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(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - SECOND MEETING

MONDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2025



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIFTH SESSION - 1ST SITTING - SECOND MEETING

Monday, 20 October 2025

Parliament met at 10.41 a.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I welcome you to today's sitting, off a busy campaign schedule. I am happy you found time to come and attend to this business, which is very critical; we need to get it out of the way. Our work is structured in such a way that even when the campaigns are going on, as an institution, we have to continue functioning.

We are going to design it in such a way that we keep giving you space to have time to go to the field. We shall only be handling critical business and I hope that by the time we start on the critical part of budgeting, we shall have gotten out of the elections.

On Tuesday, I learned with shock, the passing on of the Rt Hon. Raila Odinga, the former Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya, which occurred in India. He was a true statesman, a Pan-Africanist, and someone who contributed a lot to the development of democracy, not only in Kenya, but across Africa and the world. He was a good friend of Uganda, a good friend of the region, and we shall miss him as a continent and as a world.

Our condolences to His Excellency, the President of Kenya, to the family of the late Rt Hon. Raila Odinga, to the people of Kenya, to all Africans and the world at large. I request that we stand up and observe a minute of silence.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I would like to also thank both sides of the aisle, on how your Presidential candidates are conducting their campaigns. So far, so good. There have been no major cases of violence. The campaigns are very peaceful and going on well. All parties have delivered their manifestos. I hope we will get copies and look through them, so that we can learn what they are proposing to do for this country. We should continue praying that we continue with peace, so that this country does not plunge into violence because of just elections. I applaud the Opposition, the Government side and pray that we continue that way.

I will have a few matters of national importance. Yes, LOP and then Hon. Opendi.

10.46

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I would like to join you as well in expressing commiserations to the people of Kenya, the people of East Africa, and indeed Africa, on the passing of the Rt Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga. He was a political colossus of sorts, a man who fought for his country's democracy. He sought

to become president. That did not happen, but his contribution to the continuous improvement of Kenya's democracy is indelible. It cannot be erased. We do sympathise with his family and the people of Kenya.

Mr Speaker, you have also appreciated both sides of the aisle and our presidential candidates on the campaigns so far. I would like to also join you in firstly, commending, before I condemn. I want to first commend the persons in uniform, police and the military – to first commend, because I am also going to condemn.

In the previous election cycle, we would hardly get anywhere peacefully. Tear gas, beatings, killings and so on. It was terrible – (*Interjections*) – somebody is saying COVID-19. COVID-19 is not an excuse to kill people and mete out violence, as we saw. That level of violence, we do not see it now and that is a good thing. However, there are also areas that have got to be improved upon.

A candidate X can campaign in a particular area and/or venue today but when the National Unity Platform (NUP) candidate next week comes to the same area and/or venue, the police say, “No, you cannot campaign here. It is in the middle of town.” Yet it is the same venue, which was used by another candidate the previous week; let us have equity across.

We are also engaging the leadership of the police. We have seen some errant police and security officers tearing down posters of nominated presidential candidates. That is outside of the law. Police leadership and the military have promised to take action, but we are waiting for that action to be taken. It is not enough to promise and say, “we are going to take action.” We are waiting to see that action taken, so that nobody else violates the law.

Resemblant to that, Mr Speaker, we are seeing, and I will call them errant men and women in uniform, who are breaking the law. Two weeks ago, Senior Superintendent of Police, Annabella Nyiramahoro, the Deputy RPC of Masaka, who used to head the police here at

Parliament, while at a campaign rally of Hon. Haruna Kasolo, got the microphone and openly campaigned for him. That is outside the law.

Last week, we saw Lt Gen. Charles Okidi, who is the Commander of the UPDF Air Force, engaging people in his community, fully clad in his uniform, decampaigning the NUP presidential candidate, Hon. Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, while campaigning for the NRM candidate. He even got so personal and displayed pictures of my presidential candidate, saying, “you see, his children are well off, do not vote for this one, vote for the NRM candidate.” Fully clad in uniform and it is all over the media. That is outside the law.

In the past few days, we have also seen, Maj. Gen. Richard Olum, better known as Maj. Gen. Dick Olum, participating in campaign festivities of the NRM flag bearer in Zombo. He was not there to ensure security but got onto the stage and was dancing with other NRM leaders to their chants and campaigns, and so on.

Look, soldiers vote, but for them to participate in campaigns is outside the law. These laws are made here. Section 16 - and I want to quote it for us verbatim so that we observe the law that we pass here clearly - of the Political Parties and Organisations Act, including the amended one - let me read it briefly: “*Certain persons not to participate in political party or political organisation activities: A member of the Uganda People's Defence Forces, the Uganda Police Force, the Uganda Prison Service, or a public officer, or a traditional cultural leader, or a person employed in a company wholly owned by the government, shall not – (c) Speak in public or publish anything involving matters of political party or organisation controversy; (d) Shall not engage in canvassing in support of a political party or organisation or a candidate standing for political elections sponsored by a political party or organisation or a candidate standing for political elections sponsored by a political party or organisation.*” That is the law which we made here.

We want to hear from the Government: do you choose to implement another law out there? Is this given a green light by the Government? The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs is here. The Attorney-General is here. The Minister of State for Internal Affairs is also here. The Rt Hon. Justine Lumumba is here; I am sure she is leading the Government bench. The Government should tell us - because we passed these laws here - how is it that out there, it is a different situation operating and action is not taken?

Finally, Mr Speaker, in the same regard, I have got two letters here, which I am going to Table and the Government can deny or agree to them - first of all, the Chief Administrative Officer of Adjumani District Local Government wrote a letter to head teachers in both primary and secondary schools, under the subject: "Mobilising and participation of students/pupils during the visit of His Excellency, the President on Monday, 20 October 2025. As you may be aware, the President of the Republic is already in West Nile for his campaign tour and he will be in Adjumani District on 20th Monday at Paridi Stadium starting at 8.00 a.m. The purpose of this letter is to authorise you to mobilise students/pupils in your various schools to participate and attend the rally. Signed by Ochen James Andrew, the Chief Administrative Officer."

There has been public outcry and so, he has written another letter, as if to rescind it, because some folks are saying it is fake. He has written another one saying: "Refer to my letter dated 17th October 2025, authorising you to mobilise students/pupils in your various schools to participate and attend the rally of the President.

I am sorry to inform you that due to the ongoing examinations for candidates and other class activities, we have resolved to allow the learners to continue with the learning and examinations without interruption. I apologise for any inconvenience caused." These were written by Mr James Andrew Ochen, the Chief Administrative Officer and I am tabling them.

I would like the Government to be on record here and say that these are fake letters. You see, it is problematic that we are now involving young pupils and students, getting them from school to come and attend a rally, as if forcibly. That is wrong; that is outside of the law. It is even illegal to order head teachers to do this.

Mr Speaker, now that we are in this campaign season, you are commending us for operating well but we want these loopholes to be addressed as quickly as possible so that there is a levelled ground and everybody is following the law.

When you are in uniform, you are duty-bound, first and foremost - because you are a keeper of the law - why do these people keep breaking the law? I hope that the Government can respond to these issues. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the Opposition. I will ask the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to respond. These are many issues. The issues of the LOP are answered in a special way; they are not mixed with the ones from the others. *(Laughter)*

10.54

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (Mr Norbert Mao): Mr Speaker, thank you very much. First, allow me to put on record that I have been authorised by the Minister for General Duties in the Office of the Prime Minister, who is standing in for the Prime Minister today, to respond to these matters because they are directly in our docket.

However, first, allow me to join you in conveying condolences to the family of the late Raila Amolo Odinga. The President of Uganda has already made an elaborate statement and as you know, Raila Odinga has been not only a global figure, but a Pan-Africanist and believer in the integration of East Africa.

Those of you who were here in the previous parliaments will remember two bodies; one

known as the Great Lakes Parliamentary Forum on Peace (AMANI Forum) and then the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank. The late Raila Odinga was a key promoter of those bodies. Some of us knew him personally and we know his contribution. So, we thank you for putting on record the condolences of the august House.

Returning to the issue of the conduct of the security forces, obviously, the Rt Hon. Leader of the Opposition will never miss an opportunity to campaign, and he has used this platform to do so. So, we will, first of all, take his statement in the spirit of a campaign – *(Interruption)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, point of order.

MR SSENKYONYI: Mr Speaker, I am appalled that the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, whose docket is critical regarding the issues that have raised, that is, matters of law and breakage of the law that we are raising here in Parliament, where we are privileged to do so, to have matters on record to get to be addressed, is insinuating that we are campaigning.

For your information, campaigns are happening out there at rallies, not here on the Floor of Parliament. Therefore, is he in order to find an exculpation to the critical issues I have raised by saying this is a campaign, as opposed to raising responses to the critical matters of the law which are being broken by men and women in uniform, against whom you should be taking action - wrapping it up and saying, “No, let me defend these people and say the Leader of the Opposition is just campaigning”? Is he in order, Mr Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I had already commended you both for the peace on the streets. Let us extend it on the Floor, so that we limit ourselves to the issues. Let us avoid anything outside the issues. Honourable minister, continue.

MR MAO: This is the first time anyone has ever apologised for campaigning. *(Laughter)* Mr Speaker, the UPDF has a Code of Conduct, and it is binding because the UPDF officers take an oath. I am from a military family. My father was from the military. I have two brothers in the military, one of whom lost his ears and another sustained a lot of injuries. I have children who are going to join - the military is a very important institution. The question is: is the conduct being talked about by the Leader of the Opposition the rule, rather than the exception? We have thousands and thousands of officers, men, and women, in the UPDF.

The Rt Hon. Leader of the Opposition is a lawyer; lawyers believe in evidence. I have been authorised to request for more hard evidence, so that this matter is investigated and action taken because the laws are not negotiable. I am not here to defend anybody. I am only here to say, “let us deal with this matter as seriously as you have said they are.” If these matters are serious, bring the serious evidence, and serious action will be taken against those officers.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, the LOP, from my understanding, had not taken it to that level. He said that let us fix these small loopholes so that we can have a complete process where we do not have issues. What is important is for us to commit that if there are cases of that nature, they will not happen. That is very easy. He said, “let us fix these loopholes.”

MR MAO: I thought it had escalated so much. Now that this is still at a low intensity level - *(Laughter)* - we undertake - and I have the support of the Office of the Prime Minister - to ensure that these partisan postures stop and that they are addressed. This is an undertaking on my behalf so that peace continues. *(Interjections)*

Concerning the letters, obviously, that one is even more serious because we have got the Uganda Public Service Standing Orders, which actually require public servants not to be partisan.

I have also seen, on social media, and I do

believe that our duty, as Government, is to forward this matter to the Head of the Public Service, to take the necessary action. The action will also involve investigating it further and if the officer is found culpable, will be subjected to disciplinary proceedings. I personally would not think that he is in order to mobilise for a political party rally. However, it is not for me to deal with it but rather, it is for the Head of the Public Service.

Therefore, we undertake, Mr Speaker, to refer this matter, which has been raised by the Leader of the Opposition, to the Head of the Public Service to take action. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Some of these are unnecessary. They just spoil the name unnecessarily. I think the Head of Public Service, indeed, should caution civil servants on such acts.

Honourable colleagues, in the public gallery this morning we have pupils and teachers of Ttamu Islamic Primary School from Mityana Municipality, Mityana District. They are represented in Parliament by Hon. Zaake Francis and Hon. Bagala Joyce Ntwatwa. They have come to observe proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)* Stand up for recognition. Thank you. Hon. Sarah Opendi.

11.03

MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I equally do join you in paying tribute to our fallen hero, the late Rt Hon. Raila Odinga, who was not just a Kenyan but an African son. His demise was actually felt beyond Africa.

He shaped the politics of Kenya and contributed a lot to the politics currently; the devolution that is in Kenya today.

Although he did not become the president, no president ruled Kenya without engaging with the late Raila Odinga. Little wonder he was referred to as *Baba*, and all of them actually consulted him. Therefore, there is a lot that

we can learn from him. Yesterday, one could see unity in grief in Kenya amongst even those who spoke but did not like him; everybody was mourning.

Mr Speaker, I would like us, as Uganda, to learn from Kenya, that you can belong to different political parties but still, it does not stop you from working together. Listening to President Ruto yesterday saying that before his demise, President Ruto actually drove to his home and they had a meal together before he flew to India. And that part of the discussion was Raila's wish to see infrastructure development in Africa but also in Kenya. It was said that he had actually pleaded with President Ruto that as a matter of urgency they needed to see East Africa connected, and he wanted to see the Standard Gauge Railway Line moved from Naivasha where it has stopped, and brought all the way to Malaba through Siaya and Kisumu.

Hearing the president pledging to fulfil Raila's wish is something that I found amazing and that is what we should all do for the good of our people.

However, Mr Speaker, last week the teachers called off their strike and part of what they said is, "We are calling off this strike waiting for Parliament to resolve our issue," and they gave a two-week timeline within which they would expect Parliament to have discussed and resolved this matter.

Mr Speaker, I have not heard this in your communication and I am wondering which way we are moving. It is very sad; as we are in campaigns and see children loitering in the villages. The children are not in school, and even now when the strike has been called off, the motivation by the arts teachers to actually teach is not there. This is third term and it is very unfortunate that there is a bit of silence.

Mr Speaker, last time the Minister of Education and Sports was here – Hon. Dr Moriku – and indicated that the Executive was handling this matter. I do not know how far they are with this matter but it is a serious issue, that children in private schools; our children, are going to

school but the children in the public schools are actually seated at home, or are in school but not learning.

How I wish that we can actually respond to the teachers' cry. This disparity is not good; paying teachers differently - we have discussed this matter here. We must resolve this discriminatory pay among the arts and science teachers. I am not just campaigning; I have spoken about this before. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much for that kind reminder, Hon. Sarah Opendi. Indeed, the teachers petitioned Parliament and the Rt Hon. Speaker invoked her authority under Rule 31(7) of our Rules of Procedure and referred it to the responsible sectoral committee.

Why I am saying, "thank you for reminding me" is because I think it is sub-rule 8 of Rule 31 where the Speaker is supposed to base to inform the House. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House that indeed, two petitions, one from Uganda National Teachers' Union (UNATU), and another from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) teachers, were received and referred to the Committee on Education and Sports for further management and reporting back to the House - on the same? Yes, Hon. Sseggoni.

11.08

MR MEDARD LUBEGA-SSEGGA (NUP, Busiro County East, Wakiso): I really wish to thank you, Mr Speaker, but my concern is that the Executive seems to be hiding behind our curtains. I am conversant that the Constitution would not allow us, privately as Parliament, to bring any motion that touches the purse. When they meet the ministers, the ministers tell them that the key lies with Parliament. Is this, therefore, not intended to make us look ugly in the eyes of the public?

When they bring the petition, we debate it. Why don't we just ask the Executive to give us the budget and find that money simply? Otherwise, we are going to look ugly and answer for some other people's offences.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I know the limitations is under Article 93 of the Constitution, on matters of financial implications. But then, that would maybe, be one of the recommendations from the committee that, "Government, please do whatever you do with the budget and look for the money".

When the teachers file a petition, under rule 31, the Speaker could refer it to the minister or to the committee, but the teachers requested that they want the committee to dig deep. So, this was a committee on its own and that is what the teachers wanted. So, what we did is what they wanted. Their recommendations are what we shall refer to the Executive for further action and I hope we can do that within the time the Speaker provided. Yes, Hon Ssewungu.

11.10

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): I thank you, Mr Speaker. I also would like to pay tribute to the late Raila Odinga. I can never forget that while in The Democratic Alliance (TDA) when we had fronted one of the former prime ministers of Uganda, Rt Hon. Amama Mbabazi, my former boss, the Hon. Nobert Mao was part of that arrangement in Kenya, convincing Col. Kizza Besigye and Mbabazi to leave Mbabazi to be the flag-bearer for TDA.

Today, I am seeing him; the green tie has changed a little, and is turning yellow on a slow but sure dose. *(Laughter)*

I pay tribute to the late - and of course, when you see my former boss talking - I enjoy the NRM members; they are saying, "You continue talking we have said it all now start the journey by yourself. We are watching you, Hon. Mao."

Mr Speaker, from your communication, the Amama Mbabazi case in court, excuse me, I don't want to quote the citation but Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka, the Attorney-General, is aware of that - one of the major recommendations that has not been followed by Government was to give equal opportunity and rights to the candidates on national media.

The *New Vision*, whenever we have a story about Hon. Mabirizi or Hon. Munyagwa, my president, they are placed on page 20 of that newspaper yet the sitting President is given a full share of the first page.

The ruling in the Supreme Court said that Uganda Broadcasting Corporation Television, which is government media, must give equal opportunity to all candidates in the election. When Kyagulanyi's story is given the front page, *New Vision* will sell more than any other and that is business. (*Laughter*) That is a fact. That goes to the Attorney-General.

Mr Speaker, about the education sector and the strike for which I came to your office, nobody should mislead any member here, including the state Minister of Education and Sports - because I am a full shadow minister - that teachers are in schools teaching. Whether they went back, there is no teaching. There is going to school and there is teaching at a school. The moment you do not know the difference between the two, then you do not know what is taking place in the education sector.

What we need to solve, as Members of Parliament, like it or not - I was in Kakumiro and in the very school where the Prime minister studied from, and got to see the head teacher teaching primary seven children yet she has no knowledge of what she was teaching. This is because I saw and followed her and asked her, "How many subjects she had been teaching?" She said she was helping the pupils as they helped themselves because she does not teach social studies.

A primary seven or six teacher can be good at Math when they are weak at Social Studies or English. The question goes to the minister, through you, Mr Speaker, we are going for Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) - what is going to come out of these UNEB exams since it sets exams depending on the syllabus and the curriculum that was given to the children?

However, here we are with primary seven candidates going for PLE, yet they have not been studying and they will be graded after the

exams. What will happen? In the end, we will create a situation of results, one and two, to hide the performance of children.

Mr Speaker, if we are sober - we cannot have any other activities running in the country before addressing the cause of parents going to work every morning. Why do you leave your home? Why is the Attorney-General here? Why is Gen. Katumba Wamala here? It is because they are looking for money to cater for their children. When you educate a child, you educate a nation. But here we are all stuck and children are playing.

You ask a primary seven child, who is going to sit PLE, the difference between a mosquito and a fly, and they will say, "A mosquito can fly and a fly cannot mosquito." (*Laughter*)

In some year, they gave them a multiplication question of two times three in the horizontal format, and one child asked the examiner if there was a mistake in the question; since he knew that two times three must be written as "2 x 3." When it went horizontal, he said there was a mistake in the question. All those challenges come from teachers.

What is taking place in schools, Hon. Dr Muyingo, is that children are teaching themselves using the *Bukedde* newspaper Pass PLE stories - (*Interjection*) - I know it touches each - Hon. Charity, you and I, our children are enjoying their school very well and -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable please -

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, as I conclude, for me in -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I always tell you that if you have your side talk, do not put it on the *Hansard*. This *Hansard* is used by researchers - your children will read it and they will ask themselves how Hon. Charity came to be mentioned on the *Hansard*. Just conclude, honourable member.

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, I am sorry. I normally do not do that but you see, I once

taught many children of soldiers in the army for 10 years. So, whenever I see a soldier like Gen. Muhoozi and others, I give them a lot of respect because I taught their children and when they meet me, they buy me a bottle of beer because of the work I did. *(Laughter)* That was my work.

Anyhow, my prayer, honourable members, the frontbench; the Cabinet, can you sit and solve this challenge once and for all? We had it here during the Ninth Parliament when Rt Hon. Amama Mbabazi was the Prime Minister. The Government agreed to increase these teachers' salary in a phased manner - 15 per cent until the 100 per cent would be acquired. The Shs 400,000 that was paid to the teachers after the increase in 2011 is the same amount being given to a primary school teacher. There is no secondary school teacher or university lecturer – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, your conclusion is longer than – Leader of the Opposition (LOP), I know you are a pastor – Your shadow minister has said he takes a little – *(Laughter)* - Maybe you can help me call him to order.

MR SSENKYONYI: On another day, I will call him to order over that.

However, Mr Speaker, I thought this information is very important even as we ingest this issue. When the petition was handed over to the Speaker, she made a commitment – I saw on the news – that this matter of the teachers' pay is going to be handled in the next financial year budget. Now, what is confusing here is that it should be commitment from Government because a substantive Minister of Finance and Economic Development is the Head of State, although that authority is delegated.

So, is the finance minister, who is represented here, committing - because it would be good that he commits - Parliament should not commit on their behalf. Are you committing to handle this matter in the next financial year, so that then the teachers take that commitment

and agree that they are going to wait for next financial year or no, they are not taking that commitment and that they want the pay now? That is important because also, the finance ministry can commit and say that they are going to bring a supplementary schedule here.

Mr Speaker, every financial year we normally have several supplementary schedules, sometimes up to Shs 5 trillion. There are dockets in this country, which consume their annual budget in three months - one quarter. State House and the Office of the President; you always bring supplementary schedules here after three months, and you wonder why we budget like that. Why are we financially bad mannered? You plan and know this is what you need and so on.

So, the minister can also commit and say, "Let us go and see where we can scout for money and bring a supplementary here." The point is Government should give the teachers some kind of commitment, which then they will sit in their meeting and say, "Since the commitment has been made to bring a supplementary in a month's time or in the next financial year, do we wait, do we agree or disagree?" I think it will help when Government gives that commitment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Leader of the Opposition. Whatever commitment the Speaker made outside the Floor cannot be answered here.

Number two, this is a matter that was referred to the committee, which is going to meet the Minister of Education and Sports, the Minister of Public Service and the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Now sub rule 4 of Rule 86 of our Rules of Procedure is very clear on anticipation; that a matter that is before a committee cannot be discussed here. So, now I cannot call on a minister to come and make a commitment when that minister has not yet appeared before the committee and a report has been presented. This will be an issue, which the minister will answer once the report is brought here within two weeks.

Hon. Ssewungu raised issues; allow me to first sort that. And we have an Order Paper, which we are getting away from but because I know we are in the campaign period and we might not have time quickly, I allowed a few issues to be raised. I wish we could be quicker so that I can give other colleagues a chance too.

So, Hon. Minister for Information, Communication and Technology – I saw Hon. Kabbyanga here – there is a complaint that the *New Vision* is giving the front page to only one candidate and that others are not getting it. Maybe the Attorney-General, who was here, can help us respond to that – let me first handle this issue, Hon. Christine, then I allow you.

11.21

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have heard what the honourable member has raised, and I think Government has done its part in implementing this provision. Obviously, the newspaper's challenge is that it has to give you an equal opportunity, but you must first make news then they can run the news.

I am going to try and read the newspapers and see if there was any news that they left out and I will go back to the *New Vision* and tell them that they missed out some news. *(Laughter)*

So, we are going to follow it up. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Dr Muyingo – but the issues of teachers was referred to the committee to be handled. Hon. Christine, then Hon. Odur.

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In respect to the ruling that you have given on the matter of teachers, wouldn't it be procedurally right that since you gave guidance before you adjourned the House on the 17th of September, for the Ministry of Education –?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order in the House, please.

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT: You had guided that the Ministry of Education and

Sports, the Ministry of Public Service and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development get together and come up with a report that you are talking about. So, wouldn't it be procedurally right that we give them a timeframe because the issue of the teachers is very hot on the ground? Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not the ministries to come up with the report; it is committee. The petition was referred to the committee and in two weeks' time, we need that report. Yes, Hon. Odur?

11.22

MR JONATHAN ODUR (UPC, Erute County South, Lira): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In regard to your communication, I take exception with the response from the Government. There were two critical issues raised of similar nature; the partisan nature of the civil servants and the soldiers. On the issue of the civil servants, the minister was very emphatic in saying that they were going to cause an investigation and take sanctions. However, regarding the behaviour of those in military uniform, I think the response was cagy.

Last time, I raised an issue where a military vehicle was used to transport members of a political party. We have friends who are in military uniform. Myself, for example, my friend, Brig. Charity, and Henry Matsiko, have been asking to go and support me, but I have been telling them, no, you cannot at this moment because of the law, which restricts them. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please. Honourable member, please proceed.

MR ODUR: I thought that they –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: They are here, and it is up to them to confirm it or not.

MR ODUR: Yes, but the truth is they are my good friends but because of the law that prohibits them, they cannot. I think in that regard, we need that commitment that those officers in uniform, who are violating the law,

will also be subjected to those procedures, investigations, and if they are found culpable, they can be dealt with.

Secondly, in regard to – (*Hon. Bainababo rose*) – I will give you space, just a moment. In regard to the conduct of the campaigns, I thought I should also let you know that Ugandans have seen that we are campaigning before children. I know that the children are entitled to come and listen because these are people who are going to lead in the future.

However, there are certain conducts, whether drama or not, that are happening right before our children, that we have seen from political parties. I thought that in campaigns, you go to speak to people's brains but some political parties are speaking to different parts of the body in front of our children – and these are primary school children.

The Government should take keen interest in this. We cannot continue that way – that this immoral conduct etcetera is happening right in our faces. I thought that while you appreciate the peaceful nature of the campaigns, I think the message and the conduct must also be clear.

Lastly, I beg your indulgence before I allow my good friend, the Hon. Brig. Gen. Charity, to come and inform the House of our arrangements – (*Laughter*)

Mr Speaker, I want to take advantage of the presence of the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the Attorney-General: I remember when I raised the issue of overcrowding in prisons, and the long detention without trial, it touched you, Mr Speaker, personally.

The Government made a commitment that they would come back to us with the list of every prisoner who has not been presented before court and those who are entitled to be released, first, to save us the cost of feeding the prisoners, but also to decongest the prisons. This has not happened; it has taken long.

I raised this because when we interacted with the Judiciary and asked them to tell us the number of people they had sent on remand, they told us that they could not. That they were not aware and that they needed to go back and compare notes – (*Hon. Sseggoni rose*) – Let me first take information from the Hon. Brig. Gen. Charity and then I will come to you. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can see she is indeed your friend; she has been given priority.

BRIG. GEN. BAINABABO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am not aware of the issues that my brother is raising, but I would like to clarify something; that it is our mandate, as the Uganda People's Defence Forces, to provide security to all Ugandans. So, if he needs our support, in terms of security, yes, we shall provide it. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Brig. Gen. Charity, you have capacity to investigate his statement; so, go and investigate it. (*Laughter*)

MR ODUR: What a privilege to have the security by the Hon. Brig. Gen. Charity. After this House, you are in charge of my security. (*Laughter*)

MR LUBEGA SSEGGONA: Mr Speaker, the information I need to give to Hon. Odur and the entire House, relates to the fact that quite a number of these young men and women that were remanded by the Court Martial, have actually been denied the protection of the Constitution. Why? Because one, the Court Martial, which remanded them, was said not to have had the powers and, therefore, that makes their remand illegal.

However, quite a number have tried to apply to courts for bail, and two rulings of the High Court have been significant, to the effect that the court says, we cannot grant you bail if you have no criminal case pending before us. What that leaves is that these young people are going to remain in prison for as long as the police or the UPDF have not submitted their case files to the police and therefore, transmitted to the DPP and arraigned formally.

Again, what this means is that these people will never have any recourse anywhere because they cannot go to court to say, “My rights in prison have been violated.” And just as a reminder, the decision of the Supreme Court was rendered on the 30th or the 31st of January this year. Therefore, you are coming to 10 months of being jailed without the protection of the courts of law.

I thought that information is very critical, that those people were simply dumped there. Actually, even the food and money we are spending on them is illegal because we can only provide for food for prisoners that are remanded legally. They are not in police custody, they are in prison, but simply dumped and abandoned there.

The commitment of the Attorney-General is very critical because he said that their files are going to be processed. So, I do not know how long it takes the Government to process those files unless they are saying half of Ugandans are in prison on that account but if that is not the case, I believe we are talking about 500 to 700 Ugandans. I really wonder why it would take us close to a year to have their files processed and, therefore, have them arraigned before the courts of law.

It is also confusing on the part of the court because I understand there is someone who was granted bail, but the two subsequent decisions of the High Court were that “We cannot grant you bail because we do not know you in the first place.” The court was simply shy. If I were in court, perhaps they would have proceeded to say, “Now that we have learnt that somebody is in detention illegally, release him unconditionally.” It is the duty of the court to uphold the law and the Constitution. I think this is a matter we need to treat seriously, and that is the information I want to share with you.

MR ODUR: Thank you, Hon. Sseggona, for that elaborate information. I just want to conclude that the Constitution talks about a fair and speedy trial. All we are asking of Government is that once you have incarcerated somebody, give them a chance to go and defend

themselves. To lock somebody in prison for all those years without a chance to appear and yet we have increased the number of judges, magistrates and even prosecutors. All these mechanisms are available for these people to be tried.

Therefore, let us have another commitment and if possible, we get that list here so that those who deserve to come out are released. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Attorney-General, I remember we had this issue sometime back. I think there was one from Hon. Mwijukye’s constituency they found at Luzira when we had sent a committee to look at the health status of Dr Kizza Besigye. They found people who had been in prison for many years. I think there was one of 28 years. You said you would study indeed and come back. The Chairperson of the Committee on Human Rights who led the team is here – Hon. Fox Odoi.

11.33

MR FOX ODOI-OYWELOWO (NRM, West Budama North East County, Tororo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We had a meeting with the Attorney-General, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Uganda Prisons Services and the Judiciary. We received a list of over 5,000 people who have been detained for prolonged periods. We have the list as a committee and prepared a report to be presented to you, sir.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: What was very important was not only about giving us a list but to take action as provided for under the law. What would we resolve here? To say, “Release?” No, we cannot order. We do not have that power. Attorney-General?

11.34

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I want the record to note that there is no prisoner in prison who has not been there by virtue of an order of court. We just need to be clear on that. Prisons receive warrants from courts.

Mr Speaker, we have been working with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) tirelessly. There are people whose cases we have taken *nolle prosequi* because the time they have been on remand may be longer than the time they would have served for the charge.

Number two, like you said, we have increased the number of State prosecutors but they are not as many as the courts that have been set up. Now you have a chief magistrate at every district and a Grade I Magistrate practically at every constituency. That stretches the DPP quite a bit but we are working.

In this year's budget, we have requested more funds to hire additional prosecutors. The challenge is that when a person is in court, there is a magistrate, but probably no prosecutor. We are working on that as well. It is true we have provided the list, but we are working hard to get these people as quickly as possible. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Gafabusa, on matters of national importance -

11.35

MR RICHARD GAFABUSA (NRM, Bwamba County, Bundibugyo): Thank you, Mr Speaker – (*Interruption*)

MR LUBEGGA SSEGGONA: Procedure, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Gafabusa, then I come back to you later.

MR GAFABUSA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of urgent public importance in regard to the state of affairs at the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS). There is a lot of negative publicity about UNBS. We all know its mandate under the law. Largely, it is to protect our health, public safety and environment.

Mr Speaker, this financial year, due to the critical role of UNBS, this Parliament more than doubled its budget from Shs 64 billion to Shs 134 billion. However, what is emerging now

in the media, both mainstream and social, is a complete confusion that suggests some level of mismanagement and maladministration.

I see a paradox because just last week, we were celebrating a major achievement where, for the first time, UNBS and specifically the Executive Director, Engineer James Kasigwa, secured a seat at the International Organisation of Standards. Just two days later, we receive a letter from the Minister of Trade, Industry and Co-operatives suspending the Executive Director (ED), placing him on forced leave, and accusing him of a myriad of allegations, including corruption, abuse of office, insubordination, and so on.

Mr Speaker, many people are complaining about the inefficiency in UNBS. They cannot get certification for their products to be put on the market. I am concerned that this is affecting all of us. My prayers are:

1. If it pleases you, Mr Speaker, direct the relevant committee of this House to investigate the operations, management, corruption and all those allegations in UNBS;
2. If it also pleases you, until we get a report of this investigation, we halt the implementation of the minister's directive sending the Executive Director who has just won a seat on the International Organisation of Standards – (*Interjections*) - sending him on forced leave and we get to the bottom of what is happening at UNBS. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I do not want to open this matter so much but I read in the papers where the minister suspended the ED and I thought, these ministers are acting quickly. You have a Board that supervises but you are skipping it. Was it on its recommendation?

I will give further guidance on Tuesday next week. I request the Attorney-General to study the suspension of the ED by the minister and advise accordingly. After that, I will give further

guidance on Tuesday next week. I request the Attorney-General to update me on that.

Hon. Okupa? Hon. Sarah, I have given you space today. Let me pick others - no, I have already ruled on the matter. I do not want to open it up again.

11.41

MR ELIJAH OKUPA (Independent, Kasilo County, Serere): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me also to join you and other Ugandans in sending condolences to the people of Kenya and to the family of the late Rt Hon. Raila Odinga, who was also my personal friend.

First, to Gen. Katumba and the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development: you did us a great service by providing ferries on the water between the people of Busoga, Teso, and Kaberamaido. However, up to now, they are just floating, which is just a waste of resources. The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development promised last time that they had released money for the docks to be completed. But up to now, there is nothing. I thought this would be a winning project for you in these elections?

We were in Kaberamaido to bury the father of our colleague Dr Omona, and I thank the Members who joined us there. That was the matter that was also raised by the local people there. Therefore, it is something that is very serious that you need to take seriously. If the finance ministry has not provided, provide money and complete it. I went there the other day, and found a bush reclaiming parts of the work, no one is even taking care of them. Therefore, Gen. Katumba, we appeal to you. We do not want this to go into wastage like other projects have done.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, there is a matter I raised last financial year. The issue of the Student Loan Scheme. I do not know why the Ministry of Education and Sports cannot listen. When we passed the law regarding the Student Loan Scheme, it was to benefit students every quarter. I have just accessed a list of beneficiaries, but there is unfairness.

How can a district like Butambala have only two beneficiaries and Moroto zero? Others have 58. Busia has 27. This is very unfair. There is a list here. We are not following what we passed in the law. For how long shall we continue raising this matter? This was meant to benefit the disadvantaged. I have a long list here. If you read it - Minister of Education and Sports, I do not know what you think about it. Ibanda District has only six, Abim District has six –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: How many does Mitooma have? *(Laughter)*

MR OKUPA: Mitooma has 11.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is unfair.

MR OKUPA: Ntungamo District has 56, Sheema District has 38, Tororo District, 28.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The rich districts have more students. Should we say it is because only the rich qualify for loans? Is it like a commercial loan?

MR OKUPA: Kalangala District has zero. What are we doing? Mr Speaker, I remember you referred this matter to the Committee on Education and Sports, but they never brought back a report. I appeal to you - because even Members may think that, maybe, they did not apply. They applied. I have one boy, an engineer, who applied and was admitted to Mbarara University for engineering. He is the son of a primary teacher in Kamod, but he was not given. For how long do we need to keep raising this matter? Mr Speaker, I think this matter deserves attention. This list must be reviewed because people applied. No one should lie to us that people did not apply. Young people of this country did apply but they were not taken - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chairperson, Committee on Education and Sports, have you handled this matter before, or do you have any information to give to the House?

MR OKUPA: Mr Speaker, may I lay this on the Table?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do. What have you laid? Just read what you have laid.

MR OKUPA: Mr Speaker, this is the list from the Ministry of Education and Sports, loan beneficiaries for the Academic Year 2025/2026. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Source?

MR OKUPA: From the website of the Ministry of Education and Sports.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Chairperson, before I call the minister.

11.45

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SPORTS (Mr James Kubeketerya): Mr Speaker, this matter came up before the Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure (RAPEX), and now that the board was dissolved and is now part and parcel of the Ministry of Education and Sports, I think the minister is in a better position to give us accurate information.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member said there is a time we referred this matter to you where general recommendations would have helped to make the process -

MR KUBEKETERYA: I think we never received it, and Hon. Ssewungu can testify.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister?

11.46

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (HIGHER EDUCATION) (Dr Chrysostom Muyingo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. What is clear is that this Student Loan Scheme is being managed according to the law. This is intended to help financially-challenged students who are admitted to a tertiary institution but are financially unable to continue.

However, what I am discovering, Mr Speaker, is that probably we have not done enough sensitisation for people to know how this - give me time Hon. Ssewungu. (*Hon. Ssewungu rose*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, let us listen to the minister.

DR MUYINGO: For people to know exactly what happens –(*Interjections*)- I cannot give you a loan - this is a loan; this is not money donated free like that. Somebody should be able to pay back, and you apply. If you have not applied, how do I know that you are interested? They do not apply. This is where – (*Members rose*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, please. Honourable minister, should we say that in the entire Kalangala District, no one applied? And those who applied did not qualify?

DR MUYINGO: Mr Speaker, it is possible because we get little money, we have sponsored scientists first. Many of our students in Kalangala, for example, have not been doing sciences.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, can I make it very simple, that you also go and look into this matter especially those districts that got zero numbers. Honourable colleagues, I encourage those of you who have cases like Hon. Okupa, where a student was admitted to Mbarara University to do engineering - from a needy family and share with the minister.

Honourable minister, I know you are not the one who does this work; you have technical people who do it. On Wednesday next week, you would be able to say, “Honourable colleagues, when you raised these issues, I went back to my technical people and this is what I discovered”. Do you think it would be helpful, honourable minister?

DR MUYINGO: Very helpful, Mr Speaker, because what I discover is that people need information and I will be able to provide

more information about how this scheme is operating. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu? The problem is that I do not know whether Hon. Muyingo can ably answer you, because you said you are a full shadow minister and for him, he is like half -

MR SSEWUNGU: I am a full shadow minister and he is state minister, but we are in the same docket. Mr Speaker, we have to agree that since RAPEX took place, we are in total confusion about the Higher Education Students' Financing Scheme. Once we went to the ministry with my chair. We met the board and looked at how districts have been given those scholarships; they gave us the information. However, as we talk, we have no clear method that we are using to know and how soon they have applied through the ministry. There must be a system that helps the Committee on Education and Sports to tell because even when the law was there, the districts were still complaining about the way loans were being administered in different districts.

Therefore, my prayer is that the honourable minister assists the Committee on Education and Sports by providing details of what he has done, and there must be some information because currently, there is no law. You remember, under the Rationalisation of Public Agencies and Expenditure (RAPEX), there is no law now because that loan scheme -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us not focus on the law. There is a mechanism, okay?

MR SSEWUNGU: There must be a mechanism.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a very clear mechanism established under the law to select these students. What we need is fairness. Hon. Odur, then Hon. Bhoka Didi and then Hon. Sseggoni – quickly on this -

MR ODUR: The information I want to give is that in that law, it was by consensus of both sides that before the selection, the minister would

allocate the quota depending on population, and say District X, you have 20. If they fail, just like in the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) recruitment, then an explanation can be made.

However, you first publish a list of allocations per district. Then after that they would apply and then – This, I think is what the minister has to come and address. Did they actually – *(Interjections)* – you cannot say lack of information when you did not advertise that a particular district has 10 or 100 slots depending on the population and other factors.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would you like to comment on that, honourable minister?

DR MUYINGO: Yes, I need to give more information to the House later, because these are things we talked about and we agreed. The law makes it clear that this is a loan you have to apply for and you should be able to pay back at an appropriate time. However, if somebody does not apply – *(Interjections)* – what we have done is to go out and sensitise our people; we have done sensitisation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, can I make it very easy for you? Next week, we need the number of applications received per district. I want to know whether in the whole of Kalangala, you could not get someone who is needy enough to qualify for a loan because if they were rich people I would understand, but these are needy people. Okay? Yes.

DR MUYINGO: Most obliged, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can note down the comments so that you answer once everyone has – Hon. Bhoka Didi? One minute.

DR BHOKA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Beyond that, there has been a public outcry on the criteria used for State House scholarships. We hear that the State House offers scholarships in various regions in this country, similar to the loan scheme, which needs to be equitable and fair. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I had allowed Hon. Sseggon.

11.55

MR MEDARD LUBEGA-SSEGGONA (NUP, Busiro County East, Wakiso): Mine is really to appreciate the predicament faced by my son, Hon. J C Muyingo and his ministry, in terms of the allocations and in terms of the applicants that apply. I was a little intrigued when he said that among the qualifications and conditions, is the ability to pay.

First, I thought the reasoning behind the law we made was that we were not talking about the rich. Secondly, when you talk about ability to pay, especially since we have to disseminate this information, probably I would be educated by the Ministry of Education and Sports on how you determine ability to pay at the level of application by a young student, who is not employed and who is not rich. The first qualification is that you must not be rich. Now, do you look at a land title? Do you look at how many cows I have for you to determine whether I will be able to pay?

I thought you educate me, and I pay after I get a job. Somebody in a neighbouring country was a Chief Justice who had studied on a government loan scheme. At the point of applying for the job of Chief Justice –(Interjections)- yes, Sir, you studied on a government loan scheme and you have been working for over 20 years. Have you paid? I think that is the level at which you would be able to determine whether this person has the willingness and the ability to pay. Maybe he could educate us.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. All these will be on Wednesday, okay? Honourable colleagues, in the VIP gallery this morning, we have a delegation of staff for the Parliament of Ghana from the Department of Facilities Management, they include:

- i) Dr Alexander Kofi, Director, Facilities Management
- ii) Mr Joseph Kwesi Moore, Assistant Director

- iii) Mr Divine Akpah, Principal Technical Officer
- iv) Mr Eric Adjei Stone, Principal Technical Officer
- v) Mr James Amooh, Senior Technical Officer
- vi) Mr Michael Aleh, Senior Technical Officer

They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please, once again, join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)*

Hon. Chemonges, Hon. Christine, and then I will continue.

11.57

MR WILLIAM CHEMONGES (NRM, Kween County, Kween): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I just want to respond to clarification from the Ministry of Education and Sports –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, you do not have the power to respond. They did not ask you anything.

MR CHEMONGES: Okay, I just need some clarification from the Ministry of Education and Sports about the loan scheme. Mr Speaker, what the minister has told us here is so embarrassing in that we all come from districts and constituencies, and in most cases, when there are applications for these loan schemes, the students try to get to us. We have all been engaged in understanding who has applied. For example, in Kween, where I come from, I have ever come to your office, when you were still the Government Chief Whip, when all the people that had applied from my district were not taken.

These were all scientists, as you could see; you could see how they performed in A-level and see where they came from. You find that these were students from the lowest families and yet they are not taken. In the entire Kween, you find only one or two taken. One time we discussed this matter here. We said it is better to allocate positions or numbers to districts. If we have Shs 20 billion – we know the number of districts, we can divide by districts and

consider their population - something like that, such that we are not left out.

Finally, a similar issue is happening with this money under Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women Enterprises (GROW). Billions of shillings have been put into that project, but I can tell you the money is being consumed by women from urban areas. Our people in the villages do not understand this quickly. We take them slowly, and before they get to know, the money is already used up. We still need to apply the same formula there where we allocate money by district. Thank you so much, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable, on “GROW”, we have to be very cautious because this is a World Bank Project. There are agreements that were made on how money will be distributed and all that. However, what is important is encouraging our women to see how best they can apply and benefit. Hon. Christine?

11.59

MS CHRISTINE KAAYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Kiboga): Mr Speaker, thank you for giving us this opportunity, especially in the time of matters of national importance. I have even escorted a student going for education and the bank officials told us quietly that please do not tell others but your course may not be considered. Therefore, in your report, we request that you update us on, for example, the priority courses for this year or next year other than people suffering.

Also, on the selection of students, which Hon. Elijah was sharing about sometimes the two students from Kiboga are considered because they just showed they were born there, but did not study from our secondary schools. So, that also needs to be cleared; coming and having studied from there. Let us really show people that our secondary schools are the ones that generated these three students other than looking for people from out.

Mr Speaker, we are in great pain right now about the issue of teachers; as a daughter of a teacher, it is too much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, you came when we had sorted that matter. Please do not open it again. You were not here when we closed it.

MS KAAYA: I was here but I was not given a chance.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, I was seeing and I know the time you came. I closed that matter, and the committee is handling it. So, we cannot reopen it again.

Our rule on anticipation is very clear. Once a matter is referred to the committee, you can always go to the committee and make submissions.

Honourable minister, some of the questions we are grappling with concerning these citizens is to find - under a national programme, you have a district that can raise a student who qualifies, when you are the ones who determine the courses. These are the issues causing us problems.

You would rather find a way of doing affirmative action. For example, you can say, if in Kalangala we have only students who are doing arts because we did not determine the courses and say, you allow only these. It is you who decides.

You can find a way to implement affirmative action and avoid a situation where one district receives 50 while another cannot qualify. People in that district will not welcome you if you go there.

These are things we need to work on. When you come back on Wednesday, please, I request that you should have taken action by then and see what to do.

DR MUYINGO: Mr Speaker, when I come back on Wednesday, I will give you all those details.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

DR MUYINGO: However, as you may have noted, there have been a lot of improvements in the scheme since we started. These issues of affirmative action have also been considered, as you will see when I give the details on Wednesday. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I will be interested in districts with zero. Hon. Sserukenya?

12.03

MR DAVID SSERUKENYA (NUP, Makindye-Ssabagabo Municipality, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It was on the 6th of October this year when the so-called robbers broke into Makindye-Ssabagabo Municipality offices and found a guard who had an unfunctional gun.

They tied him up and did not touch any property in the compound, such as expensive cars and road units. That week of the robbery, the management did not load Yaka. So, we had power in the area but not in the offices, although the cameras use electricity. We had just acquired machines for Health Centre III in Kibiri. They did not take anything from those expensive machines, but they entered certain offices and took specific computers. They took a few.

Mr Speaker, it has now been two weeks. No suspect and no arrests have been made. My prayer is for the concerned agencies to take immediate action because this is taxpayers' money. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister of Internal Affairs, please follow up on the matter together with the Minister of Local Government. Next item. Hon. Byarugaba?

12.05

MR ALEX BYARUGABA (NRM, Isingiro County South, Isingiro): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. An issue was raised regarding State House scholarships. State

House scholarships are entirely at the discretion of His Excellency the President.

For instance, there is no structure to follow, but it is only at the discretion of the President, who determines who gets that scholarship.

He mainly looks at very disadvantaged regions like Karamoja, where he gives about 100 scholarships per year. Kasese gets 50 scholarships per year and mainly -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Colleagues, we are getting information from the Chairperson, Committee on Presidential Affairs.

MR BYARUGABA: Thank you. Mainly science subjects. They are mainly also for undergraduates. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable Chairperson, for the information. Yes, Hon. Akena; I had allowed him earlier on.

12.06

MR JIMMY AKENA (UPC, Lira East Division, Lira City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It seems UPC has become inconspicuous these days that we are not noticed and seen.

Mr Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to join you and the House and the rest of Africa in sending our personal condolences to the family and the Republic of Kenya for the loss of a great dear friend of the Uganda People's Congress in the name of Raila Amolo Odinga.

Mr Speaker, you mentioned that parties have given out their manifestos. As Uganda People's Congress, our manifesto has not yet been released; but when I listen to the debate going on here, I think our manifesto is desperately needed.

As UPC, our record is clear; when it came to education and the question of equity, it did not matter which corner of Uganda you were. You had an opportunity to succeed.

The purpose of delivering education is to develop the next generation to progress. In

2006, UPC introduced the first concept of a student loan. Our idea was that we are investing in the greatest asset Uganda possesses, which is its people.

So, when you have a student who has an opportunity or ability, we must invest in that student so they can succeed. The way we will recover the money later is when that student has succeeded. If you have lost sight of the purpose, you will not succeed in this issue of the quota. You have lost the purpose. It must be for the people, and if it is not for the people, you are wasting our time.

I should be saying this on a campaign trail, but I am tied here. I am tied because people are not comfortable with such a message.

Uganda is ready for this message. I am seeing the Frontbench here looking as if they have been struck by lightning. Speechless. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, I have made it clear that in this campaign, even if you decide to lock me out, I am not going quietly and the facts which are necessary for the development of Uganda are going to be heard. Whether you lock up Akena or refuse Akena, I am going to make sure that those facts are heard and that the people of Uganda get a better deal.

We cannot keep going around in circles. Do you understand equity? They do not seem to understand it. Therefore, as we come to an election, we must be able to have a conversation which moves us forward. Akena is still in the waiting room. I am ready to run.

Even if it is tomorrow, I am going to deliver a message of hope for the people of Uganda. We cannot continue this way.

Mr Speaker, before I conclude –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Akena, I wanted it to be on record that you are not tied here. We have not tied anyone here and we will not allow anyone to be tied here. If it is outside, well and good, but not in this House. In this House, you are free.

MR AKENA: Yes, I greatly appreciate and that is why my voice is being heard and it is the only place I am being heard. Even right now, at least we have got internal affairs here.

The police are refusing to let me move although I have candidates nominated for local government, I cannot campaign for them. My Members of Parliament are going to be nominated from Wednesday but I cannot campaign for them. My Members of Parliament are going to be nominated starting Wednesday, and I cannot campaign for them. I am not nominated, but I am a party president. I have been in this House for 19 years. I have campaigned for the Uganda People's Congress (UPC). As UPC, we have been together on so many issues, and we have even been able to sit with you on the Front Bench. However, when it comes to equity, God bless Uganda.

Mr Speaker, I have been holding on to your official jersey for the Uganda Motocross Cranes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh! I had feared that it is for UPC. *(Laughter)*

MR AKENA: When you see me in yellow, you know it is a national event. I will not be in yellow other than for that.

Mr Speaker, in 2024, I came to the Floor requesting the support of Parliament to send a team to Morocco. We went to Morocco. We returned as number two in Africa. *(Applause)* This year, the competition was in Zimbabwe, and we were number three in Africa.

One of the two students whom Parliament took up, the young lady by the name Helena Birungi was able to defend her individual championship as the junior women's champion for Africa. Fortunately, or unfortunately, under the competition rules, I cannot compete in Uganda but I can compete for Uganda in international events.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why?

MR AKENA: This is because by virtue of being a president of the federation, I am an ex-officio member of the highest appellant body, so there is fear of conflict of interest that if I compete, it will affect the outcome. I do not compete locally, but when I have a chance to wear this jersey, I will, and I do try to represent Uganda.

On this point, I want to put this on record, when we had the African Nations Championship (CHAN), I was invited as a president of motorsports. I had my full jersey on, and it was my intention to kneel during the national anthem at Kololo Independence Grounds. At that moment, I was carrying out a protest for being denied nomination to contest for the presidency of the Republic of Uganda. I failed to do it at Kololo Independence Grounds, reason being, Kololo is where the Union Jack went down and the Uganda flag went up. The person who was there to receive the instruments of power was my father. It was not going to be possible to see Akena kneeling in Kololo when the National Anthem for Uganda was being played. That does not mean I am not hurt. It does not mean I am not breaking inside. Please, I am asking the people on the Front Bench to tell the President to stop this. It is wrong.

UPC has been accused of rigging elections. This is a chance I have as Jimmy Akena to set that record straight. You will not even let me get past the gate. Is this an election or is this a farce? I am ready to go through this for the sake of the people who support me, and for the sake of UPC which has representatives here. Injustice and what you are doing is wrong.

On record, the FIA, the International Body for Automobiles, and the International Body for Motorcycles are having their annual general assemblies, of which I intend to attend. Trust me, when the National Anthem of Uganda is played, and we are there at the forefront, do not be surprised if you see Jimmy Akena on his knees. That is the way in sports, we register our complaints.

What you have done to UPC, Uganda, and to me, is wrong. Let the record show it is wrong. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I can receive it. It is mine. It is not yours. I want it to go on record that issues of declaration will be handled later. Thank you, Hon. Akena.

Hon. Akena invited me for the Pearl of Africa motor rally, and I saw the good work he is doing in terms of promoting sports in this country. I saw him promoting Uganda's name across the region. The international rally drivers who came to participate were all very full of praise for him and our country. I thank you.

MR AKENA: I forgot to mention that Uganda is the current Africa rally champion. They got it in the last rally which was held in Tanzania. Uganda holds the championship for the first time in 26 years. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. On the issue you raised of your candidature, you have a platform under the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue (IPOD), under which you work. You also have the parties' consultative forum. These are issues for presidents at your level. However, I remember that when I read about it, it was an internal UPC matter. I do not have much information about this. I would encourage that indeed, if there are any discussions needed at IPOD level, in case there is interference beyond the internal matters, it can be handled at that level. That is what I request.

Honourable minister for justice, did you want to comment on that?

12.17

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (Mr Norbert Mao): Mr Speaker, Hon. Jimmy Akena and I were born in the same year – *(Interjections)*- I use shea butter – *(Laughter)* - and I shave my chin.

Mr Speaker, our generation is the kind that has the history of Uganda written on their bodies. Imagine, you were born in 1967. When you were four years old, the government was overthrown in a military coup. When you were turning 12, about to join secondary school, another war

went on. When you were in O-Level, there was a coup. Within a year, there was another violent takeover of the government.

Mr Speaker, I state, here, that unless there is a consensus on rules of engagement in any country, human resources will continue to be wasted. We have a lot of gifted people in this country, but because of our kind of politics, human resources are wasted. You find that people who should be serving the country are either dead, in exile, or in prison.

This is a matter that we have always been talking about as the Democratic Party, because we have borne the brunt. Our leader was abducted and murdered. We should be crying the loudest. We have been victims of fraudulent elections.

What is clear is that as political parties, courts should be avoided because they are very problematic. I know for a fact that the moment the UPC case went to court - whoever talked to me, I told them to please avoid court. This is because you will have an injunction after an injunction, and sometimes you will have decisions that are not based on good context.

It is regrettable that a substantive leader like the Hon. Jimmy Akena, who for years got his education at the feet of one of the best statesmen in Africa, Dr Apollo Milton Obote, is unable to run for president. However, definitely amends can always be made.

In Kenya, a man who was mistreated and abused left, right and centre and finally, as they say, "*Basiima ogenze*". Fortunately, the Hon. Jimmy Akena is still young and in good health -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, what does that mean? I heard some words in a certain language.

MR MAO: I said that the situation of the Hon. Raila Odinga showed that it is in the nature of human beings not to appreciate the blessings they have until it is too late, but it will never be too late for Hon. Jimmy Akena.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is that the meaning of "*basiima ogenze*"?

MR MAO: "*Basiima ogenze*" means you are appreciated when you are dead.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

MR MAO: Finally, Mr Speaker, as the current chairperson of the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue Summit, I want to refer to a provision which enjoins us that in case of an internal conflict or disagreement in a member party, not even between two parties, the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue (IPOD) may, through its Conflict Resolution Committee, intervene with a view to having the dispute amicably resolved.

This is not confined to the Uganda People's Congress (UPC). I have had my fair share. The National Resistance Movement virtually degenerated into a "*Kung fu*" tournament, in some cases, in their internal primaries. The leading Opposition party in the Parliament of Uganda is still smarting from the painful processes of selecting candidates. This is a sign that Uganda is still an adolescent in terms of democracy.

I am looking at the Speaker who is seated at the same side with the Hon. Medard Sseggon. (*Laughter*) I cannot look at the Speaker without moving my head via Hon. Sseggon. (*Laughter*) But I am also looking at you, the JEEMA President. I think Hon. Jimmy Akena's statement, which was heartfelt, is something that we should reflect about.

I undertake, as the chairperson of IPOD, to communicate to colleagues that in case there is anything we can collectively do to avoid this in future - But let us stick together. I want my honourable brother to know that whatever it takes, this is about Uganda and let us do our best to put Uganda first. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Next item?

LAYING OF PAPERS

I) THE SUGAR REGULATIONS, 2025

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

12.23

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (TRADE) (Gen. Wilson Mbadi): Mr Speaker, I am here to lay the Sugar Regulations, 2025. In accordance with Section 28(3) of the Sugar Act, CAP 42 and Rule 32(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda, I beg to lay the Sugar Regulations made under the Sugar Act on the Table. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Colleagues, the regulations are for information purposes. So, please, Clerk, ensure they are in the library so that honourable colleagues can always refer to them.

Honourable minister, please go and implement this law. The committee worked very closely with the sugarcane farmers and this law is going to change the fortunes of sugarcane farmers.

We have had some issues with the Council. The law is also very clear on members of the Council that the different constituencies nominate. We have had several petitions where the ministers are interfering. Kindly, we do not want Parliament to go into this matter. Therefore, let the constituencies choose their representatives on the Council. It is for them. They know who can fight for them. It should not be us to say we want so and so. That was why we made it very clear in the Law that the constituents will nominate.

Now that you have the regulations, go and implement them. We have received many complaints regarding the Council. I talked to the senior minister and I request that the constituencies be respected as provided for under the law. That was a notice. Thank you, honourable minister.

II) PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO US\$ 1,341 MILLION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE WORLD BANK GROUP AND RECEIVE GRANTS WORTH US\$ 328.3 MILLION TO FINANCE THE UNDER-LISTED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMME

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

12.26

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay on the Table the proposal to borrow up to US\$ 1,341 million from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group and receive grants worth US\$ 328.3 million to finance the underlisted projects and programmes.

Mr Speaker, for clarity, the programmes are the following:

1. \$250 million from IDA and receive a grant of \$17 million from the Global Shield Financing Facility Multi-Donor Trust Fund and grant of \$9 million for the Global Financing Facility for Women, Children, Adolescent Multi-Donor Trust Fund to finance Phase IV of the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund, commonly known as NUSAF IV.
2. \$180.5 million and receive a grant in special drawings rights of \$111.1 million, an equivalent of 147.5 million from the International Development Association of the World Bank Group to finance Phase II of the Development Response to Displacement Impact Project, commonly known as DRDIP II.
3. \$210 million from the International Development Association of the World Bank Group and receive a grant of \$114.8 million from the Global Partnership for Education to finance the Uganda Learning Acceleration Program (ULAP). This is the rehabilitation of all the traditional secondary schools.

4. \$500 million and receive a grant of \$40 million from the International Development Association of the World Bank Group to finance the Uganda Cities and Municipalities Infrastructure Development Programme (USMID).
5. \$200 million from IDA to finance the Uganda Strengthening Public Investment and Asset Management for Growth and Resilience Programme.

Mr Speaker, I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. The proposal is referred to the Committee on National Economy to work closely with the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development and report back.

Honourable colleagues, on laying - but there is no one on the Floor. Honourable colleagues, may I make it very easy for you? Point of information and point of clarification are for Members on the Floor. The request is made to the Member on the Floor and not to me. Right now, I do not have any and he did not yield, because it is him. It is not me but it is the Minister. Please continue.

III) PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO
€192,959,605.47 FROM CITI BANK
TO FINANCE THE PROPOSED
PHASE I OF THE ENHANCING
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION,
QUALITY AND STANDARDS FOR
MARKET ACCESS PROJECT

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister.

12.31

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the proposal to borrow up to €192,959,605.47 from the Citibank to finance the proposed Phase 1 of the Enhancing Agricultural Production, Quality and Standards for Market Access project. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The loan proposal is referred to the Committee on National Economy to work closely with the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and report back.

IV) PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO €
230,454,687.23 FROM CITI BANK
TO FINANCE THE DESIGN AND
BUILD OF THE JINJA-MBULAMUTI-
KAMULI-BUKUNGU ROAD (127KM)
AND JINJA CITY ROADS (10KM)
PROJECT IN UGANDA

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister.

12.32

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the proposal to borrow up to €230,454,687.23 from Citibank to implement the upgrade of Jinja- Mbulamuti-Kamuli-Bukungu Road 127km and Jinja City Road project. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. The proposal is referred to the Committee on National Economy to work closely with the Committee on Physical Infrastructure and report back.

V) PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO
€342,592,806.25 FROM
STANDARD CHARTERED BANK FOR
THE CONSTRUCTION OF 400KV
KARUMA-TORORO DOUBLE CIRCUIT
TRANSMISSION LINE AND
ASSOCIATED SUBSTATIONS, AND
132/33KV NTINDA SUBSTATION
PROJECT

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister.

12.34

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay a proposal to borrow up to €342,592,806.25 from Standard Chartered Bank for the construction of 400kV Karuma-Tororo double circuit transmission line and associated substations and 132/33kV Ntinda substation project. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The proposal is referred to the Committee on National Economy to work with the Committee on Natural Resources.

VI) PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO €115,876,831 FROM STANDARD CHARTERED BANK TO FINANCE THE CRITICAL OIL ROADS PACKAGE 6B (DESIGN AND BUILD UPGRADING OF KARUGUTU-NTOROKO ROAD (56.5KM), LINK TO RWEBISENGO (8.2KM) AND 3.3KM OF TOWN ROADS IN NTOROKO) (68KM)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister.

12.35

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay a proposal to borrow up to €115,876,831 from Standard Chartered Bank to finance the design and build of the upgrading of Karugutu-Ntoroko Road (68km) and critical oil roads package 6B. I beg to lay, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable Minister. The proposal is referred to the Committee on the National Economy to work in consultation with the Committee on Physical Infrastructure.

VII) SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/26 – SCHEDULE NO.2

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

12.36

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay on the Table the Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No.2 for Financial Year 2025/2026. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The proposal is referred to the Committee on Budget. Please process the report and we shall handle this on Wednesday next week - On laying? Procedure?

MR SSEWUNGU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My procedural matter goes to the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. On several occasions, I have raised the matter -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, a procedural matter cannot go to another Member in the House -

MR SSEWUNGU: I am sorry, Mr Speaker. It is about what has been laid by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. My procedural matter is that I have continuously complained about the new districts with no single tarmac road and a lot of loans are coming but no name of a district like Kalungu, Mitooma -(*Laughter*) - because I have relatives in Kalangala. Where a district -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: In fact, for the record, today I was telling people and the “Minister for Roads” that I do not have a single national road. I have been left to suffer with the Shs 1 billion that looks after - Despite having tourism - but Hon. Katumba usually promises saying, “money is coming”. I am very patient with the General.

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, the reason I am raising this - I am not saying it because the Speaker is here, but sometimes it is good to give such an example. In the district where I come from, the only tarmac road we have was given by the President and it is from Bukalasa to the Convent of the Nuns and I am even going to raise issues on the way it was made. Kalungu from Bukalasa to Gomba is the shortest cut - if Masaka Road is broken - to Masaka and all other accesses, but we have no tarmac. Regarding the new districts with no tarmac, when do we get some loans to get - because my people are going to pay all the loans you have got. That is the procedural matter, Mr Speaker, I am giving. I am happy you have also engaged it in the same spirit. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Works and Transport, did you want to comment? This should be - Let me get Hon. Sarah Opendi, but honourable colleagues, let us be cautious because these are issues which the committee reports should capture and then we debate.

12.40

MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The Nabumali-Butaleja-Namutumba Road has been in the NRM manifesto since 2000 and that road equally touches on the Tororo-Nagongera-Busolwe Road. The President has been explaining that they will work on that Nabumali-Butaleja-Namutumba Road and add on the annex from Tororo-Nagongera-Busolwe.

However, since 2000, there has been a promise and I remember four years ago, His Excellency the President had written to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to allow for pre-financing. It is one of those roads where somebody was supposed to finance the tarmac and then the Government pays later. That one also stalled.

Mr Speaker, you have been seeing my people saying, "No tarmac, no vote. Can the Minister of Works and Transport give assurance to my people within Bukedi on when this road is going to be tarmacked? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, we are now going to open a Pandora's Box. I know when it comes to roads - *(Laughter)* - I am the chief complainant with my own area where the car tyres of the poor traders of my area are cut all the time. This is totally impassible.

Honourable minister, do you want to comment or we wait when the report comes? *(Laughter)*

12.41

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Gen. Katumba Wamala): Mr Speaker, as you rightly said, if we start on roads now, it will open a Pandora's Box. The Order Paper for the whole day will totally change. I request that we have another day and come here with a list of roads which we are going to handle and within which period.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, on Tuesday next week, we shall be handling these loans. Please come ready to answer the honourable colleagues.

GEN. KATUMBA WAMALA: Much obliged, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I had not yet referred the supplementary to the committee. Did I?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I referred it to the committee on Budget. Budget Committee, we shall handle your report on Wednesday.

VIII) REPORT OF THE UGANDA
PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION
TO THE 83RD SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY
UNION, HELD IN RABAT, MOROCCO
FROM 21ST TO 22ND MAY 2025

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, it is Wednesday next week, not this Wednesday of nomination. *(Laughter)* Hon.

Faith Nakut, you are very smart like the LOP. Honourable LOP, you tried to be smart today.

12.43

MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay a report of the Uganda Parliamentary delegation to the 83rd Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union, held in Rabat, Morocco from 21st to 22nd May, 2025.

Attached to this report is a list of proposals by the Uganda delegation to the African Parliamentary Union for the amendments to the Statute of the African Parliamentary Union. I beg to lay. As required by the rules, I am supposed to give a summary.

On the 21st and 22nd of May this year, a team of four represented the Parliament of Uganda in Morocco to the Executive Committee Meeting of the African Parliamentary Union, and I was honoured to head that delegation. In that meeting, 22 out of 41 parliaments that have signed up to the APU were represented.

In that meeting, an agenda was agreed for the upcoming Annual Conference of the African Parliamentary Union, a conference that will be held in the Democratic Republic of Congo in November or December.

In that meeting also, the audited report of the APU was received and approved. On that note, I wish to report that Uganda and Cameroon were represented on the team of auditors. For Uganda, we were represented by Hon. Remigio Achia and they presented the report. This was the second year of auditing.

I wish to report that we were proud when the second report was read, highlighting the fact that the APU had complied, to a larger extent, with the recommendations that were highlighted in the previous audit. We were and continue to be delighted as a team, and I wish the Parliament of Uganda joins us to appreciate and be excited at this win, that our own Hon. Remigio Achia has been key in championing reforms at the APU, in his role as the auditor.

The APU, for many years, had reached a point of numbers dwindling and parliaments withdrawing their participation. The issues that created this were highlighted in the auditor's report and are being implemented. We are pleased that the Parliament of Uganda is contributing to strengthening the APU. Doesn't that earn me a hand clap? *(Applause)* I have laid the documents.

There are other issues you need to note in terms of our recommendations to the amendment of the Statute. While we were in Morocco, the Moroccan Parliament submitted a list of amendments to the Statute. Some of them, in our view, will need further amendments to improve the work of the African Parliamentary Union. I will highlight a few for this purpose.

For instance, the amendments that have been proposed by Morocco highlighted that for a country in Africa to belong to the APU, they should be a member of the United Nations. In our view, as a delegation, we represented you. We believe that, that should not be a requirement because it then removes the independence of the African Parliamentary Union. So, we thought that we should stick to maintaining the independence of the African Parliamentary Union. Those are the facts that you need to know.

The big conference will happen in November. For now, Mr Speaker, allow me to end there, as required by the rules.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. At an appropriate date, I will appoint a time for debate of the report.

IX) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-
GENERAL ON THE UGANDA
NATIONAL MINING COMPANY
LIMITED FOR THE AUDIT YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 2025

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Commissioner Solomon Silwany?

12.48

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli Central County, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the Uganda National Mining Company Limited for the audit year ending December 2025.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (COSASE) for processing and reporting back. Point of procedure from the LOP.

MR JOEL SSENKYONYI: Mr Speaker, loan requests have been tabled to the tune of over Shs 8.3 trillion. My view on some of these loans is on record generally.

My concern, however, is that I have learned that the Committee on National Economy has been meeting and processing these loan requests and reports are being signed - *(Interjections)*- I am on a point of procedure and honourable colleague, you have been here for a while so you know the rules. Let me proceed without being interrupted by my colleague who knows the rules.

Mr Speaker, this is a serious matter. Our rules are clear; Rule 162 and others. These requests are meant to be tabled. You send them to the committees, that is, the Committee on National Economy and the relevant sectoral committee. The relevant sectoral committee is supposed to report to the Committee on National Economy within 14 days. There is scrutiny and so on and then the Committee on National Economy reports to the House after all that processing.

Mr Speaker, reports have been signed. I do not know whether you are aware of it as the Presiding Officer. Otherwise, it is totally outside the law. How did they get those requests without them being tabled here first? Who authorised them to begin to sit and process these loan requests?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I know there are loans which are before the committee and I have just referred the loans to the committee. Now,

some of these loans have timelines because they came a bit early. They were referred to the House early but we could not just call the House only to receive loans. They have been pending.

There are other loans, which the committee has not yet reported on. Now, I do not know which is which. I have done my duty of referring the loans to the committee as required under the rules because next week, some of these World Bank loans are going to expire, if we do not move expeditiously. So, within the 14 days, and I think Tuesday next week will be within 14 days.

Regarding the other ones being handled, I really do not know much about them because I have just referred them.

MR SSENKYONYI: Mr Speaker, I am actually not making reference to other loans that were previously tabled. I am making reference to the loan requests that have been tabled now. Committee reports have been signed for these loan requests and that is my concern.

Mr Speaker, our rules are clear. We are the ones who make these rules. Why don't we want to operate within the rules? These are not emergencies. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development did not get to know about these loan requests yesterday, that now, there is an emergency so the rules have to be violated and so on. You are supposed to plan even for money that you will borrow.

Why didn't you bring it in good time? You are causing committees to run into a brick wall with the law. The committees are not meant to handle these loan requests at all before they are tabled here. That is the law.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ssenyonyi, I have referred the loans to the committees. For that concern that you have raised, I will inquire because I do not know much about it. Thank you.

X) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT, REVIEW AND UPDATE OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS (NIPS) UNDER THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION (SC) ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPS) PROJECT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Commissioner.

12.54

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on global development review and update of the national implementation plans under Stockholm Convention on the persistent organic pollutants project for the year ended 31 December 2024. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Commissioner. The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government) for consideration and reporting back. Thank you.

XII) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK - EARLY ACTION SUPPORT PROJECT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Commissioner Solomon.

MR SILWANY: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements of Global Biodiversity Framework and Action Support Project for the year ended 31st December 2024. I beg to Lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government) for consideration and reporting back.

XIII) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE TECHNICAL/ENGINEERING AUDIT REPORT ON SELECTED THREE RAILWAY REHABILITATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY UGANDA RAILWAYS CORPORATION (URC) IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Commissioner.

MR SILWANY: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the technical engineering audit report on selected three railway rehabilitation infrastructure projects implemented by Uganda Railways Corporation in the Financial Year 2023/2024. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprise - COSASE) for consideration and reporting back.

Honourable colleagues, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have teachers and pupils of Mutesa I Junior School from Gomba West County, Gomba District. They are represented by Hon. Rwakoojo Robinah Gureme and Hon. Sylvia Nayebele. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them. Kindly stand up so that we can see you. *(Applause)* Thank you.

XIV) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2025

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Commissioner.

MR SILWANY: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements of the National Social Security Fund for the year ended 30th June 2025. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (COSASE) for consideration and reporting back.

XV) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-
GENERAL ON THE SPECIAL
INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED
MISMANAGEMENT, ABUSE OF OFFICE
AND CORRUPTION AT THE NATIONAL
SOCIAL SECURITY FUND

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable commissioner.

MR SILWANY: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on special investigations into the alleged mismanagement, abuse of office and corruption at the National Social Security Fund. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (COSASE) for consideration and reporting back.

XVI) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-
GENERAL ON THE TECHNICAL
ENGINEERING AUDIT REPORT ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
TEMANGALO HOUSING PROJECT (THP)
PHASE I BY THE NATIONAL SOCIAL
SECURITY FUND (NSSF)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable commissioner.

MR SILWANY: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the Technical Engineering Audit Report on the Implementation of the Temangalo Housing Project Phase I by the National Social Security Fund. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, the report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (COSASE) for consideration and reporting back.

XVII) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-
GENERAL ON THE TECHNICAL
ENGINEERING AUDIT REPORT ON THE
CONSTRUCTION OF PENSION TOWERS
(PT) PHASE II BY THE NATIONAL
SOCIAL SECURITY FUND (NSSF)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable commissioner.

MR SILWANY: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the Technical Engineering Audit Report on the Construction of the Pension Towers Phase II by the National Social Security Fund. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (COSASE) for consideration and report back.

XVIII) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-
GENERAL ON THE TECHNICAL
ENGINEERING AUDIT REPORT
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE LUBOWA HOUSING PROJECT,
PHASE 1 BY THE NATIONAL SOCIAL
SECURITY FUND

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Commissioner?

MR SILWANY: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the Technical Engineering Audit Report on the Implementation of the Lubowa Housing Project, Phase 1 by the National Social Security Fund. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (COSASE) for consideration and report back.

XIX) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE
OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE UGANDA
HIGH COMMISSION IN INDIA, NEW
DELHI

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chairperson, Committee on Foreign Affairs?

1.00

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(Mr Fred Opolot): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay a report of the Foreign Affairs Committee on its oversight visit to the Uganda High Commission in India, New Delhi.

In accordance with Rules 34(1) and (2) of the Rules of Procedure, please allow me to present a summary of the report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, limit yourself to the recommendations as provided for under the rules.

MR FRED OPOLOT: The first is the delayed presentation of credentials, and that is page 6 of the report.

The committee recommends that the Government enhances the travel abroad budgets for Missions abroad to facilitate timely presentation of credentials by the Heads of Missions, in accordance with Article 13 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961.

Number two, on absence of regular Joint Permanent Commission sessions, found in page 11 to 12 of the report, the committee recommends that Uganda and India convene JCETCS sessions at fixed intervals, preferably at least once every three years, to monitor progress, sustain continuous engagement, and identify new areas of potential cooperation. The Government should provide the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Mission with adequate funding for this purpose.

Number three, establishment of an Indian Forensic University in Uganda, page 18 to 19. The committee recommends that the Ministry of Education and Sports and the National Council of Higher Education expedite the accreditation process to ensure the institution becomes fully operational without any further delay.

On the rental costs, found on page 19 to 20 –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, rental costs cannot be key recommendations. What are the key ones?

MR FRED OPOLOT: They are key in the sense that a lot of money is spent on the chanceries and official residences of these Missions.

The committee recommends that given the longstanding bilateral relations between Uganda and India, which date back to 1965 when Uganda officially established its Mission in India, the Government of Uganda should prioritise funding for the construction of a chancery in New Delhi to affirm Uganda's permanent diplomatic presence in the country and alleviate the high costs currently incurred in renting the chancery.

Old representation vehicles - I will skip that.

The inadequate funding for repatriation of victims of human trafficking, pages 23 to 24.

The committee recommends as follows:

- a) That Government allocate an additional Shs 1.2 billion to the Mission in New Delhi in the next budget to facilitate the repatriation of over 300 stranded Ugandan girls, or alternatively, explore a partnership with Uganda Airlines to repatriate the girls depending on the most viable and cost-effective option, given the large numbers involved.
- b) Missions with large numbers of distressed Ugandans, such as New Delhi, should have their MTEF budget ceilings increased by at least Shs 1 billion to strengthen consular support.
- c) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should develop a comprehensive strategy to assist distressed Ugandans abroad and address the root cause or causes of their vulnerability.

Large areas of accreditation

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs engages the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

to prioritise the establishment of additional consular offices to support the Mission in delivering consular services more effectively and improve accessibility for Ugandans across large geographic areas under the Mission's jurisdiction.

That ends the summary, thank you. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I will be appointing a time to debate the report, as provided for under the rules.

MR FRED OPOLOT: Can I go ahead with the other Missions?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, they have to call the item. *(Laughter)* I can see you are rushing somewhere.

XX) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE OVERSIGHT
VISIT TO THE UGANDA EMBASSY IN
TURKEY, ANKARA

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson?

1.23

MR FRED OPOLOT: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay a report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the oversight visit of the Embassy of Uganda in Ankara, Turkey. Please allow me, once again, to present a summary of the report.

Cumbersome visa processes

The committee recommends that the Mission in Turkey should engage the relevant authorities in Turkey to reduce visa costs for Ugandans to facilitate smoother smooth bilateral relations between the two countries.

Lack of regular Turkey-Uganda Joint Economic Commission Sessions

The committee noted that the Joint Economic Commission Sessions, which is primarily a framework for bilateral engagement between Uganda and Turkey, was last convened in 2013.

Although Uganda has repeatedly expressed readiness to host the third session, proposed dates have not been convened or convenient for Turkey, and new dates are yet to be agreed upon.

The committee, therefore, recommends that the Mission continues to engage the Turkish government to convene the JEC to address pending issues such as visa challenges, investment-related security concerns and to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Promotion of economic and commercial diplomacy.

The committee recommends that missions abroad should enhance co-ordination with the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, the Uganda Tourism Board and the Uganda Wildlife Authority to develop joint tourism promotion strategies to enhance the impact of tourism promotional activities.

Secondly, missions abroad should also engage the Uganda diaspora as tourism ambassadors to promote Uganda's attractions and position the country as a leading international tourism destination.

Limited tourism products

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities in collaboration with the Uganda Tourism Board, enhances promotion of leisure, culinary and cultural tourism, and encourage tour operators to develop tailored tourism packages.

On highly priced travel packages, the committee recommends that:

- i) Government increases infrastructure development in tourism areas to attract private sector investment in accommodation and reduce costs; and
- ii) The ministry for tourism and Uganda Tourism Board should work with the private sector to market tourist accommodation and offer subsidised packages to tourists.

To the absence of Turkish-speaking tour guides, which affects the overall tourism experience, the committee recommends that the ministry for tourism should prioritise the recruitment of the multilingual tour guides and continue leveraging technology to bridge the communication gap for a better tourism experience.

On the planned development of an industrial park in Nakasongola, the committee recommends that Government of Uganda demonstrates the commitment by taking immediate steps towards development of the necessary infrastructure for an industrial park, which is critical for promoting industrialisation and economic development of the country.

The Government should engage the Turkish investors to ensure that infrastructure to be developed is compatible with the design of the proposed industrial park.

Just very quickly, Mr Speaker, the context of this is that when we went to Türkiye, the investors that visited Nakasongola majorly found a bush. There is completely nothing; so, it raised a lot of concern.

On irregularities in the recruitment of locally-recruited staff, the committee recommends that the head of mission ensures all local-staff recruitment follows the due process with approvals documented and records maintained.

On lack of medical insurance cover, the committee recommends that the mission expedites this process to reduce medical expenses by the mission itself and individual staff.

On non-payment of overtime allowances, the committee recommends that missions ensure timely and consistent payment of overtime allowances and implement reliable clocking systems to accurately track attendance and eligibility. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, committee chairperson. I will be appointing the time for debating.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE UGANDA HIGH COMMISSION IN NAIROBI AND THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF UGANDA IN MOMBASA

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, as if I heard when you were starting with Ankara, you said Qatar; I need the record to capture it well. It was Türkiye, not Qatar.

1.15

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr Fred Opolot):

Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Sectoral Committee on Foreign Affairs on the oversight visit to the Uganda High Commission in Nairobi and the Consulate General of Uganda in Mombasa. I beg to lay.

Mr Speaker, may you please allow me to present a summary.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do.

MR FRED OPOLOT: On the absence of Cooperation Agreements with the Seychelles, the committee recommends that the mission accords high priority to the negotiation and conclusion of cooperation agreements to advance Uganda's foreign policy objectives and unlock new opportunities for economic and commercial diplomacy.

On tariff and non-tariff barriers (NTB) to trade, the committee recommends that the Uganda High Commission in Nairobi follows up on convening the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) under the Joint Ministerial Commission Framework to address the NTBs and promote predictable and fair trade in line with the objectives of the East African Community (EAC) Treaty and Protocols.

On the state of the chancellery building, the committee recommends that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Uganda High Commission in Nairobi, explore the acquisition of additional land adjacent to the existing chancellery to facilitate the

construction of a modern chancellery and staff residential apartments, similar to the arrangement of the Uganda High Commission in Abuja.

On the status of Uganda House in Nairobi, the committee recommends that Government should prioritise the construction of a new chancellery building for the mission in Nairobi so that the consular office is relocated to the new premises and all the mission's functions are consolidated under one roof.

In the meantime, the mission should engage the relevant authorities in Kenya to provide security outside all its properties, including Uganda House, since part of the building is currently utilised as a consular office, which is a diplomatic function entitled to such protection under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

On old and worn-out furniture, accordingly, the committee recommends that the mission be allocated funds to procure furniture and ICT equipment in the next budget.

On the Mission fleet, the committee recommends that adequate funds be allocated to the mission in the next budget to enable the procurement of vehicles necessary for supporting its daily operations and meet its consular and protocol services' needs.

On the absence of a substantive Head of Mission, the committee recommends that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should actively follow up with the appointing authority to expedite the appointment of a substantive head of mission for Nairobi and other missions like Tehran, Abuja and Ottawa that do not have. That should allow the Missions to operate effectively.

On issues raised by the Ugandan diaspora in Kenya, the committee recommends as follows:

- i) The deployment of an education attaché to the Mission in Kenya and other Missions with a large student population should be effected;

- ii) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ugandan missions in the EAC region should intensify diplomatic engagement with partner states to ensure reciprocal implementation of the EAC protocols on the free movement of goods and persons, including the removal of work-permit fees in line with the spirit of the EAC framework;

- iii) Additional funding to the Uganda High Commission in Kenya to conduct regular outreach and sensitisation programmes on immigration and legal requirements.

- iv) On the Consulate General of Uganda in Mombasa and specifically on economic and commercial diplomacy, the committee recommends a sustained funding for Economic and Commercial Diplomacy (ECD) at the consulate to enable it to build on and consolidate the achievements that have already been made. In the previous ambassadors' conference, the consulate in Mombasa was voted amongst the best.

- v) On the ongoing construction of a chancellery and staff apartments, the committee's observations regarding the projects are such that all future construction projects for Uganda's missions abroad should integrate comprehensive security infrastructure from the design stage. Additionally, the contract management team should include a representative from the Ministry of Defence or the relevant security agencies to ensure technical guidance and compliance with international security standards for diplomatic premises.

Mr Speaker, the context being some of the missions that we visited, especially where the security concerns were overt, and given the instability of some of these countries, there was minimal or abysmal security for the mission. For instance, you would expect a bank to be availed for such premises, but there was none.

On the limited number of staff apartments, the committee recommends that the Government

considers allocating the adjoining land to the consulate for the development of an official residence and the expansion of staff apartments to accommodate a future increase in staffing. That is being done in our mission in Nigeria.

On issues raised by the Ugandan diaspora in Mombasa, the committee recommends that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the mission in Kenya should engage Ugandan and Kenyan authorities to address security challenges along the Mombasa-Kampala Road to ensure safe movement of cargo and persons.

Secondly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Ministry of the EAC Affairs, should engage Kenyan authorities bilaterally and within the EAC framework to address restrictions on travel using the national ID cards.

Thirdly, the mission in Kenya should continue engaging Kenyan authorities to ensure adherence to the EAC Common Market Protocols regarding Ugandan-registered vehicles and work permits.

Fourthly, the Uganda Revenue Authority should expedite the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) system upgrades and should always resolve system-related challenges promptly.
Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, chairperson. At an appropriate date, I will be appointing time for debate. Next.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE EMBASSY OF UGANDA IN QATAR, DOHA

1.25

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(Mr Fred Opolot):** Mr Speaker, I beg to lay a report of the Sectoral Committee on Foreign Affairs on the oversight visit to the Embassy of Uganda in Qatar, Doha.

Mr Speaker, may I present the summary of the report?

The first is the welfare of Foreign Service officers and the need for reclassification of missions abroad.

The committee recommends that there is a need to reclassify missions to place them appropriately, bearing in mind that circumstances have changed and the cost of living in several countries has since increased. This classification should be backed by an enhancement in the allowances for Foreign Service officers.

Inadequate staffing

The committee requests that the ministry expedite this process and address the critical staffing gaps in the missions abroad.

A need for security enhancement on our missions abroad

I think I have already re-emphasised that in the previous report.

Absence of a documented diaspora policy

The committee recommends that the process of developing the policy be expedited, bearing in mind the huge contribution of the diaspora to national development through remittances and knowledge transfer.

Non-implementation of memoranda of understanding

The committee recommends that the ministry maintains an inventory of all MoUs and follow up to ensure that they are implemented.

Additionally, the ministry should ensure that only MoUs beneficial to Uganda are signed.

Consular support to distressed Ugandans

The committee proposes that the diaspora policy, which is under formulation, does incorporate strategies for assisting distressed

Ugandans, including providing legal support to the Ugandans in need, repatriation of those in need, and the establishment of temporary shelters. The policy should be backed, therefore, by necessary funding.

Lastly, the committee proposes that the Government considers imposing a distress fee on recruitment companies, which should be deposited in a distress fund to cater for repatriation expenses of distressed migrant workers to minimise the financial burden that is often caused to the Government.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, chairperson. I will be appointing time for debate in the coming days. Next item.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT UNDER ARTICLE 78(2) OF THE CONSTITUTION AND SECTION 8(3) OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ACT, CAP. 177 FOR REVIEW OF THE REPRESENTATION UNDER ARTICLE 78(1)(B) AND (C) OF THE CONSTITUTION

1.27

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (Mr Nobert Mao): Mr Speaker, I rise to move a motion for a resolution of Parliament under Article 78(2) of the Constitution and Section 8(3) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, for review of the representation under Article 78(1)(b) and (c) of the Constitution. I beg your indulgence so that I may summarise.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: First, I need the motion to be seconded. Is the motion seconded?

MR MAO: I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. It is seconded by Hon. Opendi, Hon. Taaka, Hon. Omona – no, Hon. Omona is an ex-officio member. Can an ex-officio member second? If you can't vote, then you cannot second. Hon. Ndeezi, Maj. Gen. Masiko and Col Nekesa. Thank you.

Would you like to speak to your motion?

MR MAO: May I summarise?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, just speak to your motion.

MR MAO: Mr Speaker, we are in this election season_

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, move your motion, and then speak to it.

MR MAO: “*WHEREAS during the Constitution-making process, the people of Uganda emphasised that one of the main principles that should govern the composition and functioning of Parliament is participatory democracy;*

AND WHEREAS the Legislature should be composed mainly of representatives directly elected by the people, due regard should be made for the representation of special interest groups that had been marginalised by society;

AND WHEREAS Article 78(1)(b) and (c) of the Constitution provides that –

(1) Parliament shall consist of-

- a) Members directly elected to represent constituencies;*
- b) One woman representative for every district;*
- c) Such number of representatives of the army, youth, workers, persons with disabilities, and other groups as Parliament may determine;*

AND FURTHER WHEREAS, subsequently, Parliament, under Section 8(1) and (2) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, Cap. 177 made provision for the district women representatives and for representation of the Uganda People's Defence Forces, youth, workers, persons with disabilities, and older persons as follows:

“There shall be the following representatives of special interest groups in Parliament for purposes of Article 78(1)(c) of the Constitution:

- a) for the Uganda People's Defence Forces, there shall be 10 representatives, at least two of whom shall be women;
- b) for workers, there shall be five representatives, at least one of whom shall be a woman;
- c) for the youth, there shall be five representatives, at least one of whom shall be a woman;
- d) for persons with disabilities, there shall be five representatives, at least one of whom shall be a woman; and
- e) for older persons, there shall be five representatives, at least one of whom shall be a woman."

AWARE that in the past, the above special interest groups were denied participation in the governance of Uganda through customs and practices that marginalised their status in society, and could not participate on an equal footing with others, and yet they have special interests that need articulation and representation;

AND FURTHER AWARE that their inclusion in the composition of Parliament is a guarantee by the Constitution of minimum participation by these groups in the democratic process of Government, and their representation is one form of affirmative action which the State is required to take under Article 32 of the Constitution in favour of groups marginalised on the basis of gender, age, disability, or any other reason created by history, tradition, or custom;

NOTING that the representation of the army has been part of the process of politicising the army for them to appreciate how the problems of Uganda are solved by political leaders in order to evolve a culture of commitment to the rule of law and constitutionalism, and a culture in which the army is subordinate to civilian authority in accordance with the Constitution;

AND FURTHER NOTING that Article 78(2) of the Constitution provides that-

(2) Upon the expiration of a period of 10 years after the commencement of this Constitution and

thereafter, every five years, Parliament shall review the representation under paragraphs (b) and (c) of clause (1) of this Article for the purposes of retaining, increasing, or abolishing any such representation and any other matter incidental to it;

RECALLING that the period of 10 years after the commencement of the Constitution expired on the seventh day of October 2005, and Parliament in December 2005 reviewed the representation under Article 78(1)(b) and (c) in accordance with Article 78(2) and resolved to retain the representation, and subsequently, reviewed the representation again in October 2010, and in 2015, resolved to retain the representation, and in 2020, Parliament did not only resolve to retain the representation, but also added another category of special interest groups, which is older persons to represent older persons;

NOTING that Parliament is required under Article 78(2) to review the representation every five years after the first review;

FURTHER NOTING that the review is now due since the Article was last reviewed by Parliament in October 2020;

AND AWARE that it is imperative that the review is done by Parliament in light of the forthcoming general elections.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by Parliament as follows:

That in accordance with Article 78(2) of the Constitution and Section 8(3) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, the representation in Parliament under Article 78(1)(b) and (c) is reviewed for purposes of retaining the representation in Parliament as follows:

*1. District or City women representatives
There shall be one woman representative in Parliament for every district and city.*

2. Special interest groups

There shall be:

a) for the Uganda People's Defence

- Forces, 10 representatives, at least two of whom shall be women;*
- b) for workers, five representatives, at least one of whom shall be a woman;*
 - c) for the youth, five representatives, at least one of whom shall be a woman;*
 - d) for persons with disabilities, five representatives, at least one of whom shall be a woman; and*
 - e) for older persons, five representatives, at least one of whom shall be a woman.*

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, the motion seems to be self-explanatory.

MR MAO: Straightforward. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. Thank you. Seconder? The Attorney-General is the seconder.

1.36

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This motion is very clear. This is a mandate of Parliament to consider, after every five years, these special interest groups. So far, from what we have seen, they have worked very well and we support this motion brought by the minister. We pray that all Members of Parliament do support this motion and they retain the representation as it is currently set out in the law. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA).

1.37

MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the Executive for doing its work, which is to bring this motion for review as required by the Constitution. I do support it.

I am actually one of the beneficiaries of this particular provision in the law, Mr Speaker. I was still at the university when I joined politics. In contesting with the men, I was actually the first, little as I was, standing with old men. The people were saying, “You are good, but go to the women’s seat.” Three times standing with men, and when I went to the women’s seat, here I am, Mr Speaker. I want to appreciate.

However, Mr Speaker, it is very sad that we still live in a parochial society that does not appreciate women’s participation in politics. We have women that have contested with men. If I look at the 11th Parliament, there are 15 women who were able to make it in all these 356 constituencies.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, that said, however good I am, if I still went to contest with the men – or other women here, very few would still make it because of that perception that politics is not a place for women. Decision-making is actually still within the male domain.

I am raising this, Mr Speaker, because I had a matter that I wanted to raise but each time Parliament adjourned and I am not able to raise it. When I look at the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) board, Section 9 of the NIRA board actually requires the minister to ensure that in constituting the board, at least one-third should be women.

As we speak, Mr Speaker, only one woman is on the board and that is the vice chairperson, Ms Benny Namugwanya. All the others are men. I want to ask the Executive; while you come here and say that one of the achievements of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) is promoting women’s participation, we have to keep wearing a gender lens whenever a board is approved.

Mr Speaker, remember the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) board. I brought it here and the Government had to go and review. May I request the Executive – honourable minister Mao, you are the policeman of that Constitution – can you go and ensure that the NIRA board

reflects what you are actually presenting today, and that is involving women in participation?

In leadership positions, we should involve women in all of them and whenever you are presenting these boards, Attorney-General, please advise the Executive. There is no point for us to keep raising a point of order every time on the Floor, regarding this matter.

Mr Speaker, as I conclude I want to support this motion, but also say, in 2022, I presented a motion to review this particular Article 78 of the Constitution, proposing the review of the relevance of women in this Parliament. We are equal partners in decision-making and in the politics of this – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Attorney-General, kindly help us. That is an anomaly and usually they are corrected whenever it happens. So, ensure that the NIRA board sorts this out and kindly brief the House. You can brief us on Wednesday on the action that would have been taken on the matter.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: We will do that, Mr Speaker, and if that oversight happened, we sincerely apologise for it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Attorney-General. Hon. Ndeezi, then Hon. Odur.

1.41

MR ALEX NDEEZI (NRM, PWD Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am fully in support of the motion. I would like to say that this country has immensely benefitted from this important constitutional provision.

Representatives of women here have championed the process of enacting rules and policies that guarantee the protection and promotion of rights of women, girls and boys in this country. The representatives of workers have done a commendable job in ensuring that we take into account the rights of workers in our legislative work.

Equally, the UPDF representatives have done a commendable job in serving as role models

in terms of promoting civic-military relations as a cornerstone for peace and security in this country. Youth MPs have equally been vocal in pushing for the agenda of youth in this country. Therefore, we have done well.

Mr Speaker, I have two concerns: The first one has been partly articulated by Hon. Opendi. I would like to draw the attention of the Attorney-General and the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, to the provisions of Objective VI of the Constitution under the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy. That objective says; *“The State shall ensure gender balance and fair representation of all marginalised groups on all constitutional and other bodies.”* Therefore, Hon. Opendi is correct in saying that we have many boards where women are not represented.

I also want to say that for my tribe, it is recognised under Article 35. There are many bodies where people with disabilities are not represented. I, therefore, appeal to you, Attorney-General and the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, to undertake an audit to determine on which bodies we are represented and on the ones we are not represented. Once the audit is accomplished, then we should be able to know what actions should be taken to implement the requirements of the Constitution.

The second concern, Mr Speaker, is that since 1996, the size of Parliament has doubled from 290 MPs to now 556 MPs. During that period, the representation of certain categories of special interest groups has remained the same.

In 1996 the proportion of representatives of youth in this Parliament was 2 per cent, and now it is 0.8 per cent. The proportion of PWD MPs was 2 per cent in 1996; now it is 0.8 per cent. If there is no cure for this disease, it means that in the next Parliament, the numbers will go down again until they reach zero.

Mr Speaker, I am trying to summarise but the point I am trying to emphasise is that since 1996, the size of Parliament has more than doubled but the representation of certain groups has remained stagnant and the same. This means it is no longer fair and yet the minister is still

bringing the same figures. It was five in 1996 and also five today.

Therefore, to comply with the provision of the Constitution on fair representation, we propose that wherever there are five you delete and sustain. This means we are proposing substituting 10 for five people. Attorney-General, I am trying to say in 1996 our proportion was 2 per cent; today it is 0.8 per cent. Therefore, to ensure the question of fair representation, we go back to the proportion of 1996 and say, wherever we have five in the resolution, we say 10, meaning that the new resolution should adopt the position whereby the representatives of the youth whose proportion also doubled in this country should be 10. The representatives of people with disabilities should also be 10 and of the workers should also be 10. The same applies to the elder persons. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Ndeezi. Hon. Odur?

1.47

MR JONATHAN ODUR (UPC, Erute County South, Lira): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In this motion, I think we should recognise that the entire country has been concerned about the size of Parliament generally and I would invite the Government to holistically look at this matter.

While dealing with these special interest groups, I think the concern about the increasing number of Members of Parliament vis-à-vis the burden on the taxpayers is a big concern.

Having said that, I would have loved – because in this motion, the Constitution ties our hands; we can only retain, increase or abolish. The moment the Government chose to come by way of motion, it means now we cannot abolish any of this. If we are abolishing, we need a Bill, like Hon. Sarah Opendi proposed, so that we can do away with others.

I think we have the opportunity to look at the composition. For example, the 10 – UPDF they said at least two. I thought the Government

would consider it enough to move towards the one third requirement and say, in this review, maybe we will have more of those. In fact, by way of evidence, the uniform officers; the ladies have been more useful in this Parliament. They actually attend more than the gentlemen. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can see that Gen. Charity Bainababo is your friend. (*Laughter*) Is it because of the security you were promised?

MR ODUR: Yes, but if you go to workers, the law says one. At least there should have been a consideration of moving to two, so that we can have gender balance.

I want to comment on the workers. It has been a long time – the rest, apart from Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), the representatives for Persons with Disabilities, and older persons, are regionalised. When it comes to workers, we do not see representatives for the northern part of the country. That is part of the review process that I thought should have been taken into consideration. We should have come here to ensure that since we have the youth at a regional level, the workers who are in the north should be given an opportunity to be represented.

On the bigger question, whether in the past, some of the special interest groups were denied an opportunity; yes, maybe to some extent. However, with the increasing level of education and exposure, and the changes in our demographics, it is important that a comprehensive study is done in this aspect. If the youth are now the majority of the population, and we also look at this Parliament, we can analyse *vis-à-vis* how many young people are able to make it on their own. The same goes for the ladies.

We can also track the progress of those who are given special affirmative action, and whether they actually move further in their politics. This is because, for an affirmative action for a woman to remain 20 or 30 years, it defeats the very purpose of ushering the ladies into the political arena. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I think we need more sensitisation of the public. This is because sometimes when you go to the constituencies, they say, “No, we shall vote for the woman Member of Parliament (MP), and then for the men.” Some people think the MPs for constituencies are for men.

Honourable Minister Mao, your ministry needs to go a step further and sensitise Ugandans that these posts are not just for men or women. The only gazetted ones are for women, but women can compete against men and do well. Hon. Fox Odoi-

1.51

MR FOX ODOI-OYWELOWO (NRM, West Budama North East County, Tororo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to support the motion standing in Hon. Norbert Mao’s name.

Mr Speaker, I join the issue with the submissions of my learned friend, the Hon. Jonathan Odur, and Hon. Alex Ndeezi, in respect of first, the size of Parliament. At such a review, it is prudent that we ask ourselves; “Is the current size of Parliament sustainable?” I will address the motion after addressing this preliminary matter.

With a population of 48 million, do we need 530 Members of Parliament? What is the productivity of the 530 Members of Parliament? What value do we add to the state of Uganda? I thought we missed an opportunity. If the learned Attorney-General had created a constitutional review commission, we should have looked at the current size of Parliament, debated it, and taken up proposals for the reduction of the current numbers. We should have a smaller Parliament than what we have now. *(Applause)* This is just not sustainable, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, I support the motion as moved, but I want to address my particular support for only one special interest group – Hon. Sarah Opendi was very eloquent in supporting the women – the UPDF. The democratic and constitutional dispensation, and all the institutions that we have now are a product of a revolution. We are riding on the sacrifices made by the great

sons and daughters of Uganda in uniform. They therefore earned their right to sit here with us. We are riding on a privilege they gave us. We cannot, therefore, sit here and argue that we should kick them out of Parliament, a democratic institution that they paid the highest price to create.

Mr Speaker – *(Hon. Akena rose_)* – permit me to take Hon. Jimmy Akena’s information. *Omeera?*

MR AKENA: Thank you, honourable member, for giving way. I wanted you to note that we had the Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA) in this House before UPDF, and that was after an election in 1980. This is because you are giving a lot of accolades. *(Laughter)*

MR ODOI-OYWELOWO: I thank you, *Omeera*. However, I am talking about the current political and democratic dispensation. I am not talking about history. I thank you for that information.

Mr Speaker, I am also concerned that the percentage representation of the special interest groups is diminishing. There is probably a solution that the Attorney-General should consider. If we fix the representation of the special interest groups at, say, 3 or 5 per cent, every time we increase the number of the Members of Parliament – which I have already advised against – we should actually reduce the numbers of the Members of Parliament; we should consider retaining that percentage so that they are equitably represented in this august House. I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister do you want to – Yes?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. We note the concern raised by Hon. Ndeezi. Unfortunately, I do not think we can address it now, because it will have an Article 93 issue, which will increase the cost if you increase the number of Members of Parliament, at this point. However, it is a point we take and I think one thing that we have heard from everyone here is that we need

to sit down and review this matter. I think this matter is for all of us in the leadership space. It is not only for the Executive. We really need to answer that question whether the number of Members of Parliament is adequate. If it is not, what needs to be done? I am sure we shall take it on.

What I pray to you, honourable colleagues, is that as we speak, and as we sit through the process of rationalising all these issues, we pray that you allow this motion to pass so that we continue this as a much bigger conversation. I beg to submit. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, remember, we have nominations this week, and without this motion our colleagues will not be nominated.

Therefore, I now put the question to the motion for a resolution of Parliament under Article 78 and Section 8(3) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, Cap. 177 for review of the representation under Article 78(1)(b) and (c) of the Constitution be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Motion adopted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Clerk, please ensure that you extract the resolution today so that it is submitted to the Electoral Commission. We do not want to end up having problems with our colleagues. Next item.

BILLS SECOND READING

THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS BILL, 2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Works and Transport?

1.59

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala): Mr Speaker, in accordance with

Rule 146 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda and in particular Rule 146(1), which states that: “*A member in charge of a Bill may at any time give notice that he or she wishes to withdraw the Bill subject to the approval of Parliament or the House.*”

On that premise, I did communicate to the Rt Hon. Speaker on 10 September 2025, giving notice that the Engineering Professionals Bill, 2024 be withdrawn. The reason being is that we have another Bill.

In that Bill, we had provided for the registration of technologists and technicians, and yet the same had been provided for under the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council under the Ministry of Education and Sports. We realised that there will be an overlap if these are going to be handled by two different bodies.

Mr Speaker, for that reason, we request that the Bill be withdrawn and we harmonise with the Ministry of Education and Sports and then bring the Bill back on the Floor of Parliament. Thank you.

I beg to move, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Colleagues, the minister is requesting that he withdraws the Bill such that he can harmonise and improve on it. Honourable colleagues, I now put the question that we grant the minister’s request to withdraw the Bill.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable colleagues. The House is adjourned to Tuesday next week.

I wish you successful nominations.

(The House rose at 2.00 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 28 October 2025.)