



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION - FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 16 JULY 2026



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIRST SESSION - 11TH SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Thursday, 16 July 2026

Parliament met at 2.09 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I welcome you to today's sitting. It has been brought to my attention that some committees have been constituted beyond the maximum membership of 40 permitted under our Rules of Procedure. This includes the Public Accounts Committee (Central Government), which has two additional Members; the Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE), with 45 Members; the Committee on National Economy, with 44 Members; and the Committee on Budget, with 46 Members.

I have also noted that some Members have been designated to serve on more than one Sectoral Committee, contrary to the rules. I, therefore, urge the respective Whips to harmonise these anomalies and report to the House at the earliest opportunity.

On that note, also try to align your members according to their professional competencies, as was indicated here. If there is an agriculturalist, you do not take that agriculturalist - I know one agriculturalist who appealed to my office; he

was taken to where he would not add value.

Committees give Members the opportunity to serve this country better by bringing the best out of them. I know three Members who were supposed to be in the Committee on Budget, given their expertise. They were not even put near the Committee on Budget. *(Laughter)* We have Hon. Dicksons Kateshumbwa, Hon. Paul Omara, and Hon. Protazio Begumisa.

Please, let us take note and realign. We are just beginning. We cannot have excuses for the next six months when we have the wrong Members - not the wrong Members - right Members in the wrong committees. Thank you very much. Next.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE UPDATE ON THE EBOLA DISEASE OUTBREAK IN UGANDA

MS NAMBOOZE: Mr Speaker, the procedural matter I am raising is under Rule 8. There is a tendency to favour some committees over others. Maybe that is why some people choose to crowd some committees and refuse to join others. These Whips face a lot of problems, having to convince Members to serve on one committee rather than another preferred one.

Mr Speaker, some committees can barely get an office or a room where to hold meetings. I have ever been a Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurance. I want to report that it is one of those committees that are not favoured.

Mr Speaker, maybe you can use your good office to ensure that all your committees are treated equally and given the same attention. Maybe that would encourage Members to serve on any committee without feeling disadvantaged. That is my observation, and I request you to use your good office to rectify that anomaly. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Let me dispose of this.

First of all, one of the pledges I made to this Parliament and the nation is to have committees work. Committees of Parliament must work. They will be facilitated equally. These issues are coming up because the Clerk is allocating funds to committees. The Parliamentary Commission will sit next week. We want people to start working.

When money is given, however, we are going into the details of how many people will go out on a specific trip. We shall not see any trip with more than six people. That trip has to have all shades of Members as constituted in this House. Two staff and six Members. We planned for all. When you are oversubscribed, then you will be left hanging.

Now, every committee is a committee of Parliament. The first distribution is 50 per cent *pro rata*. That means it is equal to all. So, I will direct the Clerk to communicate some of the decisions that have been made so that people are comforted. Wherever you are, you will be facilitated to do your work as a Member of Parliament, like never before. Take it from me. *(Applause)*

The point here is the oversubscription. For Members of Parliament who are new, you can still be an ex-officio member in a committee. I used to be on the Committee on Government Assurances, but when there was a matter in another committee, I could go. The law allows you to go to another committee, so do not feel over-pressed.

Government Chief Whip, what do you have to say about that? *(Hon. Silwany rose_)* Okay,

before the Government Chief Whip. We do not want to spend much time on this matter. We are going to spend here a maximum of three hours.

MR SILWANY: Mr Speaker, I want to request Parliament, and especially the Records Department - when Members of Parliament come, they share their CVs. These CVs should be shared with the different Party Whips so that they know the competencies of the different Members. When the designation of committees is done without sharing the competencies of a Member - of course, the Whips are also not like God to know a Member's experience in an area. Some of us, when we come - it is very important.

I request your office to direct the Records Department to send Members' CVs to the different Party Whips so that they have information. Honourable members, you will bear with me that certain forms we use to apply to committees are very shallow. They do not provide for all the areas that you are supposed to fill out to show your competencies. If this is corrected and the Whips are willing to work with the different teams at Parliament - I think you have already given a directive - *(Interruption)* - I take the information.

MR AMANYA: Thank you very much, my colleague. I want to inform my colleague that when we applied to committees, we attached our CVs. The Chief Whip and all the Government officials have our CVs. So, the excuse of not having CVs cannot arise. Thank you very much.

MRSILWANY: Thank you for that information. If Members attach their Curriculum Vitae (CVs) now, I can officially hand them over to the Government Chief Whip.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Oshabe?

2.20

MR PATRICK NSAMBA (NUP, Kassanda County North, Kassanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I understand your desire for all committees to be equal, but we must recognise that some are busier than others. I was looking

at our work plan, and for us to achieve 50 per cent of the workload, we must be able to use all the days. I looked through what you shared about the distribution of resources, and it is equal across the board. I do not know whether equity and equality principles can -

THE SPEAKER: Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). I am informed that the Clerk has already shared the details with all committee chairpersons. There are committees like PAC; we need them to dispose of a few things. We have to do the first things first, so do not let me handle administrative matters that should go to the Clerk. You know very well that I am the Speaker. *(Laughter)* Your concerns are known, so let us go to the next item. The Government Chief Whip? The one holding the fort, please respond, and then we go to the next item.

2.21

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (TRADE) (Mr David Bahati): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Just to let you know, we have arranged a harmonisation meeting next week to look at issues of over-subscription of committees and also the other issues that have been raised regarding professionals and all that, but also to let you know that we take note that the committee is comprised of 40 Members. There are hundreds of people who are interested in the committees, but also regarding professionals, take an example of the Budget Committee. We need all professionals. You need an engineer, a social worker; you need everybody on the Budget Committee.

I want to let you know that when I came in 2006 – I am a chartered accountant –, I was put on the Committee of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). In the beginning, I did not feel well, but when I went to the committee, I discovered that I could make a greater contribution than in the committee where I have a profession. As a lawyer, you have served on various committees.

Therefore, to talk about expectations of Members, even if you are not put on a

committee which you want, know that there is space on all committees and you can attend. It is only that you cannot vote, but you can attend any committee at any time. Additionally, it will be your opportunity to contribute even in the field where you are not qualified. As I said yesterday, sessional committees take one year and standing committees two and a half years. Even if you are not catered for during this time, please note that we shall take care of you as we move forward.

THE SPEAKER: Next item?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE UPDATE ON EBOLA DISEASE OUTBREAK IN UGANDA

THE SPEAKER: All matters of national importance will wait for the Prime Minister's time. I gave the guidance yesterday. Honourable minister, you have 10 minutes to dispose of your paper.

2.24

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Dr Chris Baryomunsi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I hope my paper has been uploaded on the system because I submitted it in time. Given that you have given me 10 minutes, I will address the statement without reading it verbatim, in the interest of time.

This is a statement on the status of the Bundibugyo Ebola virus disease outbreak presented to the Parliament of Uganda.

I rise to provide Parliament and the people of Uganda with an update on the Bundibugyo Ebola virus disease outbreak, which the Ministry of Health declared on 15 May 2026. This statement covers the current epidemiological situation, the Government's multi-sectoral response, key partnerships, ongoing risks, and the strategic priorities guiding our actions as we work to bring this outbreak to a complete end.

I want to begin by assuring this august House and all Ugandans that the Government of Uganda has responded to this outbreak with speed, transparency and determination. We

have mobilised our national systems, activated international partnerships, and maintained open communication with the public at every stage. The outcomes achieved to date are a direct result of these efforts.

Let me briefly tell you about what the Bundibugyo Ebola virus is. Especially to the people of Bundibugyo, because there is a misunderstanding when we say Bundibugyo virus; some people think there is an outbreak in Bundibugyo District.

Ebola is what we call a “zoonotic disease”. “Zoonotic disease” means the disease-causing organism ordinarily resides in an animal, but it can cross over to a human being and cause disease, so those diseases are called zoonosis. By the time we finish this Parliament, you will be up to date with the medical issues *-(Laughter)-* that means that the Ebola virus, which causes Ebola disease, the reservoir is in animals, and the fruit bat is the one which usually harbours this virus. It thrives in non-human primates and some other animals, so when it crosses over to human beings, it causes disease.

The first case of Ebola was identified in 1976. There was a simultaneous outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the current South Sudan. Ebola is the name of a river which is in the DRC, so it derives its name from the Ebola River because the first outbreak was in a community around the Ebola River in Congo. I am paraphrasing my statement because I will not read it verbatim.

The first outbreak was in Congo, Zaire, then, so that strain of the virus was called Ebola Zaire. The strain that was in Sudan was different. It was called Ebola Sudan. In 2007 and 2008, we had an outbreak in Bundibugyo District, Western Uganda. When the scientists checked the virus, the strain was different from the previous ones; therefore, it was named Ebola Bundibugyo.

Are you following, class? *(Laughter)*

Therefore, Ebola Bundibugyo refers to that strain of the virus which first hit us in Bundibugyo, and it was different from the previous strains.

There are six strains of Ebola virus. Strain means a subtype or a different type. Of the six, the ones of public health importance are these three: Ebola Zaire, Ebola Sudan, and Ebola Bundibugyo. There is another one called Tai Forest Ebola virus. It was first identified in Ivory Coast in 1989. There is another one called the Reston Virus, but it does not cause disease in human beings. Another is called the Bombali Virus, which was identified in Sierra Leone. Those last three are not so much of public health importance because they are not associated with human infections. I just wanted to give you that background so we can understand.

I have received complaints from the people of Bundibugyo that we should change the name because it creates stigma against them. However, that is how the international scientific community named it because it was first isolated in Bundibugyo, which is in Western Uganda.

I can also add that since 1976, we have had about 40 outbreaks and flare-ups in the last 50 years. I will speak to the importance of that. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is now witnessing the 17th outbreak of Ebola. Here in Uganda, we are witnessing the ninth. The first was in 2000, which ravaged Northern Uganda. You recall when we lost one of our prominent doctors, Dr Lukwiya. Since then, we have had several outbreaks and flare-ups.

Let me give you the statistics as they are today. On the 10th day of May, a sick Congolese national came into Uganda and was admitted at Kibuli Hospital. Little did the health workers know that this was a case of Ebola disease. He died on the 14th, four days later.

When the victim died, the health workers became suspicious and took samples from him. On the 15th day of May, they confirmed this was a case of Ebola. That is why the Ministry of

Health announced that there was an outbreak of Ebola. His body was returned and buried in Democratic Republic of Congo.

Since then, this is what has happened. As of today, we have registered 20 cases. Those are cases that have tested positive for Ebola disease. To all of them, it is this very strain of Ebola Bundibugyo.

Out of the of the 20, 15 are Congolese nationals who came into Uganda seeking medical care. You can say that the outbreak we have been managing is imported because the epicentre, where it originated, is in Congo. It came to Uganda because Congolese were coming for medical care here.

Following the first case, because the health workers did not know it was Ebola, four of our health workers got infected. That made the number 19. One other was a driver who transported one of the Congolese who were coming, making it 20.

Out of the 20, unfortunately, two died. They were Congolese nationals, so their bodies were taken back to Congo for safe and dignified burial. That leaves a balance of 18.

The 18 have been managed in our Ebola treatment unit in Mulago Hospital. I am happy to say that this morning I presided over a function where we discharged the last patient, a Congolese national - (*Applause*) – so, out of all those who tested positive for Ebola, two died. The rest have been treated successfully and discharged. As of now, we have zero cases in the country. (*Applause*)

As I have said, the case fatality rate - case fatality rate means that of those who tested positive, how many have died? We lost only two, which translates to 10 per cent. For this strain of the virus, the case fatality rate usually ranges from 25 to 36 per cent. That means we have done very well. We have not lost many of our patients. (*Applause*)

The other strains, like Ebola Zaire, are extremely virulent. It can kill up to 90 per cent of those who test positive. This one is less mild,

so it can kill up to 25 to 36 per cent. However, this is an average. If it finds a country that does not have a strong system, it can also kill up to 90 per cent or even beyond.

Therefore, the fact that we have been able to have a low case fatality rate means our response system has been fairly effective – (*Applause*) - even those who died, it was because they presented late. In the last 21 days, we have not registered any positive case.

In the management of Ebola, when a patient tests positive, you trace backwards and get to the contacts. Anybody who has been in contact with that patient in the last 21 days, you round them up and bring them to isolation. We did this. Through that system, we were able to identify 836 contacts who were in touch with these 20 cases that tested positive and put them under isolation. They completed 21 days. None of them developed either symptoms or tested positive. They have all been discharged. That is a very important element in managing Ebola disease.

Compare these results with what is happening across, among our sisters and brothers in Democratic Republic of Congo. I spoke to the officials. As of today, the 16th day of July, they have 2,011 Congolese who have tested positive for Ebola and lost 754 individuals.

I was in the Democratic Republic of Congo a few days ago in Bunia, leading a team of Ministry of Health and World Health Organisation – (*Interjections*) - I am very safe, Mr speaker.

What we see in Congo is that the Ebola disease outbreak is outpacing the response despite the efforts there. It began in Ituri Province, but there have been reported cases in North Kivu and South Kivu. This morning, I got a report that there are two more provinces where there are reported cases of positive identification of Ebola. There, things are not as good as they are here.

Without going into the details, I am sure when you access the report on your iPads, you will be able to read; I can safely say that we have

done fairly well, courtesy of the experience we have gathered over the years. The past - *(Interruption.)*

MR SILWANY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. There is a point of clarification I would like to raise, whereas I thank the ministry for the work that you have done and how you have managed the disease.

I would like to raise the issue of announcing that we have Ebola. When there is a disease outbreak, and you are managing it very well, why does the information come out very fast that there is Ebola in Uganda? Then when we travel, there is a ban everywhere as people start looking at you with scorn, that you have Ebola.

I would like you to handle that particular matter when you are concluding your statement, the area of the Minister of Health announcing that there is Ebola in Uganda. Honourable members, this is a very important matter.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, would you really like to conclude? If you do not want to conclude, you will be making other people clarify.

However, you are the most qualified minister from the Ministry of Health. I would think so. You are also the most informed minister of health, so inform the House and resume your seat. We shall also get the Opposition to summarise in three minutes, and then we see whether there are some lessons we can pick from that.

DR BARYOMUNSI: Thank you very much. In the health sector, we operate a policy of openness. The World Health Organisation international standards require us to make a notification when we get these rare diseases like viral haemorrhagic fevers like Ebola.

As such, professionally, it is not acceptable that you get this kind of illness and you keep quiet. Keeping quiet might result in other people getting infected. That has been the policy in Uganda.

You recall, Mr Speaker, that even in the 1980s, when countries were afraid to say they had HIV/AIDS, President Yoweri Museveni authorised the then Minister of Health, Dr Rukahana Rugunda, to go to Geneva at the WHO Assembly and announce that Uganda had a big problem of HIV/AIDS. Other countries were laughing at us. How do you tell the world that you have this problem?

However, because of that openness, we were able to contain HIV and AIDS, and we are one of the countries that is on record for having successfully handled – Probably the advice you are giving is that while we should not hide information, we should communicate in a manner that does not result in injuring our national economy and interests.

Mr Speaker, let me just explain one point then I sit. Discharging the last patient does not mean that the country is Ebola disease-free. The World Health Organisation standards and recommendations are that when you discharge the last patient, then you start on a countdown. The incubation period of Ebola is up to 21 days, so, we count two cycles of the incubation period. We shall start counting today 21 days plus 21 days; those are 42 days. If in the 42 days we do not register any positive case, then Uganda will be declared Ebola-free.

What we have done is that our President talked to the President of DRC, and the two Heads of State agreed that we handle this outbreak jointly, as the two Governments. The two ministers of state signed an MoU. I signed on behalf of the Government of Uganda, and my counterpart, Minister of Public Health in Congo, signed and agreed on a number of interventions to jointly pursue. One of which, it is very important that I inform Parliament, is that this is an imported outbreak. It came into Uganda because Congolese were coming to Uganda for better medical care. Therefore, we agreed that the Government of Uganda will support the Congolese Government by establishing Ebola treatment centres on the other side of Congo.

The President authorised us to open up four centres. We have so far opened one in Arua. Arua is the area that oversees West Nile. We have also opened one in Kasenyi across Ntoroko, Lake Albert. We have also deployed experts in Bunia and Rwampara, which is in the centre of Ituri. We have sent over 50 specialist health workers in Uganda to support our counterparts in Congo.

We also agreed on joint surveillance, joint monitoring, and sharing information. We have established a laboratory in Arua and Bwera in Kasese. Some of the samples from Congo are brought to our laboratories, one at the Uganda Virus Research Institute and another in Wandegaya. We have joint collaborative activities.

Although we now register zero cases in Uganda, the collaborative interventions continue and we shall work with Congo until we register the last case.

THE SPEAKER: Commissioner Nambeshe?

MR NAMBESHE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Dr Baryomunsi rose_)* Could you please resume your seat first. The procedural matter I am raising is about what the rules require of the minister.

THE SPEAKER: Let me also raise a procedural issue.

MR NAMBESHE: Most obliged.

THE SPEAKER: I know that you are a parliamentary commissioner, but you do not have authority to ask anybody to resume seats. *(Laughter)*

MR NAMBESHE: On that, I withdraw with apology, Mr Speaker. Sorry for the interruption. What I am raising is that the minister is in absolute defiance of the rules. He has a very good statement, but he has hardly taken us through the statement. He is actually submitting off the cuff. Actually, he has degenerated into a lecture.

So, is it procedurally right, Mr Speaker, for the minister to be in breach of the rules that require him to read the statement verbatim?

THE SPEAKER: Yes, he is proceeding well because at the beginning, it was the guidance of the Chair that he summarises on the assumption that the Members have them already in their iPads. Therefore, sit down, relax, and enjoy the lecture. *(Laughter)* Yeah, but we expected him to just summarise because the Members have it already in their iPads.

We should learn to read these things. Not to wait and read together with the presenter.

DR BARYOMUNSI: Thank you, Mr Speaker and Hon. Nambeshe to quickly forget the rules because you can summarise and speak to your presentation because if I had read verbatim, I would probably take a little bit longer and maybe take Parliament's time.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker –*(Interjection)*– No, that one I decline with respect. No, the rules say - You see, when you ask for a clarification, I look at the Speaker whether there is pressure of time. *(Hon. Olanya rose_)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Dr Gilbert Olanya, I know that you recently got a PhD. Let the PhD in Medicine talk. Your PhD is in Education Management and other things, the temptation of two lecturers talking to us here. *(Laughter)*

DR BARYOMUNSI: Mr Speaker, just allow me to make two brief points, and then I sit.

THE SPEAKER: Do not provoke; here there are so many lecturers. Please, honourable minister, do not water down your well-thought statement. Hon. Gilbert, you will speak, and I know, for information to Members, we joined this Parliament together, and he took his time, went to school and studied a proper PhD; not these other PhDs. If this Parliament has never congratulated you, I now want to do so. He graduated properly, so they are matching. His mind tickles when another PhD holder is speaking. I can imagine.

DR BARYOMUNSI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to assure Hon. Nambeshe that what I am speaking is extracted from the statement. I am not reading something different from the statement; I am just summarising and paraphrasing.

Lastly, for the communities along the DRC-Uganda border, we intensified the campaign and lots of interventions, which included closing markets and disallowing big assemblies of people. For instance, I have received a petition from the bar owners in Arua and West Nile regarding the disruption of their businesses.

Given the progress that we have registered, we shall keep our borders with DRC closed, but the national task force, chaired by Her Excellency, the Vice President, will sit and then determine how to flexibly allow the situation to return to normal.

Two, which is also very important, is that what bothers Ugandans today are the travel restrictions and bans imposed by some countries, disallowing their citizens from travelling to Uganda but also making it difficult for people in Uganda to travel to their countries. Like I said - [Hon. Tebandeke rose_] this is my last point, just hold on then I allow you after.

This Ebola disease was first identified in 1976; that means today, it is 50 years old. We have had up to around 40 outbreaks in Africa: In Congo, Uganda, South Sudan and West Africa. But the reported cases of Ebola that have been exported outside Africa are fewer than 30 in 50 years. Actually, to be exact, they are 29, including the recent case in France.

That means that Ebola, given its transmission dynamics, does not easily get exported outside and even those 29 cases were mainly doctors and health workers who have been in training –

THE SPEAKER: A procedural issue -

MR TEBANDEKE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the statement by the minister. According to your order paper, the minister was

allocated 10 minutes to present a statement. Is he really proceeding well, exceeding the 10 minutes without due permission from your authority and turning the statement into a lecture and Parliament into a class?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you have been informed that you have run out of time. So, conclude. And those who are timing are the ones not progressing well.

DR BARYOMUNSI: I was raising that point because we are engaging the international community, especially the over 20 countries that have put those travel restrictions; those decisions are not backed by science, they are hurting the economy, and Parliament should know.

So, we are engaging these countries, given the progress we have registered, with a view to opening up so that our economy is not affected. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I want to ask the shadow minister for Health to present a statement.

2.53

MS ASINANSI NYAKATO (PFF, Woman Representative, Hoima City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. What I want to communicate is related to the last statement he made. Travellers arriving in the USA, Canada, and the Bahamas from Uganda are being subjected to mandatory quarantine.

So, what advice do you have for other travellers coming from Uganda en route to other countries? Considering the fact that you have given a window period of 42 days from now to declare Uganda a free Ebola country.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, briefly and since we are debating this as he is presenting, you will agree with me.

DR BARYOMUNSI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. DRC, other than Uganda, is the only country with the outbreak. So, if you enter Uganda and you have been in DRC in the last 21 days,

we quarantine you for 21 days. Including the health workers who are there- when they get leave and come back, we put them in isolation until they complete the mandatory days. But if you are from the US, Kenya or any other place where there is no Ebola outbreak, there is no need to isolate you (Hon. Namboozie rose_)

THE SPEAKER: What is the point of order about Hon. Namboozie?

MS NAMBOOZE: Mr Speaker, the minister has told this House that he has just returned from DRC and he has said that it is a policy for people who travel from Congo to Uganda to be quarantined.

Is he in order to expose this House to Ebola by leaving quarantine- (*Laughter*)- and in that spirit, as you rule, isn't it proper that he also tells us how to treat Congolese who come to Uganda and Ugandans - like him, who come from Congo. Is he in order to be here when he should be quarantined like he has informed the House?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, before I rule, tell us when you escaped from the quarantine -(*Laughter*)- so that we can calculate whether you are in breach.

DR BARYOMUNSI: The reason we quarantine somebody who has come from Congo is largely that we are not sure about the kind of exposure they had when they were in Congo - you just arrive at the airport, and we ask, "Where have you been in the last 21 days?" And you indicate that you have been in Congo.

In my case, the Ministry of Health is sure - (*Laughter*)- that when I went to Congo, I was not in contact with any person who would pose a risk.

The Ministry of Health is sure that when I was in Congo, I never got exposed to the risk of Ebola. So, do not get worried; nobody in this House - and even those who have met me in the last 21 days should not be worried about me being a risk in terms of making you vulnerable.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, that is cleared. Shadow Minister of Health. Three minutes. Those who are timing, please. I thought I had your cooperation. I did not know that you feared Ebola so much as to give extra time.

2.57

MS DRAVILLE AMANIYO (NUP, Woman Representative, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. And unlike the minister, I will not subject this House to a lecture. However, allow me to give a report on the reality of what it is.

While we join all Ugandans in thanking our dedicated frontline health workers who contained the clinical spread of this virus to just 20 cases, we must separate medical containment from administrative incompetence.

The Ministry of Health may have managed surveillance and clinical isolation very well but its catastrophic failure in managing outbreak information has caused self-inflicted economic devastation that will take our country years back to recover.

This is the reality of the numbers; there was absolutely zero community transmission within the boundaries of Uganda. Looking at the anatomy of these 20 confirmed cases, the majority were DRC imports. Out of the 20 cases, 15 were imported directly from the severe epidemic in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

The remaining five cases were strictly secondary transmissions, limited to medical frontline workers, like you told us and immediate family caregivers who were already under close monitoring.

This was not a Ugandan outbreak. It was a spill over from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Yet because the ministry lacked a backbone of clarity in public communication, the world was allowed to believe that Ebola was tearing through our communities. They actually gave it a Ugandan face. So, this is the cost of having no clarity in communication.

Mr Speaker, because the ministry has chosen an alarmist, uncoordinated approach to data dissemination, our premium of \$1.7 billion of the tourism sector was left exposed to international panic.

The massive cancellation

Mr Speaker, the ministry allowed the international market to believe that the entire country was a hot zone. This triggered immediate booking cancellations during our peak May – September safari season.

Liquidity crisis for local operators

This liquidity crisis for local operators terrified international clients and demanded immediate cash refunds, pushing local tourist operators to the brink of bankruptcy.

The Namugongo wipe-out

The Namugongo wipe-out alone wiped out an estimated Shs 30 to 44 billion in domestic and regional trade. This hurt the local vendors, transporters and the hospitality sector.

The halting of our progress

Uganda entered 2026 celebrating a 19.7 per cent growth in tourist arrivals. However, the ministry's unfocused communication single-handedly crushed this upward trajectory.

Then, there is the diplomatic disgrace, as my colleague had stated here. There is humiliation of Ugandan travellers.

The Dubai visa ban

The United Arab Emirates – (*Member timed out.*)

THE SPEAKER: Use one more minute, due to public demand.

MS AMANIYO: There is the issue of the Dubai visa ban and the airport humiliation. Ugandans are being subjected to mandatory invasive secondary blood testing at airports, like in China and Dubai.

There is also the guilt of association. While international health bodies lazily bundled Ugandan's single-digit data within the massive 1,400+ cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the lack of data defence allowed foreign embassies to slap a blanket travel ban on Ugandans.

Mr Speaker, we propose these urgent reforms.

- i) An establishment of a joint inter-ministerial crisis communications taskforce, which should comprise the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities and Uganda Tourism Board.
- ii) We also request enforced aggressive data separation. The ministry must separate Ugandan tracking dashboards from those of the neighbouring countries.
- iii) We also request proactive aviation and border diplomacy.
- iv) We also request hyper-local, non-alarmist reporting.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, transparency is a legal obligation under international health regulations, but reckless communication is a choice. The Ministry of Health chose a path that protected their data charts, but destroyed Ugandan businesses and humiliated our citizens. We pray, therefore, for a formal, aggressive diplomatic push to lift the Dubai visa ban and airport blood tests in China.

I beg to submit. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. From the applause – Dr Byaromunsi, I heard somebody saying: “*Akubye nyoo*”. (*Laughter*) I do not know what it means

3.03

DR MONDAY RUDE (NRM, Bukonzo County East, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This being my first time to hold the microphone, allow me to congratulate you upon your election as the Speaker of the 12th Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I rise as someone with experience, having treated the first cases of the Ebola Bundibugyo strain, while I practised as a

health worker in 2007 at Kikyo Health Centre in Bundibugyo District. Additionally, I also had experience working with the World Health Organisation for the past 14 years.

Honourable colleagues, we need to appreciate the honourable Minister of Health for a comprehensive statement about the current trend of the disease that we are facing now, Ebola, which is highly transmissible. We also need to appreciate them for the success so far registered.

It is also important to appreciate His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for his strategic guidance and leadership during disease outbreaks and health emergencies. He has always come on board and given guidance to the nation. We should also thank Ugandans for heeding the advice.

Mr Speaker, importantly, as I move towards winding up, the Ministry of Health has demonstrated superiority in mounting an effective and quality outbreak response again, where a disease outbreak like Ebola is only confined to known contacts.

Now, while the risk continues because of –
(*Member timed out.*)

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Fungaroo, you border the Democratic Republic of Congo. I will also allow Hon. Edson Rugumayo. (*Members rose*) Please, sit down. Let these border people say something.

3.05

MR KAPS FUNGAROO (FDC, Obongi County, Obongi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am glad that the Minister of Health has been able to come here and brief us.

Much as Members fear the issue of someone who has gone to a country where this problem exists coming back to Parliament, it is necessary for us to be briefed so that we can also brief others to remain safe. As the chairman of the West Nile Parliamentary Caucus, therefore, I would like to thank three categories of people.

Number one is the government of Uganda. (*Applause*) This is for the reason that the Government of Uganda took action, first, within Uganda and also took the initiative to put a treatment centre in DRC, particularly in Aru Territory, the sister city to Arua.

We, the people of West Nile, are trans-border people. Even if we do not have Ebola and do not die here in Uganda, but Ebola remains in DRC, we are bound to go for burial in Congo because the Lugbara, Kakwa, Alur, Madi, Gimara and Reli tribes are in both Uganda and DRC. All these people are connected.

We are socially interlinked strongly. If there is a funeral, relatives will want to come for the burial. That activity of Uganda going there, first, stopped the disease in Congo. That is a good thing.

Secondly – (*Member timed out.*)

MR FUNGAROO: Mr Speaker, lastly. On behalf of – (*Member timed out.*)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, you have made your point. Let us have Hon. Rugumayo.

3.08

MR EDSON RUGUMAYO (NRM, Ntoroko County, Ntoroko): Mr Speaker, there comes a time when this august House must stand united in expressing profound gratitude to the Government. I believe this is the day. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker, I want to thank the Government of Uganda, through Ministry of Health, for their very decisive, swift and effective solution, which has helped us to contain this outbreak from its source in Congo.

I also commend our heroic doctors, nurses and all medical practitioners on the frontline now in Congo. Really, they remain exemplary.

Mr Speaker, Ntoroko is a border district. We share extensive trade links with the Democratic Republic of Congo. We have had to bear the burden of these preventive measures. The

markets are closed, the cross-border trade is halted and yet it forms the backbone of the livelihoods of our people; we remain deeply appreciative of the actions of the Government. It is at this point, Mr Speaker, that I would like to request and pray that the Government, if they can find empathy, provide subsistence support to some of my communities in Ntoroko.

Mr Speaker, we have six sub-counties in Ntoroko whose communities do not indulge in any crop farming. They depend only on cattle keeping, which they trade with Congo. Now, with markets closed and no trade going on, we are facing a disaster as a community. I would also like to ask, through you, Mr Speaker, that the office of the Prime Minister sit with the leaders of Ntoroko, and we share and see how we can manage this so that we do not have a disaster of our people dying of hunger. Thank you very much. May God bless you.

THE SPEAKER: Let the Prime Minister engage all the leaders from the border districts. Hon. Sarah Itungu, from Kasese.

3.10

MS SARAH ITUNGU MASEREKA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am Sarah Itungu Masereka, the Woman Representative, Kasese District.

Firstly, I appreciate the Government through the Ministry of Health for the quick intervention at the border of Kasese in Mpondwe Ihubiriha Town Council. The porous border of 60 kilometres is closed. All the markets are closed. They had said it would take three weeks, but it is now beyond two weeks. The people, especially the women, 70 per cent of whom work in those markets, now do not have a daily income. I therefore request through you that the Office of the Prime Minister should really intervene in this disaster by giving something to our people that can alleviate hunger.

The whole area of the business export zone is closed, and I request through the Minister of Disaster Preparedness, as well as the Minister of Health, to intervene. I also thank the security

team in the district of Kasese headed by the RDC, Joe Walusimbi, for the quick intervention into this matter. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Dr Gilbert Olanya. I know your border with a different country, but you are insisting on speaking. Amuru is at the border.

3.12

DR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak South County, Amuru): Yes, and thank you, Mr Speaker. We border South Sudan. Therefore, we are also at the border.

There is something very important I would like the minister to clarify, aware that many schools stopped parents from visiting their children in schools because of Ebola. I am happy that you stated clearly that the last cases of Ebola were discharged, and I would like you to clarify to the nation whether parents are now free to visit their children in schools.

Finally, allow me to appreciate you, honourable minister, for being very active in the fight against Ebola. This is the way to go. I wish the Government were active in fighting other cases like the way the Ministry of Health is fighting Ebola. I pray that the NRM Government should not only concentrate on fighting the outbreaks. We have so many cases in this country, like corruption, et al. Fight them actively the way you are fighting Ebola. Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: So medically, Ebola is equated to corruption. Hon. Marshall Alenyo?

3.13

MR MARSHALL ALENYO (Independent, Jonam County, Pakwach): Yeah. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Marshall Godfrey Alenyo from Pakwach.

I represent the Jonam people who border the Democratic Republic of Congo in Dei sub-county, the uppermost part of Jonam County. The people of Pakwach have suffered a lot during this Ebola pandemic.

First of all, like most of the border districts, the schools were closed, markets closed, churches closed, and the police tear-gassed all those public venues. Now, I would like to join my sister from Kasese in demanding that, as quickly as next week, the Government help our people by sending relief aid, particularly to those areas bordering Congo like Dei sub-county. Jonam suffers drought, they do not have their land, and there is a lot of problems. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I think let us agree that – Hon. Mapenduzi Ojara, is Gulu at any border? He could be telling us he was in DRC. Let him be the last on this matter, and we move on. However, what is important is that the leaders from those areas need to be met by the Government so that – The cases were in Kampala, but Hon. Martin Mapenduzi, please.

3.15

MR MARTIN MAPENDUZI (NRM, Bar-Dege Layibi Division, Gulu City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. For those who know, in 2000 when we had the Ebola outbreak, over 200 people died in Gulu. Therefore, I speak from that very informed point of view, having had that terrible experience.

I would like to very sincerely thank the Minister of Health. Much as some people think that how they communicated could have affected the economy, Mr Speaker, you may have a vibrant economy, but it is more important to save lives before we talk about generating more money. If the Ministry of Health had not acted the way they acted, by now the story would have been different.

We need to appreciate them, and that would help to encourage the Minister of Health to do more. Mine is to commend the Minister of Health and also encourage them to do more. We have a duty to encourage and to support our people on the front line, and as Parliament, we need to do everything possible to support the Ministry of Health. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister of Health. Oh, LOP, I thought that you already – Now is this Nakawa or what?

3.16

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

(Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Firstly, I would like to appreciate the Minister for his statement and also commend the frontline health workers who have risked their lives and continue to do so to save lives. In the past, we have seen some health workers like Dr Matthew Lukwiya and others who fought, pushing back against Ebola, and they succumbed. So we need to commend these health workers, and that is why many times we talk about them.

We say, let us facilitate them better: medical interns, equipment, and all these different things, yeah? They are competent, and they want to work, but sometimes we let them down.

Mr Speaker, I think that the Government needs to do more, whether diplomatically or otherwise, to better manage our image. At the start of this week, I saw an order, and it is now in the public domain, by the US Department of Health and Human Services; they have banned entry of people from Uganda into their country for 30 days. Now, after the 30 days, they will evaluate whether to extend that order or not.

There are numerous other countries; UAE, our Muslim brothers and sisters have been telling me they are unable to go for *Umrath* in Saudi Arabia because they can not access it. We have not managed this well because the world thinks people are dropping dead of Ebola in Uganda every day, and yet it is not true.

Therefore, as the health workers are doing their best, we need to do our best as well. We are in a precarious situation, and it is affecting us. A travel advisory has also been issued by the US, for among other reasons, health: of course, there is crime, terrorism, and all these different things. I have seen a disjointedness between Government departments. So you find some are fighting, and they are saying to people, no, the situation is not as bad here in Uganda, and then they do not seem to get support from other departments.

Mr Speaker, the Government departments need to talk to each other. That is why we are having all these challenges.

Finally, Mr Speaker, while there are a few Government departments that are trying to make sure the image does not look bad, again, there are others who I just do not understand. What the Government does sometimes is being deleterious to itself. What do I mean? You make us look bad sometimes; some of you people in Government.

Mr Speaker, the world reads reports about Uganda; “A media house closed”; NTV, for now three weeks! We do not seem to be bothered about media and press freedom. That hurts our country. NGOs have been closed, suspended and so on. Every day we are here on the microphone asking: where is this person? Yesterday, we were here talking about Hon. Muhammad Muwanga Kivumbi. I am yet to get a report.

Mr Speaker, yesterday, you ordered that we do get a report and the family gets to access him. That has not happened yet - and several other people. These things make us look bad. That is the reality. *(Mr Waluswaka rose_)*

MR SSENYONYI: So, as we are striving to work on our image as a country, let us sort out this issue.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, I think your time is done. Hon. Waluswaka, do you want to put him to order?

MR SSENYONYI: I am done.

MR WALUSWAKA: Yes, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: He has exited the Floor. *(Laughter)*

MR WALUSWAKA: Okay.

THE SPEAKER: He has complied with your order. Hon. Baryomunsi, two minutes to wrap up. You had an attack, but then you had an army that rescued you.

DR BARYOMUNSI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the honourable members for the comments that you have made. First and foremost, our primary responsibility as a Government, the Ministry of Health in particular, is to protect Ugandans. It is not to please the USA so that the travel advisory is good. It is to protect Ugandans first.

When an outbreak like this comes out, you are hard-pressed between two choices: to be transparent and report the disease so that you prevent it, and caution people not to get it. Or to remain quiet even when there is a risk of many people contracting it.

My sister, Hon. Amaniyo is saying that we should probably have kept quiet even if people got infected.

THE SPEAKER: To use the word like “reckless communication”? I thought that was below the belt. Were you reckless in your communication?

DR BARYOMUNSI: No. Not at all. She should distinguish the way we have acted. Now we have zero cases. If we had become reckless and have say 2,000 cases like we see in DRC - She should revise to understand the meaning of reckless. We were not reckless. We were very careful to give this information so we could protect ourselves.

Whether an outbreak is imported or originates from here, the risks are still the same. For instance, the decision taken to postpone the celebrations in Namugongo - *(Member timed out.)*- we discovered close to 1,000 Congolese were already on pilgrimage coming to Namugongo. If we had allowed it, probably now we would be having a different story of having cases in Karamoja, Kigezi, West Nile. I expected her to appreciate that we have been able to contain this outbreak.

I know the measures which we have instituted as a Government caused disruption in public discourse, but the English say, to get an omelette, you must break the egg. You cannot enjoy an omelette unless you have broken the

egg. For us to reach where we have reached in terms of containing this outbreak, there were disruptions which have been caused by the measures. I beg the honourable members and the public to appreciate that the intentions of the Government are not to hurt Ugandans but rather to protect them.

Going forward, as I said in my statement, we shall sit as the National Task Force, chaired by Her Excellency the Vice President and do a review regarding the restrictions and the measures we had announced, especially in the border districts.

Hon. Olanya asked whether parents are now allowed to visit schools. We are going to review all this. I said it in the statement. Now that we have established treatment centres in Congo, we hope the Congolese nationals who were coming here for better treatment - the better treatment is now in their country. They will not be coming here. Then, we can now relax some of the measures.

Mr Speaker, I may not announce the relaxation here, but once we sit as the task force, we shall give a statement that cushions our traders, our business people and our communities. We shall keep you - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

DR BARYOMUNSI: Thank you very much. On the issue of the travel advisory and visas, I said in my statement that we are engaging with the governments, especially in light of the progress we have registered. So sooner or later-

THE SPEAKER: Your engagement should be directed to the World Health Organisation because the information that USA, UAE are getting is from WHO and you work directly with these agencies.

DR BARYOMUNSI: Absolutely. Even this morning, I had a meeting with the country representative of WHO and we discussed the very matters. Those are being handled and we shall keep you updated.

THE SPEAKER: I met a foreign diplomat today who told me that there are people from his country who are afraid to come here because other countries do not want to see any stamps of Uganda. It is very serious. Next item. [Honourable member: "Procedure"] We cannot have a procedure when there is nothing before us.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON UGANDA'S PREPAREDNESS TO CO- HOST AFCON PAMOJA 2027

THE SPEAKER: Yes. Hon. Paul Mwiru. You wanted us to proceed, so that is what we are going to proceed to. What is your procedural matter?

MR MWIRU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Yesterday, I, once again, raised the matter in respect of the fundamental human rights of our citizen, a one Amos Rwangomani Turinawe, who filed a *writ of habeas corpus*, and orders were granted to the effect that they produce him either dead or alive.

Honourable Attorney-General alluded that despite the fact that he was a party to the suit, he did not have copies of the court documents. I sent him some electronically and sent some to the Minister of Internal Affairs. I also served him a copy of the ruling and a copy of the court order.

There was also the question of -

THE SPEAKER: When did you do the service?

MR MWIRU: It was done electronically yesterday. Today, I handed him the hard copy because I saw that he had not got back to me.

THE SPEAKER: When you were handing him over the copy, you never talked?

MR MWIRU: Mr Speaker, I am now seeing a tendency that when human rights issues are raised in this House, we intend to deal with other matters. Now, we are going to sports, yet the Constitution is very clear -

THE SPEAKER: Isn't sports also a human rights matter? Attorney-General, be on record whether you received the service. Otherwise, you have raised that you did not know who was served. Just be on record and make some commitments to resolving it. These are small matters, but they derail us a bit.

MR MWIRU: Mr Speaker, the same should apply to Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi. Yesterday, you made a ruling, and I hope your ruling will not be in vain. They said that they will return today with a statement.

THE SPEAKER: Yes. Please, we cannot handle it that way. If we made a ruling yesterday, we can create time. By the way, if I were you and I knew the Attorney-General, and a matter has been raised here - you already have the connection. Attorney-General, don't you allow Members of the Opposition to come to your office? The lawyers?

When the mandate is here, it is executed elsewhere. You raise it here; we escalate the matter. The other transaction we want to get is to hear about a report. Attorney-General?

3.28

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Dr Sam Mayanja): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Attorney-General's chamber is open, and we have a digital system - the e-Docs. We are available almost 24/7. I have not seen the document on the e-Docs, but I have just been served the document right now, and I have seen it. I can invite him, even after this session, to sit together and ensure that it is respected, in accordance with the law.

THE SPEAKER: I think that is enough. The Attorney-General is willing. Somebody else told me - Anyway, I should not be giving evidence from this side. Honourable Minister of Education and Sports? I need to learn how to be a Speaker, not a debater. *(Laughter)*

3.30

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and honourable members. I thank

you for granting me this opportunity to appraise you on Uganda's preparedness to host -

THE SPEAKER: Is the paper uploaded? Do we have it? Okay. Continue, sir.

MR PETER OGWANG: Mr Speaker, I thank you for granting me this opportunity to appraise you on Uganda's preparedness to co-host the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027 tournament, alongside Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania. This follows concerns raised by Hon. Ismail Kasule, the Member of Parliament from Hoima West Division, on this matter of national importance.

Mr Speaker, co-hosting a tournament of the magnitude and complexity of the African Cup of Nations is not an undertaking that can be delivered by one ministry, department, agency or sports federation acting alone. It requires a well-coordinated whole-of-government and whole-of-country approach.

As guided by Cabinet, the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports had constituted an Inter-Sectoral Committee to support the Local Organising Committee (LOC) in Uganda's preparation for AFCON 2027.

Furthermore, Government planning for AFCON 2027 has been guided by a number of key assumptions. These include:

1. The fact that the tournament will be jointly hosted by Uganda, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania;
2. That it will run from 19 June to 18 July 2027;
3. That Uganda will host matches at Mandela National Stadium, Namboole and Hoima City Stadium, and we have a backup stadium which is Akii-Bua Olympic Stadium; and
4. That two competition stadia together with the attendant training facilities must be completed by 31 December 2026.

In 2024, Cabinet not only approved the Government guarantees to the Confederation of African Football (CAF), but also approved a budget of Shs 1.35 trillion towards the

infrastructural, logistical and operational costs associated with the preparation for both the African Nations Championship (CHAN) 2024 and AFCON 2027, including Uganda's obligatory commitment fees to CAF.

In addition, the Government has approved Shs 905 billion to meet contractual intersectoral funding and administrative requirements for AFCON 2027.

Mr Speaker, the additional commitments include the following major interventions:

1. Support to the upgrading of selected hotels in Hoima and Masindi through a special credit facility, in accordance with CAF standards;
2. Upgrading priority access roads, pedestrian walkways and street lighting around Hoima City Stadium and Mandela National Stadium;
3. Construction of a passenger terminal at Kabalega Airport and operationalise the facility as an international airport;
4. Upgrade of Kadiba Stadium as a training facility and support preparations for the Uganda Cranes;
5. Support to the Local Organising Committee to undertake tournament-specific preparations across its subcommittees;
6. Remodelling and upgrade of Mandela National Stadium;
7. Deployment and improvement of ICT infrastructure at airports, hotels, stadia, training facilities and hospitals supporting the tournament;
8. Upgrade of designated health facilities in Hoima, Masindi and Buseruka to provide intensive care, accident and emergency services;
9. Strengthening of sanitation and environmental hygiene services in the host city, that is, Hoima City and Masindi Municipal Council;
10. Upgrade of meteorological services to support tournament operations;
11. Improvement to water-supply infrastructure in Hoima City;

12. Upgrade and maintenance of railway infrastructure serving Kampala, Mukono, Namanve and Namboole;
13. Extension of electricity infrastructure to key AFCON facilities, including Hoima City Stadium and Kabalega International Airport;
14. Promoting Uganda as a tourism destination under the AFCON brand;
15. Waiver of visa fees for visitors during the tournament period; and
16. Pursuit of a joint PAMOJA visa with Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania to ease the movement of fans and guests.

Mr Speaker, the above-mentioned interventions will be directly implemented by the Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies responsible. I will repeat that. The above-mentioned interventions will be directly implemented by Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies responsible.

The Minister of Education and Sports, and the LOC will play a supervisory role to ensure timely implementation of activities by MDAs and conformity to CAF standards. The detailed updates on infrastructure development in preparation for the AFCON tournament are as follows:

1. Hoima City Stadium

Works for construction of Hoima City Stadium have been completed and the Defects Liability Period will expire in December 2026. During this period, the contractor will undertake remedial works to address comments made by CAF after their recent inspection. We expect the next inspection on 31 August 2026.

2. Mandela National Stadium

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs for design and build works for the expansion of Mandela National Stadium, Namboole under phase II was signed on 26 February 2026. Under this phase, we expect, among others, the following:

- i) Upgrading the seating capacity from 38,000 to 45,000;
- ii) Improvements and expansion of the VVIP and VIP lounges;
- iii) Improvements in the media tribune, stadium media centre, press conference rooms, the mixed zone, spectator-related areas and medical areas, among others.

Mr Speaker, the contractor has completed the design review and incorporated all observations raised by the Confederation of African Football. Structural integrity tests have also been successfully undertaken, confirming the project's readiness to proceed. The contractor remains scheduled to complete works within the timelines stipulated by CAF, which is 31 December 2026.

- 3. Kyambogo University Training Facility
Phase II construction works are progressing well and the facility is expected to be completed by August.
- 4. Makerere University Training Facility
Construction works are ongoing and completion is expected by August.
- 5. Hoima Boma Grounds
The project is on course for completion by September this year.
- 6. Masindi Municipal Stadium Training Facility
Construction works are ongoing and the facility is expected to be completed by September this year.
- 7. FUFA Kadiba Stadium Training Facility

The BOQs and architectural design for Kadiba are being finalised, and the site will soon be handed over to the UPDF Engineers Brigade.

The scope of works includes remedial works on the pitch and installation of floodlights. We envisage completing the work by December 2026.

Why the delay? The stadium was being used by FUFA till the end of the calendar year,

which ended recently. It is a Federation facility for football competition.

- 8. Sir Tito Winyi Secondary School (Training Facility)

The process of acquiring land at Sir Tito Winyi is concluded, and the Minister of Works and Transport is preparing the BOQs. Works will commence in August 2026 and will be completed in December.

Why the delay? There was a complaint about the land. As per the guidance from the Attorney-General, the Government cannot invest resources where we do not have exclusive ownership of the land. So, the two parties had to be brought on board. Finally, there is a consent to that effect. Now we are ready to start working.

- 9. Upgrade priority access roads, pedestrian walkways, and street lighting around Hoima City stadium and Mandela National Stadium.

Government is implementing a number of strategic road projects aimed at improving access to the AFCON 2027 competition and training venues while also easing traffic flow within the host cities.

The works cover Joka-Uganda Christian University Road (13.2 km). This road is going to be worked on and completed. That will ease traffic on the main Jinja Highway. Hon. Namboze is nodding. I think let us clap for Government for that. *(Laughter)* Joka-Bweyogere Road (6.2 km), Joka-Namanve Road (3.2 km), Kireka-Kamuli-Nalya Road, Bweyogere-Buto-Namugongo Road, Kyaliwajala-Kira-Kasangati Road, and Old Jinja Road.

The project also includes improvements to Kireka and Kyaliwajala junctions, as well as road linkages to the Northern Bypass through Agenda and Kiwatule as well as roads to Hoima City Stadium. The procurement process is progressing well with the evaluation of prospective contractors underway.

10. Support the upgrading of selected hotels in Hoima and Masindi through a special credit facility in accordance with CAF standards.

In preparation for AFCON 2027, the Government, in consultations with CAF, has shortlisted prospective hotel owners whose facilities will be upgraded to meet the required accommodation standard. A total of Shs 101.1 billion has been earmarked to support hotel improvement works in Hoima City and Masindi.

The funding will facilitate renovation works and provide interest rate support through the Uganda Development Bank for approved service providers.

Regarding the proposed new hotel at Kabalega International Airport, a number of developers have expressed interest, and the evaluation of bids is scheduled to commence on Thursday this week.

Mr Speaker, as of this morning, the Rt Hon. Prime Minister chaired a meeting between the hotel owners and Uganda Development Bank to agree on the modalities regarding the timeline for the line of credit versus the position the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the bank have given. I want to say the consultations are ongoing. I am also saying that we are cognisant of the time.

11. Construct a Passenger Terminal at Kabalega Airport.

This intervention is awaiting the award of a contract and confirmation of financing for the outstanding funding gap to facilitate commencement of works. Government earmarked Shs 185 billion for that project to have a terminal in Kabalega Airport in Hoima.

12. Upgrade designated health facilities in Hoima, Masindi, and Buseruka to provide intensive care, accident and emergency Services.

Hoima Regional Referral Hospital: Construction has reached the superstructure stage; Masindi Municipal Hospital: excavation works have been completed, and foundation concrete works are underway.

Buseruka Health Centre III: Walling works are progressing towards the ring beam level, with roofing scheduled for completion by the Ministry of Works and Transport. These works are all undertaken by the UPDF's Engineering Brigade.

13. Upgrade and maintenance of railway infrastructure servicing Kampala, Mukono, Namamve and Namboole.

Construction of a passenger boarding and drop-off station at Kampala, Namboole, Namamve and Mukono, and refurbishment and retrofitting of locomotives to support passenger transport during AFCON 2027.

14. Deploy improved ICT infrastructure at the airport, hotel, stadia, training facilities, and hospital supporting the tournament.

Installation of the Wi-Fi and CCTV systems at Mandela National Stadium, Hoima City Stadium, Akii Bua, 8 training facilities across Kampala, Hoima, Masindi, Gulu, and Lira, selected hospital tourism sites, and CAF headquarters in Kampala is ongoing.

Mr Speaker, I wish to assure this House that the Government remains fully committed to delivering a successful AFCON 2027. We will continue to work closely with all stakeholders to ensure that the required infrastructure, services, and support systems are completed within the agreed timelines.

As preparations progress, Government will keep this House regularly informed on implementation progress, key milestones achieved, and any emerging issues requiring attention.

Before I conclude, Mr Speaker, allow me again to say Akii Bua Olympic Stadium is our backup stadium. 65 per cent of its work is done. It is

ready to be completed by 31 December 2026. Training facilities in Akii Bua in Lira City, Lira University, Gulu University, and Pece Stadium are ongoing.

We intend to have a four-nations tournament, and countries that are ready to come to Uganda early to acclimatise to the weather for part of the competition will be able to go to Akii Bua. I want the people of northern Uganda to know that Government is fully committed to ensuring AFCON 2027 is for all of us.

What I have not said is that the \$7.5 million for branding destination Uganda is already given to the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities.

In a special way, let us thank the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development who is here. Hon. Musasizi, we thank you for accepting to help the country host this competition. I thank you very much. I say all this for God and my country.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ismail Kasule?

3.46

MR ISMAIL KASULE (ANT, Hoima West Division, Hoima City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for this statement. In my question, I was really concerned about those non-football related infrastructure. Indeed, you have highlighted many of them like we have been reading.

However, there is a very big gap between the Ministry of Education and Sports and the local leadership. When you go back – It is unclear even which roads are going to be worked on in Hoima City because he has brought it as a whole. In Namboole and Namamve, he highlighted clearly the roads that are going to be worked on whereas it is unclear for Hoima City.

Last week we had the roads committee. The roads committee members and even the engineers of the city are uncertain about which roads are going to be worked on. The population has different information. There is

a very big gap between the local organising committee and the local leaders from Hoima City.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, stick to your point. What you raised, was it answered?

MR KASULE: Well, that is -

THE SPEAKER: You are now raising other matters about the coordination with local committees. We do not have that time now. Are you satisfied with the response?

MR KASULE: Mr Speaker, this shows that I am unsatisfied. He has not given the details. What is on the ground is different from what is being read here. Look, we all know that AFCON has a timeline.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, we need you to appreciate how the Government works. When you raise a question - they are telling you to resume your seat - (*Laughter*) - I am guiding so that it can help other people.

You started very well. When a minister or the Government responds to your question, you must listen. I think they should give you the statement early so that you can come and say, "I'm satisfied or this has not been addressed," so that we put the minister to task.

Otherwise, when the minister has answered then you say, "But you haven't told us about the roads in Hoima..." Can you answer whether this satisfies you or not?

MR KASULE: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for that guidance. My question was about the non-football-related infrastructure projects that are ongoing. In the statement of the minister, some have been answered, but some have not. You have guided that that is how Government operates, but my fear is about the timeframe.

Today, I heard the Prime Minister also trying to emphasise that we should not allow ourselves to lose this chance of AFCON because the President pledged it to Ugandans. That is why

I was trying to raise this so that we all get to know. Otherwise, I thank the minister for this and believe that they will organise an interface so that we get to know more about what is being done.

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Education and Sports, the local leaders, including Hon. Ismail Kasule, are missing you. Close the gap. Where is the shadow minister for sports? Hon. Zambaali, what do you know about sports? *(Laughter)*

3.50

MR ZAMBAALI MUKASA (NUP, Nansana Municipality, Wakiso): Mr Speaker, I am the Shadow Minister of Sports. Allow me to thank the minister for the statement. However, these few key issues must be given attention.

I urge the Government to prioritise the timely completion of all AFCON 2027 infrastructure and related facilities well before the Confederation of African Football (CAF) returns for its final inspection. Uganda should not wait until the last minute to address critical gaps, as this risks unnecessary embarrassment and could undermine our credibility as a co-host nation. Completing the works ahead of the final inspection will provide sufficient time for testing, certification, rectification of any defects identified, and proper operational readiness, thereby demonstrating that Uganda is fully prepared to successfully host the tournament.

Considering the enormous public investment being made, will the Government commit to presenting monthly progress reports to Parliament and implementation milestones so that this House can effectively exercise its oversight role? We want to make sure that the infrastructure built serves Ugandans long after AFCON. We do not want to get reports like it was the case with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and others, if you remember.

Going forward, I propose that the Committee on Education and Sports, together with the Shadow Minister of Sports, who is a member of the committee, undertake monthly oversight

visits to all AFCON 2027 infrastructure projects.

These regular inspections will enable Parliament to closely monitor progress, identify the implementation bottlenecks, and ensure that contractors remain on schedule.

I further urge that the Minister of State for Education and Sports facilitates and supports the committee in the smooth execution of its oversight mandate by ensuring timely access to project sites, relevant documentation and technical officials wherever required. Such collaboration will enhance transparency, accountability and value for money as Uganda prepares to co-host AFCON *Pamoja* 2027. I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Shadow Minister of Sports. Honourable members, the Minister of Health brought a report yesterday, and the Shadow Minister of Health responded. The Attorney-General also brought and the Shadow Minister of Health responded.

When the Government side has spoken, it represents one side. When the shadow minister speaks, it actually represents the shadow of the Government. I thank both sides. Let us have it on record *-(Applause)* - there is no more sleep even in this House because the ministers are doing very well and those who are shadowing them are also up to the game.

Hon. Zambaali Bulasio – it is one of those ancient names you have to remember just like *Yakobo* – *(Laughter)* - you do not need permission from the House to go and do your oversight work. That is what you are supposed to do. Take it from me, that is a valid point he has raised. Committee on Education and Sports, that is a matter that you should follow up immediately. We are all working together.

I thank you and the Shadow Minister of Health for that report. Only when you do not agree with the Government or with the shadow minister should you get up to speak – *(Laughter)* - let me first guide. Shadow ministers take their time. Didn't you hear the one for health and

sports? They have taken time to critique, and that should be able to help us appreciate the views of the House.

The Leader of the Opposition (LOP) is coming. Please, we have many things here, but we waste time talking about the same thing sometimes, not all the time.

3.56

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I agree and appreciate both the minister for his report and his passion, and the shadow minister for his feedback and equal passion.

Two quick issues: the minister has told us that Shs 101 billion has been earmarked to support some hotel facilities. We would like to know what *modus operandi* was used to arrive at those who are going to benefit because these are private hotel facilities. So, how you arrived at them is very important.

Again, there are two elements therein. There are those who will get some kind of credit facility and others, a donation from the Government. Therefore, you need to clarify that because your statement says the funding will facilitate renovation works, and on the other hand, provide interest support through the Uganda Development Bank (UDB). It would presuppose that, to some, you are giving money to facilitate the renovation works and then others are getting some kind of credit support.

Number two, the intervention is awaiting the award of the contract and confirmation of financing. That is for the passenger terminal at Kabalega Airport. AFCON is next year. I am a little bit worried.

Mr Speaker, in 2007, we hosted CHOGM. I was a journalist, and I covered it. We totally mishandled CHOGM. Two days before the arrival of the Queen, they were giving money to this kind of hotel to build rooms. They were planting trees along Entebbe Road. We do not want to see a repeat of CHOGM. By the way, we all want the African Cup of Nations

(AFCON) 2027 to be a success because we all get to benefit. So, when it is mishandled, we all get to suffer. I am very concerned about these two issues; the Shs 1.01 billion is a lot of money.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I think it would be good for the minister to appraise this House, on a monthly basis, on the developments. We have a few months to CHOGM, and that money is appropriated here. What did I say? I said CHOGM and there you are.

Honourable minister, I pray for you because people went to jail after CHOGM. I hope you do not go to jail. So, you need to handle this docket very carefully. We saw what happened during CHOGM and it was a mess. We do not want a repeat of the same. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, would you want to respond when the Prime Minister is also here on the other matters? Respond on the issue of the money.

3.59

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition and entirely thank my colleague, the shadow minister. He deserves a standing ovation for the observations he has raised. I would like to first confirm with all his submissions that, as the ministry responsible for sports, we support them.

Secondly, we welcome the Parliamentary Committee on Sports to carry out its oversight because that is constitutional.

Thirdly, as a ministry, we are ready to cooperate with you to visit all these projects under our mandate as the Ministry of Education and Sports. In my statement, I did mention clearly that this is a ministry-by-ministry approach. For instance, if you talk about roads, this work is being undertaken by the Ministry of Works and Transport.

If you talk about the airport, it is under the Ministry of Works and Transport. If you talk

about the contractors in different sectors, it is according to the procurement methods used by those respective sectors. So, I wanted to first make that clear.

To be specific, Shs 1.01 billion is a loan facility, which the Government has earmarked to give to the selected hotels. I will talk about the selected hotels.

What the Government has done, you all know that the lending rates of Uganda Development Bank (UDB) are 12 per cent. Here, we discuss whether we can give them at 5 per cent so that we can give them, and then also we talk about the duration of the facility.

These people were having their businesses, but now the Confederation of African Football (CAF), as per our host agreement, has come and indicated specific areas they want them to improve. Some of them were not mandatory, and that is why we had to sit down with them.

How were they identified? Number one, there was a CAF consultant contracted by the Confederation of African Football. It came here and went to Hoima and Masindi. The hoteliers of Bunyoro Hotel Owners Association were called and met. They visited all the facilities.

We also worked again with the Uganda Hotel Owners Association together with the consultant, the leadership of the Federation of Uganda Football Association and the Ministry of Tourism, *Wildlife* and Antiquities and looked at these facilities.

Now, it was after that scrutiny that the 10 facilities were agreed upon. That is when they brought it to my attention to chair a meeting as a co-chair of a local organising committee, that the 12 facilities were confirmed and agreed to work according to the guidelines of CAF. So, as a Ministry responsible for Education and Sports, our role is coordination, which we shall continue doing.

The other one was about the involvement of the local leaders. For the record, I am aware we have elected new leaders, including some

of us here. This is a new term of office. This project started in the other term. We were indeed working with the old leaders of Hoima City. I confirm that I take the observations that have been raised by the honourable member. As a ministry, formally, I will write to the local authorities in Hoima City, meet them, and directly involve them in the management. I will also explain to them what awaits them as far as AFCON 2027 is concerned.

To respond to what my sister from Wakiso said, I would like to say that one of the representatives of the local authorities is meant to be on the local organising committee. I would like to confirm that for Wakiso District, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) is a member of the local organising committee. For Hoima City, *-(Interjection)* - can I be protected, Mr Speaker? I was talking about the involvement of the local leaders.

Secondly, to my colleagues here, I will formally communicate and have an engagement with the Members of Parliament from Wakiso as a whole, because when you look at what we are doing, you will notice that the entire project is in Wakiso District. Namboole is in Wakiso. Honourable colleagues, with your permission, can I proceed and finish?

The other issues that were raised, Mr Speaker, are regarding the roads, which are meant to be worked on in the Hoima cluster. It is an oversight. I promise to communicate formally to you. I had actually made it, and it was within. But the first is the Rujumba Road, which is going to have an inter-loop to Hoima City. That one is meant to be tarmacked.

Lastly, timely reports to Parliament. Mr Speaker, you are the originator of the Order Paper. I am at your service as a minister in the Education docket, to report to Parliament as and when agreed. Once again, I reiterate that the Government is committed to implementing AFCON 2027.

Regarding the project becoming like CHOGM, friends, I think we learn from different lessons. I studied history, and a French word was

Bourbon. “They learned nothing and forgot nothing”. I do not want to be that student who learned nothing and forgot nothing. The Ministry of Education and Sports is headed by the First Lady. We have managed very well. This project will be implemented without learning anything –

THE SPEAKER: What is the procedural matter?

MS NALUYIMA: The procedural matter is that today is a Thursday and I rise on rule 43. It is Prime Minister’s Time, and as you realise Mr Speaker, we still have so many issues concerning AFCON. We need clarification on several matters, especially us who are concerned and represent these areas.

Mr Speaker, I beg that the Minister plans a meeting with us who are concerned in the different areas such that we raise to him so many other matters that we cannot raise here.

Secondly, it is Prime Minister’s Time. So, wouldn’t it be procedurally right we first stop this debate and we proceed with Prime Minister’s Time and then you accord us more time to discuss AFCON? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: You are eating into the Prime Minister’s Time by raising procedural matters. But thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you need to meet the leaders from Hoima, Wakiso and Mukono - please, there is only one Speaker in the House. I am just mentioning a few, and you are intimidating me. Do you know the crisis you can have if I walked out unceremoniously? *(Laughter)*

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, make an undertaking that you call and meet up with these Members so that they can raise - you are the coordinator and overall boss. They may raise matters of roads, electricity and lighting in those areas - yes, say something before we go to your time.

4.08

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, I am happy that everybody is now in the mood

of AFCON 2027. I would like to thank the President and the First Lady who have been coordinating all these efforts.

A lot has been done; we are well coordinated and doing all that is possible to make sure Uganda hosts AFCON 2027. I undertake to involve all colleagues, both in Wakiso, Kampala and Hoima, even Lira, where Akii-Bua Stadium is located.

Today I chaired a meeting of hotel owners, including those from Northern Uganda, because as we speak, Akii-Bua Stadium construction is 100 per cent complete – *(Interjections)* - yes, they are just planting grass. Apart from a few patches – *(Interjections)* - information not taken.

All of us wish the best for this country, and I know we have an obligation. I once again undertake to involve everybody.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable colleagues, we are not doing very well with the time. Everyone wants to speak on everything. I want us to agree on how we are going to move. We have this Order Paper and the rules indicate that when it is 4:00 p.m., it is Prime Minister’s time. Clerk, next item.

STATEMENT BY THE RT HON. PRIME MINISTER ON GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FOR THE SUCCEEDING WEEK, 21ST TO 23RD JULY 2026, PURSUANT TO RULE 29 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, that takes less than five minutes.

4.11

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, I move under Rule 29(1) of our Rules of Procedure to give a statement of the business of the succeeding week. That is 21 to 23 July 2026.

1. The Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will present a statement on the protocol, trustees and international

- agreements ratified or acceded to by the Government of Uganda during the period of 2021-2025;
2. A comprehensive statement on the status of roads across the country will be presented by the Minister of Works and Transport; and
 3. A statement by the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development on the implementation status of the Electricity Access Scale-up Project in the country. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Next item.

PRIME MINISTER'S TIME

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister, before you get to the podium, we have about 29 questions that would still need - they are matters of national importance. I deferred some to today so that we also spend some time with you. We miss you sometimes.

Members who have heard that - if time allows, even if it is one minute - you will listen to all these and then you have your team here to respond.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, first go for this: you dispose of what you have, and then we can try – I do not agree to a point of procedure while you are seated.

4.14

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, we received seven written questions from members and we have responded to them in writing.

Hon. Benson Lugwar, Member of Parliament for Agago North County, raised a matter concerning the escalating human-wildlife conflict that is directly undermining our food security and economic empowerment in his constituency. His prayer was whether the Government could provide an update on the matter.

Mr Speaker, the Uganda Wildlife Authority has established satellite ranger outposts. Tikawo outpost is already deployed in Agago North, and 1,300 rangers are undergoing training to improve response.

The electric fencing programme is ongoing, and sensitisation is also underway because some stakeholders fear land grabbing, so we have to sensitise our people.

The Government is promoting block farming, and we have recruited community wildlife scouts as volunteers where the Uganda Wildlife Authority has no presence.

The three million five hundred US dollar Kidepo Landscape Integrated Conservation and Development Project will start this Financial Year, 2026/2027. This will cover Agago, Abim, Karenga, Kaabong, Kotido, Kitgum and Lamwo to reduce human-wildlife conflicts.

The second question came from Hon. Osooru Mourine, Woman Member of Parliament for Arua City. She raised the matter concerning the segregative vehicle transit permits through the Bugungu Gate at Murchison Falls National Game Park, which risks potential loss of revenue to the national economy. Her prayer is for the Government to give an update on the matter.

Mr Speaker, the road through Bugungu Gate is not a public road. Its use is subject to park regulations, and all vehicles must pay the UWA tariff fees. Exemptions are only to vehicles with the sick, referrals, UPDF, Uganda Police Force, Uganda Prison Service on official operations with evidence.

Mr Speaker, the third question came from Hon. Juliet Achayo, the Member of Parliament for Ngora County.

She said that during the last cropping season, there was a severe attack on groundnuts by groundnut rosette, affecting over 75 per cent of the households in Ngora. Her prayers were that:

1. The Government supports farmers with rosette-tolerant groundnut seed varieties and planting materials for short-term food security crops in the next planting season; and
2. Agricultural extension services be strengthened to educate farmers on the best farming practices, especially the management and control of groundnut rosette.

Mr Speaker, my response is that I have taken note of the Member's prayer for the Government to support farmers with rosette-tolerant groundnut seed varieties and planting materials for short-term food security crops in the next planting season.

I will inform the President accordingly, and the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries is hereby put on alert. However, in the meantime, those who can afford it can go and buy Serenut 2-14, which is a rosette-tolerant variety from open markets.

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries extension technical teams are already engaging Ngora District, and every district has agricultural officers. The recommended practices are: use of certified seeds; early planting; proper spacing; inter-crop with beans or sorghum; uproot and bury infected plants; apply Cypermethrin 5-percent-EC or neem; extract if the infestation is high; and report symptoms to the subcounty extension workers.

The fourth question came from Hon. Peter Okeyoh, the Member of Parliament for Bukooli Island County.

According to our brother, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda did write a letter to the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, directing that power be extended to Sigulu Island, Namayingo and Buvuma Island.

His question is: what is the status of the project?

My response is that the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development has commenced the public investment management system process. The project is currently at the project profile stage, awaiting consideration by the development committee.

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development is implementing a mini-grid project on Buvuma Island with support from the European Union, under the GET Access project. The contractor has been procured, while the submarine cable is being processed.

I got a fifth question from Hon. Okeyoh, again. He stated that this Parliament amended the Mining and Minerals Act, 2022, to provide for artisanal miners. He asked: "Why are our people, in Namayingo, Kassanda and Buhweju districts, being harassed by armed men?"

Mr Speaker, my response is that the Mining and Minerals Policy, 2018, the Mining and Minerals Act, 2022 and the Mining and Minerals (Artisanal Mining) Regulations, 2025, provide a legal and regulatory regime for the development of artisanal miners in Uganda. Mining is only permitted within gazetted artisanal mining zones.

To enforce this, the Police Minerals Protection Unit is halting illegal mining activities outside gazetted mining zones. This is aimed at curbing environmental degradation, the spread of epidemics, occupational health and safety hazards, and the use of hazardous chemicals such as mercury.

The ministry is currently organising and registering artisanal miners into associations and cooperatives, as a requirement before licensing them to operate within gazetted mining areas.

The progress, so far, is that 20 artisanal and small-scale mining licences have been issued to miners in Namayingo, Kassanda and Buhweju districts. In addition, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development is engaging gold rush miners across the country. Mining in

these areas has been halted until the activity is formalised under the law.

Mr Speaker, the sixth question came from Hon. Benson Lugwar, the Member of Parliament for Agago North County. He said that LC 1 elections are scheduled for 28 July 2026. However, according to him, this day coincides with the blessed Ambrosoli Day, which is observed on the 28th of July, marking the anniversary of his death in 1987.

The yearly celebrations include large masses, community events, cultural displays, and visits to the hospital and memorial site to honour his legacy of providing free medical care to those in need.

Prayer

This day coincides with the election of local council leaders, and this has prompted local leaders to inquire about this scheduling. Can the Government update on this matter?

Mr Speaker, my response is that the Electoral Commission, in conjunction with the Ministry of Public Service, ensures that the gazetted public holidays are excluded when preparing the election roadmap.

The 28th day of July is not gazetted as a public holiday. Therefore, the local council (village/cell) elections can proceed as earlier scheduled. For clarity, paragraph 14 of the Administrative Units Guidelines for 2026 Elections issued by the Electoral Commission provides the following programme for polling day:

- i) 7.00–10.00 a.m.: Verification of voters by the village election official – that is by the presiding officer;
- ii) 10.00–11.00 a.m.: voter education and briefing of voters on voting procedures by the village election official – That is also by the presiding officer;
- iii) 11.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Voting by the electorates. This will be done by lining up and counting of votes;
- iv) 11.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. is filling of the Electoral Commission form and declaration of the chairperson elect; and

- v) Noon to 2:00 p.m. is nomination and approval of the executive committee members by the village council and filling the form EC 11.

Mr Speaker, as per the program, the election is a half-day event. After 2.00 p.m., the people can proceed to commemorate the Blessed Ambrosoli's Feast Day accordingly.

Hon. Pacuto, District Woman Representative, Pakwach said that the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2023 was passed over three years ago. And that Parliament resolved that a Fisheries Regulation be brought to the House within three months. She further said that the President directed, in September, 2025 that the same be brought to this august House within a month.

Her prayer was: can the Prime Minister update why to date this regulation has not been tabled to this august House, despite the continued harassment of the fishermen on the lakes and rivers of Uganda by the armed forces, thereby causing untold suffering and poses a great threat to their livelihoods?

Could I explain why the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) has not up to now - I am lucky the honourable is listening behind here - why Hon. Frank Tumwebaze has not brought the regulations for debate and approval by the House, yet the operations continue to take effect on the water bodies, especially on the sizes of fishing vessels?

Could we also know where the revenue collected from the fish levy is being put to use, since there is no specific support that has been extended to the fishing community to enable them to transition from illegal fishing methods to modern fishing methods and conform to the fishing policy?

My response – (*Interjections*) - of course, I consulted the honourable minister - is that the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries has been having consultative engagements with the various stakeholders, including the fishing communities, fish traders,

and processors, to ensure that the resultant regulations capture all their views.

Mr Speaker, the last stakeholders' meeting is scheduled for Friday, 17 July 2026, that is tomorrow.

Now, following these engagements, nine regulations have been developed. They will be ready for tabling before Parliament in August, 2026. That is next month.

Mr Speaker, currently, all funds collected are directly remitted to the Consolidated Fund.

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

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. I am made aware - yes, honourable, are you exercising or are you standing up? It could be stretching. *(Laughter)* Yes, Hon. Lucy Akello?

4.32

MS LUCY AKELLO (FDC, Woman Representative, Amuru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I just wanted to comment a little about the celebration of the Blessed Ambrosoli Giuseppe regarding the question that was raised by Hon. Benson. Yes, it is not a public holiday, but it does not only affect the people of Kalongo. It is actually an international activity. This is because if it were not for Ebola, we would even have visitors and guests from Italy. This is because the Blessed Ambrosoli originally came from Italy. So, guests would actually be coming from Rome, Italy, and other parts of the world. Even within Uganda, I would expect people from Amuru to go. Mr Speaker, I do not know if I can now raise my issue since I have made this statement.

THE SPEAKER: I do not know.

MS LUCY AKELLO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to raise a very urgent matter. It is in regard to the continued suspension of 10 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

I am very happy that the Prime Minister is here. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you may be

aware that there are about 10 NGOs, and with your permission, I can read out the names for you. The NGOs are:

- (i) The African Centre for Media Excellence;
- (ii) Agora Centre for Research;
- (iii) Alliance for Campaign Finance Monitoring (ACFIM);
- (iv) African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV);
- (v) Chapter Four Uganda;
- (vi) Centre for Constitutional Governance;
- (vii) Uganda National NGO Forum;
- (viii) Network for Public Interest Lawyers;
- (ix) National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders Uganda; and
- (x) Uganda Rights Network for Journalists.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister -

THE SPEAKER: Apparently, your time is up.

MS LUCY AKELLO: I had asked for permission to read. That is what took my time.

THE SPEAKER: And who permitted you? Okay, you make the prayers.

MS LUCY AKELLO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The prayer is: why are these organisations still closed up to now, yet they were not given time to defend themselves? Can we get a statement on when the actual decision on these NGOs will be made? This is because it is affecting so many Ugandans who have been left unemployed with frozen bank accounts. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: The Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we agreed you would accommodate a few questions, and please, we want short ones.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I want to thank the member for this question. Members, you realised that some NGOs during the 2020/2021 electoral period became partisan. That was one.

Two, some NGOs put in their request, and they were allowed to operate again. I can give an example of Give Directly.

You realised that Give Directly has even supported us in Mount Elgon Subregion, yet it was part of those that had been stopped from operating in the country.

I therefore, request that you put that in writing so that I get a more detailed answer. But that is what I can say for now.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Lanyero?

4.37

MS CHRISTINE LANYERO (NRM, Woman Representative, Nwoya): Mr Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity. On the 8th, I raised the same issue of wildlife conflicts with humans. I actually feel guilty on this Floor because the answer was not befitting to my community.

Mr Speaker, my community requested me to come back to this Floor and present their question again. It is still fresh in their minds when an elephant killed a man who left behind a widow and children, and there is nobody to take care of them. *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: What is your question? Rt Hon. Prime Minister, another person was killed today. There is an issue of interaction with the wildlife authority. Last time, you gave her a response in this House that they should report to the Police, but I do not know whether that is true. She came to my office and asked how they would report wild animals to the Police. *(Laughter)*

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you may have a response to this.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, it is quite interesting but equally saddening that we are losing lives. What I meant was that the people who are affected need to report to the Police.

The wild animals belong to the Government and all of us. So, when they stray, these people need to report to the Police. I have the minister of state here, so I think she can throw more light since that is her docket.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. That is why she is paid. Not even in *Mabugo*, I am told.

4.40

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Ms Sarah Nakawuki): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to condole with the family for their loss. This information did not get to the attention of the ministry; otherwise, we would have at least sent in somebody to take our condolences.

Mr Speaker, last time, the issue that the Prime Minister responded to was in regard to the rangers. Today, the Member has said it is the wild animals that strayed. Now – *(Interruptions)*

MS LANYERO: Clarification! I asked about elephants attacking the human community. Then, my colleague, from Nwoya County, asked the Rt Hon. Prime Minister about the rangers killing people who go to the park.

Mr Speaker, the Rt Hon. Prime Minister responded that they are killed because they go poaching. I feel that answer is not befitting. Sincerely, honourable members, there is no law in Uganda that allows a criminal to be killed. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, we said when you access the microphone without permission, it will be a quarrel. The moment you access it without permission, you are quarrelling, and that can only be in a village *malwa* group where people just – Rt Hon. Prime Minister, do you want to engage the minister?

MS NABBANJA: Yes, I remember my answer very well because when the question was asked, fortunately, that day, I had got a written question and I was with Hon. Tom Butime and his staff from the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA).

Members, poaching is a crime. However, though it is a crime, no ranger is allowed to kill anybody. They are supposed to arrest and take them to the Police for prosecution. If they find

you with gadgets, they can confiscate them. Mr Speaker, let me ask the minister to respond since that is her docket.

MS NAKAWUKI: Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. Mr Speaker, the rangers are guided by the standard operating procedures in UWA. In situations like poaching, they are supposed to arrest and prosecute. They are not allowed to kill. In any case, if such an occurrence happens, it is a Police matter and should be reported to the Police so these rangers are held liable for their actions. It is not written anywhere in the law that they can kill anybody. Now –

THE SPEAKER: How about when the animals kill?

MS NAKAWUKI: In the case of the elephants, we agree that there is a lot of human-wildlife conflict and it is mainly in areas where the parks have not been fenced. We use electric fencing.

MR ALENYO: Point of information.

THE SPEAKER: There is no need for information because she is the minister. How do you inform the sector minister?

MS NAKAWUKI: Mr Speaker, already, the Government has sponsored electric fencing to a tune of more than 400 kilometres in every conservation area.

However, there are land issues in some areas, and the community is not allowing electric fencing. So, as guided by the Speaker, two days ago, we are going to engage the local leadership and the communities to allow the electric fencing to be done across all parks. That way, we shall reduce such.

THE SPEAKER: On this matter, can the honourable members concerned come to you so you see how to console and condole with the family?

MS NAKAWUKI: Most obliged, Mr Speaker. Please, let us engage.

THE SPEAKER: That sounds good. Honourable members, in the VIP gallery this afternoon, we have the Rt Rev. Constantine Rupiny, Bishop of Nebbi Catholic Diocese. *(Applause)* He is the main celebrant at today's Feast of St Thomas More. He is accompanied by a delegation of the following:

1. Fr Ponsian Kaweesa, Chaplain of the Parliamentary Catholic Chaplaincy here;
2. Fr Camillus Chandini;
3. Fr Norbert Azale;
4. Fr Charles Lwanga;
5. Fr Joseph Musoke;
6. Fr Deo Ssengendo;
7. Fr Stephen Oribdhogu, the Chancellor Nebbi Diocese;
8. Fr John Mary Muzei Kibirige; and
9. Sr Alice Jacan.

Please join me in welcoming them and make them feel welcome. *(Applause)*

The leaders of the four districts, namely Nebbi, Zombo, Pakwach and Madi-Okollo, please stand up for recognition so they can see your faces. The elder, Hon. Catherine Akumu Mavengina, Hon. Jane Pacuto, Hon. Emmanuel Ongiertho, Hon. Martin Drito, Hon. Topista Achamfua, Hon. Marshall Alenyo, Hon. Isaac Otimgiw, Hon. Gabriel Okumu, Minister Phiona Nyamu-something (Nyamutoro) - *(Laughter)* - Hon. Grace Freedom Kwiwucwiny, Hon. Joan Aniku and Hon. Ali Ogama

Hon. Joseph Ssewungu is a member of the Catholic - he was an altar boy who wanted to be a priest but - on this note, Rt Rev. Constantine Rupiny is the first Catholic bishop to come to this new term of Parliament - *(Applause)* - and I was blessed - this morning at 10:00 a.m., he came, prayed for me and blessed me. I am very blessed now. *(Laughter)*

Honourable members, we shall have to release the Members from Greater Nebbi; the four districts, when time comes, and - let us process this. Hon. Annet Pamela Kirungi, the MP for Kabarole - is she here? Can you raise your issue in one minute?

4.48

MS ANNET KIRUNGI (NRM, Woman Representative, Kabarole): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. The matter that I wanted to talk about was ably responded to by the Rt Hon. Prime Minister. I only want to request that when they are considering the conflict between human beings and animals, Kabarole District be considered, especially those areas that surround or neighbour Kibale National Park.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Such brilliant members of Parliament have a better future. *(Laughter)* Hon. Sarah Aguti - you do not waste time, speak like you went to school because the whole world is watching.

4.49

MS SARAH AGUTI (UPC, Woman Representative, Dokolo): Thank you, Mr Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: What is the matter of national importance?

MS AGUTI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to bring to the attention of the Rt Hon. Prime Minister the presidential pledge about Amodo Bridge. The President had pledged to build Amodo Bridge in Dokolo District. Last year, during the budgeting, Amodo was put in the budget and got the money. I followed up with the ministry -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, do not extract a presidential pledge and bring it as a matter of national importance. There is a whole committee here headed by a very able man, Hon. Zaake Francis.

MS AGUTI: Much obliged, Mr Speaker. Let me go straight to the matter of national importance.

THE SPEAKER: It will be referred to Hon. Zaake's committee, but Rt Hon. Prime Minister, if you are courteous, you may have something to say. Only if you are courteous.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, a bridge helps us to connect one area to another. So, I request

that she puts it in writing. I will get an answer from the President and the relevant authorities that will work on it for the good of our people.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Madam - *(Laughter)* - the Prime Minister has been very generous to you. Please, you will not get better than that. Hon. Malende?

4.51

MS SHAMIM MALENDE (NUP, Woman Representative, Kampala): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise under Rule 56 regarding a matter of urgent public importance, which concerns the maternal health of women in Uganda. In a recent online podcast, we heard a one Sheebah Karungi Samali, one of the biggest artists in Uganda, narrating her experience after giving birth, and that clearly indicated that very many women suffer from postpartum complications.

As a woman leader, I have engaged with several mothers who are victims and I am also in contact with some organisations to see that we can raise awareness in this line.

THE SPEAKER: Prayer?

MS MALENDE: My prayer, Mr Speaker, is: how is the Government helping us to raise awareness regarding this postpartum condition that affects the mothers of Uganda?

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you can choose anybody to answer. Have you chosen Hon. Dr Baryomunsi? Okay, but the time is one minute.

DR BARYOMUNSI: Thank you very much. I thank the Woman MP for Kampala for raising this issue. I have not looked at that podcast, but I will look for it and see. Anyhow, what I can briefly say is that pregnancy and childbirth is a physiological condition, it is not a sickness and, therefore, no mother should die or suffer complications in the process of giving birth to a life.

We have made interventions, which have been in place. I can tell Parliament that maternal mortality, which is a measure of mothers who

die as a result of pregnancy or childbirth-related complications, has been coming down over the last 30 or 40 years, and we have very many interventions.

Yesterday I told Parliament that we need to have a workshop dialogue to tell members of Parliament the several interventions we are pursuing, as a sector, but I agree with her that we should strengthen our maternal health services so that mothers do not suffer while giving birth to children.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Namboozee? I think they will find you another seat.

4.54

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE (NUP, Mukono Municipality, Mukono): Mr Speaker, people who did not learn from the Buganda riots of 2009 are at it again, holding meetings in Bugerere and denouncing the Kabaka of Buganda and his institution, with a claim that President Museveni gave Kayunga District to be exclusively for the Banyala.

Mr Speaker, I would like to know from the Prime Minister if it is true that the President has given Kayunga District to Banyala exclusively, and it is no longer part of Buganda Kingdom, which is under the Kabaka of Buganda.

Two, what steps is the Government taking to stop people from making such reckless - *(Member timed out.)*

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, this is something that I cannot comment on now because I did not get the information she is talking about. I promise that I will engage those concerned, so that if there are any acts that can disrupt our security and coexistence, they can be handled by the relevant authorities.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Lillian, Woman MP for Isingiro.

4.57

MS LILLIAN RUTERAHO (NRM, Woman Representative, Isingiro): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I want to bring this to the attention of the Prime Minister that Mbarara Referral Hospital is the talk of the nation today.

From an informed point of view, 50 per cent of patients in Mbarara Referral Hospital are from Isingiro, which is one of the biggest districts. We have 30 subcounties and two refugee camps, yet we do not have a district hospital.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, what can we do to have a district hospital in Isingiro, so that we can offload the overwhelming number of people in Mbarara Hospital? I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister, I saw the Minister of Health in Mbarara and thought he was doing good work there. Prime Minister, have you delegated him to answer? She is talking about the congestion situation in the referral hospital.

4.58

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Dr Chris Baryomunsi): We have plans to elevate some of the health centres IV to hospital status, especially in districts where there are no hospitals. *(Applause)* Therefore, we shall prioritise Isingiro District, now that she has raised it.

About Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, I did an impromptu visit to the hospital and toured it from 10.00 p.m. to 2.30 a.m. on the 11th of July to do an on-the-spot assessment on how the hospital runs, especially when we have not informed the authorities. We indeed made many observations, some of which have to be fixed by us in the Government, but others are managerial and need action to fix the weaknesses, which can be handled immediately.

As Government, we will also try to support not only Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, but other hospitals so that they can function much better. I pledge that we are totally committed to

ensuring that we improve the quality of care in our health facilities.

5.00

MR DERRICK ORONE (NRM, Gogonyo County, Pallisa): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, Bukedi Subregion was invited to Soroti by the Vice-President to talk about matters of cattle restocking and rehabilitation, and it was included on the programme. However, I was surprised to learn that when the programme started, they were excluded. May I know from you why Bukedi Subregion was excluded from the cattle restocking and rehabilitation programme?

Secondly, I asked this same question to you in the last term, but you did not get an answer. Every constituency is mandated to have a technical school. May I know from you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, when Gogonyo constituency will get Apopong Technical School? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, his question is quite loaded, if you know where the Speaker comes from. *(Laughter)*

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, Hon. Orone is aware that I am part of his constituency. I stayed in Pallisa for more than five years. The restocking programme started long ago in Acholi, Lango and Teso subregions.

You are aware that last year, this Parliament appropriated Shs 80 billion for the same exercise. The money we spent last financial year was exactly that. After spending this money, many other regions came in. I will inform the President. After that, he will guide on the next course of action.

For the technical school, I have the Minister of Education and Sports. He can always give a better answer.

5.02

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you very much, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. It is true that,

according to our manifesto, we are meant to provide a technical school per constituency. As the Government and ministry, we are now prioritising having at least one in every district, to begin with. As we continue getting resources, we will then go to the constituencies. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. This job is very hard; it actually needs prayers. *(Laughter)* How do we handle this? Honourable members, is this how the Speaker is supposed to be swarmed with many letters? I can hardly read each of them. I am getting overwhelmed, and you do not want to – I thought we should be orderly. There are people who are here who send me notices that they want to speak. I have people whose names have been here from the other day. It is not fair for you to harass the Speaker. Hon. Ronald Muhenda from Fort Portal?

5.03

MR RONALD MUHENDA (Independent, Fort Portal Central Division, Fort Portal City): Mr Speaker, my concern is in regard to an unsustainable model that we are adopting, especially with the Ministry of Health, of promising hospitals, drugs and staff. I feel like it is in within the reach of the ministry to bring on board health inspectors again. That is where the story of a healthy society starts from. It does not start with hospitals, drugs and doctors because it is not sustainable.

Health inspectors and Village Health Teams must be brought on board again. It does not make sense to encourage our constituents or people that – it is like we are promoting people to fall sick – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Health, dispose of that within a few seconds.

5.04

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Dr Chris Baryomunsi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The disease burden in Uganda is constituted of communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases and neglected tropical diseases. Our approach to managing them is one: disease prevention and health promotion,

where he is saying we should strengthen the community health system.

We have Village Health Teams. We are now training community health extension workers. We have health assistants at subcounties and health inspectors. I think the point he is raising is that we should strengthen the prevention part. However, that is not meant to undermine clinical and curative services because even if you prevent, there will be those who will fall sick.

Therefore, we have to simultaneously strengthen prevention, but also put measures to treat and manage those who come to hospitals. So, we are having a double-pronged approach: prevention but also treatment of those who fall sick.

5.06

MR JOHN OKOYA (Independent, Chua East County, Kitgum): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter concerning the recurrent lightning strikes at Camgweng Primary School in Kitgum District.

The school and the surrounding community within the proximity of 400 metres have been experiencing lightning strikes for the last 15 years, mainly in the month of July, even when there is very light rainfall.

Last Saturday, on the 11th, seven women, including an expectant mother, were struck by lightning. This now brings the cumulative number to 127 in 15 years. This unusual pattern has caused fear among residents and poses a serious threat to their lives and property.

I, therefore, call upon the Government to urgently commission a scientific investigation and implement appropriate mitigation measures, including installation of an effective lightning protection system and community safety interventions. I beg to submit.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the issue he raised is quite scientific. The answer to that is fitting a lightning arrester in the school. I direct the Minister of Education and Sports to do exactly that. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation that has come to attend the celebration of today's Feast of St. Thomas More. They are:

1. Rev. Fr Vianney Ssekalaala from St Mbaaga's Major Seminary, Ggaba - *(Applause)* - I am an Old Boy (OB) of St Denis S.S Ssebugwawo, which is not far away from there. This is the first OB of St Denis S.S, being a Speaker. I am not from Buddo like others. *(Laughter.)*
2. Mr Gervase Ndyabo, the National Head of Laity;
3. Madam Ritah Nakyeyune, the President of Catholic Women Guild, Kampala Diocese;
4. Dr Aol Eve Ojok; and
5. Ms Nalwanga Regina.

They have come to observe the proceedings of the House. Please join me in welcoming them and make them feel welcome. *(Applause)*

The honourable members who wish to go to this Mass, you do not need to be a Catholic to know who St Thomas is. If you are a lawyer, you studied about St Thomas. The prayers are going on.

Next is Hon. Sheilah Amaniyo Draville. One minute, and you have two questions.

5.09

MS SHEILAH AMANIYO (NUP, Woman Representative, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have a matter concerning the Shs 1 billion road maintenance development grant that is given to every Local Government.

It came to our attention when we were attending the District Roads Committee meeting recently that Government pays tax on that money for road maintenance. Aren't we making a loss?

There is a component of about Shs 100 million for maintenance. When a local government tries to probably go to Victoria Motors to repair their machines, on the invoice, there is 24 per cent tax; 18 per cent Value Added Tax (VAT) and 6 per cent Withholding Tax. Therefore,

there is less money left for repairs of— (*Member timed out.*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister - (*Hon. Musasizi rose*) - Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, do you know that you are going to answer the question on behalf of the Prime Minister?

5.11

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

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Government allocates Shs 1 billion for road maintenance to all districts and municipalities of Uganda. Government allocations do not attract tax. However, the service providers to Government are not exempt from tax.

I would like to believe that the information, which was given to the Member to bring to the House, is in respect of 18 per cent VAT for service providers and also the 6 per cent Withholding Tax. This is regular because the income earned by the service provider from the Government is not tax-exempt.

If you provide a service, you add VAT, and you claim it. If it is Withholding Tax, at the end of the period when you file your returns, you either claim it back or account for it. Therefore, we do not see any problem with that.

THE SPEAKER: There is your former employee. (*Laughter*)

MR KATESHUMBWA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the response by the minister. About the issue that my honourable colleague raised, these local governments, for example, purchase fuel from pumps. As you know, honourable minister, fuel is VAT exempt. Those petrol stations and other service providers have been gazetted as Withholding Tax agents.

However, you are withholding from a Government entity that does not ordinarily require you to file income tax returns. Therefore,

the net effect is the reduction of the amount of money that is going into the roads. The intention of the Government was to allocate Shs 1 billion to enable municipalities and districts to utilise that money in the construction of roads.

If they purchase fuel and the petrol stations withhold money, it actually undermines the effort of Government. Either the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development looks at it and provides an explicit exclusion or exemption, or it tops up the money to compensate for the amount that is being lost. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: That is why some professionals need to be in the House. I made a case for Hon. Kateshumbwa. He is not on the Committee on Budget or anywhere near it. Government Chief Whip, you should take him there so that we can benefit from him. That issue affects all districts, not only Mukono.

Honourable minister, *Olina kyogamba?* (*Laughter*)

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker, taxation is a policy matter. It is good that you are referring to professionalism in this engagement. We either say that we want to develop this economy together by paying due taxes, or we say no taxation and then we do not provide services to the people of Uganda. We have to be firm.

If you say that a provider of fuel should not pay Withholding Tax, a service provider to a district or a supplier of culverts and other things should be exempt from tax, who will pay taxes? We have to be firm as leaders. Let us forget about cheap popularity and be firm on providing services to the people of Uganda. We should also tell them where the money to provide services comes from.

Mr Speaker, you have all service providers of Government who pay taxes. It is not only happening in local governments. If you say that money that comes from the Government should be cushioned from taxes, we will not get anywhere. (*Laughter*)

THE SPEAKER: Now, that is a Chartered Accountant against a former – *tutaase*.
(*Laughter*)

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, Members of Parliament are members of the District Roads Committee. I would like to inform you that since we are members of the District Roads Committee, the Government has already provided the road units: excavators and water bowsers. They gave fuel and the road is done. We all need to put our feet down to do continuous oversight over the little money the Government sends to the district so that there is value for money. That is all I can say.

THE SPEAKER: We have made it known. I think we want to go to another matter.

MR KATESHUMBWA: Allow me to clarify. I thank the Prime Minister for raising the issue. Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, no one is saying that the service providers do not pay tax. What we are saying is that if the district is going to buy fuel, why should they withhold VAT on the district? Service providers like petrol stations are effectively withholding tax from an entity that is not eligible to file for income tax. Maybe we can engage offline to understand this issue because it is affecting all of us. I think there is mistreatment and misapplication of tax on the issue of the Shs 1 billion for roads, and it is affecting – (*Member timed out.*)

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister, that is a matter referred to you; it can be harmonised with a legal opinion because the minister argues that all service, who are dealing with the Government, pay tax. The Government is so wise that they give with one hand and collect with the other. That has just come to my knowledge today. Can we have the next question? Hon. Obura Ogwang Patrick?

5.19

MR PATRICK OBURA OGWANG (NRM, Oyam County South, Oyam): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Patrick Obura, a Member of Parliament for Oyam South, but also the Chairperson of the Lango Parliamentary

Group. Regarding the issue of AFCON, Lira City leadership is crumbling right now because of the suspension of work on the access roads. As we speak, 18.7 kilometres of access roads have been suspended. They are worried. We request the Rt Hon. Prime Minister to update us on this and also request the line minister to have a meeting with the leadership of Lira city.

Secondly -

THE SPEAKER: I think you were not here.

MR OBURA OGWANG: I was here, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: When the Prime Minister undertook to meet you, people. That one is sorted. The Minister of Education and Sports agreed to meet you people and discuss issues of access roads -

MR OBURA OGWANG: Mr Speaker, for the record, the mandate of constructing roads outside the stadium is with the Ministry of Works and Transport. The mandate, which is within the contract, is for the contractor doing the Akii Bua Stadium to tarmac all access roads inside the facility. So, that should be clarified.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Khemis? Is it related to sports?

5.21

MR KHEMIS MUZAID (FDC, Arua Central Division, Arua City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. West Nile region is one of the greatest regions that is known for sports. We have Sadiq Waswa, who was one of the greatest goalkeepers of this nation, Dorcus Inzikuru, and the current goalkeeper of Uganda. The gentleman who played for Australia comes from West Nile. Arua municipality then came into the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets (PPDA) programme with one of the enterprises within the city.

It was around 2019 when we were raising Arua Hill Stadium and the COVID-19 pandemic hit it. For better regional development, I think that if the Minister of Finance, Planning and

Economic Development, together with the Minister of Education and Sports, engage in the issue of bringing Arua Hill – (*Member timed out.*)

THE SPEAKER: You are not putting your question, one minute.

MR MUZAID: My prayer is that the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Ministry of Education and Sports come to Arua -

THE SPEAKER: You have the Prime Minister.

MR MUZAID: Through the Rt Hon. Prime Minister to come to Arua and raise the programme that Arua City had for the development of Arua Hill Stadium that was inspected by CAF, so that we can benefit from regional development.

THE SPEAKER: That is worth noting, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. Hon. Molly Kamukama, you want to -

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I have taken note of the Member's concern. I know that almost all regions want a stadium in their areas. The Minister of Education and Sports is here. He knows that there is a facility that was being constructed. I remember we visited it in 2022 and it was being constructed by a private investor or developer. Your point is taken.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Molly Kamukama?

5.23

MS MOLLY KAMUKAMA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kazo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mine is a short one. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the country is going through a big challenge -

THE SPEAKER: Who told you? (*Laughter*)

MS KAMUKAMA: Apologies, Mr Speaker. The country is going through a big challenge of drought, and that is why we are having a human-animal fight going on in the country.

In my area and the whole of Ankole, cattle are dying. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we beg your office, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Water and Environment to provide us with equipment like water bowsers and tractors so that we can mitigate the crisis we have at hand. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister?

MR TUMWEBAZE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Through the Prime Minister, I take note and acknowledge the concern of Hon. Molly Kamukama. Most areas are hit by drought, and the cattle corridor is hit the most. We are continuing with the plan to have centres for farm servicing or what you call mechanisation centres. For Ankole, we are completing one at Sanga, which is in the medium term. In the short term, we will continue to increase our fleet of excavators and water bowsers to intervene as we have been doing. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Dr Sylvia Tumuheirwe Alinaitwe, Woman MP for Rukiga.

5.25

MS SYLVIA ALINAITWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Rukiga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The matter I am putting forward concerns Kasambya Health Centre III in Rukiga, which has collapsed on one side which houses the maternity. We have a challenge of women who go to give birth and are now doing so at home, which is a risk to mother and baby.

The remaining side of the health centre has developed cracks and is likely to collapse any time. This health centre III serves a big community in Rukiga and neighbouring communities of Rubanda and Rukungiri districts. I request that this facility be given urgent attention and restored for service delivery to go on smoothly.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Prime Minister?

DR BARYOMUNSI: Thank you, Mr Speaker, and Hon. Sylvia Alinaitwe for raising the issue. I sympathise with your people. I will

immediately dispatch a team of our engineers from the Ministry of Health because we have an infrastructure department; to make a quick assessment and then we can take action.

Maybe immediately, we can put a provision where mothers can deliver from. Our message is that they should not deliver from home. The Bakiga must shine and should get health services. I will liaise with the Honourable Member of Parliament to get the details and then we send a team.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Moses Musanje, Member of Parliament for Njeru Municipality-

5.27

MR MOSES MUSANJE (NUP, Njeru Municipality, Buikwe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This country is experiencing widespread disparities in retail prices of petrol and diesel with pump prices ranging between approximately Shs 6,400 and Shs 7,000 per litre. That is during day, with night time prices becoming unimaginable, exorbitant and unacceptable.

This is despite the Government designating the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) as the sole importer of petroleum products and fuel imported through its contracted supplier Vitol Bahrain East, from whom licensed oil marketing companies procure their supplies.

While minor price differences may arise from operational costs, the current disparities are exorbitant, substantial and raise legitimate concerns over pricing transparency and consumer protection. The Government has a responsibility to safeguard consumers through effective protection.

THE SPEAKER: The prayer?

MR MUSANJE: We pray that this House directs the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development to explain the persistent -

THE SPEAKER: We have the Prime Minister now. What does the Prime Minister have to

say about the disparities? I have amended your question.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I feel I have to praise the President over this. If you compare the prices in Uganda with that of our neighbours, you will realise that the Government you have must stay.

Honourable members, the policy of the Government taking over the importation of oil in this country was the best policy we have ever had. You can ask from the neighbours. Please do not make a survey in Mukono or Kampala here. Make a survey regionally and globally. You will appreciate that H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni is the best President.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. If we could do one minute each. Hon. Judith Nagujja from Buvuma-

5.30

MS JUDITH NAGUJJA (NRM, Woman Representative, Buvuma): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. On Monday, the 13th of July, a gust of wind, in the fishing language we call it "*Nsoke*", destroyed houses in Kijaka and Kiko Local Council and landing site, Bugaya Subcounty, Buvuma District. Over 20 homes and a community church were destroyed.

The affected people are in immediate need of shelter and food stuff. Through you, it is my cry that the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness rescues lives in that subcounty. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: The Prime Minister is here. She is the overall boss of all the ministers and the Leader of Government Business. If you people would only know, you would make good use of her.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, you are spot on. Members should take advantage of my office because I welcome everybody and Members have received support from that office ever since I became the Prime Minister. I would like to request the Honourable member, through the District Disaster Committee of Buvuma, to put

it in writing. We will come to your district to save those people.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Lawrence Akuguzibwe, Member of Parliament for Mwenge County North-

5.32

MR LAWRENCE AKUGIZIBWE (NRM, Mwenge County North, Kyenjojo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. My issue is about agricultural extension services in the country. There is a lot of absenteeism among agricultural extension workers; sometimes you can look for someone to treat your cow but you cannot find them.

My prayer is that we should introduce an e-diary where they can log in and log out so that we can monitor them. We should also introduce an app whereby if he goes to check on a farm, he should be able to report directly from the farm, send the GPS location of the farmer he has visited so that we can trace and monitor their services. We shall then be able to... *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Yours is advisory to the Prime Minister about the e-diary. You have not asked any prayer but you are advising the Government. The Prime Minister has taken note. Hon. Sserukenya, Member of Parliament for Makindye-Ssabagabo -

5.33

MR DAVID SSERUKENYA (NUP, Makindye-Ssabagabo, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I want to bring it to your attention that as a country, we have no prepaid *Yaka* metres. I applied for one in March but up to today, I am on the pending list.

Secondly, load shedding is the order of the day and thirdly, sometimes when power comes back, the output is of low voltage and many people have made losses. I need your intervention.

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister? You have the minister for energy. Do you have energy?

5.34

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (ENERGY) (Mr Sidronius Okaasai): I have plenty of energy, sir. Mr Speaker, we take note of his concern. He asked for a comprehensive delivery of *Yaka* metres. I will provide what we are doing. We are aware that there was a shortage of metres and we are now moving.

In July to September, we are going to receive 275,000 metres, and the distribution will start. In October to December, there is going to be a second delivery of 550,000 metres that will be available to take electricity to households.

January to June 2027, there is going to be another 300,000 metres. It therefore means we are going to start installing metres where there are no metres, including your place.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Wanyoto -

MR OKAASAI: Regarding the second question, there is no load shedding in the country but only outages because of rapid development in various areas. Where we had put a 50 KVA transformer, we need a 100 KVA transformer. We are actually working to procure transformers to install in those areas which are experiencing overloads.

Secondly, we are aware that many places do not have substations. We have plans to upgrade substations in areas that have rapidly developed so that we can provide adequate electricity.

We also have plans to install new substations. For example, we are aware that Kampala is developing very fast and relies on one substation. We are now separating substations which are meant for industries, and we are going to build a substation to supply households in Kampala - in Ntinda. This will be specifically for Kampala, separate from the industries. So, we are in the know of what you are talking about; upgrading the substations and building substations. The *Yaka* metres are actually being procured.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Wanyoto?

5.37

MR GODFREY WANYOTO (Independent, Budadiri County West, Sironko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand here on a matter of national importance regarding a road in Namugabwe Subcounty, running from Bumirisa to Bunazami. The road was covered by mud as a result of a landslide, cutting off the people of Bunazami and Buwangolo.

We would have handled this case but the district lacks an excavator. My prayer, therefore, is:

1. For the Ministry of Works and Transport to open that road.
2. For the district, which is – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: It is one minute. If you cannot raise it within one minute then you do not have to raise it. *(Mr Wanyoto rose)* No, tomorrow is another day; you can pray tomorrow. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I was informed that, that is a district road under the responsibility of the district. Now that you do not have an excavator, the Ministry of Works and Transport, through our UNRA offices in Mbale, is directed to provide an excavator to the district. The district will provide fuel and then they can open that road.

THE SPEAKER: At least you have achieved that. Do not pray in one day; pray many times. *(Laughter)* Hon. Adrine Katusiime?

5.39

MS ADRINE KATUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Sheema): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter regarding an outbreak of anthrax in Sheema District. It is so urgent. It is more than Ebola or coronavirus. The other day, five people died on the spot and nine people are hospitalised.

I ask that this is treated as an urgent matter for the Prime Minister to take on because it is spreading to other areas of the district. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister? And your two ministers have just stepped out for a cup of tea.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, when I was watching yesterday's proceedings, after the presentation on Ebola, Members said we have an economy to protect and that for some things, we do not have to be alarmist.

However, that notwithstanding, I direct the Ministry of Health to use their technical people to go to Sheema and find out what is happening – whether it is true that it is anthrax – and then provide the necessary support.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ayagalachi – the Member of Parliament for Bukooli County North. We really do not know what he wants, but let us listen. *(Laughter)*

5.41

MR JAMALI AYAGALACHI (NUP, Bukooli County North, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, the people of Bukooli County North have suffered enough. Thousands of people who depend on the road connecting Bugiri Town, Bulugulu, Bufunda and Muwayo Town Council have suffered due to the flooding of Kibimba Swamp.

Last month, three people lost their lives because of the floods in this swamp. My question to the Prime Minister is: how many more Ugandans must lose their lives before this issue – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Do not frame such questions - if you get a naughty Prime Minister!

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, accidents happen and I doubt that anybody would wish to die. People find themselves in an accident. It is not the Government that must protect everybody – even when there is a flood. If there is a flood, why would people go there anyway?

Mr Speaker, if the bridge has an issue, we can look for a way of fixing the bridge so that we do not lose more lives. However, the question

that was asked was too negative. However, I will endeavour to get in touch with you, *oli muzukulu wange*. (Laughter)

THE SPEAKER: The other answer would have just been: “None.” Hon. Tebandeke, your question regarding electricity has been answered. Let us have Hon. Patrick Kitiyo.

5.44

MR PATRICK KITIYO (Independent, Kapchorwa Municipality, Kapchorwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have a matter of national importance concerning Kaabong District Local Government. Kaabong District Local Government advertised jobs on 11 December 2025. On 6 May 2026, they brought a list of candidates for the various positions and they were interviewed from 13th to 26th of May 2026.

On 16th June, a list of successful candidates was released. However, on 18th June, the district speaker convened a district council meeting where the resolution of the council denied the listed candidates, who were successful, the job appointments. This targeted candidates who were from outside Kaabong. Some of these successful candidates were from Kapchorwa District -

THE SPEAKER: Your prayer?

MR KITIYO: My prayer is that the Ministry of Public Service should intervene to ensure that all successful candidates are given appointment letters. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, you realise that this was done by the district service commission of Kaabong and the law is very clear that all Ugandans are free to work in any part of the country. Therefore, the Public Service Commission is hereby directed to go to Kaabong District and find out what truly happened.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Patrick Bingi Nyanzi, Member of Parliament, Butemba County.

5.46

MR PATRICK BINGI (NRM, Butemba County, Kyankwanzi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My concern this evening is how fraudulent and unscrupulous men and women beat Government systems to achieve their evil motives.

Specifically, people forge certificates of no objection. They proceed to court and use the same to apply for letters of administration and courts grant those letters of administration to the detriment of the right beneficiaries. As if that is not enough, some people even do not go to court. They just use forged letters of administration, proceed to the Government offices and they get the benefits of the same.

My question to the Rt Hon. Prime Minister is, can't we have a system where Government -

THE SPEAKER: Conclude.

MR BINGI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My concern is, can't we have Government offices coordinate so that before court issues the letters, they confirm their authenticity with the Office of the Administrator-General because they depend on adverts in papers and legal notices which are never read by citizens. The registrar effects a -

THE SPEAKER: You have said enough.

MR BINGI: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Yes. Is it possible to add another layer? Rt Hon. Prime Minister, whom have you delegated? The Attorney-General? That the system now is not good enough. Can you add another layer to require authentication?

5.47

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Samuel Mayanja): I want to thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to give you a bit of detail and the solution.

For every Ugandan that dies in this country and leaves property, that estate, by law, must be administered by the Administrator-General. However, because the Administrator-

General does not have enough staff, he invites a meeting of the family. If they agree on a competent person to administer that estate then the Administrator-General issues that letter of no objection, allowing that person agreed upon to administer that estate.

That letter of no objection is then taken to court to apply for letters of administration. A notice is issued in a newspaper which has a mass circulation. If anybody has an objection to those letters of administration being issued to the person named in the no objection, then he can come up.

It is when no objection has come up from the public that courts have now issue letters of administration. That process is so robust that if there is now forgery, that is wrongdoing.

I want to invite the honourable member to submit a write-up. I will raise the issue with the court that this is now happening and then steps will be taken. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The Prime Minister, you have nearly given us two hours. Just endure for the last three. Hon. Teddy Nambooze, Woman Representative Mpigi, and Hon. Ali Kasirye Nganda Mulyanyama.

5.50

MS TEDDY NAMBOOZE (NUP, Woman Representative, Mpigi): Thank you for your indulgence. I stand to raise a matter of urgent importance regarding the only police patrol attached to Buwama Police Station in Mpigi District, which was involved in a fatal accident in January this year during campaigns.

Mr Speaker, the vehicle was damaged beyond repair and the police officers who were on board sustained severe injuries. However, since then, the station lacks a patrol vehicle yet it serves the vast area of Buwama and Kayabwe Town Councils, Buwama Subcounty, Kyabadaza and beyond.

This problem has led to deterioration of security in our area due to the police's inability

to respond to emergencies and conduct routine patrols.

THE SPEAKER: Please, go to the prayer.

MS TEDDY NAMBOOZE: My prayer. Yes. I pray that the Prime Minister and the concerned ministers tell us when a functional patrol vehicle will be urgently delivered to normalise the situation. I submit.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I have taken note of the concern. I direct the Ministry of Internal Affairs to go, verify, and see whether that vehicle can be boarded off and then they provide another vehicle for the area.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ricky Anywar, I was looking for him this way. I thought he had gone to church but apparently, he does not pray much. You can now make your prayers to the Prime Minister.

5.53

MR RICKY ANYWAR (NRM, Agago West County, Agago): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity. I am raising an issue of extrajudicial killing by cattle rustlers in Agago District and the surrounding districts bordering Karamoja Subregion.

Mr Speaker, last week one person was killed from Omiya Pachua Village in Agago District. Why on earth is someone still being killed because of a cow in this 21st century?

My prayers are:

- (i) The persons who lost their loved ones should be compensated for the loss of their loved ones.
- (ii) Those who are maimed and permanently disabled should be compensated.
- (iii) Those who lost their cattle should also be compensated.

THE SPEAKER: A single prayer, there was compensation.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I was in Agago District in 2022/2023 to handle similar cases. The Office of the Prime Minister commits to meeting with the Member so that we can help.

However, the President organised a detachment manned by the army. There is a commander in that area and issues had really subsided completely. Now that the issues are coming up, cattle rustling is a crime. We have even trained those “*Karachunas*” in Kyankwanzi and Kaweweta Military Training School. From there, I thought that one is a matter of the past. But now that, that came up, together with the Minister for Karamoja Affairs, Minister of Northern Uganda, and the Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs, we shall continue to tighten the security of that area.

For compensation, please come to our office and give us the details of those people who lost their lives. And by the way, we condole with the families. We shall handle these issues as they emerge.

However, the fact is that the President of the Republic of Uganda has tried his best to stop cattle rustling from our brothers, the *Karachunas* of Karamoja who have really made it a habit to steal from their neighbours. I know this will stop with time.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, please! I acknowledge that it is very difficult. We actually have two other businesses to handle which are time bound, especially the matter of the East African Legislative Assembly Members. We have to receive the report. I had called Mulyanyama but he was not there. Are you his sister?

5.57

MS FORTUNATE NANTONGO (NUP, Woman Representative, Kyotera): I am a colleague. Thank you, Mr Speaker. In 2024, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you launched the rehabilitation of the Masaka-Kyotera-Mutukula Road. This is a border road that carries heavy traffic in and outside Uganda. However, the work is very slow. Too much dust has become a problem for the men and women who reside and transact business along that road and accidents are rampant.

My prayer is that you send a team on the ground to engage the company; CHICO, to ensure

compliance of watering the road to avoid too much dust and by putting in place speed humps in the busy centres.

Mr Speaker, there are too many accidents that arise due to over speeding. Your team should ensure the quality of that road. This is because it is an important road and it is needed as soon as yesterday. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, it is true I was in Mutukula, Kyotera District and we launched that road. The company, CHICO, is supposed to complete that road in 2028.

The Ministry of Works and Transport is directed to go on the ground to find out what is happening. By law, a contractor is supposed to do forward maintenance so that our people in the neighbouring communities are not affected by the dust. If the contractor is not doing that –

Mr Speaker, I will go to Kyotera to do oversight because I had promised that, since I am the one who launched the construction of this road.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable member, you are annoyed before speaking. The Rt Hon. Prime Minister has been here. What did you want to say?

6.00

MR PETER KITI (NRM, T’oo County, Bukwo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I have something very urgent. The landslide victims of Bukwo are right now in the camp almost dying of hunger.

In June, the district disaster committee wrote to the Office of the Prime Minister requesting for food. From June up to now, people are doing badly. I called the commissioner for disaster but there were a lot of promises –

THE SPEAKER: Now you have the Prime Minister. Do not be bitter.

MR KITI: The second issue about these people is that when we met the President, we

asked him to allow these people to graze on the grass side of the forest.

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister?

MR KITI: Please, Prime Minister, these people are still in the camp. Do something. Thank you. *(Laughter)*

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, our brother is aware that we had a meeting; himself, I and the President in Mayuge sometime back. I was with him in Kween a few months ago and we agreed that we would relocate the people that were affected by the landslides in that camp.

The President wrote a letter to allow regulated grazing of cattle by that group in the nearby national park. Today, I engaged the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities to allow regulated grazing in Pian Upe.

As far as food is concerned, Mr Speaker, we are starting a financial year. Money was warranted, I think, yesterday but one by this man of finance. We shall get access to the money to buy food supplies next week. When we get the money, we shall provide food for that camp. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. There is a related motion here. Just sit down a little. Item number five will be the last item on this and then we handle EALA.

We shall continue with the State-of-the-Nation Address next week. We cannot rush the State-of-the-Nation Address since it is a three-minute - and the Rt Hon. Prime Minister is doing very well. If we continue this way, your work, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, mine, and that of MPs will be easier. They will all come back. Item No.5.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT URGING GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE DROUGHT-AFFECTED SUBREGIONS OF NORTHERN UGANDA

THE SPEAKER: The mover, three minutes and the seconders one minute. Go to the prayers since the Prime Minister has given us

an additional five minutes and this relates to her also as Government - Have you heard me, Hon. Anthony Akol?

6.03

MR ANTHONY AKOL (NRM, Kilak North County, Amuru): Mr Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. It is a motion for a resolution of Parliament urging the Government to support the drought-affected subregions of Northern Uganda. This is moved under Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of Uganda.

Mr Speaker, as you guided, I will go to the prayers directly.

Our prayer is:

“NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by Parliament as follows:

- a) that the Government expedites the delivery of food items to support the drought-affected households as well as seeds, seedlings, and planting material for food security crops for the affected people to plant immediately in the forthcoming planting season;*
- b) that the Government invests adequately in early warning systems to strengthen climatic forecast and information dissemination so as to improve on safeguard measures against the occurrence of drought and other natural disasters;*
- c) that the Government expedites the use of the \$38 million funds already earmarked for the disaster risk financing facility under the NUSAF-IV Project to deal with the challenges of severe drought in the subregions of West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Karamoja, Teso, Bukedi, Bunyoro and Elgon;*
- d) that the Government increases investment in solar-powered irrigation systems to minimise crop failures that arise from the absence of water;*
- e) that the Government establishes agricultural mechanisation support systems to ease land opening, increase acreages under production and improve*

food security in West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Karamoja, Teso, Bukedi, Bunyoro, and Elgon."

Mr Speaker, I beg to move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? [Honourable members: "*Yes, it is seconded*".]

Seconded by the majority. We cannot say the whole House because I see the Prime Minister is seated. (*Laughter*) Okay, you want to make a brief justification?

MR AKOL: Mr Speaker, this motion is based on the prevailing problem all over the country but especially those who have been surviving on rain-fed crops. They are most affected in these subregions and people are doing badly.

You will hear from other sub-regions like Karamoja and in some areas of Agago that people have started dying of acute hunger. The most affected people are the old ones, children and pregnant mothers. It is, therefore, important to take action now to save the lives of Ugandans who are dying. I thank you very much for giving me this space.

THE SPEAKER: What do we do when a motion is quite popular? Is there somebody seconding? Yes, Hon. Okot.

6.07

MR PETER OKOT (DP, Tochi County, Omoro): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I stand to support the motion. It is very challenging that the effect of climate change is biting quite deep in the population. The population had actually invested a lot; people had cultivated, and many acreage of crops had been planted, but the dry spell came, and nothing was harvested.

I, therefore, support the motion that the population be supported with food supplies, aware that the next planting season is coming this August and people will only harvest in November and December. Unless they are supported, many lives will be lost. I support the motion that the people of Northern Uganda

be urgently supported with food supply and planting materials. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Oulanyah Ojok Andrew and then honourable, you will come after. You are the official seconder.

6.08

MR ANDREW OULANYAH (NRM, Omoro County, Omoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join the mover of the motion in supporting the motion. Agriculture employs over 70 per cent of our population and contributes 24.7 per cent to the GDP. However, farmers are left every season to fend for themselves. I want to propose an amendment to the prayers: that we include the aspect of crop insurance into the policy because every year we keep coming back with the same prayers; that we support farmers with relief. If we could insure their crops, I think that would go a long way in ensuring that livelihoods are protected. Otherwise, I support the motion with that prayer for an amendment. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Longoli, two minutes.

6.09

MR SIMON PETER LONGOLI (NRM, Chekwii County (Kadam), Nakapiripirit): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is my maiden statement in the House and so -

THE SPEAKER: I know how you feel. (*Laughter*)

MR LONGOLI: I would like to make us a bit more uncomfortable by drawing a few more figures. It has been three months since rainfall last came to Karamoja in what is supposed to be a wet season. 1.15 million acres of crops have been decimated; 21 days of food 20 days ago was had in Kaabong; 40.5 per cent gam rates in Napumpum in Kotido; 20 people have so far died in Rengen Subcounty in Kotido and the Government has acknowledged 16; six months until the next rains in February; eight weeks for the window remaining to distribute seedlings to those communities that might have a second season in the September to December window.

Mr Speaker, these figures come from nine official Government records and have been substantively corroborated by official data as well as international sources. The Government has already responded because we have been having communications. On the 11th of July, the President ordered for Shs 45 billion Contingency Fund for famine relief and authorised regulated grazing at Pian Upe, as well as ordering a review of water reservoir plans in the region.

That is a welcome response but we find this insufficient. Our motion seeks to extend that response to every northern subregion named in the motion and to ensure that the resources deployed are adequate to the scale of the need.

Mr Speaker, I give notice of three amendments I intend to move during this debate:

1. That Government commits to further distribution of food relief across the six-month gap to the next harvest. One distribution is not enough.
2. That the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) distributes drought-tolerant seeds for the September to December planting season to food-insecure households across the northern subregions as well as some parts of Karamoja.
3. Lastly, a specific provision for therapeutic nutrition for children at risk of acute malnutrition. There are 120,000 of them in the region. Mr Speaker, flour and beans do not reverse acute malnutrition and from the mathematics available to us, the current distribution from Shs 45 billion can only last 10 days and yet we need around five or six such measures over the next six months. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Attorney-General, do you have any opposition to the motion? Government Chief Whip or Attorney-General, then Prime Minister.

MR SAMUEL MAYANJA: Mr Speaker, it does not offend any rule, and I beg to support. I have no objection. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Government Chief Whip or the Attorney-General? Are you aligned? If you are not aligned, let us hear you.

6.13

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The motion is urging Government and on that basis, I agree with the opinion of the Attorney-General.

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the Government moved ahead of this motion and already, something is being done. We already supported the people of Kaabong, Kotido and some parts of Moroto, especially areas that are famine-stricken. My office -

THE SPEAKER: Go ahead and ignore the obstruction.

MS NABBANJA: Yes, the Office of the Prime Minister presented a Cabinet paper on Monday which was urging the Government to provide support. I want to inform you, Members, that the President has already acted and told us to use the army to supply food to the most affected areas.

We already have stores of the army in Kigumba. National Enterprise Corporation (NEC) has been contracted by the Office of the Prime Minister, first to supply food to those areas in Karamoja where we have reported deaths of people and that is starting tomorrow.

What I can urge Members to do is to mobilise, especially in those areas where we are going to start delivering food; Karamoja and surrounding districts of Kitgum and Agago because of what you heard here and then these other surrounding districts. I will take another Cabinet paper to inform the President that other areas also need support. We have so far been

given Shs 45 billion to support those hunger-stricken areas, so that we can save the lives of our brothers and sisters in Karamoja and other surrounding districts.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. In light of that, we close the debate because the Government is being urged and is already giving us a status report that “go ahead and urge us, but we are already doing it.” Can I put the question to the motion for a resolution of Parliament and that there are other districts like Kasese, which should also be considered?

MR AMANYA: Thank you. Mr Speaker, I would like to raise a procedural matter under rule 63(1). This motion is only talking about affected areas in subregions in Northern Uganda. I am moving an amendment to the motion, under that rule, that instead of us only focusing on subregions in Northern Uganda, we consider affected areas in Uganda. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. However, the motion was beyond Northern Uganda. It enumerated several areas but it is evident in places like Kasese. You even heard that in Ankole, their problem is not food but they want water for the drought. As a Speaker, this is the first time I am hearing that this is a big challenge. *(Hon. Francis Oketcho rose)* Hon. Francis, what is it? We are closing this matter.

6.18

MR JOHN FRANCIS OKETCHO (NRM, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, before you close this, I sit on the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry. On this particular matter of supply of food to the affected communities, the Rt Hon. Prime Minister has informed this august House that her office has contracted the National Enterprise Corporation.

Over time, the President has been emphasising the issue of Public-Private Partnerships to grow this economy. Where do we leave these companies that are in –

THE SPEAKER: Please, that is not part of the motion for our debate. Let us be relevant, Hon. Francis.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, Hon. Francis is my friend. I met him in Busia when I was an RDC and he has now found me here in Parliament. I welcome you to Parliament of Uganda. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, when we weighed all options, we realised that NEC is an arm of UPDF. They already had food. By the way, it is not only NEC; there is also Prisons. We are going to use Prisons because they already have food.

The private people want to sell us beans at Shs 4,500 per kilogramme; NEC is giving us a kilogramme of beans at Shs 4,000. They already have the beans and are near. The army is giving us posho at Shs 2,800 yet our private suppliers in the Office of the Prime Minister want to supply us at Shs 3,500.

The National Enterprise Corporation has got transport. Our private people want to bring the food stuffs and put it at our store. We are cutting costs so that we can get more food to save lives. *(Applause)*

Prisons has got a store in Gulu and they have started milling the maize grain they have in the stores. We saw it fitting because these people already have this food in the stores and can supply the quantities we want.

By the way, regarding the process of procurement, if we started advertising now, we would have that food procured or delivered in two months but it is now Government to Government. The Solicitor-General signs the agreement and they start delivering. In fact, that is why I have told you we have already started delivering. We just need a Memorandum of Understanding. So, if we go private, it will take us two more months before we deliver. This is an emergency; we cannot wait.

THE SPEAKER: *Majegere oyee. (Laughter)*

Honourable members, I put the question to the motion for a resolution of Parliament urging the Government to support the drought-affected areas, the subregions of Northern Uganda and the amendment to include all affected subregions of Uganda.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Motion adopted.

THE SPEAKER: Let that be extracted and relayed to the Prime Minister. Right Honourable Prime Minister, for the record, you have been here for two and a half hours. This is unprecedented. *(Applause)* Keep doing good because when you do good, you feel good. Can we have item 4, our very last item? I urge you Members to hang on; it will not be long.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT OF THE VERIFICATION
COMMITTEE ON THE VERIFICATION
OF NOMINEES FOR THE BY-ELECTION
TO FILL TWO VACANT POSITIONS AT
THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY

THE SPEAKER: Chairperson? We want you to be brief. The background is known; just go to the main issues.

6.23

MR DICKSONS KATESHUMBWA (NRM, Sheema Municipality, Sheema): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. As I take you through the report, I would like to lay the minutes of the meeting and the report. I will try to summarise.

Honourable colleagues, you are aware that in December 2022, Uganda elected nine Members to the East African Legislative Assembly. The term of these Members is scheduled to elapse in December 2027. However, before the expiry of this term, two of the Members, namely Hon. James Kakooza and Hon. Denis Namara, participated in the general elections in Uganda and were elected in the 12th Parliament. Consequently, two vacancies were created.

On 16 June 2026, the Speaker of EALA notified the Speaker of Parliament of Uganda of the existence of the two vacancies. This, therefore, necessitated the election of two members to replace the Hon. Kakooza and Hon. Namara in the EALA Assembly. As a result, a notice was issued by the Office of the Clerk in the gazette and the mass media, calling for interested parties or individuals to send nominations.

By Friday, 10 July 2026, which was the deadline for the submission of nomination papers, two aspirants had managed to submit their nomination papers. A verification committee, which I head, was appointed to scrutinise the nomination papers and the two aspirants to establish whether they meet the criteria for the election to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA).

Mr Speaker, without going into details, the committee looked at the documentation that the aspirants submitted to ascertain whether their candidature complied with Article 50 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (EAC) and Article 80 of the Constitution of Uganda, which spell out the qualifications for a person to be elected a Member of EALA and Member of Parliament of Uganda, respectively.

We had a detailed scrutiny of the nomination papers as submitted by the aspirants to the Clerk. We had face-to-face interaction with the aspirants and also looked at their original documents.

Mr Speaker, I have already cited the legal framework so I will not repeat it. It is specifically Article 50 of the Treaty, Article 80 of our Constitution, and Rule 13 for the by-election of the EALA members.

The eligibility under Article 50 of the Treaty specifically looks at five requirements:

1. Being a citizen of Uganda;
2. Being qualified to be elected Member of Parliament;
3. Not holding the office of a minister;
4. Not being an officer in the East African Community Service; and
5. Demonstrating proven experience or interest in EAC objectives.

The requirements under Article 80 of the Constitution are also listed. You:

1. Have to be a citizen of Uganda and a registered voter;
2. Must have minimum formal education of advanced level;

3. Must be of sound mind;
4. Must not be a traditional or cultural leader;
5. Must have not been adjudged bankrupt;
6. Must not be under death sentence or imprisonment exceeding nine months; and
7. Must have resigned from public office, at least 90 days before nomination.

Mr Speaker, beyond the constitutional and the EAC Treaty requirements, there is also a requirement for a nominee to pay Shs 3 million as nomination fees.

We received and interacted with two candidates: Ms Stella Kiryowa and Mr Bangumya Fred Rwakaizi, to test whether they complied with Article 50 of the EAC Treaty and Article 80 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

Briefly, on the first candidate, Ms Stella Kiryowa, we examined the criteria and confirmed that she is a citizen of Uganda. She meets the requirements of Article 80 of the Ugandan Constitution, not holding a ministerial office and is not an officer in EAC. She has an interest in furthering the objectives of the East African Community, paid the Shs 3 million nomination fees and the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Secretary-General and more than five Members of Parliament endorsed her candidature.

The committee, therefore, found that Ms Stella Kiryowa met all the eligibility requirements for the election as a Member of the East African Legislative Assembly.

On the second candidate, Mr Fred Bangumya Rwakaizi, we established that he is a citizen of Uganda and meets the requirements of Article 80 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. He is not holding a ministerial office and is not an officer in the EAC Service. He has an interest in furthering the objectives of EAC, paid Shs 3 million as a nomination fee and the NRM Secretary-General and more than five Members of Parliament endorsed his candidature.

The committee, therefore, found that Mr Fred Bangumya Rwakaizi also met all the eligibility

requirements for election as a Member of the East African Legislative Assembly.

Recommendation

The Verification Committee, having scrutinised the nominated candidates and established that they all met election criteria outlined in Article 80 of the Uganda Constitution and Article 50 of the Treaty establishing the East African Community, recommends that Ms Stella Kiryowa and Mr Fred Bangumya Rwakaizi be elected to fill the two vacant positions in the East African Legislative Assembly.

Mr Speaker, I beg, therefore, to move that the report of the Verification Committee on the verification of the nominations for the by-election to fill the two vacant positions at the East African Legislative Assembly be adopted. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Is it seconded? It is seconded and the report is signed by several members. You should have that on record. Is there a minority report?

MR KATESHUMBWA: Mr Speaker, the committee had 20 members and more than 80 per cent signed it. We do not have any minority report.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Before I put the question, I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to prove to us that these two people actually exist. They can access the Chamber so that they are seen and heard for two minutes each. Thereafter, I will put the question to the report. Are we in agreement with that?

HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: Start with the lady, who is not yet honourable. I do not know the relationship between Ms Stella Kiryowa with somebody here but let us just be careful. Names can be shared - *[Whereupon Ms Stella Kiryowa and Mr Fred Bangumya Rwakaizi entered the Chamber]* – We welcome you. You can introduce yourself and speak to the Members. Hon. Kiryowa Kiwanuka is also here. *(Laughter)*

6.33

MS STELLA KIRYOWA (EALA CANDIDATE): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable members of the 12th Parliament, I greet you all.

I stand here today, deeply humbled and profoundly grateful to you, Members of the 12th Parliament, for having deemed me worthy and voted for me to represent you in the East African Legislative Assembly. I thank you very much. *(Applause)*

I have been in the corridors of this Parliament for so long. I started as a young girl - *(Applause)* - today, I stand before you as an adult to seek your approval. Honourable members, it is amazing. *(Laughter)*

To me, this is not merely the beginning of my journey as a Member of Parliament in the East African Legislative Assembly but an opportunity for me to be part of the history of those who are shaping the destiny of our 300 million members of the East African Community.

Honourable members, in the interest of time, allow me not to divert from what I had prepared. It is nearly six decades since some visionary African leaders came up with a dream. They dared to dream beyond borders, and you know what? They believed that as Africans, we should move as a team and not alone.

Honourable members, it is that dream that gave birth to what we have today as the East African Community. Today, honourable members, the question before us is simple. That dream is with us. What do we do with the dream? It is no longer a question of whether East Africa can unite. The question before us today is simple. What kind of East Africa are we leaving for the next generation? *(Applause)*

Is it East Africa where the young people are going to cross borders in search for opportunities or it is an East Africa where -

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, member. We wish you the very best. Next?

6.37

MR FRED BANGUMYA (EALA Candidate): Mr Speaker, I have prepared something small and this is the first time I am addressing a plenary. I request you give me two minutes to summarise.

THE SPEAKER: Two minutes given to you.

MR BANGUMYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is with humility and unwavering commitment to serve the Republic of Uganda and the East African Community that I stand before this august House.

When I set out to seek your endorsement to the East African Legislative Assembly, a few months ago, it was not merely to occupy the seat there, but to carry out Uganda's aspirations into one of Africa's most important institution.

As we are all aware, our community has expanded from six to eight partner states with the admission of the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Somalia. The East African Community is now a home of more than 300 million people, making it one of the Africa's largest economic bloc by population.

The question before us is no longer whether East Africa should integrate. The question is whether Uganda will stand out in that integration and that is why I seek for your confidence. *(Applause)*

We all agree that Uganda occupies a strategic and influential position within four pillars of East African Community: Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union, and Political Federation.

It is therefore my aspiration to drive the growth of cross-border trade, regional peace and security, while ensuring our commitment to the implementation of East African Community treaties and protocols to build a prosperous, stable and politically united region.

I also have it as my priority when I reach Arusha, with your endorsement, first, to push for a viable and development of infrastructure across - *(Member timed out.) (Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, member. It is not easy. I have two things to do. First, let us put the question to the motion.

I put the question to the motion for the adoption of the report of the verification committee on the verification of nominations for the by-election to fill the two vacant positions at the East African Legislative Assembly.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: The report is adopted. Honourable members, the committee has recommended the two candidates: Stella Kiryowa and Bangumya Fred Rwakaizi, to be elected to fill the two vacancies at the East African Legislative Assembly. This was after they were found to have fulfilled the requirements of Article 50 of the Treaty establishing the East African Community, Article 80 of the Ugandan Constitution and Rules 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Rules of Procedure for election of members of EALA.

Given that only two positions exist at EALA at the moment and only two candidates have been successfully nominated and recommended to be elected to occupy those two seats, there is no need to go for secret voting, as stipulated in our rules. This is one of the areas that the framers of the rules did not foresee; a situation where there would be no contestation.

Therefore, as the Speaker, my guidance is that there would be no need to go to a secret ballot to vote for unopposed people. I, therefore, put the question that the two candidates: Stella Kiryowa and Bangumya Fred Rwakaizi, be declared as elected Members of the East African Legislative Assembly.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: Next item? Acting LOP?

6.43

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr Paul Mwiru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I congratulate the colleagues who have been elected to the East African Legislative Assembly, but I draw

your attention to our rules that Article 50 of the Treaty requires representation of all shades of opinion, as much as it is feasible. I would like to appeal to this House that, since on our side we deemed it very right that, since the two Members of Parliament were from the other shade of opinion, we should not front candidates for that purpose, I appeal to you that when we move to the next step, we maintain the same spirit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Government Chief Whip? By the way, for the first time, Hon. Paul Mwiru is right on that one.

MR BAHATI: Mr Speaker, I rise to congratulate the two candidates that we are sending to EALA, and we have sent the best of our side. I thank the Members for adopting your resolution.

I would also like to thank the acting Leader of the Opposition for the spirit that we have shown today. We shall take into consideration - like we have done in the past; we have always taken members of all shades of opinion to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), and we shall do it again come next year. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, and there was total compliance. It was a replacement. It was not ordinarily an election, so it had to be NRM that had lost two members. I am glad that there was no confusion.

The slot for the Opposition will be there very soon in 2027. This same House shall designate for NUP, for the Opposition - *(Laughter)* - Please, Hon. Waluswaka, stop misleading me. It is an offence to mislead the Speaker by murmuring. The Independents will be there.

The party that has the greatest number takes - that is reflected. As we have done for the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and for other - I want to thank you all for understanding.

There is sanity that I am seeing, and it is overwhelming us. Let us accept sanity to ride on and prevail. The next item which I want you to call is item nine.

ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the House is adjourned to Tuesday, next week at 2.00 p.m.

(The House rose at 6.48 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 21 July 2026 at 2.00 p.m.)