

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS OF MEMBERS OF
PARLIAMENT**

BY

**THE RT HON. PRIME MINISTER DURING PRIME
MINISTER'S TIME**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V. Johnson'.

Thursday, 6th March, 2025

1. Hon. Afidra Olema Ronald (MP-Lower Madi County)

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, aware that RAPEX affected the different agencies including UNRA Ferry Services. Rhino-Camp to Amuru Ferry was to be commissioned on 31st December 2024 by UNRA and a new ferry was supposed to be provided by Government.

PRAYER 1

When will the commission and provision of ferry services be done to enhance water transport for the people of West Nile and Amuru on River Nile?

RESPONSE:

Rt Hon. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, progress of Phase 1 of the vessel assembly is currently at 85% pending the installation of the engine's Civil Component.

Similarly, progress of construction of ferry landing sites at Rhino camp (Yikuriku) in Madi-Okollo and Amoor in Amuru district is at 72% and operations will commence very soon.

PRAYER II

Last year on 11th to 13th April 2024 during H.E. The President's Tour of West Nile, he directed to consider Security/ Tourism Road from Panyimur-Pakwach-Rhino-Camp Obongi and Difule to be upgraded to tarmac.

Works on Kia-Kai and Aringa bridges, Olionga to Ewanga swamps and Achara Swamp have all stalled.

When will these projects be up-graded as directed by the H.E. the President?

RESPONSE:

Rt Hon. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, Upgrading of the Panyimur-Pakwach-Rhino Camp-Dufile Road (200km) has been considered in the NDPIV and will be worked on.

2.Hon. Songa Lawrence Biyika (MP Ora County, Zombo)

PRAYERS

- i. Is government having any plan to build a district hospital in the border district of Zombo and what is the progress?
- ii. In the meantime, as we wait for the district hospital, can government provide full financial, personnel and infrastructural support to the Holy Family Missionary Hospital of Nyapea?
- iii. Why can't government make Nebbi General Hospital a Regional Referral Hospital to serve Greater Nebbi?

RESPONSE:

Rt Hon. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, I wish to respond as follows;

- i. **On progress on new hospital construction:** Government has recognized the need for a district hospital in this region. Feasibility studies and site assessments are being conducted, and plans

are underway to secure funding and commence construction in FY 2025/26.

- ii. **On support for Holy Family Missionary Hospital:** Given the critical role of Holy Family Hospital of Nyapea in providing healthcare services to the people of Zombo district and neighboring areas, government acknowledges the urgent need for infrastructure improvements.

In 2019, assessments condemned key facilities, including the Outpatient Department and Maternity ward.

The Ministry of Health is exploring interim support measures, such as the feasibility of allocating funds for renovations and deploying medical personnel to bolster the hospital's capacity while plans for a new district hospital are being finalized.



3.Hon. Gafabusa Richard Muhumuza (MP-Bwamba County)

Bundibugyo General Hospital is in a very bad state in terms of physical infrastructure, obsolete medical equipment and gross inadequate medical personnel.

The district leadership, including MPs have raised this matter several times to government but there has not been satisfactory response. The X-ray machine stopped working last year and our people are suffering as they are referred to Fort Portal.


PRAYERS

- i. When is government going to do general rehabilitation of the hospital?
- ii. When will government procure and deliver the necessary equipment including the X-ray machine, operating tables, operating trolleys and lamps, instrument sets for different surgical procedures, etc.?

RESPONSE:

Rt Hon. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, Bundibugyo Hospital is currently facing challenges related to congestion, dilapidated infrastructure, outdated equipment, and understaffing.

The Ministry of Health is currently prioritizing expansion and rehabilitation of hospitals to match the new structures at the different levels. The Ministry of Health is currently assessing all the hospitals and facilities in order to come with a comprehensive plan that includes:

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- i. Infrastructure Expansion and Rehabilitation: increasing bed capacity and improving existing buildings to meet current healthcare standards and also reduce patient congestion.
 - ii. Provide modern medical equipment.
 - iii. Ensure the utilities (water and power) are of quality in terms of reliability and stability.
 - iv. Recruiting additional healthcare professionals and providing continuous training to improve service delivery.

Rt Hon. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, government is exploring funding sources to expedite the renovation process and address the pressing needs of Bundibugyo Hospital.

4.Hon. Dr. Byakatonda Abdul (MP, Workers)

PRAYERS

- i. What immediate measures is government implementing to mitigate the impact of U.S funding freeze and ensure uninterrupted HIV treatment for 1.4 million Ugandans?
- ii. What strategies are in place to prevent job losses or reintegration to get high level skills among Uganda's 12,551 Community Health Workers, whose roles are now at risk due to withdrawal of U.S support?
- iii. Given that Uganda currently allocates only 6.5% of the national budget to health, when will government fulfill its Abuja Declaration commitment to increase health funding to 15%?
- iv. Will government consider establishing an Emergency HIV Response Task Force similar to the COVID-19 response model to mobilize alternative funding sources and sustain HIV services?
- v. What is the readiness/strategy to locally manufacture all our supplies?



RESPONSE:


Rt Hon. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, the suspension of USAID funding, effective 20th January 2025, has significantly impacted Uganda's HIV/AIDS programs. To address this crisis, an additional UGX 480 billion is required to bridge the funding gap and sustain essential services.

The Ministry of Health is preparing a Cabinet Memorandum to brief Cabinet on this issue and acquire the Executive guidance on how to source for resources to bridge the gaps in funding. Government is also engaging with international and local stakeholders to mobilize resources and ensure the continuity of HIV/AIDS interventions.

5.Hon. Opio Samuel Acuti (MP- Kole North County)

Requested for an update on the enhancement of salary of District, City and Municipal Education Officers

RESPONSE:



Rt Hon. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, Cabinet under Minute No. 502 of (CT 2017) and 509 (CT 2017) approved the Public Service pay policy principles as well as a long term pay plan covering every person paid salaries or allowances from the consolidated fund or out of money appropriated by Parliament.

Rt Hon. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, government adopted a phased approach to implement the approved pay plans. The enhancement plan has

been included in the National Development Plan (NDP IV). This therefore places the responsibility of implementing the plan on Parliament which is responsible for budget appropriation.

Additionally, the Ministry of Public Service submitted to the Parliamentary Committee on the Budget (PACOB) the requirement to enhance salary of the 67% Public Officers whose salaries have not been enhanced since FY 2014/15.

This will require Ugx. 695.3 Bn in FY 2025/2026 and this will enhance salary of 251,682 Public Officers including District, City and Municipal Education Officers by at least 30% of the approved long term pay targets if considered.

6.Hon. Christine Kaaya (DWR-Kiboga)

Raised an issue of urgent concern regarding closure of Community Radios in some areas of Kiboga, hence inconveniencing the users

PRAYER

Can government update on this matter?

RESPONSE:

Rt. Honorable Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, there has been a surge in the number of illegal operators of communications platforms, including ordinary radio operators and megaphone operators (*bizindalo*) sometimes referred to as “community radios”.

In response to this, Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) has regularly undertaken enforcement exercises for the following reasons;

- i. Because of public outcry where UCC has received complaints of noise pollution, misinformation, disinformation and hate speech. Some of these radios have also been found to be near schools and health facilities that require a serene environment,
- ii. Inability for UCC to monitor, control and regulate content aired on these community radios due to lack of appropriate technology,
- iii. These radios are not licensed, hence posing a security risk,
- iv. Competition with licensed radio operators; There is a large number of complaints from licensed radio operators who argue that these *bizindalo* have taken over their business, considering that they even don't pay license fees and are not subjected to regulatory requirements.

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, *bizindalo* operations constitute illegal broadcasts under the **UCC Act Cap 103** and given the inherent risks to the sector and security that pertains to this mode of communication, it is still a challenge to have the same legalized in Uganda.


7.Hon. Gozanga Ssewungu (Kalungu County West)

Raised concerns on delays by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) in releasing Capitation Grants to government grant-aided schools, which were needed for procuring instructional materials

RESPONSE:

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, funds for the Capitation Grants are released during Quarter One, Quarter Three and Quarter Four every financial year to cater for school terms three, one and two respectively. No funds are released in Quarter Two of the Financial Year.

The total approved budget for the Capitation Grant for FY 2024/25 is Shs. 490,298,083,550. During Quarter One, MoFPED released shs. 163,432,694,530 to Local Governments to cater for term three.



However, the Ministry of Education and Sports requested Local Governments to halt the transfer of these funds to institutions until they validated the enrollments which was done and authority to transfer the funds to schools granted.

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, for Quarter Three, **shs. 163,432,694,530** has been released to cater for first term for the calendar year 2025.

8.Hon. Shartsi Kutesa Musherure (Mawogola County, North)


The GROW project, funded by the World Bank through the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, was intended to support low-to-mid tier business women through access to low-interest loans.

PRAYER

Could the Prime Minister guide us as to why the intended beneficiaries have faced challenges in accessing these loans? And what steps are being taken to ensure that the project delivers on its promise to these vulnerable groups?

RESPONSE

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, the GROW Project is supporting women with small and micro businesses with affordable loans and grants to expand their businesses and employ more Ugandans. To date, Government has lent out UGX 43 billion to 2,175 women entrepreneurs through 6 commercial banks.



Rt. Hon. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, government is aware that some of the women are outside the branch network of the participating commercial banks and efforts are underway to onboard micro finance institutions SACCOs to improve access to the loans.

There is also an ongoing call for applications for gender inclusive infrastructure grants that will close on 18th March 2025.

The eligible beneficiaries are women groups and cooperatives that have majority women members. The grants range from UGX 275 million to 1.48 billion. The focus is on value addition, manufacturing, science and technology and the creative arts.

Rt. Hon Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, I would like to use this opportunity to rally Members of this August House to mobilize our people to benefit from these important government programs.

9.Hon. Tebandeke Charles (MP, Bbale County)

Raised a matter for urgent action on the on-going vandalism of electricity wires, meters and transformers in Kitimbwa county.

RESPONSE:

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, field reports from Kayunga Police Station indicate that, two cases were registered while one went unreported in the month of January concerning vandalism of electricity poles and electricity cables. It was discovered that the suspects in these incidents connive with Umeme workers.

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, the following strategies are being employed to curb criminality relating to electricity vandalism in Kayunga district;

- i. Sensitization of the local community and leaders to enhance on vigilance,

- ii. Apprehending of suspects where they are identified,
- iii. Liaising with Judiciary to prefer longer sentences to deter others from getting into the same vice,
- iv. Hold joint operation meetings to lay strategies on how to carry out intelligence led operation in Kitimbwa targeting opium smokers, and hard-core criminals,
- v. Hold meetings with the manager Umeme and her staff with a view of sensitizing them on this criminality and way forward as it is alleged there is presumed connivance with some Umeme staff.

I beg to submit



Nabbanja Robinah
PRIME MINISTER