



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIFTH SESSION - 2ND SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Thursday, 12 June 2025

Parliament met at 2.12 p.m. at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds, Kampala.

(The National Anthem.)

(The East African Community Anthem.)

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

PROCLAMATION

THE SPEAKER: *“WHEREAS Article 101(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda states that His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, may, in consultation with the Speaker, address Parliament from time to time on any matter of national importance;*

AWARE THAT, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, has, in accordance with Article 102(2), indicated to the Speaker of Parliament his intention to address Parliament and the nation on the National Budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026; and

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with Rule 18(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I hereby proclaim that Parliament shall sit at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds on Thursday, 12 June 2025 at 1400 hours to receive the address of His Excellency, the President, on the National Budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026 and the Kololo Ceremonial

Grounds, to be the precincts of Parliament for the above mentioned purpose.”

Given under my hand at Parliament House, Kampala, this 12th Day of June 2025.

*Anita Annet Among
Speaker of Parliament*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, accompanied by the First Lady, *Mama Janet Kataaha Museveni*, who also doubles as the Minister of Education and Sports; Her Excellency, the Vice-President, Major (Rtd) Alupo Jessica; His Lordship, Chief Justice, Hon. Chigamoy Alfonse Owiny-Dollo; Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Rt Hon. Thomas Tayebwa; Rt Hon. Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business, together with your deputies; The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Hon. Joel Ssenyonyi; Cabinet ministers and ministers of state; Your Excellencies, the High Commissioners, Ambassadors and members of the Diplomatic Corps; Honourable Members of Parliament of Uganda and the East African Legislative Assembly; The Vice-Chairman of the National Resistance Movement party, Al Hajji Moses Kigongo; Members of the Central Executive Committee of the NRM Party; The Secretary-General of the National Resistance Movement, Hon. Richard Todwong; The former national leaders present; The traditional and cultural leaders present; The religious leaders who are present here; The Inspector General of Government (IGG), Hon. Betty Olive Namisango

Kamya; The chairpersons of the Constitutional Commissions; The Head of Public Service and Secretary to Cabinet, Ms Lucy Nakyobe; The Auditor-General, Mr Edward Akol; Members of the Constitutional Commissions; Permanent Secretaries, present; The Chief of Defence Forces, Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba; The Inspector-General of Police, Mr Abbas Byakagaba; The Commissioner-General of Prisons, Dr Johnson Byabashaija; The Governor of the Bank of Uganda, Dr Atingi-Ego; Distinguished guests; Ladies and gentlemen. I welcome you to the Second Sitting of the Fifth Session of the 11th Parliament.

You may recall that last week, on 5 June 2025, Parliament hosted His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, Gen. (Rtd) Yoweri Kaguta Museveni at the official State opening of the Fifth Session of the 11th Parliament, during which His Excellency delivered a remarkable address on the State of the Nation.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, for fulfilling his constitutional obligation as enshrined in Article 101(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

Today, we are once again immensely gratified to host His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, who is here to deliver the Budget Speech for the Financial Year 2025/2026 in fulfilment of his constitutional obligation under Article 155(1) of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, which states thus: *“The President shall cause to be prepared and laid before Parliament, in each financial year, but in any case, not later than the fifteenth day before the commencement of the financial year, estimates of revenues and expenditure of Government for the next financial year.”*

Honourable members, today’s Budget Speech is a culmination of the participatory budget process, which involves various stakeholders as guided by the 1995 Constitution, the Public Finance Management Act, 2015; the National Audit Act, 2008; and the Local Government Act, 1997.

This participatory budget process is an avenue of citizen involvement in policy decisions, resource prioritisation, allocation and monitoring of public expenditure.

As a people-centred Parliament, we commend the various stakeholders for submitting their input to the National Budget, and we urge them to sustain the civic awareness and responsibility during the actual budget execution and accountability as well.

Your Excellency, the Parliament of Uganda is cognisant of the people’s participation as a cornerstone for deepening democracy, which is a standing governance principle for our beloved nation.

Your Excellency, allow me to highlight some of the key milestones achieved by the Legislature during the budget consideration process.

Pursuant to Sections 9(5) and 8 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and Rule 145 of the Rules of Procedure:

1. The House approved the National Budget Framework Paper 2025/2026-2029/2030 on the 30th Day of January 2025;
2. Pursuant to Section 12 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and Rule 152 of the Rules of Procedure, Parliament approved the Ministerial Policy Statements for FY 2025/2026 from 9th to 16th April 2025;
3. Pursuant to Section 8 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and Rule 157 of the Rules of Procedure, Parliament passed seven tax and revenue Bills on the 13th and 14th of May to enable the realisation of revenue to finance the National Budget for FY 2025/2026; and
4. In furtherance of Section 14 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, and Rule 158 and Rule 159 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, Parliament approved the National Budget for the FY 2025/2026 on the 15th Day of May 2025.

The efficiency and effectiveness of the Legislature are a result of constructive engagement between the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary, as well as the relevant stakeholders.

I take this opportunity to greatly appreciate all the honourable Members of Parliament, the Front Bench, the Shadow Cabinet, and all the stakeholders for their dedication throughout the budgeting process, and ensuring that we not only meet the legal and constitutional timelines but also adequately interrogate the Budget.

Your Excellency, without pre-empting your speech on this day, I would like to highlight the salient issues that arose during the Budget consideration process.

1. The need to strengthen the oversight over wealth creation funds, notably the Parish Development Model (PDM), Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP), Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP), and Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE), so that these funds actually reach their intended beneficiaries and attain the desired impact.
2. To strengthen the implementation and oversight of high-impact projects under the National Development Plan (NDP IV) so that the intended objectives are achieved. These high-impact projects are what we previously referred to in NDP III as the “core projects”.
3. To strengthen the commitment and control of the Budget during execution by compelling the accounting officers to commit to the actual budgets and work plans as approved. This is important for budget discipline.
4. The minimisation of supplementary budgets and the need to adhere to Section 25(7) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, to limit supplementary budget requests to items that are absorbable, unavoidable, and unforeseeable.

5. The need to adequately plan and resource efficiency management measures to address the prevailing debt burden.

6. The need to increase public investment in productive and growth areas such as *Emyooga*, the Parish Development Model, the Four-acre Prosperity Model, and to deepen the financial inclusion and aid the growth of the taxable formal sector, so as to widen the tax base and improve the tax-to-GDP ratio.

In the spirit of fostering regional integration, Parliament is cognisant of the need for deliberate reforms in customs and immigration. These requirements and procedures are in order to eliminate the non-tariff barriers and ease the movement of people, goods, and services across the East African Community Region.

7. The need for deliberate intervention to enhance human capital and human capital development as a way of strengthening the competitiveness of the Ugandan population.

As we embark on Financial Year 2025/2026, I call upon all accounting officers to ensure the prudent, efficient, and effective utilisation of public resources, and that is pursuant to Sections 21 and 45 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015.

Your Excellency, Article 83(2)(a) of the Constitution of Republic of Uganda permits Members of Parliament to leave and join political parties or organisations of their choice within 12 months before the end of a term of Parliament in order to participate in activities or programmes for political parties or political organisations relating to the general elections.

I am in receipt of notification from the following Members of Parliament who have left the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC), and opted to join the People’s Front for Freedom (PFF), and these are: Hon. Ibrahim Ssemujju, the MP for Kira Municipality; Hon. Moses Kabusu, the MP for Kyamuswa County; Hon. Asinansi Nyakato, the Woman MP for Hoima

City; Hon. Dr Nicholas Kamara, the MP for Kabale Municipality; Hon. Atkins Katusabe, the MP for Bukonzo County West; Hon. Harold Muhindo, the MP for Bukonzo County East; Hon. Naboth Namanya, the MP for Rubabo County; Hon. Francis Mwijukye, the MP for Buhweju County and; Hon. Betty Aol, the Gulu City Woman Member of Parliament.

We extend our best wishes to the Members as they exercise their freedom of association, as is enshrined in Article 29 of the 1995 Constitution that we swore to uphold.

Your Excellency, the President, honourable members, and distinguished guests, I say all this for God and my country.

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET
SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
UGANDA

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have been duly notified that the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development will deliver the Budget Speech on behalf of His Excellency, the President, and thereafter, the President will give additional remarks on what will have been delivered.

I now invite the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to deliver the Budget Speech.

2.35

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Matia Kasaija): Your Excellency, the President of Uganda; Your Excellency, the Vice President; the Rt Hon. Speaker of Parliament; Your Lordship the Chief Justice; the Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker of Parliament; Your Lordship, the Deputy Chief Justice; the Vice Chairman of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) party; the Rt Hon. Prime Minister; the Rt Hon. Deputy Prime Ministers; honourable ministers; your excellences, the ambassadors and the heads of diplomatic missions; honourable Members of Parliament; former national leaders; cultural leaders; religious leaders; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

Madam Speaker, in fulfilment of Article 155(1) of the Constitution, and on behalf of His Excellency, the President, I present to Parliament and the people of Uganda, the Budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026, as approved by Parliament.

Madam Speaker, in this speech, I will:

1. Provide accountability to the people of Uganda on the performance of the commitments made by the NRM Government for the first half of the Uganda Vision 2040;
2. Present the recent performance of the economy and outlook;
3. Account to the people of Uganda on the commitments that the Government made for Financial Year 2024/2025, which is coming to an end in a few days, and the private areas of the Budget for Financial Year 2025/2026; and
4. Highlight the financing strategy of the Financial Year 2025/2026 Budget.

Accountability of the performance of the commitments made by the NRM Government for the first half of Uganda Vision 2040

Madam Speaker, let me first congratulate His Excellency, the President, on his leadership that has built a resilient, stable, transformative, and competitive economy that is attractive to investors – *Obugalo* – (*Applause*). Uganda is among the fastest-growing economies in the world, and is projected to become the fastest-growing by 2031, according to the Harvard Growth Club. This is despite the various domestic, regional and global shocks that have impacted us in recent years.

The growth is on account of a unique economic ideology championed by His Excellency, the President, which is built on the four principles of socio-economic transformation, patriotism, Pan-Africanism and democracy.

Madam Speaker, the first half of Uganda Vision 2040 started in 2010, with the implementation of the first five-year National Development

Plan (NDP I) and thereafter NDP II and NDP III, which ends this financial year.

The initial years of the NRM Government before 2010 were dedicated to restoring sustainable peace, recovering and stabilising a broken economy, addressing extreme poverty, and implementing reforms that liberalised the economy and created an environment for the private sector to flourish. We are now in the phase of socio-economic transformation to facilitate wealth creation and prosperity. Your Excellency, I thank and commend you for this. *(Applause) Awonno, muzze.*

Madam Speaker, the Budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026 will conclude the implementation of the current NRM Manifesto and start the implementation of the Fourth National Development Plan.

For the next 15 years, the successive National Development Plans will implement the 10-fold economic growth strategy. This strategy aims to expand the size of the economy to \$500 billion by 2040, from \$61.3 billion estimated this Financial Year 2024/2025.

Madam Speaker, over the accountability period, the Government has undertaken targeted investments that have built a firm foundation and strengthened the resilience of our economy. I wish to highlight the following achievements:

1. Total peace, security of persons and property, and political stability have been the foundation upon which we have sustained high economic growth and wealth creation.
2. The economy more than tripled to Shs 226.3 trillion, equivalent to \$61.3 billion this Financial Year, 2024/2025, from Shs 64.8 trillion, equivalent to \$27.9 billion, in Financial Year 2010/2011.
3. In March 2024, Uganda met the criteria for graduation from the category of least developed countries. Let me repeat this: In March 2024, Uganda met the criteria for graduation from the category of least developed countries. *(Applause)*
4. Life expectancy has improved to 68.2 years in the Financial Year 2023/2024, from 63.3 years in 2010/2011, and 50.4 years in 2002. This has been partly driven by improvements in accessing health services and massive immunisation campaigns that reduced disease prevalence and child mortality.
5. The population living within a five-kilometre radius of a health facility is now 91 per cent, from about eight per cent in Financial Year 2010/2011, and 81 per cent of parishes now have Government-aided schools.
6. Poverty has decreased by 16.1 per cent in Financial Year 2023/2024, from 24.5 per cent in Financial Year 2010/2011. In addition, Madam Speaker, persons in the subsistence economy reduced to 33 per cent in Financial Year 2023/2024, from 69 per cent in the Financial Year 2010/2011.
7. Madam Speaker, Uganda is becoming a more equal society. The results of the National Household Survey released by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics last month show that income inequality has declined significantly in the past four years. The Gini coefficient, which is a statistical measure used to determine the extent of income inequality within a population, has reduced to 36 per cent, from 41 per cent, in 2020.
8. Madam Speaker, Ugandans can now connect to all borders and reach all parts of the country – east, west, south, and north – by tarmac or improved murram roads.
9. Installed electricity generation capacity increased fourfold to 2,051 megawatts in Financial Year 2023/2024, from 595 megawatts in Financial Year 2010/2011. Consequently, the proportion of the population with access to electricity increased five-fold to 57 per cent in Financial Year 2023/2024, from 11 per cent in Financial Year 2010/2011.
10. The percentage of the population subscribed to the Internet rose to 53 per cent in 2022, from 1.8 per cent in 2010, and the National Information Communication Technology

(ICT) Backbone Infrastructure extended to 4,300 kilometres in Financial Year 2022/2023, from 1,380 kilometres in Financial Year 2010/2011.

11. The economy has diversified from the traditional 3 C's – which are coffee, cotton, and copper – and the 3 T's – which are tobacco, tea, and tourism – to a more sophisticated economy. For example, Uganda has added 31 new products to its export basket in the last 15 years, including light-manufactured products such as steel, processed food, cement, pharmaceuticals, dairy products, ceramics, and cloth.
12. The number of manufacturing units (factories of various sizes) has increased by about 18,000 from 31,757 in Financial Year 2010/2011 to 50,000 in Financial Year 2023/24. As a result, this has increased the share of manufactured exports significantly.

Madam Speaker, Uganda's economy has been able to achieve all these milestones on account of the right strategy of the National Resistance Government – *Engalo sziwulide*. Let me repeat: Madam Speaker, Uganda's economy has been able to achieve all these milestones on account of the right strategy of the NRM Government. *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, since the necessary foundation has already been established by intentionally prioritising investments in infrastructure, the speed of economic transformation is destined to be faster in the medium term.

The Budget for the next financial year and over the medium term is focused on people and wealth creation. Consequently, the theme for the next Financial Year 2025/2026 remains: “Full Monetisation of Uganda's Economy through Commercial Agriculture, Industrialisation, Expanding and Broadening Services, Digital Transformation and Market Access.”

Recent economic performance and outlook

Madam Speaker, our economy has strengthened its resilience to domestic and external shocks,

and is estimated to grow by 6.3 per cent this Financial Year 2024/25. This is after recording growth of 8.6 per cent in the third quarter of this financial year. Last Financial Year 2023/24, the economy grew by 6.1 per cent.

In nominal terms, the size of the economy is estimated at Shs 226.3 trillion, equivalent to \$61.3 billion, in Financial Year 2024/2025, rising from Shs 203.7 trillion, equivalent to \$53.9 billion, in Financial Year 2023/2024. This is equivalent to \$174.2 billion in Purchasing Power Parity terms. My economists will tell you what that means.

Madam Speaker, this growth was broad-based, including in agriculture, industry and services such as ICT. This was on account of the continued implementation of the Government interventions and sound fiscal and monetary policies that have protected private sector investments.

Madam Speaker, the impressive economic performance has been driven by His Excellency, the President's commitment and deliberate investment in wealth creation initiatives. I thank His Excellency, the President, for setting the tone and providing leadership and direction. *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, the Government has invested over Shs 9 trillion in key wealth creation initiatives over the last 10 years. These include: Uganda Development Bank (Shs 1.45 trillion), the Parish Development Model (Shs 3.3 trillion by end of Financial Year 2024/2025), the *Emyooga* (Shs 553 billion), the Youth Livelihood Programme (Shs 207.95 billion), the Small Business Recovery Fund, (Shs 100 billion), the Agricultural Credit Facility (Shs 495 billion), the Youth Venture Capital Fund (Shs 12.5 billion), Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (Shs 168 billion), the INVITE Project (Shs 800 billion), the GROW Project (Shs 824 billion), and Uganda Development Corporation (Shs 1.2 trillion), among others.

Madam Speaker, the economy is expected to grow faster by at least 7.0 per cent next Financial Year

2025/2026, and to double digits, at the onset of oil and gas production. The size of the economy is projected to expand to Shs 254.2 trillion, equivalent to \$ 66.1 billion, in the Financial Year 2025/2026. This will translate into a higher GDP per capita of \$1,324 next financial year compared to a \$1,263 GDP estimated for this financial year ending 30th June 2025.

Inflation

Madam Speaker, inflation is under control. For the year ending June 2025, the speed at which prices of goods and services rose slowed to 3.4 per cent compared to 4.1 per cent in the same period a year ago. *(Applause)*

The slower pace of the increase in domestic prices was due to good export performance and FDI inflows, which led to a stable shilling, increased food production driven by good weather and the Parish Development Model (PDM), and the close coordination of the fiscal and monetary policies.

In addition, a reduction in the global prices of petroleum products also contributed to the lower prices. The country has been able to benefit from these lower global prices because of the direct importation of petroleum products by the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), which removed middlemen in the petroleum supply chain.

Therefore, inflation is expected to remain below the policy target of 5 per cent per annum.

Exchange Rate

Madam Speaker, despite global uncertainties, the Uganda Shilling has been among the few most stable currencies in Africa. Can I repeat this? Madam Speaker, despite global uncertainties, the Uganda Shilling has been among the few most stable currencies in Africa. *(Applause)*

The shilling appreciated by 4.0 per cent year-on-year in April 2025, compared to the same month in 2024. Uganda's Shilling has been ranked the most stable currency in Africa according to the

International Financial Statistics (IFS) division of the IMF. This resilience is due to good export performance, strong inflows of foreign direct investment, and tourism receipts.

Interest Rates

Madam Speaker, the price of money has reduced to an average of 17.7 per cent per year in March 2025, from 18.1 per cent in November 2024. This decline was partly driven by the slight reduction in the Bank of Uganda reference interest rate and increased lending at lower interest rates to lower-risk borrowers.

Private Sector Credit

Madam Speaker, the stock of private sector credit grew to Shs 23.3 trillion in March 2025, from Shs 21.9 trillion in June 2024. This represents a growth of 6.4 per cent. Although this is low, it is expected to increase as private sector activity and household demands continue to recover.

Madam Speaker, contrary to conventional economics that Government borrowing crowds out private sector credit, Uganda's Government borrowing has instead availed cheaper and patient capital to the private sector engaged in wealth creation initiatives. The government borrows from commercial banks at relatively higher rates and avails financing to the private sector in strategic sectors at relatively low or no interest rates.

Government has provided direct credit to the private sector and households to supplement credit from commercial banks and other financial institutions, through PDM, *Emyooga*, youth and women livelihood funds, and women enterprise support funds totalling Shs 9.1 trillion, which is equivalent to 3.6 per cent of the total domestic economic output in Financial Year 2024/25.

External Sector Development

Madam Speaker, the total exports of goods and services for the 12 months to March 2025 is \$11.8 billion, from \$9.56 billion for the same period in the year 2024. Of this, exports of

goods were \$9.3 billion for the same period, up from \$7.3 billion in March 2024, representing a growth of 26 per cent.

The top exports include gold (\$3.8 billion); coffee (\$1.83 billion), which alone had an annual average growth of 84.9 per cent; industrial products (\$626.5 million); cocoa beans (\$410.8 million); milk products (\$285 million); base metals and products (\$230.60 million); sugar (\$186.5 million); fish and fish products (\$177.7 million); maize (\$86.37 million); and other agricultural products like tea, tobacco, cotton, beans, fruits, vegetables, flowers, simsim (sesame), nuts, vanilla and other grains, giving \$575.9 million.

Madam Speaker, this financial year, for the first time in the history of Uganda, coffee export earnings not only exceeded the \$1-billion mark, but are on track to double to \$2 billion per year. *(Applause)*

While it took the country more than a century to reach \$1 billion earnings per annum from coffee, it has taken just one year to double these earnings. This is an example of the kind of economic leap envisioned under the Ten-fold Growth Strategy. I, therefore, implore Ugandans to grow more coffee and, most importantly, add value to our coffee before we export it for higher earnings.

For the year ending March 2025, the Middle East was Uganda's top export destination, followed by the East African Community, Asia, and the European Union.

Uganda recorded large trade surpluses with the Middle East, worth \$186.3 million, and the European Union, worth \$117.7 million. The main export commodities to these markets were coffee, industrial and mineral products.

Madam Speaker, I wish to note that His Excellency, the President's message and deliberate strategy of increasing the share of manufactured exports in total exports has started producing positive results. New research by the Harvard Economic Growth Lab shows that Uganda has become more complex for its level of income.

This means that while earnings from traditional exports like coffee are significantly increasing, their contribution to the total export basket is declining. New products that require more advanced production technology than that expected for our level of income are contributing an increasing share of our total exports.

According to the study, in the last 15 years, Uganda added 31 new products to its export basket. Among these are ICT equipment, serums and vaccines, medicines, new pneumatic tires, batteries, gas turbines, electronic integrated circuits, transmission apparatus for radio, telephone and TV, measuring instruments, and instruments for physical and chemical analysis, and light-manufactured products such as steel, processed food, cement, pharmaceuticals, dairy products, ceramics, and cloth.

The country also has an opportunity to harness the production of 50 new complex products, which are referred to as strategic bets.

Tourism and Foreign Direct Investment

Madam Speaker, tourism earnings have grown by 13.1 per cent to \$1.52 billion in 12 months to March 2025, from \$1.36 billion during the same period in 2024. This impressive growth is attributed to sustainable peace, increased competitiveness of Uganda's tourism industry, and Government investment in strategic tourism infrastructure, including Uganda Airlines. Remittances from Ugandans living and working abroad were \$1.4 billion in 12 months to March 2025, compared to \$1.33 billion in the same period in 2024.

Uganda has maintained its top ranking as one of the best investment destinations in Africa. Let me repeat this: Madam Speaker, Uganda has maintained its top ranking as one of the best investment destinations in Africa. *(Applause)*

Foreign direct investments were worth \$3.4 billion in 12 months to March 2025, compared to \$2.99 billion during the same period in 2024. This performance was due to the improved competitiveness of our economy. *(Applause)*

Fiscal Performance

Madam Speaker, revenue collection is projected at Shs 31.9 trillion this financial year ending June 2025, equivalent to about 14.3 per cent of total domestic economic output or GDP. Total expenditure outturn is estimated at Shs 51.53 trillion this financial year, excluding Bank of Uganda securities and domestic financing (debt rollover). The budget deficit is estimated at 7.6 per cent of GDP.

The Government plans to collect Shs 37.2 trillion in domestic revenue next Financial Year 2025/2026. This will finance about 60 per cent of the National Budget. The rest of the Budget will be financed through borrowing and grants.

The Government has stepped up efforts to mobilise domestic revenue. Going forward, emphasis will be put on the following *emiso*:

1. Broadening the tax base through strategic investment in the opportunities in agro-industry, tourism, minerals, including oil and gas, science, technology, and innovation, including ICT, as well as interventions that support wealth creation and the growth of small and medium enterprises;
2. Eliminating corruption at Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) through punishing corrupt officers and taxpayers who collude with URA staff, as well as leveraging digital platforms to minimise human interaction.
3. Enhancing the implementation of Electronic Fiscal Receipting and Invoicing Solution (EFRIS), digital tax stamps, rental tax solution, and regular audits, especially for transfer pricing;
4. Combating smuggling at border points through extended surveillance using advanced technologies like scanners, drones, and tracking systems, with increased patrols in high-risk areas;
5. Rationalising tax exemptions to focus on only those that support industrial policy and introducing sunset clauses.

6. Amending tax laws to close loopholes that cause revenue leakage and providing clarity to encourage voluntary compliance.
7. Strengthening URA, including recruitment and training of tax officers to effectively administer tax collection; and
8. Supporting local governments and revenue-generating public entities to increase revenue collection.

Accountability for Financial Year 2024/2025 and Priorities for the Financial Year 2025/2026

Madam Speaker, when I delivered the Budget Speech for the Financial Year 2024/2025, I made several commitments on Government expenditure priorities for the financial year. In February 2025, I presented a detailed Semi-Annual Budget Performance Report for this financial year to Parliament, in line with the law. In this section, I provide the highlights of what the Government has achieved this financial year.

With respect to investing in the people of Uganda, the following has been achieved. Let me repeat this. Madam Speaker, with respect to investing in the people of Uganda, the following has been achieved:

Health

Madam Speaker, during this Financial Year 2024/2025, the following milestones have been achieved in the health sector:

1. The government continued to invest in saving the lives of Ugandans by providing Shs 721 billion for health care supplies, general and essential medicines under the National Medical Stores. This included additional financing of Shs 100 billion for essential medicines, Shs 116.8 billion for ARVs, Shs 2.9 billion for anti-malarial medicines, Shs 17.8 billion for immunisation supplies, Shs 52.3 billion for laboratory supplies, and Shs 2.1 billion for anti-TB drugs;
2. The government continued to improve the healthcare infrastructure and equipment.

- For example, we completed, equipped, and commissioned three regional blood banks in Hoima, Arua, and Soroti, operationalised 16 high-capacity oxygen plants across key regional referral hospitals, continued infrastructure development and equipping of the two specialised centres for cancer and cardiovascular care; infrastructure development of Lubowa Specialised Hospital is now at 68 per cent progress, and training of the specialists is ongoing; constructed new maternity wards and the staff houses in the health centres II that are being upgraded to health centres III, distributed 20 digital X-ray machines to general hospitals, and installed CT scans in 14 out of 16 regional referral hospitals;
3. The government implemented interventions for preventive healthcare for disease prevention and promotion of healthy lifestyles. For example, the Government trained and deployed community health extension workers across the country to deliver essential health education on hygiene and sanitation, nutrition and disease prevention, and to support routine immunisation effort; undertook residual spraying in 13 districts which protected the lives of 2.7 million people and 560,000 households against malaria, and introduced the malaria vaccine into the extended programme on immunisation, targeting children under five years of age;
 4. Improved digitisation of healthcare services by extending connectivity of the electronic medical code system in four national referral hospitals and 16 regional referral hospitals. This has improved patient records management, drug dispensing, and monitoring the attendance of health workers; and
 5. Strengthened the national ambulance and emergency care system by providing additional ambulances to improve the national emergency response and referral system.
1. Functionalising health centres IV;
 2. Strengthening primary health care and community health services;
 3. Scale up of national e-health infrastructure;
 4. Promotion of nutrition and education and reproductive health;
 5. Continued deployment of community health extension workers;
 6. Strengthening the national ambulance and emergency referral system; and
 7. Construction of specialised health facilities for cancer and cardiovascular care.

Education

Madam Speaker, the following milestones have been achieved in the education sector:

- (i) Provided access to universal primary education for 9.2 million learners and 905,116 learners under Universal Secondary Education -

THE SPEAKER: Minister, for the record, it is 9.52.

MR KASAIJA: Oh, 52. Well, my officers have misled me. I close that one.

- (ii) Over 5,192 students, both on degree and diploma programmes, benefited from the Higher Education Students' Loan Financing Scheme. In addition, 4,000 learners benefitted from government sponsorship by joining public universities;

- (iii) A total of 166 seed schools have been constructed under the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers Programme (UGIFT);

- (iv) In preparation for CHAN and AFCON27, the government has so far spent Shs 496.8 billion on the construction of Hoima and Akii-Bua stadia, as well as the associated training facilities across the country. The Government will spend a total of Shs 1.34

Madam Speaker, to further improve the health of Ugandans, a total of Shs 5.87 trillion has been provided in the next Financial Year 2025/2026. The priority intervention will include:

- trillion to get these facilities completed. In addition, Mandela National Stadium has been upgraded, and the government commissioned the National High Altitude Training Centre-Teryet, in Kapchorwa;
- (v) To improve compliance with quality standards, the government digitised school inspections in all public schools and certificate awarding Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions;
- (vi) To improve the qualifications and skills of primary school teachers to meet the new minimum education requirement of degree level, the government has established the Ugandan National Institute for Teacher Education (UNITE). So far, UNITE has enrolled 1,000 students across five campuses and has been supported to undertake staff recruitment and take over the operations of 23 primary teachers' colleges to upgrade certificate-holder teachers to diploma level;
- (vii) Rolled out the Abridged A-Level curriculum to implement the Competence-Based Curriculum for A-Level. A total of 357,120 learners successfully completed the four-year cycle under the new Lower Secondary Education Curriculum and are transitioning to the new A-Level curriculum; and
- (viii) Implemented the TVET reform to increase industry participation in TVET training and delivery. A new TVET Council, Sector Skills Councils and Secretariat have been established with representation from various sectors.
4. Construction of 116 new seed schools and expansion of 61 existing secondary schools;
5. Recruitment of more teachers and non-teaching staff;
6. Strict enforcement of teachers' and learners' inspection across the country using an electronic system;
7. Providing textbooks and instructional materials to improve the textbook-to-student ratio to 1:3 from the current 1:15;
8. Operationalisation of Bunyoro and Busoga Universities; and;
9. Completion of the ongoing construction of stadia and training facilities ahead of CHAN and AFCON27.
- Social Protection
- Madam Speaker, to keep our senior citizens healthy and to actively participate in socio-economic activities, the Government has provided Shs 811 billion, benefitting 495,720 older persons across the country under the Social Assistance Grants for the Elderly Programme (SAGE).
- In addition, 1,741 older persons' group enterprises have been funded with Government grants worth Shs 5.5 billion, benefitting 11,644 older persons under the Special Enterprise Grant for Older Persons Programme (SEGOP).
- Other social protection interventions, which the Government has supported, include the following:
- (i) Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP): A total of 24,228 youth enterprises have been funded to the tune of Shs 191,336 billion, benefitting 271,211 youth -

Madam Speaker, next financial year, I have provided Shs 5.04 trillion for priority interventions, which include:

1. Continuing to provide free education to Ugandans under UPE, USE, and Universal Post O-Level Education and Training;
2. Providing sponsorship and student loans for higher education;
3. The rehabilitation of 120 traditional secondary schools and 31 special needs primary schools;

THE SPEAKER: 271,211.

MR KASAIJA: I have read it wrongly. Let me repeat it: 271,211. The enterprises are in agriculture (30 per cent) –

THE SPEAKER: 38 per cent.

MR KASAIJA: Yes, 38 per cent, trade (32 per cent), other services (19 per cent), and others (11 per cent).

- (ii) Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP): The Government has financed 21,948 women group enterprises, benefitting 235,114 women.
- (iii) National Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities (NSGPWD): To address high vulnerability and poverty levels among persons with disability, the Government has supported 8,107 enterprises, benefitting 50,900 persons –

THE SPEAKER: 59,901.

MR KASAIJA: ...59,901 persons with disabilities.

Madam Speaker, I have provided an additional Shs 404.9 billion for social protection next Financial Year 2025/2026.

Water, Sanitation, and Environmental Protection

To improve the quality of life, the Government continues to invest in the provision of safe water, improve sanitation, and ensure protection of the environment. These include the following:

- (i) Villages in Uganda with at least one safe water source have remarkably increased to eight out of every 10 villages. Nationwide, 57,951 villages out of 71,225 have been served with a safe water source.
- (ii) Completed construction of 259 medium and large solar-powered water supply and sanitation systems and gravity flow schemes across the country.
- (iii) The construction of 42 large solar-powered water supply systems is ongoing in Agago, Yumbe, Amudat, Kaabong, Kasese, Kakumiro, Sembabule, Kisoro, Rubanda, Bulambuli, Kyankwanzi, Mubende, Kyegegwa, Buyende, Nakaseke, Namayingo, Rakai and Buvuma.

- (iv) With regard to clean water, the construction of piped town water supply systems is ongoing in 32 towns. These include: Namasale, Kakingol, Kamuli, Ngoma Town, Lunya, Karogo Phase II, Ishaka (mobilisation), Nyakashaka, Bukumi, Kanapa, and Odongai. Construction is also ongoing in Palabek-Kal, Rhino Camp, Arra-Dufile, Lubeli Refugee Settlement, Bolori, Nyanseke, Busaale, Kibuzi, and expansion in two towns of Kiboga and Zigoti.

Other beneficiary towns are: Lamwo, Lacekocot, Iri-Iri, Lorengecora, Manafwa, Butaleja-Busolwe, Tirinyi-Kibuku-Kadama-Budaka, Kaliro-Namung'alwe, Rukungiri and Obongi.

- (v) The construction of various water supply systems in 26 districts is at varying levels of physical progress. These include: Manafwa Town Council and the installation of solar packages that is ongoing in Losilang, Kasawo (Phase I), Kabura-Mwizi (Phase I), Bukumi, Bulangira and Kyebando-Kasimbi, and Busaale Town. Also, the Government is starting the development of new piped water supply systems in Rubanda, Kabale, Alebtong, Nakasongola, and Kamuli districts, among others.

Madam Speaker, I have provided an additional Shs 366.1 billion next financial year for water resource management, climate change mitigation, natural resources and environment.

The priority interventions include: the construction of water supply infrastructure to increase service in the underserved communities in rural, urban and refugee settlements; increasing rehabilitation and expansion of existing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure; and increasing forest and wetland cover.

Overall, I have allocated a total of Shs 11.44 trillion in the next financial year towards investing in the people of Uganda through health, education, social protection, and water and sanitation.

Wealth Creation Programmes

Wealth creation programmes have proved effective in integrating lower-income Ugandans into the economy. As already reported, poverty and inequality have been reduced, thanks to the following opportunity-equalising initiatives that the Government has implemented.

The Parish Development Model (PDM)

Madam Speaker, by the 30th of June this year, a total of Shs 3.3 trillion will have been transferred to 10,589 parishes across the country, to transform the households still in subsistence to join the money economy. Each parish gets Shs 100 million per year. So far, the PDM funds have reached 2.63 million beneficiaries in all districts and parishes. The beneficiaries have invested 45 per cent of the money in cash and food crops such as maize, cassava, onions, bananas and Irish potatoes; 36 per cent in livestock such as piggery, goats, beef and dairy cattle, sheep; 12 per cent in poultry and; 6 per cent in other enterprises. These investments are changing the lives of Ugandans by boosting household incomes, enhancing food security and creating employment opportunities at local levels, countrywide.

The PDM operations have been fully digitised to ensure the secure and smooth flow of the Government grants directly from the National Treasury to the beneficiaries. The Government is using the National Identification Number (NIN) and the PDM Information System (PDMIS) to identify the beneficiaries, the WENDI application to send the money, the ZAIDI application to monitor and ensure that the money goes to the right beneficiaries and that they are using it to finance the right enterprises. This has enhanced efficiency and convenience in access and helped to reduce corruption in the PDM operations.

Effective next year, every Parish Chief will make use of the PDMIS to prepare an annual report on the State of the Parish Economy and Asset Register (SPEAR Report). This report will enable tracking of progress towards full monetisation of the economy for every parish.

Madam Speaker, I have provided an additional Shs 1.059 trillion in the next Financial Year 2025/26 for further capitalisation of the PDM. This will avail an additional Shs 100 million per parish for households that have not yet benefitted from the PDM.

The Government has also provided money to pay for the bank charges to ensure that beneficiaries receive the full amount of Shs 1 million, each.

The Government is also providing a grant of Shs 500,000 for persons with disability over and above the loan of Shs 1 million to cater for their additional access requirements.

Madam Speaker, in order to add value to, and guarantee markets for the PDM outputs, the Government has stepped up investment in agro-industry through vertical and horizontal value addition. This is targeting the production of high-value multi-input products such as nutritional foods, baby foods that use several products like milk, eggs, maize, fruits and vegetables.

The Agricultural Credit Facility (ACF)

The Government has injected a total of Shs 413.4 billion into the ACF since its establishment in 2010. In partnership with participating financial institutions that match the Government contribution, this facility has so far provided over Shs 1 trillion in low-interest loans by the end of March 2025, to support agricultural productivity, commercial farming and agricultural value addition.

The ACF has so far supported 14,336 beneficiaries, of whom 3,531 are smallholder farmers. The loans have financed the following: grain trading, Shs 431.4 billion (43 per cent), on-farm activities, Shs 312.8 billion (32 per cent), agro-processing, Shs 166.8 billion (16 per cent) and post-harvest management, Shs 89 billion (9 per cent).

Madam Speaker, I have provided additional capital for the ACF of Shs 50 billion next Financial Year 2025/26. This is in addition to the agricultural insurance that benefits all farmers, including PDM beneficiaries.

Uganda Development Bank (UDB)

Madam Speaker, the Government has cumulatively capitalised UDB to the tune of Shs 1.5 trillion to support industrialisation, agricultural commercialisation, and acquisition of appropriate technologies to increase productivity. UDB has so far achieved the following:

1. UDB has provided Shs 2.45 trillion to 607 businesses engaged in commercial agriculture, agricultural value addition, manufacturing, tourism, hospitality, education, health services, creatives and the construction industry, as at the end of December 2024.
2. Businesses supported by UDB have created 55,553 jobs, generated output value of Shs 20 trillion, contributed Shs 944.2 billion in taxes, generated an equivalent of Shs 3.3 trillion in forex earnings, and Shs 3.15 trillion in profits for the private sector businesses supported.
3. UDB has implemented special programmes targeting small and medium enterprises, and youth- and women-owned businesses engaged in wealth creation. This has been done through the provision of business development and incubation services.
4. In order to ease access, UDB is opening up regional offices and has supported wealth creation enterprises in 96 districts across all the sub-regions.

Madam Speaker, I have now provided an additional Shs 1.0 trillion for UDB next financial year.

Emyooga

In order to boost the incomes of Ugandans engaged in specialised trades (*Emyooga*), particularly in urban and peri-urban centres, the Government has so far provided a total of Shs 660 billion. This has benefitted a total of 2.4 million Ugandans in creating 471,000 jobs and kick-starting a new local economy in value-added enterprise such as wine-making, carpentry, coffee value addition, metal fabrication, tailoring, artisanal products, mechanics, women in markets, restaurants, services

like hair and beauty salons and transport, among others.

Madam Speaker, I am providing an additional Shs 100 billion next financial year to support more *Emyooga* enterprises as off-takers of PDM outputs.

Following the enactment of a new Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Act, the Government will support certification and issuance of practising permits to competent practitioners benefitting from the *Emyooga* Programme.

Small Business Recovery Fund

Madam Speaker, this fund was established to support small businesses that were affected by COVID-19 to recover with an initial capital of Shs 100 billion to be matched by commercial banks and other financial institutions. The funding from the Small Business Recovery Fund (SBRF) has enabled 3,496 micro, small, and medium enterprises to recover from the effects of COVID-19, saving over 26,672 jobs in the sectors of trade and commerce, hospitality, education and construction.

Madam Speaker, in order to accelerate full monetisation of the economy through the various wealth creation programmes, I have provided Shs 3.05 trillion next Financial Year 2025/2026. These funds are going to be passed –

THE SPEAKER: Shs 2.3 trillion.

MR KASAIJA: It is Shs 3.05 trillion. These funds are going to be passed on to Ugandans in wealth creation through: PDM, Shs 1.059 trillion; *Emyooga*, Shs 100 billion; UDB, Shs 1 trillion; Uganda Development Corporation, Shs 187.1 billion; and the Agricultural Credit Facility, Shs 50 billion. Others include Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women Enterprises (GROW), Shs 231.3 billion; Investment for Industrial Transformation and Empowerment (INVITE), Shs 275.1 billion; Presidential Zonal Industrial Hubs and skilling initiatives, Shs 58.5 billion to turn youth into manufacturers; and support to Microfinance, Shs 48.5 billion.

Agro-Industrialisation

Madam Speaker, the interventions in agro-industrialisation this financial year and next financial year have prioritised research, an increase in productivity, commercialisation, and value addition in agriculture.

Madam Speaker, some of the key achievements in this financial year include:

1. Research and genetic development of selected value chains. The National Animal Genetic Resources Centre and Databank has introduced superior animal genetic resources for breeding, multiplication and distribution to farming households under PDM. NARO has completed the manufacturing facility for anti-tick vaccines at Nakyesasa in Wakiso District with the capacity to produce over 20 million doses of the anti-tick vaccine per year. NARO has also developed agricultural technologies that increase productivity such as water-saving cultivation technology, drought-resistant varieties, and integrated pest, disease and weed control technologies, among others. Research in coffee by NaCORI has contributed to increased national coffee production, productivity and export earnings.
2. Increasing agricultural production and productivity. The capacity of water for irrigation has increased to 54.76 million cubic metres. This is on account of Government investment in small and large irrigation systems, including solar-powered irrigation. In particular, seven large-scale irrigation schemes have been completed. These include Ngenge in Kween District; Rwengajju in Kabarole; Tochi in Oyam; Mubuku II in Kasese; Olweny in Lira; Doho II in Butaleja; and Wadelai in Pakwach. Another three irrigation schemes are currently under construction. These are: Acomai in Bukedea District; Atari in Kween/Bulambuli Districts; and Namatala, covering Budaka, Mbale and Butaleja Districts.

Madam Speaker, another 145 solar-powered irrigation and water supply schemes have been completed across the country. In addition, 157 solar-powered irrigation and water supply schemes

are under construction. Furthermore, 4,300 micro-scale irrigation facilities were constructed in 135 districts across the country and have benefitted smallholder farmers of less than 2.5 acres.

Madam Speaker, in addition, the Government completed Usake Dam in Kaabong, and Ongunga Dam in Katakwi for livestock, irrigation and fish farming. In addition, 5,251 small- and medium-scale irrigation schemes were established in 135 districts.

Madam Speaker, the Government established five zonal agricultural mechanisation centres in Namalere, Buwama, Bungokho, Agwata and Sanga to support equipment access and tractor hire services; procured and distributed 260 assorted four-wheeled tractors and implements to farmer groups in 60 districts countrywide, 750 power tillers (single-axle tractors and implements), and two pieces of dredging equipment for water hyacinth and weed control; and trained 2,150 youth and women as operators, artisans and mechanics for tractors and implements.

Beginning this financial year, the Government introduced the large-scale commercial farmer interest-free credit facility of Shs 175 billion. This facility will help to increase production and productivity for improved food security and exports. The loan facility can be accessed through Government-owned banks, namely Post Bank, Housing Finance Bank, and Pride Bank Limited.

3. Agricultural value addition and marketing. NARO completed setting up an Aflasafe facility at Namulonge with capacity to eliminate aflatoxin contamination in grains. The facility has capacity to clean five tons of produce per hour. This will save the country an estimated \$38 million per year, which is lost in export rejections due to aflatoxins and, most importantly, save the lives of Ugandans.

Madam Speaker, to add value to agricultural produce, the Government constructed 11 agro-processing and storage facilities to increase opportunities for value-addition and access to high value markets. These include Rwimi Rice Processing Facility in Bunyangabu; Kasina Maize

Processing Facility in Kyenjojo; Kigoyera Maize Processing Facility in Kyenjojo; Itojo Maize And Rice Processing Facility in Ntoroko; Nombe Coffee Processing Facility in Ntoroko; Apala Oil Seed Processing Facility in Alebtong; Gatyanga Coffee Processing Facility in Bunyangabu; Ocorimongin Rice Processing Facility in Katakwi; Kajamaka Rice Processing Facility in Kumi; Kikwata Coffee Processing Facility in Nakaseke; and Kiwoko Maize Processing Facility also in Nakaseke.

Madam Speaker, the Government is strengthening partnership with the private sector through Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) to support local value-addition and manufacturing in a wide range of agricultural value chains. These investments include Soroti Fruit Factory, Budadiri Arabica coffee, Mabale Growers Tea Factory, Kayonza Growers Tea Factory, Bukona Agro Processors, Atiak Sugar Factory, and Yumbe Fruit Factory.

Madam Speaker, as part of the effort to increase access of Uganda's products to international markets, we dispatched the inaugural exports of coffee and milk to Serbia and Algeria, respectively. The milk exports to Algeria have potential to fetch Uganda export earnings worth \$500 million.

Madam Speaker, I have allocated a total of Shs 1.86 trillion next financial year towards deepening agro-industrialisation. These funds will support investments in:

1. Agricultural research;
2. Agricultural inputs, including fertilisers;
3. Water for irrigation;
4. Extension services;
5. Agro-processing and value addition;
6. Post-harvest handling and storage facilities; and
7. Inspection, surveillance, certification, enforcement of quality standards and market access.

Tourism Development

Madam Speaker, Uganda's tourism sector continued to recover with tourist arrivals increasing by 7.7 per cent to 1.37 million in 2024, from 1.27 million in 2023. Similarly, tourism earnings grew by 26 per cent to \$1.28 billion in 2024, up from \$1.02 billion in 2023.

Madam Speaker, the following achievements were registered:

1. Promoted and marketed Uganda through international "Explore Uganda" promotional campaigns in high-value market segments in USA, Canada and the United Kingdom. As a result, the year-on-year growth of interest in Uganda by tourists is 33 per cent for the United Kingdom, 19 per cent for Canada and five per cent for the USA. Additionally, through the theme "Uniquely Ours", we have promoted domestic tourism. As a result, domestic tourism in national parks increased by 15.7 per cent in 2024, reaching 244,843 visitors.
2. Continued to innovate and modernise tourism products to make them more competitive. This involved maintenance of 1,300 kilometres of trail tracks and roads in tourism protected areas; increasing the cumulative coverage of electric fencing to 177 kilometres in Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls national parks; continued construction of the pier and related infrastructure at the Source of the Nile; continuing to upgrade the Uganda Museum and Namugongo Martyrs' Shrines; construction of 3,521 meters of climbing ladders and boardwalks on the Rwenzori Mountains to make hiking safer and fun; completion and commissioning of Kikorongo Equator Monument in Kasese; and the construction works of Karamoja Museum, which is nearing completion.
3. The Government invested in a world-class convention facility in Munyonyo. This has promoted Uganda as one of the regional destinations for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE). Consequently, Uganda now ranks seventh in Africa in MICE tourism.

Madam Speaker, I have allocated Shs 430 billion towards direct investment in tourism next financial year. This is in addition to about Shs 2.2 trillion provided for other tourism support investment such as tourism roads, ICT infrastructure in tourism areas, African Cup of Nations (AFCON) infrastructure and security-strengthening in tourism areas.

Madam Speaker, the focus next financial year will be on:

1. Branding and marketing of Uganda as a tourism and investment destination.
2. Infrastructure development in tourism sites.
3. Construction of refreshment centres and highway sanitation facilities.
4. Improving and enforcing hospitality standards and training.
5. Promoting health tourism by investment in specialised health facilities.

Madam Speaker, the Government has also stepped up investment in missions abroad to promote economic and commercial diplomacy. Every mission is now tasked to bring investors, tourists and open up export markets.

Mineral-Based Industrial Development, including Oil and Gas

Madam Speaker, the following achievements were registered this financial year:

1. The Government facilitated the establishment of 10 gold refineries, four cement manufacturing plants and one tin processing plant, contributing to mineral processing and refining.
2. In the oil and gas sector, the Tilenga and Kingfisher oil projects are on track for first oil production in 2026. An agreement to construct a 60,000 barrels-per-day oil refinery, which will kick-start the petrochemical industry, was signed between Alpha MBM from UAE and

the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC). Once operations start, the oil and gas sector will contribute between \$1 and 2.5 billion annually to the country's revenues.

3. With regard to local content in the oil and gas industry, more Ugandan companies and individuals have benefited from contracts issued and jobs, respectively. Out of 5,693 Tier One contracts, amounting to a total value of \$5.4 billion awarded to date, 4,796 contracts (64 per cent) were Ugandan companies –

THE SPEAKER: 84 per cent.

MR KASAIJA: Yes, 84 per cent, were to Ugandan companies, amounting to \$2.25 billion. Also \$33.4 million, equivalent to Shs 121 billion, has been spent on goods and services consumed from the surrounding communities in Bunyoro. More than 14,000 Ugandans have been trained in various technical areas and, so far, about 17,000 direct and 39,567 indirect jobs have been created.

4. Kabalega International Airport is nearly complete, and over 700 kilometres of roads have been constructed in the Albertine Region to support commercial production of oil and gas.
5. The Government is expediting the finalisation of the 1,443-kilometre East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), which is now 58 per cent complete, with engineering works at 98 per cent completion, and procurement of the major equipment for the pipeline at 83 per cent.
6. Following UNOC's commencement of the bulk supply of petroleum products in August 2024, the country has experienced relative stability in supply and pricing. This has been realised due to the elimination of the middlemen and speculative tendencies. As a result, Uganda currently saves up to \$72.8 million annually on fuel imports.

Madam Speaker, I have provided Shs 875.8 billion next financial year for mineral-based industrial development including oil and gas, for: (i) continued quantification of mineral

resources, starting with iron ore, gold and copper, and strengthening their tracking systems; (ii) capitalisation of the Uganda National Mining Company; (iii) establishing mineral markets and buying centres to enable transparent mineral trading; (iv) expediting finalisation of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline; and (v) prioritisation of the construction of the oil refinery and refined products pipeline, among others.

Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI), including ICT and Creative Industry

Madam Speaker, STI including ICT and creative arts provide an important avenue for the country to develop high-tech exports and add new sources of growth and jobs.

Madam Speaker, this financial year, the following milestones have been achieved in the development of the knowledge economy:

1. Completed and operationalised the Kiira Motors vehicle plant in Jinja. The plant has an annual capacity of 2,500 vehicles. So far, 41 buses have been produced, out of which 29 are electric. The electric buses produced can run up to 500 kilometres when fully charged. The plant has signed a letter of intent to supply more than 3,700 electric buses to West Africa. The plant has signed a letter of intent to supply more than 3,700 electric buses to West Africa. *(Applause)* Kiira Motors has created 800 jobs and has the potential to generate more than 14,000 direct and indirect productive jobs.
2. Invested in vaccine development and commercialisation as well as innovations in therapeutics, diagnostics and other healthcare tools. The Government has cumulatively invested a total of Shs 724 billion in the Dei BioPharma manufacturing facility located at Matugga in Wakiso District. The facility is now licensed by the National Drug Authority and has started manufacturing generic drugs such as tablets, capsules, powders, non-antibiotic drugs and antifungal drugs, among others.

Madam Speaker, the Government is making progress in development of vaccines for the

Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever and Rift Valley virus. We also completed accreditation of the Alfasan vaccine manufacturing facility to produce anti-tick vaccines. Scientists at Makerere University developed a PCR kit that has been used to conduct more than 2 million tests at 50 per cent of the cost of imported alternatives, saving the country \$37 million. Gulu University developed highly effective rapid testing kits for crop diseases for cassava and sweet potatoes.

3. Madam Speaker, the Government has invested in a coffee factory in Ntungamo to fast-track local value addition to coffee. The factory will have three processing lines for roastery, freeze dry and spray dry technology to produce instant, roast, and ground coffee, respectively. The roastery line has started production, and other processing lines are at 50 per cent installation.

4. The banana value addition facility in Bushenyi has started production. *Katonda yebazibwe!* The plant is producing several value-added products like banana flour used in bread, cakes, biscuits and baby food. The plant is increasing automation and capacity to 140 metric tons from 14 metric tons. It has started penetrating the local and international markets with orders from South Korea, the Middle East, South Africa, Italy, and the USA.

Madam Speaker, with regard to ICT, the Government has continued to expand Internet connectivity and digital infrastructure across the country. The geographical coverage of broadband Internet connectivity stands at 72 per cent of the country, covering 4,387 kilometres. The Government has increased the digitisation of service delivery to improve efficiency, promote transparency, and reduce bureaucracy.

Madam Speaker, a total of 36 electronic services have been developed and rolled out. Some of these include the Online Business Registration System (OBRS), Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP), and the online passport, visa, national ID and driving licence application system. The Uganda Driver Licensing System, which was introduced in 2021, has reduced the turnaround

time for processing driving licences to 45 minutes in Kampala and 48 hours in upcountry stations, from a period of one month.

To support Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), the Government has licensed over 50 companies that have created over 10,000 jobs mainly for the youth that provide online services internationally.

Madam Speaker, with regard to the creative arts, the Government provided Shs 10 billion to the creative arts industry. This was to support the artists to recover from the effects of COVID-19, and create a revolving fund to support young talents to create wealth and jobs.

Madam Speaker, I have provided Shs 835.98 billion for Science, Technology and Innovation, including ICT and the Creative Arts Industry. Of this amount, Shs 388.23 billion is for STI, Shs 381.75 billion is for ICT and digitalisation, and Shs 66 billion for the creative arts.

Madam Speaker, these funds will be utilised for:

- i. establishing a hi-tech city to support development of technologies and innovations;
- ii. taking STI products to the market, especially Kiira motor vehicles, coffee, Dei BioPharma drugs and vaccines, and banana products;
- iii. additional investment in research and development and innovation;
- iv. increasing coverage, reliability, and affordability of Internet;
- v. enhancing digitisation of Government services and e-commerce;
- vi. promoting BPO for job creation;
- vii. acquiring a home for creative artists for their productions and innovations;
- viii. fast-tracking the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act to protect intellectual property and artistic works; and

- ix. further capitalisation of the revolving fund for artists with an additional Shs 18 billion, bringing it to a total of Shs 23 billion.

Infrastructure Development

Madam Speaker, this priority area includes both transport and energy infrastructure. During this Financial Year 2024/2025, some of the following achievements were realised:

Integrated Transport Infrastructure and Services

Madam Speaker, the road network that is tarmacked now stands at 6,287.6 kilometres, representing about 30 per cent of the national road network, compared to 3,112 kilometres in Financial Year 2010/11.

With this improved road network, the travel time, for example, from Malaba to Kisoro by road, reduced from 48 hours (two days) to about 10 hours. This will further improve with completion of the Kampala-Jinja and Busega-Mpigi Expressways.

Uganda is now connected by tarmac roads at all its major international border points, from the South Sudan border (Kitgum, Nimule and Oraba) in Acholi and West Nile to the southern border of Tanzania (Mutukula), Rwanda (Mirama Hills, Katuna and Cyanika) and the Congo border (Bunagana) and from the Kenya border (Lwakhakha, Malaba and Busia) to the Congo border (Mpondwe, Busuunga, and Kaisotonya) in the West.

Madam Speaker, despite the challenges faced in the road sector this financial year, we continued to make progress as follows:

- i. Rehabilitated a total of 125 kilometres on several ongoing projects;
- ii. Upgraded over 100 kilometres of roads to paved bituminous standards on several ongoing projects;
- iii. The government fully disbursed Shs 579 billion which was used for maintenance of National, District, Urban and Community Access Roads (DUCAR);

- iv. The government is revamping the road and drainage infrastructure within the entire Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area (GKMA), to the extent that the entire city is now a construction site. *Banange bebale*. A total of Shs 1.4 trillion has been dedicated to improving roads and drainage within GKMA. To deal with traffic congestion arising out of the gridlock generated by roundabouts, all major junctions are being improved and signalled with traffic lights. The Kampala Flyover and Road Upgrading Project has been completed.
- v. Construction of 10 bridges is ongoing at an average of 74.7 per cent progress.

Madam Speaker, next financial year, the Government has significantly increased the budget for road infrastructure development. I have allocated an additional Shs 790 billion, bringing the total budget for roads to Shs 4.28 trillion. The following will be prioritised next financial year:

1. Start construction and complete ongoing works for road projects as highlighted by His Excellency the President in his State-of-the-Nation Address. In addition, the roads which had been left out to be prioritised are: Puranga-Acholibur (65 kilometres); Kampala-Gayaza-Kalagi (33 kilometres); Lugazi-Buikwe-Kiyindi (28 kilometres); Kabwohe-Bwizibwera-Nyakambu-Nsika-Nyakabirizi (92.2 kilometres); Kisubi-Nakawuka-Natete-Kasanje-Mpigi-Mawugulu-Nanziga-Maya-Buwaya (71 kilometres); Busega-Mpigi (10 kilometres); Najjanankumbi-Busabala (11 kilometres); Lusalira-Nkongge-Lumegere-Sembabule (97 kilometres); Karugutu-Ntoroko (50 kilometres); Kabale-Lake Bunyonyi (15.1 kilometres); Kisoro-Nkuringo-Lubugiri-Muko (70 kilometres); Laropi-Moyo-Afoji (39 kilometres), including a bridge at Laropi, Koboko-Yumbe-Moyo (105 kilometres); Namagumba-Budadiri-Nalugugu (33 kilometres); Tororo-Busia (25 kilometres); Katuna-Muko-Kamuganguzi (104 kilometres); Moroto-Lokitanyala (42 kilometres); Hamurwa-Kerere-Kanungu (47 kilometres); Lyantonde-Kashagama-Nyabitanga-Ntusi

road (57.7 kilometres); Isingiro-Rugaaga-Mutukula-Ngarama-Kashumba-Kasese on the border with Tanzania (164 kilometres) – I hope my friends who were talking to me yesterday, I have satisfied you. Masindi Bridge; and Karuma Bridge.

2. Start construction and complete ongoing works for bridges as highlighted by His Excellency the President in his State-of-the-Nation Address.
3. Commence implementation of the Kampala-Jinja Expressway through a Public-Private Partnership framework.
4. Prioritise maintenance of the core national road transport network and DUCAR.

Railway Transport

Madam Speaker, in November 2024, His Excellency the President launched construction of the 272-kilometre Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) from Malaba to Kampala. The SGR is a strategic investment for our country. It will cut cargo transport cost by half from the current \$120 per ton, and reduce transit time from Mombasa to Kampala from seven days to one day, turning Uganda into a land-linked country as opposed to being landlocked. The initial works for the construction of the SGR have started.

Madam Speaker, Government has completed the refurbishment and commissioning of the Mukono-Kampala Metre Gauge Railway line. In addition, rehabilitation of the 375 kilometres of the Tororo to Gulu Metre Gauge Railway will be completed by February 2026.

Madam Speaker, next financial year, priority interventions will include completing the rehabilitation of the Tororo-Gulu Metre Gauge Railway line; refurbishment of the Mukono-Jinja Metre Gauge Railway line; and construction of the Standard Gauge Railway from Kampala to Malaba.

Water Transport

Madam Speaker, the Government has constructed and maintained a number of ferries providing essential services to connect isolated communities and facilitate access to markets. The government will continue to operate and maintain these ferries next financial year in addition to the continued development of Bukasa Port, completing the construction of the two ferries for Bukungu-Kaberaido-Kagwara, and the two ferries for Lake Bunyonyi.

Air Transport

Madam Speaker, since the revival of Uganda Airlines five years ago by His Excellency the President, connectivity has improved within the continent, the Middle East, Asia, and the United Kingdom. The airline is now flying to 17 direct destinations, which has contributed to reduced travel time at a more affordable cost.

Madam Speaker, the competition brought about by the airline has forced other regional airlines to reduce the cost of air tickets. For example, a return air ticket to Nairobi has stabilised at about \$300, compared to \$800 in 2019.

The airline is supporting trade and tourism in addition to business air travel. The national airline is now the largest operator and has 24 per cent market share of all air travel out of Entebbe Airport, up from 4 per cent in 2019. Its revenue has increased to Shs 319 billion in Financial Year 2023/2024 from Shs 28 billion in Financial Year 2019/2020.

With increased capitalisation and the acquisition of additional aircraft, the airline will increase efficiency, and travellers to and from Uganda will enjoy direct and cheaper travel to more international destinations.

The upgrade, rehabilitation, and expansion of Entebbe International Airport is nearly complete. The expanded airport has a new cargo facility and a new passenger terminal, among others. This is going to further improve the passenger experience, trade, and tourism.

Next Financial Year 2025/2026, priority interventions will include:

- (i) additional capitalisation of Uganda Airlines to acquire more aircraft, to open up more routes for passenger and cargo transportation, and handling capacity;
- (ii) operationalisation of Kabalega International Airport; and (iii) rehabilitation and upgrade of the existing strategic airports and aerodromes.

I have provided Shs 6.92 trillion next Financial Year 2025/2026 for integrated transport and infrastructure services, including roads, bridges, railways, water transport and air transport.

Energy Development

Several milestones have been registered in the development of our energy infrastructure. These include:

- i) Installed electricity generation capacity has now reached 2,051.6 megawatts.
- ii) The electricity transmission line network expanded by 874.8 kilometres, to 5,140 kilometres.
- iii) Access to electricity has increased to 60 per cent from 57 per cent in Financial Year 2023/2024, after connecting over 197,000 new customers.
- iv) Following the Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL) takeover of the distribution of electricity, the cost of power has reduced by 14 per cent, saving consumers Shs 250 billion annually. A tariff of US 5 cents per kilowatt hour has been achieved for all extra-large consumers of electricity (those consuming above 1.5 megawatt) at off-peak.

I have provided Shs 1.04 trillion next Financial Year 2025/2026 to undertake the following priority interventions:

- i) Additional investment in UEDCL to ensure affordable, efficient, and reliable distribution of electricity to consumers.

- ii) Enhance access to electricity through implementation of the \$638 million Electricity Access Scale-up Project covering grid expansion, connectivity and clean energy options for one million new electricity connections. Further, the Government will continue investing in priority transmission lines and sub-stations, particularly to the industrial parks, growth centres and other strategic manufacturing facilities like the clinker factory in Moroto, Karamoja; the fertiliser factory in Kampirigisa, Mpigi; Simba Cement Factory in Mbarara, Western Uganda; Dei BioPharma in Matugga, Wakiso District; and; the Coffee Factory in Ntungamo, among others.
- iii) Commence development of new power generation plants to meet the growing demand. These include new hydropower plants at Ayago and Oriang in Nwoya District, and Kiba in Oyam District, the development of nuclear power in Buyende District, and the rehabilitation of Kiira-Nalubaale Power Plant.
- iii) Madam Speaker, several industrial parks have become centres of innovation, hosting firms that have introduced new technologies and products, such as: a single HIV pill (Quality Chemicals Ltd); GIS transformers (Orion Electricals); plastic-to-fabric recycling (Fei Long Investment Ltd); locally manufactured electric vehicles (Kiira Motors); the first powder-free surgical gloves (East African Medical Vitals); and import substitution products like fridges, transformers, toiletries, textiles, ceramics, televisions, and blankets.
- iv) The government has supported industrialisation by investing in strategic manufacturing facilities through Uganda Development Corporation with a total investment of Shs 1.2 trillion.

Madam Speaker, next financial year, I have provided Shs 308.9 billion to further support infrastructure development in industrial parks, including roads, waste management, drainage, and utilities; and Shs 187 billion for capitalisation of Uganda Development Corporation (UDC).

Industrial Development and Manufacturing

Madam Speaker, with regard to industrial development and manufacturing, the following achievements have been registered:

- i) The Government has operationalised eight industrial parks, which include Namanve, Luzira, Bweyogerere, Mbale, Soroti, Kasese, Mbarara, and Jinja industrial parks. We have also supported the development of three privately-owned industrial parks, which are Liao Shen Kapeeka in Nakaseke District, MMP in Buikwe District, and Tian Tang in Mukono.
- ii) To-date, a total of 628 companies/industries have been allocated land within the various industrial parks, 47 per cent of which are in manufacturing. Out of all the companies allocated land, 307 are fully operational, 195 are undertaking construction, and 122 have commenced preparatory activities. The parks have attracted a total capital investment of \$4.5 billion and created 181,403 jobs.

Security, Good Governance, and Rule of Law

Madam Speaker, security, good governance and the rule of law are the foundation for socio-economic transformation. Everybody knows that. During this financial year, the following achievements were registered:

- i) Strengthened and modernised the security infrastructure to protect Ugandans, investors and our visitors from any security threats. We have invested in security apparatus and more sophisticated intelligence network and border control mechanisms.
- ii) Provided adequate funds to security institutions, including the Military, Police, Prisons, and intelligence agencies for operations, and improving the capacity and welfare of men and women in uniform.
- iii) Promoted regional and international relations, including playing a strategic role in peace processes in Somalia, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Equatorial Guinea;

- iv) Registered a 4.1 per cent decrease in the volume of crime from 228,074 cases reported in 2023 to 218,715 cases in 2024 and a subsequent decline in the crime rate from 516 to 476 per 100,000 persons;
- v) Commenced mass enrolment of Ugandans on 27 May 2025 to acquire National Identity Cards, with a target of registering 17.2 million unregistered persons and renewing 15.8 million expired cards. Apart from securing elections and aiding our national security, the National ID has contributed to improved efficiency in accessing public services, broadened financial inclusion, eased travel within the EAC and stamped out fraud arising from identification;
- vi) Improved efficiency in the delivery of citizenship and immigration control services. The average turnaround time for processing of ordinary passports has reduced to four from 14 days. *Beebale*;
- vii) The Government has started to roll out the Intelligent Transport Monitoring System to improve security. To date, 26,818 vehicles and 62,512 motorcycles have been registered. In addition, the Government has invested in security cameras to improve tracking of crime in Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area and on major highways. The Government has also started implementing regulations for speed limits using the Express Penalty System to reduce fatalities on roads. This is the way to go. If there is any problem with the rates, they will be reviewed, but the penalty will stay to save the lives of Ugandans;
- viii) The Uganda Prisons is transforming from a consumptive to a productive force. This has contributed to food security and reduced the budget required to look after inmates. In addition, the Prisons Service contributed to the growth of the local textile industry through increased production of cotton. This financial year, the Service produced 1,733 metric tons of maize seed, 305,485 kilogrammes of cotton for the local textile industries and 12,290 metric tons of grain to contribute to prisoners' feeding requirements;
- ix) The Government was effectively represented in courts, tribunals and commissions. Out of 393 cases concluded, the Government won 285, which is 72.5 per cent and saved Shs 548 billion that would have otherwise been paid as costs;
- x) The Government implemented the NRM Manifesto commitment on cattle compensation in the Acholi, Lango and Teso subregions. Since Financial Year 2021/22, a total of Shs 142.9 billion has been paid to 53,592 claimants. I have provided Shs 80 billion next financial year to pay the remaining claimants. In addition, I have provided Shs 15 billion for ex-gratia (*akasiimo*) of the Luweero war victims.
- Madam Speaker, next financial year, I have provided Shs 9.9 trillion for:
1. Consolidating Uganda's security through continued modernisation and professionalisation of the security agencies;
 2. Improving the welfare of the security forces;
 3. Undertaking general elections in 2026, which are just around the corner;
 4. Increasing access to justice, law and order services; and
 5. Strengthening immigration and border security.
- The Government is stepping up the fight against corruption. We are automating all Government processes to reduce human interaction and ensure traceability, investing in more performance and forensic audits and enforcing accountability. I think I should reread this paragraph: The Government is stepping up the fight against corruption. We are automating all Government processes to reduce human interaction and ensure traceability, investing in more performance and forensic audits and enforcing accountability.

Administration of Justice

The following achievements were registered:

1. The Judiciary has significantly scaled up Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms like mediation, plea bargaining and small claims procedures, reducing justice costs and speeding up dispute resolution. For example, in 2024, a total of 3,391 cases were resolved through mediation. In addition, plea bargaining achieved a success rate of 87 per cent;
2. Completed the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, Rukungiri High Court, and Budaka and Patongo Magistrate Courts. Five new High Court Circuits in Wakiso, Entebbe, Kumi, Lugazi, Patongo and 10 Magistrates' Courts were operationalised, bringing the total to 268 courts countrywide. Construction is ongoing of regional Appeal Courts in Gulu and Mbarara, Soroti and Tororo High Courts, and Karenga Magistrate's Court. This will further reduce travel distances for justice; and
3. There is increased use of technology in the delivery of justice. The Electronic Court Case Management System is now operational in 20 courts, boosting filing rates by 20.6 per cent. Additionally, 20 courts have video conferencing systems, enabling online case handling which has improved efficiency.

Madam Speaker, I have provided Shs 602.7 billion next financial year, under the Administration of Justice Programme, for strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution, increased use of technology in justice delivery, building more courts to improve access to justice and increasing the civil jurisdiction of magistrates' courts.

Legislation and Oversight

The Legislature has registered several achievements during Financial Year 2024/2025. Parliament held 75 sittings and passed 35 Bills, concluded three petitions, passed 45 resolutions and adopted 53 reports. Most importantly, the turnaround time for enactment of legislation has reduced significantly. *Banange*, Parliament *tugikubire*

mu ngalo. (Applause) I commend you, Rt Hon. Speaker, for this tremendous achievement.

Madam Speaker, I have provided a total of Shs 1.03 trillion next financial year for legislative processes, public engagements and outreach, providing parliamentary oversight of democracy and governance, ensuring accountability for public funds and implementation of public programmes.

Management of Natural Disasters

Madam Speaker, to protect Ugandans from disaster, this financial year, Government invested Shs 200.3 billion in early warning systems, mitigation interventions, the provision of relief items to the affected households and communities in the disaster-prone areas.

In the next financial year, I have provided Shs 20.7 billion plus a contingency fund of Shs 169 billion to support disaster management.

I have also provided Shs 12.4 billion for improving meteorological services and early warning systems to improve efficiency and accuracy of weather forecasting for agriculture, air travel and climate change tracking.

Elimination of Domestic Arrears

Government has put in place a strategy to eliminate domestic arrears in three financial years starting FY 2025/26. Payment of domestic arrears will prioritise suppliers of goods and services, contractors and compensations for land and to all claimants.

I have increased the allocation for domestic arrears to Shs 1.4 trillion from Shs 200 billion provided this financial year. To prevent accumulation of new arrears starting next financial year, my ministry shall implement the following measures and they are not easy measures:

1. enforcement of the commitment control system;
2. sanctioning accounting officers responsible for creation of any arrears;

3. providing and ring-fencing adequate counterpart funding for multi-year projects. *(Laughter)* I am about to close.

FINANCING THE BUDGET FOR THE FY 2025/26

Resource Envelope

Madam Speaker, the total resource envelope for the FY 2025/26 amounts to Seventy-two trillion, three hundred and seventy-six billion, four hundred and eighty-one million, five hundred two thousand one hundred three Shillings (72,376,481,502,103/=).

This is detailed as follows:

1. Domestic revenue amounting to Shs 37.55 trillion of which Shs 33.94 trillion will be tax revenue, Shs 3.28 trillion non-tax revenue and Shs 328.6 billion Local Government revenue.
2. Domestic borrowing, Shs 11.38 trillion.
3. Domestic refinancing of maturing domestic debt, Shs 10.03 trillion.
4. Grants and external borrowing for general budget financing is Shs 2.08 trillion.
5. External financing for projects is Shs 11.33 trillion of which Shs 2.8 trillion are grants.

Expenditure Allocations

Madam Speaker, the following resources have been allocated as follows:

1. Wages and salaries – Shs 8.57 trillion.
2. Non-wage recurrent expenditure – Shs 28.33 trillion which also includes operational funds for institutions, financing for all wealth creation funds, financing for science and technology investment, grants for education and health, medicines, maintenance of infrastructure and interest payments among others;
3. Development expenditure – Shs 18.24 trillion.

4. Domestic debt for refinancing – Shs 10.03 trillion.

5. Debt amortisation – Shs 4.98 trillion.

6. Domestic debt repayment to the Bank of Uganda – Shs 493 billion.

7. Domestic arrears – Shs 1.4 trillion.

8. Local Government expenditure from own revenue – Shs 328.6 billion.

Madam Speaker, I have attached the details of the resource envelope and expenditure allocations by Vote for FY 2025/26 as Annexes 2 and 3.

The Financing Strategy for FY 2025/26

Madam Speaker, below is the financing strategy for the next financial year:

1. Improving tax administration to raise an additional Shs 1.89 trillion.
2. Introduction of new tax measures to increase domestic revenue by Shs 538.6 billion.
3. Rationalising tax exemptions to eliminate inefficient ones that do not support industrial policy.
4. Repurposing resources in the budget for FY 2025/26 from less productive to high impact areas in line with the Ten-fold Growth Strategy.
5. Mobilising more concessional financing from international financing institutions such as the World Bank, the IMF, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, BADEA, et cetera.
6. Mobilising development finance from other innovative sources including public-private partnerships, climate finance, private equity, Sukuk bonds, Panda bonds, and diaspora bonds.

Tax Measures for FY 2025/26

Madam Speaker, an additional revenue of Shs 538.6 billion will be raised from new tax policy measures that were approved by Parliament. In addition to raising revenue, the measures will support the growth of businesses and the economy. The measures also include technical amendments to tax laws aimed at improving clarity and consistency, creating a fairer and more predictable tax environment for businesses and taxpayers, and removing ambiguities that create loopholes leading to revenue leakage.

These amendments are also intended to enhance tax administration, encourage voluntary compliance, and empower Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) to effectively enforce tax laws.

Madam Speaker, I wish to present key highlights of changes in tax laws.

Income Tax

Exemption for Start-Up Businesses

The NRM Government has granted a three-year income tax holiday for start-up businesses established by citizens after 1 July 2025.

This is intended to support start-ups that struggle with the high initial investment costs. The incentive is to foster innovation, encourage formalisation of SMEs, enhance business survival and promote employment.

Exemption from Capital Gains Tax on Transactions

Government has granted an exemption from capital gains tax on transactions where an individual transfers assets to a company they have established, but also under their control. This is a deliberate policy intervention aimed at encouraging the formalisation of businesses.

Madam Speaker, currently, many Ugandans operate businesses under their names, often as sole proprietors or informal entities. When these individuals seek to transition into more formal and structured corporate entities for purposes of

growth, access to finance, strengthening governance or succession planning, they face a capital gains tax liability simply for transferring their assets into a company they fully own. This tax burden has been removed.

Income Tax Exemption for Bujagali Hydropower Project

Madam Speaker, the Government has granted an income tax exemption to Bujagali Energy Limited for one year up to 30 June 2026 in accordance with our contractual obligations. This is intended to mitigate a rise in electricity tariffs.

Stamp Duty

Removal of stamp duty on mortgages and agreements

Madam Speaker, Government has removed stamp duty on mortgages and agreements. This reform is intended to lower the cost of debt for businesses and individuals. It will also remove the financial burden imposed on businesses and individuals when they enter into agreements.

Tax Procedure Code

Waiver of interest and penalty for voluntary payment of outstanding principal tax

The Government has extended the waiver period of any interest and penalties outstanding as of 30 June 2024, provided that the taxpayer pays the principal tax by 30 June 2026. This waiver is intended to provide relief to businesses and individuals to enable them to settle outstanding tax liabilities and resume normal operations.

Value-Added Tax

Reform of the penalty regime for non-compliance with EFRIS

Madam Speaker, we have implemented the Electronic Fiscal Receipting and Invoicing System (EFRIS) to improve tax compliance and reduce tax evasion. However, concerns have been raised regarding the high penalties of Shs 6 million per invoice regardless of the value of the transaction,

which disproportionately burden the taxpayers. To address this issue, the penalty structure has been amended so that the penalty for non-compliance will instead be twice the tax owed by the taxpayer.

I urge taxpayers to embrace the EFRIS system as it helps the taxpayer to reduce lengthy and burdensome interactions with URA staff, audits and penalties. It also promotes transparency and creates an even playing field.

Excise Duty

Madam Speaker, we have increased the taxes on cigarettes to discourage consumption, but also generate additional revenue. Excise duty on soft cap cigarettes has been increased to Shs 65,000 per 1,000 sticks from Shs 55,000, and hinge lid cigarettes to Shs 90,000 per 1,000 sticks from Shs 80,000. For those outside the East African Community (EAC), excise duty on soft cap cigarettes has been increased to Shs 150,000 per 1,000 sticks from Shs 75,000, and hinge lid cigarettes to Shs 200,000 per 1,000 sticks from Shs 100,000.

Madam Speaker, the Government has removed the excise duty rate of 30 per cent or Shs 950 per litre, whichever is higher, on beer manufactured from barley that is grown and malted in Uganda, because it was redundant. Also, the Government has adjusted the excise duty on beer manufactured with local raw materials content of at least 75 per cent by weight of its constituents, excluding water, to 30 per cent or Shs 900 per litre from 30 per cent or Shs 650 per litre, whichever is higher. This is to ensure that a manufacturer pays the same amount of tax, whether using a specific rate or an *ad valorem* rate.

Taxes on external trade

Introduction of an import declaration fee on imported items

Madam Speaker, I have imposed a small fee of 1 per cent of the customs value on taxable items under the common external tariff. This measure seeks to align Uganda's tax policy with those of other EAC Partner States, where

similar fees have been imposed. For instance, Kenya applies a 2 per cent CIF charge.

Establishment of an export levy on wheat bran, cotton cake and maize bran

Madam Speaker, the Government has imposed an export levy of \$10 per metric ton of wheat bran, cotton cake or maize bran to encourage local value addition, particularly in the production of animal feeds. Currently, these products are exported as raw materials in the region, where value is added and imported into Uganda as finished goods. Therefore, this measure will encourage value-addition and create jobs for Ugandans.

Taxes on textiles

Madam Speaker, the NRM Government has listened to our traders dealing in imported textiles for value-addition. As they requested, the import duty on imported fabrics has been reduced. Effective 1 July 2025, the duty will be \$2 per kilogramme or 35 per cent, whichever is higher, down from \$3 per kilogramme or 35 per cent, whichever is higher. In addition, the import duty on garments has been reduced to \$2.5 per kilogramme or 35 per cent, whichever is higher, from \$3.5 per kilogramme or 35 per cent, whichever is higher.

Public Debt

Madam Speaker, the stock of public debt is projected at \$31.5 billion, equivalent to Shs 116 trillion, by the end of June 2025. Of this, external debt accounts for \$15.49 billion, equivalent to Shs 56.3 trillion, and domestic debt \$16 billion, equivalent to Shs 59.77 trillion. As a ratio of GDP, our public debt is estimated at 51.26 per cent, which is consistent with the Charter of Fiscal Responsibility.

Madam Speaker, Uganda's debt is sustainable and is projected to remain so in the medium- to long-term. The debt has financed investments that support private sector growth by providing the requisite infrastructure.

Over the last 10 years, the areas which public debt has financed include integrated transport

infrastructure (29.3 per cent), electricity infrastructure including power generation plants and transmission lines (27.6 per cent), water for production and consumption (11.5 per cent), agro-industrialisation (5.1 per cent), education and health (5 per cent), housing and urban development (3 per cent), and development of industrial parks (2 per cent).

To maintain public debt sustainability, the Government is implementing the following actions:

- i) Domestic revenue mobilisation to increase revenue collection and reduce borrowing.
- ii) Mobilising more concessional financing from international financial institutions such as the World Bank, IMF, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, BADEA, etc.
- iii) Implementation of the *Okusevinga* initiative, where Ugandans will invest in Government securities using mobile money.

Now, I want to conclude, Madam Speaker – I know I have tired you.

In conclusion, Uganda's economy has taken off. *(Laughter)* Can I repeat? Madam Speaker, in conclusion, Uganda's economy has taken off. When I did this *ka*-thing, people started – *(Laughter)* We know what we are doing, man. *(Laughter)*

The economic fundamentals – GDP growth, price stability, currency stability, jobs, export, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) receipts – are in good shape and highly competitive regionally and globally – *Nekano kankaddemu*. The economic fundamentals – GDP growth, price stability, current stability, jobs, export, FDI receipts – are in good shape and are highly competitive regionally and globally. We have met the criteria for graduation from the category of least developed countries (LDCs). Poverty and inequality have reduced. Listen to this: Poverty and inequality have reduced significantly.

Our deliberate onslaught on the subsistence economy has resulted in cutting the number of Ugandans working for only the stomach – *kida kyonka* – to just three in every 10 homesteads.

With our renewed commitment to fast-track a full monetisation of the economy and redirect resources towards agro-industrialisation, tourism, mineral beneficiation, manufacturing, innovations by our scientists and digital transformation, Uganda is, indeed, unstoppable. *Ngambye ntya? Unstoppable! Mwandi badde mu kuba ku ngalo namwe, temumpadde amanyi. (Applause)*

This Budget, therefore, is for all Ugandans who are ready to create wealth. Fellow countrymen and women, take full advantage of the innumerable opportunities contained in this Budget.

To those still in the subsistence economy, the Parish Development Model and other wealth creation funds have been availed to support you to join the money economy in any of the four sectors – commercial agriculture, industry, services or ICT.

To the private sector, the 10-fold growth strategy presents many opportunities. Demand for household services and consumables is going to increase exponentially in the next 15 years, on account of rising household incomes. The increase in GDP represents larger demand for intermediate goods and services among businesses. With a larger economy, Government revenue will increase and so will the size of Government contracts to the private sector.

To the investors and our partners in development, this Budget guarantees peace, security, easy taxes and a tolerable administration of justice. In Uganda, we protect private property, enforce contracts and repay our debts.

To the youth, this Budget offers opportunities to acquire more skills, access finance, innovate and develop new and better products. The Budget also contains huge investments in sports, particularly to upgrade the facilities in preparation for CHAN and AFCON27.

To those in the creative industry, the NRM Government has fulfilled its promise to provide you with a revolving fund, acquire a home for you, and enact a copyright law to protect your intellectual property. This is just the beginning of what we intend to do to open doors for you to escape unemployment and manipulation by self-interested individuals and groups. Take full advantage of the opportunities to make money and live a productive life.

To the women and mothers of this nation, the Budget has provided funds to improve your health, to ensure that your children are born in safe hands, are immunised, sleep under a mosquito net, drink clean and safe water and are educated in a nearby school for free. The Budget has also allocated billions to support your businesses, however small, to graduate into sustainable businesses.

Let me repeat this: The increase in GDP represents larger demand for intermediate goods and services among businesses. With a larger economy, Government revenue will increase – money is coming! – and so will the size of Government contracts to the private sector.

To the investors and our partners in development, this budget guarantees peace, security, easy taxes and a tolerable administration of justice. In Uganda, we protect private property, enforce contracts and repay our debts.

To the youth, this budget offers opportunities to acquire more skills, access finance, innovate and develop new and better products. The budget also contains huge investments in sports, particularly to upgrade the facilities in preparation for CHAN and AFCON 2027.

To those in the creative industry, the NRM Government has fulfilled its promise to provide you with a revolving fund, acquire a home for you, and enact a copyright law to protect your intellectual property. This is just the beginning of what we intend to do to open doors for you to escape unemployment and manipulation by self-interested individuals and groups. Take full advantage of the opportunities to make money and live a productive life. Make money!

To the women and mothers of this nation, the budget has provided funds to improve your health, to ensure that your children are born in safe hands, are immunised, sleep under a mosquito net, drink clean and safe water and are educated in a nearby school for free. The budget has also allocated billions to support your businesses however small, to graduate into sustainable businesses.

To the elderly, persons with a disability and other vulnerable persons, wherever you are in this country, the Budget offers several social safety nets, not only to shield you from poverty, but also to ensure that you can be productive and begin to live a decent life.

To our cultural leaders, this Budget has fulfilled His Excellency's promise of enhancing Government support for your operations. For the religious leaders, the Budget has provided funding to support the functions of the Inter-Religious Council. I now appeal to you to support mobilisation of people for wealth creation and implementation of Government programmes.

To the gallant men and women in uniform who are serving in UPDF, in the Uganda Police, in the Uganda Prisons, and the intelligence services, this Budget contains money to improve your welfare and capabilities. Continue to serve your country and keep it as safe as you have always done. Happy belated Heroes Day. *(Applause)*

I have adequately provided resources to ensure that elections go on successfully by ensuring peace, security, law and order, and availability of all required equipment and documents. As we go about the electoral process, I implore all political actors to observe peaceful engagement and avoid distracting wealth creators. *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, as I step off this podium, because people are tired – but it was inevitable; I could not have abridged this speech. I would like to reiterate His Excellency, the President's call to all Ugandans to embrace wealth creation. We have a wonderful country. Those of you who have not travelled around the world, you do not know, but we know. Uganda is – *(Laughter)* – God, as He was creating Uganda – I do not know what our ancestors had done; I think they did very good

things. We have good weather. Do you think I could have put on a suit if we were in some other places? We have rainfall, although we are causing a problem by cutting trees. You can grow any type of food here. You can eat whatever you want to eat here in Uganda. We continue crying poverty, poverty, poverty yet the Government has given you all the money that you should take to your enterprises.

When I am emphasising the beauty of this country, I become emotional; you will excuse me. There are no wars. Systems are around. If somebody has done something wrong to you, the courts and the Chief Justice are here. We want to live to 100 years. Have you heard? My President and I are aiming for 100 years. Have you heard? I am 82 now. *(Applause)* You can see. *(Laughter)*

Madam Speaker, as I step off this podium, I would like to reiterate His Excellency the President's call to all Ugandans to embrace wealth creation, but also embrace what I have said. I dedicate this Budget to all the wealth creators, particularly the youth and women.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister, and by extension, His Excellency the President, who is the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, for the clarity in the delivery of the Budget Speech.

Honourable members, you will soon be able to access the text of the Budget Speech. I want to urge you to take note of the Government's budgetary priorities and relay them to the coming financial year. Next item?

REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
UGANDA

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members and distinguished guests, I now take the opportunity to invite His Excellency the President to make his remarks to crown the Budget Speech. Remember our Rules of Procedure, which state that when the President is making a speech, he must be heard in silence.

Your Excellency, you are most welcome. Please talk to the Members of Parliament and, by extension, the nation.

5.16

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA (Gen. (Rtd) Yoweri Kaguta Museveni): Her Excellency, the Vice President, the Rt Hon. Speaker of Parliament, all the other leaders, honourable Members of Parliament, ladies and gentlemen. From the long speech of the minister, I want just to emphasise for you – I am trying to see where it is here in the speech.

There is paragraph 11, where he informs us that the size of the Ugandan economy is now \$61 billion by the exchange rate method and \$174 billion by the Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms method. Because of that and given our population, which is about 46 million, we are now no longer an LDC, (a least developed country). We are now a lower-middle-income country. *(Applause)*

In 1986, the size of the GDP was \$3.9 billion. So, you can see the economy has grown more than 20 times since that time. I thought you should mark that, because in a long speech like this, you may not notice the big picture.

Finally, in the speech – there is a way he summarised it; I am trying to see the page. This is paragraph 140 in his speech, where he said – he told you the economic fundamentals. That is a very good summary, and he said, “Madam Speaker, in conclusion, Uganda's economy has taken off.”

The economic fundamentals – and what are those fundamentals? Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth; is the economy growing or not? Price stability; are the prices stable or not? Currency stability; is the currency stable or not? Jobs; are jobs being created or not? Export earnings; are the export earnings going up or not? Then finally, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) receipts; are they coming in or not? I thought you should note that.

Going to my speech, you remember last time I promised that I would address two issues. During the State-of-the-Nation Address, I told

you that today, as part of the Budget Speech, I will address two issues. These are the East African Federation and corruption. I will do exactly that.

However, I will dissect corruption into two. First of all, corruption for getting money through crooked ways, as one type of corruption, and political corruption through the use of money to get political support, not based on principles or policies. Politics is about principles and policies. That is what you should be telling the public to choose from. “My policy is this, his policy is that; you, the public, choose.” But when you bring in the money, you are polluting the –

Let me start with the more important question of the political federation of East Africa and possible other federations in other parts of Africa. This was a goal pursued by our ancestors, starting with the Pan-Africanist pioneers among the black people in the United States of America. These were W.E.B. Du Bois, George Padmore, Marcus Garvey, Sylvester Williams, and others.

By the mid-1900s, new actors had come on the scene in the persons of Jomo Kenyatta, Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Sekou Toure of Guinea, Modibo Keita, and others.

If you go back, you will find that by 1900, the whole of Africa had shamefully been colonised because our egocentric and incompetent kings had failed to defend us. Instead, we were busy fighting fratricidal wars among us.

At that time, when we were colonised, the slogan for survival was, “*Uhuru na umoja*” (independence and unity). That is what we were saying: We unite, fight for freedom and independence, and then after we unite to get strength. That was the slogan.

Starting in 1912, the Africans in South Africa took the initiative and started a new anti-colonial force, the African National Congress of South Africa. You should know that even Mahatma Gandhi of India was also in South Africa then; so he was part of this effort. This

marked the beginning of the new African resistance led by more informed people. Our resistance was assisted by two factors that came on the scene during that century. These were:

One, the emergence of the socialist camps of nations in the form of the Soviet Union in 1917, China in 1949, and others. These huge countries were taken over by people who did not believe in colonialism. These were the Communists. So this was a new factor. As we fought for our freedom, this new factor came on the scene.

The second factor was the fratricidal wars; fratricidal inter-imperialist wars of 1914/1918 and 1939/1945, among the imperialists. The imperialists were now fighting over us. Who will control which one? You know those imperialists had divided us up, shared us like a cake because of our incompetent kings here. They sat in Berlin: “This is for you, this is for you, this is for you”. Then there was a new country called Germany which had united a short-while before that. They wanted to start a war by saying, “You are cheating us; we also want a share of the colonies.”

Then they said, “Don’t start a war, Bismarck, please. Let us give you some of the properties: Take Tanganyika, Rwanda, Burundi, Namibia, Cameroon,” and so on. By the end of the century, Germany was saying, “You have cheated me; I also need more slaves and colonies.” That is how their wars started, fighting over us.

These two factors, on the one hand, meant that the worldwide anti-colonial movement, including the African anti-colonial movement, could receive solidarity from those socialist countries. On the other hand, the imperialist countries had weakened themselves in the process of their greed for world domination. So, as they were fighting over us, fortunately, they weakened themselves, which was good for us.

The worldwide anti-colonial movement, on account of these three factors:

1. Our resistance;

2. The emergence of the socialist countries which were supporting us; and
3. The mutual weakening of the imperialists among themselves.

The worldwide anti-colonial movement, on account of these three factors, started scoring strategic victories with the independence of India in 1947, Indonesia in 1945, the defeat of the Kuomintang traitors in China in 1949, etc.

Amazingly, the imperialists tried, in many cases, to maintain colonial control even after these catastrophes. The French tried to recognise Indochina, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, until the Vietnamese defeated them at Dien Bien Phu in 1954. The French were defeated in Algeria. The British faced the *Mau Mau* armed resistance in Kenya and mass resistance throughout the whole of Africa.

Here in Uganda, Ignatius Kangave Musaaazi led the mass resistance movement. I do not hear you, the political actors who are always on the radio, talking about I.K. Musaaazi. You are talking about nothing most of the time. Musaaazi played a very big role in our struggle.

On account of these resistance efforts – but this is also the weakness of the National Resistance Movement Secretariat; they should do more sensitisation. By 1963, 36 African countries had achieved independence (*Uhuru*); we had achieved *Uhuru*. It is these countries that founded the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa. There were, however, almost 20 other African countries that were still under colonial rule.

The African Summit gave an ultimatum in 1963 to the imperialists to give independence to the whole of Africa, peacefully, or they would be ejected by force. People do not know this history. They just run around. If you do not know this, you may make a lot of mistakes. The imperialists thought it was mere hot air. They never paid heed. However, the Africans were serious and able to defeat the imperialists by force.

Indeed, by 1974, Samora Machel had defeated the Portuguese Army of 70,000 in Mozambique. Amilcar Cabral and his colleagues had defeated the Portuguese Army in Guinea-Bissau. Agostinho Neto had defeated the Portuguese Army in Angola. By 1980, Robert Mugabe and the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA), had defeated Ian Smith in Zimbabwe. In 1990, Namibia gained independence, and in 1994, the African majority defeated the white racists in South Africa.

Five centuries of Africa's shame of the slave trade and colonialism should have ended then. This is where we need to really examine ourselves, because we achieved victory, both by peaceful methods and by war. What happened? You hear people on the radio talking, just empty talk. This is not fiction. This is history. We had achieved independence (*Uhuru*) in the whole of Africa. The question was; where was *Umoja* (unity)? Remember, the slogan was "*Uhuru na Umoja*." By 1994, the whole of Africa had achieved *Uhuru*. What happened to the *Umoja*?

In the meantime, we, who were participants for much of this time, had to diagnose the problem. In that process, we established the three historical missions and the four ideological principles. To establish the missions and the principles, we would start with the question.

Question number one was, "Do the Africans need, deserve, and are they entitled to prosperity like other people in the world?" If the answer is "Yes," the next question would be; "Where does prosperity come from?" Can prosperity sustainably come from begging? You remember the issue of aid. Can you get prosperity through aid? Our answer was "No." Prosperity can only come from producing a good or a service, which is what Hon. Kasaija is saying. By being a wealth creator – producing a good or a service by an individual, a family, a company, etc., and selling it sustainably with *ekibalo* – *Ekibalo* is assessing the profitability – you will get income and solve your problems.

That, however, raises another question: "Who will sustainably buy our goods or services reliably with predictability?" You can see what is happening in the world. The other time, you people said you

did not want our children to be homosexuals – We did not say other people’s children. Some of our friends who had given us market access took us off the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) list. Imagine how you can rely on such a person for business. Today, you trade with him; tomorrow, he stops you because of your internal policy, not anything affecting him.

On the above question, when we studied the African tribes, including my own, the Banyankole-Bahororo, we discovered that intra-tribal trade was either limited or completely absent. Why? It is because these communities sometimes produce similar products. The Banyankole-Bahororo, for instance, all have milk, beef, bananas, etc. A does not buy from B, and vice versa.

Therefore, identity, being one tribe, does not necessarily solve the problem of prosperity. Happily, we discovered a real solution, and this was Uganda, a multi-tribal unit, which was already there. You had the Banyankole-Bahororo there, but you also had other people.

Even in the colonial times of the small enclave economy, the business complementarities among the tribes were already coming up. I was able to pay for education on account of two categories of actors: Category one was Amos Kaguta, my father, who had cattle which he inherited from his ancestors. Hence, those cattle were “*enshuji*”, the cattle of “*Jajja*”, inherited from ancestors.

He could, therefore, sell some of them and pay my school fees. The problem, however, was that there was neither a single Munyankole-Muhororo cattle trader at that time nor was there a developed beef market in the area of Ntungamo. Do you people know where Ntungamo is? You may not find it on the Uganda map. At that time, Ntungamo did not have cattle traders or a meat market.

That was how the second category of rescuers came in; the people who rescued me to go to school. These were two Baganda. One of them called Walusimbi Mpanga, and another one called Bukyenyua. The Banyankole would call him “Bukyenyua”, but the Baganda would call him “Bukenyua.”

Bukyenyua had a grandson who is a big fellow now in the Government. I think he is in the Equal Opportunities Commission. If that Munyankole-Muganda is here, he should come and they see how Banyankole-Baganda look like. If that boy is here, let him come and they will see him.

Then there was also a white man, Shea.

Walusimbi bought cattle for the Kampala beef market and Bukyenyua for the Mbarara market, and Shea for the Kilembe Copper Mines workforce. It was these three people who supported my education. Walusimbi bought the cows to be sold in Kampala. Bukyenyua bought and took to the small Mbarara market. Shea would take the cows to Kilembe market. Even at that time, the complementarity among the tribes was becoming clear.

Even in the pre-colonial times, the inter-zones trade had become clear. Textiles, “*emyienda*”, were coming from the coast in Zanzibar. The glass beads, “*enkwanzi*”, were from the same source, and so were the guns.

Ivory, “*emino*”, however, was coming from the interior of the African continent and so were salt, backcloth, hoes, etc.

It is this historical mission of the need for prosperity that led us to discover the first ideological principle of the NRM movement – as the minister was saying; patriotism – love Uganda. Why? It is because you need it for your prosperity, as a market, among other advantages.

However, learning from the history of other countries and also seeing what is happening in Uganda once it settled down and started recovering, we discovered that the internal market is not enough. As we speak today, Uganda has got a surplus of milk, maize, bananas, beef, sugar, cement, steel products of certain types, etc., like the minister told you. Where do we sell all of these?

It was during this period that the NRM asked the Ugandans the following questions:

One, have you heard of East Africa?

This was because you were stuck with your products. You are busy with the tribes. Some people are telling you, “We, as Banyankole”, “We, as Baganda”, “We, as Acholi” – some of those fellows are busy telling you about the tribes. “*Iffe nga Abasoga*”, “We as this one.” Why don’t we solve the – if those are enough, why do we have a problem of surplus milk, sugar and that?

This was when the NRM asked whether they had heard of East Africa and Africa? Why don’t you check whether they can buy what we produce and also buy what they produce?

Indeed, as I speak now, East Africa and Africa are already buying parts of our surpluses. Otherwise, these sectors of the economy would have collapsed by now. That was how the NRM identified the second ideological principle of Pan-Africanism – Love Africa. Why? It is because we need it for our prosperity.

This realisation of the need for bigger markets was not only clear to the NRM. Others before us had realised this. Germany was not one country until 1871. German-speaking people were divided into 39 kingdoms of Prussia, Saxony, Bavaria, etc. However, there was a strong business group in Prussia known as “Junkers” – It is written as “Junkers,” but they pronounce it as “Yonkers” – that saw the importance of a united German market. Working with Bismarck, they pushed the Pan-Germanism agenda; the unity of the Germans.

By 1789, France had long been a united kingdom. However, there were internal taxes between the provinces of France known as Gabelle. Those provinces were fiefdoms of the princes of those areas. The rising French middle class (the Bourgeoisie) could not accept this. Indeed, the removal of these internal taxes was part of the grievances of the French Revolution.

On these two ideological principles of patriotism and Pan-Africanism, we added socio-economic transformation and democracy. This was all to achieve Historical Mission Number One, “Prosperity for the African people through Market Integration.”

We are glad that by 1980, the African leaders had started seeing the importance of market integration as part of the Lagos Plan of Action. When the NRM took power, we worked with *Mzee Mwinyi*, *Mzee Mkapa* and *Mzee Moi* to revive the East African Community that was relaunched on 30 November 1999.

The East African Community has now expanded to incorporate Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia.

In addition, we have a Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). We need to remove all the trade barriers and develop infrastructures to facilitate this trade.

However, we also need to ensure that countries that are beginning to come up are assisted. We do not want a common market where some countries benefit and others lose. No, it is very dangerous. The countries that are coming up must be assisted to trade equitably. We should never allow trade imbalances among member states to persist.

This market integration will address the historical mission of prosperity.

However, we also identified the second historical mission as strategic security. How can Africa ensure that never again will its people be threatened by anybody, having gone through the five centuries of the slave trade, colonialism and neo-colonialism? If it is fully implemented, economic integration will address the issue of prosperity.

However, during the Second World War, the developed countries of Holland, Belgium, Denmark, France, Norway, etc. became victims of German aggression; their being developed notwithstanding. It was the Soviet Union and later the United States of America (USA) and the United Kingdom (UK) that defeated the hegemonic Hitler.

Half a million Africans took part in that war, as did two and a half million Indians who took part in that war to save those countries – France and Holland and all that.

The highly developed Israel, in terms of technology, would find it difficult to survive in that zone without

the cover of the United States of America. Some actors in the world talk of achieving superiority in the four dimensions; land forces, air forces, at sea, the navy and in space.

Where does this leave Africa? Are we again to exist or not exist with the permission of others? Are we only to thrive with the permission of others?

Coming to multi-dimensional strategic security, only four countries have been to the moon recently: the USA, Russia, China, and India. Can Uganda manage a serious space programme even when it becomes a first-world country? As we try to answer that question, our elders already gave an answer before independence. This was “*Uhuru na Umoja*” (freedom and unity).

The present weaknesses in Africa are partly due to the mistake of arrivism, where the leaders preferred to remain big fishes in small ponds. It was only Mwalimu Nyerere of Tanganyika and Mzee Karume of Zanzibar that consummated the economic and political integration of the two countries to create Tanzania that has been a great success.

Recently, the Union of Tanzania celebrated its 60th anniversary. We congratulate our brothers and sisters of Tanzania. *Mubakubireko mungalo.* (Applause)

Economic integration and political integration – where possible – is the correct answer to the questions of prosperity and strategic security. It handles the two missions.

In 1963, we were about to achieve the political federation of East Africa. There is a picture which I will give to some of the – you can see it there.

(A photo was displayed on the screen.)

GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI: I will give it to a few people after my speech, but that was 1963 on the *Uganda Argus*.

They were saying; “*Federation of East Africa this year.*” Thank you. You can see that declaration

by our leaders. However, along the way, some of them developed cold feet. That is why *Mwalimu Nyerere* and *Mzee Karume* must be hailed as some of the most devoted Africans that have ever lived. (Applause)

You can be sure that if that federation had taken off, so many of the problems that afflicted us could have been avoided. Certainly, Amin would never have taken power in Uganda if that federation was there. Maybe the problems of Rwanda and Burundi could have been handled differently. The problems of South Sudan and Somalia, as well as the problems of Congo, could possibly have been handled differently.

Why do I say this? Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, under one political authority, would have been so strong that their voice in these matters would have been decisive. I remember, for instance, our leaders then, took a stand on the issue of Congo in 1965.

Soon, however, the states started taking divergent positions which would not have been the case if they were under one political authority.

We must again salute *Mwalimu Nyerere* and Tanzania, because without the support of much of Africa, except for Zambia, Botswana, Algeria, Nasser’s Egypt and Guinea-Conakry, they were able to be a reliable rear base for the anti-colonial armed struggle that raged in Southern Africa from 1962 to 1994, when South Africa achieved freedom.

It is a pity that after victory, we only got *Uhuru* (independence) and not *Umoja* (unity), especially political integration.

The third historical mission we identified was the *Undugu* (Brotherhood) of the 1.5 billion African people. These people belong to only four linguistic groups: The Niger-Congo (the Bantus and the Kwa); the Nilo-Saharan (the Nilotic, the Cushitic and the Sudanic); the Afro-Asiatic (Arabic, Amharic and Tigrinya) and; the Khoisan group in South Africa.

Recently, I had a delegation from Congo, but we did not have a French translator. However, there

was a Runyoro-Rutoro speaker from Ituri Province in DR Congo (Tabasiima Ateenyi). I, therefore, spoke in Runyoro and he translated to the rest in French. This was just like two weeks ago.

Apart from similar Interlacustrine Bantu and Nilotic dialects, we have the good luck of Swahili, which is a neutral, non-tribal dialect, developed by our ancestors when they met at the East African coast to conduct business.

Therefore, the third historical mission is a question: “Why can’t the responsible political actors use the *Undugu* (the brotherhood, similarities or linkages of these people) to create units that support the other two historical missions of prosperity and strategic security?”

You do not hear anybody talking about this – the political class – I don’t know what they talk about on televisions. I normally watch them once in a while as they talk nothing. How can you have a political class lost? When we were young, we were very much involved. Whatever happened in the whole of Africa, we were involved.

In 1968, I went to Mozambique to the liberated zone with some other students; I was not a Mozambican. “*Balekanga bye basaanidde okukola nebakola byebatasaanidde okukola, n’amazima tegali mubo*”. *Ani anavuuuula ekyo, bannange?* “They left and did not what they ought to have done and they did what they ought not to have done, and there is no truth in them.” That is what it says in English.

With these three historical missions and the four ideological principles, we were able to shape our strategy vis-à-vis Africa. When you talk of the Movement, you are talking about the three historical missions and four ideological principles. It is not about “me, me, me”; you are not important. “Elect me, elect me”; elect you for what? Is it because you are handsome or what? What medicine do you have for us? We need medicine for our problems.

With these three historical missions and the four ideological principles, we were able to shape our strategy vis-à-vis Africa. Whatever we did was guided by this. Why did we tactically work with

Obote – but when Amin came, we decided to fight him? It is because we were trying to see how we can move Obote and beg him, and see how to move him to our programme, but Amin was off the point. We said, “*Kwenda, kwenda; wewe toka*”. You cannot interfere with our destiny. We have a journey; we are on a journey. He stood in front of us; “*Tunakutoa*”.

The strategy we always recommend to our supporters is to work for economic integration of the whole of Africa, so as to support prosperity of the African people and support the additional political integration in the parts of Africa where it is feasible, by creating political federations such as the political federation of East Africa.

Mwalimu Nyerere and ourselves diverged a bit from *Mzee* Nkrumah and Muammar Gaddafi who were talking of a continental government of the whole of Africa. We did not think that such a target of a continental government of the whole of Africa was either feasible or even desirable because the whole of Africa does not possess enough similarities and linkages to be cohesive, a necessary prerequisite for political integration.

East Africa – and with the use of Swahili – can be very cohesive. The whole of Africa should be one common market. Apart from the Niger-Congo linguistic group that has a lot of similarities, there are also linkages with, for instance, the Nile-Saharan groups of languages. This is how, amazingly, I discovered that the Somali word for cow is “*sac*”. It is the very word that most of the Bantu dialects in the Great Lakes use to describe cow dung, not any other dung. What Somalis call a cow is what we call cow dung here, but you can see the linkage.

There are a lot of linkages with the Nilotic dialects that we do not have to go into here. It is this belief in the three historical missions and four ideological principles that enabled the student movement of the 1960s to metamorphose into the armed FRONASA that fought Amin and eventually the NRA/NRM.

We rejected the sectarian politics of identity of religion, tribes and gender chauvinism. By 1986, the force of 20,000 NRA fighters was

backed by millions of civilians who were only propelled by conviction, not by any mercenary interest. The majority of the NRA/UPDF have maintained this. That is why between 1971 and 2021, the NRA/UPDF was fighting for no pay or low pay.

Owing to the deaths of some of our supporters from natural causes, mainly, we started getting some corrupt elements, but these are the minority and are easy to identify and isolate. The spirit of voluntarism was also strong among the civilians. That is why the National Resistance Council, for instance, was getting low salary, but we were contented.

When we came to the Constituent Assembly, we improved the pay, knowing it was a temporary Parliament. However, subsequent parliaments made two mistakes. One way to increase their salary and allowances, thereby departing from the spirit of sacrifice that had been the hallmark of the NRA/UPDF/NRM.

Secondly, a group known as Young Parliamentarians Association (YPA) opportunistically – and for cheap popularity – started going around the country, conducting fundraising for some cheap popularity projects, such as schools, etc. I warned them, but they could not listen. I did not want to precipitate a crisis with them when we had problems of Rwanda, Congo, South Sudan, etc.

This is, however, why I rejected the call to raise the pay of the President. I said “The President will never get a high salary as long as I am in Government and as long as the economy is still growing.”

Comrades, it is now time to see how to correct these two mistakes. This is because it led the population to believe that the political leaders have a lot of money and must share it with the voters in the form of bribes and endless fundraising. Although the MPs gave themselves a lot of money, it is not enough to meet these undisciplined demands for bribes and fundraisings. Hence, they end up with debts and somehow run from the constituencies. I hear some of them are IDPs – (*Laughter*) – internally displaced persons.

The Government, through the Budget, is the one that can help the people solve their problems. Programmes like NAADS, Operation Wealth Creation, PDM, *Emyooga*, etc., have already shown that they can liberate people from poverty. You can see it. There is a man from Kamwenge; you can show me that Kamwenge man, my people. The man of coffee –

(A video presentation was made.)

GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI: Is that the one? That is another one. The one of Kamwenge was - what has happened? Sabotage? (*Laughter*) That one was interesting because he used NAADS. When you get him, put him – Aha, that is the one!

(A video presentation was made.)

GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI: The important thing is that this man moved into coffee and all those things when we were with NAADS – There was something we were calling “PMA” – Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture – which was like NAADS. He started growing coffee. So, what I am saying here is that the Government, through the Budgets, is the one that can help the people to solve their problems. Programmes such as NAADS, Operation Wealth Creation, PDM, *Emyooga*, etc., have already shown that they can liberate people from poverty.

The current coffee boom was on account of the Government’s scientists who developed the improved Clonal Coffee, different from the old variety that the people in Bushenyi had abandoned for the dairy industry.

Now, I heard some people saying that they are the ones who developed that coffee variety. I did not want to quarrel. However, coffee and all these enterprises –

(Whereupon a stranger walked into the Chamber.)

GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI: Oh, that is the grandson of Bukenya. *Zahariya ogambiire abantu*. He is half-Muganda, half-Munyankole. *Bagambiire Bukenya okuyagiire Mbarara*. Tell them in English.

MR SSERUWAGI: Thank you, Your Excellency, the President. My name is Habib Sseruwagi, and I am Bukenya's grandson. I am privileged, Your Excellency, that my grandparents migrated and found themselves in Mbarara. We are actually more fluent in Runyankole than Luganda, although I am called Habib Sseruwagi. I thank you, Your Excellency, for giving me an opportunity.

GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI: *Ba Jajja baagenda ddi e Mbarara?*

MR SSERUWAGI: *Ewaffe, Katete, Mbarara.*

GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI: *Ba Jajja baagenda yo ddi?*

MR SSERUWAGI: *Ba Jajja baagenda yo mu 1970 era baakwaata yo ettakka ddene nyo.*

GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI: 1970?

MR SSERUWAGI: 1970.

GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI: No. This was in the 1950s!

MR SSERUWAGI: *Anti kati, Your Excellency, ffe bbaatuzaala eyo. Naye baali balina ettakka ddene nyo.*

GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI: No, you go and find out from your parents if they are –

MR SSERUWAGI: Thank you, Your Excellency.

GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI: This was in the 1950s. *Oyo omwaana agamba 1970s.*

Some people were claiming that coffee – this one – You remember there was a group called – the one we abolished; what was it called? The one that we rationalised – Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA). *(Laughter)* They said, “Oh, we are the ones who developed coffee.” Coffee was saved by NRM, working with the scientists. When we developed, they improved the Clonal Coffee, which was yielding much more than the other coffee of the 1960s and 1950s. To prove that, we had very important coffee growers in

Bushenyi – people such as Mukaira, Kikuri, Kekuruso, and others who were growing coffee. However, because the coffee price collapsed in the 1960s – I think – they abandoned it and went to cows. Up to now, they are big dairy farmers. They had abandoned coffee.

We are the ones who rescued coffee. So, it is the Government. The current coffee boom is due to the Government scientists who developed the improved Clonal Coffee, which is different from the old variety that people in Bushenyi had abandoned for the dairy industry.

The dairy industry in the Cattle Corridor – you can see for yourself what it is doing there. If you can show us people such as Kabeera – the one of Gomba. Can you show us Kabeera of Gomba?

(A video presentation was made.)

GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI: He will take long, but did you hear how he started this modern farming in 2019? He is earning quite a lot of money. So, the coffee, dairy industry, poultry, and Kalangala Palm Oil Project are projects pushed by the Government that have transformed people's lives. Not petty money from MPs for fundraising or bribes. So this is suicide for nothing.

The voters need to know that these practices of bribes and fundraising are overthrowing the voters' power. Voters, you are overthrowing your own power by electing people because they have given you money. Then, your power to elect leaders that will work with the Central Government to solve the problems of the voters, such as infrastructure, supervised wealth funds that are being stolen by the parish chiefs, etc. Do not accept petty money from politicians and throw away your power to elect a leader who can *kwemerera*. *Kwemerera* is a Runyankore word, meaning to supervise the money sent to you through the parish or to fight corruption in your area.

Once we solve the problem of political corruption that has paralysed the populist politicians, it will be easy to fight the corruption of public servants. Why? It is because we have a reliable source of *Okulega*. *Okulega* is whistleblowing. These are

the victims of corruption. The population that is deprived of these services are the victims of the corruption.

In the 1960s, we would go to the people. They had all the information. The big changes that are happening in Uganda are being led by the following actors:

1. The National Resistance Army (UPDF) that liberated the country and has been ensuring peace ever since.
2. The wealth creators in the four sectors of agriculture, manufacturing, services and ICT;
3. The Government scientists who make innovations, and
4. The members of the political class are responsible for supporting the NRM programmes.

It is, therefore, not fair for some actors to spoil these successes. Some people say that they give bribes because Mr Museveni is giving the khaki envelope to members of the population – *mureke okutaha amizi ne byondo*. (Do not draw water mixed with mud.) Do not mix up issues. The brown envelopes I give are part of the ancient tradition here. It is called *Okurongora*. It is the king who does that, to the singers or wrestlers, etc.

The President is the modern king. *(Laughter)*
You are not kings.

I have a budget for that; I do not sell my cows to get money for the *Okurongora* singers. *Mulekerawo omwenkanonkano*. This is a Luganda word. It summarises the whole thing – *omwenkanonkano*. Stop trying to be like the one who is bigger than you. Tell those people that Museveni gives the envelope because he has a Budget for it. He is the President. Why do you want -?

Fundraising was and is premature. The healthy fundraising is *okusonda* whereby you make small equal contributions but by many contributors. In the 1950s, *Mzee* Kaguta, sometimes, would participate in *okusondera* to contribute to *enzoga*, which is a potful of banana alcohol.

At that time, *enzoga*, a potful was Shs 5. Five people would contribute Shs 1 each. That is the *okusonda* (fundraising). You contribute equal small amounts that you can afford. What is happening now with the rampant fundraising is that the MPs carry the whole burden. It is really extortion but it was instigated by the MPs who created the impression that they had that type of money when they did not have.

Church leaders and other elders should ask those young mistake-makers the following question: “*Naye mwana wange, sente ezo zona ozijawa?*” That is what I would ask my people, if I saw young people throwing around money. That is what a responsible parent should ask a son or daughter or a *muzukulu* (a grandchild), if he or she sees him or her throwing around money.

The translation of that question is: “My child, where are you getting all this money that you are throwing around?” Responsible parents should not accept stolen gifts or *mabanja* from their children.

This is what I wanted to comment on regarding the issue of political corruption and other corruption.

Now, I am getting information about *obutalondola* (not supervising Government work). I keep hearing, for instance, of bad feeder roads – that feeder roads in some areas are not good. Yesterday, I was in Kakumiro, and the feeder road I rode on looked good when I was going to Kagadi. It was a short one, but it was good. The other time I was in Obongi and the feeder roads there were very good and we rode on them. The other time I was in the Bugweri area of Budaka, Pallisa, from the cassava factory – I think we were going to Kamonkoli; the feeder roads looked good but when I drove from Busunju to Mityana, the murrum road there was bad and also the other road connecting to the tarmac road, but that one is being worked on. And when we were in Bunyangabu, this issue came up. The question is; what are the districts doing with the Shs 1.3 billion we are sending to them? What is happening?

I am going to quietly send my spies to check on some of these roads and once I find that the road is not worked on and yet the Government people

are there – the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is there but is quiet, the District Internal Security Officer (DISO) is there, the Gombolola Internal Security Officers (GISOs) are there – I will go for them and they will have to answer. *(Applause)*

If the Shs 1.3 billion is not enough, tell us, because the feeder roads are very crucial. I found out that in the case of Bunyangabu, they were mixing up issues: The Shs 1.3 billion is to maintain the roads which are already made, but they were saying, “Oh, we want to make bridges across swamps.” No, you cannot do that with the Shs 1.3 billion. That is new money for a new project. Maintain the present roads the way they are, so that you have the murram there and gravel, they are compacted, drainage – this is a must.

I will check and if I find – there will be casualties among the Local Government people there, even the Resident District Commissioners (RDCs). Why should this be the case when all these people are there? Now for the voters – that is why you need to vote for people who care, not the ones who give you money.

On the issue of the implementation, so much money has already been availed for so many roads; I have a whole list here. Masaka-Mutukula, the money is there. The money for Lusalira-Kasambya-Nkonge-Lumegere. Roads like; Moyo-Afoji, Katuna-Muko-Kamuganguzi, Kumi-Ngora-Serere-Kagwara, Kampala-Malaba metre gauge, Kitgum-Kidepo, Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area roads.

The MPs should follow up on this money which is already provided. I have a long list here of the money already provided, some of it from loans – even for education and health – all this money is here.

Now, finally, you get misinformation. For instance, the other day I was in Lyantonde and some of the Luweero veterans were talking about some issues but when I checked, we had already provided Shs 218 billion or something like that for the *akasiimo* and the *akasiimo* was supposed to be Shs 5 million for each of the leaders and Shs 1 million for supporters. Now, Shs 218 billion, which has already been provided, is too much money.

So, what happened? Who took this money? And yet I heard some of them were complaining – we are going to dig up the whole thing.

Then you get the cattle compensation for Teso, Lango, Acholi. We have already spent Shs 200 billion on that. Who got this money? And we have now budgeted for another Shs 80 billion. You heard it being read here. So, you, the leaders should follow up on this money. Of course, I will also follow up now that I am involved.

Then, you have things like the stadiums. Quite a bit of money has been sent to some of these stadiums. So, the National Council of Sports needs to explain to us. I hear some money has gone to stadiums like Kakyeka – a number of them, to do this and that. Others are going to be done massively, like Akii-Bua et cetera. So, the National Council of Sports should also come and brief *Mama* about all this money.

Finally, I saw some issue about the digital number plates of vehicles – about fines, fines, fines – that people are being fined for I-do-not-know-what. But the issue about the number plates is not fines but rather anti-crime. I would like my people to put on the projector a picture I saw in today’s newspaper – put that picture, if you have it.

(A photo was displayed on the screen.)

GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI: You see that young man? 45 years old, but was killed on 10 June 2025 – a few days ago. That one there – Godfrey Wayengera. It was in today’s newspaper. I cannot allow our Ugandans to die because of an incomplete infrastructure.

You remember when I addressed you in Parliament. I think it was in 2018, I told you about the cameras – You were here with your policemen, just there; “*Ani yamulabye?*” That was all they were doing. “*Ani yamulabye?*” The one who is going to kill people does not call witnesses to see him.

So, I said, “Please, let us go technical; let us have cameras,” and the cameras have helped us to handle a number of things, but the problem they have is that the number plates – these ones which are just – they are cooked; they just go and

pick something and put it there. These ones are digitalised number plates with a central command post. You touch it, and the alarm goes off. This is the work of the digital number plates, not collecting fines and so on. *(Applause)*

I think the confusion about fines could be because we did not have money, and we told these people to do the number plates and maybe recover the money from those who make mistakes through fines. I do not know; I think that is where the confusion started. However, the issue is that the number plate is digitalised. Every vehicle must have a digital number plate, traceable by the central machinery/central command, to know which *pikipiki* were in this area at this time, and which cars were in this area. These number plates, which are put on and off, are meaningless. This is the whole thing about the digital number plates. It is not about money, fines, or what; no. It is about security. That boy, such a young person, was killed. They are acting with impunity. This is what I cannot accept. Look at this one. He was killed in Mukono, I think. Yes, killed. Then, we must now go to the cameras, but sometimes the cameras also – they cover their faces; it is not easy to know. The number plates are forged. No. This is the purpose of the digital number plates. It is about security, not money, fines, or what. Rubbish. *Apwoyo Matek; Lubanga tie. (Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Your Excellency, for the successful delivery of the Budget and for fulfilling your constitutional obligation. We reiterate our commitment, as the Legislature, to apply our mandate to the realisation of the progressive intentions for the country and its citizens.

Honourable members and all the invited guests, you have been invited for a cocktail –

GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI: I did not know I had a standing ovation, so I must bow. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: You have been invited to a cocktail party at Serena by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Minister, thank you.

GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI: Now, on the issue of the Federation, I brought that picture there. I want to give one to the Speaker. Take it to her. I want to give another one to the Vice President. If she is here as head of the Government; is she here? *(Hon. Jessica Alupo rose)* Give one to the Vice President. Give another one to the Chief Whip of the NRM. Give another one to the Leader of the Opposition. Have you heard of that person, the Leader of the Opposition? So that they can start talking about serious politics, not rubbish. Leader of the Opposition, where is he? Come and they give it to you. That one there. Then, who is the other one? Oh, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps. He is there. Thank you so much. *Apwoyo matek.*

ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER: Once again, I would like to thank you, Your Excellency and *Mama*, all the dignitaries, and all the guests for gracing this function. May the Good Lord bless all of you. Honourable members, the House is adjourned *sine die.*

(The East African Community Anthem.)

(The National Anthem.)

(The House rose at 6.44 p.m. and adjourned sine die.)