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FIFTH SESSION - SECOND MEETING

TUESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2025



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA
IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIFTH SESSION - 5TH SITTING - SECOND MEETING

Tuesday, 2 December 2025

Parliament met at 2.01 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I would like to welcome you back from the brief recess. You will recall that on 30 October 2025, the Presiding Officer adjourned the House *sine die*. This was aimed at ensuring sufficient time for the Members to participate in the ongoing electioneering process. We have, however, recalled the House today for some urgent business.

I appreciate all those who have been able to come and be in the House, especially Members who lost in the primaries and are not standing, like my brother, Hon. Chemaswet, and the Member for Ntoroko. They are not standing, but they still come back to the House. I thank you so much for coming to this Sitting.

Honourable members, I appreciate all of you who have heeded the call to participate in today's Sitting. Indeed, this is the time we need to be in the constituency, but because of these urgent matters here, we have had to be here.

Given the budget timelines, we shall have at least one more sitting in this calendar year to

receive the National Budget Framework Paper pursuant to Section 8(5) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and Rule 152 of the Rules of Procedure.

I also want to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to those who are campaigning like my Leader of the Opposition (LOP). My LOP, I would like to congratulate you on winning the case. Congratulations. We wish all of you well in this ongoing election. We want you back in the House. I also congratulate all those that are unopposed. I congratulate and wish everybody well. *(Applause)*

As we prepare to come back to the 12th Parliament, honourable members, as you may be aware, the Parliament of Uganda is hosting the East African Inter-parliamentary games from 6 to 17 December 2025. I urge all of you to participate in your various disciplines as we protect the gains of Uganda. We need to protect the gains of EALA and –*(Laughter)*

On a sad note, on Tuesday 25 November, we lost one of our former Members of Parliament, Hon. Canon Absolom Ongom Abednego. He used to represent Omoro County in the National Resistance Council (NRC), that is 1996 and 2001. He will be laid to rest on Saturday, 6 December 2025. We relay our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and the people of Omoro and all the loved ones. May we rise and observe a moment of silence in his honour.

(Members rose and observed a moment of silence.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, you will allow me to invoke Rule 26(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament and vary the order paper to accommodate two loan proposals, one report on Auditor-General's report and the annual report on Health Service Commission. Thank you. Once again, thank you for coming. Yes, LOP?

2.08

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also join you in welcoming colleagues back from the political battlefield. I know that most people are out there fighting for their political lives. I quipped and told the acting Prime Minister that she was very smart. (*Interjection*) Yes, she is very smart, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, today is day number 65 since presidential campaigns kicked off officially. They officially began on the 29 September of this very year, so today is day number 65. You did allude to the campaigns, wishing people to have successful campaigns. We are out there at various levels; presidential, parliamentary and so on.

The campaigns kicked off fairly well and peacefully. People were out there campaigning, especially the presidential campaigns and we were happy. In fact, at some point we were here and I commended the Government. I said, "Here I will give you credit because so far, we are not being disrupted. We hope it continues that way." But alas, it was as if we were triggering them to do otherwise. The campaigns have now unfortunately and unexpectedly become brutal.

People are being shot dead, others are injured, many are incarcerated, tear gas has become the order of the day and dogs are being used to attack citizens, akin to what used to happen under the apartheid regime in South Africa. Police trucks are being used for crowd control. When people are standing on the roadsides, waving to their presidential candidates of choice, the police pushes some of them off the road by driving into them and a number of them have sustained numerous injuries.

I saw the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mr Abbas Byakagaba, yesterday. He held a press conference. As we have been making these complaints on why the brutality is setting in in so intense a manner, he made remarks and said the presidential candidate of the National Unity Platform, the party I belong to and speak for, is to blame for the brutality meted out to our supporters because we hold processions. That was according to the IGP, Abbas Byakagaba.

I said that there was a problem here. Our colleagues in the NRM regularly hold processions, including yesterday, Madam Speaker. Candidate Yoweri Museveni Tibuhabwe Kaguta was in Mbarara and Rwampara and they held processions in anticipation of him. They even had a band leading them in holding these processions.

Now, it is honestly hypocritical for the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Abbas Byakagaba, to say "National Unity Platform (NUP), we are shooting at, tear-gassing and using dogs at you and so on because you are holding processions", yet our colleagues in the National Resistance Movement (NRM) are holding processions.

Why these double standards? Why this alarming hypocrisy, Madam Speaker?

By the way, I do not want to be misconstrued. I do not fault the NRM colleagues for holding processions. It is campaign time. When a candidate is meant to be in a district, it will be different. That is why the police are notified and so on, to make sure that law and order prevails – because there is political activity. So, I do not fault NRM for holding processions at all because it is campaign time.

My challenge is that when NUP and the Opposition hold processions, it is illegal and, so, they must be shot dead, beaten, tear-gassed and so on and for the NRM colleagues, it is okay. This is hypocrisy.

All of us should be condemning this. If processions are illegal, it should cut across. My considered view is that they are not illegal.

The Government should tell us – it is good that the Attorney-General and the Prime Minister are here. Are processions illegal if they are by NUP supporters, but if they are by NRM supporters, as we saw in Mbarara yesterday and elsewhere, they are okay and legal?

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR SSENYONYI: Madam Speaker, as I quickly wrap up, yesterday, again, I saw something odd. A police truck in Mbarara was ferrying NRM supporters to Boma Grounds, where the NRM candidate was to hold a rally. I got a bit confused.

I said: “Now, on the one hand, you are beating our supporters, but you are helping to ferry supporters of another candidate. How does this work?” When we saw His Lordship Justice Simon Byabakama, the Chairperson, Electoral Commission (EC), saying: “After you have voted, please, go home. The police will protect your votes.” People are wondering: “Now, this police is ferrying supporters of another candidate to their rally and you expect that they are going to protect the votes of everybody?” It does not quite make sense.

THE SPEAKER: Did you say the police were ferrying supporters of another candidate?

MR SSENYONYI: Yes, a police truck.

THE SPEAKER: From where?

MR SSENYONYI: In Mbarara – ferrying them to Boma Grounds for the rally of candidate Yoweri Museveni. That was yesterday.

THE SPEAKER: I was actually in Mbarara yesterday.

MR SSENYONYI: I do not know if you did not see it, but it happened in Mbarara yesterday.

Madam Speaker, on the 6.00 p.m. narrative that I saw the IGP talking about, yes, according to the regulations and the guidelines, presidential rallies should end at 6.00 p.m. – all rallies actually. We should endeavour to respect these guidelines.

I have a challenge in my camp – and my presidential candidate. Police normally take us off the main roads. A distance that should take 20 minutes ends up lasting three to four hours. Inevitably, you get to a rally late, and this is a complaint that we have raised regularly. Why is it that where other presidential candidates pass, the NUP presidential candidate is not allowed to pass? What is the issue – that you have to take us around in these circles?

It is good that we get some procedural guidance on this issue -

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR SSENYONYI: Madam Speaker, allow me one extra minute because this is very important.

We were in Kayunga. After we were taken in circles, we got to the venue, five minutes to 6.00 p.m. When the candidate began to speak, two minutes past six, the police began to lob teargas canisters, firing in the air and so on – attacking the crowd, which caused a deadly stampede.

I wondered: what exactly are you trying to cure? Yes, 6.00 p.m. is the cut-off time and we are trying to abide by it, but, of course, we are taken in circles, so, we might get there a few minutes late. Five minutes past six, you are attacking a huge crowd and causing a deadly stampede! How does that even make legal sense?

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR SSENYONYI: It does not.

Even then, why use bullets, teargas and so on because you are trying to implement a 6.00 p.m. rule and you are killing people unnecessarily?

Again, I saw -

THE SPEAKER: There is information if you can take it.

MR SSENYONYI: Information from Hon. Ethel.

MS NALUYIMA: Thank you, Leader of the Opposition, for giving way. In addition – this information is also needed. I am a victim of what we experienced in Kira Municipality, Wakiso District yesterday. It was not the police this time, but the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) trucks – two trucks came to my side of the car and hit my mirror. They had hidden their number plates, yet they were on the road aiding the police.

We are asking: why are UPDF now even part of the police security, but they are hiding their trucks? We cannot say “this number plate is for the truck that has hit my car”. They affected the public address system, which we were using. These UPDF officers hit our public address system truck yesterday. We are now wondering: whom should we ask?

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS NALUYIMA: Thank you for the opportunity.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. There is information from Hon. Kimosho

MR SSENYONYI: I will take the information from my former committee member, Hon. Kimosho. *(Laughter)*

MR KIMOSHO: Thank you, my former chairperson. Madam Speaker, I want to inform my former chairperson and the Leader of the Opposition to take heart. In Kazo, I hosted the President recently and I had organised a huge procession. It was supposed to be about four kilometres and the police stopped me, even when I am NRM. So, take heart.

Some of these things are not targeting NUP. As you guide, Madam Speaker, maybe let us look into this matter holistically, but I do not think it is targeting NUP.

THE SPEAKER: One thing we can tell you is that whether you are NRM or the Opposition, if the regulations and the guidelines are saying “no procession”, there is no discrimination. We do not want processions. If NRM is doing

it, they should stop it and if the Opposition is doing it, please, stop it.

MR SSENYONYI: Thank you for the information.

MR KIMOSHO: As I conclude -

MR SSENYONYI: I thought you were done with your information, honourable colleague.

THE SPEAKER: Let him finish.

MR KIMOSHO: Maybe allow the Speaker to do her work. As I conclude, what I wanted to bring out clearly is that it should not be misconstrued that it is NUP being targeted because I was stopped. I had organised everything. I actually got a headache because of stress. It was a bad thing and I am sharing the feeling with my brother that processions are not allowed.

MR SSENYONYI: Thank you for that information. I sympathise with you. You know, whenever we talk about election rigging – I saw colleagues in the NRM camp complaining about their votes being stolen, money being used and so on, including people who sit on the front bench.

Yes, some of what we suffer, some of you will suffer. That is why we should collectively say this is wrong and condemn it because if it is going to be okay for some, you will be targeted when you annoy the powers that be, Hon. Kimosho.

THE SPEAKER: You finish.

MR SSENYONYI: Madam Speaker *-(Interjection)-* you were giving me information.

Again, I saw the IGP talking about some of their officers being assaulted – some pushing and shoving. I saw a video that the police displayed. It was a very problematic video – a female police officer who was being pushed around by some people.

The IGP said those were our supporters. I do not know where he gets that from – whether they had tags or whatever. Look, for anybody who commits an offence, that person should be arrested and prosecuted.

They are using the same narrative – “some of them pelt stones” and so on and they say “we have videos”. I say, look: if you have seen and recorded somebody pushing a police officer, why then do you have to fire at a crowd? Pick up that person and prosecute them.

Never have we been on record to say that it is okay for police officers to be assaulted. I will remind the House that in July 2022, there was a police constable called Robert Mukebezi who was shot at by a UPDF officer. He was on duty, a UPDF car got involved in an accident and he was towing it to a police station. They intercepted him and shot him. The man lost his leg. We kept coming here, demanding justice for Constable Robert Mukebezi. The police, his institution, abandoned him and the army had done nothing at all.

Up to now, that man has been suffering. You remember that we have raised that issue. That is to show you that we are concerned about anyone who finds himself or herself offended, legally.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR SSENYONYI: Finally, Madam Speaker, we are getting close to an election. The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs in April of this year was here, and he told us that they are going to table regulations on how biometric voter verification machines are going to be applied in the upcoming election. He made that commitment. That time they were seeking supplementary funding to purchase more of these kits, and we asked, where are you basing all of this? He promised here on the Floor - April of 2025 - that he will bring the regulations. We have one month until the election. They keep coming and asking for money including some of the supplementary budgets that are going to be tabled. They want money for the voter-

verification machines. What guidelines are you going to base on?

I saw candidate President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni make a statement when he was campaigning somewhere. He said the biometric machines are what we are going to use mandatorily. A polling station where the machine will not work, voting will not happen. I was a bit confused there, and I want the Government to clarify.

With our network issues, we saw what happened in the last election and with the sensors. In the far-to-reach areas, including Kampala and the neighbouring areas, the network will fail and usage will fail. Therefore, if you say we are going to use these biometric machines mandatorily, and where they do not work there will be no voting, what will happen to Hon. Dan Kimosho who also says he is targeted sometimes. If they say they do not want this man back, they can make sure that at his polling stations, the machines fail or any other person anyway. That means no voting will happen. What happens?

For those regulations, we need them so that we are able to interact with them, punch holes in them, and otherwise. Thank you for accommodating my concerns, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. What the Leader of the Opposition raises is pertinent. On the issue of brutality, I do not think brutality is needed as of now. One thing we are failing to understand is that most of these candidates do not have support. When you start brutalising people you give them support. I have been in the field. I am speaking as the Second National Vice Chairperson of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Party. I also request all parties to respect the regulations and the guidelines that are given.

The Attorney-General, what the Leader of the Opposition raises is a very serious matter. Maybe you will need to give us information, or the Government. This is about our people. Let madam give the information.

2.25

THE MINISTER, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Ms Justine Lumumba): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the information and the issues he has raised here.

One, he raised the issue of violence. Nobody wants violence in life - *(Hon. Ssemujju rose)*

THE SPEAKER: There is a procedural matter.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, if you allow me, later I will be raising supplementary budget issues.

The procedural issue I am raising is that the Prime Minister wrote saying she would only be represented by Hon. Nakadama. As far as I see, Hon. Kasule Lumumba has not changed her name to become Hon. Nakadama. Has she now been authorised to come and represent the Prime Minister?

THE SPEAKER: The letter was written to me, not to you. The letter delegating Hon. Lumumba is also written to me, not to you. That is why I told her to speak on behalf of the Government. I am the recipient of that letter.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, you act on behalf of Parliament as an institution. We cannot have a stranger representing the Prime Minister.

THE SPEAKER: Can I have the Government represented by Hon. Lumumba? I am calling the name Lumumba. I would have called the General. I know why I am calling Lumumba because she is the one acting.

MS LUMUMBA: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I also want to inform the Member that I am Kasule Lumumba Justine, Minister of General Duties in the coordination office of the Leader of Government Business in Parliament, and that is the Office of the Prime Minister.

I was talking about the issue of violence that was raised by the Leader of the Opposition.

I started by saying that nobody would love to see, or experience violence. However, when the police give us information based on what has happened, Madam Speaker, it is the responsibility of the people who are hurt, especially the political party, or the individual candidate, to petition the Electoral Commission, which in turn calls for a meeting. If necessary, it will call the government agency responsible for whatever has happened to keep the discussion going. If it requires the Electoral Commission to issue more stringent guidelines, it can do so based on what has been discussed.

I request that the Leader of the Opposition raises this issue with the Electoral Commission, as they will have the time to listen to them and review the evidence they have, and to call the other parties involved to bring their information and evidence, if it is visual. Thereafter, a discussion will continue, and a way forward will be found, which will inform the decision or even help amend the guidelines.

On the issue of violence, based on what we have seen, whether it is generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) or not, I would think we should all be disciplined. If the police give us guidelines, let us follow them.

We should also not mobilise people to take the law into their own hands, because it is affecting the most innocent. In the beginning, before these videos surfaced of people giving instructions to others to do things above the law, these things were not happening. The Leader of the Opposition came here - I was here - and he appreciated it. We also cheered him and said it was okay, let us continue this way. So, what went wrong? We should go back to the Electoral Commission and find out because they are mandated to bring all of us to the Table.

Secondly, I add that the person who lost his life, Mr Okello, may his soul rest in eternal peace. We should also take responsibility at individual level to ensure we remain disciplined and follow the guidelines. When we see chaos, let us try to keep away because I cannot tell whether he was involved or not, unless the police explain.

Another issue he has raised is the police car ferrying people to the NRM rally in Mbarara. Madam Speaker, I would like to see the evidence he is tabling, as he has not presented any to us. What does he base his call to them on? Is it the colour they were putting on? Which colour was it? Were they Catholics putting on the colour for the Catholic guild for the women?

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Lumumba, I said I was there. There was no police vehicle ferrying any supporters. Maybe they were choir members of the Catholic church. *(Laughter)* What is very crucial for me is the issue of brutality. That must be handled. Attorney-General, that issue must be handled because the people who are being brutalised are our people. We should also not use our people to go to the frontline and demonstrate, do funny things, or go beyond the required regulations. We should be responsible enough. I am saying that these candidates do not have support.

Attorney-General -

2.31

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I think you have summarised the issue of violence. On biometric voting, I refer the Leader of the Opposition to the Electoral Commission's new policy on the adoption of technology in the management of elections, as set out in Statutory Instrument (S.I) No. 1 of 2021, which addresses the issue of the use of technology. The use of this technology is provided for in the law, so that is sufficient. But any network issues, if any, can be addressed under section 12 of the Electoral Commissions Act.

MR SSENKYONYI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The S.I that the Attorney-General is alluding to, we know and we do have; it is a generic one. That is why when the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs, who is your supervisor by the way, according to the law -

THE SPEAKER: He is not by law.

MR SSENKYONYI: The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, and I insist, who is your supervisor, here committed on the Floor of Parliament and said, "*Look, we are going to table,*" in April of this year, that he is going to table regulations with specificity to the biometric voter verification kits, how they are going to operate, who does what, and so on, because that is important.

The generic law - yes, technology, we must be able to use it, and that is why the 2021 S.I. is in place, but a specific one, and there was a commitment from your end.

The other clarification, Madam Speaker: the acting Prime Minister has said that we should address these issues with the Electoral Commission, not here.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, let us first - this is a critical issue. Let us first sort out the issue of the machines. The other political issues can be handled.

2.32

MR MUHAMMED NSEREKO (Independent, Kampala Central Division, Kampala): The honourable Attorney-General, whereas we all agree that technology will definitely improve, mainly the verification of voters on the voters' register, and lead to a legitimate election, the question arises regarding the following matter, which is not legislated.

One, like Hon. Ssenyonyi raised that one aspiring candidate said that "*Should the machine fail, elections at that polling station shall not continue*". Now, that is not embedded within the law. Unless we legislate and embed the two, because you remember during the other election, the Electoral Commission came out. It said that when some of the machines collapsed, you could now go to the manual register. You understand what I am saying? So, if that happens, how are the voters, the candidate, and the electoral process viewed?

THE SPEAKER: Can I find out?

MR NSEREKO: As specifically right.

THE SPEAKER: Can I find out?

MR NSEREKO: Yes, please.

THE SPEAKER: Did the candidate write?

MR NSEREKO: I beg your pardon?

THE SPEAKER: Did the candidate write, committing that that is what should be done, or was it just something said?

MR NSEREKO: I think that is even an excellent proposal from him if he had put it in writing. But now that none of this-

THE SPEAKER: Because now it is hearsay.

MR NSEREKO: None of his representatives denies that he said it. We shall assume he believes in the process.

THE SPEAKER: Are we debating on hearsay?

MR NSEREKO: The biometric machines, Madam Speaker, are not hearsay.

THE SPEAKER: No.

MR NSEREKO: The issue is that if they fail, then what follows?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, he said that "*If it fails, the election should not take place in that place*". That is what we have said. Is that something that was written, or was it hearsay?

MR NSEREKO: It is not anywhere under the law. That is what we want to hear.

THE SPEAKER: Exactly.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Madam Speaker and honourable colleagues, the management of elections is the responsibility of the Electoral Commission. Section 12 of the Electoral Commission Act mandates the Electoral Commission even to stop an election on election day.

Right now, I am telling you that you have sufficient legal infrastructure to run the Biometric Voters Verification Kits (BVVKs). And if the Electoral Commission feels that the election should not take place there, it is lawful under section 12 of the Electoral Commission Act. So, there is nothing to worry about.

I have not heard the President say that, neither have I seen the communication from the President to that effect, but the mandate to run the election is with the Electoral Commission.

Therefore, any issues you may have in respect of that can be raised with the Electoral Commission. My advice to you is that you have sufficient legal infrastructure to use the BVVK machines.

THE SPEAKER: Maybe we also need to remind you that the President is also an aspiring candidate. A candidate does not determine how an election takes place. It is the Electoral Commission.

Yes, Hon. Asuman and Hon. David Kabanda.

2.35

MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I thank you. I want to comment on the games issue. But I wanted, again, through you, to address the issue of the machines, the legal regime, and the BVVK machines.

Madam Speaker, the learned Attorney-General in the 2016 Election Petition was defending Mr Museveni in the Supreme Court. I was defending the Rt Hon. Amama Mbabazi in the Supreme Court in 2016; we were on opposite sides. We always had the opportunity to raise this matter extensively in the Supreme Court, you recall so well, and there were basically two issues.

Number one: there was the issue of the legal regime. At that time, there was nothing to do with the legal regime. As we speak, one of the things you need to bring to the attention of this House, my understanding is that the regulations were brought probably under section 51 of the Electoral Commissions Act- Yes.

And, there were two issues there. Those regulations were supposed to have been laid before this House within 14 days of their gazettal. This House had a right-through resolution to annul them if they so wished. But, more importantly, whatever changes, modifications or proposals that any candidate or Parliament had to be embedded in those regulations.

Now, progressively, there are things happening that are not adequately covered in those regulations. I will give you an example.

There are stakeholders in these elections: the candidates and political parties. Machines are being procured, and the stakeholders have no idea at all where they are coming from, how they are being procured, or the kind of technology because you remember even on the issue of technology in the Supreme Court, we did ask, we invited the Electoral Commission, you recall, in the Supreme Court for cross-examination.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, can we invite the minister responsible for that docket? We have discussed it, and we cannot continue to refer to Hon. Mao. Can we have a sitting and invite him to be in the House?

MR BASALIRWA: Can I now address the issues of sports?

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

MR BASALIRWA: Okay, thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: So the issues of the BVVKs shall be discussed if we are okay with the Sitting.

MR BASALIRWA: Madam Speaker, the reason it was essential to discuss it now - I respect your ruling - is that those regulations have timelines and given the time remaining, the issue of time becomes of the essence. That is why I thought that, because at the end of it all, Madam Speaker, the Minister of Justice will not be in the Supreme Court. It will be

my good friend, "*Nsumi Kambi*," who will be in the Supreme Court. That is why I thought it was vital for him to use this platform. But obviously, your guidance takes precedence.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for making a communication on sports. I want to add three things. Number one, colleagues, the opening ceremony will be on 6 December 2025. We will have a procession from here – (*Interjection*) – yes, Madam Speaker, we have secured the necessary permission.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the Parliament of Uganda wrote to the Uganda Police requesting that the Members of Parliament, together with all the East African Members of Parliament, move to Kololo Airstrip. The Uganda Police permitted us.

MR BASALIRWA: Yes. Madam Speaker, we have secured the necessary permission to have a procession-

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the Parliament of Uganda wrote to the police requesting that Members of Parliament move with members of the East African Legislative Assembly from the Parliament of Uganda to Kololo, and the police granted permission.

MR BASALIRWA: Madam Speaker, the Clerk did issue invitations to all Members of Parliament; at least I saw the communication. We will converge here at midday; lunch will be served, and then we will walk to Kololo, where there will be a presentation by Hon. Nuwe Amanyu Mushega, the Secretary-General emeritus of the East African Community.

After the ceremony in Kololo, we will move to Lugogo, KCCA Stadium, for the opening football game at 5.00 p.m. between the Parliament of Uganda and the Parliament of Kenya. Madam Speaker, I want to inform colleagues-

THE SPEAKER: As defending champions.

MR BASALIRWA: As defending champions. I want to inform colleagues that member states

are coming here under the impression that we are too busy with campaigns, and therefore, they think this is an opportunity to beat us. I want us to disprove them.

Colleagues, come in big numbers. Participants in different sports, please train, and those who will be available on Saturday, please come to KCCA Stadium at 5.00 p.m. for the opening football game. Other games will be going on, and we shall share the schedules accordingly. I want to thank you, colleagues and Madam Speaker.

2.42

MR DAVID KABANDA (NRM, Kasambya County, Mubende): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to talk about the issue of violence that the Leader of the Opposition raised. Madam Speaker, we all need to understand that we, the leaders, cause violence. I have seen and watched several videos where the Leader of the National Unity Platform has clearly stated that the security forces — the police and the UPDF — do not exceed 50,000 in number, while Ugandans are 47 million people. He was encouraging them that if they could rise up, they could overrun the police and the army. Was he saying that in accordance with the Constitution or he was saying that knowing that he is breaking the law? The other person I saw was the Hon. Luttaguzi on camera encouraging people *-(Interruption)*

THE SPEAKER: There is a point of order.

MR SSENYONYI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon. Daudi Kabanda from Kasambya has made a heavy sounding allegation. He has said that my presidential candidate told people to overrun and I think attack the police and the military. Does he have evidence to that effect? I am hearing some voices that yes, he did. You do not shout from there; you speak on the microphone.

THE SPEAKER: No, we have the army. The army want to say something.

MR SSENYONYI: Yes, but Madam Speaker, you are always telling us that this is not a

market. People should seek permission and come to the microphone, not screaming from wherever they are seated. Madam Speaker, can he table that evidence of my presidential candidate saying people should attack the police? I do not know where he gets that from and if he cannot table that evidence, then he is certainly out of order in my view.

I want to implore you, Madam Speaker, to condition him to the Table, to present evidence before proceeding with those heavy-sounding allegations, because we have always been for the protection of our men and women in uniform. Our Government has even promised to pay them better than you people are paying them. How can you say we want to attack them then? Madam Speaker, if he cannot table that evidence, then let him withdraw that statement because we can all make allegations here.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, we cut him off in the middle, and I did not hear the whole statement. I wish I could listen to the entire statement and then I-

MR SSENYONYI: Madam Speaker, that is why I rose after he had made that heavy-sounding allegation that my candidate told people to attack police officers. Let him table the evidence or withdraw.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable LOP, I want to hear the whole statement, and then I will ask him for evidence.

MR DAVID KABANDA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The same presidential candidate of the National Unity Platform - the videos are there - *(Interruption)* - You are not the Speaker - *(Laughter)* - Let me address the Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Please, continue.

MR DAVID KABANDA: The same presidential candidate - the videos are there, and if you give me 20 minutes, I will produce those videos for the Clerk.

THE SPEAKER: Go and bring it.

MR DAVID KABANDA: The same person said, and he was encouraging the young people of this country, that they should use social media, *TikTok* and *YouTube* to see what happened in Nepal and elsewhere. What happened in those countries where they broke the law - you can also use it in Uganda to overthrow the Government without going through the Constitution of this country. Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Kabanda, that is a very serious statement, and that is number one.

Secondly, those allegations can bring this country down, and we cannot allow it to be brought down by mere people who want to stand. Can we have that evidence? I am giving you 20 minutes.

MR KIMOSHO: Madam Speaker, I am moving on a procedural matter. This is very good because, when LOP was making allegations about our candidate, he said, "When these machines do not work, you will not vote." We did not ask for evidence. He did not table any proof. Can he table the evidence equally?

THE SPEAKER: No, the presidential candidate of the NRM has not said that. I said it was hearsay. If they are talking about it, it is hearsay. Even if he had written, he is not responsible for elections in Uganda; the Electoral Commission is responsible for conducting them. Leave my presidential candidate.

LAYING OF PAPERS

(I) SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE NO. 1, FY 2025/2026

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to Article 156(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995, and Section 24 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, and Rule 160 of the Rules of Procedure, I invite the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to lay the

supplementary expenditure 1, for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

2.48

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to lay on the Table the Supplementary Schedule No. 1, for the Financial Year 2025/2026. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, this particular supplementary expenditure schedule was delivered to my office on 26 November 2025, when we were in recess, and I know we still are; we are only having a brief sitting, unless the LOP says we continue sitting up to the end of the month. However, given the urgency of the supplementary and the prevailing electoral calendar, I administratively referred it to the Budget Committee to enable them to process it.

Honourable members, you recall that this House has previously relied on the precedents set here, and based on Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure, where you have an emergency, you can do an administrative referral and then the House will process it after. Next.

(II) SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE NO.3, FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/26

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, as I guided earlier, it still applies to this supplementary. The minister can lay it on the Table.

2.50

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the supplementary Expenditure Schedule No.3 for the Financial year 2025/26. I beg to lay.

(III) THE ANNUAL BUDGET
PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, both supplementary schedules, one and three, were, as I said, referred administratively and pursuant to Rule 160(3) to the Committee on Budget.

Honourable members, section 17(1) of the Public Finance Management Act requires the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to report to Parliament by the end of February and October, each financial year, on the performance of the budget. I now invite the minister to report.

2.52

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the annual budget performance report for the Financial year 2024/2025. I start with volume 1, which covers all programmes and Votes between Vote 001 and Vote 016. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MUSASIZI: As such, volume 2, starting from Vote 017 to Vote 125. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MUSASIZI: Volume 3 covering votes, 126 to 309.

Lastly, Volume 4 covers votes, 310 and all Local Government votes. I beg to lay Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, pursuant to Rule 179(h) of the Rules of Procedure, the report stands referred to the Committee on Budget for consideration. [*Hon. Basalirwa rose*] Procedure.

MR BASALIRWA: Madam Speaker, Hon. Ibrahim Ssemujju Nganda is on record for having accused us of being unable to read these large volumes, particularly stating that we need intellectually apt people. He was specifically

attacking our different internal Electoral Commission processes and candidates who had qualified for the different parliamentary positions.

He is a member of the Budget committee. Is it procedurally right for the minister to produce huge volumes when he is aware that some people, especially in the next Parliament, may not be in position to read those volumes? (*Laughter*)

THE SPEAKER: Why are you legislating in anticipation? (*Laughter*) You mean the next Parliament is only going to bring equivalents? No. Next Item.

(IV) THE ANNUAL MACRO-ECONOMIC
AND FISCAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, Section 18(1)(a) of the Public Finance Management Act; Election economic and fiscal update not earlier than four months before the polling day. I invite the minister to come and lay the performance on the Table.

2.55

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the Macro-economic and Fiscal Performance Report for the Financial Year 2024/2025 as at October 2025. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to Rule 184 of the Rules of Procedure, the report stands referred to the committee on National Economy for consideration.

(V) THE PROPOSAL FOR PRE-
FINANCING THE DESIGN AND BUILD
OF KAYUNGA- BALE-GALIRAYA ROAD,
87 KILOMETRES, FROM GRAVEL TO
PAVED STANDARD

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to Article 159(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, Section 34 and

37 of the Public Finance Management Act 2015, Rule 162 of the Rules of Parliament, I now invite the minister to lay on the Table, the proposal.

2.57

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table, The Proposal to Pre-finance the Design and Build of Kayunga-Bbale-Galilaya Road, 87 kilometres, from Gravel to Paved standard. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. This stands referred to the Committee on National Economy for consideration, pursuant to Rule 162(2). [*Hon. Tebandeke rose*]

I can see the Bbale Member of Parliament, that is, Hon. Lugolobi. Honourable, I have not allowed you. It does not matter - it is your constituency. Is it your constituency?

MR TeBANDEKE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to appreciate the proposal and to enlighten the public that the request being laid on the Floor of Parliament is intended to serve as a connectivity link between Northern Uganda and the central region.

Kayunga District is strategically located in the heart of Uganda. In light of the request being laid here, I hereby support it on behalf of the people of Bbale, Kayunga District, the central region, and the north for strategic purposes, development, and any other factor as may be outlined. Thank you so much. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, this also takes us to thank the President for fulfilling his manifesto of infrastructure development. We thank the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. Next item.

(VI) THE PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO EUROS 385 MILLION, APPROXIMATELY \$448 MILLION FROM THE RAND MERCHANT BANK (RMB) AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO FINANCE THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, pursuant to Article 159(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure, I invite the minister to lay on the Table the proposal.

3.00

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on Table the proposal to borrow up to Euros 385 million, approximately \$448 million from the Rand Merchant Bank and other financial institutions to finance the Government of Uganda infrastructure and development budget for Financial Year 2025/2026. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: This stands referred to the Committee on National Economy as per Rule 162(2) of the Rules of Procedure.

(VIII) PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO \$162 MILLION FROM KOREA EXPORT-IMPORT BANK FOR THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to Article 159(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure, I would like to invite the finance minister to table the loan proposal.

3.01

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the proposal to borrow up to \$162 million from the Korea Export-Import

Bank for the Makerere University Improvement Project. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The loan proposal has been referred to the Committee on National Economy, and that is pursuant to Rule 162(2) of the Rules of Procedure and should report back in the next Sitting.

(IX) THE KARAMOJA REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT PLAN FINANCIAL
IMPLICATIONS

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, Section 7(2) of the National Planning Act, 2002, vests the mandate of planning, including the coordination and support of the planning process at both the central and local government levels, in the National Planning Authority. I want to invite the Minister of Karamoja Affairs to table the report. Honourable minister? *(A Member rose.)* Let her Table then –

3.02

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR KARAMOJA AFFAIRS (Ms Florence Wamala): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Before I table this Karamoja Regional Development Plan, please permit me to join my colleagues to congratulate you and the Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker, for retaining your position as unopposed in the next Parliament amongst the other Members of Parliament. Colleagues who are unopposed, congratulations; and to those who are in the trenches, we are together, we are praying, and God will be gracious to us.

I take this opportunity to lay on the Table the Karamoja Regional Development Plan 2025/2026 to 2034/2035. Together with it is the certificate of financial implications for the implementation of the Karamoja Regional Development Plan. I beg to lay. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. The document stands referred to the sectoral Committee on Presidential Affairs for consideration. There is a clarification. Honourable members, when you bring a lot of clarification, I am trying to save time so you can go back to the trenches.

MR BASALIRWA: Yes, Madam Speaker. I want to thank you for this opportunity.

THE SPEAKER: Some of us have all the time. *(Laughter)*

MR BASALIRWA: I would like to thank you for this opportunity. The clarification I want from the finance minister is that we are passing these loans, Parliament is processing them, and committees are doing their level best. Unfortunately, there are sometimes delays by the Government in executing the loan agreements.

I would like to mention particularly, Madam Speaker, that I was recently in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and that we approved a loan here for the renovation of Bugiri Hospital. I engaged people at our embassy there, and the bank that is supposed to give us the money said that if we do not sign the agreement as soon as possible, there is a likelihood we will miss out on the money. I got concerned. Madam Speaker, you know these Arabs with their money, they do not care.

I want to find out from the minister why they sometimes take so long, so we do not want Bugiri Hospital to miss out on that opportunity. That is information I got about two weeks ago when I was in Riyadh. The loan agreement had not been signed - *(Interjections)* – Yes, and I am the one who lobbied.

Therefore, you need to come out clearly and explain why there was that delay, and whether we will not be losing that loan from the Arab Bank in Saudi Arabia.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, he has a very pertinent issue. Some loans take a long time, and at the end of the day, we are paying money.

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to clarify this; the responsibility for raising funds on behalf of the Government rests with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. So Hon. Basalirwa, you did not lobby. This is my work; it is

Government work we were doing. *(Laughter)*
So, Madam Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Basalirwa, your task is to raise an issue or concern of the people of Bugiri, which you did comfortably. The other role of looking for money goes to the Minister of Finance. You did your part. Leave the other part of raising funds to finance.

MR BASALIRWA: Just to mention something, when that loan came here, you recall how I thanked the minister. I even thanked the committee, and the minister should be able to recognise that. It is not very easy to receive appreciation from my side. Notwithstanding that he was my voter at Makerere, he was also a member of my political laboratory. I had a political laboratory at Makerere. *(Laughter)* This minister here was a member of that political laboratory. So I thank you, and I appreciate you.

THE SPEAKER: Members, can we move? We are happy as people of Bugiri that the hospital is going to be worked on. The money will be available. Doctor, I will give you. Next item.

(X) THE INTERPRETATIVE
DECLARATION, RESERVATIONS BY
THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA ON
THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION
AND ITS MEMBER STATES ON THE
ONE PART AND THE MEMBERS
OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE
AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC
STATES ON THE OTHER PART (SAMOA
AGREEMENT)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, Section 2(b) and 4 of the Ratification of the Treaties Act, 1998 requires all the treaties to be laid before Parliament as soon as possible. I will now invite the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the acting minister to table the Samoa Agreement.

3.09

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the ratification of the Samoa Partnership Agreement between the EU and OACP states and submission of interpretation/reservations. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, pursuant to Section 2(b) of the Ratification of Treaties Act, 1998 and Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure, the agreement stands referred to the sectoral Committee on Foreign Affairs for consideration.

(XI) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH
SERVICE COMMISSION FOR THE
PERIOD JULY 2024 TO JUNE 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to Article 70(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Rule 197 of the Rules of Procedure, I hereby invite the commissioner to Table the annual report of the Health Commission for the period 2024/2025.

We have a Commissioner, the Leader of the Opposition (LOP). Tabling a report of the Health Service Commission. *(Hon. Basalirwa rose_)*

3.11

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

(Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Madam Speaker, I am shocked that I have been invited to Table a document on behalf of the Parliamentary Commission. Since statutorily, I am a member of the commission, I will table. This is the Health Service Commission annual report for Financial Year 2024/2025, and I duly table it.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable commissioner. The report is referred to the Committee on Health for consideration.

(XII) THE INVESTIGATION REPORT
ON SELECT EXPENSES AND
PROCUREMENTS AT IGANGA GENERAL
HOSPITAL

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to Article 163 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Rule 180 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I invite the Honourable Commissioner, LOP, to table the report of the Auditor-General.

3.12

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am very happy to be doing work for the Commission today. Keep deploying me. This is an Investigation report on select expenses and procurements at Iganga General Hospital. I lay the report.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, because of the nature of the report, it is referred to the criminal investigations department and must report back in two months. There is a procedural matter from Dr Batuwa.

DR BATUWA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am proceeding with rule 59, which gives us space to seek leave to come up with a motion that is not on notice, where the same rule also gives you power and authority to allow us to look into that matter at that very moment. The matter is to do with health, and it is the imminent strike that is about to hit the country by all doctors in this country. The issue is with the discrimination of a particular category of interns by the Ministry of Health. Interns exist in three categories: those who have just finished the first degree, Senior House Officers (SHOs), are the ones who are doing a masters -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, I wish you had been here at the time the LOP was here alone, you would have raised that issue. Imagine how people will read this *Hansard*, that after an item, a matter of national importance comes in. I was actually ready with an answer for you if you had been here before. Can we go to the next item?

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESOLVE
ITSELF INTO A COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY
TO CONSIDER THE SUPPLEMENTARY
EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE NO.1 FOR
THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, you will note that the next three items are similar because they relate to the approval of supplementary expenditure schedules. I have been informed by the Budget committee, to whom I had referred the supplementary schedules, that the supplementary schedule report is ready and the chairperson is available. Schedules 1, 2, and 3 were referred for consideration, and they are ready.

The minister is available to move the three motions successively and justify all of them so that we can receive a consolidated report. The House will then supply each schedule independently.

Honourable members, pursuant to Article 156(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Section 24 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, Rule 160 of the Rules of Procedure, I invite the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to move a motion on each of the three successfully. Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development?

3.16

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to move a motion for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider supplementary schedule No.1 amounting to Shs 1.650 trillion. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? Seconded by Hon. Kabanda, Hon. Ssentayi, Hon. Charity, Hon. Alanyo, Hon. Werikhe, Hon. Baka, Hon. Elwelu, Honourable member for Ntoroko, Hon. Rwamirama and the whole side. Plus Hon. Abdu, honourable member for Butaleja and Bugembe. Can you justify? Hon. Kintu, I thought you had shifted to this side.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, Section 24 of the Public Finance Management Act states that, “*The total supplementary expenditure that requires additional resources over and above what is approved by Parliament shall not exceed 3 per cent of the total approved budget for that financial year without approval of Parliament*”.

Madam Speaker, pursuant to this section, we have incurred expenditures that had been unforeseen and unavoidable at the time of budgeting, which fall within the 3 per cent requirement, and we are requesting Parliament to consider these expenditures and approve them in order to regularise the process.

Madam Speaker, this schedule was referred to the committee, and in the interest of time, I beg that the detailed information be included in the committee report. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Can you now move to Schedule 2?

3.18

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion for the House to resolve into a Committee of Supply to consider the Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No. 2 amounting to Shs 1.696 trillion. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Is Schedule No.2 seconded?? (*Members rose*) It is seconded by Hon. Charity, Hon. Alanyo, Hon. Ssentayi, Hon. Elwelu, Hon. Daudi Kabanda, Hon. Rwakajara, Hon. Atyang, Hon. David, Hon. Daudi, Member for Ntoroko, Hon. Bright, Hon. Margaret, Hon. Wilson, Hon. Nathan Byanyima, the Elders, Hon. Agaba, Member for Amuria, Member for Nebbi, Hon. Herbert, Member for Kapelebyong, and the whole side. Justify your motion.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: You know most of you are changing. Hon. Jacinta is putting on weight because of the campaigns.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, Section 24 of the Public Finance Management Act requires that where the Government wishes to spend money over and above 3 per cent, it should first seek the approval and authorisation of Parliament.

In this financial year, we have a funding gap in the roads sector amounting to Shs 1.69 trillion, which we would like to close. This is why we prepared Schedule No. 2, seeking Parliament to give us authority to budget for the road sector, an amount totalling to Shs 1.69 trillion. These funds shall be directly spent on the road sector without any other Government expenditure. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The supplementary is for the road sector, so even when you do not stand to approve it, you should know that it is for the road sector and it affects your people, your communities. Schedule No.3?

3.23

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion for the House to resolve into a Committee of Supply to consider the Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No. 3 amounting to Shs 2.906 trillion. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Is it seconded? That is schedule No.3. The money is meant for the Electoral Commission. (*Members rose*) It is seconded by the whole team. Even the Member for Buyende is here. *Ssalongo* is here. Hon. Aeku, Hon. Daudi, by the whole House on this side, and by *Ssalongo*. (*Laughter*) Yes, justify the motion.

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Schedule No.3 is also over and above the 3 per cent rule and requires approval by Parliament before we spend.

Briefly, the main expenditure here is the Electoral Commission to enable it to complete the expenditure for the elections. We also

have statutory expenditures under treasury operations, which we must also meet, and other expenditures under the Ministry of Defence, among others.

I pray that the House considers these three schedules so that we are able to facilitate the Government to continue meeting its obligations. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. As I said before, we shall have a consolidated report to this effect. I now invite the Chairperson of the Budget Committee to come and present a consolidated report on the three schedules; Schedule Nos. 1,2, and 3.

3.26

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON BUDGET (Mr Patrick Isiagi Opolot): Thank you, Madam Speaker. We have the report uploaded on the iPads, so you can follow from there. I am going to make summaries. I would like to first lay the report of the committee signed by majority members.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Please lay.

MR OPOLOT: I would also like to lay the minutes of the committee. I beg to lay.

Madam Speaker, we also have with our report a minority report signed by one member, Hon. Ibrahim Ssemujju, the Shadow Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR OPOLOT: Madam Speaker, the schedules were referred to the committee and it constituted -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Chairperson, can you now lay the letter of referral too?

MR OPOLOT: Yes, there was a letter of referral of schedule Nos 1 and 3 to the committee to constitute and process. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: By yourself? Continue.

MR OPOLOT: Madam Speaker, now that you are aware that the committee had to process a report for schedule 1, schedule 2, and schedule 3, all totalling Shs 8.1439 trillion.

The methodology, as usual, was by interaction and the scrutiny of documents provided within the law. The committee scrutinised a number of documents, including the Constitution, and interacted with a number of relevant stakeholders.

The committee went ahead to examine the legal framework and found that the supplementaries fall within the requirements of the law as per the Constitution, Article 156(2) and the Public Finance Management Act. Therefore, it passed that test.

The committee, therefore, required to know the source of funding for the supplementary. I would like to report that the supplementary is going to be funded through Non-Tax Revenue, totalling Shs 42.96 billion, local revenue totalling Shs 13.03 billion, domestic borrowing which we call internal is Shs 3,770.35 billion and external financing totalling Shs 4,278.05 billion. As such, it balances with the proposed expenditure.

Allow me to start with Schedule No.1 totalling Shs 1,652,290,000,000. The committee, therefore, recommends that these amounts be approved to the relevant votes.

I am going to read the amounts per vote that the committee has recommended to the House to approve.

Vote 001: Office of the President - Shs 20.430 billion.

Vote 002: State House - Shs 300 billion.

Vote 003: Office of the Prime Minister - Shs 1.195 billion.

Vote 004: Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs - Shs 565 billion.

Vote 006: Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Shs 3 billion.

Vote 008: Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development - Shs 81.60 billion.

Vote 010: Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries - Shs 103.482 billion.

Colleagues, take note that this money includes Shs 79.46 billion for the procurement of hand hoes for 7 million households. So, soon we are going to have hand hoes distributed to our people. *(Applause)*

We should take note that these are still undergoing a procurement process and definitely, by the time these hoes arrive, the election will have been done. Therefore, this is not meant just for campaigns but for production to increase output in the country. So, do not fear that they will be distributed in the names of a certain party. Thank you.

Vote 011: Ministry of Local Government - Shs 5.40 billion.

Vote 012: Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development - Shs 45.212 billion.

Vote 013: Ministry of Education and Sports - Shs 15.804 billion.

Vote 014: Ministry of Health - Shs 17.95 billion.

Vote 015: Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives - Shs 11 billion.

Vote 018: Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development - Shs 5.5 billion.

Vote 020: Ministry of ICT and National Guidance - Shs 11.179 billion.

Vote 116: National Medical Stores, aware that there was a withdrawal of support from USAID and GAVI, the Government has to cover the gap created by the loss of that external funding. As such, the Government is reinforcing the National Medical Stores with Shs 115.76 billion.

Vote 131: Office of the Auditor-General for verification of domestic arrears - Shs 1.62 billion.

Vote 132: Education Service Commission - Shs 6.29 billion.

Vote 138: Uganda Investment Authority - Shs 1.5 billion.

Vote 141: Uganda Revenue Authority - Shs 23.89 billion.

Vote 144: Uganda Police Force, to ensure that there is adequate policing during elections - Shs 183.03 billion.

Vote 156: Uganda Land Commission, for compensation of land debtors - Shs 108.85 billion.

Vote 501: Uganda Missions at the United Nations, New York - Shs 1 billion.

Vote 600: various Local Governments for unspent funds for the previous year amounting to Shs 15.59 billion. That is to enable the various local governments to carry on the USMID-AF development projects.

Madam Speaker, all that is read comes to a total of Shs 1,652,290, 000,000 as Supplementary Schedule No. 1, which the committee recommends the House to approve.

I beg to move for Schedule No.1.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Patrick, present all three schedules. It is a consolidated report.

MR OPOLOT: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to move to Schedule No. 2.

Schedule No. 2 was a total of 1.696 billion -

THE SPEAKER: It is trillion.

MR OPOLOT: I beg your pardon, Madam Speaker. We need a correction on our figures here. The wording there should be billion not trillion. It is Shs 1.696 billion.

This schedule was meant for Vote 016: Ministry of Works and Transport, in order to fix various roads. Aware that there were about seven suspended projects amounting to 395 kilometres. Projects such as Moroto-Lokitanyala of about 42 kilometres, Najjanankumbi-Busabala Road, 36.5 kilometres, Mityana-Mubende Road, about 100 kilometres and Kampala-Jinja Expressway of about 72 kilometres had been suspended due to lack of funding.

11 projects were under reduced progress. There was a go-slow coming to around 533 kilometres. They include roads like Olwiyo-Pakwach, Kisubi-Nakawuka and Kasanje-Mpigi - that one, after you approve the money, work will be progressing.

About nine bridges projects were affected by the constraint in financing. The likes of Katonga Bridge and Ssezibwa all went at a go-slow.

Colleagues, the details of this are attached in annexes 2 and 3.

Madam Speaker, I do not know whether it will be important –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Opolot, would you mind reading for us those roads so that we know which roads we are talking about?

MROPOLOT: Under Annex 1, we summarised the amount of money which is budgeted for DUCAR, KCCA and road maintenance. There are national roads upgrades and rehabilitation. There are also ferry operations of about Shs 12 billion.

Therefore, some of the roads like Fort Portal-Bundibugyo-Lamia - we all know that road.

There was an estimate of Shs 118 billion. The requirement to do the phase for this year is Shs 50 billion. However, there was nothing provided in the budget.

There is also Gulu-Atiak-Nimule Road – it is in bad shape. The other roads are Mubende-

Kyenjojo Road and Ntungamo-Rukungiri Road.

There is also the completion of the section of Tororo-Busia Road. We also have Najjanankumbi-Busabala Road and Rwenkunya-Apac-Lira-Puranga Road - Hon. Omara, thank you for lobbying.

We also have Luweero-Butalangu Road. There is Koboko-Yumbe-Moyo – that road when you leave Koboko via Yumbe headed to Moyo. It is for upgrade. Money is being provided.

There are also Yumbe-Ure, Kisubi-Nakawuka, Nakawuka-Maya, Nakawuka-Nateete, Nakawuka-Kasanje-Maya and Nakawuka-Buwaya – all those roads. The money is here. Once we approve, we are in business.

There are also critical oil roads like Kabwoya-Buhuka, Kihura-Rwamwanja, Kahunge-Bwizi-Mpara, Namagumba-Budadiri-Nalugugu - these people of Mbale, the road is there to be completed.

We have Moroto-Lokitanyala Road, Kira-Matugga Road – Hon. Ssemujju, thank you for lobbying - (*Laughter*). There is also Kabale-Bunyonyi Road – that is a tourist road, going up to Kisoro-Mahinga.

We have Busega-Mpigi Expressway. We need that one badly. There is a road from Muyembe to Nakapiripirit as well as Lusalira-Nkonge-Lumegere-Ssembabule Road. Hon. Kabanda is in business. Thank you for lobbying. Hon. Namugga, the NRM Government does not discriminate.

There is also Iganga-Bulopa-Kamuli – you will connect properly. This is for the former Speaker, and the current Speaker has implemented it. Thank you for lobbying.

There are also critical roads like Kabale-Kiziranfumbi, Nyairongo-Kyarushesha and Masindi-Biiso. It seems nobody is excited about this one. This is an oil road.

There is also a section enabling access to Kabaale International Airport of about 3.2 kilometres.

There is Kawuku-Bwerenga Road – Hon. Naluyima, congratulations. Your cries have been listened to. Tell our people that the road is going to become super.

Laropi-Afoji Road – that is the West Nile road – and also Laropi Bridge. Things are getting better.

There is upgrading of Katine-Ochero. Hon. Ebwalu, Katine-Ochero Road is here.

Kampala-Jinja Expressway – this is to clear the right of way.

We also have an oil road from Karugutu-Ntoroko. I saw Hon. Ibanda.

There is also Kitgum-Orom-Karenga Road. Madam Speaker, you had inquired about this road *-(Interjection)-* very good. Your pronunciation is better. Karenga – they wrote “...ng”. I pronounce it as “nga”. That road is 116 kilometres.

Madam Speaker, we also have Kitale-Gerenge Road, Kigumba-Bulima Road and Kagandi Bridge, which is supposed to be part of this.

There is Bumbobi-Lwakhakha Road and Mubende-Kakumiro-Kagadi Road. All those need improvements.

Madam Speaker, those are the roads so far provided under this supplementary schedule No. 2, amounting to Shs 1,696,000,000,000.

I beg the House to approve so that the General goes direct to do the work.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. You can go to the next schedule and then we debate.

MR OPOLOT: Madam Speaker, we also have Schedule No. 3 as follows – both Schedules No. 2 and 3 are for prior approval.

Vote 002: State House – Shs 159.983 billion. We request you to approve. We have recommended for approval all these monies under schedule 3.

Vote 004: Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs - Shs 305.4 billion.

Ministry of Public Service – Shs 85.46 million.

Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs – Shs 7.95 billion.

Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development – Shs 42.03 billion.

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries – Shs 10.295 billion.

Ministry of Local Government - this one is also for oil seed roads where oil production is going to take place – Shs 37.5 billion.

Ministry of Health – Shs 69.693 billion.

Honourable colleagues, I would like us to take note of this. The Ministry of Health procured a number of ambulances, scattered around the country. However, operationalisation of these ambulances has become a problem in form of fuel, repairs and maintenance. Most of these ambulances are parked. Some are at the ministry’s headquarters for repair but there is no money to repair them. Now money is being provided here; Shs 10 billion for the remaining part of the financial year so that the ambulances have fuelling and maintenance systems all centered at the ministry headquarters. So, let these ambulances not disturb our honourable colleagues. The Government is going to fuel all ambulances, repair and have them running this very financial year. *(Applause)* The Government ambulances have been distributed to all health centres, districts, hospitals, constituency ambulances and are very many.

Vote 015: Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives: Shs 37 billion for expansion and capitalisation of Soroti Fruit Factory. So, Hon. Okupa, go and produce more fruits.

Vote 016: Ministry of Works and Transport: Shs 696.451 billion. Under Works, one may wonder about that money. This money is required for procurement of aircrafts to add to our fleet because the business is booming, but we have a very small fleet. It has caused a lot of inefficiency in operations. If we procure more aircrafts, we shall make more profit. [*Hon. Ssemujju: "Procedure."*]

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssemujju, I thought he is reading his report. You will also have time to read yours.

MR SSEMUJJU: No, a report from a committee is a report from a committee. What the chairperson of the committee is doing is to make promises outside of what was presented, even calling names; "Ssemujju begin celebrating." "Okupa begin celebrating." Is the chairman of the Committee on Budget proceeding well, by first of all, purporting to be the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; speaking with authority that these things are going to be done, but also diverting from a report that he is reading. Is he proceeding well, Madam Speaker?

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssemujju, the chairman is doing a very good job. By being the Chairman of the Budget committee, just know that he has a lot of authority. Just know he is unopposed. (*Laughter*) That is why he is taking all his time.

MR OPOLOT: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for that wise ruling. You needed to also add that this authority is because I am the uncle of the Rt Hon. Speaker. (*Laughter*) Therefore, let him allow me to enjoy the authority for now.

Madam Speaker, the Government is also going to capitalise Uganda Railways Corporation with about Shs 100 billion.

Vote 017: Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development - Shs 188.65 billion. All this is going to increase the electricity connectivity around the country. So once this money is there, more connectivity is going to take place.

Vote 019: Ministry of Water and Environment - Shs 52.96 billion for urban water; Service Coverage Acceleration Project umbrellas (SCAP 100) where they are going to connect 75 small towns and rural growth centres and an additional 156 villages with safe water. They are going beyond the urban centres; those villages near the centres. All that is going to be provided with pumped water and solar panels driving the power.

Vote 022: Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities - Shs 6 billion.

Vote 102: Electoral Commission - Shs 469.5 billion. This money will enable the Commission to produce ballot papers, acquire Biometric Voter Verification System and payment of polling officials during presidential, parliamentary and local government council elections.

Honourable colleagues, let us take note that the Electoral Commission has organised and brought machines but they need money to make the payment. It was not provided for those biometrics. (*Member rose*)

MR NSEREKO: Madam Speaker, just a clarification – because the chairperson of the Electoral Commission was recently at the airport stating that they had all the money to procure the machines and he received them. So, what exactly are you talking about? Servicing, deployment, etc. - for clarity to the nation so that it knows and that there is no conflict in the messages you are passing on.

MR OPOLOT: Thank you. You have exactly said the right thing. Where you need more clarification - in management, there are things you do first. There are things you do even if you do not have money. There are things which you can front-load. There is money which is front-loaded. There is money which is supposed to be spent later. So, you go for those things which take time to be delivered and verified.

The Electoral Commission, in their management, arranged not to fire-fight towards the end of elections. So, when this money

is approved, it goes to fill that hole but the purpose is clear. Thank you.

Vote 115: Uganda Heart Institute is being provided with Shs 40 billion in order to carry on the construction of the Heart Institute at Naguru.

Vote 116: National Medical Stores (NMS). Aware again that there was a cancellation of money in GAVI, withdrawal of USAID, NMS needed money to support our people - Shs 269.777 billion.

Vote 126: National Information Technology Authority - Shs 185.289 billion.

Vote 128: Uganda National Examinations Board - Shs 28.5 billion for construction of a digital center.

Vote 130: Treasury Operations - Shs 1.85 trillion

Honourable colleagues, take note that in the last financial year, there was money which was budgeted for external funding. This external funding did not come in at the right time. Therefore, the Bank of Uganda advanced the Government this amount of money for the expenditures that had been planned. Now, this money arrived after the end of the financial year. So, we need to approve this money so that the Government, through treasury operations, pays the Bank of Uganda in order to remain a credible borrower.

Vote 131: Office of the Auditor-General - Shs 5.8 billion for ICT.

Vote 137: National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) - Shs 67.753 billion.

Vote 145: Uganda Prisons Service - Shs 21.68 billion.

Vote 158: Internal Security Organisation - Shs 41.889 billion.

Vote 415: Moroto Regional Referral Hospital - Shs 249 million.

Vote 530: Consulate in Guangzhou - Shs 14.211 billion for construction of a chancery building.

We have various local governments which have money like local revenue, unspent balances from the UgIFT, and reimbursement of VAT for the operations. Various local governments will get Shs 148.239 billion.

Madam Speaker, and honourable members, I, therefore, request the House to approve the supplementary expenditure under Schedule No. 1, 2 and 3 for the Financial Year 25/26 amounting to Shs 8,104, 390,000,000. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much, chairman. As you had said before, we have a minority report from one of the members. Can we now hear from the Member?

4.00

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): Madam Speaker and honourable members, I have outlined areas of dissent:

1. The procedural irregularity of supplementaries to committee before they are tabled in Parliament;
2. The overall size and character of the supplementary request;
3. The repeated supplementary financing for long-standing, predictable obligations;
4. Unequal allocation of development funds;
5. The political risks;
6. Excessive reliance on classified expenditure;
7. Failure to plan for donor exits in projects that are donor-funded;
8. Recurring bailouts of entities;

9. Persistent lack of documentation for key infrastructure; and the wrongs of the Executive, which is what this process now appears to demand of us.
10. Major election spending without proper disclosure. So, the first area of dissent is non-compliance with the law.

I will begin with an introduction.

[Text expunged.]

Madam Speaker and honourable members, in all my 14 years in this House, I have never seen a supplementary request that casually rewrites the National Budget the way this one does. A revision of Shs 6.255 trillion - the chair has said the request is 8, and what was tabled and for which the minister confirmed yesterday was Shs 6.255 trillion. I do not know at what stage it became 8. Above what we approved is nothing short of excessive.

Subject to Regulation 18 of the Public Finance Management Act, Regulations (as Amended) 2016, a supplementary expenditure request must meet the following conditions, I do not have to emphasise them; Unavoidable, unforeseeable, and they are all explained in the law.

Our national budget of Shs 72.376 trillion can only be lawfully revised through supplementary expenditure in cases of genuine emergency such as natural disasters or unforeseen crises. Yet here we are with Shs 459 billion requested under State House, including allocations for youth mobilisation for the NRM presidential candidate and other items disguised as classified.

The supplementary expenditure request before us does not conform to these conditions. They may be sweet, I have seen colleagues celebrating, but the conditions were set by this House.

The NRM candidate wants money for mobilising the youth and they are called youth tours. Suddenly, the political discomfort among young people who are not supporting President Museveni has been turned into an emergency that must be funded at once.

Madam Speaker, these are the provisions of the constitution and the statutory procedures laid out for processing supplementary estimates. Perhaps the Speaker did not fully consider these constitutional requirements when she received and referred the supplementary request to the budget committee.

The handling has been equally troubling. I learned of the budget committee meeting through a phone call from the chairperson, barely 10 hours before the sitting and yet Rule 213(4) of our Rules of Procedure provides, “*unless the House is sitting, not less than 48 hours’ notice shall...*, the word is ‘shall’, ... *be given to members of the committee when calling any meeting*”. The word is “shall” but the chairperson casually called me at night and said, “Come in the morning.”

Knowing that the requests had not been properly presented to Parliament, the chairperson of the committee should have immediately drawn the Speaker’s attention to these provisions. Since this did not happen, the Speaker now has no option, but to adjourn this matter to allow the proper process to be followed because you can suspend the rules, you cannot suspend the constitution. You cannot suspend the Public Finance Management Act. Do not stamper Parliament. That is what the constitution and the Public Finance Management Act says.

The rules assume that Members of Parliament conduct serious business on behalf of citizens, not that we gather to rubber-stamp or validate

The role of the sectoral committees.

Supplementary requests from ministries and agencies are supposed to be scrutinised by sectoral committees, which on behalf of Parliament supervises these sectors. This is not a ceremony, but a safeguard for citizens’ hard-earned taxes. There are more than- I put

50, but 100 agencies requesting supplementary budgets. Sectoral committees are required to scrutinise these requests and report to the budget committee within 14 days. We received these requests, I do not know maybe on Sunday- because on Monday and then the following day the chairperson was calling a meeting. The requirement is that you refer portions to sectoral committees for scrutiny before you authorise.

The budget committee has no capacity to inquire into the details of all these requests.

You needed to be in the South committee room where we sat to witness the stampede first hand. All these agencies streamed into the room and crowded the corridors. This should never happen again, Madam Speaker.

The Members who are on the budget committee who arrived from upcountry in the morning and went straight into the meeting were visibly tired. Even when I pleaded with the chairperson that we were tired, he simply said, "Let us go ahead."

Some ministries and agencies appeared with no written briefs at all. Others came with loose sheets of paper. Some simply recited figures with no clear explanation of how they arrived at them. This is unacceptable.

Before you approve expenditure, you are supposed to look at the procurement plans and work plans under Section 12 of the Public Finance Management Act. That is what we did when we were passing the budget, and that is what should be done. The Committee on Budget sat for about eight hours yesterday. It is not possible that it scrutinised all these documents, and the rule on referral is very clear; "These are referred to you for scrutiny," not just coming here and you repeat what the minister has given you.

This practice creates room for abuse; figures can change like you have seen them actually changing. The minister brought a request for Shs 6 trillion, yet the chairperson is reading Shs 8 trillion. Even me, a senior committee member, do not know how they rose from 6 to

8. Items can be smuggled in or removed before formal tabling. For instance, yesterday, we had an item on Soroti Fruit Factory with no source of funding, but it had also been put here.

Uganda cannot manage trillions of shillings through informal briefings and hurried presentations. We must insist that the minister tables the documents properly before Parliament and only then refers them to the committee. Anything else compromises transparency and exposes public funds to risk. Any attempt to process these supplementary requests amounts to overthrowing the Constitution, the Public Finance Management Act and our Rules of Procedure. I agree, there is room to suspend the rules, but there is no room I am aware of for suspending the Constitution.

Source of funding

Rule 160 (2) states that, "The supplementary estimates presented under sub-rule (1) shall clearly spell out the source of the funding for the supplementary expenditure request for each vote." Reason: you passed a budget here. The moment you allow Hon. Musasizi to go and change it by Shs 8 trillion, he will be removing money from the items that we approved and putting the money to the items that he likes.

For example, there is money for youth mobilisation tours. Where is that money coming from? All that must be explained according to our rules. What the minister - my friend, Hon. Musasizi - did was simply place the word "Government of Uganda (GOU)" or "external" at the end of each request. The Rules require that the source of funding be clearly spelt out. If the minister is allowed to play around with the budget this way, he will remove money from critical items and divert it to useless and unquantifiable things like youth mobilisation tours under State House.

Revising the budget

Initially, I was working with the figure given to us of Shs 78 trillion. It is now Shs 80 trillion, because if the budget is Shs 72 trillion, and you are now adding Shs 8 trillion, we are going to

have Shs 80 trillion as the total budget. These supplementary requests; 1, 2 and 3, have revised the budget — as I said, you need to take note of that — to now Shs 80 trillion. This revision carries far-reaching consequences for the economy.

Financing these supplementary requests through borrowing will automatically raise the public debt. Remember we were already borrowing Shs 32 trillion to finance the approved budget. We are now set to return to commercial banks to borrow for all sorts of things. Parliament must examine all documents that accompanied the budget to ensure that there is no deviation. These include the Charter of Fiscal Responsibility, the borrowing plan and other related documents.

Parliament must also study the findings of the Auditor-General. In several of his reports, the Auditor-General notes that supplementary requests are routinely made even when there is no actual money available to fund them. It, therefore, becomes a ceremony; coming here, you pass, but they are not funded.

Supplementary is becoming the main budget. Madam Speaker, Parliament is being asked to approve more than Shs 8 trillion in supplementary funding. If this continues, we will soon reach a point where the annual budget is treated as a ceremonial event while the real spending happens through supplementary schedules.

Road contracts that have been running for years cannot be classified as emergencies. Oil palm compensation has been ongoing for a decade. The Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) Hospital in Mbuya has appeared in three consecutive supplementary requests. Donor exits such as The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have been announced far in advance. By the time we did the budget, we knew that USAID had gone. We knew that money had been withdrawn. These are predictable matters that should have been foreseen in the main budget.

From the foregoing, it appears that the Government has chosen to treat Parliament as a fall-back position for everything they fail to plan for. They just walk here and the chairman will come here and proudly say, “We pass.”

The Cotton lint buffer stock and quiet favouritism

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries is requesting Shs 6.1 billion for what they described as support to the cotton value chain. The first component is to cover the transport of cotton lint for fine spinners. The second component which they revealed to the committee is Government’s plan to purchase T-shirts from Fine Spinners and then sell them to the Uganda Tailors Association to recover the money – you can imagine, you are borrowing money to buy T-shirts.

This is where the alarm bells ring. We are being asked to believe that Government is going to bulk buy T-shirts using public money, hand them over to a private association, and then somehow recover the funds. This is the kind of transaction that begins in a ministry and ends in a political rally. You have seen where candidates are going, especially the National Resistance Movement candidate. Even in Karamoja, where 62 per cent do not have clothes, he has dressed an entire rally. That is in the report of – (*Interruption*) – You cannot say “Order,” this is from the census report. The trouble is that you do not read.

Ugandans have seen enough election seasons to recognise when something is not adding up. Cotton farmers in Acholi, Teso, Bukedi and West Nile have waited for real support for decades. Their cooperative ginneries collapsed. Their farm gate prices remain miserable, yet instead of helping farmers, the Government wants to subsidise the logistics of a private textile company and then buy T-shirts using the Consolidated Fund.

The same Fine Spinners have supplied apparel to Government programmes before. Government is now positioning itself as their biggest customer in an election period.

Supporting the textile sector is important, but not through hurried subsidies, opaque transactions, and a sales arrangement that no one can reasonably verify. If the Government wants a national textile strategy, let it table one. This business of buying T-shirts for tailors using taxpayers' money is not a strategy; it is a risk and Parliament must not approve it blindly.

Agriculture arrears and the geography of favour Madam Speaker, tea seedlings arrears have become a permanent feature of supplementary budgets. Apple seedlings, also supplied on credit, have now joined the queue. This is a system where suppliers deliver for years without a budget and expect Parliament to clear arrears at the end of each financial year. It is not sustainable. Worse still, the same districts benefit repeatedly. Some parts of Western Uganda appear almost every year in the ministry of agriculture submissions.

Meanwhile, farmers in Northern Uganda have no tea nurseries, no larger scale seedling support programmes, and no agro-industrial facilities. Equity has become rhetoric rather than practical.

Electoral Commission and the mystery of new polling stations

The Electoral Commission is seeking more than Shs 460 billion for ballot papers, biometric systems and the creation of new polling stations, yet, they have not provided a list of these new polling stations, nor have they justified the expansion.

They also did not present technical documentation for the new biometric system. Election management should not be based on trust. Parliament cannot approve technology we have not seen, or polling stations whose locations are unknown. In an election year, such a process raises serious concerns.

Ministry of Works and Transport crisis management

The ministry presented a long list of stalled, suspended or slow-moving road projects. These include Moroto - I do not have to read them; the

Chairperson read them here. These roads have been under construction for many years and their financing needs were known. Contractors have been waiting for payment and there is nothing sudden about these obligations. They are the result of chronic under planning and poor cash flow management. A supplementary budget cannot clean up years of negligence.

Uganda Airlines and the cost of flying without a plan

The ministry is requesting for more than Shs 400 billion to purchase new aircraft for Uganda Airlines, yet the country has not recovered from the Bombardier deal where we purchased aircrafts that were already being phased out. Global production slowed, spare parts became scarce and maintenance became a nightmare. The airline has been grounded more than once because mechanics could not source essential components.

Madam Speaker, we are now being asked to buy more aircrafts before conducting due diligence on viability, maintenance costs, routes, and long-term sustainability. We are being asked to purchase planes before addressing the problems of the ones we already have.

A national airline should be a source of pride, but pride must be backed by planning. Parliament should not approve aircraft purchases that may leave us stuck with obsolete models once again. Before Government buys any new aircraft, a thorough due diligence process must be presented, including maintenance projections and route sustainability. Uganda cannot afford another Bombardier disaster. Even basic legal procedures have not been completed. There must be shareholder resolutions regarding capitalisation, and these must be registered with the Registrar of Companies.

We have a report of COSASE which this Parliament approved. That is why I did not include it in the report. In the report of COSASE approved here, COSASE recommended that we should be leasing instead of buying, and Parliament approved. Therefore, it cannot be the same Parliament that approved leasing that

is now saying, buy. People who will read the *Hansard* will wonder what sort of Parliament this was.

Water and energy in disarray

Madam Speaker, once again, the Ministry of Water and Environment is requesting for funds to connect 156 villages under SCAP 100, yet they cannot even provide a simple list of these villages. They want to expand umbrella water systems before addressing the same systems that are unreliable and already too expensive for our people.

Similarly, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development still has electricity poles standing like abandoned monuments in many trading centres, following the rationalisation of REA. Transformers are nowhere to be seen and hospitals spend hours in darkness. The same ministry is demanding billions for new connections while the old, unfinished work is conveniently ignored.

Madam Speaker, this country needs proper sequencing, not a rush to announce new projects. We should complete what we start. It makes no sense to seek more money when already funded work is still hanging. Let us fix what is incomplete before moving on to the next project.

Defence and nugatory expenditure hidden behind classified budgets

Madam Speaker, the first problem before us is the ever-expanding envelope of classified expenditure. Every year it grows, every year it returns, and every year we are expected to approve billions we cannot trace, verify, or interrogate. That is how nugatory spending hides in plain sight. When money enters a classified corner without clear boundaries, it comes out as a bill to the taxpayer with no evidence of value created. A country cannot build accountability on invisible figures.

It is in that context that other concerns emerge. Take the UPDF National Referral Hospital in Mbuya as an example; this is not

a classified project yet it appears repeatedly in supplementary budgets with no clear progress, no timelines, and the same items returning like a bad chorus.

Even more confusing, the National Medical Stores is seeking supplementary funding to supply commodities for the same hospital, while the Ministry of Defence is also requesting Shs 10 billion to capitalise the hospital. Two different Votes, one hospital, and no clarity on who is actually responsible for what. This is how wastage takes root. Parliament must insist that hospitals are completed, budgets are harmonised, and the taxpayer is not billed twice for the same medicine.

UDC and the perpetual bailout model

Soroti Fruit Factory is now a yearly visitor to this House. Every Financial Year, it needs capitalisation. Meanwhile, farmers in Northern Uganda watch their mangoes rot in the gardens. Industrialisation cannot benefit one region repeatedly while treating others as an afterthought. UDC must operate as an investment arm with performance indicators, not a rescue agency for struggling factories.

State House

State House has already spent money under the 3 per cent that does not require prior parliamentary approval, and they are asking for more. In total, State House is requesting approval of Shs 459 billion in supplementary. The approved budget for State House is Shs 479.8 billion. This will bring total State House budget to Shs 939 billion this financial year. This is a revision of 95.9 per cent. This translates into Shs 2.5 billion per day and Shs 107 million per hour, including at night when State House occupants are supposed to be sleeping. Considering that we are spending Shs 1 trillion on the Parish Development Model per year, and you know the Parish Development Model is supposed to finance 3.5 million households, translating into 14 million people, it means that the amount of money we are spending at State House is equal to the amount of money we are spending on 14 million people to get out of poverty.

The money we are spending on the residence of our dear leader is equal, as I said, to money spent on 14 million people. Can you imagine some of the money State House is asking for, which we will borrow, is for youth mobilisation tours. You have seen my friend, Hon. Barugahara. He is addressing a rally every day asking younger people to support an old man. This State House request must be rejected with all the contempt that it deserves.

Recommendations

1. First, reject all supplementary requests that represent poor planning rather than genuine emergency.
2. Require the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to produce a full cotton value chain report before any further support to private companies like Fine Spinners.
3. Freeze all agricultural arrears until an independent audit verifies supply distribution and impact.
4. Demand a national equity framework to ensure balanced regional development in agriculture, energy, water, and industry.
5. Require the Electoral Commission to provide a list of new polling stations and full documentation of the biometric system before funding is approved.
6. Finalise stalled rural electrification works before releasing funds for new connections.
7. Require Government to present a detailed due diligence report on Uganda Airlines aircraft purchases before approval.
8. Demand audited performance and sustainability reports for Soroti Fruit Factory and all UDC investments.
9. Mandate quarterly implementation reports to Parliament for all supplementary expenditures approved.

In conclusion, the people whose taxes we oversee do not enjoy supplementary lives. They walk long distances for water, give birth under torchlight, watch Government planes fly over their villages while waiting for electricity poles that were erected five years ago. They deserve planning, not improvisation. They deserve fairness, not favouritism. They deserve a Government that manages their money with discipline.

This minority report is presented in defence of those Ugandans whose taxes you are about to authorise to luxurious spending. We refuse to endorse waste, political convenience, or poor planning. We dissent because it is our responsibility to do so.

Madam Speaker, the report ends there. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, thank you very much.

First of all, I would like to look at the alleged procedural irregularity that you talked about. The minority report alleges procedural irregularity, which is not correct.

Two, rule 161 requires the Minister of Finance to present the supplementary estimates before the House. The minister indeed tabled the report of the supplementary estimates. If you look at today's Order Paper, it clearly provides for the laying of the supplementary schedules, which was done. The laying was done.

The accompanying documents were duly attached to what the minister laid, and as I said before, we did an administrative referral because Members were on recess. When we did that under rule 8, there is a precedent that has already been set on that.

Secondly, the accusation that the House has flouted the Constitution is not correct. Article 156(2) of the Constitution has been duly complied with. The minister introduced the supplementary on behalf of the President and the request was duly referred to the committee. The committee has reported. When the

supplementary is presented, it has the amount that is required, the purpose of that amount, and it has a Vote.

I want us to look at the introduction, where you are talking about the money which is given to the State House, and you are saying this money is for the mobilisation of the NRM presidential candidate. I do not think there is anywhere in the report, unless the chairperson says it is there, which shows that the NRM chairperson requires this money for mobilisation.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssemujju, as the custodian of the rules of the House, I will not allow any statements that make this House look dirty. If it is not indicated anywhere, why are we importing statements into the report? Maybe I need to find out from the chairperson; is the money, which is classified, meant for mobilisation? Let us avoid irresponsible reporting.

4.32

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON BUDGET (Mr Patrick Isiagi Opolot):

Madam Speaker, the money is for youth mobilisation activities and the Government pays a lot of attention to youth issues. We are all - even Parliament has observed that we have got many youth and they need affirmative action. The Government provides money for youth mobilisation activities, for youth livelihoods, skilling and so on. That is why we have the skilling hubs and they are handled under the State House. It is not an irregular activity. It is benefiting our youth.

THE SPEAKER: It is not benefiting NRM.

MR OPOLOT: No, all the youth.

THE SPEAKER: Let us avoid this business of bringing NRM into this. Yes, Hon. Daudi?

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, this is my report and I need to explain. The moment you do not follow the rules, you will land in trouble like this. The law requires the production of a work plan and procurement plans for the

money before you authorise spending. Can the chairperson of the committee table evidence of the work and procurement plan for this money? Then I will come here and apologise. This money for youth mobilisation tour -

THE SPEAKER: Before Cabinet approved this, the work plan was presented to Cabinet.

MR SSEMUJJU: It is supposed to be presented before Parliament under the Public Finance Management Act, not Cabinet.

THE SPEAKER: We are not supposed to do work for the Cabinet. You see, we are in campaign time. We should also appreciate what Hon. Ssemujju is going through. He is doing his campaign now and Hon. Ssemujju, we are with you, do not worry.

MR SSEMUJJU: That is unfair on me, Madam Speaker. Actually, you are the one doing the campaign. Where is the procurement and work plan?

4.33

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, that Hon. Ssemujju is in a campaign, we are also in the campaigns and we have a presidential flag bearer of the NRM in the campaign.

When you blackmail us that we are looking for money to mobilise NRM youth, we have a duty to object and tell the country that this is a programme being run under State House. It is a programme that was there before the campaign, seeking to remodel the Youth Livelihood Programme and State House was implementing this way back before the campaigns started.

Therefore, to insinuate that this is money that is going to mobilise NRM youth is completely not true. Also, there is another issue which was raised where the minority Member is saying that each minute, State House is spending this amount of money. Budgeting is not done in minutes -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, when you look at the Fourth National Development Plan (NDPIV), the theme was “Sustainable Industrialisation for Inclusive Growth, Employment and Wealth Creation”. Enhancement of human capital development is where we put this kind of money. Promotion of empowerment and household programmes for the youth is in NDPIV. Then you look at objective five of NDPIV; the development and operationalisation of value addition, specifically on issues that regard the youth in this country –

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, additionally, there is a work plan for all these processes. We do not just cook numbers. The numbers are informed by the work plans and the activity schedules. The people who are running the Treasury are sober people.

I want to believe that Hon. Ssemujju knows my background. There are things I cannot do. I cannot give you money without a basis. I need proper documentation. I must make sure the law is followed. I must make sure that in future when you ask me, I should be able to defend myself. Thank you.

MR OLANYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have respect for Hon. Musasizi. This House approved a programme under political parties and organisations, and we approved money under the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue (IPOD). To this date, Shs 2 billion for FDC and the NRM has not been received –

THE SPEAKER: How is it related to this?

MR OLANYA: He is saying that he cannot release money without a programme. However, money for political parties, which has a programme and was approved here, has not been received. Why is he not releasing money, which was approved under a programme?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the Shs 2 billion you are talking about is an arrear which has not been budgeted for. You did not requisition for it. We do not give you before you ask for it. Did you ask for it?

MR OLANYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We had a meeting, we asked for that money, and Hon. Mao even wrote a letter.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, handle your issue politically. I know it is campaign time and you need money. Handle it politically. Let me hear from the Leader of the Opposition (LOP).

4.37

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Madam Speaker, in all honesty and for starters, I think we need to clean up how we do certain things. We are all here. When you look at some of the issues being raised - we want certain roads to be worked on and we do not want to be fighting over that. Even when we want some of these roads to be fixed and so on, let us tick all the boxes procedurally so that we do not have a fight over the law.

The Order Paper in item No.3 is talking about laying of these requests and the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development laid them. Item No.4, the committee chairperson is coming to Table a report and then the House has to constitute itself into a Committee of Supply. We need to clean up some of these things so that we look neat, even legally.

Away from that, Madam Speaker, the Order Paper is talking about laying and so on. The committee already sat and the reports are ready. I mean, some of these things when the public that follows our live broadcast -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition (LOP), we agreed. First of all, you should also accept that you and I consult. I told my LOP that we received these loans because it is urgent. I did an administrative referral and he said, “Well, it may not be very smart, but since it has happened -” We consult, as an institution.

MR SSENYONYI: Madam Speaker, I thank you for that consultative element. It happened this morning when the committee report was already ready, and all the processes had happened. Maybe if I had been notified earlier

- a few days prior when the administrative decision was being taken. Now, we are here and are dealing with these matters.

Here are some of the quick concerns that I do have, Madam Speaker. We want to purchase new aircrafts for Uganda Airlines for Shs 422 billion. When you read Regulation 18 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2016, those regulations are very instructive. These supplementary items have got to be unavoidable and unforeseeable. How is it that we did not foresee some of these things that we are talking about, that some emergency has happened?

I would have expected this for some of the emergencies. Colleagues are always here telling us about how floods have hit their areas, bridges have collapsed and so on. That is when the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is supposed to come here very quickly and say Hey, this was unforeseeable. It has happened, and we need to deal with it.

However, for some of these things, you are supposed to plan. We were here for the budget process planning together. Why didn't you bring up these issues that you are bringing now? We are scrambling; the Speaker has to call Members from their constituencies and so on to come and deal with an emergency. This is an issue of bad planning.

Madam Speaker, we are talking about Shs 300 billion for countrywide youth mobilisation tours. I saw somebody defending it and saying this has been part of ongoing plans. If it was part of ongoing plans, why did you not encapsulate it in the budget? Why? - (*Interjections*) - Now you hear what he is saying. Anyway, good enough it is even off the record. You would all be disturbed by the response.

Let us plan for all of these things because when we come here, we go through the budget, we quarrel over what we quarrel over, we refuse this and maybe allow some things, and then a short while later, you come and say, hey, this was unforeseeable. No, I do not believe so. I do not agree.

There is another disturbing issue; Shs 37 billion for a power stabiliser at Namanve to enable the Roofings Group to extend steel manufacturing. This is not a national project, Madam Speaker. This is a direct subsidy to a wealthy private individual. I have specifically raised many complaints here, severally.

Regarding these subsidies and the monies that we extend to Atiak Sugar Factory, Roko, Inspire Africa Coffee Factory and so on, you have never come out clean here for people to know how to access a "shot in the arm" from the Government. We have ordinary people downtown with their small shops who also have loans. Their businesses are also crumbling, and they are saying they would want the Government to aid them. Why is the Government aiding only a few wealthy ones? What is the process so that somebody knows, this is how I apply?

However, you come here for Roofings, Roko, Atiak, Dei Bio-Pharma, and Inspire Africa Coffee. How do these things make sense to your ordinary voters who are also doing business, and they are saying they are struggling?

THE SPEAKER: LOP, actually what you are saying is correct because even when we empower, most of the empowerment is within the Kampala youth; your voters. You find the Bukedea people complaining. You are one of the beneficiaries of this empowerment. You see this kind of thing.

MR SSENKYONYI: Madam Speaker, I am not a beneficiary and that is why I am complaining. By the way, governments world over do this. They subsidise private entities and so on, but there are clear *modus operandi* on how to do this. Now you leave people to suspect that maybe somebody in the Government has shares in that company. They begin to speculate how they are able to access all of this help. It does not make sense.

Madam Speaker, part of this Shs 79 billion is for hand-held hoes to seven million households. In the year 2025, do we still want to purchase hand-held hoes for people and yet

we are talking about modernising agriculture? This is my considered view, as Joel Ssenyonyi. I am saying it is problematic. We should be advancing -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Joel, some areas cannot use the other kind of tractors. If you look at places like Hon. Musasizi's, Sebei, and Kween, you do not need the big tractors. You need those hand-held hoes.

MR SSENYONYI: That is okay, Madam Speaker. I am only saying we have been talking about modernising agriculture and that is the direction we should be taking.

THE SPEAKER: That is part of modernisation.

MR SSENYONYI: This is my considered view, Madam Speaker. I should be allowed space to air my view, which is contrary to some people's. As far as I am concerned, saying we are spending Shs 79 billion to purchase seven million hoes, especially during this electoral season - there are so many question marks here.

Madam Speaker, Shs 20 billion is required by Uganda Airlines to settle debts for aircraft engine maintenance. We bought the planes, but we forgot to budget for servicing them. That is what this means and why you are coming here with a supplementary. The new aircraft we want to purchase is from the manufacturer Boeing. We have Airbuses. Now, you want to have a bit of this and a bit of the other. Why don't you take advantage of economies of scale? You are scrambling jets with spare parts. All of these things are not taken care of, Madam Speaker.

The Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities wants Shs 6 billion, partly to commemorate the Martyrs' Day across Anglican, Catholic and Muslim faiths. Every year we do this. Why didn't you plan for this, Government? For me, that is what I find quixotic; that you bring this through a supplementary.

Every year, we are always here talking about Uganda Martyrs Day, how it is a big tourism potential event, but you do not plan for it.

(Hon. David Kabanda rose_) Madam Speaker, protect me from this man from Kasambya. I am saying that this is poor planning, honestly.

Finally, Madam Speaker, the Electoral Commission needs Shs 469 billion to create 15,256 new polling stations in one and a half months before the election. How can this be okay? We have had five years to plan for an election, but one and a half months to an election is when you are saying we need to create 15,000 new polling stations, give us money. How?

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Joel?

MR SSENYONYI: And then -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Joel?

MR SSENYONYI: Yes, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Do they just need to create, or have they created?

MR SSENYONYI: Madam Speaker, that is the entire plan -

THE SPEAKER: That is a concern to all of us. This one is not partisan. Do they just need to create, or have they created?

MR SSENYONYI: Madam Speaker, that is the planning element I am talking about. At whichever time you have created them, it is now that you are saying we need money, as if you did not plan for it. Why don't you plan properly? One and a half months to an election! That is my big concern.

Madam Speaker, the biometric voter verification kits, part of which this money is going to take care of - Again, as I mentioned earlier, there are very many unanswered questions here. You are coming here to Parliament and saying, "Give us money."

Members of Parliament are asking questions about these machines. In the past, they were used and they never functioned; network issues, usability, and so on and so forth but

you are saying “give us money”, a month and a half to the elections. When is the training going to happen for all stakeholders, by the way, including us in this House?

I need to know how this machine works because I am a stakeholder. It is not just for the Electoral Commission officials. This is so that when I am sending my agents out, I have equipped them on what they need to look out for. This is how this thing works. This is when you know there is a problem.

One and a half months to the election, all of that is a green area. We need the Government to come clean on these biometric voter verification kits, for all of us, by the way.

As I did mention, I heard some colleagues in the NRM complaining that they were being rigged in their primaries and so on. This is a concern for all of us, not just us in the Opposition. You also want to be sure that this process is fair and understandable, regardless of where you belong. Therefore, we need clarity from the State regarding this -

THE SPEAKER: These people are distracting me.

MR SSENKYONYI: Finally, Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: What Hon. Ssenyonyi is raising, Attorney-General, is very important. We probably need to conduct training for Members of Parliament, since we are representatives of the people and we are all stakeholders.

Can we organise an interaction with the Electoral Commission? This is in order for us to get to understand what the machines do and how they are supposed to be used. This will enable us to go out there and tell the people what to expect at the end of the day.

MR SSENKYONYI: Madam Speaker, a colleague wants to share information.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, yesterday we were shocked. Even the Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic

Development, Hon. Musasizi, did not know how these things were going to work. He was also asking us in the committee.

I asked him, “You are the one presenting the request. How can you not even know how the Electoral Commission...” I am being truthful; other Members can confirm.

THE SPEAKER: We are saying that we do not all know. Do not specify Hon. Musasizi; everybody does not know. Let us have the training. The Leader of the Opposition has brought a very important issue.

MR SSENKYONYI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. That is why it is always important to operate in the open. You come here for money for these machines, you have little, if any, information about them and the one asking for the money and all stakeholders are not brought on board. Who are we purchasing them from? How are they meant to function? We have had concerns about the network and usability in the past and so on. Then, we hear that these machines could be used mandatorily.

The Government also needs to come out very clearly on that matter. Are they saying these kits are going to be used mandatorily? We need a “yes” or “no” so that we know –

THE SPEAKER: The Electoral Commission should come out clearly, not the Government, because the leadership in the Government is all candidates. Therefore, let the Electoral Commission come out.

MR SSENKYONYI: Madam Speaker, here in Parliament, the Electoral Commission is represented by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the Attorney-General.

The Electoral Commission Chairperson does not sit here and that is why we are putting these issues to the Government. It is important that we get to know. Are they going to be used mandatorily? If so, what happens when the network fails?

What happens where some of the officials, as we saw in the last election, the polling official does not know how to use the thing, because we have a month to the elections and they have not been purchased yet.

My final concern -

THE SPEAKER: Before you come to the final concern, those are some of the issues that when we have an interaction with the Electoral Commission, we should be able to ask and get responses to that effect.

MR SSENYONYI: Thank you. I really hope that those – (*Interruption*)

MR OMARA: Madam Speaker, I would like to provide information to the Leader of the Opposition that in this supplementary, we have also provided money to the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA).

NIRA has a robust plan to roll out the National ID card distribution and that is very important to the electoral process because the system that you are referring to will require every voter to use the National ID. Therefore, they must work in harmony. The supplementary to the Electoral Commission and to NIRA are very important.

THE SPEAKER: Does everybody have a National ID?

MR OMARA: That is what is happening, Madam Speaker.

MR SSENYONYI: Madam Speaker, now a spanner has been thrown in the works, and as I have been saying, we have a month and a half to the elections. We are now scampering around to do all of these different things. I do not see what magic we are going to do.

THE SPEAKER: Can we conclude?

MR SSENYONYI: Finally, Madam Speaker, this supplementary has certain things that even I would be shy to oppose. You know, roads have to be built and some of our roads are in pathetic shape.

Of course, normally, I say once we have passed the money, let us follow it up to be sure it is not stolen and that good roads are built and do not get potholes after three months and that kind of thing.

While there are some of those elements, of course, I do have some other concerns, like Uganda Airlines and all of these different things. Now, I do not want to stand in the way of some of, in my view, the good elements of this supplementary, but again, I am also a stickler for rules.

Rule 25 of our Rules of Procedure provides that for us to take a vote on any matter, we have to have a third of all the voting Members present to vote. Of the 529, that should be 177. I do not see those Members, whether it be on the Government side or even the side that I lead. I confess that even my colleagues are not present. They are out there campaigning.

I do not know that we have that number. I hear people saying that some Members are online. I hope the online people are going to vote and we shall know that honourable so and so is online and they have voted this way.

That also helps so that we are not challenged. Sometimes Parliament has been dragged to court over procedural issues, especially because some of these things are contentious. It has to do with huge procurements and our electoral process. Let us cross every “t” and dot every “i.”

THE SPEAKER: Attorney-General?

4.56

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to state to the House that I am going to communicate with the Electoral Commission and require them to come and have an interaction with the Members of Parliament on how the Biometric Voter Verification Kits (BVVK) will work and their readiness in that respect as stakeholders. I will ensure that this communication reaches them before the end of tomorrow.

Secondly, Leader of the Opposition, I just need to clarify that it is not for lack of planning - *(Interjection)* - No, let me finish. The clarification is for me and I am not giving -

We struggle and understand the frustrations that you may have in the way some of these things show up but at some point, we are unable to anticipate. For example, it is impossible for the Electoral Commission to print ballot papers until the nominations are done. We cannot even provide a number because the number of voters on the ballot paper determines the cost of the ballot paper. A ballot paper of two will be different from a ballot paper of 14 candidates. Some of these things are difficult for us to determine.

On the issue of machines, we are not paying for all of them at a go. You are paying advance as you go along and that is fine. We understand the frustration but we assure you that we do our best to try and achieve that.

I also want to clarify on the issue of Roofings. This supplementary is not giving any money to Roofings Uganda Limited. We are doing a public line to stabilise the power to the Namanve area. That stabilisation of the energy is consumed by all the people in that area. Colleagues, we request you to support the Government on this supplementary budget. Yes, we agree with you that we should always come back and make sure that we are accountable and we promise to do better. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ssenyonyi talked about the issue of the Martyrs' Day Celebrations. This is something that we know we have to provide. Honourable minister, make sure that you put that in the next budget so that we do not continue asking for supplementary spending for it.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I want to –

THE SPEAKER: The good thing is that you are still going to be in the Government in the next - *(Laughter)*

MR MUSASIZI: Amen. Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, first of all, there was an issue of irresponsible reporting. As a custodian, start from page two to paragraph three and four, and all the related reporting or allegations **in relation to non-compliance to Article 156(2), and rule 160 should be expunged from this record. We will not allow this on the record.**

Yes, Hon. Muhammad Nsereko?

5.00

MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO (Independent, Kampala Central Division, Kampala): Madam Speaker, to be specific, on the 30th day of October 2025, we wrote to the Electoral Commission - that is from the Ecological Party of Uganda - requesting them to respond to the following questions.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you for your intervention on this matter. However, this should not be restricted only to Members of Parliament, but if we can also involve political parties because they are participating at that level and other local leaders at that level - these are the questions I posed.

One is the issue of data protection because other than having the machine supplier, there will be an interface between the voters' roll, our data NIRA and the supplier who I hear is allegedly from China. It is important that this individual or company will now have my biometrics and my facial recognition supplied to it from the National Data Centre of Uganda. Knowing at the moment that one of the most important things is proliferation of data, that I will sit here and someone who has my biometrics will be able to open up my mobile phone that is smart from a remote area - Yes, because when they supply this data for verification including my biometrics, I do not know how secure it is.

Secondly, the other question we posed was whether these biometric voter verification machines will be labelled according to the polling stations where they will be deployed. I know the reason as to why I am asking this question in particular. Just like when we get the packing list of ballots, etc, there is annotation

and marking of everything that this is for Rubanda, this polling station N to M, A to Z.

Finally, with the world of technology that we are in, there is a possibility of hacking and cyber penetration by third parties. How secure are we that you may have a machine and there is a bypass from another party? The security of our elections -

Therefore, as I conclude, the Electoral Commission must come and demonstrate a dry-run for us, as to how it will handle. A polling station might have between 300 and 500 people. How will these people be handled in a sequence of three or five minutes? This is because if it is two minutes per person then in one hour, you can handle about 30 persons. If we have 10 voting hours, what happens to those who are still in the queue? These are things we want to try and test through a dry-run.

We may stand in a line, they call us by name and we see how we input our biometrics, and how much time or the interface between that information coming out from NIRA and telling you now you can move into the queue to vote. You might find that some people might be disenfranchised or we might have to go to two days of continuous voting.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, this is what the Leader of the Opposition had raised. When should we have that exercise as Members of Parliament?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Madam Speaker, please allow the Electoral Commission to come and interface with you. I have assured you that I am going to request the Electoral Commission to interface with you. Otherwise, we are going to repeat this and I am not going to provide any answers.

THE SPEAKER: I am asking the Members when they are available. Honourable members, I have been informed that most of the members of the Electoral Commission have gone for the process of printing ballot papers. Is Friday okay with you people? Friday is for sports. The Leader of the Opposition, get a microphone. We have sports.

Honourable members, we are going to discuss with the Electoral Commission and we will send you a message specifying the day they will be available so that you endeavour to come. If you do not come, that will be your problem. As I have told you, some of us are waiting for swearing-in. *(Laughter)*

Honourable members, I now put the question that this House resolves itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No. 1 for Financial Year 2025/2026.

(Question put and agreed to.)

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

5.09

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that a total sum of Shs 1,116,477,119,718 be approved as the total recurrent expenditure under Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No. 1 for Financial Year 2025/2026.

(Question put and agreed to.)

TOTAL DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE UNDER SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE NO. 1 FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that a total sum of Shs 534,185,325,469 be approved as the total development expenditure under Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No. 1 for Financial Year 2025/2026.

(Question put and agreed to.)

STATUTORY EXPENDITURE UNDER SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE NO.1 FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that a total sum of Shs 1,623,008,344 be approved as the total statutory expenditure under Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No.1 for Financial Year 2025/2026.

(Question put and agreed to.)

GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURE UNDER
SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE
SCHEDULE NO.1 FOR FINANCIAL YEAR
2025/2026

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that a total sum of Shs 1,652,285,453,531 be approved as the total expenditure under Supplementary Schedule No. 1 for Financial Year 2025/2026.

(Question put and agreed to.)

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, minister?

5.12

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move a motion that the House resumes and the Committee of Supply reports thereto.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the House resumes and the Committee of Supply reports thereto.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(The House resumed, the Speaker presiding.)

THE SPEAKER: I understand what Hon. Ssemujju is going through. The voters are hot. *(Laughter)*

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF
SUPPLY

5.13

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No.1 totalling to Shs 1,652,285,453,531 and passed it without amendment.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF
SUPPLY

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

5.14

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion that the report from the Committee of Supply be adopted.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the report of the Committee of Supply be adopted by this House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESOLVE
ITSELF INTO A COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY
TO CONSIDER THE SUPPLEMENTARY
EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE NO. 2 FOR
FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the House resolves itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No.2 for Financial Year 2025/2026.

(Question put and agreed to.)

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

THE CHAIRPERSON: This one is just one item, but for the rest, we must capture them Vote by Vote.

TOTAL DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE
UNDER SUPPLEMENTARY
EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE NO. 2 FOR
FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that a total sum of Shs 1,696,004,729,281 be

approved as the total development expenditure under Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No. 2 for Financial Year 2025/2026.

(Question put and agreed to.)

GRAND TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY
EXPENDITURE UNDER
SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE
SCHEDULE NO.2 FOR FINANCIAL YEAR
2025/2026

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that a total sum of Shs 1,696,004,729,281 be approved as the total expenditure under Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No. 2 for Financial Year 2025/2026.

(Question put and agreed to.)

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable minister?

5.16

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move a motion that the House resumes and the Committee of Supply reports thereto.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, I put the question that the House resumes and the Committee of Supply reports thereto.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(The House resumed, the Speaker presiding.)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF
SUPPLY

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

5.17

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Supplementary Expenditure

Schedule No.2 totalling Shs 1,696,004,729,281 and passed it without amendments.

MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF
THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF
SUPPLY

5.18

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the House adopts the report from the Committee of Supply.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I put the question that the report of the Committee of Supply be adopted by this House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESOLVE
ITSELF INTO A COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY
TO CONSIDER THE SUPPLEMENTARY
EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE NO.3 FOR
THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the House resolves itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No. 3 for Financial Year 2025/2026.

(Question put and agreed to.)

TOTAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE
UNDER SUPPLEMENTARY
EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE NO.3 FOR
THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

DR BATUWA: Madam Chairperson, on that matter, there is a pending strike by doctors, which we could fix on this supplementary -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Doctor, we are in a Committee of Supply. We have finished five years in this House and we do not know that when it is Committee of Supply, it is not for debate. The debate ended and we are in Committee of Supply.

DR BATUWA: When there is a pending strike, I thought it would be - okay.

THE CHAIRPERSON: We appreciate the strike and as the Government, we are aware and we must handle it. You are dealing with the Government and we are going to handle it.

I put the question that a total sum of Shs 1,214,855,095,118 be adopted as total recurrent expenditure under Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No.3 for Financial Year 2025/2026.

(Question put and agreed to.)

TOTAL DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE
UNDER SUPPLEMENTARY
EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE NO. 3 FOR
THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that a total sum of Shs 1,554,370,016,052 be approved as a total development expenditure under Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No.3 for Financial Year 2025/2026 be approved.

(Question put and agreed to.)

TOTAL STATUTORY EXPENDITURE
UNDER SUPPLEMENTARY
EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE NO.3 FOR
THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that a total sum of Shs 1,986,880,000 be approved as a total statutory expenditure under Supplementary Expenditure No.3 for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

(Question put and agreed to.)

GRAND TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY
EXPENDITURE UNDER
SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE
SCHEDULE NO.3 FOR THE FINANCIAL
YEAR 2025/2026

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that a total sum of Shs 4,756,105,111,170 be approved as a total expenditure under the Supplementary Expenditure No.3 for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

(Question put and agreed to.)

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

5.23

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move that the House do resume and the Committee of Supply reports thereto.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the House resumes and the Committee of Supply reports thereto.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(The House resumed, the Speaker presiding.)

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF
SUPPLY

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

5.24

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Supplementary Schedule No. 3 totalling Shs 4,756,105,111,170 and passed it without amendments.

MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF
THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF
SUPPLY

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

5.25

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the House adopts the report from the Committee of Supply.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the report of the Committee of Supply be adopted by this House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much, honourable members. Honourable minister, Chairperson of the Budget Committee and the members, I want to thank you so much for handling the supplementary.

Honourable minister, I know you have considered a number of roads. Thank you but I have some very crucial roads that should be considered: Lira-Aloi-Otuke-Abim-Kotido road, we have Lira-Apala-Otuke, we have Buhweju road, we have Kachonga, Butaleja, Busolwe, Tororo - that tells you that I have gone through this country -Dokolo-Namasale-Otuke. Honourable minister, we need to look at those roads. Then there was part of the road that we are working on in Isingiro towards Tanzania. We also have the BKK 1 and 2 ferry. We are opening it in January. Hon. Agaba?

5.27

MS AISA AGABA (NRM, Bugangaizi East County, Kakumiro): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to congratulate you upon going through unopposed. Thank you for giving me this time. I want to thank the chairman for the roads he has read but he has forgotten to read our road under the oil roads. I have nine subcounties and all seven subcounties have a pipeline, Madam Speaker. When they were working on those roads, they did not consider our constituency of Bugangaizi East.

The road from Narweyo-Kisita-Mpasana-Nkooko, going to Kiboga and Mubende was never considered. Madam Speaker, that road was put in this supplementary budget. The honourable Minister of Works knows about that road because he was there recently.

THE SPEAKER: That road is under NDP IV.

MS AISHA AGABA: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: It is under NDP IV; it will come in the budget.

MS AISHA AGABA: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The House is adjourned sine die.

(The House rose at 5.28 p.m. and adjourned sine die.)