of Parliament should be vigilant and take into account the provisions of all the relevant statutory requirements, such as Rule 175(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, while approving nominees. In light of the current paralysis at the Ugandan Human Rights Commission, it is significant to uphold and protect human rights. There is an urgent need to reconstitute the Commission in order to deliver on its mandate to the Ugandans. I beg to submit, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable chairperson. Honourable colleagues, if you remember last week, the Rt Hon. Speaker guided us well that we debate these items together, and then we shall have to put different questions. This is because item five requires an Action-Taken Report as per Rule 229, and then item six requires a Treasury Memorandum. We shall debate them together, but then the resolutions will come out differently.

You can see clearly that the report of the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs is in line with what the Committee on COSASE from page 33 to page to page 36 is covering, which were other matters incidental to the report. The debate will be well-aligned.

However, you need to be very clear because COSASE could not go so much into these details because it is limited to the Auditor-General's report. The Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs could go much deeper. The only issue will be for Parliament not to

sit on one day and give differing resolutions. A very good example, is where the Committee on COSASE is saying people should be retired in public interest, but then the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs is saying they should be disbanded.

Now, those are totally different. When you are retired in public interest, that is worse than - I do not know whether I need the two committee chairpersons in front here. Let them all come so that we are guided very well, and we have streamlined resolutions on either side. That is very clear.

I do not see the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, nor the Attorney-General. I did not receive any communication. Luckily enough, I have the Rt Hon. Prime Minister here, so today she will talk matters of the law. We shall be here.

Honourable colleagues, the debate opens now. Let me start with the Chairperson, Committee on Human Rights, Then I pick Hon. Musa, *Hajj*, Hon. Rogers, and then I come here. Take three minutes each.

6.28

**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS (Mr Wilson Kajwengye):** Thank you, Mr Speaker and the committees for the reports. I am the Chairperson of the Committee on Human Rights. Fortunately, I did not participate in investigating the Commission; neither am I a Member of COSASE. However, I have received the two reports. I have to congratulate, on behalf of Parliament, the two committees for the job well done.

Mr Speaker, we are not talking about any other Commission. We are talking about a constitutional Commission by this Parliament. I have been listening, and at the end of it all, we are setting a precedent on appointment, approval, and even whether retirement or disbandment or any other. I call for a debate, and I have belief in this honourable 12th Parliament that indeed we shall discharge our duty.

As the Chairperson of the Committee on Human Rights who did not participate, I can only make observations. I can only say that it makes it very difficult for the public out there to believe a product produced by a Commission cast in this kind of mess. Because if we have to believe the product, which product ends up in this House and touches on the lives of Ugandans outside there, a Commission that superintends Chapter Four of our Constitution, it should be up to no scratch. That is my point.

Therefore, I have no problem with the recommendations, provided the two chairpersons coalesce and agree on disbandment or retirement in the public interest. This House cannot sit and give two conflicting decisions. It would be totally uncalled for. Mr Speaker, I submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, we have to be cautious when we are making these resolutions. For example, chairperson, before we debate, to guide Members - when you say, on page 15, that "The Appointments Committee of Parliament should be vigilant and take into account the provisions of all the relevant statutory requirements such as Rule 175(1) of the Rules of Procedure while approving the nominees" –

Now, this nominee, the chairperson, should be someone who should be at the level of a High Court Judge or equivalent. Rule 175(1) which you are referring to says, *"The approval by the Committee on Appointment shall not be withheld unless the committee is satisfied on evidence that the person nominated does not possess qualifications as prescribed by law to hold that office."*

We are more or less indicting the committee. You have a chairperson who has a Deputy Inspector General of Government, she even applied to be the Deputy Chief Justice, one of the senior legal brains in the country.

Two, you have two Members of Parliament; your own here, who is a judge, Hon. Simeo, Hon. Jacqueline. They were our colleagues

here. Even Hon. Basaliza, by the way, was also here. I am just trying to make it very easy for you. Look at the people that the Appointments Committee approved. Do you want to tell me if I look at a former honourable colleague - In fact, I am only disappointed that what might end up happening is that you should not put politicians on such - I mean, honourable, when you go somewhere you are an ambassador; when such behaviour is exhibited, then you become a bad ambassador.

You have seen the Public Service Commission; the President was very clear: "I do not want any politician there." I want technical people. Did you see most of our people? But we used to lobby - each one of us will one day be out of here - we used to lobby for honourable colleagues to be put on these Commissions. So, if they go and we are having such reports, which are very clear - because two committees, what do we end up having?

I just wanted that to be clarified. I sat on the Appointments Committee, and these people had all the requisite qualifications to be members of the Commission. We could not withhold. So, if they bring such people again - the behaviour after entering office is different from when they are appearing. Hon. Robina, do you know what we have been going through? We cautioned these people.

It is not an issue of the committee; rather it is an issue of the appointing authority getting the right people for these positions. I wanted that to be clear so that the image and name of Parliament is not muddled. I had picked Hon. Musa Noah, Hon. Siraji and Hon. Rogers Byamukama. Then we shall tap into the wisdom of *Mzee.*

6.35

**MR NOAH MUSA (NRM, Koboko North County, Koboko):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the two chairpersons for their report. Last week we received the report of COSASE, and today, when you look at this report, the issues raised in the two reports are not different. There are issues which are really petty, and the conflicts are so severe that the chairperson of the Commission and the three Commissioners, their positions are really entrenched, and I do not see a way of remedying it.

When I was looking at the recommendations of the committee, I was wondering how we are going to resolve this. As a country, we cannot afford to be without the Human Rights Commission.

My view is that we really need to adopt the recommendation of disbanding the Commission so that we can have a new Commission that can be able to serve the country because there are very many people out there who need the services of the Commission. Therefore, my view is that this Commission be disbanded.

Unfortunately, the Head of State did not accept the resignation of the chairperson. For me, that would be the remedy to what is happening in the Commission. Mr Speaker, I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Siraji, then, Hon. Rogers.

6.36

**MR SIRAJI EZAMA (NRM, Aringa County, Yumbe):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the two committees for the elaborate report they have given us here.

When you look at how this Commission on Human Rights has been operating, I am very dismayed to hear that such scenarios have been happening, yet this is a very critical committee that deals with the issues of human rights.

The issues that are being stirred up are emanating from a few people. This commission has members; not only three: the chairperson is there, the Commissioners are there, and there are other members. When you look carefully, there are only those four Commission members who are trying to disorganise everything.

If we are to go to the extent of disbanding this Commission, what about the others who have been doing a good job but have now fallen into the hands of those bosses that have not performed well?

I prefer that we consider those who are in the Commission but have not made any mistakes, in order to bring them forward and let them continue to operate and those who have specific problems, let us leave them out so that they face the law as required, because they cannot disorganise the whole Commission because of their internal issues. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Rogers?

6.38

**MR ROGERS BYAMUKAMA (NRM, Masindi Municipality, Masindi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I would like to thank the two committees for a job well done. The Uganda Human Rights Commission is a very serious Commission that is supposed to be an entity that provides solace and comfort to anybody or any entity that has been aggrieved in terms of liberties.

The people superintending this Commission, their stature and standing should be above reproach. Looking at the way these people have been conducting themselves within the Commission, but also in our Parliamentary committees and in the media, that bickering does not give anybody the confidence to go to this institution to seek justice. Public trust has been eroded, even
the few people that have not been part of this bickering have also been swallowed up by the bickering in this Commission.

I, therefore, submit that it is important for this Parliament to give the public trust back to this Commission by dissolving the entire Commission and reconstituting it afresh with people of integrity, people of good standing, people who are willing to work for Ugandans and win back the public trust that is not there anymore. I submit. Thank you. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, our elder?

6.40

**MR GEORGE KASAJJA (NRM, Bulamogi North West County, Kaliro):** Mr Speaker, first of all, I start by thanking the chairpersons of the two committees that investigated these members of the Human Rights Commission.

Mr Speaker, I am looking at three issues which the Members of Parliament should look at and make a decision appropriately:

Firstly, we are looking at the resources of Uganda that were misused and misappropriated, and on that, the committee of COSASE proved their case and we are satisfied. The funds were, first of all, used in the wrong way, and they did not meet the plan that was spelt out in the activities of the Human Rights Commission. This means Ugandans got no service and therefore, as Members of Parliament, we should be decisive that our resources should be maintained and used appropriately.

The second issue is about human behaviour. I think when you are conducting business, let us also look at our emotions, what we call emotional intelligence. When you are handling an issue relating to people, be cognizant of what is going to happen if I misbehave. These people were looking at their behaviours, not knowing that they were hurting the public. Maybe they were just fighting over resources or money, but what was the issue there? The issue was the government's resources. The behaviour should also be looked at.

Lastly, the one which should be looked at carefully: somebody insinuated that the appointing authority- in my submission, the appointing authority did not have any problem because when people are taken to the authority, they are vetted and are given responsibilities. They are looked at. By the time an appointing authority agrees to submit a name to Parliament, due diligence would have been taken. That is why I am looking at the issue of misbehaviour, emotional intelligence and misconduct in misusing resources.

There are two areas that we have to look at as Parliament;

One is disbandment and also retirement in the public interest. Retiring in the public interest, I have been a senior in government; to be retired in the public interest is very bad. You can go

anywhere, and nobody will give you respect. It means you have been misbehaving where you are. To terminate you in the public interest is bad. I think we should not look at that one.

The issue we should be looking at as members of Parliament is disbandment because when you are disbanded, even when you go to look for a job, nobody will know. What were you disbanded for? You can even defend yourself and say, "No, they disbanded me because I was not interested in working. I was not going in there to work." Mr Speaker, I submit that we agree on disbandment of the Commission but not termination or retirement in the public interest. That is my submission. I so move.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Colleagues, it is your call in the end.

6.45

**MR SALLEH MPAATA (NRM, Bunya County South, Mayuge):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the presenters of the two reports. I want to concentrate more on the report of COSASE.

While we are talking about the disbandment, whatever we shall call it, my only question is whether the disbandment is going to apply to both the technical staff in the Commission and those that have been nominated and appointed by maybe the House or whichever appointing authority that there is.

To COSASE; I want us to address our minds back to the report. The report is titled, "Report on Public Accounts Committee, Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises on the Report of the Financial Statement of Uganda Human Rights Commission." I am particularly interested in the financial statements while we are discussing the details.

I was looking at the report of COSASE and I observed, Mr Speaker, that there are issues that would have been also addressed in their report;

In their first observations in the first paragraph, the numbers do not add up. The computations are just jumbled up. When you add them up, you do not really pick what they were trying to mean because at some point, they talk about 88 million as revenue accruing from the Commission and when you add up you realise about 8 million. That inconsistency is outside the accounting principles.

And then, Mr Speaker, COSASE talks about diversion of about 70 billion from partitioning the Human Rights premise to buying assets, but in my opinion, this is material enough. This should have been- *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is my first time to give you an opportunity. Conclude. Let us tap into your accounting and finance experience, honourable.

**MR MPAATA:** Mr Speaker, the 70 billion that was diverted has a serious implication - *(Interjection)*- No, it is indicated in billions. That is why I am saying COSASE should have been very keen. It has serious implications on the financials of the entity because when you buy assets, literally they must translate into their financial statements, especially the statement of financial position. Here we do not see it, and COSASE should have indicated this. This now translates into the increment of the value of the entity but it is not indicated. Then about Shs 334 million was used somewhere, and it is also not indicated in the report.

Mr Speaker, in my opinion, there needs to be a revision of that first part of the analysis of the financial statements. I submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let me get Hon. Beecham. I had already picked the honourable colleagues to speak. Hon. Tiyo and then Hon. Beecham.

6.49

**MR BEECHAM OKWERE (NRM, Bukedea County, Bukedea):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me add my voice to what my honourable colleagues have submitted, in regard to the reports which have been submitted by the chairpersons of those committees, especially on human rights.

One of the things I observed is that when we are given offices, we take an oath of allegiance. In the oaths, we undertake to preserve and protect the Constitution. When we are preserving the Constitution, it means we cover the interests of all Ugandans.

Issues concerning human rights are quite key and important worldwide. In Uganda per se, reports have been coming out on how abuse of human rights is taking place. One wonders why there is a lot of internal bickering in the institution which is supposed to protect human rights. How can the human rights of Ugandans, yourself and my voter be protected?

The report mentions that the chairperson of the Commission sits alone to write a report and sidelines other Commissioners in the writing of reports. How can we have justice if the Commission has two rival sides? There is a saying that, "united we stand; divided we fall." This report is actually showing us that the Commission has already fallen apart. Given this division, there is no way forward for us to see justice through the Commission.

If you move across the whole country, including my own constituency in Bukedea, the Uganda Human Rights Commission used to have an office in Soroti, but it is closed. Go to Mbale and other regions; you will find that they are also closed. They are not performing their duties, but that may have happened because of the internal bickering.

Mr Speaker, I pray that we implement what these committees have recommended, for the good of this country. I beg to submit.

6.52

**MR WILLIAM TIYO (NRM, Ayivu Division East, Arua City):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. As you and most of my colleagues have observed, the two reports are closely related, except in a few aspects like the recommendation regarding disbandment versus retirement in the public interest.

Certainly, both retirement in the public interest and disbandment have the aspect of a vote of no confidence. However, disbandment somehow carries some level of honour for people who have attempted to serve this country, but something went wrong somewhere. I will concur with the recommendation for disbandment on two accounts. That is the first account.

The second account of disbandment is drawn from the experience of the Uganda National Roads Authority in 2015, when UNRA 1 was disbanded, and UNRA 2 was conceived. My perception is that when UNRA 1 was disbanded and UNRA 2 was conceived, it came with fresh energy for service delivery.

Therefore, within the recommendation on disbandment, an honourable colleague asked whether we should disband the whole team ranging from the Commissioners to the technical team. I will certainly say that with the experience of UNRA, it will be good to disband the entire team.

Someone may argue that for purposes of institutional memory, we retain the technical team. Institutional memory is certainly both good and bad. Because this is a system which has failed, we may retain a bad institutional memory which can spoil the next Commission.

Mr Speaker, I concur with the disbandment of the entire team, including the technical team. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleague, we can only recommend. We do not have the power to disband.

Secondly, also look at the repercussions. The politicians are okay, but look at the technical team. How are their contracts? Are the terms permanent and pensionable? What are the procedures?

When we are recommending as a Parliament, we have to be very cautious so that one who reads our recommendation in future does not ask, "Do you mean the whole of Parliament did not know about this law, especially on the technical side? Hon. Nsamba? Do not mind; we

are here. I want to pick the Opposition because I have already picked many NRM members.

6.55

**MR PATRICK NSAMBA (NUP, Kassanda County North, Kassanda):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Allow me to add my voice to members who have thanked the chairpersons and committee members of both COSASE and the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. Thank you so much. I think Ugandans are going to hear good news about what Parliament is talking about.

Mr Speaker, it is very unfortunate when you hear about the disagreements in the Uganda Human Rights Commission. They are about vehicles, trips, generators and allowances, in a country where the human rights of Ugandans are abused every day. We need the human rights protectors to be very serious.

The problem comes from who is there, and we should not forget about it. These are people who were looking for jobs. Somebody who is looking for a job will start looking for these things. Such a person is not concerned about who is abusing the rights of the people of Uganda.

You hear about abduction of people every day. Even if the Uganda Human Rights Commission was not established for the purpose of defending the people of Uganda, it will not depend on who you put there. Even if you pick the best person, but their interest is not to protect human rights, we will still end up in the same situation.

When we present tomorrow about the audit report, you will hear that the number of Ugandans taking the Government of Uganda to court in contingent liabilities is skyrocketing every day. Why are they going to court? The institution that would have helped them probably settle some of these cases is busy fighting for personal interests. It becomes a challenge.

Mr Speaker, I would like to conclude by standing with both the committee chairpersons. If this Parliament decides to disband, I am okay. If you choose to let them retire in the public interest, I am – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Nsamba, this Parliament has no powers to disband or even retire. I want that to come out clearly because we shall be judged one day. People will say, "You disbanded, but they are still in office", yet we never had that power. We can only recommend.

Hon. Gyaviira, then Hon. Okello. I will pick four others.

6.59

**MR GYAVIIRA LUBOWA (NUP, Nyendo-Mukungwe Division, Masaka City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join my colleagues in thanking the chairpersons of these committees for producing such intriguing reports.

Mr Speaker, you remember that the United Nations Human Rights Commission wound up its activities around 2023, and left the country. Ugandans then looked up to the Uganda Human Rights Commission as the only institution that would protect and preserve their rights. If you have been following the events, it is the administration failing the Commission, which is so disheartening.

However, in my view, it would be unfair to disband the Commission and send the over 200 technical and support staff, who have been working tirelessly to keep it running, to the streets, even if they can be called back to defend themselves and their positions.

Therefore, I recommend retiring the Commissioners in the public interest and giving the other Commission staff a chance to either defend themselves or remain in their positions. Thank you.

7.01

**MR GEOFFREY OKELLO (DP, Nwoya East County, Nwoya):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I listened to the two reports, but I also need to add that I am a member of the Committee on Human Rights. I have an additional opinion on the matter.

My attention is drawn to three issues that I think are very critical in the first presentation. First is the issue of closing files haphazardly. There are procedures. The law provides for how claims are lodged with the Commission, how they are processed and how they are disposed of. *(Mr James Kakooza rose_)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Kakooza, you have been here longer than I have. You cannot access a microphone without the Speaker's permission.

Hon. Geoffrey Okello, continue.

**MR GEOFFREY OKELLO:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. In view of the fact that some files were closed without following procedure, I propose that they be reinstated so that justice is served for those who lodged claims.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is what the Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE) says in the report.

**MR GEOFFREY OKELLO:** Secondly, the first report – *(Interruption)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Kakooza, what is the procedural matter?

**MR JAMES KAKOOZA:** Mr Speaker, I think I heard correctly. A Member said that Hon. Geoffrey Okello is a member of the committee and he is adding an opinion -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** He said he is a member of the Committee on Human Rights. However, we are discussing reports from COSASE and that of the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs.

**MR KAKOOZA:** I rest my case.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable member.

**MR GEOFFREY OKELLO:** Thank you for your guidance. The other issue raised in the two reports concerns causing financial losses. We were informed that some Commissioners were facilitated and drew allowances to travel and undertake activities, some of them outside this country. They did not undertake those activities. I recommend that the money be recovered in the public interest.

Finally, justice delayed is justice denied. During the period when the Commission was ineffective, not doing its work, people who had lodged claims with the Commission, as well as those who had intended to lodge claims, were denied justice. I imagine that the best word would have been to "dissolve" the Commission. Let the Commission be dissolved, and a new one be put in place. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I want to guide so that our *Hansard* is properly captured. Where a committee give a position, and your submission is in line with it, you support the committee. Do not bring a new recommendation.

Hon. Geoffrey Okello, everything you brought as your opinion and recommendations is fully captured by COSASE, especially those on accountability. The issue of dissolving the Commission is also captured. One may use the word "dissolve" while the report says "disband". However, they mean the same thing. Therefore, you have supported the committee's position.

7.06

**MR FRED JALAMESO (UPC, Ajuri County, Alebtong):** Mr Speaker, I rise to support the two committees' reports and urge the whole House to adopt them.

The true test of these two reports will not hinge on how many Commissioners and staff members are removed, how many meetings are convened, or how many resolutions are made or passed; but a Ugandan whose human rights have been violated. They can access a fair hearing and a victim can obtain a remedy.

Mr Speaker, if the House adopts the recommendation to disband, there must be a comprehensive continuity plan in place. If we

recommend disbanding the Commission, what will happen to the other pending human rights cases? Therefore, a clear and comprehensive continuity plan needs to be put in place.

Lastly, the Commissioners who will be found guilty through investigations should take personal responsibility. Otherwise, I request that we debate these reports with a high degree of emotional intelligence and sensitivity. I beg to submit.

7.08

**MR VINCENT OPITO (UPC, Dokolo South County, Dokolo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to remind this august House that on 10 December 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. So, it is an international issue.

Uganda is a signatory, like other countries that consider human rights to be something very important, and that is why our commissioners are put in office to help the citizens of this country. I recommend that we disband the committee because "where two elephants are fighting, the vegetation tends to suffer." What does it mean? People are already fighting in the offices, not giving attention to the *Wanaichi* of this country. I beg to submit.

7.09

**MR HAKIM KIZZA (NUP, Bukoto County South, Lwengo**): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is a rare case to find two committee chairpersons moving in the same direction in agreement. The committee chaired by an NRM Member of Parliament and the committee chaired by a NUP Member of Parliament. That brings out the sensitivity of the matter.

Initially, a person of the calibre of a Member of Parliament would have immunity protected by an institution here in Parliament, but because of the abuse of human rights, in many cases members of Parliament are being picked from here during plenary in an illegal manner.

The only rescue an ordinary person would have, or any other category of people, would be such a Commission that is active, objective, and independent. If someone abuses such a Commission, it means no one is safe in our country.

Therefore, I stand to support all the recommendations by the Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE). We should also look at both the technical and the commissioners who are politicians. Whoever is found culpable - let all those people face the consequences.

Otherwise, if we separate and fear that this one is a technical person who will face some challenges, then we will not be doing good work. If a technical person is found guilty of anything, let that person face the consequences. If a commissioner or a political person is found guilty, it should apply to them. I beg to submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, why was I firm on that? It is because you cannot condemn people you never gave a chance to be heard. How many technical people did you call? You called the accounting officer and I think the personal assistant, and then you come and say "all technical people should go" without giving them a chance to be heard.

What crime would the driver have committed? What crime would the cleaner have committed? If a secretary or the bosses did not call for meetings, what do you - we have to be cautious on the issue of technical people.

7.12

**MR PETER OBONG (UPC, Maruzi County, Apac):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. If I remember correctly, the proceedings of the committee that brought this report were relayed live and many Ugandans watched. They also saw the misconduct that these people portrayed and worst of all, their names were submitted to this House by His Excellency, the President.

Their misbehaviour was a clear sign that they did not show respect for the proposer of their names. Above all, this House approved their names with a lot of respect and love. We thought they would serve the interests of this Parliament and country.

I remember that on several occasions, the Leader of the Opposition on this same Floor raised numerous cases of human rights violations, but the violators have never paid any respect to the voices that were raised in this House simply because the people who should have tasked them to respond positively and respect the voice of this House were "dead". I could use that word.

So, if you went to a home and found parents fighting in their house, you come out and the children begin shooting stones at you. What else do you think you can do? The best thing is to either beat the children to death or finish the whole home.

What do I mean here? The people who should be protecting our rights, themselves are not protecting their personal rights yet we are entrusting them with our rights and that they are our protectors.

I, therefore, concur with the two committee reports that, where that say that if these people can still disturb Ugandans when given opportunity to serve, we retire them in the public interest.

That is my recommendation, not my final position and not the final position of this House. We cannot kill the whole institution, and we cannot put fear into people who may have the interest to serve this country that at one point they can also be retired in the public interest. Let us disband them, and move on with the formation of a new system.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Ongiertho? Honourable colleagues, I am picking only those who have not yet spoken today.

7.15

**MR EMMANUEL ONGIERTHO (Independent, Nebbi Municipality, Nebbi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I agree with my colleagues and thank the committees for a job well done. These people gave a lot of ammunitions to people who do not mean well to the Government because they had all the excuse from what was taking place.

Apart from the report, as my colleague has stated, I watched the proceedings of the committees and at that point alone, I was disappointed. These people abused the goodwill of the President and also abused us in Parliament because of the vetting exercise that we did; it is disappointing.

I also agree with the recommendations but I think both pathways can be taken. I agree with the recommendations for them to be disbanded, but for some, depending on the gravity of their input into the whole confusion, maybe they should be retired in public interest; we should not have sympathy for them.

As for the staff, as somebody who has also been in management, although it was with NGOs, some of these staff that you may think are innocent, keep giving information here and there, causing conflicts -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, honourable, I have not said that anyone is innocent. I talked about rules of natural justice. You cannot condemn someone you have not given a chance to be heard. These commissioners - you are the one saying that you saw them on TV, they were given a chance. So, how will you include those who were not given a chance? That is a guidance I gave.

**MR ONGIERTHO:** Mr Speaker, you are right, but after what I have said about the staff, somebody needs to go further. There should be an exercise of trying to find out the involvement of each of the staff in this confusion. It is only after finding out their involvement that the recommendations can come later on - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I wish Gen. Katumba Wamala was here. I saw him earlier on but he left - there is some good work he was doing in regard to these commissioners. I had wanted to get his opinion. Maybe if the Government Chief Whip can get him, I would want to give him a chance to update us on the good work he was doing, but if he is not, well and good. Hon. Mapenduzi?

6.19

**MR MARTIN OJARA (NRM, Bardege-Layibi Division, Gulu):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity. Let me join honourable colleagues in thanking the two committees for doing a commendable job. When these commissioners were appointed, and accepted this responsibility, they knew very well that they were charged with the responsibility of protecting, promoting, and monitoring fundamental human rights and freedoms of the people of this country.

However, just as the committee noted, it is sad that they reached the point of failing to even perform their duties, including meetings. Therefore, the question is: how do you even protect or promote fundamental human rights when you cannot sit or discuss the issues that concern the citizens?

Secondly, Mr Speaker, it is important that a precedent has to be set. Disbanding this entire commission would serve as a strong message to many such entities so that they get to understand that when you fail to manage an institution - because naturally, people can disagree, but disagreements should be handled and resolved without compromising responsibilities and work.

However, when we reach this extent, a precedent should be set so that people who are given such responsibility know that: first, you have to work as a team because the country expects you to deliver, but also, when you fail to manage yourselves, everyone has to be held accountable.

The other thing, is the question of the other employees. As you said, it would not be right because this confusion, the failure to resolve this internal conflict, I am sure created a negative impact on the workers. We need to recognise that this is not the first commission.

We have had the Uganda Human Rights Commission for several years; why is it that in the previous commission the workers were working well? The main thing in this case is to support the recommendation given by the committees, and have the commission dissolved and the entire membership of the commission given exit so that new people can come in and perform their duties effectively. Again, without - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The good thing is that the commission does not include technical people. Hon. Obigah Rose, then Hon. Rugumayo?

7.22

**MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE, TEREGO):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. If you go to the Human Rights Committee, it seems to be the only institutional memory because my first five years in the 11th Parliament, I was all through in the Human Rights Commission. I have also been assigned by the mighty party back to the Committee on Human Rights.

Mr Speaker, first of all, I thank the two committees. Going through their reports, the most annoying and embarrassing thing is that it is not a one-day event, it has been going on and on. I remember, personally, I took time to say, come on, can you understand that you are handling a sensitive commission that the whole country looks to?

However, I think these friends or guys took everything for granted. I would want to solemnly say that I buy into the presentations and recommendations of the two committees and say that we should really be if possible, accept a very most punitive recommendation by the by the committees, so that people who are given opportunity to serve this country, take it that they are not the only human beings, but are given that out of trust and they should do it to their best.

However, there is a likelihood that these people have been taking this for granted because you meet them, they appear before you, and they want to jump and hold each other's throats. They even forget that they are before a parliamentary committee. Their level of disrespect has gone to the last limit. We cannot take this anymore. They have not only appeared before the two committees that have reported here.

They also appeared before us in local government; as if that was not enough, they appeared before us in the Human Rights Committee. These are too many committees; they cannot even have a sense of thought that these are people gave us the trust; we should live up to it.

Mr Speaker, I thank the two committees and say I will go by their recommendations.

7.24

**MR EDSON RUGUMAYO (NRM, Ntoroko County, Ntoroko):** Mr Speaker, two committees have given us two unique positions. However, before we debate the legal implications of these two recommendations, I would invite the House to debate the spirit that it should take. Are we interested in punishing the individual members of the commission or in simply making sure the commission goes forward?

What I observe, honourable colleagues, is that we all notice that what happened at the commission is that there was a breakdown of relationships, which can happen in any entity.

Honourable colleagues, I invite you to understand the weight of the retirement of a person in the public interest. This would mean that that person is barred from engaging in public service in the future. Do we intend to punish people in that direction?

In my view; what happened at the Uganda Human Rights Commission is a breakdown in a working relationship. It does not mean that these individuals are not useful to the country anymore.

Therefore, I would invite honourable colleagues, first of all, to recommend that since we have understood that the commission that does not involve technical people, we recommend that we disband the commission of appointed commissioners and we allow these people to go and serve Uganda elsewhere as we recover our commission by appointing more competent people to carry it forward.

As I conclude, I am certain that the chairperson of the Legal Committee or the chairperson of the Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE) must have had an in-depth discussion on these two punishments before making a recommendation. That is why I would like to inform you, Mr Speaker, that if the chairperson of the Legal Committee is interested, maybe they could have weighed it in their work as a committee before they recommended disbandment instead of retirement in the public interest.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable member, that is what I started with, because these are not their decisions. They are decisions of their committees agreed upon by Members. I am here now, as a Presiding Officer, and with your help, honourable colleagues, to review, identify where we can refine, and work together on a resolution that is acceptable and implementable.

It is different coming here to resolve; then you start making a report under Rule 229 on action-taken reports - we gave you this resolution. Why didn't you take action? You find that it is a resolution where the ministers or whoever, hands are tied. That is why we have to be very cautious with the final resolution. I had allowed Hon. Eng. Kariisa - this side I finished; I am going this side.

Hon. Namuganza, you will speak on behalf of the Government. Since you are seated on the Frontbench, do not run away from Collective responsibility. I will allow you to speak; do not mind. Let us hear from Eng. Kariisa, Hon. Kakooza and then Hon. Robina.

7.28

**MR JOHNBOSCO KARIISA (NRM, Buhweju West County, Buhweju):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also join my colleagues in thanking the Members of the committees for executing their duty very well in presenting this report.

Mr Speaker, human rights are a serious litmus test and a reflection of the country's health

in terms of democracy and what happens in the country. When a fountain of honour, a president, appoints you into a position of that nature, you must take it serious as an individual to execute the responsibilities given to you.

I am very happy that you have guided us that the commission does not include the technical people because they were not given an opportunity, and even in the reports, you can see that the contradiction within the human rights comes from the commissioners.

I would think, and I would be able to support a position where the commissioners take personal responsibilities for failure to execute their duties as guided and provided in their appointment by His Excellency the President. It is very unfortunate for the head-of-state to give you a responsibility that – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Kakooza and then Hon. Robina will conclude.

7.30

**MR SADALA WANDERA (NRM, Bugweri County, Bugweri):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the two presenters because they did justice to the report. My submission is that there is an image issue here. The image of the Human Rights Commission has gone to the dogs, and our colleagues have done very well to recommend the disbandment of these commissioners.

I suggest that we go with this report in order to improve the image of the Human Rights Commission. Besides that, maybe in the future - much as we are not the appointing authority - the experience in managing institutions is really wanted here because I think we need to get histories of how these people have - if they have had experience in managing institutions.

There are people who come to the office without any experience, and they cannot even have - because in any office, you cannot work alone. You need to work jointly as leaders and as members in that institution. Given that they were unable to work together, I support the recommendations of this report.

Secondly, there are issues of mismanagement of funds, which we cannot just ignore. I think it should be thoroughly investigated and, if possible, they make good in terms of refunding these – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Kakooza?

7.33

**MR JAMES KAKOOZA (NRM, Older Persons Representative, Central):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to add my voice that the committees did a good job, but we want to amend that section where they recommended retiring people in the public interest. You must be careful as Parliament; we investigated, we became police, we became prosecutors, and we are becoming judges in our own court.

What we always do is, if there is a *prima facie* case, we always recommend it to relevant agencies to take action. What I am trying to say is that if there is really a case, what other agency is supposed to take action on this? What are they doing?

For instance, I have seen a report on public funds. Somebody picks an asset of an institution, takes it home, and you recommend that it should be brought back. Come on. That is a thief. That is institutional decay, not following the controls and measures within a system.

When you read Article 164(2) of the Constitution, it says verbatim: *"Any person holding a political or public office who directs or concurs in the use of public funds contrary to existing instructions shall be accountable for any loss arising from that use and shall be required to make good the loss even if he or she has ceased to hold that office."*

I have seen that people have been transferring money to their personal accounts in this report. How can they do that when we have the Electronic Finance Management System for transferring public funds, and they go to personal accounts? These are the people who the agents should go for and ask them, "Why

did you do it?" Either they refund the money or get suspended by the relevant agency.

I would prefer that when we go back to the recommendations, these people are held accountable for what they did. I think they have a very serious management issue within the institution, because there is no procedure, no procurement process, and there is nothing according to the report. Therefore, the whole institution must be organised in a way that those people who are accountable should be held liable and – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I think COSASE did a good job on that, honourable member, because they recommended the IGG to investigate with a view to prosecution. It is well captured here. They did a good job.

Hon. Beatrice?

7.36

**MS BEATRICE WEMBABAZI (NRM, Woman Representative, Hoima):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the committees for the comprehensive report that they have presented.

I would also like to bring to the attention of this Parliament that when you are given responsibility in any public office, there is what we call "a probation period." When you fail within that period, your work is removed from you, or any legal action can be taken against you.

It is so unfortunate that this is the institution that was established to protect the rights of Ugandans, but instead they are consuming all their time in bickering and in fighting each other.

Mr Speaker, when leaders fight each other instead of doing what they were appointed to do, it is the Ugandans who suffer. We have seen the backlog.

Hon. Balaam is moving around Uganda fighting corruption, but this is the entity that would have worked hand in hand with him. What can he do without this institution? It means everything is failing because of just one institution.

I pray that we support the recommendation of the committee. I also pray that the recommendations do not stop at just a report but are implemented. I beg to submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Namuganza?

7.38

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (Housing) (Ms Persis Namuganza):** Mr Speaker, thank you so much for this opportunity because this is the only platform where all of us are mandated to speak, especially when people gave you votes. So, thank you for giving me a chance to represent the people of Bukono constituency. I want to thank and appreciate the work of both committees.

Mr Speaker, looking at what has been happening at the Uganda Human Rights Commission, it is sad that as Members of Parliament we can look on when such a very important Commission is being messed up like that. The Uganda Human Rights Commission should protect everyone without segregation. Whether you support the National Resistance Movement (NRM) or another party, anything can happen to anyone and we all might need help one day.

I have been seeking an opportunity, Mr Speaker, to inform the public that the Chairperson of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, Madam Wangadya - last time I read that she had resigned, but she is still there - I do not understand.

I have always wanted to tell the public that she is not worthy leading that Commission. She does not know what she is supposed to do. *(Applause)*

Even if I were speaking to the President, I would tell him that she does not know what she is supposed to do. I will give you an example. When she was still working at the Inspectorate of Government (IG), people that I think were fighting me, were using her. One time she wrote to me demanding my academic documents, and she said I must submit them within two days.

I wondered: what does she want with my academic documents? I wrote back and said, "Be clear on what you want me to submit and why." She wrote back summoning me and she said, "You must appear before the Inspectorate of Government this afternoon. Failure to do so, you will be arrested."

As a compliant and humble citizen, I said fine. I respect the rule of law – *(Interruption)* - Hon. Lydia, just keep quiet. *(Laughter)*

I went. When I reached there, she came and started telling me that I never sat for Primary Leaving Examination. Two, that I did not complete Senior Four. Three, that I have no qualifications to be -
Mr Speaker, I asked her, "So, which class did I stop in?" She said, "Maybe, Primary Three." *(Laughter)* Yes, she can come here and deny. I said, "So, now?" She said, "I think I am going to write to the President to get you to vacate that office because you have no requisite academic qualifications."

I asked her, "Where are you getting that information from?" She said, "Through my investigations." I said, "Okay. So, you think it will just happen like that?" She said, "Yes, tonight I am going to write." I asked: "So, what do you recommend going forward?"

She said, "Be reporting here after every two days". *(Laughter)*

That is the person now heading the Uganda Human Rights Commission.

I questioned why should I report to her? I asked: "Are you the police? Am I on police bond? Have you given me bail? Why should I report here? Now that you have said that I have no qualifications and you are going to write to the President, then write. But why should I report here after every two days?"

She said that she was going to write. Indeed, Mr Speaker, when I went back to the ministry, they brought a letter, very fast. I still have that letter, to date. She wrote, "While you came here, I told you to be reporting after every two days and you will do that consistently for three months until I tell you to stop." That is the Chairperson of Uganda Human Rights Commission.

I sat down – I, who stopped in Primary Three, and wrote to her about roles as IG, and informing her of the body that is mandated and responsible for academic investigations or checkups - the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB).

I also told her the procedure that must be followed. I concluded, "Therefore, I have no business to do with you; if you have a case against me, institute a case it, but I will not report to you" -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** How did it end, honourable minister - *(Laughter)* - so, that I can save some time for others.

**MS NAMUGANZA:** Mr Speaker, when I did not go, she sent her personal bodyguard who came and said, "The IGG is calling you right now". They requested my bodyguards to talk to me. They said "She is calling you now and she said you have disobeyed. So, if you do not go, she said she will take further action. So, madam…" - they saluted – "We are here to inform you about that." I asked, "She said I should go with you?"

They responded in the affirmative. I told them, "But you are her bodyguards and you have no right to command me to leave this office. If I have a case…" -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Why didn›t you also send her your bodyguards? *(Laughter)*

**MS NAMUGANZA:** Actually, they requested to meet me not knowing - you know when colleagues sometimes send bodyguards to deliver a parcel, they say, "This is from the minister" - in good faith, they thought they were dropping a friendly message.

I got my phone this time round and called Madam Wangadya and told her that having gone to her office to listen to her did not mean

that whatever she had called me for was worthy, and therefore, she should know what she is supposed to do. I asked her to never call me again, or even write any chit questioning my academic qualifications.

If she wanted to continue with the matter, she should follow the right procedure; petition UNEB because I studied from this country from primary one to wherever I reached, and she had the right to investigate if she was an interested party, but that was not her role as IG.

Mr Speaker, that lady responded, "We are going to follow other procedures." She wrote a comprehensive document, describing where I grew up from, how I never had chance to study, therefore, I have disobeyed her but in the future I would see who she really was. So, I think I have seen now who she is -*(Laughter)* - seriously.

As I conclude, Mr Speaker, the person we are dealing with is misplaced. This is a person who is not even supposed to serve in any public office because she does not know what she is supposed to do. Having such a person heading a very important Commission like that, is a disaster.

Even when she appears before the committee, you can see how she looks like -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Namuganza, you see -

**MS NAMUGANZA:** Like someone who does not have any answer; who does not know what she is supposed to do. I, therefore, request this august House: whether you disband or retire, the chairperson actually deserves both. *(Laughter)* Seriously! Disband and retire her in public interest. I beg to submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now, I just wanted a simple clarification from Hon. Namuganza. The name of Madam Wangadya and other Commissioners came through Cabinet, where you sit. Did you have an opportunity of sharing all this with the Cabinet?

**MS NAMUGAZA:** That is not true.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** *Mzee* did not share with you as Cabinet?

**MS NAMUGAZA:** When people are appointed, they are vetted by this Parliament.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, what I am saying is: when I was in Cabinet, we used to look at all these people before they came here. So, this time they did not look at those?

**MS NAMUGAZA:** No, they did not. I would have told the President that this person is not worthy. *(Laughter)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay, thank you. The Leader of the Opposition(LOP).

7.48

**MR PAUL MWIRU (NUP, Jinja South Division East, Jinja):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. We are dealing with a very serious matter, and I want to thank you for having given my colleague time to actually give that information.

Mr Speaker, the appointment of the commission is governed by the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and in particular, I want to draw your attention to Article 51(4), which is to the effect that the chairperson and members of the commission shall be persons of high moral character, proven integrity and shall serve for a period of six years or be eligible for reappointment.

I have addressed my mind on high moral character and it means consistent; someone must consistently think, feel, and act in alignment with strong ethical principles, honesty and respect for others, especially when it is difficult or inconvenient.

I have read both reports and listened to colleagues while debating. There is no doubt that while the commission acted in breach of public trust, Ugandans suffered because the commission was not functional.

I will invite you and honourable members to adopt the recommendations of these committees. After all, recommendations of Parliament are not self-executing. They are not binding on the Government; they are advisory, so that on our part as Parliament, we shall have dealt with the situation as it obtains, then it will be up to the Executive to take action. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I wanted the former Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs - before the situation became bad - to also submit on this and guide the House.

7.51

**MS ROBINA RWAKOOJO (NRM, Gomba West County, Gomba):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to begin by thanking both committees for the good reports that they came up with and for the considerations that they made.

First of all, I would want to defend the Appointments Committee, being a member. The president gives us names because he has nominated them, and we will signify our approval or disapproval and send them to him, and then he appoints, or he does not.

Now, what the Appointments Committee did was not wrong. These were people who were qualified. This lady had been a Deputy Inspectorate of Government (IGG) in spite of what our honourable minister has said. The other members also; some of them had been Members of Parliament, others had been doing other jobs. They really qualified to be.

However, they are human. A relationship went bad, and it was like an ulcer that became worse. The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs did not intervene, and neither did the IGG. If you have a wound and it continues to deteriorate, it will definitely become worse.

Now, considering that some things have been mentioned for example, I want to support the committee where they were saying that an injustice was done regarding the matters that were dropped and yet should have been considered. That is a gross violation of human rights. I support them in that they should be brought back and considered and reconsidered.

However, the totality of things comes up to the fact that we as Parliament are not the appointing authority. We merely assist the president. It is a dual role. He entrusts us with the names. We let them through the Appointments Committee and then feed him the result, and then he appoints.

Therefore, I would propose that we leave it to the appointing authority so that he may consider maybe disbanding the committee, but without us coming up to say that let it be disbanded or the commissioners be retired in the public interest. We do not have the authority to do that. Let us leave it to -*(Interjection)* - no, we cannot determine that they should -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable propose an amendment if you have any?

**MS RWAKOOJO:** I would recommend that we propose that His Excellency the President may consider disbanding the commission

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Continue.

**MS RWAKOOJO:** On the grounds of the observations and recommendations of both committees.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Now, colleagues, just wait a bit. I want to tap into the wisdom of a former Deputy Attorney-General and our elder who has been here and seen it all. That is why we celebrate when we have such people sometimes in the House. What would be your view in such a situation from your experience, Hon. Ruhindi? He is a member of the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs but I have also tapped into his wisdom as the Speaker. I want him to guide me.

7.55

**MR FREDRICK RUHINDI (NRM, Nakawa Division East, Kampala):** Mr Speaker, we are moving well, and I think Hon. Robinah

Rwakoojo is quite there in my opinion, because it takes two to tango. I have actually said more often than not, there is this principle that we normally talk about, separation of powers.

We all know it evolved during the French Revolution, the days of Montesquieu, and we all know what was taking place in France at that time. There was this rigidity of saying the monarch had been conquered; we want separation of powers, this one should do this, but as time went on, in modernity, in the current days, we tend to talk more about cooperation than competition.

We must cooperate to achieve the common objectives and national interest. In 2005, we amended the Constitution and put Article 8(a) on national interest. National interest, principally when you look at the national objectives and directive principles of state policy, is the Constitution and the common good.

Now, if we do not cooperate, how will those people be served? The principle of cooperation is key. I get surprised when I hear, with all due respect, when some Members of the Opposition whom I respect so much, some of them, not all, saying I can never talk with the President. If you cannot talk with the President, how are you going to serve your people?

Therefore, it takes two to tango. We have made our findings and observations. It is simply saying that, "Yes, Your Excellency, the appointing authority, these are our findings and observations.

Based on these observations and findings, you may consider disbandment of the Commission. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. What I pick from our elder, Hon. Ruhindi and Hon. Robina is that the Appointing Authority will just not look at a resolution saying disband and say they said, "I disband," rather the reasoning behind. Isn't it? Rather, the reasoning behind. Sometimes when we are communicating such information to him, we even attach the *Hansard*. He takes time and reads to see the issues that were being raised by Members. Therefore, what is important is mainly the reasoning.

In the conclusion, they are saying, you leave him the space and latitude as the Appointing Authority to study our reasoning, look at everything, and make a final conclusion on disbanding because he is the one who has that authority.

Before I call the committee chairpersons to get their opinion on this, because I will not put a vote before I call them, I would like to first give Hon. Lydia Wanyoto and the Government side a chance if there is anything they would like to say.

7.59

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE (Ms Lydia Wanyonto):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Just by way of information, the Ministry of Public Service, led by Gen. (Rtd) Edward Katumba Wamala, made an effort to meet the commissioners, at first one by one and then as a team. The General can share the report because he led the effort, and we were not able to reconcile them because their differences were irreconcilable.

We took this up as a ministry, especially at a time when this service commission was not in place, and we thought that the public was not getting a very good image of a very important commission of the country, which is statutory. I would like to be on record that efforts have been made by the Ministry of Public Service, though we did not make good progress. Gen. Katumba can share a brief about that so that you can see that we have not been looking on, but the Ministry of Public Service made effort. Thank you so much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Wanyonto. That is why I was calling Hon. Gen. (Rtd) Katumba Wamala because he has been in touch with the Speaker and myself over this. It is good that you have put it on the record.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister? Is there anything on behalf of the Government?

8.00

**THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committees for the good work that was done. As the Government, there is still room for the Appointing Authority to do what he can do. I would like to say that we adopt the recommendations of the committees and when it goes there, he is going to make the final decision like it has been of course said by Members. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable committee chairpersons, can I start with legal? On the recommendation on the proposed amendment, do you think it will still serve the purpose you want?

**MR TEIRA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Just a minute before the recommendations. One of our justifications for disbandment as opposed to - we shared with my brother, Hon. Muwada - is that not all commissioners are culpable in the same measure. There are those whose gravity is very high and those whose gravity is fairly low if you look at the responsibilities of each one of them.

In fact, when they appeared before the committee, there were others who just appeared totally indifferent. They said, "For us, when we are called, we come. If they have not called us, we do not come. Their quarrels are their quarrels."

Therefore, we thought that when we talk about disbandment, we accord a chance to the Appointing Authority, from the recommendations we have made and the findings that are embedded in our report, to take a decision on what to do with the others. Some, he can reappoint in other positions, while others he can even retain for institutional memory; those he feels are comfortable, because we know this is not our right to say, "Go and don't go." That is why we opted for the position on disbandment.

We have just shared this with my brother, Hon. Muwada, and we seem to agree on the same principle. By and large, most of the problems came mainly from the four entities: the chairperson and the other three commissioners. That is where we found the problem.

To me, as long as we can achieve the intention of salvaging the Uganda Human Rights Commission, and if this resolution is more persuasive to the Appointing Authority to agree with us that these members are no longer sufficiently competent to discharge the duties of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, I concede.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, the difference here is simple. When we say, "disband", you are directing the President, but when you give him your view that he should disband, the way Hon. Robina and Hon. Fred captured it -then you achieve the same purpose, but when you are leaving him room to also study. You see, when you say, "disband", for example, and we need an Action-Taken Report, we shall come here and say, "We told you to disband." However, when you say, "Review, and you may disband", then you are saying, "No, we gave you an option of investigating, and if you find our conclusions are indeed valid, you disband. What did you do?" Then he also gives you his reasoning. Basically, that is the difference between the two. Chairperson, PAC-COSASE?

**MR MUWADDA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker for the discussion. On the onset, I am alive to the Rules of Procedure of this Parliament. We cannot have an open-ended report. This Parliament, while considering reports, must consider observations and recommendations. As to how the Executive chooses to consider the recommendations, that is another aspect.

Our duty is that after investigation, we must conclude every inquiry with an observation and a recommendation. We cannot have an open-ended report after putting all our efforts as Parliament, allocating and using public resources to interrogate and investigate. These

investigations were open and public. Even the public was following. We cannot turn around and fear the reality of the findings as they are.

I would like to thank also the members of PAC-COSASE, and the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. We are two different committees who sat in two different spaces with different members, and we are coming up with the same findings and almost the same recommendations.

For us as PAC-COSASE, we had selected to consider retirement in public interest. For English purposes, retirement in public interest is an administrative action, according to the dictionary, where an appointing authority requires a public officer to leave office early where the conduct in issue may not warrant a full dismissal. That is the English translation of retiring in public interest. I do not know where the interpretation is coming from that talks about grave or not grave.

However, after discussing with the Chairperson of the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, equally disbanding the Commission, because in line with Article 51 of the Constitution, the Commission is composed of a chairperson and three commissioners. Whereas the number now is a bit slightly bigger. Now, even if we are to opt for disbandment or retirement in public interest, it serves the same purpose. That is why we had no disagreement with the Chairperson of the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, because our findings were flowing.

As regards other technical officers of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, our report, being an accountability committee, factored in various aspects and observations. For example, for virement without approval, we captured it well in our report and recommended actions against the accounting officer at that time.

When it comes to the assets and property, we not only recommended a proper asset register, but we also provided for reprimand for those culpable. When it comes to money irregularly sent to the personal accounts of personal assistants, this is the same conduct where several Parliamentary employees are also facing trial. Why should it be an exception that Parliament fears to pass similar reprimands for other institutions? These are similar findings.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable chairperson, you are giving a wrong picture. Please, first take a seat. We have not got any simple recommendation amending your report on matters to do with the Auditor-General's report, as per Rule 188.

This matter you are emphasising was incidental thereto, the other matters. The House is in agreement with you on the core matters on the issues of the Auditor-General. I have not heard anyone disagree. When you say, "Why are you fearing this one," No one is. The only matter for which I am seeking your opinion, is on the proposed amendment by Hon. Robina. You are saying that you have agreed with the opinion because what is important is what we want to achieve.

For the others, the honourable colleagues have supported you. It is only that I had one issue for which I needed your clarification. I waited for at least a Member to raise it but they did not. It is on page 35 of your report.

In your recommendations, you say, "The office of the Inspector General of Government should investigate the matter conclusively with a view of recovering all monies irregularly paid and received by personal assistants and prosecuting all culpable officers involved in the irregular approval, payments and receipt of public funds."

On two, you say, "The culpable officers of UHRC should not only account but should also refund all the money."

If I account that the money that performed the work it was supposed to do, then how do you tell me that I refund? You get it, Chairperson? It might have come on my account and I performed the duty. You have asked me for accountability and I have accounted. I need your clarification on that so that I know. What

happens if my accountability is accepted? Will I again go ahead and refund? I want the Chairperson of COSASE to highlight for us what he meant by this.

**MR MUWADA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Last week while presenting our report as PAC-COSASE, we laid on the Table the report and the minutes. Our report has attachments that, for example, showcase a particular travel abroad where Shs 18 million was sent on the account of the personal assistant of the chairperson for inland travel for road transport for four days. Ordinarily and for all logical purposes, Shs 18 million for four days was not fitting within our interpretation of ordinary use of public funds.

Secondly, these personal assistants, according to the minutes, confessed and conceded that they actually received this money and had been receiving it on a quarterly basis. All of the Commissioners, save for the chairperson and one Kaheru, of the Human Rights Commission, revealed to the committee and confessed that this is an illegal practice where money is paid on the personal accounts of personal assistants.

We recommended for the Inspector General of Government (IGG) to investigate the matter conclusively with a view of recovering all the money irregularly paid. We are considering the aspect of irregular payment and accountability. A requirement that that money should be refunded was found tenable in our inquiry because this money was, first of all, irregularly received and there was no proof of any accountability.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You have now come to what I want. You cannot tell me to account and then I refund. Why don't we say that they refund it? The moment I account and my accountability is accepted, I cannot refund. That is what I was bringing out to you, Chairperson.

**MR MUWADA:** Mr Speaker, we would concede to the one of saying they refund the money.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I cannot propose an amendment. I am just trying - we have a senior accountant here.

**MR MUWADA:** Mr Speaker, my concern on the recommendation is that the submissions you are referring to were not complete. They only discussed one aspect and it could not make a substantive disbandment. That is where they ended.

If we agree, as we discussed prior, our would-be agreeable view is that the current team at the Uganda Human Rights Commission be disbanded, if we opt for disbandment and a new team is put in place.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, Hon. Mwiru, then I pick the accountants, so that you can clarify for us.

8.14

**MR PAUL MWIRU (NUP, Jinja South Division East, Jinja City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The wording is okay because when you receive public money, even on your personal account, it becomes a public account. For instance, if you are an activity officer, you would account to the extent you budgeted for the activity. If you received more than what would have been budgeted for the activity, you would actually refund it. When you fail to account, you refund because the treasury accounting instructions require that when you receive public money on your account within 30 days, you must account or refund.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mwiru, the recommendation is written in plain English that the culpable officers of UHRC should not only account but also refund all the money. If I have accounted and my accountability is acceptable, how do you tell me to refund?

Hon. Nakiyi, Hon. Kahima and Hon. Kirumira.

8.16

**MR JULIUS NAKIYI (NRM, Budadiri County East, Sironko):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am a member of COSASE myself so I would not discuss much, but for this particular issue, I have understood what you are saying.

If somebody has accounted, then why should they refund? We shall just change the wording to say that if the accountability fails, then they refund.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, I sit down and take my time to read these reports. As I preside, one day I will be judged by someone who will say, "But you were presiding over the House. How could this pass?" I take my time and even consult.

If you read the first recommendation, there is room for investigation. Therefore, whoever is found culpable by IGG may be punished. Under two, you are saying culpable officers of UHRC should refund so that you do not give them the line of hiding to say, "But I accounted."

**MR MUWADA:** We would concede that we consider one and say they should refund.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Kahima, I think that is okay.

8.17

**MR MOSES KAHIMA (NRM, Ruhaama East County, Ntungamo):** Thank you Mr Speaker. My opinion is: the Auditor-General carried out the audit. Normally, they have exit meetings with these entities, and if, in the meetings, these officers failed to account, the auditor must have recommended to Parliament to scrutinise their reports.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**: No, and that is why I tell you, people, to read the reports properly. This is coming from other matters incidental to the report. This is what the committee discovered beyond what the Auditor-General had discovered. So this was a discovery of the committee, and that is why they are advising: investigate further.

**MR KAHIMA:** Then if it is the discovery of the committee, not the Auditor-General, the committee should recommend further investigation, and if the investigation finds out that these people cannot account for the money, then they refund the money. So we cannot be conclusive on this matter if it was established by the House, other than the Auditor-General. I beg to submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr Chairperson, we are very okay. My issue was strengthening your recommendation and making it very clear and straight. Thank you, honourable colleagues.

I will start with item number five, where I will put a question. Honourable colleagues, I now put the question that the Report of the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs on the operations of the Uganda Human Rights Commission be adopted with the amendment as proposed by Hon. Robina Rwakoojo.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Report adopted.*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, please, we are on the report of the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, and the way it was captured is very clear: that the President may disband. You cannot instruct him. So, we are going to the COSASE Report. If you want to get another recommendation under COSASE, you will also - let me come – wait, Mr Chairperson.

So, clerk, extract the report and let it be communicated to the relevant ministry so that an action-taken report is brought as per Rule 229 of our Rules of Procedure - here it is an action-taken report and not a treasury memorandum. Honourable Chairperson, you had an issue with your -

**MR MUWADA:** Mr Speaker, as you proceed to consider the motion for adoption of the report for PAC-COSASE - I am raising a fear that in our discussion here, since the reports were discussed together or jointly, it was not clear what the recommendation of Hon. Rwakoojo was because all members had an input. Now, as you approach the report of PAC-COSASE, we pray that you first rephrase the said amendment because we all -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Robina, can you rephrase your amendment?

**MR MUWADA:** Mr Speaker, we are not conceding that - the whole House discussed the reports and all members came up with proposals. Hon. Robina Rwakoojo cannot form the opinion of the House -*(Applause)* - the opinion of the House is informed by the committee, the discussion and debate by the Members of the whole House. We must agree on the phrase if it is phrased. And Mr Speaker -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Honourable member, that is why I have asked her -

**MR MUWADA**: It is procedural that after hearing from all of us, not asking her, you can phrase it so that we agree that that is the phrase we have come up with, not asking her as a person. She does not take precedence.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable member, what if I am not good at phrasing? So, can you phrase it? Let Hon. Robina - Hon. Muwada, please - I do not know what is so dramatic here. This is very straightforward. I have told the Member to phrase it. After phrasing it, you come and you tell us if you agree with it or not. It is not that your position must be taken; it will be subjected to the House, and this is her amendment.

Hon. Robina, again, on this Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE) report, can you present your amendment? Listen properly.

8.23

**MS ROBINA RWAKOOJO (NRM, Gomba West County, Gomba):** I said that, "the Appointing Authority may consider disbandment considering the observations and recommendations of the committee*" – (Interjections)* - yes, we said that we make recommendations but we do not take the final decision.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Namuganza, remember when we had a vote here on censuring you? But what happened next was Hon. Namuganza coming to do her work normally. When a colleague is telling you to leave room, she knows her reasoning. Hon. Mwiru - *(Hon. Namuganza rose_)* - I have to give you examples that are live.

8.24

**THE OPPOSITION CHIEF WHIP (Mr Paul Mwiru):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I thank you that we have moved very well up to the end. Let me repeat this for the record: our recommendations as Parliament are advisory to the Executive or to the President. To the extent that even when we recommend disbandment, it is still discretionary to the President whether to disband or not. So, for purposes of us being very serious, we should do our work of recommending. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I wanted you to comment because Hon. Robina Rwakoojo has also made a recommendation - it is also recommending.

**MR MWIRU:** Mr Speaker, we should recommend to the President to disband. It is poor drafting to say that the President may - it will not be proper drafting, but to me the effect is the same. Whether we say may or we recommend - it is better that we be very clear, unequivocal, and say, "we recommend that the President disbands the Human Rights Commission". I thank you.

8.26

**MR SAMUEL KUNGU (NRM, Kigulu County North, Iganga):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I believe that the reports of Parliament should be actionable. When you are writing a recommendation to the President, you need to also guide him. If you are saying "…may…", then you have not given him the direction. You need to be actionable, so that the President now exercises his discretion to either take your recommendation or not.

I believe our report should have an action point of "we recommend" but not add the word "may". With the word "May", we are giving him the discretion. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Muwada, you see where it becomes difficult for me? This is Hon. Robina's amendment - you people are behaving like commissioners from the Human Rights Commission, the people you have been accusing because you do not listen.

Hon. Robina Rwakoojo has made her proposal. You do not need to quarrel over it. The best thing is for you to come up and say, "I appreciate Hon. Robina's proposal. However, because we are diverting from the recommendations and what Hon. Muwada is saying, he has agreed to amend the committee report from retiring in the public interest to disbandment." Isn't it?

I cannot be the one to draft it because Hon. Robina Rwakoojo says, "May". As the Chairperson – *(Hon. Nkunyingi rose_)* - no, listen - there is a recommendation, a proposal and an amendment on the Floor. Are you okay with that amendment? If you are not okay, what are you recommending?

**MR NKUNYINGI:** Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues, we have had a thorough discussion in this House and equally, the committees interfaced and prepared thorough reports. The discussion was in tandem, and we are in agreement, generally. Our recommendation should be clear and precise.

We are agreeable to disbandment, but we would like to say that the committee recommends that the Uganda Human Rights Commission, as it is, be disbanded and a new set of leaders or a new team be constituted to take up the management and mandate of the Commission.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** In short, you are saying, I paraphrase. I will rephrase it, if you listen to me properly. You are saying that Parliament recommends that the Uganda Human Rights Commission be disbanded and a new one be appointed. Is that what you want? *(Applause)* Okay, because it was Hon. Robina Rwakoojo's amendment - yes, the rules require me to give each one of you a chance. Hon. Robina Rwakoojo, are you okay with the amendment? Honourable member, you brought your motion and the chairperson has amended it.

**MS RWAKOOJO:** Mr Speaker, I am not against the proposal of disbandment. However, I still want us to recognise that the appointing authority has a right over us.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, there is a proposal on the Floor from Hon. Robina Rwakoojo, but there was an amendment to the proposal by Hon. Muwada, who said we delete the word "May". I, therefore, put the question - why are you cheering me on to quickly say yes? *(Laughter)*

Honourable colleagues, I, therefore, put the question that the report of the Public Accounts Committee (Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises), covering the Uganda Human Rights Commission, be adopted with an amendment, as proposed by Hon. Muwada.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Report adopted.*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, when I put it this way, the Clerk cleans up because we have the *Hansard*. Clerk, please extract the resolution and submit it to the relevant agencies, and the Treasury Memoranda should be brought, as per the law.

Honourable colleagues, House adjourned to tomorrow at 2.00 p.m.

*(The House rose at 8.32 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday, 21 October 2026 at 2.00 p.m.)*