



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 15 APRIL 2026



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA
IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament FIFTH

SESSION - 6TH SITTING - THIRD MEETING

Wednesday, 15 April 2026

Parliament met at 2.00 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I want to welcome you to this afternoon's sitting. For those Members who have been at the National Leadership Institute (NALI), I want to welcome you back with renewed vigour and energy to discharge your mandate as Members of Parliament. For those who did not go, like Hon. *Mukatuliki*, we want to thank you for holding fort while the team was away.

I also want to pass on our condolences to the Members who lost their loved ones while we were in NALI. We lost the LC V Chairperson of Kikuube, Mr Peter Banura. Hon. Sarah Najjuma also lost a father, and Hon. Magogo lost a mother. May we stand and observe a moment of silence.

(Members rose and observed a moment of silence.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, as you may recall, we have budget timelines to meet. The remaining milestones are as follows:

1. This week, we will receive reports from the sectoral committees on the ministerial policy statements for Financial Year 2026/2027, and that is pursuant to Rule 156 of the Rules of Procedure.
2. Next week, from the 21st to the 24th of April, we will consider the Tax and Revenue Bills, pursuant to Rule 157 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, and
3. We will, from the 28th to the 30th, do the appropriation, which will take us to the end, pursuant to Rule 158 and Rule 159 of the Rules of Procedure.

As I said before, we decided to bring the appropriation earlier, this being a transition period. By May, members will be swearing in, and we will not have Parliament, yet we are supposed to pass the budget for the next Parliament.

Honourable members, I am in receipt of a letter from the Secretary-General of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC), dated 16 March 2026, appointing Hon. Adeke Ann Ebaju, the Woman Member of Parliament for Soroti District, as a party whip. She replaces Hon. Yusuf Nsibambi. Congratulations, Hon. Adeke, and congratulations, Hon. Nsibambi, for joining the mighty party - he is not confused. Hon. Nsibambi is a very brilliant young man. I want to thank him for joining that side. Congratulations!

Honourable members, I wish you fruitful deliberations. Yes, Hon. Ssekikubo, you are back! Welcome back.

2.07

MR THEODORE SSEKIKUBO (NRM, Lwemiyaga County, Ssembabule): Thank you, Madam Speaker. After a brief sojourn, I am here. I congratulate Members who made it to the 12th Parliament, including yourself. To those who did not, it is work in progress; do not fall back into lamentations because this is how it goes.

Madam Speaker, I rise on a matter, partly arising out of your communication, since we are having Tax Bills to be passed. I rise on a matter of the surge in fuel prices. It is true we have read in the newspapers that the government is making arrangements, and a vessel is about to dock at Mombasa -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, are we still on the Communication from the Speaker?

MR SSEKIKUBO: Yes. I thought I was rising

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THE SPEAKER: I have not gone into matters of national importance. Let me first get responses on my Communication, then I will give you space to say something about matters of national importance.

2.08

MR CHARLES TEBANDEKE (NUP, Bbale County, Kayunga): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would also, in utmost good faith, like to welcome you from NALI and the Members who were there. I observed what happened in NALI, and with the exception of you, I saw almost all the NRM Members of Parliament-elect putting on UPDF uniforms.

THE SPEAKER: Except me.

MR TEBANDEKE: Yes, Madam Speaker. We just passed the UPDF (Amendment) Bill - I do not know whether it is now an Act -

THE SPEAKER: It is an Act.

MR TEBANDEKE: ... forbidding any person from putting on any military attire. I am dismayed that those members may end up in court because of abuse of the national attire.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, the UPDF is a non-partisan institution of the Government. So, under which circumstances is the NRM party taking on the monopolised use of the UPDF attire on their specific functions?

I would also like clarity on whether the custody of these attires, after use, will not be subjected to abuse and criminality in the country. It is a national concern, Madam Speaker, and the public needs clarity over the same. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Tebandeke, thank you for that observation, but the activities that were in NALI were not parliamentary activities. I do not think I have the locus to rule over it because it is not within my jurisdiction. It is something that should be discussed outside Parliament – no, those are not parliamentary activities, but the Government Chief Whip can provide information because I am just learning about it.

2.11

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP

(Mr Hamson Obua): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I would like to respond to the question about the National Leadership Institute (NALI) as follows: first of all, under the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, as amended, specifically Article 17(2), states thus: *“It is the duty of all able-bodied citizens to undergo military training for the defence of this Constitution and the protection of the territorial integrity of Uganda whenever called upon to do so; and the State shall ensure that facilities are available for such training.”*

The National Leadership Institute, Kyankwanzi, in my humble opinion, operationalises Article 17(2). It is a facility for all citizens of Uganda, including the Member who raised the matter. That is the reason this time round, we even had the Democratic Party President, Hon. Norbert Mao, attending. *(Applause)*

While at the institute, all participants are guided by the rules and regulations put in place by the institute. There are operational orders and instructions, and one of them is that all participants within the precincts of the

National Leadership Institute should wear the army green uniform with the authorisation of the leadership of the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF).

Once that is done, it remains within the facility. I hope I have answered, and I pray that next time, you will please join us or organise yours and work through the normal structures. You will be allowed to attend a similar training. I beg to respond.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Government Chief Whip. Yes, Hon. Ssewungu.

2.13

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the Government Chief Whip for his response, but he and I should attest to this. There is no problem with being at Kyankwanzi and wearing those uniforms. However, certain uniforms are not mandatory. Camouflage colours –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, don't we have anything very important to discuss, really?

MR SSEWUNGU: Madam Speaker, I am actually leaving that and going to your Communication from the Chair.

THE SPEAKER: What I am saying is that that is not Parliamentary. What took place there was a political party thing, and the members who were there are not yet sworn-in Members of Parliament. They are yet to be sworn in as Members of Parliament. Having a training there is okay. We can also request you to arrange to go and have a training there because it is free for everybody.

MR SSEWUNGU: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also send condolences to the bereaved families. I would like to inform the Ministry of Works and Transport that there is a big challenge on our roads. Several roads are being worked on, but you do not place supporting infrastructure on the roads. As a result, people are driving badly.

Secondly, still in the same event, we lost children in Ggaba. About four of them were killed by this person, who is in court right now. Since it is a court matter, I do not want to delve into it, but my major interest is: Ministry of Education and Sports, how do we strengthen inspection in schools? A division like Makindye, where that incident happened - that simple road has over 30 schools or 20 schools as you drive along it, yet Makindye Division has, I think, one school inspector.

Inspection in schools is not done well, and what is happening in rural areas is that headteachers are aware that when an inspector is coming, it is just about having an envelope at the gate; nothing to be seen.

We should strengthen inspection. When you strengthen inspection, it means all those minimum standards required at school will be adhered to.

When you look at the incident that took place at this school, you will realise that there were some requirements missing at that school, but I do not want to delve into those areas since it is in court.

As a Committee on Education and Sports, we have pushed, and I would pray that during this budget process, we give inspection money. In schools, teachers are not inspected, so, schools do their own things and as a result, we are getting these kinds of bad incidents. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ssewungu, you are a Member of the Committee on Education and Sports. Those are the policy matters that you should push in the committee, and where the children were killed – this is actually a day-care centre. Those are some of the things that you should bring up. Whether the inspection should go as far as the day-care centres. Those are things you need to interrogate. Yes, Hon. Patrick.

2.17

MR PATRICK OSHABE (NUP, Kassanda County North, Kassanda): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I send my condolences,

because I know you are attached to one of the families that lost a parent. Sorry to you and our colleagues.

Madam Speaker, you have indicated that next week, we will handle the Tax Bills, which will lead to budgeting and appropriation at the end of the month.

However, I am concerned that the other year when they introduced the digital number plates, the pitch here on the Floor of Parliament was: we are increasing the money for digital number plates because we are going to make them electronic, so that in case of any problem, it can be easier for the Government to track them.

I am here to inform the House and the country that a friend of mine told me that thugs came into his home and took the number plate of his cars. I told him it is a promise that they can easily track them. But Madam Speaker, the information is that those number plates cannot be tracked. I wish the company that is charging over Shs 750,000 for the number plates would be put to task why they lied to this country. Here, we operate on the thinking that they increased the money because it was an addition to the people of Uganda. It was a security measure or mainly because of the security aspect of the number plate; that is why the prices were increased.

I know the Minister of Internal Affairs is here, and it is an area of concern. I would wish that, Madam Speaker, somebody is put to task to explain why Ugandans were duped, and they are paying highly for a service they never receive. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: You know, for you to be able to track such a car, it must be synchronised with the camera system. If there is a camera system in that area, it will be able to show the car's location. Maybe we need to hear from the minister.

GEN. MUHOOZI: I have noted the concern of the Member, Madam Speaker. Maybe, if it pleases you, I could consult the Minister of Works, the Minister for Security, and

interrogate this further so that we come up with a more informed position.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Minister of Works and Internal Affairs. It is Works and Internal Affairs.

GEN. MUHOOZI: And Security, which led the Minister for Security -

THE SPEAKER: Okay.

MR OSHABE: Madam Speaker, I appreciate your submission that it must operate within areas with cameras. However, they never told us that. Cameras are only in a few parts of the country, yet people who are paying for these number plates are all over the country. We cannot -

THE SPEAKER: Let us get a report tomorrow. Honourable Government Chief Whip, can we get a report on that effect tomorrow? The Prime Minister is here.

GEN. MUHOOZI: Madam Speaker, could you give us a week so that we can gather the facts and revert?

THE SPEAKER: Can we get it on Friday, because we will sit on Friday?

GEN. MUHOOZI: Yes, you can, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have members of the Executive Committee of Makerere Actuarial Society from Makerere University. You are most welcome. Thank you so much for coming. Join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)*

Honourable members, in the VIP gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation of staff on attachment from the Parliament of Malawi. We have:

1. Mr Tuntufye Kabagbe - Senior Budget Analyst;
2. Ms Florence Sadyalunda - Senior Studio Engineer;

3. Mr Elvis Msukwa - Assistant Accountant;
4. Mr Martin Namacheke - Assistant Librarian;
5. Mr Martin Chilipa - Press Supervisor;
6. Ms Jacqueline Mkwaila - Clerical Officer; and
7. Ms Martha Gombwa - Security Assistant.

You are most welcome. They are here to witness our proceedings, and we welcome them to the Republic of Uganda. This is the Pearl of Africa. Join me in welcoming them, honourable members. *(Applause)* Honourable member from Mbarara, Hon. Basil.

2.23

MR BASIL BATARINGAYA (NRM, Kashari North County, Mbarara): Thank you, Madam Speaker. On the 28th, we shall be considering appropriation, which divides the cake across the country.

Recently, a trade order was issued across the country, and many small earners were affected in cities, town councils, and municipalities. These people were removed without alternative places to go.

I request that during the appropriation, if it is not too late, they be considered, especially those in cities and municipalities where they are removed from the streets; that alternative places of trading could be offered to them during this appropriation, so that pieces of land are purchased to relocate them, so that they can continue serving this country.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, we are almost at the tail of appropriation. We had the Budget Framework Paper; that is where some of these things should have come from. We had the Budget Call Circular 1, and if those specific Votes or ministries that were not involved realised, we still had an opening in the Budget Call Circular 2.

I do not want us to make many alterations, shifting things from unfunded priorities to funded ones. You will distort what the Executive wants. Let us wait to see what the report has. We may be debating in anticipation.

Otherwise, in my opinion, we should be able to see what the Executive wants from us.

MR BATARINGAYA: Most obliged, and I wish you the best, as the next Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Basil. Honourable member for Lwemiyaga?

2.26

MR THEODORE SSEKIKUBO (NRM, Lwemiyaga County, Ssembabule): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise to raise a matter of great public importance.

Some time back, the Government adopted a deliberate process and policy to restore fuel reserves in this country. However, only a few days into the conflict -

THE SPEAKER: Help me state the rule you are referring to. I have seen you with a copy of the Rules of Procedure.

MR SSEKIKUBO: I am rising under your powers under rule 7, Madam Speaker, for you to allow me to -

THE SPEAKER: General powers of a Speaker - have you become a Speaker today?

MR SSEKIKUBO: No, I have invoked it, and you have allowed, and I am proceeding under your general powers, Madam Speaker *-(Laughter)-* which are unlimited and very inherent; you allowed me.

THE SPEAKER: So, what is your issue, Hon. Ssekikubo?

MR SSEKIKUBO: Madam Speaker, we have seen that the country is experiencing a shock. From Masaka all the way to Kampala, road users and motor vehicle owners who use Total petrol stations cannot get petrol there.

For some of the Members who use diesel, the prices have skyrocketed because before, out of Shs 100,000, one could get 20 litres, but you can now get only 18.5 litres. I do not see a solution in the near future. We know that Uganda uses 240 million barrels of fuel per month.

The question I am raising is: are there contingent measures to be taken by the Government, in view of the spikes in the oil prices in this country? Uganda is a landlocked country. We cannot afford to be without fuel. We are beset by very big problems. The pipelines need to be worked on.

Madam Speaker, what happened to the oil reserves we had in this country? Can the Government, therefore, update us on the procedures and measures to be taken to avert the fuel crisis in this country?

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, I remember in March this year, the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development held a press conference and talked about the fuel reserves, where we had 81 million litres, and they were supposed to add more.

When you look at the fuel prices in Uganda as of today and compare them with those in Kenya, you realise that ours are relatively better. However, that does not stop us from getting a response from the Government. Anyhow, as Hon. Ssekikubo has said, we need to be prepared.

2.29

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Madam Speaker, I would like to add my voice to yours to condole with the families who lost their beloved ones. We pray for the souls of the departed to rest in eternal peace.

Madam Speaker, we are going to consult with the ministry, so that they can come back here with a report on what they have prepared, as far as reserves are concerned. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The preparedness of the ministry – let us have a paper on that. Hon. Dr Keefa?

2.31

DR KEEFA KIWANUKA (NRM, Kiboga East County, Kiboga): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. (*Hon. Ssewungu rose*)

THE SPEAKER: Friday - tomorrow is Thursday. Yes, Dr Keefa?

DR KEEFA KIWANUKA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. On the 12th of March, I raised a matter of national importance regarding local governance. Before that, the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission had confirmed to the country that they were organising the LCI, LCII, and women's council elections, which would be held in March and April this year. Therefore, on the 12th of March, I raised the matter because nothing was forthcoming, even as the country was in high gear, with over 10,000 villages preparing for these elections.

The Minister of State for Local Government very promptly rose up and confirmed that, actually, the elections would be there in March and April. She also confirmed that the money for elections had been released. She also confirmed something about the allowances and remuneration. However, when prompted further, she said, "Let me pop out for 10 minutes and get more details." Madam Speaker, we have not seen her ever since. It has been over one month since. What I was asking was very simple and basic.

The first question that I asked was: "Has the money for the elections been secured? Are we going ahead with elections in March and April as the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission had announced?"

I am glad to see the Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development coming in. So, has the money for the elections been released? I have been checking through some of the releases, and they are saying it is not in what has been released, which is worrying.

The second question that I asked was: "What are the actual dates of these elections? Are we still having them in March and April, as the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission had announced?"

The last question that I am asking myself and the minister is about the remuneration and

allowances of the LCI, LCII and LCIII and LCV chairpersons and councillors to attract competence, but also to motivate those who are participating in these elections.

The LCI, LCII and LCIII chairpersons are responsible for responding to land disputes, domestic violence, mobilisation, security and intelligence. They work 24 hours but they are paid Shs 10,000 a month, which is probably not enough for one single basic meal a day.

As we go through this budgeting process, the minister has assured us that something has been included. It would be very interesting to hear what is being proposed and what the chairpersons of LCI, LCII, and the councillors should expect as we go into the elections.

Now, in the absence of the Minister of Local Government and others, can I request that, Madam Speaker, you direct that a statement actually be made on this matter, probably tomorrow, instead of the House receiving an ad hoc response right now on this matter. I submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Dr Keefa. We do not have the Minister of Local Government here. We have the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development. Honourable minister, do you have any information on whether the money was released for the election of the LCs? If it was released, how much money was released? When are the elections? Then also say something on the increment of the salaries for the LCI, II, III and V chairpersons? Could you provide any information? If you do not have it now, we request you, I will not direct, but request that you bring a write-up on it.

2.37

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Madam Speaker, Hon. Magyezi, who is the Minister of Local Government, talked to the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development this morning, and he is bringing a paper to the Cabinet, which is going to be debated on

Monday, under Supplementary Schedule No.5 so that the money for the LCs I and LCs II is passed by the Cabinet. That is the information from Hon. Magyezi; he has talked to the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, we have Supplementary Schedule No.5 ready for laying now.

2.38

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PLANNING) (Mr Amos Lugoloobi): Madam Speaker, just to supplement what she said, particularly regarding the money for elections of the chairpersons of the lower local governments, we chose to stand over item 3.1 on the supplementary expenditure for 2025/2026, Schedule No.5, on grounds that we had to do some final consultations because it contained an item that requires Cabinet clearance. That is why we stood over it.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, maybe just to help you on what *Hajat* was saying, in the supplementary, we have money for LCI, LCs II, and women council elections to the tune of Shs 55 billion.

MR LUGOLOOBI: Exactly, Madam Speaker. I was providing further information, but we cannot lay out this schedule now. We shall lay it after the Monday meeting in the Cabinet.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, this is what has been sent to us for laying. Signed by who? Signed by the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury (PS/NST). It is part of what is here, so your question is answered. The money has been provided. Now, what we shall wait for is the date for the election - (*Members rose*) It is not yet time. You people, you are not going to manage the House for me. Okay? Next item.

BILLS
FIRST READING

THE PROTECTION OF SOVEREIGNTY
BILL, 2026

THE PROTECTION OF SOVEREIGNTY
BILL, 2026

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to Article 91 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Rule 134(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I invite the Minister of Internal Affairs to table the Bill for the first reading.

Honourable minister – (*Mr Oshabe rose*) - yes?

MR OSHABE: Madam Speaker, usually, when Bills come, they are put in our pigeonholes. A while ago, I checked my pigeonhole and didn't find it there. When I went to the Office of the Clerk, I was told: "The Bill is there, but we are still making consultations about the same." It seems that the copies of the Bill needed some clearance before Members would get them.

I would like to ask whether the minister has cleared them and whether we can proceed, Madam Speaker, without those copies with the Members. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the minister delivered the copies to the Clerk to Parliament. However, we thought it wise – because we gave you iPads – to upload it. Check your iPads; you have it. (*Member rose*) Do you have it?

Since you have it on your iPads, you will also pick up a copy as you go out. They are there. This is just for the first reading. You will go and follow it up. Check on your iPads. I am surprised that *Father* does not have the iPad.

Honourable minister, can you – (*Member rose*) - no, let us first have the Bill laid. Yes, honourable minister.

2.43

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Gen. David Muhoozi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill entitled, "The Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026" be read for the first time.

GEN. MUHOOZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the proposed Bill and the accompanying Certificate of Financial Implications, in keeping with Section 76 of the Public Finance Management Act and Rule 117 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to Rule 135(1) of the Rules of Procedure, the Bill stands referred to the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs and the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs – the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs will take the lead – and report back to the House. Thank you.

MR SSEKIKUBO: I am most obliged by your guidance, but a Bill of this nature ought to be taken like a normal Bill. We must receive copies because of the implications that this Bill has on Ugandans. So, we should not be seen to be treating it differently. I have checked in my pigeon hole as well; there is no copy. This is a matter of great public importance, not only for Members of Parliament but also for the general public – the citizens of this country.

Madam Speaker, can we handle it in the normal way – to look at it; to process it – so that it is not seen as though Hon. Gen. Muhoozi is pushing it down at all costs, yet the procedure is not to smuggle business on the Floor of Parliament? This is a Parliament of record. Hon. Gen. David Muhoozi has been known to be transparent and one of the most cautious and careful ministers. This is so that we do not look bad and shabby in the eyes of Ugandans.

So, Madam Speaker, is it procedurally right to proceed in a manner that is not commensurate with the procedures of this House? We want this Bill to be processed, and we proceed together. They are making the Speaker commit that the copies of the Bill are already on the Table, whereas they are not, Madam Speaker. We wish that you could guide us on this matter so that the general public does not take it that we have a hidden agenda.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have told you to stop being analogue. We have gone digital. Check on your iPads. I hope you did not forget the iPads during the campaigns. Next item.

LAYING OF PAPERS

I) REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA DELEGATION TO THE FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT (PAP) AND OTHER RELATED MEETINGS HELD IN MIDRAND, SOUTH AFRICA FROM 16 JULY TO 1 AUGUST 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, Article 19 of the PAP Protocol requires Members of the Pan-African Parliament to submit a written report to their national Parliaments, with copies sent to ministers for foreign affairs or regional cooperation. Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I invite a Member of PAP, who is none other than Hon. Oshabe, to present the report.

2.48

MR PATRICK OSHABE (NUP, Kassandra County North, Kassandra): Thank you. Madam Speaker, the Rules of Procedure present an opportunity that after laying, a Member can briefly give a submission of what transpired at the Pan-African Parliament, based on rule 38.

It is under that rule, Madam Speaker, that I beg your indulgence that after laying the papers, I briefly take the House through a few things.

THE SPEAKER: Just give us a summary.

MR OSHABE: Thank you. Madam Speaker, allow me to lay the report of the Parliament of Uganda Delegation to the Fifth Ordinary Session of the Sixth Legislature of the Pan-African Parliament and other related meetings held in Midrand, South Africa, from the 16th of July to the 1st of August 2025.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR OSHABE: Madam Speaker, allow me to lay a report of the Parliament of Uganda delegation to the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Sixth Legislature of the Pan-African Parliament and other related meetings that sat from the 3rd to the 16th of November 2025, in Midrand, South Africa. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Please, ley.

MR OSHABE: Madam Speaker, the Pan-African Parliament, the legislative organ of the African Union, held two meetings at the PAP headquarters in Midrand, South Africa, under the theme: “Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through reparations.”

The details of these sessions are in the reports that I have laid.

The sittings brought together Pan-African parliamentarians, Speakers of National and Regional Parliaments, and Members of the National and Regional Parliaments - *(Interjections)*- thank you - Clerks of the National and Regional Parliaments, government officials, Civil Society Organisation, academia, African Union Member States, African Union Organs and Institutions, Ugandan National Organs and Bodies, and the diplomatic corps.

These are the lessons learned from the sessions. I am going to do two: lessons learned and the recommendations, just to run through time.

i) The Pan-African Parliament recommended the strengthening of parliamentary diplomacy. The sessions demonstrated that parliamentary diplomacy remains a vital tool for advocating African collective interests. Parliaments can play a proactive role in complementing executive action on pressing issues such as climate change, inequality, and conflict.

Building stronger Inter-Parliamentary Networks enhances Africa’s voice in global policy forums and strengthens regional solidarity on matters shared at the Continental Parliament.

- ii) Secondly, we learned that emphasis on tangible outcomes and accountability - there is a growing recognition that the continental engagements must move beyond political declarations toward concrete, measurable outcomes, effective monitoring, evaluation, and reporting mechanisms are essential to ensure that commitments made at the Pan-African Parliament and related forums translate into actionable national and regional policies.
- iii) Value for continental coordination - deliberations on frameworks such as the European Union (EU) Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and the AU-EU Summit preparations illustrated the importance of a unified African stance in global negotiations.

Coordinated approaches enhance bargaining power, prevent policy fragmentation, and ensure that continental priorities are coherently advanced and at international platforms.

- iv) Youth inclusion as a driver of innovation and governance. Engagements such as the Youth Day Conference and the P20 Young Parliamentarians Forum reaffirmed the critical role of youth in governance, innovation, and policymaking. Investing in youth leadership, capacity building, and mentorship ensures continuity in democratic governance and brings fresh perspectives to development challenges.
- v) Harnessing technology and digital transformation was another lesson learned. The discussion on digital innovation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) highlighted the need for African parliaments to embrace technological tools to improve governance, transparency, and service delivery. Strengthening digital literacy, data protection, and AI governance frameworks will position Africa to benefit from the fourth industrial revolution.
- vi) Integrating justice, equity and reparations into development policy. The African

Union's (AU) 2024 theme, "Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations", underscored the need for justice and equity to underpin all development efforts. Legislators must promote frameworks that address historical injustices, social inequalities, and systemic barriers to inclusive development.

- vii) Holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development - committee discussions revealed that sustainable development cannot be achieved through sectoral silos. Issues such as agriculture, energy, industry, health, and human rights are interconnected and must be addressed through coordinated policy frameworks that align with the AU's Agenda 2063 and the PAP strategic plan.
- viii) Multi-stakeholder engagement enhances policy relevance was also covered. The participation of civil society, the academia, AU Institutions, and international partners enriches parliamentary deliberations. Such inclusion engagement ensures that policymaking is evidence-based, participatory, and reflective of diverse stakeholder preparation, thereby increasing legitimacy and impact.
- ix) Institutional strengthening of the Pan-African Parliament. The sitting reaffirmed PAP's central role in promoting continental integration, harmonising legislation and advancing citizen-centred governance. Continued institutional capacity building and enhanced coordination with national parliaments will strengthen PAP's effectiveness in influencing continental policy agendas.
- x) Continuous learning and exchange of best practices. High-level engagements such as the AI Governance workshop, ASGAP annual meeting, and the Conference of Speakers provided valuable platforms for experience sharing and peer learning. These exchanges encouraged innovation in parliamentary practice, legislative

oversight, and policy formulation across the continent.

Madam Speaker, these are the recommendations that were given by the Pan-African Parliament during the two sessions, which are also summarised.

The Pan-African Parliament recommends as follows:

- i) Enhance Uganda's role in parliamentary democracy. These are the recommendations of our delegation. The Parliament of Uganda should continue to engage actively in Pan-African and International Parliamentary Forums.
- ii) Strengthening Uganda's visibility and leadership within the PAP and the inter-parliamentary platforms can amplify national and regional interests, especially on issues such as climate resilience, energy security, and fair trade.
- iii) Institutional mechanism for follow-up on continental commitments. There is a need to establish a structured mechanism within the Parliament to track the implementation of PAP resolutions and AU decisions relevant to Uganda. This would ensure accountability and alignment of national policies with continental priorities, particularly those under Agenda 2063.

Madam Speaker, we recommend promoting youth empowerment in governance. Parliament should expand youth representation and mentorship programmes.

Madam Speaker, we also recommend mainstreaming digital transformation and innovation in parliamentary work. We proposed to integrate justice and equity principles into legislation.

We recommend strengthening coordination with stakeholders.

Promote a multi-stakeholder approach to national development.

We recommended investing in capacity building, knowledge exchange, and the

strengthening of the Pan-African Parliament.

Madam Speaker, the biggest challenge the Pan-African Parliament is facing at the moment is that out of the 54 countries, only 15 have ratified the Malabo Protocol, which would empower the Pan-African Parliament to function as an institution rather than depend on national parliaments for its existence.

The biggest challenge is that today, somebody has been a Member of Parliament, tomorrow he or she is not, and every session, at least there is an announcement of new Members of Parliament. We plead that with our country, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, can be among - Uganda can be part of the countries that can ratify the Malabo Protocol and submit the instruments to the AU so that the move is made to make a purely legislative African Legislative assembly, which is the Pan-African Parliament (PAP). Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much, colleagues, for listening to me.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. We can actually organise for the PAP Members to have a meeting with the President on that matter.

No, he is working for the country.

Honourable members, we will deposit these reports in the parliamentary library for easy reference, and whoever wants them should be able to go and read and understand what happens in PAP.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION OF
REPORTS OF THE THE SECTORAL
COMMITTEES ON THE MINISTERIAL
POLICY STATEMENTS AND BUDGET
ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR
2026/2027

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, as you may be aware, Section 11 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2025, mandates Parliament to analyse policy issues. In addition, Section 13 of the Public Finance Management Act requires Parliament to consider and approve, by the 15th day of May, the annual budgets and work plans for the Government for the next financial

year, the Appropriation Bill, and any other Bills that may be necessary for implementation of the National Budget. So far, we are well within the prescribed statutory timelines.

As we commence the consideration of the sectoral committee reports on the Ministerial Policy Statements for Financial Year 2026/2027, I will urge committees to desist from focusing on unfunded priorities and instead consider the funded ones. As we are aware, the two budget call circulars, as I said before, were already sent.

Budget Call Circulars 1 and 2 were sent. That should have been something to guide us, other than us altering what has been sent because that is what has been considered by the sectors and by the Government. I want to remind you that the formulation of budgets is a function of the Executive.

I will now invite the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to move a motion for approval of the Annual Proposed Budget for Financial Year 2026/2027, after which I will invite the various chairpersons of committees to present their Ministerial Policy Statements.

Yes, honourable minister.

3.03

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PLANNING) (Mr Amos Lugoloobi): Madam Speaker, thank you so much for that guidance. Within the framework of that guidance, I beg to move a Motion for the approval of the Annual Proposed Budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Is it seconded? Okay, it is seconded by Hon. Nakadama, Hon. Obua, Hon. Lugoloobi, Gen. Muhoozi, Hon. Ogwang, Hon. Mugarra, Hon. Kyakulaga, Hon. Muruli Mukasa, Hon. Omara, Hon. Acrobert Kiiza, Hon. Karim Masaba, Hon. Tebandeke, Hon. Ssewungu, Hon. Nsanja, Hon. Akol and this whole side. Thank you so much.

Would you want to speak to it? This is the second reading.

MR LUGOLOOBI: Madam Speaker, you already stated the legal framework upon which we are moving: Sections 11 and 13 of the Public Finance Management Act, which empower Parliament to review proposals made by Government through the policy statements.

Earlier, we had sent the Budget Framework Paper to the House, and it was approved by Parliament. Subsequently, we issued Budget Call Circular Two, on the basis of which the policy statements were prepared by the various votes under this Government.

These were laid here one by one and referred to the various sectoral committees of Parliament. Accordingly, as required under these provisions, they are presented here for your consideration.

Madam Speaker, we are now inviting the House to consider the proposals made by the Government, as contained in these various reports from the various votes of the Government. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much, honourable minister. I will now invite the chairpersons of the different committees to present their ministerial statements.

THE COMMITTEE ON ICT AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Chairperson of the Committee on ICT and National Guidance. Okay, in the absence of the committee chairperson, we can have the Committee on Public Service and Local Government. I know he is always ready.

3.06

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Mr Ojara Mpenduzi): Madam Speaker, we request that you give us the next few minutes, and we will be ready.

THE SPEAKER: Okay.

Honourable members, can we have your reports? I will make you sit here even on a Sunday.

Honourable members, as we wait for Hon. Ojara Mapenduzi, the honourable minister for Sports, says he has a report on Uganda's preparedness for the Africa Cup of Nations AFCON, as asked by the Leader of the Opposition - the outgoing opposition.

3.08

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)

(Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Maybe before I begin the submission of my statement, allow me, in a special way, to first register my apologies and condole with the family of the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) President, Hon. Moses Magogo. I was meant to officially attend the burial of his mother. I want, in a special way, to say I was representing the ministry at the retreat in the National Leadership Institute, Kyankwanzi.

Secondly, I also send my condolences to the families of Hon. Sarah Najjuma and the other colleague, who lost their dear parents.

I thank you for granting me the opportunity to appraise you on Uganda's preparedness to co-host the Africa Cup of Nations 2027 tournament -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ogwang, do you have a copy?

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, I submitted the copies of this report to the Clerk's Office by midday this afternoon. Therefore, I expected that copies of this document would already have been sent to Members, but I can proceed as they bring them.

THE SPEAKER: Let us have it -

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, my "size-mate" has turned out to be the Chairperson of the House. She is telling -

THE SPEAKER: Let us have it uploaded as you read.

MR OGWANG: Okay.

THE SPEAKER: Your "size-mate" is -

MR OGWANG: She had granted me permission to proceed as if she is the chairperson of the House, but I thank her so much. *(Laughter)*

Madam Speaker, I want to start by thanking you for granting me this opportunity to appraise the House on Uganda's preparedness to co-host African Cup of Nations 2027 tournament alongside Kenya and Tanzania. This follows concerns raised by the honourable Leader of the Opposition on this as a matter of national importance.

The statement, therefore, provides an update on the progress made thus far and arrangements in the pipeline that the Government of Uganda has put in place to support the successful hosting of this important continental sporting events.

Honourable members, co-hosting a tournament of this magnitude and complexity of the Africa Cup of Nations is not an undertaking that can be delivered by one ministry, department, agency, or sporting federation alone. It requires a well-coordinated and a whole-of-government approach.

Honourable members, as guided by Cabinet, the First Lady and the Minister of Education and Sports has constituted an inter-sectoral committee to support the local organising committee in Uganda's preparation for AFCON 2027.

Madam Speaker, the inter-ministerial committee is a convergence of skills and experience from people in different fields, drawn from over 20 entities including government institutions, representation from the private sector, and the Federation of Uganda Football Associations.

The inter-ministerial committee has identified key sector requirements that are critical for

successful organisation and hosting of the AFCON 2027 tournament. This has been prioritised in the plans for Financial Year 2026/2027 and Cabinet has approved the attendant requisite budget for funding the intervention.

Honourable members, the Government planning for AFCON 2027 has been guided by a number of key assumptions. These include the fact that the tournament will be jointly hosted by Uganda, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania. That is, it will run from 19 June to 18 July 2027. Uganda will host matches at the Mandela National Stadium Namboole, and Hoima City Stadium. The two competition stadia, together with eight attendant training facilities, must be completed by January 2027.

Honourable members, the Government has demonstrated, from time to time, its commitment to undertaking. In 2024, the Cabinet not only approved the Government guarantees to the Confederation of African Football but also approved a budget of 1.35 trillion towards the infrastructure, logistical, and operational costs associated with preparations for the African Cup of Nations 2027 and CHAN 2024, including Uganda's obligatory commitment fee to the confirmation of African football.

In addition, the government has approved Shs 905 billion to meet the critical inter-sectoral funding and administrative requirements for AFCON 2027.

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

- i) The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is to allocate and ring-fence - I want to repeat thus: the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is to allocate and ring-fence funds to ministries, departments, and agencies with qualified AFCON 2027 interventions, including those requiring commitments between March and June 2026, ahead of the new financial year;
- ii) Government has already set aside Shs 1.01 billion to support the upgrading of selected hotels in Hoima and Masindi through a special credit facility under the Uganda Development Bank. Consultations with CAF on the standards of hotels in Hoima and Masindi have been concluded, and the engagements between the hotel owners and Uganda Development Bank are anticipated to commence on the 23rd day of April 2026;
- iii) Shs 213.76 billion has been committed for the upgrade of at least 47.53 kilometres of selected roads around Hoima City Stadium and Mandela National Stadium, including Kinawataka Road, as well as the pedestrian walkways and street lighting to improve accessibility, safety, and security;
- iv) Shs 184.99 billion has been allocated for the establishment of a passenger terminal at Kabalega Airport and to operationalise the facility as an international airport;
- v) Shs 5.2 billion has been provided to the Federation of Uganda Football Association for the upgrading of Kadiba Stadium as a training facility, and Shs 12.55 billion has been committed for the interventions aimed at preparing the Uganda Cranes for AFCON 2027;
- vi) Madam Speaker, Shs 109 billion has been allocated to the local organising committee to support tournament-specific preparations across the 13 sub-committees, including safety and security, ICT and accreditation, workforce and volunteer, medical and anti-doping, events operation, commercial services, branding, spectators' services, team services, legal, infrastructure management, guest management and hospitality;
- vii) Shs 56.2 billion has been allocated in the Financial Year 2026/2027 for the remodelling and upgrade of the Mandela National Stadium;

- viii) Shs 6.44 billion has been committed to ICT infrastructure deployment and improvement across airports, hotels, stadia, training facilities, and hospitals that will support AFCON 2027;
- ix) Shs 91.5 billion has been set aside for the upgrade of Hoima Regional Referral Hospital, Masindi General Hospital, and Buseruka Health Centre III to a required standard for intensive care, accident, and emergency response as stipulated by CAF;
- x) Shs 13.75 billion has been allocated to Hoima City, Masindi Municipality, and Kira Municipality to strengthen sanitation and environmental hygiene services during the tournament;
- xi) The government has also provided Shs 3.39 billion for the upgrade of the meteorological services;
- xii) Shs 6.2 billion has been identified for water supply infrastructure in Hoima City;
- xiii) Shs 23.33 billion is being allocated for the upgrade and maintenance of the railway at the central terminal, Kampala-Mukono line – Namanve and Namboole halt;
- xiv) Shs 4.6 billion has been dedicated to the construction of electricity lines to AFCON support facilities, including Hoima City Stadium and Kabaale International Airport;
- xv) Shs 37.85 billion has been committed for the destination marketing and promotion of Uganda under the AFCON 2027 brand;
- xvi) The Government has further committed to waive visa fees for all visitors to Uganda for a period of at least three months beginning one month before kick-off and ending one month after the final match; and
- xvii) Relatedly, the Government is pursuing a special-purpose joint Pamoja visa with Kenya and Tanzania to facilitate movement for fans and guests during the tournament.
- Madam Speaker and honourable members, the above-mentioned interventions will be implemented directly by the responsible government ministries, departments, and agencies. The Ministry of Education and Sports and the local organising committee will play a supervisory role to ensure the timely implementation of activities by the MDAs and conformity to the CAF standard.
- Honourable colleagues, our most significant challenge has been the area of sports infrastructure. I would like to assure the House that, following the Government's commitments and decisive interventions, this matter has been addressed.
- The update regarding the development of sports infrastructure, in preparation for the tournament, is as follows:
1. Hoima City Stadium

Works for the construction of Hoima City Stadium have been completed, and the defect liability period will expire in December 2026. During this period, the contractor will undertake remedial works to address the comments made by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) after the recent inspection.
 2. Mandela National Stadium

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, for the design and build for works for the expansion of Mandela National Stadium under phase two, was signed on 26 February 2026.

Under this phase, we expect, among others, the following:

 - (a) Upgrading the seating capacity from 38,268 to 45,000 seater;

- (b) Improvements and expansion of the VVIP and VIP lounges; and
- (c) Improvements in the media tribune, stadium media centre, press conference rooms, the mixed zone, spectators' related areas, and medical areas, among others.

The contractor is currently reviewing the design to incorporate the observations made by the Confederation of African Football. Following the design review, structural integrity tests are being taken and it is expected that the contractor will execute the works within the timeframe stipulated by CAF.

3. Kyambogo University training facility

The construction works under phase two are ongoing and will be completed by August 2026.

4. Makerere University training facility

Construction works are ongoing and will be completed by August 2026.

5. Hoima Boma Grounds

The architectural designs have been completed, and construction works will commence before the end of April 2026.

6. Masindi Municipal Training Facility

The architectural designs have been completed, and construction works will commence before the end of April 2026.

7. FUFA-Kadiba Stadium Training Facility

The works have been provided for in the budget, and the federation is expected to hand over the facility at the end of June because the season of the current league is ending in June.

8. Sir Tito Winyi Secondary School training facility

The process for land acquisition is ongoing, and works are anticipated to commence by the end of May 2026.

The foregoing clearly demonstrates the Government's strong commitment to creating an enabling environment for the successful organisation and co-hosting of the Africa Cup of Nations 2027 (AFCON 2027) tournament. The focus now is on ensuring the timely implementation of all interventions across implementing entities, efficient coordination, and close monitoring of progress across all intervention areas.

I, therefore, wish to assure this House that the Government remains fully committed to the successful preparation and co-hosting of AFCON 2027. We will continue to provide regular updates on the progress, key milestones, and emerging implementation issues of the preparations.

I beg to submit, but Madam Speaker, in a special way, I thank you and your deputy for leading us to getting the rights to host AFCON 2027. I thank you so much, on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Sports.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I did not hear about Akii-Bua Stadium. Is it part of-

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, for the record, I would like to put this clearly before the honourable members. I did say this before, and I am going to repeat it now. The Confederation of African Football gave us - we are three countries, and each country is required to have two stadiums. They want six stadiums. They have also advised that each of us must have a backup stadium. For that matter, Akii-Bua Stadium is the backup stadium for AFCON 2027. Tanzania also has one or two and Kenya is doing the same. I want to say; it is not that Akii-Bua Stadium is totally out, but my statement is saying that for purposes of this competition, we are going to have Namboole and Hoima. The backup stadium is Akii-Bua and we will have Akii Bua ready by the end of this year. I have been there, and I encourage all of us to visit Akii-Bua, if you need to. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ogwang, since Akii-Bua is going to be a backup stadium, we also

[The Speaker]

need to get its update, the Iceme-Ngai-Bobi road - that AFCON road that goes up to Gulu. We also want to find out when the Busunju-Hoima Road will be ready. We need those facilities ready. It is outside your ministry, but you are the coordinating minister.

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, it is true we are coordinating as Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on AFCON 2027. To begin with, the road between Kampala and Hoima, I want to confirm - We discussed this road because it was within the CAF report when they came and visited us. They identified it and we notified the Ministry of Works and Transport. I last passed that road last evening at around midnight. There are works going on, and I want to pledge that we will continue to monitor and inform the House, working closely with the Minister of Works and Transport, to ensure that the road is completed on time.

Regarding the road of Corner Yeri-Iceme-Bobi, I wish to state that during the retreat, a question was raised, and I informed the retreat. I want to inform the House that His Excellency the President directed that the road be fast-tracked.

I want to confirm that there were meetings between us, the Ministry of Works and Transport, and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development with the President regarding the financing of that road. If you heard the answer I gave, I want to repeat that this matter is before the President, and he directed his Principal Private Secretary to ensure that he signs that letter, which allows us, as the Government, to do the work. The question that will come is, "Will they be able to do the work?" The contractor who was identified has pledged that once this is done, they are ready to commit and begin work on the roads on time.

The same applies to the Gulu Airport. I led a team, under the directive of the President, to visit the airport with the contractor. The contractor has committed to ensuring that the work that is required is done. But remember, I am talking about a backup. In terms of the sporting area, friends, the training facility for

Gulu University, Pece Stadium in Gulu, Lira University, and Akii-Bua Stadium, which has two training facilities, will be ready as far as we are concerned. I already have money under the current budget to ensure that those stadiums are worked on. I have already finalised the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, who is the contractor for the training facilities.

I will soon invite my colleagues for the commissioning of the ground-breaking of the training facilities in Gulu and Lira. I symbolically did so for all of those facilities here in Makerere University. I want to say we are good to go in that line too. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, I think you need to create time and visit all those facilities with the Committee on Education and Sports.

Yes - Let me start with Patrick who has been itching to speak.

3.28

MR PATRICK OSHABE (NUP, Kassanda County North, Kassanda): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Allow me to thank the minister for giving us a general update about Uganda's preparedness to host AFCON 2027. The matter that the Leader of the Opposition raised here - I was in this House - was about the CAF report.

I expected the minister - because the CAF report highlighted key areas where we lay behind in terms of preparations. I thought the minister would have been fair to us and the country at large to tease out all the key critical highlights in the CAF report, where it said Uganda is not prepared for 2027. You would have convinced us that this is what we are doing in terms of acceleration of our preparedness in that particular area.

Madam Speaker, that is where my problem is and I wanted him to concentrate mainly on the CAF report, how we can rectify that and when CAF will come back to say, we have worked on what we were supposed to work on and probably give us approval. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: If I heard well, the minister said that the Hoima City Stadium is still under the defect period. Those issues have been seen by the contractor who is supposed to work on them. Isn't that what you said, honourable minister?

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, I thank you for correctly answering my colleague, but I would also like to say the following. I invited CAF to come and carry out an inspection on our readiness. Why? The Confederation of African Football is the owner of the tournament, and because of that, they are the ones who set the standards.

For that matter, when they came and inspected the facilities, they gave a report. I would like to confirm that it is that report which prompted my minister to constitute an Inter-Ministerial Committee, because if you look at what I have read here, it is on different Ministries, Departments, and Agencies outside the Ministry of Education and Sports.

When she constituted the Inter-Ministerial Committee - whatever observations you have seen where the Government allocates money is within the findings of CAF. For instance, the Hoima Airport was meant to be an airport specifically for cargo, but now that we put up a stadium there, there was need for the Government to put up a passenger terminal at the airport. This is within the CAF report.

Let us talk about health. CAF inspected Hoima Regional Referral Hospital and Masindi General Hospital, and picked certain provisions within those hospitals. It is through this that we sat with the Ministry of Health, in line with the guidance from the CAF report, that the following must be undertaken. That is how we allocated that money.

If you talk about roads, the state of the road between Kampala to Hoima was one of the observations, which was within the CAF report and that is what made us follow up on that intervention.

Regarding the roads within Hoima Stadium, they asked how we are going to decongest traffic because we are going to have 20,000 people in the stadium entering and exiting. How will they get out? That is what made us allocate that money.

We gave a contractor the mandate to build the stadium, which it did. After that, CAF carried out an inspection of the stadium. Within our contract, it was very clear that we can only take that stadium if it fully meets the CAF Class Certification. CAF identified some of the areas in the stadium, which did not meet this classification. The contractor, as per the contract, is now meant to ensure that all those issues, that were identified, are corrected. The Government of Uganda is not going to spend even a dollar.

Like the Speaker has said, the stadium is still within a defect liability period, within which they must make sure that work is done. CAF is coming back in August to check on whether we have done what they had identified in their report.

Honourable colleagues, the Government has taken this competition as a priority for next financial year's budget. *(Applause)* No wonder, you have heard the President insist that this is a project that takes priority for implementation. We are committed; we cannot get out of it. The issues identified in the CAF report are exactly what we are addressing, as the Government. Thank you, honourable colleagues.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Helen?

3.34

MS HELEN NAKIMULI (NUP, Woman Representative, Kalangala): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the sports minister for that elaborate report.

However, if I recall correctly, what the Leader of the Opposition addressed here is not what he is responding to. You are simply giving us a general report, but he specified about eight areas, which you have not hinted on.

Firstly, as you said, we have a deadline of August. CAF is coming back in August. You have said the Government has done this and that. Have you given us a deadline on when these things are going to be done because CAF is going to come and inspect in August? Will this time be enough for us to be ready, especially in Hoima?

Secondly, Madam Speaker, there are issues entailed in the Leader of the Opposition's (LOP's) presentation, for example, the benches which are obstructing the VIP section. Have you handled that in your report?

Regarding the contractor you got, I would like to ask the minister why you did not get professionals to work on this pitch and approve it. Why didn't you share the plan you have with CAF because they are the ones who are supposed to inspect? Where did you get the plan you used for Hoima City Stadium – *(Interruption)*

MR KAYEMBA-SOLO: Thank you, my honourable colleague, Hon. Nakimuli. Madam Speaker, in 2019, Cameroon was supposed to host the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) that was later hosted in Egypt. The reason it was scrapped was that Cameroon was not ready, the way Uganda is not.

We have professionals in this field in Uganda, especially in stadiums, which I think include the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA). Before doing all this, did FUFA, in consultation with CAF, approve the plan for Hoima City Stadium? This is because what we are doing is going back, yet we had a solution in the first place.

I would like to know whether FUFA was involved in infrastructural or stadium development in this country, or is it only the ministry that has no experts and professionals. That is what I would like to know.

MS NAKIMULI: Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you, honourable colleague, for the information. I would like you to please give us the real report that this House requires.

Another issue was that CAF told you to break down the changing rooms because they were very small. I do not see that in your report or maybe you just gave us a highlight. Please, we want Uganda to host but we want us to be ready. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, you are saying there are eight issues that were raised by CAF. Why doesn't the minister handle the issues one by one and say, "If it is on breaking down, this is the state?"

We are saying we are not spending any more money on this. It is now upon the minister to supervise and say, "You do A, B, C, D, as per what we asked you to do" because by the time these people went to construct, the minister must have given them a plan. They cannot construct without a plan. *(Hon. Ogwang rose.)* You will answer all of them. Hon. Karim?

3.38

MR KARIM MASABA (Independent, Industrial Division, Mbale City): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague, the honourable minister, for the report. Honourable minister, I need clarification majorly on the means of transport.

You have talked about the passenger terminal but I am interested in knowing the public means that are going to be used. Do you have any special arrangement because if we have people –

THE SPEAKER: We have Kiira buses.

MR MASABA: Yes. We know what happens when we have football games, for example at Namboole; getting there is a problem. Do we have any special arrangement for our people, particularly those who want to go? Have you made an arrangement with any bus companies or do you have a bus terminal in particular that will be dedicated to the tournament because many of our people may struggle to get to Hoima? You know they usually cheat us in times like this. Even when children are going back to school, we find that many of these bus operators cheat our people.

THE SPEAKER: We should actually thank President Museveni for putting a lot of money into Kiira Motors because we will have a number of buses.

MR MASABA: Yes. In the report, there was an issue with the train connecting from Mukono to Namboole. Does it involve buying new locomotives? The ones we have are quite embarrassing for us as a country, and I do not know what exactly is included in the figure you mentioned.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Allan, Hon. Ethel, Hon. Hilary and I close it.

3.39

MR ALLAN SSEWANYANYA (NUP, Makindye Division West, Kampala): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the Minister of State for Education and Sports for that great enlightenment.

[Text expunged.]

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Ethel and then the LOP.

3.41

MS ETHEL NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you, Madam Speaker. My concern is about the involvement of the local governments where these events are going to be held. A case in point is Namboole. Many times, we have national and international events but you will find that Kira Municipality is not involved in any way and yet the cleanliness of those cities and municipalities is upon the local governments, among other things. I would like to know how the local governments are involved in this matter. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Local Government.

3.42

MR HILLARY LOKWANG (NRM, Iki County, Kaabong): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Hillary, then the LOP.

MR HILLARY LOKWANG: Thank you, honourable minister. My concern is surrounding Namboole Stadium because when you go to its eastern side, there are so many people selling things along the road. In addition, the land that was acquired when people were evicted from the stadium on the western side near the hotel is too bushy.

Two years ago, we met the Minister of Works and Transport and they promised to level that land. It could be one of the places they would use for training because it is a very large place. Could they level that place because it is too bushy? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I first expected you to thank Hon. Obua for forcefully having that land fenced because that land was going. That was when he was still a State Minister for Sports. Hon. Obua, we thank you for forcefully getting that land title.

Now, Hon. Ogwang, we want the place clean. Now that we have given it to you and we fenced it for you, we want it clean. Yes, LOP.

3.43

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me to thank the minister. Hon. Peter Ogwang, you are in a field where you are very competent. Actually, if you could take a serious observation of the Speaker's communication, all the issues raised by CAF are within your statement but you have not brought them out clearly.

Take serious observance of what Hon. Allan Ssewanyana has stated because it is not an issue of an argument here. However, I pray that if the honourable minister comes back, he speaks in relation to CAF.

Hon. Peter Ogwang, kindly work with the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) in everything you are doing. I do not know - I am not hearing anything about the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) in

your statement. UBC is supposed to broadcast these games and funding them is key. They need money but you have not catered for them.

The money that the Government is bringing out is a lot. UBC is officially mandated to broadcast the games but you have not raised this anywhere.

Lastly, could you tell us what is happening with the Namboole Hotel? Namboole has a stadium and a hotel with a swimming pool but regarding whatever is going on in Namboole, that hotel is left aside. Who took that hotel? Who owns it? Is it still owned by the Government, or has somebody stolen the hotel? Therefore, we need to know if the hotel is no longer part of Namboole.

Otherwise, I thank you for your presentation but kindly, I beseech the Government that we should not lose this chance. This is money. When you talk about AFCON coming here, it is about money and enjoyment.

That is why you and I hate each other; you are a Manchester United fan and I am an Arsenal fan. They beat you and they beat us last week but we shall be the winners of the Premier League. Uganda also has that kind of interest in being present in games. I beg to move. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, all the issues raised are very pertinent. For us, as Ugandans, our interest is to host the AFCON and it would be very good if we work together towards hosting the AFCON; it will be very bad if the AFCON is moved yet we have spent a lot of money.

It is good for us to - Hon. Ogwang, my brother, where you feel you need support from somebody more technical, please, that does not show weakness. It only helps the country because all of us are working for the country. I have my reports ready now, so you can summarise. I was only helping you.

MR OGWANG: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to first go on the record of the *Hansard* and answer the following. Number one is

the question of working together with the federation. 150 per cent we are one. CAF guided us when we constituted the Local Organising Committee. Where the Government chairs, the federation must be the vice chair and for this matter, there are 13 committees according to CAF guidance.

Of the 13 committees, the Government is chairing six and the federation is chairing seven. The constitution of those committees was both nomination of the federation and the nomination from the Government. For the Local Organising Committee, I confirm that I am not the chairperson. The chair is the minister and I am the co-chair. The vice chair of the LOC is the president of the Federation of Uganda Football Association. We are working together.

Number two is the question of Hoima City Stadium. I also put it on record that we invited CAF to come and carry out an inspection of our readiness as a country. They came and inspected all three partner states. After inviting them, they gave me the report, which I have a copy of here.

The findings you are all talking about, which I have submitted here, address the issues which are in the CAF report. For instance, if I am to be specific with the Hoima City Stadium, CAF identified eight observations, which I cannot list here. That is why I have told you, according to the contract I signed with the contractor, the contractor, in line with the CAF report, has agreed to work on all eight observations without the Government of Uganda spending a dollar.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Peter.

MR OGWANG: I put that on record, Madam Speaker. Just give me a chance to complete this.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Peter, just calm down.

MR OGWANG: Secondly, Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Calm down. You are doing a very good job, and we do appreciate. You are not just presenting; they are doing a very good job on the ground. However, what we are saying is, if they are saying dressing rooms, come back to us and tell us, even if it is not today - Come back and tell us we are 80 per cent complete on the dressing rooms. That is why I am saying invite these Members and go with them.

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, with your permission, I am ready to take the Committee on Education and Sports and some of the Members under the nomination of the Leader of the Opposition to visit the facility because it is ready. I am able to lead all those who are ready to the Hoima City Stadium, which I want to confirm is complete. What we await now is for the same few specific areas, which the CAF identified in our report, and the contractor is beginning to work on in line with the CAF report.

THE SPEAKER: Just tell us when you are ready for the Members.

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, that is my work as the Government. If you tell me tomorrow, with your permission, and if they are ready, the Government cannot fail to facilitate me, but Parliament can facilitate the Members of Parliament to travel to Hoima.

THE SPEAKER: What we are saying is, we do not want to disorganise the contractor. We want the contractor to work and then when he is ready, we will visit before the next visit of CAF.

MR OGWANG: Okay, Madam Speaker, I confirm that we can do that next week.

There was a second question that was raised. This contractor, M/S SUMMA, has built stadiums in Senegal. M/S SUMMA has renovated the Amahoro Stadium in Rwanda, built the Kigali Arena, and as we speak, it is going to build the national stadium of the Democratic Republic of Congo. M/S SUMMA has expertise of almost about 30 years in

stadium construction, so it is not that they do not have the capacity and expertise. For the record and according to the information I have from the contractor, they built this stadium in line with CAF Regulations, 2022. I want that to go on record.

The other issue which has been raised is the train to Namboole. It is true that the Ministry of Education and Sports worked with the Ministries, Departments and Agencies and asked them for the priorities for the purpose of decongesting traffic. You all know, honourable members, every time we have a game in Namboole, a lot of traffic pours in there, so to decongest the traffic, we agreed to work on a railway line.

The Ministry of Works and Transport gave us the bill and we consolidated. After having consultation meetings with them, they were able to agree that the amount of money they needed for purposes of that line was the one I have read before you.

The other one is the readiness of the East African countries. Colleagues, and this goes to Hon. Ssewanyana, I do not want to be quoted and misquoted. When the President of the Confederation of African Football, who is a very good friend - we want to thank the President, Dr Motsepe, for the time he has taken to support Pamoja. He was in Tanzania and did say that the EAC; Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, will host AFCON 2027. The three Heads of State have committed. No wonder, as a country, Uganda - I have just told you, our commitment is to ensure that whatever observations are there, we will be able to host AFCON 2027. I do not agree because I have not heard the statement he said in Senegal and I want that to be on record. What I can confirm is, we will have AFCON in EAC in 2027.

The other one is the involvement of the local governments -

THE SPEAKER: We will actually presume that is hearsay.

MR OGWANG: That is very true.

THE SPEAKER: Because a person of the calibre of Dr Motsepe - even if he was not going to give Uganda - cannot make a public statement on that. The person I know; Dr Motsepe cannot.

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, on the involvement of the local governments, I want to confirm, honourable shadow Minister of Local Government, that we are working closely with the technical people of these local governments -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, please work with the Member of Parliament of Wakiso.

MR OGWANG: Okay.

THE SPEAKER: Work with her. Work with the Members of Parliament for Hoima, please. They need to work with their people. They need to be seen.

MR OGWANG: Most obliged, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Even if I was the one -

MR OGWANG: I want to say this; that we did ask Kira Municipality to submit areas of need. No wonder you must have seen what I read; that there are specific monies going to go to these specific municipalities and cities to support our preparedness as the Local Organising Committee and AFCON.

On the issue of the swampy land, I want to say that if it is land fenced within the stadium, I am responsible for it. Madam Speaker, you and my colleague and predecessor, Hon. Hamson helped us and evicted the encroacher on the stadium. We really want to commend you and the leadership of Parliament for that matter.

If it is land outside the stadium, this is Kira Municipality and we will still work with Kira Municipality to ensure that, that swampy area is cleared and looks good, because truly speaking - I also want to urge the public, particularly in those areas, that we have a responsibility to ensure that we do well.

Regarding the question of UBC, friends, the rights to broadcast this competition vests with CAF. That is the reason why you see the Committee of Legal and Brand Protection there; to ensure at all costs, the broadcasting rights or the rights of the owner of the competition are protected. No wonder if you have seen, even to market or brand Uganda, as the Government, we have had to put in money to a tune of Shs 37 billion. Why? We have to go and pay CAF who is the owner of the competition.

Therefore, I want to confirm that the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation, under the Ministry of ICT, will have to work with CAF to ensure that they get the broadcasting rights. Without that, Madam Speaker, I want to say respectfully that it might not be possible because it is not our competition; they are the owners of the competition.

The last one is on the issue of Namboole Hotel. Truth be told, under phase one, work was undertaken on that hotel. Under phase two, the hotel will be completed. There is nobody who has taken over that hotel. That hotel is still - I am the one speaking as the minister for sports and the facility is mine.

Honourable colleagues, I thank you for the information you have given me. I also want to reassure the country that the country will host AFCON 2027 come rain, come sunshine because as the Government, we have taken it as a priority project.

I thank you and I invite colleagues to join me next week to visit the stadium in Hoima for the issues identified. We will be able to look at the CAF report vis-a-vis what works are done. I will also inform the contractor to be there. I will want, Madam Speaker, your office to coordinate this so that I go. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, I thank you so much for the report. As you have heard the concerns of the Members, we request that you involve all the stakeholders in this project for the success of AFCON and I am one of the biggest stakeholders.

Based on the personality of Dr Motsepe, the President of CAF - I know who he is - I want the statement that has been made by Hon. Allan Ssewanyana expunged from the record because it is not correct and cannot be correct.

On the technical working of the stadium, we request that you work with the technical team of football. That is what somebody said. They may be on the Local Organising Committee (LOC) - that is okay, but work with the technical team.

However, Members, in a special way, we also thank you for supporting the minister on the African Cup of Nations (AFCON). *(Applause)* This thing has come from very far, and I assure you that we are going to achieve it. The time that we have had the highest number of visitors in Uganda was during the African Nations Championship (CHAN). What about AFCON now? We will have more people. We thank you.

Honourable members, we are ready. The motion had already been moved. We are now ready for the reports. I would like to repeat this: I urge the committee chairpersons not to over-emphasise unfunded priorities. Based on what was given to them – the First Budget Call Circular and the Second Budget Call Circular that were given to them should be the guiding point for them to make their presentations. I will give each committee 10 to 15 minutes.

II) THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

THE SPEAKER: After the presentation of these reports, we will refer the chairpersons, with their reports, to the Committee on Budget for harmonisation. After you are done with this, I expect you to be in the Budget Committee tomorrow morning, before the House sits.

4.01

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON,
COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, TRADE
AND INDUSTRY (Mr Boniface Okot):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to lay the minutes and the report of the Sectoral

Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry on the Ministerial Policy Statement (MPS) and Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027 for the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives and the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR BONIFACE OKOT: Madam Speaker, I will go straight to the compliance of the MPS with the relevant provisions of the law.

The committee notes that the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Cooperatives submitted all the required information in the MPS. We recommend that the honourable minister for finance should ensure that the Vote receives the Certificate of Gender and Equity Compliance in time for submission of the Ministerial Policy Statement.

In addition, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives should consider reporting on actions taken by the Vote on the recommendations of Parliament on the report of the Auditor-General for the most recent year.

On compliance of the MPS of the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities for the Financial Year 2026/2027, the committee notes that the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities submitted all required information in the MPS. We recommend that the honourable minister responsible for finance should ensure that the Vote receives the Certificate of Gender and Equity Compliance in time for submission of the MPS to enable the committee analyse the gender and equity concerns raised by the Equal Opportunities Commission.

In the interest of time, I will go straight to the observations and recommendations of the committee on the different Votes.

Vote 015 – Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives

Observation number one is on delayed development and implementation of new laws and review of the old ones.

The committee noted that the Government, in its legislative agenda for the Fourth and Fifth Sessions of the 11th Parliament, committed to tabling the following Bills for the First Reading:

- (a) The Trade Remedies Bill, 2024;
- (b) The Consumer Protection Bill, 2024;
- (c) The Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill;
- (d) The Scientific Metrology Bill, 2024;
- (e) The Start-Up Bill, 2024;
- (f) The Accreditation (Amendment) Bill;
- (g) The Scrap Recycling Bill;
- (h) The Legal Metrology Bill, 2024;
- (i) The Industrial Licensing (Amendment) Bill;
- (j) The Tobacco Control and Marketing (Amendment) Bill; and
- (k) The Confederation of the Uganda Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bill, 2024.

The committee, however, observed that the legislative agenda was affected by financing in the budgets for the Financial Year 2024/2025 and Financial Year 2025/2026, even after Parliament had recommended that the Ministry for Trade be availed Shs 3 billion to operationalise the Accreditation Services Act and the Sugar Act, in addition to the proposed Bills.

The committee was informed that the ministry for trade was engaging the ministry for finance to provide additional funds to fast-track the tabling of the following Bills before Parliament that are at the various stages:

- (a) The Consumer Protection Bill, 2024 – the ministry for trade has requested for a Certificate of Financial Implications from the ministry for finance.
- (b) The Trade Remedies, Tobacco Control and Marketing (Amendment) Bill and the Confederation of the Uganda Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bill, 2024 are awaiting approval of their principles by Cabinet.
- (c) The Scientific Metrology Bill, 2024 and the Legal Metrology Bill, 2024 –

UNBS received the first drafts from the First Parliamentary Counsel for review and stakeholders' input. Resubmission is planned for May 2026.

- (d) The Industrial Licensing (Amendment) Bill – the ministry for trade has completed the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) and is finalising the detailed statement of financial implications.
- (e) The Scrap Recycling Bill – the ministry for trade realised that within the existing laws, scrap could be regulated. So, the ministry developed the trade licensing regulations for scrap.
- (f) The Accreditation Regulations to the Accreditation Services Act, Cap. 194 were developed and the ministry for trade is consulting with the Attorney-General to confirm whether the same regulations are in line with the Accreditation Services Act.

Recommendations of the committee

- (1) The Government allocates funds to operationalise the Accreditation Services Act, Cap. 194 and the Sugar (Amendment) Act, 2025; and
- (2) The Government fast-tracks the tabling of the aforementioned proposed Bills before Parliament for processing.

Key issues that needed to be addressed

The committee noted that the following key policy issues that were to be addressed in the budget of Financial Year 2025/2026 are, to date, still pending:

- (1) Multiple legislations governing cooperatives.
- (2) The repeal of the Industrial Licensing Act, Cap. 73 to align with international standards and eliminate outdated provisions, enhance regulatory efficiency, and promote industrial and scientific innovation.
- (3) The review of the National Trade Policy – the committee was informed by the ministry that this was done and awaits Cabinet approval.

(4) The completion of the Wood and Furniture Industrial Strategy, the National Startup Strategy, the Parish Development Model (PDM) Marketing Strategy, and Regulatory Impact Assessment for Start-Up Bills.

The committee recommends that the ministry expeditiously address the aforementioned key policy issues.

The committee further recommends that the Government harmonises and consolidates the Microfinance Deposit-Taking Institutions Act, Cap. 58, the Tier Four Microfinance Institutions and Money Lenders Act, Cap. 61, and the Cooperatives Act, Cap. 107 into one law for harmonised regulation of the cooperative sub-sector.

The other issue is the need to adequately fund trade negotiations. Madam Speaker, I will go straight to our recommendations.

The committee recommends that Government allocates an additional Shs 1.8 billion to the trade ministry to facilitate deployment of trade attachés in all the four key markets of World Trade Organisation, COMESA, China, and India.

On stalled projects under the Uganda Warehouse Receipt System, the committee recommends that the ministry for trade expedites the establishment of the Warehouse Receipt Systems Project given the ongoing decline in value of the warehouse facilities.

The committee further recommends that the trade ministry should continue collaboration with development partners to secure alternative funding and ensure swift project implementation.

On the establishment of a trade house, Madam Speaker, the committee recommends that Shs 15 billion earmarked for construction of the Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) home in the Budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027 be utilised to construct a trade house that will accommodate the ministry for trade, UDC, and all other agencies under

the ministry in order to enhance efficiency of limited resources.

Two, that the ministry for trade enters a Memorandum of Understanding with UDC in regard to the land that UDC has already secured for construction of the UDC home, to ensure that the two government institutions agree on modalities of establishing a trade house.

On delayed implementation of the industrial parks project phase II, the committee recommends that Government, through the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MOFPED), should ensure that counterpart funding obligations are given priority in respective programme ceilings since MOFPED confirms availability of counterpart funding prior to the approval of any loans.

The committee further recommends that Government seeks external financing only for projects that are ready for implementation. This will help avoid unnecessary commitment fees from undisbursed loans and ensure funds are used efficiently.

On the review of the UDC investment strategy, the committee recommends that UDC reviews its strategy to take into consideration return on investments as one of the key principles in order to free capital for beneficiary companies to also continue benefiting others.

Vote 154 - Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)

On the issue of recruitment of additional staff, Madam Speaker, the committee recommends that Government prioritises additional funding to UNBS over the medium term to cater for recruitment of additional staff in a phased manner.

On sensitisation of harmful products, the committee recommends that UNBS devises better means of awareness creation and sensitisation of the general public on certified products, in addition to the use of its website.

The committee further recommends that UNBS should quickly inform the general public of any harmful products that may be in circulation.

Vote 110 -Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI)

On the matter of full operationalisation of Namanve campus, the committee recommends that Government provides Shs 6.2 billion to UIRI for acquisition of additional machinery in the short to medium term.

Vote 168 - Uganda Free Zones and Exports Promotions Authority (UFZEPA)

On the matter of high litigation expenses, the committee recommends that UFZEPA seeks the services of the Attorney-General in some of its legal matters to reduce on its expenditure on externally outsourced law firms.

Votes 601-935 - Local Governments

On the need to scale up transitional trade and industry development grants to local governments, the committee reiterates its earlier recommendation that MOFPED sensitise all local governments on the procedures for accessing the transitional development trade and industry grant to enable other qualifying local governments to benefit from the same.

The committee further recommends that the budget for the transitional development trade and industry grant be increased to cater for more local governments.

Madam Speaker, we will proceed straight to the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities Ministerial Policy Statements for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

Vote 022 - Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities

On the matter of inadequate funding to the tourism development programme, the committee recommends that Government adequately funds the tourism development programme for it to contribute to the Ten-fold

Growth Strategy and Double-Digit Growth by the end of the National Development Plan IV (NDPIV).

The committee further recommends that the Government should explore various means of funding the Mount Elgon Tourism Infrastructure Development Project.

On the matter of funding for review of programme policies and regulatory framework, the committee recommends that Government allocates an additional Shs 2 billion to the ministry for tourism to enable the review of the policy and regulatory framework of the Tourism Development Programme.

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)

Madam Speaker, regarding the issue of accountability of local governments on UWA revenues shared, the committee recommends that Uganda Wildlife Authority expedites the process of reviewing the regulatory framework for wildlife conservation, which is to also address the revenue sharing programme.

On the absence of governing councils or boards in Uganda Wildlife Research Training School and the Hotel Tourism Training College (HTTC), the committee recommends that the Ministry of Education and Sports expedites the process of developing the regulations for operationalising the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Act to aid the appointments to the governing councils.

The committee further recommends that Government should amend the TVET Act to include professionals in the tourism, hospitality and wildlife research, to take into consideration representation of the college's interests.

Vote 117 - Uganda Tourism Board (UTB)

On the need to eliminate the cost of hiring law firms, the committee recommends that Uganda Tourism Board seeks for the services of the Attorney-General in some of its legal matters to reduce on its expenditure on externally outsourced law firms.

Votes 601-935 - Local Governments

On the need for a formula for the tourism development grants in local government, the committee observed that local governments are essential in advancing and maintaining cultural and domestic tourism across different regions of Uganda. We recommend that the ministry for tourism, together with the ministry for finance, establish a transparent selection criterion for identifying which local governments should receive tourism development grants during each financial year.

The committee recommends that Government, through the ministry for finance, increases the non-wage tourism development grants allocation so that each local government receives more than Shs 10.795 million annually. This increase will support more efficient tourism initiatives and boost local economies and cultural preservation.

Madam Speaker, the committee considered the Ministerial Policy Statements and Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027 of the Ministry of Trade, Industries and Commerce and the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, and recommends that this report be adopted with the following amounts of money allocated to various Votes as indicated in the table below.

Madam Speaker, on Vote 015 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives: the recurrent expenditure is Shs 500,700,097,000. The development expenditure is Shs 14,260,000,000. The total for Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives is Shs 514,960,097,000.

On Vote 110 - Uganda Industrial Research Institute: The recurrent expenditure is Shs 22,524,910,000. Development expenditure is Shs 2,893,060,000. The total is Shs 25,417,970,000.

On Vote 154 - Uganda National Bureau of Standards: the recurrent expenditure is Shs 82,425,598,000. The development budget is Shs 48,190,000,000 and the total is Shs 130,615,599,000.

On Vote 168 - Uganda Free Zones and Exports Promotions Authority: the recurrent is Shs 36,565,570,000. The development budget is Shs 7,360,000,000. The total is Shs 43,925,570,000.

On Vote 022 - Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities: the recurrent is Shs 349,292,825,000. The development budget is Shs 71,816,000,000 and the total is Shs 421,108,825,000.

On Vote 117 - Uganda Tourism Board: recurrent is Shs 93,180,791,000. The total there is Shs 96,223,971,000.

On Vote 607 - Local Governments, Trade and Industry Grants: the total is Shs 8,482,225,000.

Finally, on Vote 605 - Local Governments, Tourism Development Grants: the total is Shs 11,400,000,000. Madam Speaker, I beg to report.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Chairperson, for a very good report. I was looking at page 40, at the amount that is always being given to Uganda Development Corporation (UDC). As a committee, wouldn't you recommend that they have their own Vote rather than having a subvention?

MR BONIFACE OKOT: Indeed, Madam Speaker, our committee interacted with the UDC at length, and we were also able to look at the Auditor-General's report. There are concerns that there have been significant investments, but with very low returns on investment. Perhaps one of the factors in the Auditor-General's report is associated with supporting specific predetermined projects rather than giving them latitude to be able to appraise these projects and see what is viable. Parliament will then be able to assess them on the basis of performance of those projects that they have chosen. Therefore, a Vote would suffice, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I think that is one of the things that you should propose to the Budget Committee; that because of the volume of

investment and because of laxity of people to pay these monies, these people need to have the full authority to have their own Vote rather than having a subvention. Is the issue of having a direct Vote seconded? Go on record – (*Mr Otimgiw rose*) - Not you, but the honourable Prime Minister.

By the way, we do not give a Vote, we only recommend. We are saying because of the nature of the business in that corporation, it is better for them to manage their own affairs so that they are able to monitor what happens. I am just making an amendment to your report.

4.25

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Madam Speaker, we recommend the proposal by the Minister of Finance to create the Vote.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, as we try to get more revenue as Government and as we try to capitalise these institutions – the ones that can actually pay - we need full control of these institutions, so that we are able to monitor how the institutions are doing and how they are paying. Thank you.

4.26

MR ISAAC OTIMGIW (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank our Chair for a good presentation of the committee report.

On the issue of UDC, we need to carefully scrutinise, because we allocate quite a lot of money to UDC and if we look at how much they give out, their priorities in investment and what we get back in return, I think the issue of transparency needs to first come to us clearly in this House before we can really look at expanding our allocation to UDC and giving them a Vote in that aspect. This is because they seem to be –

THE SPEAKER: Giving them a Vote does not mean that we scrutinise the people we give the money. Actually, once they have their own responsibility, they will even scrutinise

them better. If we are saying we are giving, for example, Isaac and company money – UDC should be able to take charge and take responsibility, not just being instructed to do A,B,C,D, and give their own opinion on the institution that is going to be given the money.

MR OTIMGIW: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: It has no effect completely.

MR OTIMGIW: Yes. With that explanation, I understand the angle you are coming from. If that is a channel that can be followed, I think it is a good way forward to go; the independence for them to carry out their duties effectively.

Madam Speaker, I was also waiting to hear from the committee chairperson on how the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives is using the one-stop centre. We invested a lot, as the Government, to build it. That is an area where the ministry for trade and all the others operate from. It did not come out clearly whether they were using that area before, in terms of investment.

I understand the need to avail funds for the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS). However, we have come to learn that UNBS does not operate alone because there are other specialties involved. For example, if they are trying to monitor some things like medical, they need medical personnel and other people in terms of other industries.

We are trying to understand something. For example, we passed a Bill here for the Uganda National Drugs Authority -

THE SPEAKER: We said that UNBS would be the overall overseer and National Drug Authority (NDA) for medical. Hon. Avur, isn't that the law we passed last week? That all these specialised services must have their own regulators but UNBS remains the overall, on standards?

MR OTIMGIW: That is true, Madam Speaker. I understand that point. I am just looking at it in terms of recruitment. Will they have some

people with a medical background and other specialties working for them, or will they just rely on people from NDA on that point so that we do not have double recruitment? We can borrow the speciality from NDA but have some permanent medical staff also in UNBS.

On the issue of industrial parks, we have noticed that investment, at the moment, is not widely spread across the country. You find most of the investment along the Kampala-Jinja Road and now stretching up to the Mbale corridor, leaving the rest of the country untapped properly. For example, an area like the West Nile has a population of almost 4.5 million people without any industrial park. We did have an industrial park in Nebbi that is in -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Isaac, that is in plan. Government is going to make sure that the industrial parks are all over the areas that have been identified. Let us look at priorities. As I said before, let us not look at unfunded priorities. For now, let us look at what we have in the pocket and what we can spend. We will move from one sub region to another. Not so, Prime Minister?

MR OTINGIWI: It is just that the industrial park I am talking about was commissioned about three years ago but nothing has been done. I have not heard of a report regarding feasibility studies done. Are we just opening these industrial parks and leaving them there?

On the issue of the Uganda Tourism Board, I feel -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Isaac, we are going to ask the Uganda Investment Authority to handle that. Just rest assured that it will be handled.

MR OTINGIWI: Thank you for the guidance, Madam Speaker. On the issue of the Uganda Tourism Board, we feel like we need to try and strengthen our foreign missions because they are our first stop centres internationally. They can help us in terms of promoting and marketing our country.

However, I feel that the funding that we keep giving, under the Vote of the Uganda Tourism Board to our foreign missions to help market our country, is still minimal. We need to make sure that we increase funding to these.

On Uganda Wildlife Authority -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Isaac, that will come under Foreign Affairs.

MR OTINGIWI: I understand, Madam Speaker, but there is also some money that we allocate under the Uganda Tourism Board, which goes to funding the missions.

Lastly, on the issue of the Uganda Wildlife Authority, I feel as if we end up having double funding, especially where the Uganda Wildlife Authority takes care of some of the reserves within its boundaries, for example, the forests. If you go to Murchison Falls, we have a place like Budongo Forest.

The Uganda Wildlife Authority is getting some money to take care of Budongo Forest Reserve yet there is another entity taking care of the forest. I do not know whether that falls under double funding. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, this is to remind you that after this, this report is going to the Committee on Budget. Where you feel that you have something that needs to be included, follow it to the committee. That is where we have harmonisation of the report. Honourable minister, does the report represent what you expect?

4.34

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Mr Martin Mugarra):

Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I thank the chairperson of the committee and its members for the elaborate report. The few issues that they spoke to are issues we intend to improve so there is nothing much I would add or subtract.

[Mr Mugarra]

Madam Speaker, you guided clearly. As much as the Ministry of Tourism directly gives some small support of around Shs 100 million to every embassy, there is a specific amount of money under economic diplomacy through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that goes to the embassies. They are doing a good job, helping us market destination Uganda.

Finally, as to whether there is duplication of resources, especially where the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) is probably also managing forests like Budongo, it is not true. What is under the Uganda National Forestry Authority (NFA) is clearly under NFA. What we manage are mainly the parks, reserves and sanctuaries. We do not get separate money to go and run the forests. It is theirs until they are clearly given to us by Parliament. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Committee chairperson, I hope you put money aside for the fencing of the national parks. I refer this to the Committee on Budget.

We want the national parks to be fenced. We do not want the animals to eat our people or people to eat our animals. It is a two-way. Thank you for a very good report. Next item.

III) THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

THE SPEAKER: You have seen how brief the youth has been.

4.36

MR OJARA MAPENDUZI (Independent, Bardege-Layibi Division, Gulu City): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Permit me to begin by laying on the Table a copy of the report of the committee and also the minutes of the committee meetings that I have here with me.

THE SPEAKER: Please lay.

MR MAPENDUZI: Madam Speaker, permit me to present the report of the Committee on Public Service and Local Government on the Ministerial Policy Statements and Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027. In the interest of time, I request that Members

follow the documents that have been uploaded. I will mainly look at observations and recommendations.

Just to guide, under the introduction on page 6, is on issues of compliance.

Madam Speaker, the entities complied with the requirements, but it is important to mention one key area, as far as compliance with parliamentary recommendations are concerned.

The committee observed that Parliament made several recommendations in the previous Ministerial Policy Statement. It is evident that the entities have taken effort to achieve these recommendations. However, the recommendations of Parliament have not been fully realised, especially those that have financial and budgetary implications.

We, therefore, recommend that the entities under its purview should ensure continued engagement with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to ensure that the rest of the recommendations are budgeted for in the subsequent financial year.

Madam Speaker, from pages 10 to 25, we look at the overview of the Programme Performance Budget Strategy for Financial Year 2026/2027. In the interest of time, the Members can use their own time to look at it.

Still on page 25, we have indicated the challenges faced during the Financial Year 2025/2026 budget execution. On page 26, Madam Speaker, we provided observations and I request that you allow me run through that very quickly.

5.1.5 Committee Observations and Recommendations

1. Compensation of the 2,200 staff to be laid off under RAPEX

The committee noted that the Government allocated Shs 115.915 billion to cater for pension, gratuity and severance for staff

affected by RAPEX. Of this amount, Shs 102.821 billion has been released to facilitate payments under phases I and II, reflecting the Government's commitment to supporting affected staff. The balance of Shs 13.094 billion remains outstanding, mainly for institutions whose legal and administrative frameworks are not yet finalised.

The committee noted that while compensation details for the laid-off staff under RAPEX are still emerging, there is a clear focus on ensuring fair support for the affected staff during the transition.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that:

1. The Ministry of Public Service, together with the affected institutions, should expedite the finalisation of the legal and institutional framework to enable the timely compensation of all the affected staff; and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should prioritise the release of the outstanding Shs 13.094 billion to clear pending obligations.
2. Implementation of the recommendations of RAPEX through mergers, mainstreaming and transfers

Madam Speaker, the committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should provide the dedicated resources of Shs 2.9 billion for the implementation of the recommendations of RAPEX.

3. Civil Service College

I will take you to page 29. The committee recommends that:

- i. The Ministry of Finance should provide Shs 137 billion for the expansion of the Civil Service College Uganda facilities under phase II construction;
- ii. The Ministry of Finance should provide Shs 3 billion to help the ministry carry out

induction of all recruited public servants to ensure effective service delivery; and

- iii. The Government should consider centralising key aspects of the training function or establishing mandatory guidelines to ensure that accounting officers prioritise training at the Civil Service College Uganda, thereby promoting standardised training, a unified value system, and strengthened professionalism across the Public Service.

4. Rolling out the Electronic Document and Records Management System to MDAs and Local Governments

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance provide Shs 2 billion for the rollout of this system, as it will help reduce red tape, reduce operational costs, and improve service delivery.

5. Establishment and operationalisation of the Public Service Pension Fund

To break down this, Madam Speaker, the committee noted that out of the required Shs 45.59 billion for the establishment and operationalisation of the Public Service Pension Fund, Shs 45 billion has been allocated, leaving a funding gap of Shs 0.59 billion, which has not been provided for in the budget.

The committee is, therefore, recommending that the said amount – Shs 0.59 billion – is provided for to enable the smooth establishment and operationalisation of the Public Service Pension Fund.

6. Vote 146 - Public Service Commission

From page 31 to page 33, we look at the mandate. Madam Speaker, in the interest of time, you will permit me to take you to page 35, where we are looking at committee observations and recommendations.

Committee Recommendations	Observations	and	
<p>1. Performance audit</p> <p>The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance allocate Shs 0.662 billion in the budget to allow the Commission carry out performance audits in the remaining districts and cities in Uganda.</p>			<p>The committee was informed that the ministry supports PDM by providing the overall coordination oversight, accountability and implementation support required to make the model work at the parish level across the country. However, the parish chiefs who are crucial in the implementation of the programme are not paid well. This affects activity implementation and encourages corruption.</p>
<p>2. Commission's motor vehicle fleet</p> <p>The committee recommends that the old transport fleet of the Commission be replaced and more vehicles procured to enable the Commission to carry out field activities.</p>			<p>The committee further observed that the uniform allocation of Shs 100 million per parish, regardless of population size, poverty levels, geographical challenges or other socioeconomic variables, has generated widespread concern since the programme's launch.</p>
<p>3. Office accommodation and equipment adequacy</p> <p>The committee recommends – and that is on page 37 – that:</p> <p>i. The Ministry of Finance should provide Shs 4 billion to the Commission to carry out feasibility studies to solve office space challenges; and</p> <p>iii. Shs 0.692 billion is provided for the procurement of laptops, desktops and tablets for the Commission and District/ City Service Commissions.</p>			<p>Recommendations</p> <p>1 (i) The Ministry of Local Government, together with the ministries of Finance and Public Service, should ensure that remuneration of parish chiefs is enhanced to match the task they execute; and</p> <p>(ii) The Ministry of Local Government should develop a fair, needs-based disbursement formula that ensures equitable benefits for all Ugandans and revise the current allocation framework accordingly.</p>
<p>4. Vote 011 - Ministry of Local Government</p> <p>Madam Speaker, in the interest of time, again, you will permit me to take you through the observations and recommendations, which are on page 51.</p>			<p>2. Property ownership conflict between newly created cities and their mother districts</p> <p>Madam Speaker, the establishment of new cities has led to significant conflict over property ownership between the cities and their mother districts. Mother districts argue that they acquired the properties using revenue generated locally, yet upon creation of cities, all assets are supposed to be transferred to the new entities.</p>
<p>1. Parish Development Model</p> <p>The Ministry of Local Government has allocated Shs 20.4 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027 to strengthen coordination, supervision, and accountability in PDM implementation across all 176 local governments.</p>			<p>The committee acknowledges that the creation of new cities is a positive and necessary initiative. However, it observes that the Ministry of Local Government should have first sensitised leaders of the mother districts to</p>

understand that all property ultimately belongs to the Government.

Recommendations

The committee recommends the following:

- i. The Ministry of Local Government, with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should develop a financing framework to help the mother districts reconstruct and develop themselves.
- ii. The Ministry of Local Government should establish a transparent and fair system for transferring property between mother districts and new cities, recognising that all public assets belong to the Government.
- iii. The Ministry of Local Government should train leaders from both mother districts and new city councils to understand that public property is held in trust for the Government, not owned locally in order to prevent conflicts and promote collaboration.

Eviction and demolition of illegal structures and roadside markets

Recently, several cities, municipalities, and town councils have been evicting substandard structures and illegal roadside markets, which has affected many vendors and revenue collection.

The committee was informed that this initiative by local governments to upgrade their outlook and improve urban areas is important. However, the Ministry of Local Government should have provided clear guidelines and sensitisation to these local governments on how to go about it without affecting revenue collection.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that;

- i. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should allocate Shs 7 billion required for physical planning development in the urban local governments to avoid such evictions in future.

- ii. The Ministry of Local Government should provide clear and enforceable guidelines to local governments on how to carry out the eviction of substandard structures and illegal roadside markets without disrupting revenue collection while still improving the outlook of the urban areas.

- iii. The Ministry of Local Government should provide alternative designated areas where evicted vendors can relocate, ensuring that their livelihoods are not completely disrupted while still maintaining efforts to improve urban planning and revenue collection.

Streamlining District Service Commissions during post-election transition

The committee observed that during the transition period after elections, most District Service Commissions face challenges in executing their mandates, particularly in handling transition. There is reported corruption involved as well as nepotism during recruitment since most Commission members view it as an opportunity to reward themselves for the years served by appointing their children or relatives.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Local Government, together with the Ministry of Public Service, should come up with a structure or guidance to ensure members are held accountable, and recruitment processes remain transparent and merit-based.

On climate-smart intervention in local governments, permit me to take you through the recommendations:

- i. The Ministry of Local Government should equitably provide performance-based climate grants across the whole country since climate change is a general issue that affects all regions.
- ii. The Ministry of Local Government should establish clear criteria for selecting

beneficiary local governments based on climate vulnerability and economic needs rather than relying on a limited set of districts.

- iii. The Ministry of Local Government should increase the overall climate financing budget to cover more local governments and ensure that poorer, rural, and climate-exposed regions receive adequate support.
- iv. The Ministry of Local Government should strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track how allocated funds are utilised and ensure they deliver measurable climate resilience outcomes.
- v. The Ministry of Local Government should build the technical capacity of local government officials to design, implement, and report on climate-smart projects, ensuring accountability beyond the grant period.

Staffing gaps

On staffing gaps in critical technical positions, the committee recommends the following:

- i. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should provide Shs 3.625 billion required to fill approved vacant positions and critical positions.
- ii. The Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Public Service should harmonise pay across the Public Service and ensure timely budgeting for recruitment for critical technical positions, which are key to service delivery.

On remuneration of both political and technical leaders, the committee recommends that the Ministry of Local Government should work hand in hand with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Ministry of Public Service to adequately address the current reality of remuneration for both technical and political leaders in local governments.

On outstanding domestic arrears, the committee provides the following recommendations:

- i. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should prioritise the clearance of Shs 24 billion outstanding domestic arrears through a structured repayment plan within the Financial Year 2026/2027 Budget.
- ii. The Ministry of Local Government should enforce strict financial discipline and timely commitment controls to prevent the re-accumulation of arrears going forward.

On the non-functionality of District Public Accounts Committees, the committee recommends that the Ministry of Local Government should provide Shs 2.9 billion to enable the Local Government Public Accounts Committee to execute its mandate.

On inadequate provision of counterpart funding for development projects, the committee observed that there is a project to support the construction of 140 kilometres of community-access roads and the development of 13 rural markets across multiple districts, which are crucial to the implementation of the Parish Development Model (PDM).

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should allocate Shs 4 billion for the continuation of the project as counterpart funding.

On the construction of the displaced sub-counties and new town councils, Madam Speaker, there are currently 327 sub-counties and town councils without offices across the country. Some of them sit under trees.

The committee was informed that the ministry is planning to design standard structural designs and bills of quantities for construction of administration office blocks for all local governments at an estimated cost of Shs 500 million, and undertake construction of offices for the affected 327 sub-counties and town councils.

The estimated cost to construct each of the sub-counties and the town councils is Shs 150 million. The total estimated cost is, therefore, Shs 49 billion. The ministry plans to undertake construction in a phased manner of two financial years and requires Shs 24.5 billion each year.

The committee further noted that Shs 25 billion is required to support the construction of the local government administrative headquarters.

The committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should allocate to the Ministry of Local Government Shs 25 billion for the construction of the local governments' administration headquarters.

On the road fund for town councils and sub-counties, the committee recommends that Shs 21.6 billion is provided in the Financial Year 2026/2027 under the Integrated Transport Infrastructure and Services Programme to cater specifically for maintenance and opening of new roads in sub-counties and town councils across –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, sorry for interruption. We have some youngsters here who would like to leave. They are teachers and students of Kalenyi High School from Nakaseke District. You are most welcome. Thank you so much for coming. Join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)* They are represented by Hon. Najjuma Sarah and Hon. Allan Mayanja. They are here. You are most welcome. Thank you for coming. Please go ahead.

MR MAPENDUZI: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

5.5 Vote 147 - Local Government Finance Commission

Madam Speaker, again, I request that you permit me to move straight to committee observations and recommendations.

1. Inadequate wage collection

The committee recommends that:

- i. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Ministry of Public Service should prioritise full funding of the approved restructuring to fill the 24 to 25 vacant technical positions as this directly impacts the Local Government Finance Commission's ability to deliver on its growing mandate.
- ii. Improve budget execution and cash flow. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should ensure the timely and predictable release of cash limits, particularly development funds, to avoid under-absorption and delays in critical activities like capacity building and IRAs support, and;

iii. Harmonise emoluments

The committee further recommends that Parliament should expedite the harmonisation of remuneration for the Local Government Finance Commission chairperson and vice chairperson with similar constitutional commissions to ensure equity and motivation.

2. NSSF and Gratuity

The committee recommends that NSSF contributions and gratuity should be treated as first-charge obligations within the Local Government Finance Commission budget and should advocate for ring-fencing of these funds.

On limited funding for monitoring and evaluation to fiscal decentralisation, the committee recommends:

- i. The Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development allocates Shs 0.59 billion towards monitoring and evaluation so as to conduct regular supervision visits;
- ii. The Ministry of Local Government enhances oversight and coordination by

strengthening collaboration between local governments and the central agencies to ensure standardised M&E practices.

On revenue generation, Madam Speaker, the committee recommends the following:

- i. Local Government Finance Commission prioritises the full rollout of IRAs in all local governments to address challenges in local government revenue collection and management and maximise the benefits of automation;
- ii. The Local Government Finance Commission, in collaboration with the Minister of Local Government, should introduce stronger enforcement mechanisms, for example, linking non-compliance to performance assessment or grant releases for the 125 lower local governments yet to upload budgets. Integration of the programme-based budgeting system with IRAs should be fast-tracked.

Madam Speaker, on page 65, we have indicated key unfunded or underfunded priorities, and I will request that when you look at the table; column one shows the vote, two, the budget item, three, the required budget, four, what has been allocated, and five, the deficit. I request that you look through that. That is from page 65 up to page 68. In total, for all the Votes that I have mentioned, you will realise that the figures are added there.

7.0. Appropriation Figures for the Financial Year 2026/2027

Based on the aforementioned observations and recommendations, the committee recommends that the House approves the budget of the Vote under its jurisdiction as follows, and it is on Table 12, which is titled, "Appropriation Figures for the Public Service and Local Government Sector Financial Year 2026/2027":

- i) Vote 005 - Ministry of Public Service. Recurrent draft estimate is Shs 62.118 billion, and development draft estimate is Shs 42 billion, totalling to Shs 104.118

billion.

- ii) Vote 0411 - Ministry of Local Government. Recurrent is Shs 125.711 billion and development is Shs 185.170 billion, totalling to Shs 309.881 billion.
- iii) Vote 146 - Public Service Commission. Recurrent is Shs 27.022 billion, and development is Shs 9.026 billion, and a total of Shs 36.048 billion.
- iv) Vote 147 - Local Government Finance Commission. Recurrent is Shs 23.316 billion, and development is Shs 1.500, totalling to Shs 24.816 billion, and finally;
- v) Vote 601-935 - Local Governments. Recurrent is Shs 6,424,596,000,000. Development is Shs 740.617 billion, totalling to Shs 7,165,213,000,000.

When you look at the total, Madam Speaker, total recurrent is Shs 6,662,763,000,000. Development is Shs 977.313 billion and the total is Shs 7,640,076,000,000.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable chairman of the committee. Thank you so much for a very good report. I just want a clarification; when you say that they are not paid well, what do you mean by "well"? The parish chairpersons – What do you mean by "well"? "Well" is subjective. What is "well" to you may not be "well" to me. And that is one.

Secondly, there was a promise of paying an additional Shs 15 million for those leaders, so that they are able to manage the Parish Development Model well. They agreed that they would pay an additional Shs 15 million per parish. Is it provided for?

Then, the other goes to the Minister of Public Service: What happened to our people of RAPEX? They were supposed to be either absorbed or paid off, but there is a lot of crying outside there from the people who have not been paid.

To the Minister of Local Government, Hon. *Nalongo* Businge, the issue of assets has continued to be an issue. The assets of cities and municipalities *vis-a-vis* the newly created

areas. How are you going to resolve that? Then, the issues of demolition; before you do the demolition, don't you have a plan on how to resettle those people whose areas you are demolishing? Let me first get a response.

MR MAPENDUZI: Madam Speaker, without going into the figures of how much the parish chiefs are paid – because I will leave that to the honourable minister - from our own interactions with the ministry, firstly, the figure that was promised to them is not being provided. Sometimes they are paid less, sometimes they have to rely on their salary, and you know how much the parish chiefs are paid.

However, what we are emphasising, Madam Speaker, is that looking at the PDM being a very key programme that is doing a lot in the community, we feel the people responsible for the implementation have to be given what they need to do a more effective job. It is even going to be a lot more demanding the time they will have to start recovering the money.

THE SPEAKER: Was the additional Shs 15 million added per parish?

MR MAPENDUZI: Unfortunately, we were not able to get any details in regards to that. The answer is no, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Businge?

5.06

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Ms Victoria Businge): Thank you, Madam Speaker. On the sharing of assets, we are still getting guidance from the Attorney-General. For those who are very clear, like vacating the headquarters, we have facilitated for districts to begin constructing their own headquarters.

The issue of getting a uniform design is out of how each and every district designs. Madam Speaker, if you take the example of Butaleja, their headquarters are three-quarters of the constructed Chambers down here. So, each one chooses, and they do not consider the amount. We are having a problem there.

When we give a start-up of Shs 500 million, some people get out of the foundation while others are still stuck there, but that is very clear; they accepted, and some have completed and moved, while others are still constructing.

About the subcounty – the Parish Development Model – chairpersons are getting more money. I think with that one, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development can – we did our work and tabled the supplementary budget. The rest is out of our hands.

I think those are the ones I heard you raising, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Who is responsible for the PDM? Is it finance or local government?

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: It is the Ministry of Local Government.

THE SPEAKER: Ministry of Local Government. When the President was moving around the country, he promised at every rally – and I am saying every rally – that he would allocate an additional Shs 15 million per parish. This means that if you were given Shs 100 million, you will be given Shs 115 million, and Shs 15 million was supposed to be given to the leaders.

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: The Ministry of Finance –

THE SPEAKER: Including the parish leaders who are doing the collection, and whichever. You may need to follow up on that.

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: Yes, maybe we shall liaise with the finance ministry. That is not yet done.

On the big parishes, which Members have been forwarding here, they have been requesting the subdivision of those big parishes but as the ministry, we are advising that the problem is not the size of the parishes, but the population.

THE SPEAKER: It is the population.

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: We are requesting for more money to give to the population and the Government has accepted to add another 100 the coming financial year. Maybe the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development could be in position to answer that, but we strongly prohibit division because dividing will not add more money to the recipients.

If we count the population, the bigger the population, the more money for the people, other than subdividing the parish.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, as ministers of the Government, you are the ones responsible for the implementation of the President's pledges. I think you need to raise this when you go for Cabinet; say, "Mr President, you promised the whole country, all the parishes, that –" Did he promise?

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: He promised.

THE SPEAKER: Did he promise? Maybe I am just –

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: He promised, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Yes. Please remind the President about that amount.

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: May I ask Hon. Lugoloobi to handle –

THE SPEAKER: There are two things that you need to – honourable minister, two things; the PDM, Shs 15 billion, and then the Shs 1 billion to Isingiro, Ntungamo, Kasese and Yumbe; the big districts. They were about five big districts – an additional Shs 1 billion plus additional equipment – and Oyam District.

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: May I ask Hon. Lugoloobi to help me on this since he is a planner and on the portal of money in finance?

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Lugoloobi, when we had the last meeting with the President, he instructed finance to include the additional Shs

1 billion in the budgets of those big districts, for road maintenance and equipment.

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: Even the money for the parishes that had never received any money because they had not been gazetted and now, they are. Finance, do your work and give us the money for those parishes. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Let the minister speak.

5.10

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PLANNING) (Mr Amos Lugoloobi): Madam Speaker, the President is fully aware of many of these requirements. In fact, he emphasised some of them yesterday, but when we discussed the budget in Cabinet, it became apparent that the resource envelope could not accommodate everything on our wish list.

The idea was that we phase our implementation of some of these programmes; some of them were postponed to the next financial year, particularly the PDM allocations. We expected that PDM would be accommodated next financial year.

We have this huge problem with the humanities teachers, which took up a lot of fiscal space, and then science and technology. Those ones took much of the resources, and therefore, we have chosen to postpone those expenditure requirements to the next financial year.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, on the issue of demolition, we know we want to have a planned city and plan everything. Why wouldn't you educate these people before you demolish, and then have an alternative plan?

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: Madam Speaker, there are two main issues. First, the majority of people being forced off the streets are those with stalls in our markets. The Markets and Agricultural Trade Improvement Programme (MATIP) built very large markets in Mbarara, Arua, and Fort Portal, among others, but people decided to move out and start selling

on the verandas. Those inside the markets are suffering and complaining.

THE SPEAKER: They left the stalls inside?

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: Then came out and created imaginary stalls and caused disorder?

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: Yes. The Members of Parliament from Gulu City – the Reverend and the counterpart – invited the Ministry of Local Government to help force those people off. Since then – unless of recent – I have not been there; there is settlement, peace, and no one is complaining.

The second one is the recently passed trade Bill. There are many problems in keeping the cities clean –

THE SPEAKER: The law on markets?

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: There is no proper disposal and sanitation; people do everything they want. The nice Fort Portal, which would get trophies every year, cannot get them anymore and so, let us agree, ladies and gentlemen, that we need to sensitise our people and get the sanity Uganda deserves.

We spent a lot of money building these markets and there is proof. If you go, you will find empty spaces. I visited Tororo and Arua. Visit your own markets and find out. People have left the markets and are selling on the streets. However, they should have been given enough warning, loud and clear. Even the method used by the staff that is demolishing is quite embarrassing. They are forceful, arrogant, spoiled, and prone to throwing things. That is a methodology but the fact is that the laws must be adhered to. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, are you debating on the demolition? First, we need to agree as legislators, politics aside. If the Government has provided a market and given you a stall, why would you leave your stall inside and come out to build in front of the market? That is one.

I agree with what the honourable minister is saying. The enforcement process could be crude but what matters is that we want order. Honourable Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, you are also planning. I mean, if somebody's beautiful house is here and somebody comes to put a latrine in front of that house, for heaven's sake, shall we have order in this country in the name of politics? We need some order.

For me, what matters is how you communicate to these people and the time you give them to get out. Once you have given them ample time, you should be able to act.

5.17

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, we are talking today, but with pain. It is not about politics. It is not about us, the MPs, but about that little young girl who has just started a business.

Madam Speaker, in the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area, we have been affected, as we mobilised our communities to give land to ensure that the roads are well expanded and well catered for. These are people who have given land, but not at any one time – in the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area, show me any market that the Government has built, and which you are in position to say is empty *-(Interjections)-* Let me make it clear. Show me a market where these people are supposed to be. We are talking about it –

THE SPEAKER: Okay, leave alone the markets being built. Do we have gazetted market areas in Kampala?

MS NALUYIMA: Let me now go directly to the example of Wakiso. I was part of the parliamentary committee that travelled to various local governments, sensitised them, and promised that the Katabi area would get a market. Those are some of the places that we expect. We also have Kireka Market coming on board in Kira. The markets are just being planned; they are not yet there.

[Ms Naluyima]

Two, as the committee has just recommended, we are saying: please allocate money for physical planning so that, at least, people are well sensitised and know what they are supposed to do. To our dissatisfaction, the Ministry of Local Government tells the Town Clerks and the Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) to just demolish it the way they can see it. Even when you call the Town Clerks and the CAOs, they tell you it is an Executive order.

We are saying that we are not fighting development, but first consider this: what if it is you who has given land? You are saying it is a ramshackle building, but it is very far from the main road. However, because that person has given land, their building is now a little closer. We are asking: Are we humane? Are we minding – (*Hon. Obigah rose*)

THE SPEAKER: There is information from Hon. Rose Obigah.

MS OBIGAH: Thank you so much. Madam Speaker, before I say a word, from the bottom of my heart, I want to pass to you my condolences. We got mixed up when we learnt about the death of your dear mother-in-law because there was a previous one. When I tried to ask my brother, Hon. Ojara Mapenduzi, he did not give me a better answer, but later I learned that you lost your mother-in-law.

Now, the information to my dear sister is that when I am in Kampala, I live in your constituency. When you talk about Katabi, I live in the Entebbe area. Yes, the markets are not built. However, if you go to Katabi, there is a designated area. If you come to the Nkumba area, there is a market, Abayita Ababiri, although it is not built. If you come to Kawuku, there is a designated area. Honestly, at times, you fail to drive. If you knock down somebody, you would have already killed. You would have poured people's goods down.

For once, in this House, let us create sanity. If you want to enter Arua Regional Referral Hospital, up to where you are supposed to park your car or put your feet, you cannot pass. If we are going to say we should give them ample

time, I find it ironic because you find clerks talking to people to go to the market, but they do not want to go. What means shall we use? Minimum force is necessary in every difficult situation. I am here to say that we need to fill the markets. We need to sell in the market.

Madam Speaker, I also want to talk about the Parish Development Model (PDM) – the parish chiefs. One, I beg that we include Terego on the list of districts that need more money. Terego is the last created district and our parishes are at the level of those that existed during colonial times. I have parishes which have up to 19, 20 and 23 villages. My parishes are bigger than most of the subcounties in this country.

For physical planning, we give money every time. I beg that we do this in a phased, comprehensive manner, not in a substandard one. This is when we put into context that Uganda is expanding every other day. I beg that this be taken into consideration.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, at times, the bitter truth is that we have to accept doing some things. If we need harmony, a peaceful town or a clean city, let us do away with these kinds of things in the middle.

I know it affects some of us politically, but it is okay. As long as you have a legacy - I left behind a peaceful, clean city - because we are not going to continue with this. We are not going to live like this. When you pass through Owino Market, you will find somebody selling merchandise in the middle of the road.

Honourable minister, you need to get money. I have seen a market – is it Kalerwe? That market must leave that place. Get money and build a market where people will shift to. That is a road reserve.

Yes, Hon. Ogwang?

5.24

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Madam Speaker, first of all, I entirely agree with you that, friends, we

must accept that the world is evolving. Since the world is evolving, we must accept to live in the 21st Century. It is true our people are poor, but it is also true that we must organise them correctly to be in the right place and at the right time.

Let us take an instance of those who pay for trade businesses to operate in shops. Recently, Madam Speaker, I was privileged to go to our stadium in Nakivubo. For once, I drove through Queensway, went through Container Village –

THE SPEAKER: You saw sanity.

MR OGWANG: Sanity!

THE SPEAKER: Total.

MR OGWANG: Total sanity! Before that, I could not dare to go down there. For how long are we going to continue hiding under the politics? Even in our villages where we come from, there are poor people that we represent. My mother sold *ajon* to make me what I am today. She was a poor person in Katakwi Town Council. We should not think that there are poor people who are more special than others. What we need is to support the Government to help us clear these places for order in the cities across the country.

For that matter, we must support the Government. It is not about being in the Opposition for the purpose of opposing, it is about us looking at how the Government can work as one. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Let us put this town in order. We must put this town in order – and I am telling you: we will be counted among the leaders who put this city to order.

You come all the way from Entebbe, and the first sight of Uganda that you see on the road, you say: “No, this is not my country.”

I know my voter. (*Laughter*)

Honourable members, pursuant to Rule 156(2) of the Rules of Procedure, the report

stands referred to the Committee on Budget for reconciliation, harmonisation, and consolidation.

However, I urge you people to put this Uganda in order: Even if I am the one who has built a road, come and demolish. One time, Hon. Peter’s daughter told him, “Daddy, do we stay...” Honourable minister, what did your daughter tell you? Didn’t she ask you, “Are you still a minister to stay in that village?”

MR OGWANG: For the record, I was privileged to go with my daughter to Paris. When we landed at the airport in Paris, my daughter asked me, “*Papa*, are you a minister? In our country, it seems we are living in the past.” That is my 11-year-old daughter. We are here; we travel across the globe.

With due respect, Madam Speaker, we have a responsibility to change Uganda, which is our dear motherland. (*Applause*) We must clearly define what is good for our country, what is political, and what is good for our country’s development. Therefore, we must be sincere to our people that the time is now for us to begin to clean up the country for today and tomorrow. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable ministers, I want to assure you, as the authority responsible for creating order, that you have our unwavering support.

THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY
AND FISHERIES

5.29

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (Ms Linda Auma): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. On behalf of the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries, I beg to lay the report of the committee, the minutes of the meeting held with the stakeholders and the presentation of the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) on the policy statement and budget estimate for the Financial Year 2026/2027. I beg to lay.

Madam Speaker, the agro-industrialisation programme led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries is the primary vehicle through which Uganda intends to grow agricultural sector output to 8 per cent annually and double agricultural export value to \$4.8 billion by the Financial Year 2029/2030.

As set out in the National Development Plan (NDP IV), it is central to the Government's Tenfold growth strategy and contributes to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) No.2, 9 and 12.

On budget allocation, the programme has been allocated Shs 2,264.72 billion for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

Madam Speaker, this is an executive summary of the entire report. This represents 2.69 per cent of the national budget amounting to Shs 84,249.16 billion, an increase of only 23.5 per cent from the ending Financial Year 2025/2026.

Madam Speaker, the NDP IV requires that 3.64 per cent of the national resource envelope be allocated to this programme at the projected national budget, which translates to Shs 3,066.67 billion. The current allocation, therefore, leaves a financial gap of Shs 801.95 billion, equivalent to 26.2 per cent, a deficit that this committee considers a material risk to the achievement of the programme's intended outcomes.

On performance, by December 2025, only 40.7 per cent of the approved budget had been released to the programme – below the ideal 50 per cent at half-year largely due to poor performance of external financing, which is at 18 per cent.

Absorption stood at 62.4 per cent, constrained by implementation delays and procurement bottlenecks. The committee notes this with serious concerns –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, are you saying absorption of the previous budget is at 62 per cent?

MS LINDA AUMA: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: These people should be given less money.

MS LINDA AUMA: Madam Speaker, on external financing, we are performing at 18 per cent.

The committee key findings span all three core Votes. These are:

Vote 010 - Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

The critical gaps include Shs 100 billion for irrigation infrastructure, Shs 200 billion to support large-scale commercial farmers, Shs 75 billion for agricultural mechanisation and outstanding payment of arrears to coffee nursery operators and former NAADS beneficiaries.

Under Vote 125 - National Animal Genetic Resource Centre and Data Bank (NAGRIC), there is a total funding gap of Shs 75 billion for livestock breeding centres, hatcheries and feed processing plants all with zero allocation.

Under Vote 142 - National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), a gap of Shs 68 billion remains for the nationwide rollout of the National Drug Authority (NDA) approved anti-tick vaccine and Shs 40 billion is needed for modern research infrastructure, without which Uganda's research output risk failing international standard of commercial and scientific credibility.

In total, the committee has identified Shs 993.44 billion in unfunded and underfunded critical interventions for Financial Year 2026/2027 across the programme.

Madam Speaker, the committee recommends that this honourable House approves the budget estimate as we have presented which is indicated in the supply tables of this report. We also call upon the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to progressively close the programme financing gap in line with NDP IV commitments and to urgently address

the persistently low absorption of external funding.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move and present the report of my beloved committee, the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

THE SPEAKER: What were you presenting first?

MS LINDA AUMA: It was the executive summary of the entire –

THE SPEAKER: You have presented, so that is okay. Give us the figures that have been allocated to you. Supply.

MS LINDA AUMA: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. You have made my work easy. Honourable colleagues, let us go to page 38. It was uploaded. It is the supply table for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

Based on the aforementioned observations and recommendations in the executive summary, the committee recommends that the House approve the budget for the following votes:

Vote 010 - Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries Recurrent – Shs 283,110,925,000.

Wage – Shs 39,847,692,000.

Non-wage – Shs 278,263,233,000.

Development – Shs 179,238,178,000.

Government of Uganda – Shs 462,349,103,000.

External financing – Shs 536,113,665,000.

Total allocation under Vote 010 – Shs 998,462,768,000.

Vote 125 - The National Animal Genetic Resource Centre and Data Bank (NAGRIC)

Recurrent is Shs 11,090,023,000.

Wage is Shs 5,736,023,000.

Non-wage is Shs 5,354,000,000.

Development is Shs 100,000,090,000.

The Government of Uganda is Shs 111,180,023,000. NAGRIC does not have external financing. Total allocation is Shs 111,180,023,000.

Vote 142 - The National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO)

Recurrent is Shs 126,322,109,000.

Wage is Shs 47,962,109,000.

Non-wage Shs 78,360,000,000.

Development is – Yes, I have read that one.

The Government of Uganda Shs 97,500,000,000. NARO does not have external financing. Total allocation is Shs 223,822,109,000.

Madam Speaker, I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, for a very good report. Members, do you have anything to say?

5.40

MS CHRISTINE KAAYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Kiboga): Thank you for the good report. Madam Speaker, I wanted to know the unfunded priorities of the agriculture sector. We need to appreciate that this is our mother sector, but we are disappointed by the budget consumption. The contribution of our sector to our livelihood depends on how we invest in it.

We are, therefore, wondering what exactly we are going to do about this, as we fail to attract external funding to this sector.

Before we came to the presentation of the sector budgets, there was an issue of the fulfilment of the Malabo Declaration. We thought you would give us some idea on how to fulfil this, but we are very disappointed with the low budget consumption.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, the absorption of funds in the Ministry of Agriculture, specifically the main ministry; what is the problem? Don't you have people who need the money, don't you have plans, or are we giving you too much money?

5.41

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (AGRICULTURE)

(Mr Fred Bwino): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. First of all, the budget given to the sector is far below what the National Development Plan IV (NDP IV) provides for. Secondly, even the little that is allocated is not released. You have heard that-

THE SPEAKER: You do not spend. You know – Hon. Bwino, what the chairperson is saying is that, much as you are given money which is not enough, you still do not spend it. Is it not what you said? We want you to spend all the money, and then we will add more.

MR BWINO: Madam Speaker, the main causes of the low absorption are the stringent conditions of the external financing. You know that external financing constitutes more than 60 per cent of the allocation to the sector.

Before you spend, you have to seek approval from the external partners each time, and this is the problem. If the resources were coming from the Government of Uganda envelope, it would be easier for the sector to absorb all that is released to it. That is where the problem is.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Goli?

5.42

MR MOSES GOLI (NRM, Dokolo North County, Dokolo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am really concerned about the absorption. Even if the external funders are stringent, they must be stringent for a reason. I am sure they are stringent because they want you to do things right. Why can't we do things right, so that we spend? Is it the Government of Uganda's money that we spend carelessly without doing things right? We need to spend money properly so that – in Dokolo, we have projects like smart agriculture and so many other agriculture-related projects, but they are not moving. Why? They are not handled together to help us do better.

We need to do something in such a way that it helps our people. A lot of money is recorded, but no expenditure. When you mention the issue of 3.7 per cent allocation according to NDP IV, to me, do not look at agriculture as money that goes to you, as the ministry; even the Parish Development Model (PDM) is in agriculture. The PDM is agriculture, 100 per cent. Are you calling it so because it does not fall under you? I think that is a wrong perception to say we are not fulfilling what NDP IV is planning. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Salongo?

MR BWINO: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I just want to clarify to my brother that the figure given by the chairperson is for the entire programme, including the local government, where the PDM is. We are not talking about the sector. We are talking about the entire programme.

THE SPEAKER: Let me hear from Grania. (*Hon. Goli rose*) Just a minute, let me hear from Grania, then Hon. Ibanda. I will come back to you.

5.45

MS GRANIA NAKAZIBWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mubende): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I also join the honourable minister in giving a little clarity to the figures that we are contradicting ourselves about. When the chairperson mentioned the 18 per cent rate, that was a rate of release in external financing. However, when we consider the absorption in that very line, it is approximately 54 per cent.

When you look at the general absorption of the ministry, it is far better than the 54 per cent. That does not underscore the fact that the ministry needs to increase its monitoring of the release of those funds and their utilisation. There is so much that needs to be done to this very important sector. When we look at the strategy of Tenfold growth, we need to do so much to ensure that we achieve the stipulated goals. I thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ibanda, Rose, and then Hon. Linda.

5.46

MR RWEMULIKYA IBANDA (Independent, Ntoroko County, Ntoroko): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I am very concerned about the issues of tractors – mechanisation of agriculture. Most of our people in the villages are waking up. They are now doing agriculture, not only for home consumption but even for sale.

However, the fact is that people who are accessing these tractors from the ministry do it clandestinely. There is no formula on who gets. In the 10th Parliament, we had asked that they provide us with a list of those districts that are supposed to get these tractors. You find someone who tells you that “I go there personally and get a tractor.” The entire Ntoroko, for instance, does not have any tractor.

I would like to ask why the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries does not bring to us the list of those who are supposed to benefit from these tractors.

Lastly, on the issue of irrigation –

THE SPEAKER: Or the criteria used.

MR RWEMULIKYA: Yes, the criteria used to pick those who are supposed to have these tractors.

Another issue is on irrigation. For sure, we depend on the weather. It is disturbing that the weather is now changing; in our place, the ministry is not doing enough to ensure that people get irrigation systems. There are some places that are productive but lack water.

I do not know what the ministry is doing to ensure that this programme is rolled out in the entire country, not only to a few, so that all districts get this aspect of irrigation, and our people engage in production. This is something we should have prioritised in this budget. If it is there, I thank God. I beg to submit.

5.49

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

We are moving this country to middle income economy, well aware that West Nile is the second poorest sub-region, after Karamoja. Unless we do mechanisation, we will not shift West Nile anywhere. We still have a lot of land. It is two months now –

THE SPEAKER: Mechanisation and irrigation. If you are near Karamoja, it is a dry area; so, you need irrigation and mechanisation. Take note.

MS OBIGAH: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for that correction.

The Ministry of Agriculture needs to be strategic. In West Nile, we have been so much into tobacco, especially Terego and the lower belt of Maracha. Tobacco has now become a nightmare. I think the ministry should be intentional in taking cocoa and coffee to West Nile, so that we stop dragging this country backwards. We need to move forward, and this is through deliberate action by the Ministry of Agriculture.

You parade your body to the ministry to look for money so that they can buy coffee and cocoa seedlings in West Nile, but there is nothing. They promise you air. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I think you should also include coffee.

5.50

MS IRENE LINDA (NRM, Woman Representative, Fort Portal City): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I equally thank the chairperson of the committee for the report.

My point of concern is on the extension staff. When you look at the Parish Development Model (PDM) programme, many people have benefited from the piggery, dairy, and banana enterprises, but they need extension staff to support them. The extension staff are not

[Ms Linda]

well motivated. They do not have transport means; so, it becomes a very big challenge.

My request is that in the next financial year – whose budget we are going to pass – they should provide transportation for the extension staff. Thank you.

5.51

MR MAXIMUS OCHAI (NRM, West Budama County North, Tororo): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries for the report. The people of West Budama North constituency in Tororo District are begging and crying for balanced regional development.

Agriculture being the backbone of the local economy of Bukedi Subregion, Busoga Subregion and other subregions that are lagging behind in economic development, it is high time the Ministry of Agriculture prioritised agriculture in those subregions so that we can be in position to push these local economies forward to attain the vision that we are aspiring for; ensuring that by 2040, we have a transformed society from peasantry to a prosperous community.

5.52

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT (NRM, Woman Representative, Kumi): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the committee chairperson for the presentation.

As the minister was giving a response to the under-utilisation of the provided funds, he talked about conditionalities. He could have, maybe, gone ahead to give us examples of one or two projects where the conditions are so tough that the Ugandan farmers cannot utilise a given project.

I was a member of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) (Local Government) and we used to discuss the micro-irrigation project in the lower local governments. There is an aspect of cost-sharing there.

The PAC (Local Government) made recommendations to the Ministry of Agriculture on how farmers would benefit. The late Dr Tom Okurut – may his soul rest in peace – pushed for that project. I have it in Akadot in Kadami Subcounty.

However, if you follow it up, you will see almost no impact of the micro-irrigation project because the farmers cannot meet the cost-sharing percentages that have been given. They are not even accessing the machinery or making use of the water. Actually, when we look at these projects that Parliament approves and we feel that they should benefit the farmers, there should be a reality on the ground.

Madam Speaker, have we ever had any monitoring report from the ministry on how such projects are benefitting us? It could be one of the reasons why the ministry is not able to utilise the given funds, yet the farmers still need a lot to support commercial agriculture. Thank you.

5.54

MR TOM BRIGHT (NRM, Kyaka Central County, Kyegegwa): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The biggest challenge we have in this country is the high cost of our manure. Most of the local farmers are suffering, especially the coffee farmers. When you include the tea farmers, the reason they are trying to run away from the business is the high cost of manure.

It is my prayer that the Ministry of Agriculture takes over the issue of manure and subsidises it to our local farmers, so that we can also make them more active and they get good yields. Thank you.

5.55

MR RICHARD OSEKU (NRM, Kibale County, Pallisa): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the report from the committee, but emphasise the fact that to ensure that productivity is improved, there is still the element of the hoe.

Much as we advocate for commercialisation and mechanisation, the hoe is still a very

outstanding factor in the production process. The Government has, for some time, promised hoes to the people, but they have not been given. I would like to appeal that this time round –(*Interruption*)

THE SPEAKER: There is money that was approved through a supplementary budget; hoes were bought and given out.

MR OTIMGIW: Madam Speaker, I can give a little information on that. This question was raised as well when we were at the retreat. It is true that we appropriated Shs 5 billion and an additional Shs 26 billion in the supplementary of December 2025. We understand that the hoes have started being sent to the districts, but the problem is that we are not being informed of how many have been sent to our respective districts. It was said that in December, they could not distribute them because it was a campaign period, and it would be deemed - but as far as we understand, the hoes are already being sent to the districts. The only problem is that we, the Members of Parliament, are not being informed. Not a single letter has been sent in our pigeonholes indicating how many hoes have been allocated to each district. Thank you.

MR OSEKU: We are residents of those districts. Maybe they have phased the distribution, but at least in the district where I come from, Madam Speaker, there are no hoes. We have never received any hoes.

THE SPEAKER: They are still distributing; they will reach your district.

When the hoes are sent to the district, they will go to the district leadership – the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) - not to the Member of Parliament. Let me hear from the Prime Minister.

5.57

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Madam Speaker, like the honourable colleague said, this matter was raised at NALI, and His Excellency

the President directed that we engage the CAOs or the technical team in the districts to inform Members of Parliament or to give you notification that such and such number of hoes are going to be delivered to your districts. However, you are not supposed to be involved in distributing those hoes. Let us leave that work to the technical teams, but they should keep us informed. Thank you.

5.58

MS STELLA ATYANG (NRM, Woman Representative, Moroto): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the committee for the report presented.

Madam Speaker, of late, I have realised that the seeds now on the market are one-season varieties, meaning that once a farmer plants them and harvests, they cannot be stored for planting in the next season. It means that you must go back to the market to buy the seeds. This is a bit expensive for our local people, like in Karamoja. Karimojongs are used to harvesting and then saving something for the next season. This affected most of the farmers in Karamoja.

The seeds given to them by the Government were planted, and they harvested them some time back. However, they thought that they would save part of it for replanting. When they did so, they did not get any harvest; their yield was poor.

My suggestion is that first, when the Government distributes seeds, they should inform the community that the seeds provided are single-season varieties. The other one -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Stella, you have not told them that they are GMOs.

MS ATYANG: First, even I did not know that they are GMOs. Therefore, we all need to be informed by the ministry about it. My suggestion is that the Government should support NARO to preserve indigenous plant varieties that can be re-planted so that farmers can plant, harvest, and save some seed for the next season.

6.00

MS SANTA ALUM (UPC, Woman Representative, Oyam): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker, for giving me this chance. I have a great concern about the lack of funding for the agricultural research institutions in this country.

Madam Speaker, I once served on the agriculture committee, and we visited these research institutions and identified gaps. The institutions and infrastructure are in place but the challenges are gaps in manpower and research funding. We are talking about funding, we are talking about food security and the mandate of, for example, the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) to enable us to address the issue of food insecurity and increase productivity. Therefore, Madam Speaker, if there is something that we can do now, it is to allocate funds to support these research institutions. I want to thank you.

6.01

MR ALLAN MAYANJA (NUP, Nakaseke Central, Nakaseke): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. My concern is on arrears, that is on page 26, specifically the Shs 48 billion being demanded by the coffee nursery operators.

Madam Speaker, as we speak, each seedling on the market costs between Shs 3,000 and Shs 5,000, which most of our local farmers cannot afford. The reason for this is that coffee nursery operators are increasing prices due to the significant arrears they are demanding from the Government. According to the report, there is a funding gap of almost Shs 28 billion. I suggest and recommend -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, I do not remember whether it was in a supplementary budget request or otherwise. We provided money for those suppliers. I am even surprised that they have not been paid. We provided money for it.

MR MAYANJA: Madam Speaker, my issue is that the Government should clear these arrears owed to the coffee nursery operators.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, can these people get paid before we enter the next financial year? We know that funds have already been provided. Follow it up with the Permanent Secretary (PS).

6.02

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (AGRICULTURE) (Mr Fred Bwino): Madam Speaker, it is true that Parliament provided money in a supplementary appropriation, but the total arrears amount to about Shs 80 billion, yet the supplementary budget was about Shs 34 billion. This means that even with the supplementary release, we shall not be able to pay all, but as per your guidance -

THE SPEAKER: Okay, first, pay the ones you have money for while we wait to get more money to pay the balance.

MR BWINO: We shall pay before the end of the financial year. Much obliged, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, we have discussed this thing for a long time. Pursuant to Rule 156(2) of the Rules of Procedure, the report is referred to the Committee on Budget for harmonisation, reconciliation, and consolidation. Thank you so much, honourable chairperson, of the mighty Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS
TECHNOLOGY AND NATIONAL
GUIDANCE

6.04

DR NOAH MUSA (Independent, Koboko North, Koboko): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yesterday, I received a communication from the committee chairperson stating that he is indisposed and requesting that I present the report on his behalf. Madam Speaker, before I do so, kindly allow me to lay the report on the Table. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

DR MUSA: Madam Speaker, if you will allow me, I wish to skip the introduction, background, and methodology and proceed directly to compliance.

Section 12(15) of the Public Finance Management Act provides for the contents of the Ministerial Policy Statements to be submitted to Parliament by the responsible minister. The Minister of Information, Communication, Technology, and National Guidance presented the required information regarding the Votes under his jurisdiction.

Section 12(7) of the Public Finance Management Act provides for the National Planning Authority to issue a certificate to confirm compliance of the previous financial year's budget with the National Development Plan. Accordingly, the Digital Transformation Programme's annual budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026 was assessed and scored at 48 per cent, compared to the average for all programmes of 70 per cent.

The low score was attributed to the non-realisation of the ministry's annual budget targets, including the extension of internet connectivity under the last-mile coverage programme.

Gender and Equity Responsiveness Budgeting

Section 12(10) (e)(i) of the Public Finance Management Act requires the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development, in consultation with the Equal Opportunities Commission, to issue a certificate certifying that the budget is gender and equity responsive.

The Ministerial Policy Statement of the Ministry of Information, Communications, and Technology, and the National guidance were accordingly assessed and scored 61 per cent for gender and equity responsiveness. The overall national average score was 70 per cent, indicating that the Digital Transformation

Programme underperformed and declined further from the previous year's performance.

This was attributed to the low level of ICT service updates in rural communities, characterised by limited internet access, insufficient institutional support for PDM, limited integration of feedback from regional consultations with stakeholders, and uncertainties arising from RAPEX.

On the other hand, NITA-U, under gender and equity compliance, was scored at 70 per cent, a market it has sustained over the last three consecutive financial years.

Overview of National Budget Resource Envelope

Madam Speaker, kindly allow me to skip this section because we know the resource envelope. I want to go to specific Vote and subvention performance.

5.1. Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology and National Guidance, Vote 020

The Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology and National Guidance is mandated to provide strategic and technical leadership, overall coordination, support and advisory services on all matters of policy, laws, regulations, and strategy for ICT and National Guidance.

Budget performance of Vote 020

The committee observed that the Ministry of ICT and National guidance has an approved budget of Shs 125.14 billion, revised from Shs 102.575 billion, excluding arrears, representing an additional Shs 22.57 billion. By the close of the first half of the financial year, a sum of Shs 52.921 billion had been released to the Vote for expenditure, translating to about 49.9 per cent of the total release.

The wage and non-wage recurrent performed against the target, while development underperformed, as shown in the subsequent table.

In terms of absorption, nearly 50 per cent of the budget was released, and 76.7 per cent of the released amount was utilised, resulting in an absorption of about 23.3 per cent.

The ministry had arrears amounting to Shs 100 billion, and Shs 50 billion was released to settle some of them. Of the Shs 50 billion released, Shs 37.7 billion was spent to settle the Posta and UTL former workers, translating into 75.5 per cent performance. This is in the table. Kindly allow me to skip the table, and I will speak briefly on the achievements.

On matters of policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks, the ministry ensured that the Cabinet approved the National Communication Policy.

The ministry managed to develop and operationalise standards for Optical Fibre installation, maintenance, protection, and disposal. The standards require operators to prioritise deployment within the available underground infrastructure facilities provided by cities, municipalities, authorities, and other Government Agencies.

In ICT infrastructure development, and through NITA-U, the ministry was able, under phase five of the National Backbone Infrastructure (NBI) project, to install 1,567 concrete poles and maintain 4,387 kilometres of optical fibre cable, serving various Government Agencies.

Successfully initiated infrastructure sharing amongst the industry players, including base transceiver stations, tower spaces, power systems, and ducts.

The ministry developed a georeferenced postcode database for all parishes and wards across 27 districts in Central Uganda. This is in preparation for the National Addressing System, which the ministry is trying to implement.

On research and innovation, the ministry signed a memorandum of understanding with Gulu University and Mbarara University to establish innovation hubs at both universities.

The ministry assessed the Artificial Intelligence landscape to ascertain the AI ecosystem to facilitate the development of the National Artificial Intelligence Framework.

On Communication and National Guidance, the ministry conducted civic education awareness campaigns in the Rwenzori and Ankole Subregions and produced documentaries on socio-economic transformation initiatives such as PDM and *Emyooga*.

On E-services, the ministry commenced development of the Government Digital Registry, which will serve as a central registry for all Government E-Systems. So far, the ministry has registered 624 systems, which are already on the register.

Key challenges highlighted by the ministry include inadequate complementary utilities and services, such as electricity and road access, that support the rollout of ICT infrastructure. Madam Speaker, you know that for us to extend ICT, we need this complementary infrastructure - the electricity and the road access.

We also have the challenge of a lengthy consultative and approval process for police formulation and projects. The lack of an application programming interface for some of the systems has constrained system integration.

We have inadequate space at the National ICT Hub to accommodate the increasing number of innovators and start-ups, and the high cost of commercialisation and low uptake of local ICT solutions.

Madam Speaker, I want to now speak to the proposed budget for the next financial year. Basically, the ministry has seven objectives that it will achieve with the funds provided for the next financial year. These include:

- i) The automation and rollout of e-government services, including PDMIS and smart city solutions. The ministry intends to develop user applications for the wider government;

- ii) Implementation of the national addressing and postcode system, for which the districts in Central Uganda have already been mapped;
- iii) Refurbishment and equipping of Post Office buildings to establish one-stop centres for the delivery of government services;
- iv) Strengthen cybersecurity resilience and data protection privacy;
- v) Extension of free-to-air TV signals to unserved and underserved areas across the country;
- vi) The ministry is also focusing on establishing a Fourth Industrial Revolution-compliant laboratory, and lastly
- vii) Acquisition of equipment for the broadcast of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON).

Table 2 shows the allocation for the ministry. The first two columns show the budget for this current financial year, and then the third column shows the proposal for Financial Year 2026/2027.

Overall, the ministry's allocation is Shs 152.97 billion. This is an increase of Shs 27.83 billion, which means the ministry budget allocation has increased by 22.2 per cent. This exceeds the NDP target, so we should naturally expect this ministry to perform well. This section covers the allocations.

Now, the committee observed that the budget allocation to the ministry has increased by Shs 27.83 billion, an increment of 22 per cent from Financial Year 2025/2026 to Financial Year 2026/2027.

The increment is on account of an increase in the development budget under the Government of Uganda, domestic, to cater for infrastructure development, with an allocation of Shs 10 billion to the Uganda Institute of Communication Technology for the upgrade of lecture rooms to smart lecture rooms and virtual laboratory rooms, as well as wage provisions.

The Government has also provided the ministry with Shs 6 billion, which is prioritised for the

rollout of the Government Digital Register to store all the Government application systems.

Now, I want to talk about vote-specific issues.

Vote 126 - National Information Technology Authority, NITA-U

NITA-U, under the RAPEX policy, you are aware that it has been rationalised and is given only a three-year period to complete the ongoing ICT infrastructure extension projects, including the National Backbone Infrastructure and the last mile connectivity, with funding from UDAP-GAV-Net and the Exim Bank of China.

NITA-U plays a central role in the digitalisation of Government operations and is equally responsible for maintaining, regulating, and enforcing standards for information technology, both hardware and software. This is achieved through technical advice to the Government on all matters related to information technology, development, utilisation, and deployment. These functions will soon move to the ministry.

6.1.0 Budget performance for the half year

The approved NITA-U annual budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026 is Shs 463.575 billion, comprising Shs 81.2 billion from the Government of Uganda and Shs 382.378 billion in external funding.

The budget released for the first half of the financial year was Shs 141.012 billion, representing 50.7 per cent of the approved budget. Shs 83.729 billion was spent, translating into a performance of 59.4 per cent as shown in the table below. The low absorption is mainly attributed to lengthy consultative and approval processes by the World Bank for the externally sourced funds.

We can look at the table. If you see the table, the release is Shs 141 billion, and the spent is Shs 83.7 billion, which is 50.7 per cent.

The committee noted the following achievements from NITA-U.

- i) Maintenance of NBI infrastructure measuring 4,387 kilo metres length across 57 districts; 359.8 billion. There is no appropriation for the institution's aid.
- ii) Installation of 3,931 concrete poles along eight NBI routes in Eastern, Central, Northern, and Western regions under phase four of the UDAP project; The committee observed that the proposed budget allocation for the vote is projected to decrease from Shs 463.575 billion approved for the Financial Year 2025/2026 to Shs 344.83 billion for the next financial year, representing a 25.6 per cent reduction in the budget estimate. This is attributed to the significant decrease in the Government's development budget from Shs 40 billion to Shs 20 million. The institution will receive only Shs 20 million from the Government for development.
- iii) Delivery and installation of NBI transport network equipment at 30 transmission sites with the power systems, which have boosted capacity for 40G to 100G at the core rings; On the other hand, the wage component of the vote has marginally increased by 15 per cent due to payroll validation, as guided by the Ministry of Public Service.
- iv) Upgraded the capacity of 63 IPS hubs across the country from 1 gigabyte to 10 gigabytes; and The authority intends to undertake the following during the financial year. The key activities of NITA-U in 2026/2027 will include;
- v) Enhancement of e-government services through automation, strengthening of cybersecurity, and data protection and privacy.

Challenges the entity has experienced

- i. Inadequate staff to fully execute the mandate of the agency in the limited timeframe following the RAPEX process; and
- ii. The lengthy consultative and approval processes for the disbursement of funds constrain the timely delivery of services.
- i. Extension of the National Backbone Infrastructure connecting MDAs, Local Governments and Priority User Groups to cover an additional 1,700 kilometres, resulting in a total length of 7,387 kilometres. This is the network the institution wants to cover.

Table 4 is about the budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027. As you see in the table, the overall budget for this financial year is Shs 344.83 billion. The proposed budget for wages is Shs 11.92 billion. Non-wage is Shs 35.6 billion. The recurrent expenditure is Shs 47.6 billion, and the Government's development funds will be only Shs 0.02 billion. NITA-U's funding has been from external sources.

External financing for development programmes will be Shs 297.2 billion; total Government funding for NITA-U will be Shs 47.63 billion; and the total Government plus external funding will be Shs 344.83 billion. Arrears for the institution amount to Shs 15 billion, and the entity's total budget is Shs

Madam Speaker, allow me to speak briefly on subventions under the Ministry of ICT. I want to start with the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC). I believe this will be important for us because of UBC's role in the African Cup of Nations (AFCON).

Uganda Broadcasting Corporation was established - this is just a preamble. Let me talk about the budget.

UBC budget performance for the first half of Financial Year 2025/2026

- i. The committee observed that the corporation has an approved budget of Shs 39.82 billion, of which Shs 16.45 billion was an Appropriation in Aid (AIA) and the remainder was the subvention from the

ministry. By the close of the first half of the Financial Year 2025/2026, the corporation had realised only Shs 15.84 billion, equivalent to 40 per cent of its budget.

- ii. The wage and non-wage recurrent budget component performed at a target of 50 per cent.
- iii. On the other hand, internally generated revenue underperformed at only 25 per cent.
- iv. The corporation has a proposed budget of Shs 39.82 billion, thereby maintaining its current budget. You will see this in the table.

1.2 Key achievements for the institution

I will also read. I want to go to the proposed procurements because this is very important.

One of the key procurements for the institution that this House needs to support is the equipment for broadcasting AFCON, and then the equipment to cover additional direct-to-home sites.

THE SPEAKER: You mean there is different equipment for broadcasting the AFCON?

DR MUSA: They need about Shs 39 billion.

THE SPEAKER: Remember, we donated equipment from Parliament to UBC.

DR MUSA: Yes. Madam Speaker, in addition to what we donated, they need to procure additional equipment to improve their system and cover the AFCON.

THE SPEAKER: How much do they get in their NTR? I believe they are a moneymaking body.

DR MUSA: Their NTR for this financial year, the target was Shs 16.45 billion but they only realised about Shs 4.1 billion and we said they performed very poorly by about 25 per cent.

THE SPEAKER: What was the cause?

DR MUSA: The entity is not generating a lot of money because it is a government entity and carrying out government services.

THE SPEAKER: No, much as it is a government entity, we pay them. Even when they broadcast Parliament, we pay them. It is not free. You just need to encourage your entity to make money. At one time, they even gave them exclusive powers.

DR MUSA: Yes. That power was challenged, and the decision was eventually rescinded.

THE SPEAKER: No, Hon. Noah, you need to encourage your entity to make money. Okay, they cover you here. Do they cover it for free?

DR MUSA: I think this should be among the monies they are raising, but what we know is the institution has serious challenges with funding because they are supposed to cover the whole nation, unlike these business entities, which focus on areas that are commercially viable. Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) is supposed to reach all regions of the country and deliver Government programme information to all citizens. For that reason, they really need a lot of resources.

THE SPEAKER: Outside this, can you ask that entity to provide you with a list or register of all their assets?

DR MUSA: Yes, I think this one would do, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Get all their radio stations. Get all the land. When you are asking for the land, ask for their land titles and give me that report.

DR MUSA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We will do that. At the committee level, we have been having a lot –

THE SPEAKER: I happen to have been a vice-chairperson of the Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State

Enterprises (COSASE), and that institution was under me. I think I know it more than you do. Let us help that institution.

DR MUSA: These are the issues we observed as a committee. There is a report which was done on UBC, and we requested for it, but we did not get it. I think, with the help of the line ministry responsible for the entity, we will be able to do this and find out what is going on there. Of course, they have challenges with the land in Eastern Uganda and with the land here in the city, which also has problems. They also have land in western Uganda. That has been coming up in the Committee on ICT and National Guidance.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, I am going to ask – I am happy you have talked about it - for a forensic audit on UBC property. *(Applause)*

DR MUSA: Okay, Madam Speaker. However, I pray that for the sake of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), we really need to support them while we do the forensic audit.

THE SPEAKER: The AFCON money is provided for under AFCON. When you look at what the minister was reading, the AFCON funding is there. Let us not double budget.

DR MUSA: Okay. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Now, let me go to the key observations of the committee.

THE SPEAKER: Go to appropriation.

DR MUSA: Okay. On appropriation, we can start with the – I have already talked about the National Information Technology Authority (NITA-U).

Vote 020 - Ministry of ICT and National Guidance.

Expenditure items: proposed budgets
Recurrent expenditure - Shs 94,273,163,000.
Development expenditure - Shs 46,426,443,000.
The total - Shs 140,699,606,000.

Vote 126 - National Information Technology Authority.

Expenditure items
Recurrent expenditure - Shs 60,420,233,000.
Development expenditure - Shs 297,214,647,000.
The total budget - Shs 357,634,880,000.
This is the total appropriation for the vote.

THE SPEAKER: What is the total of 498? The total appropriation?

DR MUSA: The total is Shs 498,334,486,000.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

Honourable chairperson, I would like to reiterate that we need a comprehensive report. Honourable minister, we need a comprehensive report on UBC assets. We have land we recovered as COSASE in Bugolobi. There is a piece of land of over 200 acres in Soroti. We want the asset register and copies of your titles.

MR KABBYANGA: Much obliged, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: In the case of AFCON, you will be budgeted under AFCON. To cover AFCON, you will be budgeted under AFCON. Isn't that better?

Yes, do you have a point of clarification?

6.32

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT (NRM, Woman Representative, Kumi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, chairperson, for the presentation. As you had already hinted, on top, the chairperson was saying total, then down, total appropriation. He should have given us the difference between the two totals.

Madam Speaker, I am happy that you have guided the chairperson to have the assets register, based on the fact that there is a decline in terms of the local revenue, and it is at 25 per cent. Apart from having the assets register and all that guidance that you have provided, we should ask the chairperson to give us the

proposals the committee came up with so as to improve the performance of the institution, in terms of generating local revenue. Thank you.

6.33

PROF. ELIJAH MUSHEMEZA (Independent, Sheema County South, Sheema): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the chairperson for the report and for the clear articulation of the issues, but I have three concerns.

One, there is mention of underperformance on the utilisation of arrear funds. My understanding of the use of arrear funds is that an activity has already taken place. You are now disbursing funds. Why should you have an average performance? I cannot recall the percentage. I am talking to you, chairperson. Chairperson of the committee, may I have your attention? *(Dr Musa rose)* –

There is underutilisation of arrear funds. Why should a ministry fail to utilise the funds that have been released? If it were just budgeted and not released, then I would understand. Money has already been released - I still need your attention, chairperson of the committee – *(Dr Musa rose)* - when I see you talking to the minister, I imagine that you are not taking my submission very seriously. Why would we have underutilisation of arrears funds and average performance?

My second concern, you alluded to Artificial Intelligence (AI), and I can see the ministry has some good understanding of the use of AI. The perception in the population, even when you look at social media, is that when somebody makes a submission, and you do not agree, they say, “AI,” as if AI is negative. AI is not necessarily negative. There are AI applications that are good for research. I can invoke an AI application and turn one of your tables, in 30 seconds, into a graph. AI is very useful in many respects.

What plans does the ministry have to sensitise the population to the fact that AI is not necessarily negative and that we can use it in many respects? I did not see that aspect in your report.

Finally, the report is talking about the deployment of 250 Wi-Fi sites. Are some of these sites linked to tourism? Through my research, I know that you may have the same number of visitors as Tanzania. However, Tanzania gets more money than Uganda. Apart from the poor road network, there is an issue with the internet. The tourist will not be comfortable being in Bwindi and elsewhere.

I was interacting with one of our honourable members, Hon. Katesh. One of the challenges he faces at his hotel is poor internet service. So, for these 250 Wi-Fi sites that you are talking about that the ministry is going to work on, are they linked to tourism? Remember, tourism is one of the sectors that is bringing high investment returns to our economy. So, if we are looking at issues to bring in more money to the economy –

THE SPEAKER: Maybe tourism and education centres.

PROF MUSHEMEZA: Yes. So, how are these Wi-Fi sites linked to education centres and tourism sites? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, professor.

6.37

MR ALED AKUGIZIBWE (Independent, Buruli County, Masindi): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I thank the chairperson for the good report. However, I want to add a few things.

Firstly, we still have some places in Uganda where we do not have network, especially for the main telecommunication companies such as MTN and Airtel.

The other thing, Madam Speaker, is that the internet, generally in Uganda, is still expensive and, remember, it is mainly used for education purposes. So, you find that university students and other students are unable to access the internet just because it is expensive.

I would also request that you find a way to support the Ministry of Education and Sports

by providing internet to schools because we know we need it for educational purposes. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

6.38

MS ETHEL NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. This is a key ministry in the country, and the ordinary person will understand it through low data rates and ensuring that at least, communication services are okay.

One, before I get to their report, let us get to know: why is the cost of data still very high?

Two, sometime back, we were promised that through NITA-U, we would be able to access Wi-Fi at the Constitutional Square and other key places in the city. What happened?

THE SPEAKER: Hot points.

MS NALUYIMA: Hot points in the city. What happened to that project? Can we know what you are doing about that?

Finally, you have informed us that – sorry, let me leave that one. Many of us, even parliamentarians, have fallen victim to the use of unregistered SIM cards. We were told that only someone with a National Identity Card can have a SIM card because you are using our data. How come, today, many people still have SIM cards that are not registered and which are in circulation? I thank you.

6.40

MR IBANDA RWEMULIKYA (Independent, Ntoroko County, Ntoroko): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I would also like to thank the chairperson for the good report.

I have one concern about computers in our schools. At both O'Level and A'Level, they teach ICT but in our schools, you find that they have only two computers. I have a school called Rwebisengo Secondary School, which even the minister knows about. I wrote to the

ministry about the school several times. In this school, there are no computers at all. At the end of the day, the students are assessed, but they have nothing. They do it in turns – these ones get out, and these ones come in. The performance is poor. I do not know how this aspect of computers in our schools has been considered in this budget.

I beg to submit, Madam Speaker.

6.41

MR STEPHEN ASEERA (Independent, Buhaguzi East County, Kikuube): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I want to add my voice to thank the chairperson for the wonderful presentation.

However, mine is about cybercrime and cybersecurity. They are on the rise, and we are seeing a growing number of cases where hackers have become a menace. We are wondering how they are handling SIM card registration, as Hon. Ethel mentioned. We are wondering what kind of system they are using.

Also, we are bound to have these hackers get into the Government's systems, such as in a ministry, where we are likely to have quite a number of issues or losses.

I am becoming concerned about how ready the ICT ministry is, since it takes the lead. I would especially love for them to demonstrate to us how they are ready to handle the rising cybersecurity issue. They should also demonstrate how they are harmonising with the security agencies. This is because many of these hackers are using SIM cards to hack into our phones and computer systems. I would like the committee to explain how we will handle this.

They should also come up with detectors because they are fond of sending links. Every time you click the link, you become a victim because they can access your data. The privacy and protection point is key.

Thank you so much, Madam Speaker.

6.43

MS SYLVIA BAHIREIRA (Independent, Woman Representative, Kamwenge): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I also add my voice to the issue on internet connectivity. How we wish the ministry could consider hotspots, for example, in places such as the National Leadership Training Institute (NALI), where most of the leaders commonly gather.

Information is power, and such areas need constant, reliable internet so that whichever category of leaders is there, they are always able to search for and gain knowledge on different topics before they are presented. I am talking of one example, but we need to scale up on that.

The other point, Madam Speaker, concerns data – both internet data and airtime. There are times when one buys data that expires – let us say one buys data for 24 hours, a week, or a month. The period expires when the data is still there. The ministry could consider a way to transfer prepaid data to the next period, so that we avoid wastage as a country.

I submit, Madam Speaker.

6.45

MS JOSEPHINE BEBONA (N R M , Woman Representative, Bundibugyo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the chairperson for the good presentation. As you had already commented about the checks of the registers – the land titles – I see that there are still issues of accountability. We have these radio stations in our settings, but it seems they do not have a proper way to handle the money they receive from the communities.

For example, there are different officers. Has the ministry really gone to the ground to find out how they receive these monies? Do the communities get receipts upon paying for an announcement or a programme? How do you handle accountability?

The Rt Hon. Speaker has said we need to make money. Otherwise, little money is realised.

Even we, the politicians, when we go there, sometimes they do not have a standard price. Maybe a standard price can be given for the announcements but not all the programmes. Madam Speaker, we are not sure whether this money is really realised from the various programmes they make. Thank you.

MR AMOOTI: The information I want to give to my sister, the Member from Bundibugyo, is that I am a radio operator. We pay a license fee every year. We subscribe, and they always come to check and advise us. I am sure everybody who operates a radio actually pays to the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), which is a source of revenue for the country.

THE SPEAKER: What Hon. Josephine is talking about is Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC). How best can we help UBC to increase its revenue? Do you get it? Otherwise, all radio owners pay to UCC.

MR AMOOTI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Another issue is that in Kyegegwa District, there are some areas where you find no network at all, and the Ministry of Information, Communication Technology and National Guidance is not erecting masts in some areas. Connectivity is zero in our areas. I humbly appeal -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, when I am in my village, I have to look for the tallest tree to climb so I can make a phone call. Seriously, there is no connectivity. You need to look at some of these things so we can communicate. Do you get it? Let the minister first answer the points raised.

MR AMOOTI: Much obliged, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, start with the connectivity in Bukedea. *(Laughter)*

6.48

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE (National Guidance) (Mr Godfrey Kabbyanga): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. First, I thank the chairperson for the report. I would like to say we discussed it in detail, and I will not add much to it. I will just react to the issues raised.

On connectivity, Madam Speaker, we now have a licensing condition that for every service provider to renew their license, they must have covered at least 90 per cent of the country. As a ministry, we are exploring how we can now cover the remaining 10 per cent. That is why, under the Uganda Digital Acceleration Project(UDAP), we are going to put up masts; I think around 78 masts. The UCC will also put up another 68 masts so we can cover places like yours.

Madam Speaker, after we have erected the masts, we will obviously hand them over to the service providers. We have also encouraged the sharing of infrastructure. If you note, now, telecom companies share masts. It is not like in the past, when every service provider erected their own masts. We strongly believe that in the next year, we will probably have covered the whole country as far as the telecom network is concerned.

When it comes to the internet, we are now trying, as Government, to supplement the service providers. That is why we are now working on Phase V of the National Backbone Infrastructure (NBI). By the time we complete this, we shall have covered all the districts in the country. Obviously, we are still serving only the public institutions. We do not give the internet to individuals or private people. However –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, when you work on the internet, for instance, in the city square, I will have to subscribe to have access. They will deduct money from me. We are not saying, give it for free. We are saying, can we have internet in a particular area? We will pay to have access to it.

Honourable minister, when you go somewhere and you use Wi-Fi, when you are putting a card, there is a payment you are making. It is like you have gone to a hotel where you have paid for a room and food but you have not enjoyed the service.

MR KABBYANGA: Madam Speaker, we are aware of that. I was trying to say that we are trying to expand the infrastructure so that the internet can be everywhere.

When it comes to the hotspots in the city, I think one honourable member talked about the Constitutional Square. We have those hotspots but at the beginning, when we installed them, the maintenance was being done by a private company. We are now taking over maintenance and we have already completed the legal gymnastics. We are taking over maintenance and we are going to reactivate these hotspots, which will be managed by us.

Madam Speaker, the internet is going to improve because we are now in the final discussions with *Starlink*, which is owned by *SpaceX*. They are bringing in satellite internet, which can reach everywhere. They do not use fibre; they use satellite.

Madam Speaker, as soon as we are through with them, we are going to license them, and that will solve the issue of the internet. It will now be an issue of which service provider you want to connect to. Obviously, as the infrastructure improves, the rates will also improve. Some of you who are very familiar with the internet, about 10 years ago, the cost was about \$1,000 per megabyte per second but right now, NITA-U is at \$35 per megabyte per second. Now, when we complete the national backbone, we shall be at \$5 per megabyte per second.

Madam Speaker, there is a lot of improvement. I know when *Starlink* comes in, the rates will go down because competition will be high. With the internet, when more people are hooked to the network, the rates start going down. We are working on that.

On UBC, I think you have guided properly, Madam Speaker. That is what we are going for. Indeed, as a ministry, we are also aware that UBC is not making much money. We have 11 radio stations and five television stations, but I think we can do better. We are going to follow your advice.

On cybersecurity, we have a team, and we work as a team, including the Ministry of ICT, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, and all other stakeholders. We are trying to make sure that all these cybersecurity issues are managed.

Madam Speaker, we are also improving our technology. We have already procured modern technology from Israel, which can really detect some of these things very fast. We are up to the game.

On AI, as the professor has said, it has been around for a long time, but it has now become a thing because everybody has started to understand what it is. We are not going to avoid AI because it is now what can propel the digital transformation agenda very fast.

However, it also has its own problems. AI is just like a double-edged sword. If you use it properly, you will harness its benefits, but if you use it wrongly, it can ditch you completely.

Madam Speaker, we have established an AI task force, and it is working tirelessly. This one is for experts only, and we have given them only six months to come up with an agenda and a roadmap on how we should regulate and also move with the AI agenda. At an appropriate time, Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: We need legislation on it.

MR KABBYANGA: Exactly. At an appropriate time, Madam Speaker, we shall bring the legislation here for processing, so that we can oversee the AI agenda and digital transformation. Honourable members should know that we cannot move forward without AI on the digital transformation agenda.

On SIM cards, first, I would like to call upon honourable members to be careful with the messages they receive on their phones. Be careful with people who call you. Yesterday, someone called me and said my line would be switched off and that I should complete a second registration. When I asked whether he knew the person he was talking to, he said, “*Oli Musiru*” and switched off. *(Laughter)*

If I had responded positively to his message, he would have asked me for more details and then used my details to register his SIM card. So, be careful.

Regarding computers in schools, we have a programme under the Uganda Communications Commission that is working well, but the resource envelope is a bit small. However, under the Uganda Digital Acceleration Project (UDAP), we will also receive more computers, and we are prioritising schools and government institutions.

Madam Speaker, we are moving fast. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, pursuant to Rule 156(2) of the Rules of Procedure, I refer the report to the Budget Committee for harmonisation, reconciliation, and consolidation.

Honourable members, I would like to thank you for today. I request that we start the House tomorrow at 10.00 a.m. *-(Applause)-* so that we can conclude the ministerial statements. On Tuesday, we will start with the tax Bills and then proceed to appropriation. I would like to thank you for your time, and God bless you.

House adjourned to 10.00 a.m. tomorrow. My Members, follow me to my other office; Hon. Obua knows it. *(Laughter)*

(The House rose at 7.00 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 16 April 2026 at 10.00 a.m.)