

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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FIRST SESSION - SECOND MEETING

THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2026

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIRST SESSION - 17TH SITTING - SECOND MEETING

Thursday, 5 November 2026

Parliament met at 2.35 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker, Mr Jacob Oboth, in the Chair.)

The House was called to order

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, you will recall that on Wednesday, 14 October 2026, I expressed concern over the piecemeal consideration of the annual report of the Auditor-General under Article 163, clause (5), of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. I guided that, going forward, Parliament would consider the report in its entirety.

Following my guidance, some Members sought further clarification on the matter. I have since issued detailed guidance, which has been uploaded onto our system for your information and attention. It is bulky, please carefully look at it and consider.

I will also require the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline to review the rules relating to the consideration of reports of the Auditor-General to ensure that they are aligned with Article 163(3) of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, and any other relevant laws. I thank you. Next item.

As usual, before item three, there are matters of national importance as considered by the Members. I want to call Hon. Emmanuel Kiyimba, Member of Parliament Bukoto County Mid-West. We are keeping ourselves timed at one minute. More than that, you prepare a petition.

2.38

MR EMMANUEL KIYIMBA (NRM, Bukoto County Mid-West, Lwengo): Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to raise an issue of national importance concerning a feeding programme for Government students and pupils. I wish to appreciate the Government of Uganda for its continued support to the education sector through providing textbooks, other learning materials and paying teachers.

However, I wish to appeal to the Government to consider introducing a school feeding programme by providing lunch to learners in both primary and secondary schools. If the Government considers this, it will limit sicknesses like ulcers - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: You have made your prayers. Do not go to the details. The minister?

2.40

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, following yesterday's plea and your guidance that the Members mobilise ministers, today we have done very well, as you can see - *(Applause)* - There is quite a number of people in the House.

However, the Minister of Education and Sports, and the ones for Disaster preparedness and Internal Affairs, will come in late. I will deliver this message so that this matter is attended to.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Alenyo Marshall – *(Hon. Tebandeke rose)* - Procedure on this matter? Which one is the matter now?

MR TEBANDEKE: Mr Speaker, I appreciate the response by the minister to the matter the Member has raised -

THE SPEAKER: Did he respond?

MR TEBANDEKE: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: No.

MR TEBANDEKE: He responded that he is going to inform the concerned minister to come with a response. That was a response.

THE SPEAKER: He made a commitment that the ministers would be late. He is going to refer so he did not respond to the matter.

MR TEBANDEKE: Mr Speaker, my procedural matter is in line with Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament. Specific to the matter raised by a Member, I submitted a similar motion, seeking a review of the Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE) government policies on feeding students, teachers and to provide for accommodation. So -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, did you say that you submitted a motion?

MR TEBANDEKE: Yes -

THE SPEAKER: And was it processed?

MR TEBANDEKE: Yes. It is here. I submitted it to your office -

THE SPEAKER: So, wait for the allocation of time because a motion is more detailed and would call for debate. These ones are matters of national importance. This now speaks to the urgency for your motion to be scheduled. I ask the Clerk to make sure that the motion for Hon. Tebandeke, I do not know what that means in Luganda, but - *(Laughter)* - his matter should be brought to the Order Paper so that we can get to debate it – *(Hon. Olanya rose_)* – yes?

THE SPEAKER: Let us take off. Today is Prime Minister's Time - very important, according to you? Say it, and we see. *(Laughter)*

MR OLANYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. An honourable member raised a very important concern about the school feeding programme, aware that the programme has been stopped. Teachers and pupils are not eating at school because of the directive from the Minister of Local Government, Hon. Balaam, stopping children and parents from contributing to the school.

Now that the minister is seated here, allow Hon. Balaam to undo his statement so that children can continue paying money for the schools to run smoothly. If it is procedurally okay, Mr Speaker, let him come up since all this is happening because of his actions. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I know that Hon. Balaam is a very popular minister. Now that he is in the House today, Hon. Olanya is helping to fast-track. He will definitely come to speak. Hon. Balaam, is it true that you stopped parents from feeding their children? Or did you stop them from paying? Get on record.

2.44

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Mr Balaam Barugahara): Mr Speaker, I need to put this on record. Under the Education (Pre-Primary, Primary and Post-Primary) Act, 2008, it is clear that voluntary contributions are allowed, but they should not be exorbitant or compulsory to those who cannot afford - *(Applause)* - the discussion has been clear.

From the schools I have visited, like Bugiri, Busia, Bukooli SS, Pallisa, and all the other places, we computed: how many learners do

you have in a given school? 2,500 or 1,500. How much money does the Government give you for capitation? Shs 150 million. How many teachers are paid for by Government? Thirty. How many are you paying in private? Twenty. How much do you pay them? Shs 300,000. How many months are in a term? Four months. Shs 300,000 times 20 teachers equals Shs 6 million. Shs 6 million times four months equals Shs 24 million, divided by the number of students. Then that is the voluntary fee that can be contributed to support the private teacher.

Secondly, feeding: how much are you charging them for food? Shs 300,000. Why? How come another school is charging Shs 100,000 or Shs 70,000? Can we take Shs 20,000 or Shs 80,000, including the contribution of a private teacher so that every poor child can study? Yes, it has been the case; there is no problem. The problem is the exorbitant contribution, forcing learners to pay. If you do not pay, you do not sit examinations.

The rule is clear that in government-aided schools or government seed schools, USE and UPE, everyone is supposed to study and do examinations. In some schools, which are not ghost schools, like the schools in Kisoro - I found two schools being cost with a headmaster, deputy, and teachers, so we are trying to verify and make the system easier.

I have so far covered 50 districts, but you find that in a given school, they lied that they had 20 teachers on private, yet they have 10.

I have discussed this with His Excellency the President and some members of the Cabinet. Many of the schools do not have science teachers. I asked the President, if they do not have science teachers and we are focusing on science, what do we do? That is the reason parents are being charged money because they sit and agree to the charge. However, there are schools we are giving money to, like Mbale Senior Secondary School, Mbale High School and Nkoma Secondary School in Mbale City. The Government gives them Shs 150 million and pays 91 teachers, but they lie that they have an additional 80 teachers. When we say, "Let us count them," they are not available. Then, they are making parents pay Shs 300,000.

Many of our parents are in the markets and cannot afford this fee and the President says everyone must study. We give them capitation grant to pay for examinations. Then, in some schools, they are charging for Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE), Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) and Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) examinations, yet the Government pays.

Members of Parliament, this is not mine. It is for the people who vote for you; who do not have money. Examinations are paid for by the Government. Why should your District Education Office (DEO) charge primary schools an examination fee? Honestly, this is for you, Members of Parliament. It is helping you.

The issue of food is optional. We should not compel people to pay for food if they do not want to pay for it. In Ntungamo, where *Maama* and the President are born, I found children carrying their food in small flasks, going to school. I also found a whole room filled with flasks marked with the name of the pupil because they cannot afford it. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Now that the Minister of Local Government is here - Order! There was a commitment from the acting Government Chief Whip to bring the minister. Therefore, as the chairperson of the prayer breakfast, you have walked the talk. On the issue of Local Council (LC1) stamps, why are you moving around when your LC1s do not have stamps?

MR BARUGAHARA: Mr Speaker, it came to my notice. The acting Government Chief Whip informed me. I was watching the proceedings online so, I immediately called the permanent secretary. I told him that we should not exceed four weeks without stamp in every district. It is mandatory to have one in every cell of Uganda, so we should have that within the four weeks, without fail. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Acting Leader of the Opposition (LOP)?

2.49

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr Paul Mwiru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the minister for the clarification he made. The earlier ruling or guidance this House had given was that the Ministers of Local Government and Education and Sports would come up with a document to guide. This is because he talked of the word, "exorbitant" which is contextual depending on the depth of the use of the word.

What is exorbitant in Busoga may not be exorbitant in Ntungamo. That is why you have said they come with food flasks, which may not be – so, I seek your indulgence, Mr Speaker. The House had clearly guided that the minister teams up with his colleague of education so that there is written guidance on the subject.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Alenyo?

2.50

MR MARSHALL ALENYO (Independent, Jonam County, Pakwach): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on an issue of national importance. The Prime Minister promised to visit the Jonam people in Got Apwoyo in Nwoya, but because of the pending visit, there are evictions taking place right now against the people staying in the area, who are the Jonam.

I ask the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry of Local Government and the Prime Minister to stay the evictions in this part of the contested land, so that our people are protected until the Prime Minister goes to this part, as promised and directed by the President.

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister? He is asking for the stay.

2.51

THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Mr Balaam Barugahara): On behalf of the Minister of Local Government and the Government, the people who are evicting that community or members of the Jonam community or Acholi community, should stay the evictions until we go on ground with the Rt Hon. Prime Minister. We cannot differentiate them; they could be different communities living together, so we cannot insist that they are Jonam. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: The same is captured - honourable members, we are not in a market. I have to remind you that we are in Parliament. The issue is that there should be a temporary measure to hold the eviction until the Prime Minister goes to resolve the matter. Nobody should celebrate that the matter has been resolved.

Hon. Alenyo, when we are out of here, we shall have to ask you: Jonam actually means people who stay in the water. What are they doing on land? *(Laughter*)

2.53

MR VICTOR KALENZI (NRM, Bunyangabu County, Bunyangabu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance about a programme called Higher Certificate in Education (HEC). In 2019, the National Council for Higher Education rolled out the programme, which is supposed to help students that get one principal pass –

THE SPEAKER: Lower your microphone a little bit.

MR KALENZI: That programme is supposed to help students who get one principal pass and they need another to qualify for a degree. It also helps those who score an "O". When they do it, they are able to do a diploma.

In 2019, that programme was rolled out and different universities were accredited to train and use it as an entry point to do other degrees. Many accredited universities are doing that programme: Kampala International University (KIU), Finz Medical University, Victoria University and many others. Many students did that programme and used the same to be admitted to do direct degrees.

Unfortunately, all regulatory bodies have distanced themselves from it and are saying they will not recognise students who were admitted

using the HEC programme; the Nurses Council, the Allied Health Professionals Council, the Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda and Uganda Health Professions Assessment Board (UHPAB). They said they do not recognise that but it is a National Council program. When we were studying, we did not – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: You have exhausted your minute. Minister, do you need a petition?

2.54

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, last week when the Deputy Speaker was chairing, we discussed a matter similar to this: accreditation and professional bodies. The House resolved that the Minister of Education and Sports should sit down and review all the laws and matters related to this issue.

We shall ensure that the Minister of Education handles this matter together with other similar issues in this category.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Opio -

2.55

MR ACUTI OPIO (NRM, Kole North County, Kole): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Every year, the Uganda Police Force Crime Report is published. The reports for 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 have shown that North Kyoga, where Lango Sub-region lies, is among the top three regions with the highest crime rates; in cases of burglary, domestic violence, common assault, arson, murder through domestic violence and murder by mob justice. It has also been ranked second in cattle theft.

Mr Speaker, this is a worrying trend, because even in 2026, we are seeing no improvement. It has affected social and economic activities. Couples cannot go to church together because one has to remain home as a security guard while the other goes during the day. Even at night, they cannot stay together; one has to be the security guard while the other one – *(Member timed out.)*

MR SPEAKER: What is your prayer?

MR ACUTI OPIO: My prayer is that this matter is considered as a matter of national importance, and the minister for security makes a comprehensive statement and undertakes a review of the causes to come up with mitigation and intervention measures to curb this crime.

2.56

THE SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Dr Crispus W.C.B Kiyonga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As honourable colleagues will recall, the Minister of Internal Affairs made a very comprehensive statement yesterday on the issue of internal security. In that statement, he did mention that measures are being undertaken to ensure that the Uganda Police Force deployments, down to the subcounties, will be expedited. Therefore, the honourable colleague raising this issue can be rest assured that action is being taken.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

2.57

MR PETER AGABA (NRM, Ibanda Municipality, Ibanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on the matter of national importance about road safety on Ugandan national road corridors. According to the Uganda Police Force report of 2025, more than 5,383 people died on the roads. This means that 15 people die on a daily and more than 18,000 people get fractures from these roads.

One of the biggest reasons these accidents are happening is that the roads are unmarked and very narrow, because they were meant for a two-way drive, but now we are facing heavy traffic. My prayer is that the Ministry of Works and Transport spares money to ensure that – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Works and Transport?

MR PETER AGABA: Mr Speaker, the ministry should come up with a budget for these roads to be marked properly.

THE SPEAKER: The Ministry of Works and Transport has responded. *(Laughter)*

2.59

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (WORKS) (Mr Siraji Ali): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the honourable member for raising this important matter. The Government has undertaken targeted interventions to address the principal causes of road crashes. One of them is automated speed enforcement. Following the initial rollout and subsequent suspension, the ministry undertook stakeholder consultations and a review of the system to address concerns relating to speed limits, signage, penalties and enforcement procedures.

The ministry is working towards the phased implementation of the revised system with priority to be given to high-risk national road corridors, urban centres, trading centres, and school zones.

The ministry has also resumed mandatory vehicle inspection following the acquisition of the General Society of Surveillance (SGS) vehicle inspection facilities. During the initial implementation period, 1,259 vehicles were inspected, out of which 240 - *(Member timed.)*

THE SPEAKER: Proceed.

MR SIRAJI ALI: The ministry, jointly with the Uganda Police Force, has also commenced targeted enforcement operations under "Operation Barabara Salama," focusing on public service vehicles, heavy commercial vehicles, dangerous mechanical defects and illegal vehicle modifications.

As of September 2026, the operation had conducted 299 inspection events, identified 257 critical defects and recorded 246 enforcement actions. Vehicles found to be mechanically unsafe were required to undergo repairs and re-inspection before resuming operation.

Following recent fatal crashes involving school children, the Government introduced more stringent requirements for vehicles and drivers involved in transporting learners. These measures include, mandatory mechanical inspection, roadworthiness clearance of vehicles transporting children, verification of appropriate driver licensing and authorisation, prohibition of overloading and use of vehicles outside the authorised passenger capacity, as well as restriction of learner transportation to the prescribed daytime period of 6.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

These measures are being enforced jointly by the Ministry of Works and Transport, Uganda Police Force and Ministry of Education and Sports.

The ministry has also commenced road-marking works along selected national highways, including the Kampala-Gulu, Kampala-Entebbe and Jinja-Malaba highways. These works are complemented by the installation and replacement of road signs, guardrails and other road safety facilities.

During the Financial Year 2025/2026, the ministry also undertook maintenance and painting of 113 small bridges and reported the installation of 7,814 streetlights in selected urban areas.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have a team of Tea Nursery Bed Operators from Buhweju District. They are represented by Eng. John Bosco Karisa, Hon. Mutekanga Zadock, and Hon. Namara Annet Byamukama. They have come to observe the proceedings of the House. Please join me in welcoming them and show them some love. *(Applause)*

We also have a group of students from the School of Law, Makerere University. They are represented by Hon. Ntale Madina Nsereko and Hon. Shamim Malende. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)*

Hon. Sarah Itungu?

3.04

MS SARAH ITUNGU (NRM, Woman Representative, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I raise a matter of national importance about a pertinent issue of cultural preservation

and protection in Uganda across all cultural institutions. I thank the Government for supporting cultural institutions.

I rise, particularly, to address the pledge for the construction of *Obusinga bwa Rwenzururu* Royal Buhikira Palace, which has been overdue for nine years. The king is still in rentals. My prayer is for the Government to give us a progress report on the procurement and construction of the palace. On 14th November, we have a birthday run organised by the subjects to collect money for the construction of this palace, and yet the Government has already pledged to construct it.

THE SPEAKER: I join you in that prayer. A king without a palace is not a king. By the way, it cuts across all other cultural institutions; the Tieng Adhola Cultural Institution, you have heard about that? The Emorimor and the other cultural institutions all need. It is only Buganda that has. What is the response? We need a broader thing.

3.05

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, this question comes at a very appropriate time when His Excellency the President is meeting the cultural leaders. He met them yesterday. I am sure that some of these issues were actually handled.

As you have said, a king without a palace - even us who are republicans from the south, every man has a palace. Therefore, for a king to be without a palace is a very serious issue. I think the Government should take up this matter seriously and we will do that.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Actually, every man feels he is a king of some sort. Hon. Ibrahim Aisu?

3.06

MR IBRAHIM AISU (NRM, Pallisa County, Pallisa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On the night of 26th of October at around 7.00 p.m., we received a hailstorm that struck two villages, that is; Nangodi A in Kasodo in Nangodi Parish and Najineti 1 in Najineti Parish. Also, it affected Ngalwe Parish in Olok Subcounty. It left almost 32 people homeless. Even some are now in my office at Kingdom, Kampala, waiting for the Government's response.

My prayer is that the Prime Minister, if all goes well - I remember there are some *maabati* - if they are in the Prime Minister's office then – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you can see the pressure on the Member's face. Actually some of the displaced people managed to come to his office in Kampala.

3.08

THE SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Dr Crispus W.C.B. Kiyonga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This issue of the damages from the disasters we are experiencing, as I said before, we are likely to see more because El Niño is just beginning. In the meantime, wherever we are having this problem, provided we get the information, an appropriate response is being made. Like the whole of today, Hon. Sam Engola, the minister responsible for relief and disaster preparedness, is in Eastern Uganda visiting Tororo and other surrounding areas like Pallisa.

I think what we should sustain is constant communication wherever these issues are happening. Yes, we raise them on the Floor, but I also request honourable colleagues to raise them with us directly.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have the Pallisa Hospital Legends Football Team. They are scheduled to play the Parliament of Uganda Football Team in a friendly soccer match on Friday, 6 November 2026 at Phillip Omondi Stadium. My prayer is that they draw. *(Laughter)*

They are represented in Parliament by Hon. Ibrahim Aisu, Hon. Orone Derrick, Hon. Okwi Constantine, Hon. Ibaseret Josephine and Hon.

Achola Catherine. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)*

That is Pallisa Hospital Legends Football Team. As the Speaker, I come from that side, but Parliament team, please rescue me and beat that team – *(Laughter)* - so that they continue to respect us.

Hon. Nyakato Dorothy, Woman representative, Kitagwenda District.

3.10

MS DOROTHY NYAKATO (NRM, Woman Representative, Kitagwenda): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I rise on a matter of national importance concerning heavy rains and hailstorms that have affected the people of Kitagwenda District in the areas of Kyendangara, Mahyoro Town Council.

Mr Speaker, over 20 homes have been blown off, leaving the residents homeless. Kyendangara Market was also destroyed by heavy rains.

I request the minister in charge of relief and disaster-preparedness to intervene and help the affected people such that our people can get hope. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Before I invite the Prime Minister to respond, let me invite Hon. Oketcho George, who has a related matter.

3.12

MR GEORGE OKETCHO (NRM, West Budama County South, Tororo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance. Matters have been raised on pertinent issues but the same has happened in Tororo; Rubongi Subcounty and Nyangole Subcounty. This has left people homeless to a tune of 200-300 homes and crops destroyed. Rubongi Secondary School had its roof blown off by the strong wind and the children and our learners are left unattended.

I request that the ministry in charge of relief and disaster-preparedness responds to this emergency with food and shelter for our people. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister, you will not get tired.

3.13

THE SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Dr Crispus W.C.B. Kiyonga): Mr Speaker, I request that for all honourable colleagues whose areas of representation have been affected by these issues of storms or other calamities, when we finish these matters of national importance, you allow us to step out and if possible, walk to the Office of the Prime Minister. This is important because once we are there, we will be able to establish whether relevant communications have come from the district or not - from the office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). We will be informed on what actions have either been taken or are being considered. That way, honourable members, you will be in a strong position to inform the people you represent what action is being taken. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Nakku Fiona, the national female workers' representative.

3.14

MS FIONA NAKKU (Independent, Female Workers' Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to draw the attention of this House to the growing concerns surrounding the security and safety of Ugandan truck drivers operating in South Sudan.

Mr Speaker, we continue to receive disturbing reports of Ugandan truck drivers being robbed, unlawfully detained, imprisoned and in some instances, killed while transporting goods along routes within South Sudan.

Uganda and South Sudan are members of the East African Community whose integration agenda is founded on co-operation, free movement and regional trade. Such integration must guarantee the safety and protection of the citizens conducting legitimate business across the borders.

My prayer, therefore, is to urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to urgently engage the South Sudanese counterparts to investigate these incidents, secure the release of any detained Ugandan drivers, ensure justice for the victims and establish strong security measures. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, the Government?

3.16

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Thank you, honourable colleague. Mr Speaker, two weeks ago we held a Joint Permanent Commission meeting with the Republic of South Sudan, together with the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The issues which the Member is raising were among those that we discussed. We got commitment from the Republic of South Sudan, which was represented by the Minister of Trade and Investment, that they are being handled. We have not heard any similar incident since that meeting took place. I am sure that the Government of South Sudan is handling the matter.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Charles Tebandeke, MP Bbaale County. Please make it within one minute.

3.17

MR CHARLES TEBANDEKE (NUP, Bbaale County, Kayunga): Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance about HIV/AIDS prevalence and the 2030 target deadline to end HIV as a public health threat, as set by the President of Uganda to fast-track the initiative.

Mr Speaker, on 1 October 2026, the Ministry of Health released the preliminary findings of 2025 Uganda population-based HIV impact assessment and found that the overall HIV prevalence is at 5.9 per cent, mostly amongst the population of Ugandans below 15 years and above.

THE SPEAKER: How can below 15 also be above?

MR TEBANDEKE: Mr Speaker, the scourge is mainly amongst the Ugandan population above 15 years. I beg to correct. Currently, the population with HIV is 1.5 million.

Mr Speaker, following the donor aid cut off from HIV/AIDS, response has been left in a shock because of the effect on the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and the help that they were giving to the country.

What strategies has the Government put in place to meet the 2030 target to end HIV/AIDS in Uganda as a public threat?

Secondly, the current commitment of 0.1 per cent of all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) budget to - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: As I told you, it is one minute because all this is known to the sector ministers. They have the answers; they have the requests you have made. Why don't you hear from the Minister of Health? If he does not answer your request, then - Minister of Health.

3.19

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH (PRIMARY HEALTH CARE) (Dr Charles Ayume): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for his submission. It is true that after the funding cuts in 2025, there were aftershocks that the health sector felt. However, I would like to reassure the House that there is no cause for alarm. We are doing very well. Actually, our prevalence right now is at 5.9 per cent.

Mr Speaker, to reassure the Member, just last week the Ministry of Health ran a job advert for about 2,000 health workers. Those who lost their jobs during that time, we are going to absorb them into the mainstream Ministry of Health. One of the strategies is integration. Previously, we have been working in silos where different NGOs come with different health workers, but right now we are integrating them into the mainstream.

Two years ago, we were also able to allocate Shs 50 billion to our HIV/AIDS response so, there is no cause for alarm. The 1.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS are receiving treatment. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ivan Kyeyune, and then after that will be Hon. Juliet Kyinyamatama.

3.21

MR IVAN KYEYUNE (NUP, Nakasongola County, Nakasongola): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Since September this year, livestock farming was put on hold due to foot-and-mouth disease. Government distributed over 470,000 doses of vaccine. However, ever since the livestock farmers started using the vaccine, their animals have started dying and facing miscarriages. Their animals' tongues come out and they crawl like human beings.

Mr Speaker, we are bringing this concern to Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries because we do not know the type of vaccine that was distributed. We ask for an investigation and request for compensation to farmers who have lost animals. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Government?

3.22

THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Mr Balaam Barugahara): That is very worrying. I am really sorry. I am going to speak to the Executive Director (ED) of the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) and with Hon. Frank Tumwebaze just now. I would like to step out and ask the ED NARO to make an emergency visit to Nakasongola to witness those matters – the crawling like human beings. Let me go out and I call now.

THE SPEAKER: Go out and come back. *(Laughter)*

3.22

MS SUUBI KYINYAMATAMA (NRM, Woman Representative, Rakai): Thank you, Mr speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance. In 2023, we enacted an Act, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2023 that was supposed to establish and gazette all landing sites throughout the country.

My district has two lakes; Lake Kachera and Lake Kijanebalola. We complied and applied for the gazettement of those landing sites. However, nothing was done. Recently, two landing sites of Kabumba and Nyungu were closed because they are not gazetted, yet the problem is on the Government's side. I lay on the Table the application from those landing sites.

Mr Speaker, my prayer is that the two landing sites of Nyungu and Kabumba should continue operating until they are gazetted since the delay is on the Government's side. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Government?

MR BAHATI: Mr Speaker, I have good news for the honourable members. We had pending regulations of the Act that we enacted. Last week, Cabinet considered and passed the regulations. We are sure that the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries will be able to move so fast on this matter, and not only these landing sites, but the entire country.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable member, do you want to lay the application?

MS KYINYAMATAMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay the application that was already forwarded to the ministry for the 23 landing sites in Rakai District. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. John Bagoole?

3.25

MR JOHN BAGOOLE (NRM, Luuka North County, Luuka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on an issue of one of my voters who was properly and systematically recruited to go and work in the United Arab Emirates, but she died on the 26th of October, this year.

My prayer is that the Ministry of Internal Affairs expeditiously works on the repatriation of the remains.

THE SPEAKER: Did you say Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or Internal Affairs?

MR BAGOOLE: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I beg, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, that is what you said. *(Laughter)*

MR BAGOOLE: Mr Speaker, Ms Peruth Mwebaze was recruited by a company called Interconnect Overseas Recruitment Company. That company took the initiative of notifying the ministry, on 26 October, but up to now the ministry has not shown any response and the people who lost their daughter are at my home. Therefore, I request the ministry to work on it urgently because they are waiting for the remains of their daughter. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I think the Government needs to come up with a policy. Government - *(Hon. Komakech rose)* – Procedure on? I know you raised a similar matter.

MR KOMAKECH: Yes, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: It should not come up as a point of procedure. You raised a similar matter this very week.

MR KOMAKECH: Yes, Mr Speaker. I felt like the Government was not coming through, so I thought they would use this particular moment to also refer to the matter of national importance that I raised, since the people of Pader are all glued to the screen waiting. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Okay. Honourable minister, the need is great. Go ahead.

3.26

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, first and foremost, we want to send our condolences to the family of Ms Mwebaze and also the families of those that lost their lives in the United Arab Emirates. As you have said, the Government needs a policy. I think we had discussed this matter not only here, but also at Cabinet level in the last term regarding companies that are recruiting our children there, and how, in case of any problem, those problems are addressed.

This matter will be taken on by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, which is in charge of the companies that recruit these children, and make sure that the families are assisted.

THE SPEAKER: Clerk, next item.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) ON THE AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER, 2025 COVERING REGIONAL REFERRAL HOSPITALS

THE SPEAKER: Is it the procedure for laying that report, or for the motion? Yes. You are used to the rostrum.

MR NAMBESHE: Yes. Thank you, Mr Speaker. The point of procedure I am raising, is in respect to the undertaking that the distinguished Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Kiyonga, made to facilitate a meeting of the Bugisu Members of Parliament together with the Prime Minister, over the grave concern of the threat to gazette their land as part of Mount Elgon National Park, at a paltry pay, or compensation of Shs 18 million. I expected it today.

Mr Speaker, is it procedurally proper for the distinguished Prime Minister to make a pledge to facilitate such an important meeting and go mute on the timelines.

THE SPEAKER: Next item. Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Central Government - Prime Minister, you have heard. The Members really want to meet you. I thought he was following up.

3.30

THE SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN PARLIAMENT (Dr Crispus W.C.B. Kiyonga): My tribesman, Hon. Nambeshe, I think is out-of-date. I did undertake, Mr Speaker that I would have a discussion with my brothers from Bugisu and we are liaising with the parliamentary group chairperson. We have agreed that through your parliamentary chairperson, we shall appoint a date and have a whole-day meeting to discuss those issues of Bugisu, and solve them.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Nambeshe is a Commissioner of Parliament. I would have ruled him out of order, but he has now got the information that the meeting is scheduled.

Chairperson, PAC Central Government -

3.31

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) (Ms Sarah Lwansasula): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to clarify that this report is being presented for the very first time. Allow me recognise the Members of PAC-Central Government with whom we met the witnesses and thereafter compiled this report.

I present a report of the Committee on Public Accounts, Central Government, on the Auditor-General's reports for the audit year ended 31 December 2025, Financial Year ended 30 June 2025, on the regional referral hospitals; Arua Regional Referral Hospital - Vote 403, Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital - Vote 404, Gulu Regional Referral Hospital - Vote 406, Soroti Regional Referral Hospital - Vote 411, Moroto Regional Referral Hospital - Vote 415, Kayunga Regional Referral Hospital - Vote 421, and Yumbe Regional Referral Hospital - Vote 422.

In the interest of time, I will not go through the introduction. This report has been uploaded and I know that it will interest all of us because these are matters of health in the country.

THE SPEAKER: Go ahead.

MS LWANSASULA: I will give an overview of the budgets allocated to these votes.

Arua Regional Referral Hospital, approved budget is Shs 12.720 billion. Funds provided were Shs 12.720 billion. They spent Shs 12.382 billion, and had an unspent budget of Shs 338 million.

Fort Portal got an approved budget of Shs 14.263 billion. Funds provided were Shs 13.658 billion and they had an unspent budget of Shs 1.154 billion.

Gulu Regional Referral Hospital, Shs 15.636 billion and they had an unspent budget of Shs 813 million. Hoima Regional Referral Hospital, Shs 13.524 billion. They did not use Shs 503 million. Kayunga Hospital's approved budget was Shs 14,154 billion. Funds availed were Shs 13.772 billion. They had an unspent budget of Shs 227 million.

Moroto Hospital, approved budget was Shs 12.748 billion. Availed funds were Shs 12.747 billion and unspent budget of Shs 437 million. Soroti, approved budget of Shs 12.166 billion. Availed funds Shs 11.958 billion and unspent budget of Shs 123 million. Lastly, Yumbe was availed Shs 11.887 billion and kept Shs 186 million.

The issues here in are:

5.1 Capacity not opened, development funds not released and private wing revenue at Kayunga and Fort Portal.

The committee observed that delayed operationalisation of hospital facilities and inadequate staffing result in underutilisation of public investments and constrained service delivery. Furthermore, low private wing revenue collection at Gulu Regional Referral Hospital raises concerns about revenue mobilisation and compliance with electronic revenue collection requirements.

Therefore, the committee recommended that:

i) The accounting officer of Kayunga Regional Referral Hospital should expedite completion and operationalisation of the private wing within 60 days of adoption of this report to improve service delivery and utilisation of public resources. While Gulu Regional Referral Hospital should ensure that all private wing revenue is collected and receipted through the URA electronic system, with effect from 1 January 2027, and strengthen revenue monitoring and accountability; and

ii) The Accounting Officer of Fort Portal should engage the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development(MOFPED)to secure the release of the development funds appropriated by Parliament to facilitate implementation of planned activities.

Our next audit query is unauthorised expenditure and funds outside the appropriation. This relates to funding other MDA priorities without a memorandum of understanding at Soroti Regional Referral Hospital.

The committee found that the explanation given by the accounting officer was inadequate, noting that oral ministry instructions should not absolve the accounting officer of accountability under Article 164(1) of the Constitution. Funding another entity through the hospital budget without management involvement constituted diversion of funds and contravened Section 19 of the PFMA Cap. 171.

The committee recommended that:

i) The Permanent Secretary and Secretary to Treasury (PSST) and the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Health establish responsibility for the reallocation and utilisation of funds without the formal memorandum of understanding and take the necessary corrective measures to ensure that public funds are utilised for their approved purposes; and

ii) All accounting officers should ensure that no vote executes work for another entity without a signed agreement and a budget line approved by Parliament as required under section 19 of the PFMA cap 171.

The committee also got a query on revenue spent at source at Moroto, Soroti and Gulu Regional Referral Hospitals.

On this, the committee recommended that:

i) The accounting officers of Moroto and Soroti Regional Referral Hospitals should be held liable for contravening the provisions of Section 27(2) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), 2015, Cap. 171 within 60 days of adoption of the report; and
ii) Make good the amount spent at source, Shs 54.778 million and Shs 124.1 million, respectively.

Commitments without funds at Arua Regional Referral Hospital:

The committee observed that procurement without confirmed funding is a violation of the commitment control system, which creates domestic arrears. Therefore, the committee recommended that the PSST should hold the accounting officer for Arua Regional Referral Hospital liable for violating Section 61(2) of the PPDA Act and regulation 7(1) of the PPDA Contracts Regulations, 2023 and reprimand him pursuant to Section 77(e) of the PFMA.

7.2 Works paid for and not delivered at Arua, Moroto, Soroti and Gulu regional referral hospitals:

The committee observed that phased works and contract variations did not justify full payment for incomplete works. It further noted that the unimplemented mental-unit works at Moroto were paid to the same supplier that received the micro procurement awards.

The committee recommends that:

i) The accounting officers of Arua and Moroto regional referral hospitals should, within 60 days of adoption of this report, quantify outstanding works, require completion at

no additional cost and recover the value of uncompleted works if not completed by 31 December 2026;
ii) The accounting officer of Soroti Regional Referral Hospital should expedite the JICA pre-installation works and ensure the equipment is operational by 31 December 2026; and
iii) The Ministry of Health should table, within 60 days from the date of adoption of this report, a costed completion plan for the Gulu staff house project.

On procurement violations, the committee noted weak competition and procurement units at Yumbe, Soroti and Hoima regional referral hospitals

The observation by the committee is that the committee observed serious weaknesses in procurement management, competition, documentation, ethics and staffing limiting verification of bidder participation, awards, call-off orders, deliveries, contract performance and payments. The shs 45 million procurement at Hoima raised particular concerns about oversight, conflict of interest, safeguards and compliance with evaluation procedures.

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Health, in consultation with the MoFPED and the affected accounting officers, should within 90 days of adoption of the report, initiate the process of filling vacant Procurement Department Unit (PDU) positions at Yumbe and Arua RRHs and ensure adequate staffing at Hoima regional referral hospitals with lawful interim arrangements that preserve segregation of duties and procurement oversight.

8.2 Unplanned disposal at Fort Portal, Hoima, Soroti and Yumbe regional referral hospitals

The committee observed that the omissions showed weaknesses in annual asset reviews, disposal planning and follow-up of Board of Survey recommendations, potentially exposing assets to deterioration, loss and unnecessary maintenance costs, contrary to the requirements for annual asset reviews and disposal planning.

The committee recommends that:

i) The accounting officer should ensure that all items due for disposal are disposed of by 30 June 2027.
ii) The Ministry of Health should, within 60 days of adoption of the report, require all regional hospitals to reconcile Board of Survey recommendations with annual disposal plans and asset registers and establish a tracking register indicating each asset's disposal recommendation, approval status, responsible officer, planned disposal date and actual disposal outcome.

8.3 relates to micro-procurements to one supplier at Moroto Regional Referral Hospital.

The committee observed that these explanations did not absolve the accounting officer of responsibility for compliance and market price assessment under Section 26 of the PPDA Act, 2003, as amended. The amounts just below Shs 10 million raised suspicion of procurement splitting contrary to Regulation 10 of the PPDA (Evaluation) Regulations, 2023, while the limited bids raised concerns about competition and value for money**.**

The committee recommends that:

i) PPDA Authority should, within 60 days of adoption of the report, audit the procurement to establish whether splitting occurred, procurement thresholds were breached and value for money was achieved and report to Parliament.
ii) The accounting officer should hold accountable and reprimand the Procurement and Disposal Unit (PDU) officers responsible for the procurement awards.

8.4 Evaluation on undisclosed criteria under Gulu Regional Referral Hospital

The committee observed non-compliance with procurement evaluation requirements, undermining fairness and transparency. The award to Lale Group using an expired project-specific tax clearance certificate raised concerns

about verification of mandatory documents and the integrity of the evaluation process.

The committee recommends that:

i) The accounting officer should recover Shs 98.82 million awarded to Lale Group, backlist the company and institute disciplinary actions against evaluation committee members responsible for recommending the award.
ii) The PPDA Authority should, within 30 days of adoption of the report, audit the eight awards and report to Parliament for consideration. The accounting officer should strengthen controls to ensure evaluation committees use only disclosed criteria and verify all mandatory bidder documents before awards.

9.0 Payroll and Human Resource Irregularities

The committee found an audit relating to understaffing against underspent wage at Arua, Fort Portal, Hoima, Kayunga, Moroto and Yumbe Regional Referral Hospitals.

On this, the committee observed that severe understaffing alongside unspent wage indicates weaknesses in workforce planning, recruitment and budget execution. Although wage ceilings constrain immediate filling of all approved positions, they do not explain the return of Shs 2.6 billion in appropriated wages while vacancies persisted.

Arua still has 267 vacancies of the 1,195 giving a total of 22 per cent staffing. Fort Portal has 275 of 1,242, so they are staffed at 22 per cent. Gulu has 376 of 1,273, giving a 30 per cent staffing. Hoima has 345 of 1,247. They are staffed at 28 per cent only. Kayunga has 274 of 1,195, that is 23 per cent. Moroto has 268 of 1,235 giving a percentage of 22 per cent and Yumbe has 235 of 1,246, giving a staffing level of 19 per cent only.

Also, critical medical equipment worth billions remain idle due to shortages of qualified operators undermining service delivery and value for money.

The committee recommends that:

i) The accounting officers for Hoima, Kayunga and Yumbe Regional Referral Hospitals should, within 60 days of adoption of this report, fast-track the recruitment of the staff following the clearance and increment in their Wage Bill. Moroto Regional Referral Hospital should submit the 46 excess posts for regularisation, while the Health Service Commission should replace the transferred officers.
ii) The accounting officers for Arua, Fort Portal, Hoima, Kayunga, Moroto and Yumbe Regional Referral Hospitals, in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Public Service, should submit, within 60 days of adoption of the report, a hospital-by-hospital reconciliation of approved posts, vacancies, wage allocations and unspent balances, while the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Service, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should develop a costed recruitment and deployment plan prioritising critical healthcare cadres.

9.2 Pension and Payroll Controls at Gulu, Soroti and Hoima Regional Referral Hospitals

The committee observed weaknesses in pension budgeting, payroll controls and timely settlement of pension obligations contrary to prudent financial management under the Public Finance and Management Act (PFMA), 2015 and applicable pension and payroll procedures. Failure to address the known pension surplus despite vacant posts, together with Shs 527 million paid outside authorised payroll systems, creates risks of irregular payments and potential fraud.

The committee recommends that:

i) The Auditor-General should conduct a special audit of the Shs 527 million paid outside authorised payroll systems at Soroti Regional Referral Hospital.
ii) The accounting officer of Hoima Regional Referral Hospital should settle the Shs 18

million outstanding pension liability within 60 days of adoption of the report while the accounting officer of Soroti Regional Referral Hospital should establish and implement a verified plan to address pension under payments.

iii) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Ministry of Public Service should, within 60 days of adoption of the report, resolve pension-budget discrepancies and HCM/IPPS integration systems, validate affected pensioners and ensure all pension payments are processed through authorised payroll systems.

10.0 relates to idle equipment, ambulances and asset management.

The committee observed that the oxygen plants worth Shs 7.7 billion in underserved regions have produced little or no oxygen. The failure to complete and hand over a six-month contract after more than three years reflects contract management failure and undermined service delivery. This equipment was installed by the UPDF Engineering Brigade.

The committee recommends that:

i) The PS/ST should hold the Ministry of Health and the UPDF Engineering Brigade accountable for the delays. Ministry of Health and the UPDF Engineering Brigade should, within 60 days of adoption of the report, expedite completion and handover of the Moroto, Yumbe and Soroti plants and service the two Soroti oxygen plants.
ii) Ministry of Health should also devolve oxygen plant servicing contracts to the respective hospitals to ensure timely maintenance and minimise equipment downtime.

10.2 Unaccounted for ICU Equipment and Unreceived Ambulances at Moroto Regional Referral Hospital.

Observation

The committee observed serious weaknesses in asset delivery verification, custody and maintenance at Moroto Regional Referral Hospital, undermining accountability and value for money. The missing ventilator and defibrillator, alongside 15 ambulances reportedly not delivered, raise fundamental concerns about asset existence, delivery and accountability, rather than utilisation alone.

The committee recommends that:

i) The Accounting Officer of Moroto Regional Referral Hospital, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, should, within 30 days of adoption of the report, physically verify and reconcile all medical equipment and ambulances against delivery notes, asset registers and ministry records and account for the missing ventilator, defibrillator and 15 ambulances.
ii) The Ministry of Health should, within 90 days of adoption of the report, submit a costed plan to operationalise the ICU and address storage and maintenance constraints. The Accounting Officer should also institute quarterly asset verification and maintenance reporting.

10.3 Idle Ventilators and ICU Equipment at Soroti, Gulu, Hoima, Fort Portal and Yumbe Regional Referral Hospitals.

Observation

The committee observed that the failure to operationalise specialised medical equipment at Soroti, Gulu, Hoima, Fort Portal and Yumbe Regional Referral Hospitals undermined value for money by rendering public investments idle or underutilised, while hospitals continue to face gaps in emergency and critical care services.

The cited deficiencies indicate weaknesses in equipment planning, deployment, maintenance and utilisation. Thus, the hospitals may not be obtaining the intended health outputs and outcomes from public expenditure, while

patients face delayed diagnosis, restricted access to essential services and potentially avoidable referrals or out-of-pocket costs.

Therefore, procuring equipment without ensuring operational readiness, trained personnel, reliable utilities, maintenance arrangements and affordable access exposes public resources to poor value for money.

THE SPEAKER: Point of procedure -

MR OTIMGIW: Mr Speaker, this report was uploaded and Members are very interested in the work and the reports of this committee. I am sure you are going to be overwhelmed by the number of people wanting to debate on this report because it touches the inner core of our health facilities.

I would therefore request the presenter or the Chairperson to at least go straight to the recommendations so that we have ample time to debate this report because we have actually read it quite well. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: She is doing very well. *(Applause)* She gives a bit of observation and then goes to recommendations and she is about to conclude.

MS LWANSASULA: Yes. Thank you, Mr Speaker. On this-

THE SPEAKER: Was that laughter at me or for me?

MS LWANSASULA: For you, Mr Speaker.
On this, the committee recommended that:

i) The Accounting Officers of Soroti, Gulu, Hoima, Fort Portal and Yumbe Regional Referral Hospitals, in collaboration with Ministry of Health should, within 30 days of adoption of the report, submit verified inventories detailing the condition, operational status, missing accessories, staffing needs and restoration costs of each affected item.

ii) The Ministry of Health should ensure that specialised equipment is distributed only where adequate space, power, staffing and maintenance budgets are availed and revise CT scan fees at regional referral hospitals within 30 days of adoption of this report.

iii) The Ministry of Health should institute quarterly monitoring and reporting on the functionality and utilisation of critical medical equipment at the affected hospitals until all identified deficiencies are resolved.

10.4 Ambulances, Maintenance, Insurance and Land at Kayunga, Yumbe, Gulu and Soroti Regional Referral Hospitals.

Observation

The committee observed that these weaknesses expose public assets to loss, compromise emergency response and undermine accountability.

The recommendation by the committee is that:

i) The Accounting Officers of Kayunga, Yumbe, Gulu and Soroti Regional Referral Hospitals, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Works and Transport, should, within 60 days of adoption of the report, equip and repair ambulances, complete Government registration, maintain service logs and prepare costed insurance plans for eligible assets, subject to available funds and applicable requirements.

11.0 Medicines, Blood and Stores

11.1 Late Deliveries and Stockouts.

Observation

The committee observed that prolonged medicine stockouts disrupt treatment and compromise patient care. For example, Soroti Regional Referral Hospital experienced a 400-day stockout of second-line antiretroviral medicine; Darunavir, while the medicine expired at Arua and Hoima Regional Referral Hospitals during the same period, limiting redistribution opportunities.

The committee recommends that:

ii) National Medical Stores (NMS) should report to Parliament, within 60 days of adoption of the report, on its delivery performance for each regional referral hospital.
iii) The Ministry of Health should establish a system for redistributing near-expiry program medicines among hospitals and with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, review credit line ceilings against quantified needs in the financial year 2027/28 Budget Framework Paper. Accounting Officers should institute monthly stock monitoring and quarterly reporting on stock-out days, order fulfilment and delivery.

11.2 Blood and stores.

Observation

On this, the committee observed that poor storage conditions expose medical supplies to damage, loss and contamination, potentially compromising patient safety and compliance with public resource management, public health, medicine storage and occupational safety requirements.

The committee recommends that:

i) Accounting Officers should, within 60 days of adoption of this report, address stock congestion, repair structural defects, maintain appropriate storage temperatures, train stores staff and replace expired fire extinguishers.
ii) The Ministry of Health should provide for the expansion of stores at Arua, Gulu, Hoima and Soroti Regional Referral Hospitals in the Financial Year 2027/28 development budgets, monitor implementation and require quarterly reports on blood availability, stock management, storage conditions and safety compliance until all identified deficiencies are resolved.

11.3 Orders that do not follow the procurement plan at Fort Portal and Kayunga Regional Referral Hospitals.

Observation

The committee observed that poor quantification and procurement planning risk wastage, stock-outs and inefficient resource use. At Kayunga Regional Referral Hospital, under-ordering of Shs 335 million was 10 times the defended over-ordering, leaving patients to purchase medicines privately. Credit-line limits also restrict deviations from approved plans without documented revisions.

The committee recommended that:

i) Accounting officers, particularly at Fort Portal and Kayunga, should ensure that orders deviating by more than 10 per cent from approved plans are supported by revisions approved by the Hospital Medicines and Therapeutics Committee.
ii) Accounting officers, in consultation with the National Medical Stores and the Ministry of Health, should, within 60 days of adoption of this report, revise forecasting and ordering procedures to align orders with consumption, patient demand, credit limits, and approved plans, and institute quarterly monitoring, documented justifications, and approval of deviations exceeding 10 per cent with compliance reports.

12.0 Asset Valuation, Arrears and Other Matters

12.1 is Asset Carried at Management Estimates

The committee observed that two years into the transition, no hospital had a valuer's certificate, while assets values included idle, broken, and missing equipment without impairment adjustments, risking misstated assets values, inaccurate depreciation, and distorted financial statements.

Recommendation

The accounting Officer, in consultation with the Accountant-General, should, within 60 days of adoption of the report, professionally value all PPE, update asset registers, institute periodic revaluations, and strengthen valuation capacity.

Going forward, all newly acquired or constructed assets should have adequate supporting documents and reliable valuation information before or at capitalisation, in accordance with the Accountant-General's guidance.

12.2 Domestic Arrears and Payables

The committee's observation was that although inadequate funding and increased patient demand may have contributed to the accumulation of arrears, management remains responsible for verifying liabilities, prioritising their settlement, and complying with commitment control requirements.

The committee further noted that provision for arrears clearance are inadequate relative to the rate of accumulation. For instance, Gulu Regional Referral Hospital made no payments towards arrears during the financial year. This undermines the prospects of settling outstanding arrears in the foreseeable future.

The committee recommends that:

i) The PS/ST should, in accordance with Section 76(2) and 77(1)(m) of the PFMA Cap. 171, sanction accounting officers who commit Government beyond approved budgets.
ii) The PS/ST should fast track the Ministry of Finance's commitments to clear verified domestic arrears by the Financial Year 2027/2028, in line with the Financial Year 2022/2023 three-year arrears clearance strategy.
iii) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should also set annual targets for clearing verified domestic arrears and report to Parliament bi-annually on implementation in accordance with Section 17(3) of the PFMA Cap. 171.
iv) Accounting officers should strengthen commitment controls, cash management, and invoice reconciliation to prevent expenditure beyond approved budgets and cash limits and avoid wasteful payments, arising from erroneous or inflated bills such as National Water invoices.

I am close to concluding.

Waste Disposal and Mortuaries at Hoima and Soroti Regional Referral Hospitals

The committee observed inadequate prioritisation of critical health infrastructure with potential implications for public health, environmental protection, and service delivery. Prolonged failure to provide and maintain essential waste disposal and mortuary infrastructure is a direct violation of Section 96(2) of the National Environment Act Cap. 181, which requires waste to be managed in a manner that prevents harm to human health and the environment.

The committee recommends that:

i) The Ministry of Health, in consultation with the Accounting Officers of Hoima and Soroti Referral Hospitals and the Ministry of Finance, should, within six months of adoption of this report, undertake and submit to Parliament a costed and funded remedial plan.
ii) Hoima Regional Referral Hospital: Restore the incinerator to full functionality or provide an approved alternative medical waste treatment facility and develop a costed plan for establishing a mortuary appropriate to the hospital needs.
iii) Soroti Regional Referral Hospital should rehabilitate or replace the existing mortuary and equip it with adequate body storage capacity and the necessary equipment to meet the hospital needs.

In conclusion:

i) Arua Regional Referral Hospitals paid Shs 120 million for no service, paid in

full for incomplete works, lost Shs 148.7 million of medicines to expiry, and carries payables of Shs 2.381 billion.

ii) Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital returned Shs 1.154 billion unspent, with 78 per cent of posts vacant, and left ICU and theatre equipment idle.

iii) Gulu Regional Referral Hospital paid Shs 132.9 million to officers who had left, awarded Shs 272.8 million on undisclosed criteria and holds six ventilators that do not fit its gas supply.

iv) Hoima Regional Referral Hospital received Shs 689.8 million off budget and left equipment worth Shs 882.4 million idle.

v) Kayunga Regional Referral Hospital, at under one fifth of its establishment, with service areas unopened, received under half the blood it ordered.

vi) Moroto Regional Referral Hospital split Shs 174.3 million among micro-procurements to one supplier, has oxygen plants worth Shs 3.727 billion locked away, and received three of 18 ambulances listed for it.

vii) Soroti Regional Referral Hospital spent Shs 3.672 billion on another entity's blood bank without an agreement and paid Shs 527 million outside the payroll systems.

viii) Yumbe Regional Referral Hospital overpaid consultants, procured Shs 190 million without proof of competition, and left its high dependency unit and oxygen plant unused.

Mr Speaker, the recommendations in this report should be implemented without delay and reported on under Section 51 of the PFMA Act Cap. 171. I beg to report. *(Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS LWANSASULA: Mr Speaker, I would like to lay the reports on the eight regional referral hospitals. I would also like to lay the minutes of the sittings by the Public Accounts Committee. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Let the record capture that. Thank you very much, honourable Chairperson of PAC (Central Government). This is our report, as Parliament. On 14 July 2026, during our 9th Sitting of the 1st Meeting of the 1st Session of the 12th Parliament, we resolved to save this work, including this report, and the committee has done its work.

If we adopt it, the report does not require a debate. Now, what will you debate? Please, you need guidance. It is not just a matter of talking; you talk when you are going to add value. Is PAC (Central Government) our committee of Parliament? Are you going to say they have made wrong recommendations? Their recommendations are based on the findings of the Auditor-General. *(Applause)*

It should be our practice that you do not spend time debating what we have already done. We need to now wait to see a Treasury Memorandum under Section 51 that she has referred to. That is where it will show us what the Government has done. So, why would you want me to hesitate from putting the question?

I put the question to the motion for adoption of the report of the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government) on the Auditor-General's report for the year ended December 2026, covering regional referral hospitals.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

THE SPEAKER: I direct the Clerk to extract the recommendations and send them to the respective relevant offices for action. We need the Treasury Memorandum within six months, indicating how far Government has implemented this recommendation. Thank you very much. You were going to open up debate that "Oh, my regional hospital. In Tororo, we do not have this." That is not provided for. I have been here a little longer, so let us listen to each other and we shall proceed. Next item?

Based on the time, we have the first female Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda. *(Applause)* I do not know whether I should say this. She had travelled and has come right from

Entebbe to here, not even going to her office. *(Applause)* That is the commitment we want. That commitment will take Uganda to another level. Next item?

STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FOR THE SUCCEEDING WEEK, 10 TO 12 NOVEMBER 2026, PURSUANT TO RULE 29 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

4.17

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker and Members, good afternoon. I am from Antigua in the Caribbean Islands. I know you know the place is very far. It has taken me three days to travel from Antigua to Barbados, from Barbados to London, from London to Dubai, and from Dubai to here. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Actually, from Dubai to Entebbe, then from Entebbe to here.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I had gone to represent the President at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) Summit. I had the honour to meet the King of the United Kingdom, King Charles -*(Applause)*- and they have made a number of commitments for our Government and the people of Uganda.

Mr Speaker, this is a statement on business for the succeeding week from 10th to 12th November 2026, under Rule 29 of our Rules of Procedure.

i) A statement by the Minister of Works and Transport on the status of the Uganda Standard Gauge Railway project, which is currently ongoing;
ii) A statement from the Minister of East African Community Affairs - she will come back - on the status of the full realisation of the East African integration;
iii) A statement by the Minister of Water and Environment on the weather forecast for November and December 2026 across the country; and
iv) A statement by the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities on the strategies to promote tourism during the African Cup of Nations (AFCON).

Mr Speaker, I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Let the record capture that for inclusion in our Order Paper for next week. We thank you very much.

PRIME MINISTER'S TIME

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister?

4.20

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker and Members, let me start with the written questions and then I will be ready to answer direct questions from Members.

The first question came from Hon. Joseph Mugenyi, MP Burahya County. According to him, the Fort Portal-Kijura-Katoke Road links Fort Portal, Kabarole to major tea factories of Rusekere, Tooro, Kahuna, Kahangi and Kijura. It also connects Fort Portal tourism city to Kyenjojo.

His Excellency the President first pledged to tarmac this road in 2012, while commissioning Kabarole District headquarters. According to him, he then repeated the pledge in 2013 in Rwakitura when he met Tooro leaders, and again in 2025 in Kyenjojo when he promised that works would commence immediately.

He says that this road has appeared in Parliament as Serial No. 55 in the Minister of Works' September 2021 statement to Parliament. However, it stalled at project concept by 2024 and now sits in the National Development Plan IV as a road in the pipeline.

This road was in the budget of Financial Year 2021/2022. In the budget of Financial Year 2026/2027, the Government has committed Shs 152 billion to rescue tea factories mentioned above. His prayer is that this road be given

priority in the Financial Year 2027/2028 budget.

Mr Speaker, my response is as follows. The upgrading of the Fort Portal-Kijura-Kyarusozi-Katooke Road (83.8 kilometres) from gravel to paved standard is listed as pipeline project 119 in the National Development Plan IV. Government recognises its importance in linking Fort Portal Tourism City to Rusekere, Tooro, Kahuna, Kahanji and Kijura tea factories, and Kyenjojo District.

The Government will advance preparations for the road's medium-term upgrading. The Ministry of Works will prepare the required studies and undertake appropriate maintenance in the meantime, so that communities continue to benefit from this important road link.

The second question came from Hon. Betty Ethel Naluyima, Woman MP Wakiso: what measures has Government put in place or intends to put in place to harmonise the activities of service providers, such as telecom companies and the National Water and Sewerage Corporation, with road construction works under the Ministry of Works and Transport, so that newly-constructed or rehabilitated roads are not subsequently damaged by the laying of pipes and cables; and whether consideration has been given to the provision of shared ducts for all utility services along major roads as part of the planning and standards for public works?

Mr Speaker, Government will coordinate road and utility works through joint planning and a standing technical committee. Utilities will be relocated before major road works, with dedicated corridors and shared ducts on high-demand major roads. Shared utility records will guide new connections, with additional duct locations agreed with National Water and Sewerage Corporation during the design.

After road completion, any new installation in the road reserve requires written authorisation from the Ministry of Works and Transport under Section 16 of the Roads Act.

The third question came from the same Member, Hon. Naluyima Betty, that the Auditor-General's December 2025 report on the development of Bukasa Port notes ongoing delays in site possession, project-affected persons (PAPs) compensation, swamp reclamation and land procurement in Kikyusa, Luweero District.

Her prayer is: what is the expected completion date for Bukasa Port, and what progress has been made in resolving all land matters, including full compensation and resettlement of the remaining project-affected persons?

My response, Mr Speaker, is that Bukasa Port's construction phase is expected to be completed by September 2030, based on the planned September 2027 start and three-year duration. The contractor procurement process is ongoing.

Mr Speaker, preparation is 95 per cent complete. Compensation is at 93 per cent, with Shs 32.4 billion paid to 1,825 project-affected persons against a total of Shs 34.8 billion. Swamp removal and reclamation are 95 per cent complete. Both remaining activities will be completed in December 2026.

For resettlement, Mr Speaker, the Government acquired about three square miles in Kikyusa, Luweero District. So far, 270 PAPs have been relocated, each allocated two acres of land; 45 are fully resettled, and each has received 20 bags of cement and 55 iron sheets of 28 gauge, as directed by Cabinet.

The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development is addressing encumbrances with the landowner and procuring materials for the remaining PAPs. Relocation continues, and additional land is still required to resettle all the PAPs.

Question No. 4 came from Hon. Ismail Kasule, Member of Parliament (MP), Hoima West Division. Mr Speaker, he raised this to draw the attention of the House to the urgent plight of Kitara Football Club (FC), a club that

has proudly represented Uganda on several occasions and raised our national flag high.

Unfortunately, according to him, the club's current playing facility is not suitable for competition matches, yet its request to use Hoima City Stadium has reportedly been denied.

He humbly appeals to me to urgently intervene and grant Kitara FC temporary access to this national facility, subject to applicable safety and operational requirements and that this is about supporting our sportsmen, protecting Uganda's football reputation and ensuring that a club that has served the country is not disadvantaged by the lack of a suitable playing ground.

His prayer, Mr Speaker, is: what urgent Government interventions in the public interest are available to this club that serves as the pride of his people?

My response, Mr Speaker, is that regular league use of Hoima City Stadium was withdrawn to protect its hybrid pitch, not to punish Kitara FC. The contractor recommends about one match a week for recovery; used two or three times weekly caused signs of overuse. The decision safeguards the stadium for AFCON 2027.

After AFCON 2027, the Government intends to engage a professional firm to manage the stadium. The management framework will provide structured, affordable access for local clubs, prioritising those in the region, so that Hoima's communities benefit from the facility in the long run.

The fifth question came from Dr Emely Kugonza, MP, Buyanja East County that St John Baptist Kasimbi Seed Secondary School is one of the schools Government took over and developed under the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers (UgIFT) programme so that every subcounty has a Government secondary school. The Government has built classrooms, offices, and an ICT laboratory, and the Ministry of Education and Sports has recruited 31 teaching and non-teaching staff.

His prayers, Mr Speaker, are as follows: what is Government's immediate plan for the wage shortfall for 21 staff? What plans does Government have to construct the multipurpose hall, staff quarters and playground? When is Government equipping the ICT laboratory with computers?

My response, Mr Speaker, is that Government, through the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Public Service, will verify the 21 staff without wages within two weeks. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development will then cover the shortfall for the rest of the Financial Year 2026/2027 through supplementary funding or reallocation of unspent education sector wage. The current Shs 208,829,817 allocation covers only 10 staff.

Mr Speaker, the multipurpose hall and staff quarters will be included in Kasimbi's next UgIFT development phase, subject to availability of funds.

Kibaale District Local Government: you are aware that I was a Member of Parliament for this district. We will level the playground using the development grant with support from the community and the school's board of governors.

Kasimbi will be included in the next computer distribution when computers become available. The Ministry of Education and Sports, working with the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, will ensure internet connectivity and an ICT teacher among the staff posted to the school.

The sixth question came from Hon. Eunice Namatende, Bugiri District Woman Representative -

THE SPEAKER: Does that mean that the recording has not been in progress? *(Laughter)* Go on, Prime Minister.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I am worried. In 2023, according to Hon. Eunice, a fire gutted the upper section of Nankoma Primary School

and more than 400 pupils in primary five to primary seven have been learning under trees and in the open, and that lessons stop whenever it rains.

Her prayer is that Government rebuilds these classrooms and provides temporary structures in the meantime, so that these children can learn safely.

Mr Speaker, this is my response: The Department of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Management, along with the Ministry of Education and Sports and Bugiri District Local Government, are directed to jointly assess the damage at Nankoma Primary School. The assessment will confirm what is needed for pupils to resume lessons before the next term begins in February 2027. I will make sure that I go to Bugiri and take part in this.

The Government, through the Ministry of Education and Sports, will include classroom block reconstruction in its Financial Year 2027/2028 primary school rehabilitation programme under UgIFT, with costs confirmed after the assessment I have talked about. Bugiri District is also directed to prioritise the school in its education development grant. The new block will include fire extinguishers and proper electrical installation to prevent a similar accident.

The seventh question came from Hon. Peter Okeyoh, MP for Bukooli Islands County, that the Ministry of Education and Sports has been developing school feeding policy since 2015 to date. Why is it taking so long for the Government to produce the policy? What is the Government's position on school feeding?

Response

The Government, through the Ministry of Education and Sports, is finalising the school feeding policy for submission to Cabinet by June 2027. The delay reflects the need for sustainable feeding, agreement on government-funded, parent-led, or locally sourced meals, and cross-sector consultation and a regulatory impact assessment supported by the World Food Programme.

The Government's position is that every child should have a meal during the school day. Until the policy is approved and funded, parents and guardians remain legally responsible for providing packed meals to their children.

The next question came from Hon. Emily Kugonza that the Ministry of Water and Environment started construction of the Kasimbi-Kyebando water project in Buyanja East Constituency in Kibaale District in 2016. Up to now, the project has never been completed.
What is the Government's plan for having this project completed?

My response: Studies and designs for the Kasimbi-Kyebando Water Project were completed in April 2021. Phase 1 uses an existing borehole and was estimated at a cost of Shs 6.6 billion. Phase II involves River Nkussi abstraction and a treatment plant. Through the Water and Sanitation Development Facility - Central (WSDF-C), the Ministry of Water and Environment supplied and laid three kilometres of pipeline in the Financial Year 2024/2025 under a framework contract within the available budget. The Government's immediate priority is to secure funding to advance the Kasimbi-Kyebando water project under its phased implementation plan.

Question nine came from Hon. Tebandeke Charles, Bbaale County. According to him, the Government initiated a low-cost ceiling programme to provide all-weather access on selected low-volume roads using locally available materials as a cheaper alternative to conventional tarmac. Under this arrangement, several such roads were constructed in the local governments, including town council and community access roads.

These sealed roads are now breaking down under high-tonnage truck traffic for which they were not designed. To make matters worse, district local governments lack the equipment, funds, and technical capacity to maintain these bituminous surfaces. After construction, the Ministry of Works did not establish a clear, funded maintenance regime.

As a result, sections have generally developed potholes, edge failures, and rapid deterioration, undermining the original investment and leaving our communities with roads that are again becoming impassable. Kyerima-Lukonda-Lugasa Road in Bbaale County is a case in point.

His prayers: That the Ministry of Works and Transport explains to the House and the public the current policy on ownership, maintenance, responsibility, and axle-load protection for low-cost sealed roads after they are completed.

Two, the minister states when and how these roads nationwide shall be regularly maintained so that they do not revert to gravel condition and impede service delivery.

My response, Mr Speaker, although he asked the minister, is that, ownership and maintenance responsibility for low-cost sealed roads follow their classification under the Roads Act of 2019. National roads fall under the Ministry of Works and Transport; feeder roads or district roads, and community access roads fall under the district local councils. Urban roads fall under the urban councils, and city roads under the city authorities. Maintenance should begin immediately after handover to prevent deterioration requiring reconstruction.

The Government will continue working with road authorities and enforcement agencies to strengthen axle-load compliance and protect these roads from traffic exceeding their design capacity. Where traffic patterns have changed materially, the responsible authority should reassess traffic and pavement suitability and submit the findings to the Ministry of Works for action.

For Kyerima-Lukonda-Lugasa Road in Bbaale County and other roads constructed in the Financial Year 2018/2019, the Government has planned technical assessment in the Financial Year 2026/2027 with a view to rehabilitate them in the Financial Year 2027/2028. Kyerima-Lukonda-Lugasa Road was designed for a 10-year life.

The last question came from Hon. Joyo Harriet, District Woman Representative for Obongi District. She says that the Government earmarked the construction of a security road from Panyimur through Obongi to Panjala in Moyo District, and according to her, people have patiently waited for and that they have noted that the same road has appeared in the National Resistance Movement (NRM) manifesto of 2026-2031 among the projects categorised as in the pipeline. Her prayer is that the issue of this road link be given top priority by the Government among many other competing priorities.

Mr Speaker, my response is that Government has listed the upgrading of Panyimur-Pakwach-Rhino Camp-Obongi-Nimule Road (298km) as a project idea No.174 with a proposed start in the Financial Year 2029/2030. The Government will undertake appropriate maintenance to keep the road motorable in the meantime. Studies are planned in the short to medium term to prepare for medium-term civil works, with the implementation subject to availability of funding.

Mr Speaker, I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I will allow five oral questions. Eng. John Bosco from Buhweju, you are number one. Hon. Kiwanuka Abdallah from Mukono North will follow, and then I will have Member for Hoima – that is three from this side. Then Hon. Joel Azarwa. Four this way, and I come this way. It will go like that. One minute each – Gender, leave it to me; I am the champion of gender equity. *(Laughter)* Is there anybody in doubt about my being a champion of gender equity? I would prove that.

4.47

MR KOY KARIISA (NRM, Buhweju West County, Buhweju): Thank you, Mr Speaker. At the beginning, as you recognised, Tea Nursery Bed Operators in the public gallery-these Tea Nursery Bed Operators supplied the Government with seedlings in 2022, and His Excellency the President directed in 2025 that they be paid. Even when we were in

Kyankwanzi, he again convened a meeting with the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, but up to today, these nursery bed operators have not been paid Shs 18.6 billion.

These nursery bed operators have brought a document that has a lot of information, irrespective of letters having come from agriculture ministry, finance ministry has not recognised the payment. They indicate that 14 members of their team have died-

THE SPEAKER: Your prayers. They are addressing it to the Prime Minister, "*kamala byonna"*.

MR KARIISA: My prayer is that the Shs 18.6 billion be appropriated to the agriculture ministry so that these people can be paid and live a dignified life.

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, those nursery bed operators are here; we had recognised them – those are their representatives. Therefore, as you get up to respond, you are talking to them directly.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I have been at the centre of this issue since 2023. Several tea operators have been paid, and I thank the President for his stand that we complete the payment. I promise that I will bring a written answer next week when I come back, to give you a concrete answer to their plight. *(Members rose_)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I had already picked. There is commitment from the Government.

4.50

MR ABDALLAH KIWANUKA (NUP, Mukono County North, Mukono): Mr Speaker, on 23 October 2024, there was an accident involving a fuel truck at a place called Kigogwa, Bombo Road. The Government undertook to compensate people who lost their loved ones. Among those people, there was a man called Mr Umar Kabanda, who was buried in Kasenene in my constituency.

They followed up with the Prime Minister's office through then Hon. Kabbyanga, but up to now, they have never received the money that was promised to them.

A question to the Prime Minister is whether it was an empty promise or whether these people were compensated. If they were compensated, Mr Umar Kabanda's family never received any money. Is there any arrangement for them to receive that money? Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I undertake to find out what really happened, but I remember the President had promised to support those families, not to compensate.

THE SPEAKER: Hoima? I hope this time you are not going to talk about the road reserve?

4.52

MR ISINGOMA MWESIGWA (Independent, Hoima East Division, Hoima City): No. Thank you, Mr Speaker. I welcome back my sister from Antigua. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the Kyaliwajjala–Kira–Kasangati–Matugga Road has stagnated so much. This road was started about five years ago. I know at some stage you have also visited this road. However, there is almost no progress visible. I do not know what is happening. You can tell us what the problem is, or we call in Hon. Balaam to investigate why the road is not moving?

THE SPEAKER: You do not talk about Hon. Balaam when you are referring the matter to the Prime Minister. Your question was almost invalid.

MS NABBANJA: I will help him; we are brothers. Mr Speaker, I have been to that road twice, and I believe the works minister has also been on that road. The issue has been compensation and inflated figures by some petrol stations. As you can see, some petrol stations were built in the road reserve, and there have been exorbitantly inflated compensation figures, which we refused to pay.

That caused the delay because the compensation alone was almost equal to the cost of the road.

We are in touch with the owners of those petrol stations and some houses which are close to the road. Very soon – because the Chief Government Valuer has come up with an agreed position – the road will start again. Our *"omusuuga*" will do nothing. Hon. Balaam will not be able to get the money. We are in charge, and we shall have that road worked on.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Azalwa Joel?

4.56

MR JOEL WAISWA (Independent, Busiki County, Namutumba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of power outage in the district of Namutumba. Earlier on, in the month of July, I raised this matter to you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, and you made directives. Commitments were made by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. I want to bring it to your attention that up to now, nothing has been put in place.

Actually, what makes the matter worse is that when power goes out, it takes almost two weeks for it to return, and when it returns, it stays for an hour, and later on it goes off. Businesses are closing and collapsing. So, my prayer, is that you intervene before the matter worsens. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: You know we have a paper on that, but Rt Hon. Prime Minister, your energy sector has a problem. Electricity is taking us back to many years and making us cry for our lost Umeme. Can you imagine? When we should be celebrating.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, when Umeme got to know that they were not going to be given another contractual obligation, they did not maintain the old lines. And so UEDCL inherited old infrastructure. That has cost the Government a lot of money. They already procured enough transformers and are repairing the lines, which has caused these blackouts. I promise that Namutumba will receive power. We are going to prioritise that place.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Now let me go to this side – But before I go that way, Member from Kumi – We are what we are because of our mothers.

4.57

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT (Independent, Woman Representative, Kumi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, firstly, I would like to appreciate your office for giving Kumi District some relief. I appreciate the Government for fulfilling its pledge to establish schools in Ojieyi Memorial and Kabwele. They are government schools now, and since inception, those two schools have had only 13 teachers each.

However, now that we are moving to another phase of not charging parents, my prayer is that the Ministry of Education and Sports increases the number of teachers in the two schools so as to improve on the performance. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Susan? *(Hon. Abeja rose_)* Kindly wait. I wanted you to talk very much that I had skipped getting a submission from the Prime Minister.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I know there are teachers in Kumi who are on contract by the parents. Those will be assessed to make sure that they suit the requirements by the Ministry of Education and Sports in the Financial Year 2027/2028, and then they will be recruited to bridge that gap.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Susan -

4.58

MS SUSAN ABEJA (NRM, Woman Representative, Otuke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to inform the Prime Minister that two months ago, my CAO wrote a letter requesting assistance to re-roof the schools whose roofs were blown off during a rainstorm. Unfortunately, nothing was taken to Otuke. The people asked if Otuke can also get iron sheets like other districts. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I have taken note of my sister's issue. I will make sure that I get this letter from the Chief Administrative Officer. I think he wrote to the Permanent Secretary. We will act accordingly.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Member from Kalangala? I finished the men; I do not know why you are standing up.

4.59

MS CAROLYN BIRUNGI (NRM, Kyamuswa County, Kalangala): Thank you, Mr Speaker, I am Birungi Carolyn Nanyondo, Member of Parliament, Kyamuswa County, Kalangala District.

Some three months ago, the islands were hit by cyclone winds, and we wrote to the Prime Minister through the CAO and the disaster committee, but up to now we have not received anything from the office.

My prayer, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, is that you consider my people and send some relief. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: I recall that around July, my office sent some relief after you came and requested for it. Some relief was sent to Kalangala, except that it was not enough. But saying that "nothing was sent" is a total lie. I chaired multiple meetings and made sure that relief is sent to Kalangala. I will only investigate what truly happened, and then we shall continue to support one another.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. That is why somebody like the Kumi Woman Member of Parliament – If I were the Prime Minister, I would add her because she thanked you for the little you have given. Members, let us acknowledge. Hon. Mutonyi?

Allow me to move to this side because we are running out of time. We have a *"mugole"* in the House, and I want to – I will adjust the Order Paper to allow him to perform a function because he is launching his wedding today. He will need only five minutes. We will therefore cut – One of us is going to wed.
Hon. Masaba Mutonyi?

5.01

MS ROSE MUTONYI (Independent, Woman Representative, Manafwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am speaking in relation to the people of Manafwa District and Bududa who were relocated to a place called Kyebusunkunya. I was there, and they complained that they are dying of hunger because many of them had been promised Shs 10 million to relocate, but they say they have not received it. Although some said they had received it. But they were promised that within three months they would get the money. Mr Speaker, most of them fell – *(Interjections)* – He has allowed.

They said that they are dying of hunger; that they took some relief food I think about three months ago. However, you cannot live on a consignment of *posho* for three months. They do not have houses because those who were given Shs 10 million to put up houses, have put up things like boxes because it was only Shs 10 million. So, if you get Shs 10 million to feed on, it cannot be sufficient. There was a promise of a balance of Shs 7 million. They are dying of hunger and these people are the ones who are even making the relocation program of the minister -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, put your question.

MS MUTONYI: Yes, my prayer is that the Rt Hon. Prime Minister – (*Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: She has heard.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I want to draw your attention to the fact that the Government has been trying to resettle our people in Mount Elgon since 2010.

A number of projects have come and gone. They were taken to Kiryandongo in Masindi in 2014. Some of them came back and died in Bududa. We took some of them to Bunambutye Resettlement Camp Centre, in Bulambuli

District. Some of them came and others died there. We took some of them to Chepsikunya in Kween District.

We have been having a challenge of buying land. Massive land where we can relocate people. Cabinet came up with a new strategy – *(Inaudible)* – and at a cost of Shs 4 million per acre. We have been giving people two acres per household, and then providing Shs 10 million as a package. We added the Shs 8 million and the Shs 10 million to make it Shs 18 million.

Mr Speaker, you must have been informed that I have been heading an exercise to relocate people from Mount Elgon. Reason being that we have been having a lot of issues like buying food, and after that, they would say they do not have water. People would go and come back because they are attached to their ancestral land. They want to stay in their areas, and we have had a number of political interferences, as politicians were saying that we are relocating their voters. We agreed that we come up with this strategy. I think I need to come back here with a paper so that I can explain how far we have gone.

Mr Speaker, because this project is massive, a lot of fraud and a lot of irregularities have been happening. Therefore, we decided to have an inter-ministerial arrangement. We have discovered that before they were talking of 13,000 households to be relocated. We have covered the districts of Namisindwa, Bududa, and Bulambuli and the number has reduced by 82 per cent. Instead of 13,900, we now have around 2,500, because we have been reaching the homesteads. So, all the numbers that were being reported are false and fake.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, when we give them money – the Shs 18 million – they will relocate. We agreed that instead of them going back and dying in those ancestral homes, we decided this time round to demolish the houses and make sure that these people go.

During the Prime Minister's Time, they do not seek clarification. *(Laughter)* Mr Speaker, in conclusion -

THE SPEAKER: The Rt Hon. Prime Minister knows the rules.

MS NABBANJA: Yes, I know, and he also knows because he has been here since the Ninth Parliament.

Mr Speaker, the Member is asking whether our people in Chepsikunya are being given food. The fact is I will have to go and find out, because we agreed to concentrate on relocation for now.

The Government has so far given us Shs 62 billion, and we have remained with Shs 43 billion. We said, "Enough is enough; let us have our people and save life from those highland areas because we do not want to lose any more life." The issue is saving life.

I want to thank the Members of Parliament who have been with us, especially Hon. Biara here, and others for the support they have given us. So far, the communities – and Members, there are those who were not put in the line and yet they were in more dangerous areas. We have discovered this, removed those who were in low land and wanted to benefit from the money.

She has talked about the Shs 7 million. The Shs 7 million was a Non- Governmental Organisation (NGO) grant from America that had come to support the Government to relocate people. However, the Government discovered that this money was not enough and that is why we added Shs 10 million and then Shs 8 million to make it Shs 18 million.

Therefore, it so happened that even those who accessed the list of Give Directly, some of them were not eligible. Yes, and we are going to investigate this and make sure that those people who did this are brought to book.

Now, for the food, I am going to find out and make sure that if they do not have food, they must be given food. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: *(Member rose_)* You do not raise those things during Prime Minister's Time. We are killing time for other Members to really ask questions.

Procedure, would arise if somebody else, and not the Prime Minister is answering the question, and you probably want the Prime Minister herself. She is here in the House. She has 60 minutes to execute that statutory mandate. If we abuse it, we will not benefit from it.

Hon. Jeniva Arinaitwe, Nalongo, woman representative of Rubirizi. I have picked number one already. But many people love you, Prime Minister. They want to ask you questions.

5.10

MS JENIVA ARINAITWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Rubirizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On 18 August 2019, a fuel tanker exploded in Kyambura trading centre, along Ishaka-Kasese road, and 20 people died. Shops and homes were burnt to ashes. Upon the presidential visit to the area, he promised that the verified victims be compensated. It is so far seven years down the road. Those people have not received any single coin. Even their case with the fuel tanker owners at the High Court in Mbarara is also stuck.

My prayer is that Rt Hon. Prime Minister should help the victims to receive their compensation. The Attorney-General should also let these people receive justice from the fuel tank owners. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I promise to follow up so that these people are given justice.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Jovia Katusiime, Kiryandongo?

5.12

MS JOVIA KATUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Kiryandongo): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. As a Woman Member of Parliament for Kiryandongo District, I want to inform the House that 80 per cent of the problems we have in Kiryandongo District and Bunyoro at large are land matters. Recently, we hosted the honourable minister, Balaam Barugahara, in Bunyoro subregion and over 80 per cent of the issues raised in those anti-corruption rallies were issues of land.

I pray that the Government organises the land *barazas* in Bunyoro sub-region but starting with Kiryandongo District, so that our people receive justice for their land. Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the question has been so broad that I cannot have a particular answer for Kiryandongo. What I request is that the Member gets in touch with me and we organise a team from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, the Attorney-General's Office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, so that we can handle those issues conclusively.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, very much. Hon. Enid Origumisiriza, Kabale District Woman Representative will be followed by the Woman MP from Rukiga.

5.14

MS ENID ORIGUMISIRIZA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kabale): Thank you, Mr Speaker. At Kabale Regional Referral Hospital, we are grateful that the Government started the construction of an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Shs 8.5 billion, in September 2023, and it was to be completed in 15 months. It is now November 2026 but it is still not operational. Our patients are still referred to Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital and that is 140 kilometres away. Many do not make it-

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Balaam Barugahara, we need you to give us the feedback. The Prime Minister is here. You went out to get information but you have not given us any. This is also my *baraza*. Yes, conclude your question.

MS ORIGUMISIRIZA: My prayers: what is the current physical and financial progress? What is the real cause of the delay? What is the specific completion date and maybe the commissioning of this ICU? I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The Prime Minister has asked the Ministry of Health. Dr Ayume, you may.

5.16

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH (PRIMARY HEALTH CARE) (Dr Francis Ayume): Thank you, Honourable Member. Yes, Mr Speaker, it is true that there are two ICUs that were under construction, and that is the one in Kabale and Arua Regional Referral Hospitals.

Unfortunately, the project was under Uganda COVID-19 Response and Emergency Preparedness Project (UCREPP) funding and the project date ran out. However, I would like to give the people of Kabale reassurance that there is a new project coming which will take care of Arua and Kabale Regional Referral Hospitals. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Gulu, Hon. Ayoo - I have finished western Uganda; I am now in the North. I had picked Member for Rukiga, Hon. Ayoo and then I will go eastern, sampling.

5.17

MS SYLVIA ALINAITWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Rukiga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. At the last NRM Caucus meeting in Kololo, an honourable Member raised an issue of the big need for coffee seedlings for this season and in response to that need, the Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries indicated that something is being done for the farmers who need coffee seedlings this season.

Based on that, some of us took our applications to the office of the minister and they were received with a big smile. We went back and told those who were pressing us for coffee seedlings to prepare their gardens and be on standby to receive – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Yes, so what is the question?

MS ALINAITWE: My prayer, is that we get a response from the minister so that we go and plant.

THE SPEAKER: The Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries is not there. You are now the minister.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries has been distributing coffee seedlings to some districts. I will find out why Rukiga has not yet received.

Secondly, we request our members who have benefitted from the Parish Development Model (PDM) to use the PDM money to buy coffee seedlings.

Lastly, I will also find out from the Ministry of Agriculture why there has been selective provision of coffee seedlings across the country.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ayoo?

5.19

MS PHOEBE AYOO (NRM, Woman Representative, Gulu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On the 8th of July, I brought an issue of national importance to this House regarding the accumulated arrears of honoraria for the councillors of the lower local governments across Uganda.

There was a commitment that between the Ministries of Finance and Local Government, there would be an update and that the two ministries would work together to ensure that this is sorted out.

To date, nothing has moved forward and the districts have not received communication. Through you, I would like to ask the Rt Hon. Prime Minister what the Government is doing in regards to the pending arrears of honoraria for councillors of the 11th Council for the lower local governments in Uganda. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Balaam, the Prime Minister has delegated you.

5.20

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Mr Balaam Barugahara): Mr Speaker, I earlier had a discussion with the Minister of Public Service as well as the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. They promised that we shall have an inter-ministerial meeting in the coming two weeks to have this matter discussed at length and a solution found.

I will use this very opportunity to give feedback on the assignment given to me by the House, regarding the bad vaccine highlighted in Nakasongola. The honourable minister, Mr Frank Tumwebaze, said; "The vaccines are of world standard." They have vaccinated across the country. Why Nakasongola?

He highlighted that there could be a problem of mishandling of the vaccine by either not putting them in the recommended storage facility.

We shall need to go to Nakasongola next week, but also the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) scientists will travel with the team that the minister will put in place to evaluate and see what vaccine and how they are kept.

He said that vaccinating cattle is Shs 8,000; pigs, Shs 8,000; goats, Shs 4,000 and all the other animals and he has so far vaccinated close to 750,000 animals. No other problem has been reported apart from what you have mentioned in Nakasongola. So, allow us investigate it. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I have actually finished the women on this side. Let me have the men. Hon. Nyeko?

5.22

MR JOHNSON NYEKO (NRM, Lamwo County, Lamwo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. You will recall that on the 2nd of September, I raised a matter of national importance regarding over 13 schools in Lamwo District with the roofs blown off. To that effect, I interacted with the various ministers, especially the honourable minister, Peter Ogwang, who promised on the Floor here that he would go there before the 28th of last month.

People from all walks of life in Lamwo came and he did not appear. The children are dispersed whenever it rains. Is education really going well in Lamwo District? I would like the intervention of the Prime Minister. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I am sure the Prime Minister understood.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I have taken note of my brother's issue in Lamwo District where school roofs were blown up by the wind. We shall provide him with iron sheets. Let him make proper documentation and bring it to my office.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, we play by the rules. Actually, the 60 minutes are over. Prime Minister, you need a *baraza* with the Members of Parliament; within Parliament or outside. I want to hear your commitment on that. This is because the questions are about the people and the time here is very little here.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I have scheduled meetings for regional caucuses. We have so far covered four: Bukedi, Bugisu - and that is why we are in the Bugisu Subregion to handle the issues there - Bunyoro and Kigezi. We are now going to cover Busoga and then go to Sebei in that order.

We thought regions have peculiar issues and that is how we structured it at the regional level. My office will inform you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Next item? I asked you to vary the Order Paper. We have an honourable member going to his own wedding launch meeting and he is the chairperson. So, let us allow him to do that and then he goes. He has only two minutes.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LANDS ON THE OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE NATIONAL LAND INFORMATION CENTRE AND THE MINISTRY ZONAL OFFICES OF WAKISO-BUSIRO, MASAKA, JINJA, MBALE AND SOROTI WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO DOUBLE/ MULTIPLE AND OVERLAPPING TITLING IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 35 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

THE SPEAKER: The *mugole?* Please, you are invited to – He may not ask you for support, but we have to show him some love. *(Applause)* It is not easy to go and say you want to wed. Many of us have failed. *(Laughter)* Committee chairperson?

5.26

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON LANDS (Mr Edson Rugumayo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Indeed, I thank you for your kind heart and for being a father figure. Thank you so much for accepting to vary the Order Paper to allow me to conduct this noble duty.

Honourable members, what the Speaker said is true. I humbly invite you to join me on the 19th of December in Rwebisengo-Ntoroko as my beloved partner and I tie the knot and officially go before the Lord. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

In the interest of time, under our Rules of Procedure, Rule 35, I beg to lay a report of the Committee on Lands on the oversight visit to the National Land Information Centre and the Ministry Zonal Offices (MZO) of Wakiso-Busiro, Masaka, Mukono, Jinja, Mbale, and Soroti with special attention to double or multiple and overlapping titling.

Mr Speaker, before I give brief highlights into the report, permit me to lay on the Table the minutes and proceedings of the committee meetings.

Brief highlights into this report

The Committee on Lands conducted an oversight visit into the National Land Information Centre (NLIC) and six ministry zonal offices in Mukono, Wakiso-Busiro, Masaka, Jinja, Mbale and Soroti. The visits aimed at assessing the performance of land administration systems, service delivery and challenges relating to land fraud, double multiple and overlapping titles, and the security of land records. The committee established that despite the Government's investment in land services, significant challenges remain.

The committee observed widespread causes of fraudulent and overlapping titles, poor record management, understaffing, inadequate infrastructure, and weaknesses in the National Land Information Systems (NLIS). In Mukono MZO, 2,876 overlapping titles were identified, alongside 1,068 freehold titles issued over the Kabaka's official *mailo* land, while 163 suspected fraudulent titles were recovered. In Wakiso-Busiro MZO, over 300 suspected forged titles were intercepted, while Masaka recorded 1,435 rejected land transfers due to lack of proof of stamp duty payment.

Other concerns included: corruption, security breach, irregular titling in protected areas, weak physical planning compliance, and incomplete operationalisation of land information systems.

The committee recommends strengthening the National Land Information System, cleaning up land records, investigating and prosecuting those involved in land fraud, improving staffing and infrastructure at MZOs, and enforcing physical planning and developmental protection laws.

It further calls for full operationalisation of key digital systems and stronger supervision of land offices to improve accountability, protect land ownership rights, and restore public confidence in land administration.

The Committee on Lands was created and constituted in July 2025 pursuant to our rules here. The Members wish to convey gratitude to Parliament for creating this dedicated committee that covers lands, housing, urban development and physical planning. I also want to convey gratitude to the members of the committee and technical staff who worked hard to constitute and put together this report.

Land is a fundamental economic asset in Uganda, serving as the bedrock for the country's socio-economic transformation. Article 237(1) and (3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, and Section 2 of the Land Act, Cap. 236, vests land in the citizen of Uganda in accordance with the land tenure systems, namely customary, freehold, *mailo* and leasehold. Uganda adopted a Torrens system in colonial times, which emphasises ownership of land by registration.

The committee endeavoured to demonstrate for Members the evolution of land registration. All that is in our report. We did all that. We have laid down our objectives in the report and did the methodology. Allow me just to make brief highlights, Mr Speaker, and observations in the report.

Mr Speaker, our observations are categorised into two: the location-specific and cross-cutting issues we identified.

The National Land Information Centre (NLIC)

The National Land Information Centre is a facility of the ministry, which serves as the central hub for the country's land records and information system. The National Land Information System, operated by the National Land Information Centre, was developed to manage spatially referenced data on land registration, valuation, planning, and administration across the country, following legislated procedures for collecting, updating, processing, and distributing data.

This project was established out of a World Bank-funded pilot project named the design, supply, installation, and implementation of the land information system and securing land records. A total of $65 million was invested, and later, it was rolled out to 22 MZOs. We have endeavoured to show how much revenue is collected.

I wish to highlight the recent development. Honourable colleagues, this is interesting. In 2025, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, with the Institut Géographique National France International (IGNFI) launched a public web portal and mobile apps for the National Land Information System where a person can create an account and therefore access services online without physical interaction with the centre and other MZOs. Members, you can now conduct your land search on your phone without necessarily paying a lawyer or any other person.

Honourable colleagues, briefly through the observations we made at the National Land Centre then I dashed to Mukono MZO, which I know is a matter of specific interest to some people here, and specifically, the Rt Hon. Speaker.

Mr Speaker, the committee observed that the National Land Information Centre has eased the ministry's revenue collection through the integration of the National Land Information System. The committee observed that it is a requirement to have an account for one to conduct a search. However, this hinders most of the Ugandans who do not have digital skills.

The committee observed that whereas a search can be conducted, there still remains a challenge that not all interests on the land are registered therein, especially the *bibanja* holders and bona fide occupants.

The committee observed that land search statements carry a disclaimer to the effect that the accuracy of the information on the statement is not guaranteed and no liability whatsoever can be accepted if loss or damage results from the error, omission or misstatement in the information. However, in the Supreme Court Civil Appeal No. 004/2024, Attorney-General v. Henley Property Developers Limited, the court emphasised that the integrity of the Torrens system depends on the state's guarantee that its official register is accurate. If the public cannot rely on certified land registry searches, the commercial utility of land titles is destroyed, undermining the banking and real estate sector.

Mr Speaker, we made many observations. Allow me to emphasise the key ones. The

committee observed that whereas the National Land Information Centre was developed to streamline administration and minimise regularities in land registration, cases of backlog, double titling, multiple titling, and overlapping titling are still prevalent with MZOs and the National Land Information Centre.

Backlog refers to the land data transactions that have not been uploaded. Double titling where two certificates of title are issued on one piece of land. Multiple titling is where two certificates of title are issued on the same piece of land. Overlapping arises from so many.

Mr Speaker, the committee further noted several causes of double titling, noting a few:

Backlog: Officers who fail to scan these and put them on the digital system.

Also, allow me note that there is negligence by land officers. Mr Speaker, the committee noted that all records of land registration are maintained in the land register. However, failure to exercise due diligence by land officers has continued to lead to issuance of double or multiple titling or overlapping titles. In the case of Henley Property Developers Limited versus Attorney-General, a *mailo* certificate of title for land comprised in Kyaggwe Block 171, Plot 6 was superimposed on freehold certificate of title for land comprised in FRV 64 Folio 18, which led to the cancellation of the *mailo* title by the registrar because it was issued in error.

The holder of the mailo certificate of title sued the Attorney-General claiming compensation arising out of cancellation of its title and attributed the issuance error to negligence of land registration officers. Court held in favour of Henley Property Developers and granted Shs 50 billion compensation for the market value for the suit land. This compensation was held by the Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 004/2024. Members, you can see how much money we are losing out of the negligence of the officers in land registration.

Irregular allocation of land by public land administration institutions: This is mainly caused by District Land Boards that allocate grant leases on land that is not under their controlling authority.

Mr Speaker, allow me to dash straight to a few recommendations and go to specific location findings in the Mukono MZO.

THE SPEAKER: You know that you are laying a report.

MR RUGUMAYO: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: The rules do not allow you to read the report. Laying is laying. I thought you, as a *mugole,* I would be kind to you but you are stretching it. When laying, you do not –

MR RUGUMAYO: Mr Speaker, thank you for the guidance. I beg to lay this report.

THE SPEAKER: You refer Members to the report and yes –

MR RUGUMAYO: Mr Speaker, through you, I request Members to please interest yourselves in this report, read it, and we come and enrich it so that we can save the land sector. Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay this report. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. *Mugole,* we wish you the very best. We do not want to stress you. We want you to be – Next?

MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE INQUIRY INTO THE PERSISTENT POWER SUPPLY OUTAGES IN THE COUNTRY

THE SPEAKER: Yes, committee chairperson. We shall also ask you to summarise so that you can donate a few more minutes for the Members to –

5.37

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (Mr Dan Atwijukire): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is the report of the Committee on Environment and Natural

Resources, the inquiry into persistent power supply outages in the country.

Mr Speaker, as you have guided, I will try as much as possible to summarise. Honourable colleagues, you have had this report for two weeks; I request you to read it because time will not allow. It is a 50-page report, so I cannot read it; I will summarise it. Mr Speaker, the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources undertook an inquiry into the persistent power shortages, load shedding, and electricity supply interruptions, examining generation and availability.

THE SPEAKER: Before you continue, under item 9 on the Order Paper, I should have been on the record to say that we shall appoint a date for the debate on the findings of that committee. We shall have it back on the Order Paper and we debate it.

MR ATWIJUKIRE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The committee found that reliability of supply of electricity is determined by the performance of the entire electricity supply chain. An interruption experienced by a customer may originate at a generating plant, on the transmission network, or within distribution network. The public perception that every outage is the responsibility of the Uganda Electricity Distribution Company (UEDCL), therefore does not by itself establish the cause of the particular interruption. The cause should be determined from operational records and the point at which the fault or constraint occurred, where each responsible institution remains accountable for the part of the system under its mandate.

The committee notes that whenever there is a national blackout or outage induced upstream at the generating plant or on the transmission network, it is UEDCL that is blamed by the public because UEDCL is the institution that consumers deal with at the point of supply, as occurred during the national blackout of 5 June 2026 and the partial blackout of 14 June 2026, both of which originated from upstream of the supply network.

The committee emphasises, however, that this does not diminish UEDCL's responsibility for most outages. Evidence before the committee indicates that most interruptions experienced by consumers arise from the poor state of distribution network itself, including dilapidated, aging, and overloaded assets that were inherited from Umeme. The UEDCL network has 47 per cent of its power transformers older than 30 years, 74 per cent of distribution transformers with poor or no protection, 12 substations loaded above 80 per cent, and the overgrown vegetation contacts as the most common single cause of faults.

The rehabilitation of the distribution network through reinvestment, refreshments, and load reduction projects is among the mitigative measures needed to secure reliable supply of electricity to the end users.

Uganda's reported installed generation capacity stands at 2,066.33 megawatts, while reported firm capacity is approximately 1,417.76 megawatts against peak system demand of 1,408.24 megawatts. The arithmetic difference of 9.5 megawatts does not establish an adequate operating reserve. Units 2 and 5 at Karuma Hydropower Plant, with a combined reported firm capacity of about 18 megawatts, remain unavailable at the time of the inquiry. If both units had been unavailable continuously from 5th June to 26 October 2026 (143 days), their theoretical maximum generation foregone would be approximately 617,760 megawatts (618 GWh).

For illustration, valuing the energy at $0.08 to $0.10 per kilowatt would imply a gross energy value of approximately $49-62 million. This is not a verified financial loss: Actual foregone generation and cost depend on the outage start date, hydrology, dispatch, replacement generation, imports/exports and applicable energy values. Floating vegetation also interfered with water uptake at major hydropower plants, particularly Karuma, while low hydrological regimes affected smaller plants.

The committee recommends an independently-verified assessment of the units' outage, the actual energy not generated and the resulting financial and system effects, alongside self-restoration, maintenance and water-weed management.

The committee established that overloaded transformers, ageing transmission-line infrastructure still on wooden lines in Western Uganda, constrained metropolitan supply corridors and limited alternative supply routes, contribute to electricity interruptions.

UETCL and UEDCL informed the committee of the differing loading figures for some substations, including Mutundwe and Kawanda. UEDCL further informed the committee of proposed upgrades at Mutundwe and Kawanda, works at Nkonge and Buloba, and interventions along the Bombo Road, Entebbe Road, Mityana Road and Masaka Road corridors.

The committee recommends that ERA verify the declared available power from hydropower plants, demand trends for both industrial and domestic users, and that UETCL and UEDCL implement realistic, stable, time-bound linking of supply stations and new substations to deliver actual relief to customers.

The national blackout of 5 June 2026 and partial blackout of 14 June 2026 raised concerns about planned-outage coordination, protection systems, contingency arrangements and restoration procedures.

The committee recommends an independent technical investigation based on synchronised operational records, with corrective actions assigned to the responsible institutions. Reported concerns of overload on transmission lines within Kampala Metropolitan Area, that inadvertently triggered damage to the two generating units at Karuma Hydro-Power Plant, which are currently redundant, should be technically verified by a nominated board of inquiry, whose findings will guide any contractual responsibility or penalties, as will be determined.

ERA informed the committee that UEDCL's reliability performance remained below the regulatory targets. For 2025, the full-year targets were SAIDI - SAIDI is the duration; if power goes off now, the time it takes before it comes back, that is what they call SAIDI - of 86.6 hours and SAIFI; SAIFI is the frequency - of the 68 interruptions, while actual performance for April-December 2025 was 137.94 hours and 106 interruptions.

For January to June 2026 (half-year) - Now, this needs further examination because here, they aggregate the whole country. For example, Kazo, which does not get power for a whole month, is aggregated with Kampala, and they get SAIDI and SAIFI; the duration and frequency, and they calculate it for the whole country.

Mr Speaker, I will now go straight to – because I thought I was going to give an executive summary, but I do not know whether the time will allow, or whether I should jump to a few observations and recommendations.

On page 14 is where we put our generation capacity. On page 15, there is installed capacity of major grid-connected power plants; how much each produces to the grid.

Then on page 25, the committee also notes concerns that mainstreaming the Rural Electrification Agency into the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development may have slowed the pace of rural electrification. As a specialised implementation agency, REA had been able to mobilise external financing and manage implementation through programme-based arrangements, which can be more responsive to project-specific procurement, supervision and implementation challenges than conventional ministry processes.

On page 26: Maintenance delivery and materials availability. This is now the crux of the matter, Mr Speaker. By the time Umeme left, it had invested less for three years, and this left UEDCL with no materials. The committee noted that UEDCL cleared 34,206 kilometres of line corridors and replaced 1,110 distribution transformers in the year to July 2026.

Availability of transformer materials in stores is reported to have increased from 44 per cent to 50 per cent. However, vegetation contact remains the most common single cause of faults, indicating the need for sustained preventive maintenance.

The committee further noted that these maintenance activities should translate into fewer recurring faults and faster restoration of supply. Further, the reported improvement in materials availability does not establish whether all regional stores hold sufficient transformers and essential spares to respond promptly to failures. You will continue to read, honourable colleagues.

5.12 Distribution investment financing and sector reform

The committee was informed by UEDCL that the company's investment programme comprised $50 million approved for 2026 and $70.5 million carried forward from 2025, totalling $120 million.

Mr Speaker, when you look at page 29, you will see how Umeme was investing. In 2020, Umeme had planned to invest $165 million, but the actual approved investment was $75 million.

In 2021, the proposed investment was $134 million, but they invested $34 million.

In 2022, they had proposed to invest $127 million, but they invested $30 million.

In 2023, they had proposed to invest $103 million, but they invested $23 million.

In 2024, they had proposed to invest $106 million, but they invested $8 million.

Now, UEDCL in 2025, had planned to invest $115 million and invested $1.5 million.

UEDCL now has an investment plan of $287 million, which is ongoing.

This explains the three years of Umeme investing less than half of the planned investment left the integrity of the infrastructure at high risk. But later on, even when UEDCL came in, one year and four months down the road, they have only invested $1.4 million to infrastructure that was absorbing $70 million per year on average, and that would explain to you the breaking down of the infrastructure.

Then on page 32, it will also tell you the Government institutions that have arrears - that have not paid their dues and we made some recommendations there.

Mr Speaker, on page 39, the committee recommends that UEDCL in consultation with the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA), reconciles with two sampled suppliers, Steema Transformers & Electricals (u) Ltd - In this report you will see that we visited some local manufacturers, and we also have a report about them.

Mr Speaker, the standards are very low to the extent that, for transformers, we have no specific point where the quality is tested, later on to confirm that they are fit enough to go on our infrastructure. You can read more about that, honourable colleagues.

Finally, as I conclude, I will read these recommendations and stop there:

a) UEDCL expedite renewal of execution of contracts that were legally and procedurally justified, and issue purchase orders and delivery procurement documents within defined timelines, without compromising procurement requirements, technical specifications or quality assurance;
b) UEDCL establishes a time-bound plan for settlement of verified suppliers' arrears, prioritising aged and undisputed invoices subject to available appropriations and applicable financial controls;
c) UEDCL publishes and shares with qualified suppliers a rolling quarterly forecast of requirements for transformers, meters, conductors, and other critical materials, including quantities, technical

ratings and expected delivery dates to enable production and import planning;

d) UEDCL, PPDA and ERA assess the cause of procurement lead time and delays in contract administration, distinguishing delays attributed to planning, approvals, supplier performance, documentation, financing, payment and implement corrective measures within the applicable legal framework;

e) UEDCL reports quarterly on the proportion of critical materials delivered on time, contract and purchase order processing times verified, suppliers, arrears, stock availability, by regional store and the effect of these measures on fault restoration times and network reliability;

f) UEDCL should reconcile and report to the committee within 30 days on the outstanding balances, because some of the suppliers said they could not supply because they were not being paid.

g) UEDCL should establish and publish service timelines for contract execution and renewal, purchase order issuance, delivery documentation, inspection, and acceptance, invoice verification and payment. It should report quarterly on compliance and on the effect of delays on critical equipment availability and outage restoration;

h) UEDCL should provide qualified local suppliers with a rolling quarterly forecast of requirements by equipment type and transformer rating, and issue purchase orders sufficiently in advance.

i) The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, working with UEDCL, PPDA, UNBS, ERA and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, should review BUBU and local content measures for electricity equipment.

Mr Speaker, while the committee is alive to the fact that we want to support BUBU, the local capacity, we found was so low to meet the emergency situation in which we are in. This is why we recommend that, as we support BUBU and local content measures, the review should distinguish local manufacturing from assembly and distribution, identify inputs that can visibly be produced in Uganda and propose a phased programme of technical assistance, standards, compliance, skills development, technology transfer, access to finance and predictable procurement demand to deepen domestic manufacturing.

Mr Speaker, we put an addendum. We had an oversight on the capacity of the local manufacturers we visited, and we put this addendum, which all members signed. It explains the situation of the local manufacturers.

If we are to depend on local manufacturers to address the current emergency needs, then we may have two to three years to come to the top of the game because they are slow and they have serious technical challenges.

Mr Speaker, allow me to stop here. I beg to submit the report. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, as you could have realised, this report is very detailed. It has figures, policy and governance issues, statistics and great recommendations. Energy is energy, electricity is electricity. We love to give a priority to this report and doing justice to it is that I would encourage Members, since you all have it on your iPads, we may not be as ready to debate them now. Therefore, we shall appoint a time; the venue will remain the same place here, and the date to debate the same.

Next item - *[Hon. Kateshumbwa: "Procedure"]* Procedure? Is the procedure from the chairperson or from the friend of the chairperson?

MR KATESHUMBWA: From the friend of the chairperson. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Indeed, I thank you for the decision you have made. This report has been read here by the chairperson, and yet on the front bench, we do not have anyone from the energy sector.

Wouldn't it be procedurally right, Mr Speaker, that the Government Chief Whip undertakes to ensure that when the Order Paper has a

critical report of a sector, we have at least a sector minister to listen to what has been read. We are going to debate, and I am not sure whether the minister responsible will be ready or if she will be listening to the debate and then asking for more time to respond. Wouldn't it be procedurally right that you advise the Government Chief Whip to always ensure that when the Order Paper is out, they ensure that the sector minister is represented.

THE SPEAKER: The Government Chief Whip or the Prime Minister, what commitment do you make? This matter has been on the Order Paper all week, and I have not seen one of the three ministers. You could account for them as you commit.

6.01

THE SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Dr Crispus W.C.B Kiyonga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think there is a consensus that this issue of electricity is at the centre of our effort to move the country forward. I, therefore, thank you for standing over this matter, and on behalf of the Government, I undertake that when we return, we shall be a stronger team to back up the debate.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. What we would expect the minister to do is to give us, under Rule 229 of our Rules of Procedure, an action-taken report, but if the minister could be available - I have not seen the full Cabinet minister for energy in this House. Maybe she comes when I am not in the chair. Hon. Bahati, do you know where she is? You are the one who hides ministers - *(Laughter)*

6.02

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues, regarding all the three ministers of energy, Hon. Monica Musenero was in Ghana representing Government on an assignment, Hon. Okaasai is in India and Hon. Phiona Nyamutoro is also out of station.

As the Prime Minister has said, when the item is put on the Order Paper, assuming that it will be Tuesday or Wednesday, we shall ensure that Hon. Monica Musenero will be in the House, and all the ministers will be able to -

THE SPEAKER: Don't you think she will be in South Africa? *(Laughter)*

MR BAHATI: She will be in the House.

THE SPEAKER: I hear people meeting her only in the planes.

6.03

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr Paul Mwiru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I understand where my friend, Hon. Bahati, is coming from, but we are also constrained, as the House -

THE SPEAKER: He actually comes from Kabale. *(Laughter)*

MR MWIRU: Yes. Mr Speaker, I am at pains at times to raise the matter. You realise that you make these commitments on the Floor, but some issues go unanswered. This is why Members keep on disturbing the Speaker and then raising the same issue. I have a litany of them where you have been making commitments, but they have not –

I can show you an example. Hon. Sawula raised an issue about East Africa, when the President of Kenya was chasing other East Africans from Kenya, but it disappeared. We raised an issue of a commitment from Hon. Ogwang who had said that they do not allow boarding sections in seed schools. The Speaker tasked him to come up with a statement on that. I have a number of them that I can share with you.

Mr Speaker, when you closely look at rule 52, it requires the minister to attend the House. My request is that at least look smart; you can do better than that. If the main minister is not there, at least let them delegate, so that the deputy is in the House, because at times you make commitments and we are at a loss when we are discussing serious matters. It is just a piece of advice; take it in good faith. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: He has taken it in good faith. Next item?

LAYING OF PAPERS

THE HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JULY 2025 TO JUNE 2026

THE SPEAKER: Laying requires laying. Honourable Minister of Health? I thought I saw Hon. Muhanga. She is – oh, she in the lands ministry. Hon. Margaret Muhanga – "MMM".

6.05

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (COOPERATIVES) (Mr Tom Alero): Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Health, I hereby lay on the Table the document entitled "The Health Service Commission Annual Report." Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: For which period? *(Laughter)*

MR ALERO: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I hereby lay on the Table the Health Service Commission Annual Report for the Financial Year 2025/2026. Thank you very much. I beg to lay. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you for trying. I refer it to the Committee on Health and they will look at it and report back. That is what laying is. Next item?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE IRREGULAR ACQUISITION OF LAND RIGHTS IN SEBEI SUBREGION BY TORORO CEMENT LIMITED

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, or is Hon. Aza going to help? *(Laughter)* The whole ministry is here; such ministries are serious. We acknowledge them. *(Applause)* I see all the ministers are here. That is very nice; they soften my heart. *(Laughter)* Now that my heart is already soft, please make your statement.

6.07

THE MINISTER OF LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (Ms Judith Nabakooba): Thank you, Mr Speaker and Members. We received a communication to bring a statement on the irregular acquisition of land in Sebei Subregion. We have since established that the matter is not a dispute per se, but it is about the compensation rates, according to some of the Members in this House.

What we are going to do is to engage the services of the Chief Government Valuer to go on the ground and ascertain this, then we will come back with a complete brief. I beg to submit, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: So, what have you read? Is it to tell us you are not yet ready? My heart is too soft to even accept what I have heard, but you have heard what the minister has said. This was as a result of a matter of urgent nature raised by Hon. Fadil Twalla of Tingey County on the 20th of October.

We had guided that the minister holds a meeting with those Members, visit the area to resolve the matter and report back to the House. Honourable minister, what you said is that you did not meet, you did not go there and you did not resolve the matter.

MS NABAKOOBA: Mr Speaker, we have interacted with Hon. Fadil, and he gave us the context because we at first thought it was a land dispute in the area. However, he said that it was a disagreement on the rates that were paid. We noted that we are not technical enough to understand the rates in the area. We need to use the services of the Chief Government Valuer, so that we can speak from an informed point of view.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. There is no need to debate what you have just said. Next item? We have other items here. We have four motions. How long will this item 12 take? I have sent Hon. Brig. Gen. (Rtd) Rwashande somewhere. He is going out of the country to represent this Parliament. Let us listen to him

shortly. We will summarise and dispose of his item. Call item 12. *(Hon. Rwashande rose_)* General, first wait; there is a procedure for this.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT URGING GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES THROUGH RECAPITALISATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SKILLING HUB SACCOS, PROVISION OF TAX HOLIDAY INCENTIVES FOR SMALL-SCALE MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT AND EASE ACCESS TO CREDIT FACILITIES FROM THE UGANDA DEVELOPMENT BANK

THE SPEAKER: Honourable mover, Brig. Gen. (Rtd) Rwashande.

6.12

BRIG. GEN. (RTD) EMMANUEL RWASHANDE (NRM, Rwemiyaga County, Ssembabule): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to move a motion for a resolution of Parliament urging Government to support the establishment of small-scale industries through recapitalisation of presidential skilling hubs and SACCOs, provision of tax holidays, incentives for small-scale industry operations, for Ugandan importers of small-scale manufacturing equipment, and ease access to credit facilities from Uganda Development Bank.

Mr Speaker, it is moved under Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

The motion reads:

"WHEREAS the Government of Uganda aims to achieve higher middle-income status, grow the economy, including the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), from $49.5 billion in the Financial Year 2023/2024 to $500 billion in the Financial Year 2039/2040, and the tenfold growth strategy by 2040 through socioeconomic transformation and a combination of economic diversification, infrastructure development and human capital development;

AND WHEREAS the attainment of middle-income status is the Government's objective, the country's economy still largely depends on agriculture, with statistics from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in the 2024 census showing that the country's population, which stood at 49,905,517, with persons living in 10.1 million households, still depends on the subsistence economy, mainly on subsistence agriculture;

AWARE that Government has put effort to curb economic stagnation through provision of several household capital generation ventures, including the Parish Development Model, Emyooga and Operation Wealth Creation, among others, and yet the national unemployment rate of persons from the age of 15 years currently still stands at 12.3 per cent, and at 14.2 per cent for women against 10.5 per cent for men;

NOTING that half of Uganda's population is below 17 years and shall, in the short run, form a large employable age group on the minimal employment and economic opportunities available in the country, the present pressure on land resulting into excessive land fragmentation, as well as involvement in criminal activities arising from idleness;

FURTHER NOTING that, as part of His Excellency the President's initiative of skilling Ugandans, especially the youth, there have been established 19 zonal industrial skilling hubs, spearheaded by State House in partnership with the Ministry of Local Government and various private sector players in Uganda's 15 subregions;

APPRECIATING that each skilling hub is designed to equip youth with practical, employable skills in key trades, including carpentry, welding, tailoring, hairdressing, building and concrete practices, bakery and confectionery, and leather designing to foster self-reliance, stimulate entrepreneurship and reduce unemployment across the country;

FURTHER APPRECIATING that trades for training were carefully selected, approximately

2,600 youth are trained annually based on market demand and potential self-employment or microenterprise growth, fully supervised by certified instructors under the Ministry of Education and Sports, incorporating practical experience, entrepreneurial mindset development and financial literacy;

ACKNOWLEDGING that a total of 2,523 youth had, as of end of 2023, graduated, with 225 graduates from Ankole Region, Mbarara Hub; 226 graduates from Mubende Hub; 215 graduates from Bugisu Hub; 178 graduates from Karamoja Hub; 212 graduates from Acholi Region, Gulu Hub; 212 graduates from West Nile Hub; and 201 graduates from Tooro Hub;

COGNISANT that, as part of Government plans to ensure self-employment for skilled youth after training, skilling hub and SACCO have been established at district and, and municipality or city level, where Government had, as of 2026, deposited Shs 8.8 billion, entitling each SACCO to Shs 50 million as startup capital for trainees to establish enterprises and expand local production;

CONCERNED that, despite these various Government efforts, Uganda still imports large volumes of basic manufactured goods that can be locally produced, including nails, wire mesh, barbed wire, iron sheets, animal feeds, packaging materials and household items, which could support the economy, preserve foreign exchange, improve the standard of living of Ugandans and boost economic growth and development;

RECOGNISING the need by Government to support the establishment of small-scale industries at village, parish and district level through international efforts, including:

i) *Easing access to loans from Uganda Development Bank, whose stringent loan access conditions block out the youth from accessing loans;*
ii) *Provision of tax holidays for Ugandans importing small-scale industrial machinery, and;*
iii) *Reducing interest rates on the loans, especially from Uganda Development Bank, offered to small-scale industries to enable unemployed Ugandans to access the loans and engage in business sustainably and profitably;*

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Parliament urges Government to:

i) *Recapitalise the presidential skilling hub and SACCO;*
ii) *Provide incentives for small-scale industry operations through provision of tax holidays for Ugandan importers of small-scale manufacturing equipment, and;*
iii) *Ease access and reduce bank lending rates by Uganda Development Bank."*

I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Is it seconded? *(Members rose_)* It is seconded by Hon. Kariisa, Maj. Gen. David Gonyi and Maj. Gen. Joseph Ssemwanga. Those are generals supporting. The ministers: Hon. Harriet and Hon. Tom. Hon. Emmanuel Biara, Kazo, Nyabushozi and Hon. Linos. Now, whom should I say? Hon. Kabanda, the *omutume* and Hon. Aogon. This shows that we will not debate it because the majority have supported it.

Do you want to speak to it briefly?

BRIG. GEN. (RTD) RWASHANDE: Yes, sir.

THE SPEAKER: If you have appreciated it, then it is popular. Yes, you want to justify? *[Members rose_]* Let them justify first, then you can do the needful.

BRIG. GEN. (RTD) RWASHANDE: Mr Speaker, no country in the world has ever developed without industrialisation. That is one.

Two, when you consider the population growth rate plus the fragmentation of land, which is happening today, when you see climate change, agriculture itself – as planners, if we can plan for the country – in 15 years to come or 10,

will not be the backbone of the economy of this country.

We need to create another sector in order to develop, employ the youth and then lift our country to another level of development. This is why we need to support this motion so that we can develop our country, employ the youth, and then form alternative means of creating wealth for our people. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: The seconder is here. I ask Hon. Kariisa to second, and we hear if he has a contrary view. Then the Leader of the Opposition.

6.22

MR KOY KARIISA (NRM, Buhweju West County, Buhweju): Mr Speaker, I rise to second this motion, mindful of its strategic importance to Uganda's economic transformation. The question before this august House is not merely whether the Government should establish small-scale factories; it is whether we are prepared to deliberately shape our economy so that production, value addition, employment, and wealth creation come closer to the people.

Mr Speaker, Uganda stands at a defining point in economic trajectory. Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan (NDP IV) require us to move more decisively from an economy that produces and exports raw materials to one that processes and manufactures and creates value at home.

Industrialisation must not be viewed solely through large factories, multinationals, and major industrial parks. It also rests on thousands of viable enterprises that can emerge in our districts, municipalities, cities, and villages once the right infrastructure, technology, finance, and market systems are deliberately put in place.

The proposition before us, therefore, one: is of economic architecture. How do we ensure that Uganda's productive capacity is not concentrated in a few places and a few hands while large sections of our population remain producers of raw materials and consumers of imported items?

We need an industrial ecosystem that enables ordinary Ugandans, particularly young people between 18 and 30 years with technical skills to become producers. The evidence in the substantive motion is compelling. The Government has invested significantly in the Presidential Zonal Industrial Skilling Hubs, and the results are clear. More than 11,500 trainees have passed with 98 per cent pass, and this has created good technical capacity in our country.

The more fundamental problem is what happens after training. A young Ugandan may graduate competent in welding, metal fabrication, carpentry, tailoring, construction, yet return home without machinery, workspace, and affordable capital. Therefore, the Government may succeed in training a person but fail to complete the journey from the skill to the enterprise, from the enterprise to production, from production to income and jobs.

Mr Speaker, we must think of industrialisation not simply as building factories, but as creating productive ecosystem. A serviced small-scale industrial park with electricity, water, workspace, and common user machinery allows several young enterprises to share assets none could afford alone. A small agro-processor should not have to build an entire facility before processing to produce. A young entrepreneur should be able to enter an organised production environment, use shared machinery, produce at scale, reach market, and grow into a large enterprise over time.

I strongly support this motion proposal for a dedicated micro-industrial financing mechanism. Conventional financing demands collateral, credit histories that young entrepreneurs 18 to 30 years old may never have. We cannot give young people technical skills and then expect them to compete with established manufacturers without the means to acquire machinery. We need financing instruments defined around realities of the youth production enterprises, not products built around the balance sheets and established firms.

Every time a Ugandan imports an item, it could competitively produce itself. We export an opportunity for employment and enterprise. Construction nails like the motion indicates, wires, mesh, barbed wire, roofing materials, packaging, and many processed agricultural products show that industrialisation does not always begin with massive capital investment. Sometimes it begins with a simple equipment.

Mr Speaker, for too long, the farmer has remained at the start of the value chain while the greater economic value is captured further along in the processing, packaging, manufacturing, distribution, and branding. Small-scale industrialisation lets us bring some of those stages closer to the production level down in our villages.

The motion is not an argument against large industrial parks but an argument of complementarity. Uganda needs major manufacturers, exporters, and technological sophisticated industries. Alongside them, we need distributed layer of a small and medium manufacturer that feeds larger value chains and spreads economic activity across the country.

The existing industrial park framework illustrates why, while the parks have generated significant employment, the evidence before the House shows considerable geographical concentration of industrial activity and persistent infrastructure and implementation challenges at planned sites. The Mbarara small-scale enterprise park shows how a smaller, serviced model can support enterprise at different ecosystem levels.

If the Government has already invested in training young people, it is economically rational to ensure the productive assets needed for that training are available. If we want to promote domestic manufacturing, our tax and tariff framework must not make productive machinery prohibitively expensive. If rural and district enterprises are to compete with imports, the cost of electricity, finance, land, and regulatory compliance must be treated as part of the competitive equation.

Targeted tax incentives, duty relief on appropriate manufacturing machinery and more competitive energy arrangements for small-scale industrial facilities should therefore be seen as instruments of industrial policy, not isolated concessions.

The motion is also about the dignity of work. Our young people should not be merely beneficiaries of the Government programs. They should be owners, producers, manufacturers, and employers. We must move from training and certification to training for production. From supplying raw materials to other economies to producing finished and semi-finished goods for our own market and regional and international markets.

The parish model and other empowerment programs will have greater multiplier effect when connected to local production and value addition systems. Financing production at the household level is one thing, but ensuring the results produced are in the nearby market, processing facility, packaging facility, storage and distribution networks is another thing.

In conclusion, I urge this House to resolve that the Government formulates a national small-scale industrialisation policy, establish a dedicated industrial fund, develop serviced district industrial parks with common user machinery and introduce targeted incentives. I hereby second this motion. Thank you.

6.32

MR PAUL MWIRU (NUP, Jinja South Division East,Jinja City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the movers of the motion for moving us from just politicking and talking about production relations to production.

On that basis, I propose an amendment on the prayers to add that the Government provides offtake agreements to these small- medium enterprises because today, they have a challenge of raising capital.

Whereas some are doing serious business and can compete but because they lack offtake

agreements - if they were in place, even banks would have extended to them cheaper capital.

For instance, when we amended the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA) Act to provide for a reservation scheme for small - medium enterprises, businesses below Shs 1 billion is reserved for small-medium enterprises and thattook away the bigger players.

There was no reason as to why a big player would bid for work of Shs 1 billion or Shs 500 million, which had sent away our small-medium enterprises from participating in business. Having said that, I thank the movers of the motion and say that we support the motion with those amendments.

THE SPEAKER: Minister, Government Chief Whip, who is also the minister in charge of industrialisation. There is no better time for you to rise to the occasion than now.

6.34

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, I thank the mover of the motion and the seconders for bringing this House to debate an important issue of industrialisation because it is at the centre of the growth of our economy.

Currently, the industrial sector contributes 27.4 per cent to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 16.5 per cent is contributed by the manufacturing sector alone. 33.5 per cent of our revenue comes from the manufacturing sector and it contributes 1.5 million jobs to our economy.

Therefore, industrialisation is very key and I support the motion of encouraging the Government and I to do more particularly for small-medium enterprises. Out of the jobs that we create, they contribute 70 per cent. What has the Government done so far to encourage the small-medium enterprises?

Mr Speaker, of the 22 industrial parks that we are building, we have now adopted a policy to dedicate space for small-medium enterprises to build their industrial establishment in the park. Therefore, in every industrial park that we build, has space for small-scale medium enterprises.

We have allocated resources under the Uganda Development Bank (UDB) of around Shs 300 billion to support manufacturing. We do recognise, as the mover points out that the interest rate, which is the cost of capital, remains high. We intend that they get resources at least near the interest rate that we give to Parish Development Model(PDM), that is around 6 per cent, if they are going to break even.

We have also allocated money under the agriculture credit facility in different funds, and have supported small-medium enterprises, especially those who are in agriculture now. You can get a loan under agriculture without any interest charge, and the Government will carry the interest for you.

Therefore, this motion is important to us, and we are happy that the House is debating and I must say that under your leadership, Mr Speaker, I congratulate you. This is now my 21st year.

I joined this House in May 2006, but this is a new era I have seen where we are debating important issues like industrialisation - *(Applause)* - and we encourage you to continue doing this. Therefore, we support the motion and we will work on the ideas that you have forwarded to us.

Mr Speaker and the mover of the motion, we shall continue working together to organise farmers, to support agro-industrialisation and other sectors so that together we grow the economy. Thank you.

MR ALERO: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, are you giving information or?

MR ALERO: Yes, I am supplementing on what he has been talking about, as a Minister of State for Cooperatives.

THE SPEAKER: We can cooperate.

MR ALERO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Yesterday, we launched Rwerere Town Council Youth and Women Soap Producing Cooperative. For your information, we are also trying to revive the defunct Cooperative Bank. And we are going to change the name from "the Uganda Cooperative Bank" to "National Cooperative Bank." The intention is to help our farmers, industrialists, and those coming up with the small-scale industries. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Everyone stood up in support. I can only have one or two people who are against because the rules require that I be fair to both sides. If you are against this motion, stand up and say I do not want it. Do not stand up when I am doing this because we want to redeem time.

I have read the Bible four times and there is a verse in the book of John, I think, which says redeem the time. Redeeming the time is a secret. Do things before it gets dark. That is what it does.

Therefore, I wanted to do this thing before it gets dark. Those who are against, rise so that I give you an opportunity, and do not amend. Those two will speak against for one minute each.

4.40

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you, Mr Speaker. What I see in West Nile as our hub is not worth the money that is sent. What justification do we have in place to show us that what we are going to receive is worth what I saw at Gen. Salim Saleh's place? It is so disappointing; we would employ the numbers that I saw at Gen. Saleh's place everywhere.

This would give a lot of opportunities to the youth. However, we come here, give in a lot of money, and what you see at the end is a "drop in the ocean." I would like to understand what measures we have in place; that what is going to be done with this money will be equal to the - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: We are not talking about money here. Nobody is talking about money. This is to encourage the Government - Hon. Okwi, are you still opposing the motion?

6.42

MR CONSTANTINE OKWI (NRM, Kibale County, Pallisa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The text of the motion is likely to misguide the Government. The aspect of access to cheap credit by manufacturers is a national need.

In my constituency, I have boys who started soap making, and they have not been to a presidential hub. If we focus on this presidential hub, what about those boys? In technical and vocational institutes, we have about 100,000 young people being trained with these skills. They also need this money. When we talk of recapitalising a presidential skilling hub SACCO, do we want all these people to run there because they also need the money? Therefore, if we are making this argument, we are -

THE SPEAKER: Conclude on that one.

MR OKWI: We are likely to misadvise the Government and these other young people who have skills and are unable to go to these presidential hubs - We are talking of 4,000 people, but in technical institutes, they are about 90,000 people. Therefore, I do not support this motion. It is good thinking, but it needs to be amended such that the Government comes up with something that applies to all these young people. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Those are your views. He says "It is good thinking, but he does not support it"; this is democracy. Hon. Silas, I had asked you to speak.

6.43

MR SILAS AOGON (Independent, Kumi Municipality, Kumi): I thank you for being so kind to me because I thought the blessing

of speaking has already gone away, but it has returned.

THE SPEAKER: I have always been kind.

MR AOGON: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I agree with the mover of the motion. We have freedom in this House to choose which motion to bring to the Table and any of us at any time can bring theirs. I thank the General for the commitment. I thought that maybe the youth will be the ones talking about youth issues, but I realise now all of us have a responsibility to support the youth.

Mr Speaker, I do not want to disagree with my brother the other side, who is talking about the other youth, but in principle, let us first support the idea to recapitalise these presidential skilling hubs. That will be a starting point. Then, later, we find a way of widening our operation to bring on board the rest. This one can turn out to be the real nursery bed or incubator for factories in the future. This is how we grow them, and this is how we nurture them.

I want to agree with you; for us to export more, we need to produce more. There is no way we can do it without doing this. You start small and grow big. When you grow big, you can now do a lot. Our revenue base is still small. There is no way we can convert it to a bigger one without attending to the needs of the youth in terms of production.

The worst part of it is the issue of tax. We want to tax people, but what do we tax if they are not producing? We, therefore, must take this cow to the grass, graze it so that we milk it afterwards. That is the way to go. With that, I fully support this motion. May it pass.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Olanya, what procedural matter are you raising?

6.46

MR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak South County, Amuru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to support this very important motion, but I would like to put up a few amendments on the motion. Before I bring up the amendment, supporting these youths to get some income to start their businesses is very important. All these boys and girls completing their training from the industrial skilling hub normally ask Members of Parliament to help them with some little resources and buy the equipment. If they have somewhere to go upon the completion of the training, that would be so good.

On the training centres, I want the motion amended to add on the resources to enrol more of our youth in each and every intake. Currently, in each and every district, they are recruiting between 10 to 15 youth per intake and the number is too small. I pray that we add the numbers so that at least in each and every intake, we can have 100 youth per district; that would be so good.

Mr Speaker, skilling and industrialisation is the way to go. That is why we highly support this motion. Let the Government and Parliament allocate more resources. Let many youths be recruited per intake and this is the way to go.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I put the question to the motion for a resolution of Parliament urging Government to support the establishment of small scale industries through recapitalisation of the presidential skilling hub SACCOs, provision of tax holiday incentives for small scale manufacturing equipment and ease access to credit facilities from the Uganda Development Bank.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: The Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development is here and we do not have a copy of her statement. Do you have it? The statement should be first given to the Speaker, but now that I said that my heart was soft - it cannot be soft to the extent that it changes the rules. Honourable minister, I expected your statement the other day. Do you want to lay it on the Table, we schedule it and you come and speak to it? Lay it on the Table in two minutes.

6.49

THE MINISTER OF LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (Ms Judith Nabakooba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable members, this is a statement in relation to the temporary suspension of issuance of special certificates of title that we did in August. We lifted it on 20 October 2026 with clear guidelines, which we think that if followed well, they will help us to reduce on the double titling, the multiple titles, but also false claimants. This is because people have been claiming falsely when actually they are not the true owners of those certificates of title.

Hence, with me here is this statement which shows where I got the powers from as the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, for what I did, and also why I responded and then the guidelines. I have also attached a copy of the guidelines, which were issued on 20 October 2026. With that summary, Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the statement and the guidelines.

THE SPEAKER: Good. Let it be captured by our record and also circulated to Members so that when we are discussing the committee report on the related matter, we shall do that together. Next item? I think we can go up to midnight, not so? *(Laughter)*

ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER: The House is adjourned to Tuesday next week at 2.00 p.m.

(The House rose at 6.51 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 10 November 2026 at 2.00 p.m.)