



**PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA**

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2025



## IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

### Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

#### FOURTH SESSION - 18TH SITTING - THIRD MEETING

Thursday, 27 February 2025

*Parliament met at 1.58 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.*

#### PRAYERS

*(The Speaker, Ms Anita Among, in the Chair.)*

*The House was called to order.*

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I welcome you to this afternoon's sitting. I would also like to inform the House that on Tuesday, 25 February 2025, the Deputy Speaker, Rt Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, with the secondment of the Parliament of Uganda, was elected the President of the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS). This multilateral organisation brings together 79 countries and co-Presidents of the OACPS-European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly.

This was a vote of confidence in the Parliament of Uganda. We did nominate the Rt Hon. Tayebwa; I wrote a letter, and we are happy that he was chosen to be the president. *(Applause)* I thank the organisation for this.

In the same vein, we congratulate the Rt Hon. Tayebwa on attaining this position; it is a very special position. We also thank the President of the Republic of Uganda for ensuring that we continue with these international engagements because without him, we would not have them.

On that note, therefore, we now have the Rt Hon.

Tayebwa as the president of that association. *(Applause)* Remember that he is also the vice-chairperson of the Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers, where I am the chairperson for the whole world. *(Applause)* Size mate, we are not doing very badly. *(Laughter)*

Honourable members, the Islamic holy month of Ramadan is likely to commence on Friday, February 28 2025 and conclude on Saturday, 29 March 2025. Ramadan is a time for us to increase our worship, religious reflections, and do charity - you will be surprised that Hon. Ssenyonyi will bring me some things here - doing good deeds socially.

It often brings families and friends to festive gatherings around meals to break their fast. There are these people who have been moving out and the children have forgotten the parents; they think those are uncles. During this Ramadan, you are supposed to break your fast at home. Make sure you are at home with the children. Hon. Asuman, you should be able to do this.

I take this opportunity to wish the Muslim fraternity a prosperous Ramadan. *(Applause)*

Honourable members, the Parliamentary Football Team will have a friendly match with a team of former Uganda national players on Saturday, 1 March 2025, at 3.00 p.m., at Mengo Secondary School playground. You are cordially invited and notified. For those

who do not know how to hold a ball, you can come and cheer – for example, *Mukatuliki*. The Leader of the Opposition will be there as the head cheerleader. (*Laughter*)

So, you are all invited. Please, come and cheer our team as they play. Hon. Basalirwa will be leading the team, as the chairperson of the football club.

I thank all of you for coming. We will devote most of the time today to matters of national importance. (*Mr Ssenyonyi rose*) Yes? Is this on my communication?

2.07

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to, firstly, join in wishing our Muslim brothers and sisters a wonderful holy month of Ramadhan. I also appreciate the update you have given us about the Deputy Speaker. This is a beautiful country; there is a lot of good about it that we need to tap into. The challenge is that there are also those who are always trying to make sure that a lot more of the bad is out there, yet there is good about this country.

Madam Speaker, before coming here, I passed by a hospital –

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, first, join me in congratulating the Deputy Speaker. (*Applause*) I did not hear. You must congratulate the Deputy Speaker. This is a big achievement for this Parliament. (*Applause*)

**MR SSENYONYI:** Madam Speaker, we do send our congratulations to the Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker, and we shall also reach out to him, individually, in that regard.

I was saying that before I came to the House this afternoon, I passed by a hospital to visit a journalist called Miracle Ibra. He is a Top Television journalist, who was brutalised yesterday; his eye was shattered.

Yesterday, we went for the nomination of my party's candidate, a one Elias Luyimbazi

Nalukoola, for the Kawempe North by-election. After the nomination, the candidate was assaulted and taken away, and a couple of people were picked up, and others were brutalised.

This particular journalist was descended upon by the Joint Anti-Terrorist Task Force (JATT), who are meant to go out there and deal with terrorists. They descended on this journalist who was fully branded as a journalist with his camera and beat him up with batons, shattered his eye, and broke bones around his face. The doctors are not sure whether his eye will recover. They are struggling to deal with that situation.

Madam Speaker, the Government needs to tell us what the exact role of JATT is. I do not know what they are doing in the by-election, but also, what are we doing going after journalists doing their job?

The other day, the Rt Hon. Prime Minister said that I normally make the Government look bad. She used a word that is not in the English dictionary. She said, I am always “dirtying” Government, but there are things that the Government does that make it look dirty on its own, without my or anyone's help. I do not even know if the Minister of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance, and the Government generally, has reached out to this journalist to establish what is going on and ensure that he gets proper treatment.

Madam Speaker, we have laws in this country. For the umpteenth time, I implore the Government to follow these laws. If it is keeping law and order, the Uganda Police Force has got to do that within the confines of the law. We would want to understand what JATT is doing being involved in such a process; why are they picking up people and beating up journalists who are doing their job as journalists? Their weapon is a camera.

**THE SPEAKER:** Government?

2.11

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Rt Hon. Prime Minister, yesterday but one, made a statement when the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) made a statement here. While we sympathise with a person who has been injured - note that some of these actions are not sanctioned by the Government - it is important that when you come on the Floor of the House, you at least come with some details so that we know where to start from.

Now you are claiming that the people who beat this person are members of JATT. How can the Government know at this material time whether it was police personnel or a goon? It is important, Madam Speaker, that while this House is a place where we should represent our people -

**THE SPEAKER:** It is a place of record; we need -

**MR BAHATI:** It is a place of record and action. You are not going to come and say JATT, police or military, we do not know but we shall cross-check what happened.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable LOP, what happened to the gentleman who is in the hospital is very unfortunate and regrettable. However, we need to find out who in particular - because nobody is above the law - I believe there are other people and journalists who were there, somebody who could have taken a picture of the person who brutalised the patient.

Let us have that information, make a follow-up and take action. The Government cannot sanction and say, "Go and brutalise so and so". Who is that person to be brutalised?

**MR SSENKYONYI:** I appreciate you, Madam Speaker, for that guidance. Normally, we require the Government to take swift action against these fellows who operate outside the law, and then people will know you are cracking down.

Regarding information about all that, the Government came to this Parliament and appropriated billions of shillings to put CCTV cameras within the town. Therefore, I expected the Government, through the Minister of State for Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives (Industry) here, to say, "We are going to immediately follow up on this matter" because you have CCTV cameras as opposed to going on quick defence. I can also direct you to Nsambya Hospital, where Mr Miracle Ibrah is.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable, he who alleges must prove beyond reasonable doubt. You have said it is Government - JATT. Please bring - we must hold these people accountable. If it is true that JATT people did all this, why would they beat that young man? That is the question we are asking. Where did the incidents take place, Kawempe?

Honourable minister, you need to check it out with the Ministry of Internal Affairs. If there are CCTV cameras there, we could find out.

**MR BAHATI:** Madam Speaker, we shall follow up, and action will be taken because the security agencies are supposed to protect the citizens of Uganda and the total integrity of the country. We shall follow up and certainly visit the journalist who was injured.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, please take time off to visit the journalist who was beaten and give us feedback so we can see how this can be handled.

In the public gallery this afternoon, we have student leaders from Bugema University, Bamunanika constituency. You are most welcome. They are represented by Hon. Robert Ssekitooleko and Hon. Nabukenya Brenda. They are here to witness today's proceedings.

In the public gallery, we also have local councillors from Anaka Town Council, Nwoya County, Nwoya District. I can see our councillors there. They are represented by the Hon. Tony Awany who is right there - you have a very good leader - and Hon. Judith Achan Peace - she is coming.

Luweero people, you have very intelligent leaders. Hon. Brenda and Hon. Robert are there. Bring them back very fast. (*Hon. Ssemujju rose*) I had given Zombo first.

2.18

**MR LAWRENCE SONGA (NRM, Ora County, Zombo):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I join other honourable members to thank and congratulate the Deputy Speaker for assuming the position of President of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Parliamentary Assembly.

The 79 countries of the ACP—Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific—were mostly colonised by European powers: 48 in Africa, 16 in the Caribbean, and 15 in the Pacific. Most of the Caribbean and Pacific countries are small island developing countries, and they have challenges. That means the Deputy Speaker, becoming the President of that very powerful group of nations, has a lot of responsibility. We should also address challenges in the small island developing countries. However, using that position, I have three prayers. As I said most of these countries were colonised by the European powers.

This is the message the President should send to the European powers. First, they should address the challenges in these countries. Challenge number one is to establish a basket fund for infrastructure development in Africa. If they do not want us to deal with the Easterners, then the European powers should be able to establish a basket fund for infrastructure development in Africa.

Secondly, they should be able to address the issue of mobility. Many of our people are leaving Africa or the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) countries, going to the north because of the challenges created in the OACPS countries. Take, for example, the Democratic Republic of Congo. People are fighting for minerals, and some of these companies are coming from the north, and they come to chase our people; some die in the Mediterranean Sea, while others are being mistreated in the European refugee camps. That issue should be addressed.

Lastly, favourable terms of trade. I have spoken about this in Brussels before. Favourable terms of trade will be very important for these OACPS countries to trade with the northerners so that, instead of getting high-interest loans, we will trade with these partners. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you and maybe respect for our traditions and values that we believe in - (*Hon. Ssemujju rose*) - That is one of the things that we want them to respect, as we coexist. We can disagree but respectfully. Yes, father. Thank you.

2.21

**FR CHARLES ONEN (Independent, Laro-Pece Division, Gulu City):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I join you in congratulating the Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker for the opportunity and the grace which he has attained in his career.

Madam Speaker, you have a lot on your plate, and the world and history would judge you if you were not to give opportunities to your deputy. You always give Members of Parliament the opportunity to explore their best, and I believe that by endorsing the Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker, you have done your best.

You have also reminded us that on Friday, the Muslim brothers and sisters will start their Ramadan period, which is a moment of repositioning oneself to Allah, the Creator. On Wednesday, the Christians will also start the Lenten period, which is a period when the word of God convicts us to think about human life, values, and, above all, respect for human life. It is very, very wrong to pretend to be right when you are wrong.

Uganda is bleeding, and everywhere, people are groaning. Instead of being apologetic, we defend what is wrong. When are we going to defend right and reject wrong? You see -

**THE SPEAKER:** Switch on the microphone.

**FR ONEN:** When we begin Ramadan and the period of Lent, it is incumbent upon us, as leaders - I am happy that Uganda is now providing leadership to the rest of the world,

and we need to also provide leadership to ourselves and to this country.

As we enter this period of Ramadan and the holy Lent, we need to be mindful of our actions and defend the human values and rights of one another.

Rights do come with obligations and responsibilities. It is the government's responsibility to protect the rights of this country's citizens. It is my responsibility to protect your rights, and you also have a responsibility to protect mine. Secondly, it is also an obligation to respect one another. Therefore, we need to respect the law and one another and promote the rights of others. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Father, although you have not come out very clearly. You have come—I am not saying you come back. Father, you know it takes you to the story of Adam and Eve. When God asked, “Father, should I still continue?” Father has tasted the world, so do not worry; we shall sort out ourselves.

2.25

**MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. On Friday, in the evening, is when we will be looking for the moon. If it is sighted, as you rightly said, our calendar begins at sunset. So, that will be the first day of Ramadan.

I also join you, Madam Speaker, in wishing Muslims a happy month of Ramadan. I join you, again, in congratulating former FDC chairman, youth league, the Rt Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, on his new responsibility.

I was looking at “*Mama Mabira*” over there and I remembered the day she was taken to Luzira by the Government. Madam Speaker, the point the Leader of the Opposition made - I think the minister has answered one leg.

First, you called the Government and I saw the Hon. Bahati standing. I do not know whether you become the Government by being the first in Parliament. However, the point is - we are both FDC

**THE SPEAKER:** There is a point of order.

**MS ANYWAR:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would first of all like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker for the achievement and the appointment. On the point of order, my brother Hon. Ssemujju –

**THE SPEAKER:** I want to look at your eyes. You are covering your very beautiful eyes.

**MS ANYWAR:** Madam Speaker, my young brother here, Hon. Ssemujju Nganda – “*Al hajji*” is very much aware that I, Beatrice Atim Anywar, - “*Mama Mabira*” is a member of the NRM. I contested, I am a flag bearer and a serving minister in the NRM Government - (*Applause*) - but he is alluding that I am an FDC candidate. Is it in order for him to continue dreaming that I am still an FDC member when I am in the NRM? (*Laughter*)

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, there is a saying, “*If you want to determine your destiny, forget about the past*” much as the Deputy Speaker was in the FDC youth league, he is in the NRM and he is the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda endorsed by none other than the NRM party. Having been there, forget my past. Let us look at the future.

**MR SSEMUJJU:** Madam Speaker, I will now forget that you were also in the FDC. I will forget. (*Laughter*)

**THE SPEAKER:** You forget.

**MR SSEMUJJU:** Since you have instructed me -

**THE SPEAKER:** I was there and I left. I do not regret leaving.

**MR SSEMUJJU:** Madam Speaker, I take your counsel; I will forget. However, the question the Government was answering - the Leader of the Opposition singled out the journalist, but the point he was making was about deployment of JATT, Joint Anti-Terrorism Taskforce, to deal with issues of elections that are not terrorism. That is what you must answer as the

Government. Why must you have Joint Anti-Terrorism?

Madam Speaker, we all have videos of a NUP candidate being grabbed; tearing his shirt and beating people who were with him. The journalist was just unlucky that he was severely beaten – (*Interjections*) - If anyone wants, I have these videos here, you can play them; of JATT beating and shooting. That is what the Government must answer. Since when did elections become terrorism that you must deploy the Joint Anti-Terrorism Taskforce?

I thought that Hon. Bahati, who by arriving early in Parliament, has become permanently Government. Each time they call the Government, he stands up. Madam Speaker, I was about to complain because the frontbench is full of only the junior ministers.

**THE SPEAKER:** There is a point of order.

**MR BAHATI:** I think we need to take this Parliament seriously when we are raising issues, Madam Speaker. These are issues that affect the people of Uganda, and we find solutions. We do not dramatise them and pick them sarcastically.

Is Hon. Ssemujju in order to assume that when I stand here to speak on behalf of the Prime Minister, I am just speaking because I came early? Aren't you aware that I am here to represent the Government? Is he in order?

**THE SPEAKER:** You know the problem is that we have made this House a House of jokes. As far as I know, I have a written communication delegating Hon. Bahati to be the Leader of Government Business.

I have it and once it is written to me, I do not have to come and announce it to whoever wants to hear it. Therefore, he is acting as the Leader of Government Business. What matters here is what is being said.

On the issue of the deployment of JATT, we have said you should check and report back to the House.

**MR SSEMUJJU:** Finally, Madam Speaker, Bahati, you know we know each other –

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Bahati.

**MR SSEMUJJU:** Hon. Bahati, I am just sympathetic that every day you are the Government and every day you come early. I am actually giving you credit.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Bahati was voted to be in this Parliament. If you are not good at timekeeping, do not infect Hon. Bahati. Hon. Bahati is always here and is here earlier than anybody.

**MR SSEMUJJU:** Finally, Madam Speaker, the Deputy Speaker's elevation gives Uganda a good name as you have rightly observed. However, as the Leader of the Opposition also observed, Uganda keeps dirtying itself. You have heard of how media managers - MDs - are being herded to the Uganda Communications Commission after Gen. Muhoozi tweeted that he is now in charge of the media and they should see him. The following day, they were summoned. The outside is very careful when you are -

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Ssewungu – Hon. Ssemujju; Hon. Ssewungu, is a *Mukatuliki*. Hon. Ibrahim Ssemujju, can't you ever, for once, finish what you want to present in the House or deliberate on without mentioning a name from the First Family?

**MR SSEMUJJU:** I can, Madam Speaker, if the First Family stops being in charge of Uganda.

**THE SPEAKER:** Are they here for you to discuss them? If somebody was here, I would have no problem with discussing a person who is here. Let us get serious.

**MR SSEMUJJU:** Madam Speaker, even the one who is supposed to be here has never stepped here. Has the Minister of Education and Sports ever stepped here? However, the point is about the media -

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Ogwang is the Minister of State for Education and Sports here, so stop saying that there is no Minister of Education and Sports here. Yes, Hon. Lillian?

**MS ABER:** Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you for this opportunity. Wouldn't it be procedurally right if this House granted Hon. Ssemujju Nganda an opportunity to maybe meet and interact with the members of the First Family directly so that we can spare time in this Parliament to discuss other issues?

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in the public gallery, this afternoon, we have a delegation from Mawogola North County, Ssembabule District. The delegation is led by my colleague, the District Speaker, and the District Deputy Speaker, and includes all the Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the six subcounties in Mawogola North County. You are most welcome.

They are represented by Hon. Shartsi Kuteesa. Hon. Shartsi, can you just greet your people? My colleagues, the Speakers, you have a very good Member of Parliament. The other representative is Hon. Mary Bemugisa. I am telling you; you have gold in that lady. *(Applause)*

2.37

**MS SHARTSI MUSHERURE (NRM, Mawogola North County, Ssembabule):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to –

**THE SPEAKER:** Also, Hon. Namugga – size mate – *(Laughter)* – This is a shadow minister.

**MS MUSHERURE:** Yes. Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to welcome my people to Parliament. Thank you very much for leading this House with distinction. We are so proud of you, Madam Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to also remind the House that in 1997, Ssembabule was carved out of Masaka.

All these years, I am proud to say that under the NRM Government, the people of Ssembabule

are patriots; they have participated in Pan-Africanism; they have benefited socially and economically; and they are reaping the benefits of supporting the NRM Government. I pray that we continue in this spirit.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. On the same note, Hon. Brenda, greet your people.

2.39

**MS BRENDA NABUKENYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Luweero):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I take this moment to welcome our people from Luweero District. I also thank the university administration for enabling the young leaders to see what transpires in the national Parliament. We pray that one day, you also manage to come here.

Additionally, pray for us, as leaders, to legislate for our country and make it better. I also ask that you continue supporting us – Hon. Ssekitoleeko and I – to continue representing you in this Parliament.

Finally, vote for change and a better Uganda. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable member, thank you. Next item.

2.40

**MR JONATHAN ODUR (UPC, Erute County South, Lira):** Thank you. Madam Speaker, with your indulgence, I want to bring this information to your attention and this House's. When the Government proposed to us to accept its policy shift of RAPEX, we were assured that all the staff and employees were going to be paid their terminal benefits.

I have come across many former employees who are now desperate, in anguish and despondent because they have not been paid their terminal benefits. Their children are not going to school. A few of them have been stressed to the extent that they have suffered stroke; they are sick.

This Government had convinced us and we agreed to that proposal, thinking they were acting in good faith. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is here.

Madam Speaker, my prayer is that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Government clarify on how many – (*Interjections*)– whether public service – okay the Government, represented by Hon. David Bahati, should speak to this nation on the fate of the employees of the former agencies that were rationalised; those that are staying at home without money to go to hospitals, those without money to pay their children’s school fees and those who are even without food, to the extent that they are falling ill and dropping day by day. I beg that this matter is addressed.

**THE SPEAKER:** Government?

2.42

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati):** Madam Speaker, the Minister of Public Service presented a paper on Monday, updating the Cabinet on the progress we are making with Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure (RAPEX) – how many institutions have been merged fully, the staff that have been compensated, those that have not been compensated, and those that were taken over by the new institutions. We discussed this matter.

Madam Speaker, with your permission, I request that the Minister of Public Service comes next week, to update the House on the progress we are making, the challenges and the solutions to those challenges. I beg to move.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 29 January 2025, the Attorney-General gave a legal opinion to the Minister of Public Service on severance pay for former staff of the dissolved Uganda National Roads Authority. That is one of them. I do not know if Members have a copy of this legal opinion.

However, the former staff are not in agreement with the opinion and most of them have gone to court over this legal opinion. They say they should not be given compensation – that is what the Attorney-General said.

What we can do is to wait for a report from public service, entity by entity. We want it entity by entity because you said that you were ready. You brought certificates of financial implications. We agreed and we said: “Okay; if you want it, have it”. Now that you have failed to pay these people – we do not want these people to continue suffering. These people have worked for this country. What we need is fairness in the whole process. Let us have a report on people who have been paid, those who are pending, and what kind of payment we are talking about. Yes, Government?

**MR BAHATI:** Madam Speaker, we shall bring the report, detailing institution by institution, on Tuesday next week.

**MR SSEWUNGU:** Clarification –

**THE SPEAKER:** And, the process of absorption – there are members who were supposed to have been absorbed into the parent ministries. The process of absorption is as chaotic as that of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA). We need that process to be done in a smooth way. You cannot say that because I have been working in this institution, I should go through public service again. How? I thought you were absorbing me because you have taken over the institution; so, I am going to be absorbed in that department in the ministry.

**MR SSEWUNGU:** My clarification, as you had allowed. Madam Speaker –

**THE SPEAKER:** No, I am still communicating.

**MR BAHATI:** Madam Speaker, from the report received from the Minister of Public Service, he appears to be on top of the situation. He raised a number of challenges and, also, the solutions to those challenges, including those issues that you are talking about. On Tuesday –

**THE SPEAKER:** On top or under? To the best of our knowledge, he is under the situation. He is not on top of the situation because we have very many people out there, crying. People are supposed to be absorbed. People are supposed to be paid – those whom they think are not - we need a report.

Yes, there is information from Hon. Odur. (*Hon. Katusabe rose*) Hon. Atkins, do not worry, I will give you an opportunity to speak.

**MR ODUR:** Madam Speaker, Hon. Bahati was in charge of the ministry for finance. There is a serious ripple effect arising from people suddenly losing their jobs and losing their spending power. One of the reasons why inflation is going up is because people are now at home. They cannot spend; they have lost their jobs. Soon, this economy is going to suffer because of that.

The major point is that if you come to Parliament, a serious institution, and explain to us that “allow us take this policy shift because we have the money”, and then when Parliament has done its part, you go and renegade on that agreement – you go and refuse to pay those people – you make Parliament look unserious.

We asked these questions. For some of the agencies, you were even in a hurry. The minister even suspended some rules and said, “we are ready to implement as soon as tomorrow, and the money is available”. So, who has “eaten” the money meant to pay the terminal benefits of those people?

You are known for being very corrupt – (*Interjections*) - this Government. The IGG’s report says that. Have you “eaten” the money – the terminal benefits? They should explain that, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** First of all, it is not about “eating” the money. It is about the absorption of these people. Once you fail to absorb, that is when you pay them the terminal benefits. Therefore, let us have a report to that effect on Tuesday. Rule 222 - I have already made a decision.

**MR SSEWUNGU:** Madam Speaker, it was useful. This is because the roads and bridges are broken. We need them to work on our roads.

**THE SPEAKER:** Can you sit down? I pity men who like quarreling. Yes, Hon. Atkins?

2.49

**MR ATKINS KATUSABE (FDC, Bukonzo County West, Kasese):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, I wish our Muslim brothers and sisters a happy month of Ramadan.

Number two, I join you, Madam Speaker, in congratulating the Deputy Speaker upon that coveted position. That position has brought out the real leadership in you. You are the Speaker. Somebody else would have said, “Okay, a position of chairperson? I want that too.” However, you have demonstrated leadership, and that is a challenge for everybody. This world is about bringing our heads together for a common good.

Madam Speaker, I do not know whether it would not serve us well to aggregate these compensations that are scattered all over the country, Kasese inclusive. In 1996, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) attacked Kasese Municipality and burned cars and houses, but people have never been compensated.

In the same Kasese District, in Kitholhu Subcounty, 10 LCI leaders were murdered in cold blood, and their internal organs thrown in their faces for what crime; because they were – I would rather - because compensations are all over the country, including Teso - can we have these aggregated, consolidated, and brought here, so that we can find the money for these people?

The reason - yesterday, you directed the Attorney-General to come and give us a full account of what exactly happened with the National Unity Platform (NUP) Office raid, the commanders involved in the raid, who sanctioned it, and why the raid would surely occur without the owners of the premises and without a court order.

**THE SPEAKER:** The report will be brought, Hon. Katusabe. We are going to have it.

**MR KATUSABE:** Thank you so much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, it would be unfair to only congratulate my deputy. I also congratulate Hon. Enos Asiimwe, who has been made the Treasurer of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Africa Region. He may say something.

Honourable members, Hon. Asiimwe has been representing me in the CPA. I told him I had a lot of work here. I had to give him the position that was supposed to be mine: Treasurer CPA—Africa Region. Yes?

2.52

**MR ENOS ASIIMWE (NRM, Kabula County, Lyantonde):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. First and foremost, the other day, when I was presenting the report for that particular conference where I was elected as treasurer, I passed on my gratitude to you and the Office of the Speaker for giving us the opportunity to always represent our country and of course, Parliament, on your behalf.

Most of the responsibilities we take on for these international committees are entirely delegated by the Speaker. Without her support and empowerment, we certainly cannot represent you effectively, so, I thank her.

Madam Speaker, though I had not communicated earlier, we usually make reports and present them on the Floor, but at times, we never get a chance to debate them. When we bring these reports, the honourable ministers who are policymakers - because the purpose for representing Parliament in these international committees is to compare notes, pick one or two policies that might have an impact on our societies, or that we might share with our policymakers. But at times when we bring these reports, the policy makers do not take them up. I will give an example of a declaration where even Uganda is a signatory on health financing. It was made in 2001; all African countries passed a resolution that at

least 15 per cent of our budgets should go to the health sector.

However, we failed to make 10 per cent of our budget going to health. Some of the challenges we have in the health sector are because we do not follow these recommendations. By the time 54 countries sit and make a resolution, they have certainly shared experiences, and they think if they are passed, they might help us possibly achieve certain issues.

My request to you, Madam Speaker, is to push the Frontbench that when we bring these reports – possibly, we create a desk that passes them on to the relevant ministries. They can make action-taken reports, so that we understand that we are not wasting resources meeting every now and then without any impact on our communities. Thank you so much.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is what we are going to do. We will make sure that the reports reach the relevant ministries so that we can take action.

Honourable members, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have students and teachers from Mt. St. Mary's College, Namagunga, in Lugazi Municipality. Where are you? You are most welcome and very smart. The school is in Buikwe District. They are represented by Hon. Stephen Sserubula, and Hon. Diana Mutasingwa. Join me in receiving them. *(Applause)*

The Bishop, who will officiate on Ash Wednesday, is from the Archdiocese of Lugazi. Thank you so much for coming.

Next, yes?

**MR KATUSABE:** We need a timeline to avoid raising this over and over again.

2.57

**MR WILFRED NIWAGABA (Independent, Ntorwa County East, Kabale):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I had seen the Minister of State for Environment, but it looks like she has gone out. Since there is the Prime Minister – acting, Kigezi as a subregion has serious

environmental issues, and those issues relate to the use of wetlands. In the 1940s and 1950s, the colonial government drained a majority of the wetlands and gave them to the people as their lands to grow crops and rear animals for milk purposes because of malnutrition.

Recently, the Government has started forcefully evicting people from the land they have owned since the 1940s and 1950s without complying with Article 26 of the Constitution, specifically without giving them prior and adequate compensation.

We are finding it hard, as leaders, to advise them otherwise because the only message we tell them is that the Government cannot evict them after it has compensated them. Some have already lost their crops and grazing land because of the fear of forceful eviction.

Can we hear from the Government on what it intends to do to the people of Kigezi, particularly concerning the land they use and have owned since the 1940s to date? If it still wants to restore wetlands, can we have an assurance that we will first compensate them before eviction?

2.59

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati):** Madam Speaker, this issue was partly raised yesterday and the Government gave a response. At the moment, as Hon. Niwagaba has rightly said, the people who have titles in the wetlands and are using those wetlands in Kabale, are doing it, not that they grabbed the wetland, but because they went through the process of the government then.

Now, there is no forceful eviction of people from the wetlands. That is the assurance we can give you.

On Monday, His Excellency, the President guided that the compensation process for some of the land or the people who own the wetlands should commence. The Attorney-General was given instructions and he has started the process. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** There is a point of order but he has finished. Yes, Hon. Faith?

3.00

**MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also wish to add my voice to Hon. Atkins Katusabe's to thank you for allowing Members to participate in international events like CPA. We are also celebrating the election of the Deputy Speaker and Hon. Enos into those very important positions.

Madam Speaker, on the same note, I also wish to thank you for the delegation you sent to the African Parliamentary Union. I wish to announce to this House that we never came empty-handed last year. There are two Members here who got elected. Hon. Betty Ethel Naluyima was elected to the position of Vice President for the Women's Committee for the African Parliamentary Union. *(Applause)*

We also have the auditor of the Africa Parliamentary Union, Hon. Remigio Achia, who got elected and this is a position they are serving for two years. I want to give you the credit, Madam Speaker, because these Members did not nominate themselves to participate and I want to thank you for the support you have continued to render. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Next item.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE  
REPORT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
SERVICE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ON THE NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF THE  
TERM OF OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE  
UNIT COUNCILS (LOCAL COUNCIL I  
AND LOCAL COUNCIL II)

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, as you may recall on Thursday, 6 February 2025, the Minister of Local Government tabled a notice for the extension of the term of Office of Administrative Units, that is, Local Council I and II, pursuant to Regulation 12(d) of the Local Government Councils Regulations.

The Speaker referred the instrument to the sectoral committee on Public Service and

Local Government to scrutinise in accordance with Section 175(3) of the Local Government Act, CAP 243. This provision of the Act gives Parliament two weeks to amend or revoke the statutory instrument. If no amendments or revocation is effected, the statutory instrument shall be deemed to have been approved. The committee is ready to report on their findings. Please, Chairperson?

3.04

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Mr Pius Wakabi):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am here to present the report of the Committee on Public Service and Local Government on the notice of the extension of the term of office of local administrative units (Local Council I – LC I and Local Council II – LC II).

However, before I proceed, Madam Speaker, I request to lay, on the Table, the report and the minutes of the committee meetings. I beg to lay.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please, lay.

**MR WAKABI:** Madam Speaker, on Saturday, 6 February 2025, the Minister of Local Government laid, on the Table, a Notice of extension of the term of office for the local administrative units, (Local Council I and II). The instrument was referred to the Committee on Public Service and Local Government for consideration.

Madam Speaker, to save time, I request to skip the literature on the background and methodology and go directly to the committee observations and the recommendations.

Madam Speaker, on the legal framework, Regulation 12(d) of the Local Government Council Regulations provides as follows:

*“The minister, by notice in the gazette and newspaper of national circulation or media, with the approval of the Cabinet may extend, renew, reinstate and validate the term of office administrative unit, councils from five years, for further period not exceeding one hundred*

*and eighty days at a time, notwithstanding that the term may have expired, where;*

- (a) Uganda is in a state of war;*
- (b) A state of emergency has been declared under the Constitution;*
- (c) Any district or part of the district has been declared a disturbed area under the Constitution; and*
- (d) It has become extremely difficult or impossible to conduct elections for the administrative unit councils.”*

The Notice in issue was gazetted under General Notice number 2827 in the Uganda Gazette and published in the *New Vision* newspaper on 18 December 2024.

According to the Ministry of Local Government, this was done with the approval of the Cabinet at its meeting of 25 November 2024, under Minute No. 397(CT 2024), which approved the extension of the time for both of the term of office of local administrative units, Local Councils I and II, from 31 December 2024 for a period not exceeding 180 days.

1. The committee further observed that the current office bearers were elected in 2018, and before that, the country had spent seventeen years without elections for local councils I and II leaders. The failure to elect new leaders posed questions of the legality of the office bearers and the decisions they made;
2. The regulations allow the minister to extend the term of administrative unit councils for a period not exceeding 180 days at a time, leaving room for unlimited extensions, which can be subject to abuse;
3. According to the Ministry of Local Government, the Cabinet directed that the administrative units and women council elections be aligned with the general elections, starting with the 2026 general election;
4. Based on the plan to align that administrative unit and women council elections with the 2026 general elections, the Ministry

- of Local Government would be required to issue two more extensions in line with Regulation 12(d) of the Local Government Council Regulations. It is important to note that by 2026, the country will have spent eight years without elections for the local councils I and II leadership;
5. The alignment of administrative units and women council elections with the general elections will help reduce costs, improve voter turnout and the morale of all stakeholders in the election process;
  6. Local councils are the grassroots for service delivery and are the first line of contact with the citizens. They handle crucial issues of citizenship, family matters, land transactions, security, administration, governance and supervision and enforcement of government programs like the Parish Development Model and many other functions on behalf of government and their people. Failure to prioritise local council election structures undermines such duties;
  7. The extension of the term of office and failure to conduct the election of local administrative unit has an impact on the citizenry. It affects voters who have the right to choose leaders in regular, free and fair elections, according to the Constitution. In addition, political leaders who are fatigued and have lost interest in serving or have lost popularity among the voters continue to hold offices; and
  8. According to the Electoral Commission, the elections will cost Shs 52,166,000,000 for the administrative units, while women councils/committee elections will require Shs 45,086,000,000 giving a total of Shs 97,252,000,000. However, if conducted simultaneously as part of the 2026 general elections, only Shs 56,134,000,000 will be required for both, thereby reducing the cost by Shs 39,118,000,000.
- the general elections, the country will save Shs 39 billion.
9. According to the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was directed to provide the resources needed to enable the Electoral Commission to conduct elections of LCI and LCII and women councils during the 2026 general elections.

On a serious note, Madam Speaker, as we were processing this report, despite several invitations to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to provide critical information to the committee to enable it effectively accomplish the task assigned, it continuously failed to honour our invitations.

#### Recommendations

The committee recommends as follows:

1. Given Cabinet's directive to align the elections of administrative units and women councils with the general elections, with effect from the next general elections of 2026, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should commit and avail the necessary funds for these processes.
2. The Electoral Commission should update its 2026 general election roadmap in line with the Cabinet's directive.
3. Since the extensions of the term of office of the local administrative unit have been purely due to the inability of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to provide the necessary funds, and the fact that they disregarded the committee's invitation, the minister for finance should assure this august House that this time around they comply with the directive of Cabinet and the recommendations of this committee. Madam Speaker, I beg to submit.

Madam Speaker, if the elections of LCs I and women councils are to be done together with

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you so much, committee chairperson.

3.14

**MS IRENE LINDA (NRM, Woman Representative, Fort Portal City):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the committee chairperson, for the good report. I support the recommendation that the ministry should commit funds for the election of LCIs.

Madam Speaker, as the ministry plans to commit funds for the election, I implore it to also commit enough money to facilitate the LCI Chairpersons because they are entitled to *ex gratia*. I am saying this because they do not get all the *ex gratia* they are supposed to get; they do not get all the money. They are still getting it piecemeal. They are entitled to get Shs 120,000 every year, but let me give an example of LC I chairpersons in my city; up to today, they do not get that money.

As Parliament, since we are now in the budgeting process, we should plan to increase the *ex gratia* for the LCs I. This is because as we have seen, they are doing very great work; they are the ones who handle most of the cases although they are not trained. So, as we plan for their election, we should also plan for their training so that they are able to handle court matters very well at their level. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

3.15

**MS MOURINE OSORU (NRM, Woman Representative, Arua City):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support the committee recommendations. However, in most cases, the executive of LCIs - when we have meetings - always complains that the Government only caters for LCI chairpersons. In an event where there are no LCI chairpersons, it is them to take over the offices. The question has always been, we have the LCI chairpersons, how about the executive? This is the question they have always asked us.

The Government should have proper planning. The question should be, did we appropriate money to run the elections for all these lower

councils - I, II, and the women council? If we do not have it, then this is the right time to appropriate the monies in the coming budget.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, I think we should borrow a leaf from other countries like Kenya. We should be able to conduct elections of office bearers from LC1 up to the President in one day such that we save funds. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is why you are starting with the Presidential, parliamentary and coming down to LCI. That is the suggestion of the committee. Thank you.

3.17

**MR SIMON WOKORACH (NRM, Aswa County, Gulu):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I join the rest of my colleagues in appreciating the report from the Committee on Local Government and Public Service.

What came out very clearly is the fact that when the committee requested the minister for finance to appear before them to answer some questions – (*Interjection*) - Madam Speaker, I am not a member of that committee. (*Laughter*)

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Wokorach, are you a member of the committee?

**MR WOKORACH:** No, Madam Speaker. I am not a member of that committee; I left.

We would like to know from the minister for finance why they failed to appear before the committee to support the writing of this report.

Secondly, in my district, we have some newly created villages and we have Local Council I members with fully-fledged executives but in acting capacities. We would like to hear from the Ministry of Local Government: what are the plans for those LCIs in acting capacities in the newly created villages in our district? Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable minister, the LCIs are complaining that the

bicycles you gave them are worn out and they do not have means of transport. They are saying that instead of having bicycles, they should also graduate to motorcycles. That is what I was told when I went to Amuru recently.

3.19

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Ms Victoria Rusoke):**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the Member for the concern about the LCIs, who are in acting positions. The regulations say that in the middle of the term, we do not conduct elections. In the first place, some of these villages are not coded and have no instrument created by the Ministry of Local Government.

Last week, I corrected two villages in my constituency, where the Electoral Commission went – to ease the distance for voting, created a polling station for members of my villages in alphabetical order, from letters A to H. The members were rejoicing and asking: when are we holding elections?

So, in such circumstances, where the Electoral Commission creates polling stations to ease the election and our members go ahead to create their own villages; those villages are not known by the Ministry of Local Government. They were not coded and forwarded to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for funding; that is the problem.

I take your passion, Madam Speaker, that at the moment, the bicycles are outdated. It is our plea that when the Government's budget increases – praying that the oil turns into reality – they should graduate to motorcycles. I thank the President because everywhere he goes these days, he appreciates the LCIs and leaves them with a bicycle, which is a sign that it is where we are going, and wish we get there.

3.21

**MR MAXIMUS OCHAI (NRM, West Budama County North, Tororo):** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity. I thank, first of all, the committee chairperson for giving us a comprehensive report and I fully associate myself with the recommendations therein.

Madam Speaker, allow me to lean very heavily on this committee's report and raise a concern as a *vox populi* of the people of West Budama North Constituency, regarding the long-serving LC I chairpersons.

Here in Uganda, some LC I chairpersons have been serving in that capacity since 1986, first as members of the ad-hoc committee, which was renamed in 1987 as the "Resistance Council". They continued serving up to 1994. In 1995, the Resistance Council was christened the "Local Council".

**THE SPEAKER:** What is the problem with serving for long?

**MR OCHAI:** They are saying that they have contributed enormously –

**THE SPEAKER:** Why don't they leave if they feel they have been there for long – because other people also want those seats?

**MR OCHAI:** No, it is because the re-election has not been taking place –

**THE SPEAKER:** No, it is just now that the elections have not taken place. Honourable members, what I thought you would talk about is the increment of their pay - the *ex gratia*, the bicycles or motorcycles for movement. That is what you would be talking about. Those who feel they have been there for too long – it is free entry, free exit.

**MR OCHAI:** Madam Speaker, their point is that they have contributed enormously to the democratic governance that we have in Uganda today.

**THE SPEAKER:** Everybody has contributed. Let the money be given to these people, whether you have contributed for a hundred years or two years.

3.23

**MS HANIFA NABUKEERA (NUP, Woman Representative, Mukono):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the chairperson and committee for the report. Mine is about the

increment of the salary to the LCs. Currently, they are given Shs 10,000 per month. My opinion is that it should be increased to at least Shs 50,000 per month. That is my submission. Thank you.

3.24

**MS BRENDA NABUKENYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Luweero):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the chairperson of the committee for the statement. I am in support of increasing allowances for the LCs.

One critical thing that I realised is that the extensions were not because the Government did not have money. According to the chairperson's report, they wanted to align these elections with the general elections. By doing this, you disenfranchise those who want to stand for the LC positions, and that is not okay.

We need to have a good plan as a country. If you do not come to Parliament to explain that you want to align them, but instead say that you will extend them because there is no money, then, you are lying to every person; this was in the report.

Madam Speaker, the ministry should be able to plan for elections. Now that they are recommending that they come in when we are having the –

**THE SPEAKER:** The ministry has asked for an extension; it has been gazetted and brought to us.

**MS NABUKENYA:** But, Madam Speaker, there is also a limit to extensions, according to the Constitution. You cannot be extending all the time; it shows that the Government –

**THE SPEAKER:** It does not have a limit.

**MS NABUKENYA:** Madam Speaker, it still disenfranchises those who want to stand and it is not okay.

**THE SPEAKER:** Actually, we delayed to discuss this paper. The two weeks from the time it was presented here have passed, so, it is

deemed approved. Let us talk about the welfare of our people because those LCs are our voters. *(Applause)*

3.26

**MS FORTUNATE NANTONGO (DP, Woman Representative, Kyotera):** Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I would like to add my voice to the issue of the welfare of LC I chairpersons.

Honestly speaking, Madam Speaker, you cannot survive on Shs 10,000 in this economy, even for a day. It is quite absurd that LC I chairpersons who are actually the first unit of governance in our country are paid only Shs 10,000 yet in most places, this money does not even come on time. We have many arrears.

I propose that, as we get into the budgeting process, we should budget for an increment in salaries to cater for their welfare. Even Shs 50,000 is little because in this economy – how much are Members of Parliament earning – *(Interjections)* - yes, including myself. Do not be selfish. They should also be paid a good salary. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, why don't you want your salary to be talked about? The honourable member is right. She says let us increase the pay for LCI chairpersons. Just as we are comfortable with ours, let them also get comfort somewhere. Yes, Hon. Allan Ssewanyana.

3.28

**MR ALLAN SSEWANYANA (NUP, Makindye Division West, Kampala):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support the motion for this resolution. In my area, we have more than 40 LCI chairpersons who are dead, and this has left a huge vacuum because of the failure to conduct such elections. Therefore, the ministry should find means of replacing these chairpersons who lost their lives because it is endangering our areas and people have nowhere to go.

Sometimes, the vice chairman who was left there has no mandate of the whole village

because he was appointed by the chairperson, as per your regulations. These people were not voted for. That is the case in my area.

Madam Speaker, about welfare, it is believed that the LCI chairpersons earn from the stamp services. They have a stamp - if you do not know - which the Government has given so much power, whether you are registering for something or applying for jobs.

Some LCI chairpersons have used this stamp very profitably. When you enter the office of the LCI Chairman for a stamp, you pay Shs 10,000, in some areas. If you calculate, 30 visitors per day would equate to Shs 300,000, and when multiplied by a month, it is Shs 9 million. That is happening in villages.

Madam Speaker, for those who do not misuse the stamp, we would wish to increase their welfare to about Shs 200,000 per village. That is not so much because we have so many Resident City Commissioners (RCCs), their deputies and assistants who earn money yet they are not provided for in the Constitution of Uganda.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Asuman?

3.30

**MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri):** Madam Speaker, I thank you and the chairperson of the committee for the report.

Madam Speaker, as you are aware, my mother, who is making 70 years old, is the LCI chairperson of her village. In the neighbouring village, almost all members of that executive died. What is happening is that people from that neighbouring village come to my mother, for services of the other village – *(Interjections)* - this one is asking me from which party she is. She was the RC. She has this disease - I keep asking her, “When are you leaving?” And she says, “When President Museveni leaves”. *(Laughter)* That is her problem.

The point I am making, Madam Speaker, is that the failure to fill this void has created such

challenges. I keep telling her: “You are going to be challenged; you cannot be acting in two villages.” She asks, “What can I do? People come to my village for stamp services.” It is a very big challenge that we must take very seriously. The fact that there is a void - and this scenario is not limited to what I am talking about, it is everywhere.

Madam Speaker, it also goes to the issue of welfare. I do not know what criteria our colleagues in the central government used to set it at Shs 10,000. I, therefore, support the idea of enhancing the welfare of these LC chairpersons -

**THE SPEAKER:** Especially the one of your mother. *(Laughter)*

**MR BASALIRWA:** Madam Speaker, in principle, I support the idea of enhancing the welfare of these LC chairpersons. More fundamentally, this Shs 10,000 does not even come on time. I am sure honourable colleagues here have been approached by these LC chairpersons, demanding and asking when their money -

**THE SPEAKER:** There is a procedural matter.

**MR ODUR:** Madam Speaker, item three, which has been called, is a motion for the adoption of the report of the Committee on Public Service and Local Government on the notice of extension of term of office.

Madam Speaker, this is a very specific motion, not a generalised motion yet the trend of the debate is that we have now ventured into discussing the welfare of political leaders, which is still okay. However, wouldn't it be procedurally right that at an appropriate time, a separate motion is brought to deal with the welfare of all political leaders? We first dispose of the item we have on hand; we can discuss the others later.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I now put the question that the House approves the extension of the term of office of administrative unit councils; Local Council I and Local

Council II, pursuant to Section 175(3) of the Local Governments Act, Cap. 243, and Regulation 12(d) of the Local Government Council's Regulations.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

**MR SSEWUNGU:** Prayers, through you, Madam Speaker, to the ministry. The Minister of Local Government stated that some villages are not coded, and the extension is coming, as it has been passed. Can we get a record of LC chairpersons since some have been reported to have died? How can we extend their term when they are in graves?

We also need to know those villages that are not coded so that we get a clear record of those whose chairpersons' mandate we are extending in this motion. Otherwise, many LC chairpersons have passed on yet we are extending their term of office. We need the information, Madam Speaker; can we get the number of coded villages in the country, and let it be laid on the Table? - *(Interjections)* - No, I am on a point of procedure.

Madam Speaker, we need to know who those LC chairpersons whose term of office is being extended are. How do you extend even for dead ones - ghosts! I am seeing honourable members who are happy over the extension of dead people as LC chairpersons - *(Laughter)* - and it is very interesting. That is my prayer - *(Interjections)* - Can I repeat it?

Madam Speaker, my prayer is for the Minister of Local Government to give us the names of villages, which are coded. And as we extend, some LC chairpersons passed on yet we are making an extension of LC leaders who are in graves. If we get all this information, it is very vital to know which LC chairperson has had their term of office extended and from which villages. Otherwise, we cannot allow -

**THE SPEAKER:** For those LC chairpersons who are in the graves, there are people who are acting or their deputies.

**MR SSEWUNGU:** But they are not legitimate by law.

**THE SPEAKER:** Next item.

## BILLS SECOND READING

### THE HUMAN ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY BILL, 2023

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, we read this Bill yesterday and the sponsor was supposed to move a motion. However, the Government asked for a day for them to harmonise but I do not know whether it has been harmonised.

I would like to remind the Government that when you look at Article 94(4)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, you notice that a private Member has a right to bring a private Members' Bill and I will not be seen to be the one to negate it.

Most of the Bills that we have had, which I am proud for having been successfully passed in this House and increased the number of Bills passed, are private Members' Bills. So, here is a private Member with a private Members' Bill. Over to you, the Government.

3.38

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati):** Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this particular item on the Order Paper. We recognise the rights of the private Member and also the importance of this Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill, 2023, which has been discussed by the committee. We also want to appreciate the contribution of the private Member in moving this important Bill.

On the side of the Government, we feel strongly that there are some other issues related to reproductive health that need to be included in this Bill. Therefore, we are proposing - Madam Speaker, I appreciate the private Member in moving this Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill, 2023 but given the importance of this Bill to our population,

there are some other elements that we would want to include in this Bill to make it more comprehensive. So, on behalf of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health, we are requesting for additional time –

**THE SPEAKER:** There is a point of order.

**MS NAMUGGA:** Madam Speaker, with all due respect to the Government, we were here yesterday with the Minister of Health, my good friend who is sick. They committed to come back today - and even the Attorney-General told us that they are coming back today to have the Bill discussed.

We are here spending taxpayers' money in processing these Bills. Yesterday, my good friend, the Attorney-General, showed unpreparedness and when the colleague was submitting about how he was unprepared, he used a word that was unfriendly, and we all said, "Okay, we drop it". But I mean, you are moving us in the same direction.

Madam Speaker, when is the Government going to become serious and respect taxpayers and this Parliament as - I mean, we are using taxpayers' money. This process has been handled for the last three months - handling a process and you and the Government have been part of this. There is no Bill that is processed without the presence of the Government. Is my colleague, Hon. Bahati, dressed in a yellow tie - *(Laughter)* - in order to come and continue confusing this House?

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. You know, they are of the same size - *(Laughter)* - but she raises a pertinent issue. You answer the issue. Leave alone the tie.

**THE SPEAKER:** There is a procedural matter.

**MR EDDIE KWIZERA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Making a law is a process. It starts with a Bill and if the acting Prime Minister says there is Government interest where there is need to improve or to amend - even if they never came to the committee and we have already passed the Bill, there is nothing that

will stop them from amending the Act if it has been passed.

Therefore, wouldn't it be procedurally right for us to proceed and at an appropriate time, the Government brings its interests or amendments when the Bill is already passed? Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, first of all, in the case of Hon. Odur vs - I remember "*Togikwatako*" that you cannot smuggle an amendment on the Floor. I still remember that case in Mbale. Therefore, even if there is a problem with this law, the Government cannot present any amendments on the Floor. All they can do is to – the report has already been signed – I do not know.

**MR SSEWUNGU:** Madam Speaker, through you to the Prime Minister, we pray that you make our work here easy. Sincerely bringing a Bill for the second reading and then the Attorney-General comes in to seek audience to hold the Bill yet we are coming up with a report that has already been signed by Members, makes us look funny and so we beseech and request you - you make our work hard and you also give our Speaker a lot of difficulty in processing her work during the House. Because this is a Bill that has gone through the committee of Parliament, where you were invited and attended physically. If you were not invited, then there is a challenge in the leadership of the committee.

I pray, Madam Speaker, that as I sit in for the Leader of the Opposition, let us have this occurrence once and for all, but such behaviour should not continue. As experienced legislators, you know what is meant by "Bills Second Reading." At that stage, the report is usually already signed by Members and we are supposed to move on.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the Prime Minister has something to say, but at the same time, I do not want the ministers to put her in a very awkward position. Ministers should not do this.

3.44

**THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja):**

Madam Speaker, you are aware that Hon. Kawooya is sick and the Minister of Health – *(Interjection)* - I know it is not. Hon. Muhanga is with the President in Ankole and Hon. Dr Jane Aceng is handling a very delicate issue. Therefore, I know why they are not here.

Madam Speaker, the motion for the Bill to be at committee stage is not yet moved and there is a precedent in this House, in the Sixth Parliament when Hon. Katuntu's Bill on Access to Information was taken over by the Government.

I would like you to also remember that Hon. Sarah Opendi was a minister in the Ministry of Health. We have been battling with this Bill and making a lot of adjustments. I am, therefore, of the view that you allow me to coordinate the ministers, the sponsor and the mover of the Bill so that we can come back here with a harmonised position.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Asuman?

3.47

**MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri):** Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you. First of all, as we observed yesterday, it takes a lot of effort for a private Member to process a Bill.

Secondly, there is no Bill that is referred to a committee and the Government is not given the priority to make presentations; it is not there.

The chairpersons and clerks of these committees are under instructions to give the first opportunity or invitation to the Attorney-General and the line ministers. I am very sure even in this case, the Attorney-General and line ministers were invited and consulted.

Finally, Madam Speaker, it is also not true that at this stage, the Executive cannot make amendments. What do our rules say – the

position of the law? Amendments at this stage are allowed on two conditions:

1. If they were not given an opportunity to present the amendments;
2. If the opportunity was accorded and the committee rejected their proposals; then in that case, the rules allow amendments to be made here.

In that case, Madam Speaker, I beseech you and seek your indulgence that you allow Parliament to proceed with this Bill the way it is. If there are any amendments proposed, let us handle them on the Floor but let it not be seen as frustrating private Members who commit a lot of time and effort to fill the void that, otherwise, should have been met by the Government. Madam Speaker, I beseech you that we proceed.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, it is the Government that is going to implement this Bill and it is the Government that is requesting for time. Give us just two weeks.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, giving two weeks is not a problem. I do not think that is a big problem. For one reason, the report is already signed, uploaded, and is ready for debate. Therefore, if you are going to reconcile yourselves on who moves it in the House, that is okay. Two weeks, Prime Minister, is not a problem – *(Hon. Opendi rose\_)* - No, we have agreed. – No, I do not want you to thank the Prime Minister.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, today I have refused because I know it is an attack. *(Laughter)*

Honourable members, in two weeks' time, this Bill will come back on the Floor. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, help us not to go against the Constitution because these Members have powers to bring a private Member's Bill. Please. Thank you.

STATEMENT BY THE RT HON. PRIME  
MINISTER ON GOVERNMENT BUSINESS  
FOR THE SUCCEEDING WEEK, 4 TO 6  
MARCH 2025, PURSUANT TO RULE 28  
OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

**THE SPEAKER:** Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

3.50

**THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the wise ruling. I move under Rule 28 of our Rules of Procedure to submit the Government Business for the week of 4 to 6 March 2025:

1. There will be submission of ministerial policy statements by the ministers as required by Section 13(3) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and Rule 146 of the Rules of Procedures of Parliament of Uganda;
2. We shall get a statement by the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development on the commemoration of the International Women's Day;
3. A statement by the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development on the progress of the Joint Programme of Youth Livelihood and Women Entrepreneurship in the country.

I beg to submit.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Prime Minister.

PRIME MINISTER'S TIME

**THE SPEAKER:** Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

3.52

**THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja):** Madam Speaker, somebody was complaining of time but we have always coordinated before. I usually donate my time for Business in the House.

**THE SPEAKER:** You are even early today.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, we received a question from Hon. Dr Ronald Balimwezo, the MP for Nakawa East Constituency. He states that during this year's budget debate, the Minister of Works and Transport, through the Attorney-General, assured Parliament that funds for compensating project-affected persons (PAPs) along the Kampala-Jinja Expressway were available. However, it is alarming that the majority of PAPs in his constituency have not yet been compensated.

According to him, further compounding the issue, is that the Ministry of Works and Transport has failed to declare the specific amounts allocated for compensating the PAPs.

For over seven years, according to him, PAPs have been unable to renovate their homes or construct basic facilities like pit latrines. Many of these families have resorted to using flying toilets (*kaveera*), creating sanitation and health risks, including the possibility of disease outbreaks.

The Kampala-Jinja Expressway is one of the most bankable infrastructure projects and its successful implementation should be a Government priority.

His prayers are:

- i. When will the Ministry of Works and Transport release clear details of compensation packages for the PAPs?
- ii. What specific steps will the Government take to ensure the affected individuals are compensated promptly so that they can resume normal lives and improve their living conditions?
- iii. What measures will be put in place to prevent such delays in future compensation for other national projects?

Madam Speaker, following the approval of the Addendum Methodology for compensation of PAPs without legal rights or interests to the land

they occupy, the asset inventory for the PAPs on public land in Nakawa East Constituency was updated and new valuation reports were compiled. The review of these reports is being finalised for submission to the Chief Government Valuer by the end of this month. After approval by the Chief Government Valuer, the values will be disclosed to the affected persons.

The second question came from Hon. Lawrence Songa, MP for Ora County, Zombo. The 120-kilometre Nebbi-Goli-Paidha-Padea-Zombo-Zeu-Warr-Vurra-Lia-Adramacaku Economic, Revenue Generating and Border Security Road appeared in NDP II, NDP III and the NRM manifesto. Why is it still appearing to be at the feasibility stage in the NDP IV, yet the final detailed engineering design for tarmacking was completed in March 2018?

Madam Speaker, the feasibility studies and detailed designs for the upgrading of the Goli-Paidha-Zombo-Zeu-Warr-Vurra (100km) and Arua-Lia (15km) was completed in March 2018. The Ministry of Works and Transport is in touch with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to ensure commencement of the procurement of the civil works contractor. Civil works are expected to commence in the Financial Year 2025/2026.

His second prayer was: What is the progress of seeking funding from BADEA, African Development Bank and others for prioritising the tarmacking of this road in NDPIV?

My response, is that BADEA carried out an appraisal for the upgrading of Nebbi-Goli (16km) during the period 26 February to 4 March 2024 and are currently in discussions with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for the financing of this road.

His prayer number three was: why is the construction of bridges, including Adoka, Umol, Aniza, Ora, Nyagak and Ayuda, moving slowly?

My response is that for the bridges; Adoka (Odrua), Omolo (Umol), Aniza, Ora, Nyagak and Ayuda along Nebbi-Paidha-Padea-Zombo-Zeu-Warr-Vurra-Lia, only Odrua Bridge is under construction with the bridge structure complete and the construction of access roads ongoing. Umol, Aniza, Ora, Nyagak and Ayuda are in fair condition, although they are single lane. They will be upgraded during the upgrading of Vurra-Goli-Nebbi Road. The contractor is already on site.

His prayer number four was: Can Dei-Panyimur-Pakwach-Wadelai-Rhino Camp-Obongi-Laropi-Dufile economic, tourism and security road be included and fast-tracked as an oil road, since it is in the oil belt?

My response is that oil roads are those meant to facilitate the exploitation and transportation of oil. The Ministry of Works and Transport will engage the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to assess and advise whether the stated are oil roads. Feasibility studies and detailed designs will be carried out in the medium-term, as resources may permit.

Question number three came from Hon. Shartsi Kutesa Musherure, the MP, Mawogola County. Her first prayer was: With the successful launch of Electricity Access Scale-Up Project, could the Prime Minister explain why there has been a delay in the project's implementation?

My response is that the Electricity Access Scale-up Project (EASP) was designed to increase consumer connections in the country by targeting over one million new connections. Connections commenced in March 2024 and over 100,000 new consumers have so far been connected. The connections are limited to no-pole and one-pole service, on a first come, first served basis. The connections programme is, therefore, ongoing.

Her prayer number two was: furthermore, could there be clarification as to whether the project prioritises grid extension or service connections for the beneficiaries, and what timelines are in place for its roll-out?

My response is that over the last 10 years, the Government concentrated on grid extensions across the country with minimum service connections. The Electricity Access Scale-UP Project was, therefore, designed to make service connection for optimal utilisation of the existing network. The project covers no-pole connections, one-pole connections, transformer injections in a radius of about three kilometres from the existing network.

The third prayer from the honourable member was: on what basis were the beneficiaries selected? Given that the project obtained financing of more than \$600 million, the Government must justify why people of Mawogola North remain underserved.

My response is that based on the above project design, Ssembabule is a beneficiary of the Electricity Access Scale-up Project. The Government is also developing the Grid Expansion and Support to Parish Development Project to address issues of un-electrified administrative offices, public institutions and value addition centres, of which Ssembabule is a beneficiary. Surveys have started from West Nile and will soon roll out to other parts of the country.

The next question was from Hon. Rose Obigah, the Woman Representative, Terego District. She requested for an update on the illegal mining activities in Onivu Village, Okavu Parish, Odupi Subcounty, Terego District.

My response is that on 20 January 2025, a joint team visited the site where the illegal mining activities were reported. Upon investigation, it was established that the illegal mining activities were being conducted by Li Kuang Mining Co. Ltd, a company holding Exploration Licence EL00383, with jurisdiction of operation in Yumbe and Obongi districts. The company was found to be operating outside its licensed area, specifically in Terego District, in violation of the terms of its licence.

As a result, all mining activities at the site were immediately suspended, and operations were halted to prevent further environmental degradation and oil spills in the area. To further

address this matter, the ministry, through the inspector of miners for the West Nile region, undertook a detailed inspection visit to the area on Tuesday, 4 February 2025.

It was confirmed that the operations were not within the jurisdiction of the company licensed. The operations were illegal, being undertaken under an exploration licence.

Li Kuang Mining Company Limited was directed to remove all its machinery and equipment from the site, and vacate the site entirely.

The company was advised to restore environmental damages caused by its activities.

Madam Speaker, artisanal miners were encouraged to form associations to register and acquire artisanal mining licences.

Madam Speaker, a Show Cause Notice will be issued to the company for potential cancellation of its licence (EL00383) due to non-compliance.

Hon. George Bhoka Didi, MP, Obongi County: the Obongi-Sinyanya ferry operations have been on halt since the 10<sup>th</sup> of February this year, due to a bad landing site and mechanical problems.

Efforts have been made to contact the Minister of Works and Transport regional and national offices, to provide urgent repairs to the Obongi ferry, but repairs have not been done up to now.

The breakdown of this ferry affects pupils who cross from Sinyanya on a daily basis to attend classes in Obongi, patients who access health services in Obongi Health Centre IV, and the business fraternity that transports goods from Arua and Adjumani, to Juba in South Sudan.

His question is that: what steps have been taken by the Ministry of Works and Transport to expeditiously restore the Obongi ferry operations?

My response is that between August and early December 2024, the water levels, as you all know, at the Obongi-Sinyanya ferry crossing,

increased tremendously, and this necessitated us to raise the landing sites to match the new water levels, in order to ensure safe ferry operations.

Between mid-December 2024 and January 2025, the water levels at the same ferry crossing dropped significantly, making the ferry operations risky and challenging. Despite the operational difficulties, the ferry team was able to continue with ferry operations up to the 10<sup>th</sup> of February this year, when the ferry itself experienced a fatal challenge on one of its three operational engines.

The new engine challenge led to the temporary closure of the ferry crossing in order to safeguard passengers and the ferry crew. Madam Speaker, the repair of the faulty engine is ongoing and will be fully restored. In addition, temporary civil works should also be completed by – that was 26 February 2025 – I think they must have completed by now.

It is expected that the ferry operations at Obongi-Sinyanya ferry will resume today. I hope, today, they resumed. We shall find out whether they have resumed.

The sixth question came from Hon. Juliet Achayo, MP Ngora County. She started by thanking the Government for constructing a bridge at Aleles, that connects Ngora to the neighbouring Pallisa District. The construction of the bridge is complete and the road is, by and large, usable.

However, since the completion of the bridge, part of the road that connects to the bridge has not been properly worked on to provide seamless transition from the road to the bridge structure. There is a sudden change in elevation at the bridge, that is a potential cause of accidents.

Furthermore, after heavy rains, water tends to flood in the area surrounding the bridge, making it look like an island and rendering the road impassable.

Her prayer is that the Ministry of Works and Transport quickly responds to this concern, and ensures that a proper approach is constructed to allow a smooth access to the bridge, and also introduce culvert crossings that are necessary to eliminate the flooding at Aleles.

My response was that the Ministry of Works and Transport signed a contract with M/s Coil Ltd and Motorways Construction JV, on 21 April 2019 for the construction of Aleles Bridge in Pallisa District.

At the time these concerns were raised, the contractor had completed the bridge, although the approach road work was still ongoing. The contractor provided a temporary diversion to allow limited access to the community.

I am pleased to report that the project, including the bridge and the approach road, has since been substantially completed and is now being used by the community for its intended purpose.

The seventh question came from Hon. Ephraim Biraaro, MP, Buhweju West County.

As we may be aware, His Excellency the President, through the NRM Manifestos of 2016-2021 and 2021-2026, and his several public pronouncements, has been pledging Bwizibwera-Nsiika-Nyakashaka-Nyakabirizi Road, with two spurs; Kabwohe and Bihanga-Katerera.

Madam Speaker, the process has not only been delayed, but tampered with. According to the current plans geared by the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA), the road now apparently stops at Nsiika, but priority is given to the Kabwohe Spur. While we would not envy any question of the road being worked on, our concerns are raised by the total neglect and side-lining of an important section of 45.8 km of Nsiika-Nyakasharara-Nyakabirizi Road, which was meant to serve several tea factories, traversing these three districts of Buhweju, Sheema and Bushenyi.

I have personally written letters to UNRA, Ministry of Works and Transport, Office of the Prime Minister, and the President's Office, but no valid attention has been paid to my pleas.

His prayer is a request that we take interest in this matter and provide an update.

Madam Speaker, Bwizibwera-Nsiika-Nyakashaka-Nyakabirizi Road with a spur to Kabwohe, is in the National Development Plan (NDP) III and in the NRM Manifesto of 2021-2026.

The road is being implemented in phases. Even yesterday, the President, while in Bushenyi, talked about the same road and that the road will be implemented in phases;

- (i) A civil commercial contract for the upgrade of Bwizibwera-Nyakambu-Nsiika with a spur to Kabwohe road was signed in March 2023 and awaits confirmation of financing before physical works can commence.
- (ii) A detailed design for the upgrade of Nsiika-Nyakashaka-Nyakabirizi Road (48.3km) is currently ongoing and is expected to be completed by May 2025. Thereafter, procurement of civil works contractors will commence.

Madam Speaker, upgrading of Nsiika-Ibanda-Kabujogera-Mashooro-Rwenjaza-Kyambura has been considered in National Development Plan IV (NDP IV) and will be prioritised subject to availability of resources.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank you on this note because the Members do not give detailed information. That is why I am on question number eight.

Hon. Shartsi Musherure, MP, Mawogola County North: Following the dissolution of both the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA), and the Uganda Road Fund as part of the rationalisation process, her prayer was: could the Office of the Prime Minister clarify how people of Mawogola North, Ssembabule

will ensure the completion of the promised Akagari Bridge, which connects Gomba to Ssembabule District? I wonder how they will do it.

Madam Speaker, my response is that the Akagari Bridge on River Katonga is on a district road. Following the request from the area Members of Parliament, the former Uganda National Roads Authority intervened and installed the culverts that made the location motorable. The district will be advised to complete the outstanding works using the Shs 1 billion.

Hon. Michael Timuzigu Kamugisha MP, Kajara County, Ntungamo asked that all counties in Uganda be turned into districts except 19, which are in the districts of Ntungamo, Isingiro, Kasese and Tororo. These districts are treated like former counties in provision of all services and staff. Each has one road maintenance unit, one district hospital, gets the same share of Government-sponsored students in public universities, gets the same share of seed schools and construction of primary schools, to mention but a few.

According to Hon. Timuzigu, these districts have, therefore, not been able to fairly benefit from the decentralisation policy and are slowly being left behind in development. For example, in Ntungamo, parents have to first build primary school classrooms up to window level for the district local government to come in and do the completion and this is against the Government policy of no-fees payment in Universal Primary Education (UPE) schools.

Prayer: When is the Government going to complete the harmonisation of district sizes by giving the remaining 19 counties district status to start developing at the rate of other districts?

Madam Speaker, my response is that the Ministry of Local Government issued a moratorium, suspending creation of any new local government units or alteration of boundaries in April 2021, under which we were still operating, until a new position is approved by the Government.

Hon. Kamuntu Moses, MP, Rubanda County West: The deplorable state of roads in Rubanda County West, for instance, Ruhija Subcounty, Kaara-Nshanjare, Kaara-Mengo-Byamihanda, Nshajare-Nyamasinda via Mashoho (150km), Mugyera-Kagunga (10km), Mugyera-Kishaje-Rwabahundame and Zaire-Rwaseyeza-Hakabare (12km) roads are in critical state, riddled with deep potholes, eroded surfaces and frequent vehicle breakdowns. Over 20 km of roads in Ruhija have been devastated by landslides, cutting off access to Bwindi National Park, Rubanda County West, and worsening the economic struggles of the region. The people of Rubanda West can no longer endure these conditions.

He urges the Government to act immediately by rehabilitating these roads to restore transportation, economic activity and essential services. The Ministry of Works and Transport must prioritise this crisis.

Madam Speaker, my response is that the issue raised is noted. Those are national roads and they will be prioritised for maintenance in quarter four.

Additionally, the district will be advised to prioritise the district roads under the rehabilitation programme.

Madam Speaker, I beg to submit. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. In the new rules that we have made, which will start being effective very soon, we have reduced your time for that – for giving the written submissions – to 20 minutes and then the oral submissions 40 minutes. Today, we can have few oral submissions.

Hon. Kwizera? Use one minute.

4.25

**MR EDDIE KWIZERA (NRM, Bukimbiri County, Kisoro):** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I wish to remind the Prime Minister about-

**THE SPEAKER:** Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we have also agreed in the new rules that we can dedicate one whole day in a month for Member's questions so that you can have all your ministers here who will help you to handle each and everything. Yes?

**MR EDDIE KWIZERA:** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister knows that there is a government policy where in each subcounty, we are supposed to have a Government-aided secondary school. In Bukimbiri County, we do not have such facilities in Nyarutembe and Kirundo Subcounties.

This is the fourth year that we are in Parliament. I request that the Prime Minister gives me the best answer to tell those people who also pay tax, but are not equally facilitated. I thank you.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, it is true that we have a policy, as the Government, to have a secondary school in every subcounty and we have been doing this in a phased manner. You are aware that we had the UgIFT programme, which phased out, but we continue, as the Government, using our national funds, to work on the secondary schools. I promise that all the subcounties without secondary schools will be handled in a phased manner. Thank you.

4.28

**MS JANEPHER MBABAZI (NRM, Woman Representative, Kagadi):** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Mine is an issue I would like to draw the attention of the Rt Hon Prime Minister to. I wrote a question for oral answer to your office on 14 October 2024, and up to now, I have not received the response. I expected to probably have got the response today, but it was not there. The question was about the processing of land titles for the bona fide occupants of Ruteete Resettlement Scheme.

Madam Speaker, I request that the Rt Hon. Prime Minister tells us when the people of the Ruteete Resettlement Scheme will be allowed to process their own titles or the Government issues the titles to the people. Thank you.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, the questions that I answer here are submitted to the Office of the Clerk to Parliament, not the Prime Minister's office. Maybe that could have caused the delay. I request Members to take their questions to the Office of the Clerk to Parliament.

On the issue of land titles in Ruteete, I request that she comes to my office and we engage the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development to see to it that we handle this problem. You know that was formerly my district. I was a Member of Parliament covering that whole subregion.

4.30

**MR IDDI ISABIRYE (NRM, Bunya County South, Mayuge):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, last year, you issued a directive here, after presenting an issue about the land titles that were issued in the area, which has not been de-gazetted, that is, South Busoga Central Forest Reserve. You made a commitment and a directive that all those titles should be cancelled.

Madam Speaker, I would like to state that up to now, the land titles are still on the system. May I know, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, when your directives will be implemented.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, concerning the land titles in the forest reserve of Busoga, a caveat was issued on them so nobody can transact business with them, as we finalise the processes of cancellation.

4.31

**MR ANDREW OJOK (NRM, Omoro County, Omoro):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I would like to bring to your attention the issue of wildfires in Omoro. We have lost over 150 homes to wildfires. It is my prayer that –

**THE SPEAKER:** I wanted the Prime Minister to first rest after – *(Laughter)*

**MR OJOK:** Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I would like to draw your attention to the wildfires in

Omoro. I know it is not a question per se but it is an emergency right now. We have over 150 homes affected by wildfires and at the moment, we are just crying to you for help to support the families. Even a church is affected and the district is processing the disaster report, but I thought of bringing it to your attention for immediate action. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** The wildfires especially during this dry season –

4.33

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES (Ms Lillian Aber):** Madam Speaker, I have taken note, and as my brother Hon. Andrew Oulanyah has noted, the report has not yet been delivered. I request that the report is delivered as soon as possible, but I will also coordinate with the Red Cross to provide the non-food items as soon as possible.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Aber, it is also our responsibility, as leaders, to educate our youth there to stop hunting those smaller things during this dry season because that is where the fires come from. *(Laughter)*

**MS ABER:** Madam Speaker, I do agree with you because in issues of disaster, people getting information is very pertinent. My appeal to leaders from areas where some of our communities still involve themselves in going to hunt for some of the animals which are a delicacy to them, is to avoid doing that because it is becoming an issue. People are losing property and lives. I was told of a situation where a house got burned and a child died. This is something I want our leaders to collectively talk about and sensitise our people.

**THE SPEAKER:** Before Hon. Richard comes in, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, in yesterday's sitting, we had an issue where, first of all, the Members of Parliament here highly appreciated what the Government has done for the districts in terms of road maintenance. That is why you find that they are not making a lot of noise regarding the Road Fund. They highly appreciate it because of the Shs 1 billion.

However, they are saying, much as they got that, they know that being a *Majegere* of this country, you can still do something on electricity. When the Rural Electrification Authority (REA) was suffocated, some poles even remained in certain areas. There is no power in most of these areas. Their request is; can't you use your office, my office and any other office to advocate for those districts to be allocated money to make sure that we have electricity everywhere? - That is beyond him.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, the President directed and that is why we have a scale-up project. We know the scale-up project – like I have already told you – will connect power only to those areas where there are lines.

Madam Speaker, as you know, you and I sit on the other national committee, which the President chairs. Therefore, I request that while there, you and I advocate for Members to have their areas connected.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, first clap for the Prime Minister because she has agreed - (*Applause*) When we advocate from there, we speak one language.

4.37

**MR RICHARD GAFABUSA (NRM, Bwamba County, Bundibugyo):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, as leaders in Bundibugyo, we are stuck with a Government project.

The Government offered to build for us a border market at Busunga Border, which is in Bwamba County, under the Agri-LED project but this was done through National Agricultural Advisory Services, which was phased out. NAADS has now handed over this incomplete site - about 20 per cent done - to the district local government, but the district, as you know, has no money to complete this project. It is a border market.

My prayer is that you direct the Ministry of Local Government, through the Markets and Agricultural Trade Improvement Project (MATIP), to complete this project because we are stuck and do not know what to tell

the people who offered their land and semi-permanent lockups. We cannot hand over an incomplete project to the people. Thank you.

4.38

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Ms Victoria Rusoke):**

Thank you very much. It is true. I know where that market is, but we need to get new Bills of Quantities and then the Ministry of Local Government will plan for the next MATIP, which my ministry is currently holding discussions on, with the World Bank.

The Government is government; Bundibugyo is us. We agree – we can take it on and include it in the plans. I submit.

4.39

**MS CATHELINE NDAMIRA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kabale):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today is 27 February 2025. In June 2024, the Government paid only 300 out of 2,600 teachers and the rest were told to wait. Up to now, they are still going office to office, demanding –

**THE SPEAKER:** Where?

**MS NDAMIRA:** Kabale District Local Government, Madam Speaker. 1000 primary school teachers, 346 secondary school teachers and 44 tertiary teachers were not paid, bringing the total to 1,390 teachers who are demanding last year's salary up to now.

You know that when a teacher misses a salary in any month, you can see the stress on their faces. Madam Speaker, allow the Prime Minister to give us hope, for the teachers to sleep like any other person. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** The Ministry of Local Government should have more information.

**MS NABBANJA:** I will be supported by the Minister of Education and Sports, but I have a clue.

Madam Speaker, there was an audit exercise that took place last year and some teachers were not found at their work stations. So, the

Ministry of Public Service deleted their names from the payroll and that required them to come to Kampala; at the ministry, to be validated. Some districts did not come, other districts came - and they were given dates. They would even announce on TV and say, "Districts A, B, C and D, come to Kampala for validation", but some people did not come. I do not know whether the Minister of Education and Sports has something to say.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, by the way, that was a human resource audit for all institutions, including the Ministry of Education and Sports.

4.42

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang):** First of all, I thank the Rt Hon. Prime Minister for giving that answer, which is correct. I appeal to the honourable colleague who has asked that question that, as far as we in the Ministry of Education and Sports are concerned, it is surprising that for a whole year, a civil servant, particularly a teacher who is entitled to his salary, has not got his payment.

Therefore, I request, in line with the directive of the Rt Hon. Prime Minister, that we follow up and work closely with you. I will work with my Permanent Secretary and the human resources department to follow it up. However, maybe, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, under your chairpersonship, you can bring the ministries of finance, public service and us, together, so that this matter is handled once and for all. Thank you.

**MS NDAMIRA:** Madam Speaker, allow me to give information to the minister. I have a letter, which they wrote to the Chief Administrative Officer and the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education. I can print and give it to them.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable members, let us not wait for a day like today. Let us get these things done even before this.

**MR OGWANG:** Madam Speaker, can I invite the honourable member to come tomorrow at 10 a.m. at the ministry's headquarters and we follow up the matter. Thank you.

4.44

**MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO (Independent, Kampala Division Central, Kampala):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The matter we are addressing; the human resource database, is one that is important. The question to the Prime Minister is: why, in this day and era, are we still running a manual verification payroll, yet we have digital migration, well aware that some things can be weaned out when there is digital integration? This is by:

1. Creation of a unique number;
2. Capturing things like fingerprints and facial recognition; and
3. Pairing this user interface at schools where people operate and at workplaces just like we enter here. If you look into the screen there, your name and face are captured.

Madam Speaker, we can solve very many things cheaply, but getting teachers to travel to Kampala to queue is a huge cost. We can use technology to reduce the cost and also make it more efficient.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Muhammad Nsereko, much as we have digital integration, if we want to capture your fingerprints, you have to be there. If we want the facial recognition, you have to be there. If I have come to your school and you are not there, what do you expect? We have about three staff of Parliament here. We wrote and said there was going to be a human resource audit, where they want you physically. They were not there; they lost out until they had to follow the Auditor-General to his office. You cannot blame the manual system. Were you available at the time the audit was done? You must also know that we have ghost workers that we are trying to remove.

**MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO:** Madam Speaker, I am not saying it is not what you said. I am only calling for their efficiency. The question you posed is very right but instead of

these people continuously moving - it seems the problem is recurrent. Decentralise this work so that it is handled at the district level.

When you come back centrally, the operations remain at the district level. Why they cannot commit fraud is technology is technology; you cannot enter your data twice and it is not detectable. The issue is that you do not need to move someone. You only need to retain that gadget; that service at the district level so that people do not continuously move.

**THE SPEAKER:** Would you like to respond?

**MR OGWANG:** Madam Speaker, while I appreciate the concern of Hon. Nsereko on the digital era, I want to first confirm that the Ministry of Education and Sports has digitalised, including the tracking of teachers when they are teaching in classrooms. That system is in place.

Secondly, we have digitalised the registration of all children. No wonder we were able to confirm that as of today, we had some schools, which I can quote for the record - I had one school called Agule Seed Secondary School, which had given us an inflated number of students but when we looked into the Education Management Information System (EMIS), out of the 2,000, we were able to confirm that, that school had only 400 students.

Today, we send money for capitation grants based on a digitalised system, which we are operationalising as the Ministry of Education and Sports.

**THE SPEAKER:** Achomai Primary School -

**MR OGWANG:** Achomai Primary School is actually in the Speaker's constituency. They had also inflated the number. Friends, we are in that digital era as a Government. The questions the Speaker has raised are pertinent. We cannot digitalise you when you do not go there to have your fingerprints and facial recognition captured. We cannot digitalise you when we do not verify your academic papers physically at the station where you are meant to teach, and

this is what we are doing. I thank you very much.

4.50

**MR DENIS OGUZU (FDC, Maracha County, Maracha)** Madam Speaker, let me start by observing that digitalisation can only be effective where there is power. Globally, poverty is linked to inaccessibility to power.

Madam Speaker, today I got hold of a document where the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development has initiated a procurement process where they want to do last-mile connections in the country. Arising from this, we are going to have 444,600,000 connections in central Uganda and 153,000 connections in western Uganda. The east and northern Uganda, comprising Karamoja, Lango, Acholi, and West Nile, are only getting 138,000 connections.

I would like the Prime Minister to explain to us how this decision was arrived at. We want to see equity in the country. This is a public document and we would like to understand this precisely so that we know we are at the table of sharing. Thank you.

4.51

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (ENERGY) (Mr Sidronius Okaasai):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The distribution of electricity in this country is at various stages. The last-mile connection focuses on areas where we have infrastructure and where there are lines already. For northern Uganda, we have finished a survey because we realised that it did not have the basic infrastructure to benefit from the last-mile connections.

The intervention for northern Uganda is extension of lines; delivering the lines. Even if we gave northern Uganda the connections, the infrastructure to deliver electricity to the last mile is not there. So, we are focusing on the extension of lines in the region. *(Interjection)* We have just finished a survey in northern Uganda to take electricity to the subcounties. Thereafter, we shall follow with the last-mile connections.

**MR OGUZU:** Madam Speaker, if I could just set the record clear, when we were borrowing for the Electricity Access Scale-Up Project, each district had the number of their connections. If we look at that document, so many districts are now not on the list. When you were planning for those districts, what was your basis?

**THE SPEAKER:** That takes us back to what we agreed upon for equity. Let us agree with the Prime Minister that we should give every district A, B, C, D because this is discrimination.

**MR OGUZU:** Madam Speaker, I would like to invite you to note that, that document needs to be sent to the Committee on Natural Resources so that this Parliament examines and reconciles the ambiguities in the document. Otherwise, if we allow that document to go, we will be doing a disservice to the country and promoting inequality. I said power is linked to poverty. Some people have been poor in this country and do not know how they became poor, and it is through this kind of programming.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, some of the things that you do should be a bottom-up approach. The leaders you have here are representatives of the people down there. You do not come from the ministry - The Prime Minister is going to handle. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, say it on the microphone.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, I will cause a meeting involving the minister concerned, and where possible, even invite honourable members to my conference hall, and we will handle this. We shall start with the committee chairperson next week on Wednesday.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. We can also have a Committee of the whole House to agree that we need Shs 1 billion for power in Bukedea, Kakumiro and other districts. Those in favour say, "aye" – *(Laughter)* – Hon. Patrick?

4.56

**MR PATRICK BINGI (NRM, Butemba County, Kyankwanzi):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I am concerned with the suspended DIT assessments

under the lower secondary school curriculum. This competence-based curriculum, as it is known, is supposed to impart skills into the learners.

Last year, DIT assessments were supposed to be conducted and private schools paid but when we reached the month of May, the assessments were suspended.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, DIT was amended. There was an amendment to the law and it is now called TVET. It is under the TVET law, which is now an Act because it was assented to, two days ago. Therefore, please get that law and first understand what it is.

**MR BINGI:** Madam Speaker, the issue I wanted to raise is that schools paid for this programme last year but it did not take root and as you saw in the released UCE results, we did not have results of DIT. Schools paid and the money was not even refunded.

**THE SPEAKER:** Those who paid for technical?

**MR BINGI:** They paid for the DIT assessments and the assessments were not carried out but this money was not returned to the schools.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable minister?

4.58

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)**

**(Mr Peter Ogwang):** Madam Speaker, through the Prime Minister, allow me to avail this information to my colleague. First of all, Madam Speaker, you are right, in line with the TVET Act. The services of the Department of DIT now goes under TVET.

Secondly, the reason we carried out the suspension of DIT activities is because there was an investigation that the top management of the Ministry of Education and Sports conducted in the Department of DIT.

My senior minister wrote to the Inspectorate General of Government (IGG) to carry out an investigation into the operations of DIT

in the country. That report came out with its recommendations. As we speak, we are fully implementing the recommendations of the report of the IGG and I would like to pledge - If you permit me, I can bring a comprehensive report.

Regarding the specifics of what happens to the money the children paid, unfortunately, some of these activities were carried out without our knowledge by the managers of the ministry and it is one of the core issues which we raised during our top management meeting.

Therefore, I can bring a statement to specifically respond to those operational issues. However, I would like to say that we directed that the department is investigated, officers have been indicted, and we have appointed new people to take over that department as we continue with other house cleaning. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Emigu and Hon. Aledi. Let us first have the two.

5.00

**MR JULIUS EMIGU (FDC, Ocheri County, Kaberamaido):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, in the year 2022, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, the Government fulfilled a long-standing promise for BKK ferry. We went and launched its construction and there was hope that it was going to start working in 2023. However, because of challenges here and there, this could not take place.

However, around October to November last year, the appetites of the constituents - BKK is Bukungu-Kaberamaido-Kagwara Ferry - were whetted when the ferries were tried but the only challenge now is the piers or the docking points that have not yet been constructed.

Therefore, the ferries are there, but they cannot dock. They even moved to all these various places. My only request to you is that you use your powers so that they – They even started constructing the piers, but they stopped along the way otherwise, we would be using the ferry by now. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for the question and request that you come to my office so that I have details and I cause the Ministry of Transport and Works to work on the landing sites.

5.01

**MR ALED AKUGIZIBWE (Independent, Buruli County, Masindi):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. To the Prime Minister, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number six talks about universal access to clean water. However, my people are complaining, especially those who get National Water. They say that the water is too expensive; a jerrycan goes for about Shs 101.

The other issue is about the meters. You find that at the end of the month, the bill is not what the customer expects and they are wondering when Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) actually checks these meters. Otherwise, people are bleeding. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Member for Iki-iki?

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, it is not true that a 20-litre jerrycan of water goes for Shs 101. Maybe those are vendors. The cost of a jerrycan under National Water is Shs 75 and I believe those could be service providers charging that amount.

Madam Speaker, I want you to appreciate that in areas where there are no operations of National Water, a jerrycan of water can even go for Shs 1,000 - that is true.

However, our Government has tried to make sure that our people have access to clean and safe water and that is why a jerrycan of water is at Shs 75. When you are using it in your house, it can even be lower because they count in units.

**THE SPEAKER:** Rt Hon. Prime Minister, much as the Government is doing all it needs to do to ensure that there is safe water available

for everybody, institutions that are consuming this water are not paying National Water and now National Water is in a crisis.

Today, I forwarded a message to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to inform them that Umeme had switched off power so they could not even pump water. How do we handle that problem?

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, it is true that National Water and Sewerage Corporation has to pay other providers because they have to pay for electricity, workers, and staff -

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Linda, do not leave the Prime Minister in the House.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, that is why the cost of a jerrycan is that much because they need the money to pay other service providers.

I promise that I will cause a meeting with the ministry for finance, ministry for water and these other departments that are not paying national water so that we do not have a challenge and a crisis. I promise.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Eric? (*Hon. Kasolo rose*) No, Member for Iki-iki and then Hon. Eric and Hon. Linda.

5.05

**MR ROBERT KASOLO (NRM, Iki-iki County, Budaka):** Rt Hon. Prime Minister, whereas we appreciate the Government for the construction of Tirinyi-Pallisa-Kumi and Pallisa-Kamonkoli roads, there are outstanding issues where many Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) along the Pallisa-Kamonkoli road were valued, disclosed, and many of them were not paid.

They have become a problem when I go for my holiday weekend; they are ever in my compound and ringing me. It is a bigger issue, especially when they hear that the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) is no more. Can you clarify where they can go? They are already listening in to hear from you on how you can guide them. Thank you.

**MS NABBANJA:** I was a Resident District Commissioner (RDC) in that place so I know all the areas. I know Iki-Iki, Kamonkoli, Kaderuna, Puti-Puti, Kamuge and so – (*Interjections*) – Yes, that is the road. I was told sometime back by - Come again.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is our second home.

**MS NABBANJA:** Bukedea.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes.

**MS NABBANJA:** Oh, I know Bukedea. I have been to Bukedea many times. Madam Speaker, I request the honourable member to help us and put in the writing so that I can put the Minister of Works and Transport to task to make sure that those people are paid.

**THE SPEAKER:** Maybe we also need to know how many of them there are and how much money is involved. You will write and give us a copy. Yes, Hon. Eric?

5.07

**MR ERIC MUSANA (Independent, Buyaga East County, Kagadi):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Prime Minister. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you know Kagadi very well. I represent the people of the Buyaga East Constituency. In all the plans, we are aware that all constituencies are supposed to have an ambulance. Kagadi Hospital is in dire need of an ambulance and it has been on the desk for so long. May we know when Kagadi Hospital is going to have an ambulance and an upgrade?

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, there are ambulances that are undergoing an upgrade. They are supposed to have been brought before the end of this month but I was told that I should give it a timeframe of two more weeks. By mid-March, the ambulance will be with you in your constituency, including the other Members who have been asking this question.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

5.09

**MS LINDA AUMA (Independent, Woman Representative, Lira):** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, as the Leader of Government Business, according to the UNBS report this year, there is going to be a drought, and this Government has spent a lot of money to handle the repercussion of drought in billions of shillings. I would like to know from you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, what plans the Government has as per the guidance by UNBS to help us with food security.

Another issue is, as the chairperson of the committee, these Members are representatives of the people and used to receive seeds to support the constituency. They did not use them and it was helping in food security. I know you are a proactive Prime Minister; what plan do you have to support Members with this –

**THE SPEAKER:** Why don't you go straight to the point? Committee Chairperson, go straight to the point that you want seeds for the Members.

**MS LINDA AUMA:** Much obliged, Madam Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, these Members want seeds and I cannot move freely in the corridors. Thank you.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, we are lucky that we have a President who thinks about the people. On Monday this week, the President directed me, the Minister of Water and Environment, and the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to come up with a policy and a design of making sure that we use the wetlands that we have in this country to provide for irrigation so that our people can produce year in, year out.

He also said that the people cannot manage this burden. It should be the Government. Therefore, Madam Speaker, the President thinks ahead of us. We are – *(Interjections)* - yes, he has already thought through this process, and we are already handling this. Uganda is lucky to have H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni as the President of the Republic of Uganda.

5.12

**MR SAMUEL OPIO (Independent, Kole North County, Kole):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the Government moved to enhance the salaries of the science head teachers and deputy head teachers on the basis that once a science teacher, always a science teacher, whether in the classroom or administration.

However, the science District Education Officers have not had their salaries enhanced including the science City Education Officers and Municipality Education Officers - and also, there are those sports science officers. When will their salaries be enhanced? Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, in 2021/2022/2023, when we came up with this policy - and you know the basis - the reason was for us to attract, especially under the medical fraternity, the scientists who were going out for moonlighting. We wanted to attract and keep them in our medical services in the country to serve us.

Remember some time back when we had COVID-19, our people, including some of us, the honourable Members, would go to Nairobi Hospital where we have our own scientists. Our own scientists were always in Nairobi Hospital and they were treating us. We have attracted most of them back because of salary enhancement.

Thirdly, we all agree that this economy must be driven by science. That is why nowadays, you can see that science subjects are now attractive to our children. We are going to enhance the salaries of other cadres in a phased manner. We started with security, and next financial year, we are coming up with those other cadres, including the district leaders. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Aol?

5.14

**MS BETTY AOL (FDC, Woman Representative, Gulu City):** Thank you, Madam Speaker –

**THE SPEAKER:** (*A Member rose*) Do not disturb my Prime Minister.

**MS AOL:** Madam Speaker, the North and Acholi Subregion is very poor. Here we were emphasising science but we have science students in the university doing engineering and medicine and dropping out or asking for a dead year. What has happened to loans for higher education?

Personally, I cannot support the university education of more than two students. If I have two, then it is one or two. What is happening with higher education loans? We have students at Ndejje University and other universities. Can you tell us? Thank you.

5.15

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang):** I thank you, honourable colleague. First, I want to confirm that the Ministry of Education and Sports continues to give students loan schemes. However, the problem was that we had accumulated quite a big number and the money that we were getting from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was not able to allow us to pay those universities, where our students were, in time. It had reached a point where the universities were beginning to stop our students from sitting for examinations.

We, therefore, came up with a policy and a position, as a ministry, that we would be taking a number commensurate with the amount of money we would receive from the ministry for finance every financial year.

I would like to request this august House to support us in the quest for a bigger budget for that programme. Thank you.

**MR OGUZU:** Madam Speaker, I have a

supplementary question on that. We had requested that this money should be sent to each district –

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Awas?

5.16

**MS SYLVIA AWAS (NRM, Woman Representative, Nabilatuk):** Thank you, Madam Speaker – [Ms Nabbanja: "*Procedure.*"]

**THE SPEAKER:** There is a procedural matter.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of procedure. The Prime Minister's Time is supposed to – (*Interjections*) – please, do not interrupt. The Prime Minister's Time is specifically from 4.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Is it procedurally right for – (*Laughter*)

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members – (*Members rose*) - I wish you would sit. I would have loved to continue with Members raising their issues, but when a procedural matter comes up, I now adjourn the House to Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.

(*The House rose at 5.18 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 4 March 2025, at 2.00 p.m.*)