



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION - FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 14 JULY 2026



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIRST SESSION - 9TH SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Tuesday 14 July 2026

Parliament met at 2.21 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker, Mr Thomas Tayebwa, in the Chair.)

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Colleagues, I welcome you to today's sitting. I will amend the Order Paper to allow the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to lay documents for remission of taxes. The Clerk will be guiding along the way.

Honourable members, under Article 9 of the Parliamentary Sports Club Constitution, the Rt Hon. Speaker of Parliament has appointed Hon. Karim Masaba, MP, Mbale Industrial Division, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sports Club. Congratulations, Hon. Masaba.

In the same vein, Hon. Sarah Kityo has been appointed the manager. Congratulations, Hon. Sarah Kityo.

Honourable colleagues, when we reconciled our records, it was discovered that some members were designated to more than one committee. I will therefore withdraw Hon. Mercy Kanyesigye from the Committee on Government Assurances and Implementation, since she was designated as

the Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Subsidiary Legislation. Those are two standing committees, and a member can only be on one.

I will also withdraw the designation of Hon. Lydia Daphine Mirembe from the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline since she was already designated as the Vice Chairperson to the Committee on Human Rights, which is another standing committee.

I also request the Opposition Chief Whip to handle the designation of Hon. Andrew Kiiza Namitego, who was designated to the Committee on Education and Sports and the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, which are both sectoral committees. Hon. John Baptist Nambeshe, at the right time, I will give you space on the Order Paper to do that.

You might find that there are a few other changes that you would want to make along the way together with the Government Chief Whip. We shall give you time to do that once the two of you - but I would request that we do that by Thursday, 16th July 2026.

This also gives the opportunity for the Government Chief Whip to designate Hon. Idah Nabayiga, woman MP, Kalangala, to the committee that she should be on. So, let us finish issues of designation and redesignation this week.

Honourable colleagues, I have received a letter from the President of the Republic of Uganda

returning some Bills. The letter is dated 10th July 2026 and addressed to the Rt Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth, Speaker of Parliament.

The Bills returned are “The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2026” and “The Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill 2026”.

The letter reads: “In accordance with Article 91(3)(b) and (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, I hereby recommit Clause 11 of the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and Clause 2(e) of the Excise Duty Amendment Bill, 2026 to Parliament for reconsideration. This is on account of the following observations and concerns:

a) The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Parliament passed Clause 11 of the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which amended Section 131 of the Income Tax Act to impose a Withholding Tax on winnings from betting and gaming, calculated as the difference between the payout and the stake.

However, in passing the Bill, an additional provision was introduced exempting winnings derived from land-based casinos licensed under the Lotteries and Gaming Act from Withholding Tax.

The exemption creates opportunities for tax avoidance and revenue leakage. By removing an entire category of gaming winnings from Withholding Tax, the amendment creates incentives for transactions to be structured through land-based casinos in order to obtain a tax advantage not available to other gaming operators.

In addition, the amendment creates an unjustified distinction between land-based casinos and operators conducting substantially similar gaming activities through online platforms.

Both drive income from the same economic activity and there is no justification for exempting one category while taxing the other.

b) Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Parliament also passed Clause 2(e) of the Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which increases excise duty on single-user plastics, from 2.5 per cent or \$70 per ton, whichever is higher, to 25 per cent or \$ 1,500 per ton, whichever is higher. The proposed increase is substantial and is likely to impose significant cost pressures on manufacturers engaged in the production and use of single-use plastics.

It may adversely affect production, investment, and employment within the sector. In addition, viable alternatives to plastic packaging are not yet readily available in Uganda.

I, therefore, consider that the matter requires further study before the proposed increase is implemented as a policy measure for advancing environmental conservation objectives.

c) Recommittal

Given the above observations and concerns, I am constrained to assent to the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and the Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Accordingly, I hereby recommit the following provisions to Parliament for reconsideration as follows:

- 1) *Clause 11 of the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026 be amended to read, “The principal Act is amended by substituting for Section 131, the follows: 131 - Withholding of Tax on payments for winnings of betting or gaming-*
 - i) *The person who makes payment for winnings of betting or gaming shall withhold Tax on the winnings at the rate prescribed in Part 11 of Schedule Four to this Act.*
 - ii) *For purposes of subsection 1, winnings mean the difference between the payout and the staked amount. This section does not apply to winnings paid by a person licensed to conduct a national lottery under section 23 of the Lotteries and Gaming Act.*

2. *Clause 2(e) of the Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2026 be amended to read as follows:*

Plastics-

Plastic granules used in the manufacture of single-use plastic products, single-use plastic products including disposable plastic cups, lids, plates, cutlery, bags, sachets, bottles, straws and stirrers, cling films and wraps, jars and lids and sacks and bags of polymers of ethylene except-

- i) *Vacuum packaging bags for food, juices, tea, and coffee;*
- ii) *Sacks and bags for direct use in the manufacture of sanitary pads;*
- iii) *Multiple-use plastics and plastic granules used in the manufacture of multiple-use plastics; and*
- iv) *Plastic granules used in the manufacture of plastic products used for packaging pharmaceutical products and plastic products used for packaging pharmaceutical products - honourable members, here, the tax is 2.5 per cent or \$ 70 per ton, whichever is higher - Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda."*

Honourable colleagues, for those who are new and might be wondering why I am reading the President's letter on the Floor, the thing is that whenever the President refuses to assent to a Bill and recommits it to the House, the rules require me to read the letter on the Floor and refer it to the relevant committee. This is therefore referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Honourable Minister of the Finance Ministry, you can guide me on the time. I know you need to be collecting taxes, but this is very urgent. Guide me on how quickly you need this so that we can work in overdrive since we have a committee in place.

2.33

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, thank you very much. How I wish this could be handled by the

committee of the whole House so that we have it today. *(Laughter)* In the circumstances that it must go through the finance committee, I pray that within two weeks' maximum, we have this Bill reconsidered by Parliament. Thank you.

MR MASABA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. On the same, I want the minister to clarify something. I have heard the clauses the President has returned, and so, I would like to know: are we going to deal with the entire Bill, as the finance committee?

Mr Speaker, when you look at -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not for the minister. The rules limit you to only the clauses returned by the President.

Honourable colleagues, we are likely to have a break for the local council elections, yet this is an issue concerning taxes. Therefore, the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development should meet tomorrow, Wednesday, and Thursday morning. Then, on Thursday afternoon, the committee should report to the House on this matter. There are just two clauses.

MR MASABA: Mr Speaker, why I have raised that is because these are tax Bills and they have a timeframe when to take effect. These Bills, in fact, should have already come into operation on 1st July. That means they should have been collecting taxes.

Therefore, I am asking: are they going to come back and deal with it retrospectively? Otherwise, already, it should have taken effect, yet the minister might bring it later on. That is why I need some clarification.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, let us not disturb the minister. We have a law in place, and until that law is amended - honourable members, I would like to urge that we move quickly so that we enable the minister to raise the funds we need to do our work.

Hon. Tebandeke, what procedural matter are you raising?

MR TEBANDEKE: Mr Speaker, I have two procedural issues to raise.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow one.

MR TEBANDEKE: *(Text expunged.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Tebandeke, when you are talking about issues of fact, you need to be very clear. *(Text expunged.)* Honourable colleagues, I want us to be cautious. I do not want any of you to carry a burden that is not theirs. *(Text expunged.)*

Therefore, going forward, Hon. Tebandeke, I think you need to clarify that. *(Text expunged.)*

MR TEBANDEKE: *(Text expunged.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Tebandeke, what does Article 91(2) say? It says, “*A Bill passed by Parliament shall, as soon as possible, be presented to the President for assent.*”

Honourable members, we have a long process of cleaning up a Bill. *(Text expunged.)*

MR TEBANDEKE: *(Text expunged.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clerk, I need Hon. Tebandeke’s submission expunged from the record as per the powers entrusted to me under the law.

Honourable members, the Speaker warned you earlier on issues of opinion. If there are issues of fact - whenever you are going to raise issues of fact, be sure. If it is an opinion, or if you had raised it to me that, “Mr Speaker, did the President respond in time?” Then, I would have been able to guide you.

Honourable members, I do not want us to start accusing each other. *(Text expunged.)* Therefore, honourable colleagues, on issues of fact, I request that you be very factual. That way, we shall move very well.

Honourable colleagues, I do not want to take more time on this. Yes, Leader of the Opposition?

MR SSENKYONYI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I seek your procedural guidance, and perhaps input, from the Government because certain issues are matters of law. You have talked about issues of fact, and one could even say, fact to person A could be different from person B, but the law is the law regardless of who is dealing with it.

Mr Speaker, on Thursday, I left earlier, and I did notify you that I was going to court to secure the release of Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi as one of the sureties, and he was granted bail.

The following day, on Friday, while he was en route to Kampala, he was intercepted and taken by armed men in a Toyota Hiace vehicle, popularly known as a “drone”. That was Friday; today is Tuesday. His family and the rest of us, colleague leaders, have been looking for his whereabouts.

My questions to the Government are twofold:

1. Where is Hon. Muhammad Muwanga Kivumbi?
2. Is this the new normal? It is important that we know. Is this the new normal of how the Government will - they call it - arrest? We call it an abduction.

The law stipulates what an arrest is, in Article 23 of our Constitution. The Attorney-General is here; he is a very senior lawyer. In fact, he has lectured most of the lawyers in town. Article 23 is very succinct on how somebody gets to be arrested and where they are taken - to police first – and thereafter produced in court within 48 hours.

Mr Speaker, I have seen some people say that Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi was picked up because of a tough speech he gave when he went back to his constituency. That is problematic on two fronts. One, who determines that what he said was illegal? I thought it is a court of law. Let us even imagine, for argument’s sake, that he said anything that is *ultra vires*. Who determines that? I thought it is a court of law that does.

The Government has several times been urging the population to avoid mob justice, and on that front, I agree with it. Government officials, police and so on, say that when you catch somebody, even if you catch them in an act, never mind that sometimes it is mistaken identity and somebody gets beaten yet they have done nothing wrong – even if you catch somebody stealing something of yours or whatever the case might be, the Government has been telling the population, “Take those people to police. Do not beat them up”. In that regard, I agree with them. So, why doesn’t Government do the same thing it tells people to do? We need to stop preaching water yet you drink wine.

If you are telling people that if you catch somebody who has stolen your money or whatever, take them to the police; please do not beat them, why isn’t Government doing the same? If you assume that someone has broken the law, bring them to court.

It has now been four days, Mr Speaker. We do not know where Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi is and we hear – I have seen some pictures on social media; I do not know if they are authentic. Bruises, blood, I do not know. The only way that this can be cleared is when we get to know where he is.

Mr Speaker, we were here in September 2021 - again, some who are saying it is because of what he said – Hon. Muhammad Ssegirinya and Hon. Allan Ssewanyana were granted bail by court. As they were getting out of Kigo Prison, they were abducted outside the gate. They had not said anything anywhere. In June 2024, Hon. Paul Akamba, whom we were with here in the 11th Parliament, was granted bail but was abducted within court precincts.

So, the Attorney-General needs to help us understand this:

1. Where is Hon. Muhammad Muwanga Kivumbi? He needs to be accounted for;
2. Is this the new normal? Have we now veered off what the law stipulates, learned Attorney-General?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I do not know whether I should go directly to the Attorney-General because there are issues beyond him. I feel I should go to the Rt Hon. Deputy Leader of Government Business, who is leading his troops here, and he will be comfortable to pick any of his colleagues to support him.

2.46

THE SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Dr Crispus Kiyonga): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank my brother, Hon. Ssenyonyi, for his intervention. I have heard him clearly, but for me to also be able to give you a fitting answer, I request that I return tomorrow. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssenyonyi, I do not want to be diverted beyond that, and tomorrow is not far.

MR SSENYONYI: Mr Speaker, there were two-fold issues. We can wait for tomorrow because he probably has to find out. It is not him who picked up the honourable member. We hope that we will get feedback on where he is tomorrow.

My second question - and that is why the learned Attorney-General is here - was for the country to be guided. Is this the new normal? This does not have to wait until tomorrow because the Constitution is succinctly clear.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, before the Attorney-General comes, I have an announcement. The Parliamentary Catholic Chaplaincy invites you to Holy Mass celebrating the Feast of St. Thomas More, the patron saint of politicians, on 16 July 2026 at 5.00 p.m. in the Parliamentary Conference Hall. The main celebrant will be Rt Rev. Constantine Rupinyi, Bishop of Nebbi Catholic Diocese. The invitation is by Hon. Lucy Akello, Woman MP, Amuru.

As the Attorney-General comes, honourable Minister of Health, I have received eight

questions today related to the new strain of malaria. Honourable colleagues from across the country are talking about the new strain of malaria.

I do not know how you will handle such an issue because I have brought it to your attention. I do not know whether you want to go and prepare a statement, or whether you can address the nation on how people can prevent this. On top of that, honourable colleagues, we shall be having the Annual Malaria Walk, as part of us giving back to the community and creating awareness against malaria, on 26th July.

Our very own, the Rt Hon. Jacob Oboth, will be our chief walker. Come out in big numbers. We will be joined by the civil society, the diplomatic community, health practitioners, the general public and schools. We will walk against malaria and create awareness to the public on how they can prevent malaria. Yes, Attorney-General?

2.49

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Dr Samuel Mayanja): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his query, which I am trying to answer as ably as I can this moment. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, the term “new normal” or “old normal” does not exist in my legal vocabulary. As far as I know, this Parliament and the country is under a dispensation of constitutionalism. I have that Constitution in my hands here. Where it regards the liberty of every Ugandan, it is very clear here in Article 23, and I can read -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, can I please have order in the House?

DR SAMUEL MAYANJA: I can read it, specifically Article 23(2) for the Members of this honourable Parliament, and it reads: “23(2) *A person arrested, restricted or detained shall be kept in a place authorised by law.*” That is the Constitution.

Article 23(3) says: “A person arrested, restricted or detained shall be informed immediately in a language that the person *understands, of the reason for the arrest, restriction or detention and of his or her right to a lawyer of his or her choice*”.

(4) *A person arrested or detained -*

a) *for the purpose of bringing him or her before a court in execution of the order of a court...*”

Mr Speaker, I do not have the facts of the arrest or alleged arrest. All I know is that we are under a constitutional dispensation.

Mr Kivumbi has these rights, and they are protected. As the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business has indicated, tomorrow, we shall be here before Parliament to give all the facts. We shall ensure that this Constitution, which we all swore to protect, is protected. I submit, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you - no, honourable colleagues, points of information and points of clarification are granted by the Member holding the Floor, not the Speaker.

On matters of national importance, honourable colleagues, I have around 17. As a tradition, I will take five. I have identified the five that appear most urgent. We shall roll over the rest to tomorrow and Thursday. Hon. Robert Maseruka?

2.53

MR ROBERT MASERUKA (NUP, Mukono County South, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Today, I rise on a matter of urgent national importance concerning the safety of railway crossings.

On 10 July 2026, our nation mourned a tragedy that happened at Kyetume-Katosi Road, where a bus and a train collided, leading to the death of one teacher and many students being injured in the same bus.

Mr Speaker, even when statistics show that, for those who were on the ground, the cause

of this accident was failure to follow traffic instructions, we cannot continue to accept these collisions as inevitable accidents. In many parts of the world, Mr Speaker, railway safety is treated with absolute priority. Governments treat the railway corridor -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Maseruka, these matters are for one minute. Conclude with your prayers.

MR MASERUKA: Thank you. I pray to the Ministry of Works and Transport - we have integrated early warning systems that do not actually need to be based on the amount of noise in the vehicles that are being used. We need physical infrastructure control to be placed on these roads. We need public awareness and enforcement. Mr Speaker, safety is a shared responsibility.

We must launch a vigorous national campaign to educate drivers, especially those in public service, on the lethal reality of railway crossings. We must empower traffic police to enforce strict penalties for any driver who ignores railway safety protocols.

Finally, Mr Speaker, the students who were involved in this recent tragedy are our country's future. The lives of the teacher and others should not have been endangered by a railway crossing that lacked basic protective signs.

I urge this House to support a directive requiring an immediate safety audit of all railway crossings in the country and the allocation of the necessary resources to modernise them. We must act today so that no more families have to endure the pain of such preventable loss. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, colleagues, the language of directives is not for us here. How do I direct people I do not appoint and supervise? That is why you would again come and say, "You issued a directive, and it was not implemented." I do not have the capacity to say, "I fire you."

I think we have been working as colleagues. Whenever we raise matters here, we request ministers to respond. I think that is a humbler language.

Mr Prime Minister, that video went viral. I know there is a Minister of Internal Affairs. Regarding mainly what Hon. Maseruka raised, when the train is crossing, we should block the roads. Simple! Not traffic police going and - I do not know what you can say about the issue of all railway crossings in the country being protected so that we do not lose more people.

2.57

THE SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Dr Crispus Kiyonga): Mr Speaker and colleagues, this matter has been deeply discussed in Cabinet. We share this concern, and Government is taking steps to rectify this situation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Prime Minister, we can - let the matter be followed up by the Committee on Physical Infrastructure as it is doing its work. They will then report on the Floor.

2.57

MR BOAZ ATWIJUKIRE (Independent, Katerera County, Rubirizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of urgent national importance regarding the critical collapse of the Rutondo Bridge, which was completely washed away by the rains. This is the sole road that links Rubirizi District to Ibanda District.

This loss of infrastructure has completely brought everything to a standstill, even stopping hundreds of children from accessing school. I urge the Ministry of Transport and Works to at least install a modular bridge to restore connectivity. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Prime Minister - I do not see someone from the Ministry of Works and Transport. I would have helped you right away.

2.58

THE SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Dr Crispus Kiyonga): The Member of Parliament's concern is noted. My colleague, the Minister of Works and Transport, is not here. We commit to providing an answer tomorrow.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just take action - you do not need to come back and report here. Let the minister link up with Hon. Atwijukire and see how to help the people of Rubirizi.

2.59

MR BENSON LUGWAR (Independent, Agago North County, Agago): Mr Speaker, for the last week, more than 200 elephants invaded my constituency, from the Sub-county of Omiya Pachwa up to Lira Kato. These elephants not only disturb the people of Agago North County, but they stretch from Agago to Kitgum, Kabong, and Karenga. Right now, as I speak, Mr Speaker, you will not find any crops in the garden amidst the sunshine.

I request the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities to kindly help and guide in the process. We have seen many game parks like Murchison Falls where roads have been constructed, and live wires have been put in place to stop the elephants from crossing into people's gardens.

It would have been much better had the elephants only destroyed crops. However, people losing their lives in the hands of wildlife is very disturbing, Mr Speaker. Even if there are only two or three elephants, they are doing destructive activity, which is not allowed in the community. I beg to submit, and thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Prime Minister? I am sorry we are making our elder move up and down, but he is doing a great job.

3.00

THE SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Dr Crispus Kiyonga): I would like to inform my brother, the honourable member

of Parliament, who has raised the question, that I am in the same boat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Me too -

DR KIYONGA: And the Speaker. I am in the same boat as you. From time to time, we who border national parks get those inconveniences and sometimes fatalities.

Two things are happening. First, there is a national programme to ensure that in the shortest time possible, all areas which border national parks and game reserves will be protected by an electric wire.

Secondly, where those accidents happen, we require documentation witnessed by the local leadership and the police so that due compensation is paid to the victims. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Committee on Trade, Tourism and Industry, this is one of the issues you should follow up on. Hon. Okot and Hon. Aeku, these are critical issues we should - Hon. Kaluya?

3.02

MR ANDREW KALUYA (NUP, Kigulu County South, Iganga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mine is on the issue of malaria, but in your communication, you have guided well -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I need you to raise it fully.

MR KALUYA: During the Prime Minister's Time, I raised the issue of the malaria strain affecting our children, especially those under 15. The minister then said they had discovered this strain more than two years ago. However, the issue at hand seems to keep the community in disarray. Even the schools are not handling the issue of treatment very well.

My humble prayer is that the Ministry of Health, together with the Ministry of Education and Sports, emphasise the issues of sick bays, having nurses in schools and parents advising the schools about the health of their children.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Minister for Health.

3.03

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Dr Chris Baryomunsi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and the honourable member for raising the issue, which you had also raised in your communication. Malaria remains a big contributor to the national burden of disease in Uganda. Uganda is third in terms of contributing to the burden globally. Although we have had several interventions to address this challenge, it remains real, as does what he is raising.

The studies we have carried out show that the parasite prevalence among Ugandans has substantially declined from 43 per cent in 2009 to 13 per cent now. This means that the interventions have been working. However, we usually experience seasonal surges in infections, especially between the months of May and July and then September to November.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health is alive to this fact that there has been a surge in malaria infections. Our Malaria Control Programme, working with the school health programme, have mounted a big campaign and response also targeting schools.

Since it is a big issue, I beg that you give me time. I have instructed the team in the Ministry of Health to work 24/7. Tomorrow when we convene, I will come with a comprehensive paper outlining the interventions which we are pursuing, both in the school system and also in the country so that we highlight the way the Government is responding to this challenge of malaria. I will be ready tomorrow in the afternoon to give a comprehensive report to Parliament.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will help to guide members of the public. Next item? Hon. Sekabira, is it a procedure?

MR SEKABIRA: That is right, Mr Speaker, under Rule 8. Three weeks ago, the Leader of the Opposition raised a matter concerning medical interns. The same was raised last

Thursday. I am glad the minister is here. He committed that he would present a policy by the Government today on the interventions that are undertaken to make sure that our medical interns are catered for.

I am glad that two days ago, I saw the minister in Mbarara General Referral Hospital where he found two medical interns covering the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). May it please you to ask the minister to give us the developments from Cabinet on the placement of medical interns. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, do you have any update for the House?

3.07

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Dr Chris Baryomunsi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and the honourable member for raising the issue. “Internship” in this sense means a medical student pursuing a degree in medicine, dental surgery, pharmacy, or nursing. They complete university education, graduate, and then, before you are issued with a practising licence, you undergo apprenticeship or internship for one year under supervision. It is a practice in the medical profession.

The Government has been providing interns with a modest allowance to help them survive during their internship, which usually lasts a year.

A policy was passed to review the issue of internship, and the Cabinet made the following decision. There is a policy sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Sports on health training. It was passed that internship is considered part of training. In that respect, if you have been government-sponsored, it continues to sponsor you during the internship. However, if you have been on private sponsorship, you continue with it during the internship.

There have been mixed reactions, and I know the Leader of the Opposition raised this matter. The Rt Hon. Prime Minister and Her Excellency, the Vice-President, committed. Indeed, we

are re-looking at that policy measure. I am drafting a Cabinet Paper so that we can look at that decision again. I think the concerns are genuine because during internship, much as you are under training, you also provide a service. *(Applause)*

I request Parliament to be patient because this is a matter which was canvassed in Cabinet. I cannot singularly reverse the position. Therefore, give me time at the earliest. When Cabinet puts me on the agenda, I will present the paper. Once the decision is taken, I will come and brief Parliament on the matter.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, I will allow you only one Member, if you want. Honourable minister, whom did you allow? I want to know – *(A Member rose)* – honourable members, that is not how we do things. It is not a matter of grabbing the microphone.

DR BARYOMUNSI: I beg that we allow the two because I am trained to be very humble to ladies – *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Men are known for grabbing from women.

MS PACUTO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable Minister, in your response, you stated that there has been a Cabinet decision that interns be treated as if they are on training. Truly, they are on training, but the clarification I am seeking is: that sounds like there is a policy shift or change. I think it would be prudent for the minister to present that policy shift and for us to debate it. Is there a policy shift, or is it just a Cabinet decision? I think it amounts to a policy shift.

MR SSERUKENYA: Thank you, honourable minister. Honourable minister, I would like to bring it to your attention that in the 2024/2025 cohort and 2025/2026 cohort, there are some interns who were not paid. They are about 300 clinical officers who are doing their internship. This is not the same as their salary, but an allowance.

Secondly, the senior house officers, you know we have a challenge that our doctor-to-patient ratio is 1 to 25,000, which is far bigger compared to the international number of 1 to 1,000 of the World Health Organisation. I need your clarification on that. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

DR BARYOMUNSI: Mr Speaker, most of these issues will be answered when I bring a comprehensive statement. I have just said that I am preparing a paper for Cabinet to look at that policy decision. Maybe I can add that this is because, initially, Makerere Medical School was the only university training doctors. But because of the policy on liberalising tertiary and university education, we now have many universities training doctors, both public and private. Therefore, the numbers have grown.

So, we are discussing this with the Ministry of Education and Sports to look at how we guide universities on the numbers; how many train for the medical profession, and I will capture all these when I bring the paper. Yes, there are payment issues, and we are proposing many reforms within the ministry. That is why you see me working day and night, even visiting hospitals at night to check the reality on the ground.

I will be bringing papers here seeking the support of Parliament. One of the challenges we have in the health sector is staffing. When I went to Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, the Director told me that the staffing level is at 26 per cent of the hospital. So, there are all those challenges, and I want your collective support as Parliament that we work together and see how to strengthen the health sector.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Hon. Lawrence Akugizibwe?

DR BARYOMUNSI: I would have allowed it, but the Speaker is pressured by time. I will be available to answer your issues bilaterally.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, honourable minister, leave my microphone alone. Honourable colleagues, the minister is bringing a comprehensive statement – no, but based on what? That is anticipation. Colleagues, these are your rules. Then if you say you want to give information when he is bringing a statement, then how will you debate?

Please, wait for the statement from the minister. Hon. Lawrence Akugizibwe?

3.15

MR LAWRENCE AKUGUZIBWE (NRM, Mwenge County North, Kyenjojo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance regarding the Kyenjojo Sugar Factory that is polluting our water by pouring its factory waste into River Nyabikoni. This river runs through three subcounties of Nyankwanzi, Mabira and Kyamutunzi. It also pours its water into River Muzizi, which also pours the water into Lake Albert.

So, aquatic life is affected, and people's animals have been affected. There is a farmer who has lost 100 birds because of drinking that water. These people do not have a soak pit to dispose of their waste. My prayer to the Minister of Water and Environment is to compel this factory to have its own soak pit within its factory so that our people can be safe and use the water for domestic activities. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Minister of Trade and Industry?

3.16

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVE (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and honourable colleague, for the information and query. We received this information a few days ago, and we are working with the Ministry of Water and Environment. Our staff will be at the factory tomorrow to see how best we can resolve it.

So, tomorrow our staff will be at the factory together with the Minister of Water and Environment to see how best we can sort it out.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Next item.

LAYING OF PAPERS

(I) THE PETROLEUM FUND SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development?

3.16

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, pursuant to Section 59(1)(b) of the Public Finance Management Act, I beg to lay on the Table the Petroleum Fund Semi-Annual Report for the period ended 31st December 2025.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. The report is referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development for processing and reporting back.

(II) THE REQUEST FOR PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL TO WAIVE OFF OUTSTANDING PAYE ARREARS FOR ANKOLE WESTERN UNIVERSITY AMOUNTING TO SHS 1,026,326,706

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development?

3.18

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, pursuant to Section 43(2) of the Tax Procedures Code Act, I beg to lay on the Table the waiver of outstanding PAYE arrears for Ankole Western University amounting to Shs 1.026 billion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. The request is referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and

Economic Development for processing and reporting back.

(III) THE REQUEST FOR
PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL TO WAIVE
OFF OUTSTANDING TAX ARREARS FOR
UGANDA PRINTING AND PUBLISHING
CORPORATION AMOUNTING TO SHS
13,954,269,455

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Finance?

3.19

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, pursuant to Section 43(2) of the Tax Procedures Code Act, Cap 343, I beg to lay on the Table the waiver of outstanding tax arrears for Uganda Printing and Publishing Corporation amounting to Shs 13.954 billion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. The report is referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development for processing and reporting back.

Honourable colleague, clarification is for a member holding the Floor. There is no one. Honourable colleague, those are your rules.

MR OSHABE: Mr Speaker, I requested when the member was still here.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, there is no one on the Floor. Honourable colleagues, allow me to guide you. Point of information and point of clarification are granted by the Member holding the Floor. And that Member can accept or reject it. So, if a Member on the Floor declines it, it is not my problem, although we request them to always be generous. Honourable member, continue.

(IV) A REQUEST FOR PARLIAMENTARY
APPROVAL TO WAIVE OFF
OUTSTANDING TAX ARREARS
FOR K-ROMA AMOUNTING TO SHS
1,864,329,231

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

3.22

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, pursuant to Section 43(2) of the Tax Procedures Code Act, Cap 343, I beg to lay on the Table the waiver of outstanding tax arrears for K-ROMA, amounting to Shs 1,864,329,231. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. The request is referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning, and Economic Development for processing. Procedural point from Hon. Ssewungu?

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, thank you for granting me this chance to raise a procedural matter. I thank the minister for Finance for presenting those three entities that need a tax waiver. But in the public, those who are seeking a tax waiver are many. What process does he use to determine those who qualify to be presented here?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, when they bring the report, what will you discuss?

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are senior. When you are laying papers, you do not raise a procedural matter on such matters. So, let Finance go do the work, then when they come here, you can ask them during the debate about where people should go if they want to be given tax waivers.

Colleagues, I found you here and learnt from you that during laying of papers, there is no interruption. Including Hon. Ssewungu – you can tell that I am a good student.

(V) A REQUEST FOR PARLIAMENTARY
APPROVAL TO REMIT TAXES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, minister for Finance?

3.24

THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, pursuant to Section 43 of the Tax Procedures Code Act, Cap 343, I beg to lay on the Table the request for parliamentary approval to remit taxes. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The request is referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning, and Economic Planning for processing and reporting back. But honourable minister, I hope you take note of the general discomfort on the issue of tax exemption.

The finance committee should handle it, report back, and guide the nation. Do you want to say something regarding that? Hon. Nsamba, was it related to the same issue? Let me first allow him, and then you can answer at once.

MR NSAMBA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate your time, and I am sorry for insisting when you had declined. My issue is with what the minister presented to us here. The Auditor-General approved tax waivers of Shs 8.5 billion, but the minister has presented Shs 13.9 billion.

At this level, it is important that we have a discussion on matters of tax waiver so that the entire public may know who qualifies and which procedures are used, so that it is not just a few.

And it is also important that those private companies that get our tax waivers are brought on board for audit purposes by the Government, so that people know that it is not just about benefiting from the Government. The Government must audit you.

I really need to know why Hon. Musasizi would present on the Floor a tax waiver of Shs 13.9 billion when the Auditor-General audited Shs 8.5 billion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Musasizi.

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have taken note of the concerns raised by my colleagues, the Hon. Gonzaga Ssewungu and the Hon. Patrick Oshabe Nsamba.

Mr Speaker, I have just laid the papers here, and you have referred them to the responsible committee. Procedurally, I expect to be invited to the committee to present details of the justification, the numbers, and all the concerns the members have, together with other concerns which will arise from our engagements with the committee.

I undertake to present all the information required to the committee and expect the committee to make its observations; I will further justify to allay the concerns of the Members so that we move in harmony.

However, most importantly, we want to achieve transparency in the way we do things. In order to achieve this, if the House can accord me a slot, I can come here to specifically respond to the issue of how our taxpayers can access the waivers because it is a concern that keeps coming up.

I would like a businessman from Kassanda, who does not know any of us, to come to our systems and access a waiver like any other person who is known to us and able to recommend waivers.

I undertake that the House bears with me. When we come back to discuss, I will give full details and also respond to questions which Members have raised, and others that you have not raised but, out of my experience, I feel are of concern to this House and the public. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister, whenever you are ready, we want business from you. Even if you have it tomorrow, we shall give you space on the Order Paper.

Honourable colleagues, now we have a chance to ask these questions because previously, it was the minister with final powers until we amended the Tax Procedures Code Act, 2014, where we said “No”, the final approval should come from Parliament. And Hon. Musasizi was the Chairman for the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development and is the one who pushed for that.

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Maybe on a light note, I am the one who removed the powers from the minister and handed them over to Parliament, and now here I am – (*Laughter*) - practising what I was trying to prevent, and it is good for transparency and to make the public - because we make these decisions in trust. It is good for the people, who have given us the responsibility, to have full knowledge of what we are doing. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Next item?

(VI) APPROVAL OF THE VERIFICATION COMMITTEE FOR THE BY-ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, as you are aware, our representatives to EALA, Hon. James Kakooza and Hon. Dennis Namara, vacated their seats following their election to the Parliament of Uganda – and we are glad to have them here. Consequently, their seats were declared vacant by the Speaker of EALA, following their assumption of office as Members of the Parliament of Uganda.

Both Hon. Kakooza and Hon. Namara occupied their seats as NRM flagbearers.

The Clerk issued a notice for nominations and those nominations closed on 10 July 2026.

It was only NRM – and I want to thank the colleagues for really understanding this. The NRM party managed to nominate two members: Mr Fred Bangumya Rwakizi and Ms Stella Kiryowa. They are the only two candidates nominated by the Clerk, and nominations have already closed.

The rules require that these members be endorsed by the House, but Rule 8(1) of Appendix C of the Rules of Procedure requires that we appoint a vetting committee of 20 people, approved by this House, so that the members nominated, since they are outside Parliament – not from among Members of Parliament – are considered to ensure the requirements of Article 50 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community is fulfilled.

Therefore, the Speaker hereby nominates the following Members to this nomination committee:

1. Hon. Dicksons Kateshumbwa – Chairperson;
2. Hon. Paul Mwiru;
3. Hon. Charles Ngabirano;
4. Hon. Alex Ndeezi;
5. Hon. Agnes Ameede;
6. Hon. Draville Sheila Amaniyo;;
7. Hon. Margaret Rwabushaija Namubiru;
8. Hon. Ofwono Opondo P’Odel;
9. Hon. Brig. Gen. David Robert Gonyi;
10. Hon. Dr Eunice Otuko Apio;
11. Hon. Anna Adeke Ebaju;
12. Hon. Florence Akiiki Asiimwe;
13. Hon. Elma Kapel Challa;
14. Hon. Fiona Nakku;
15. Hon. Marshall Godfrey Alenyo;
16. Hon. Richard Senteza;
17. Hon. Hillary Lokwang;
18. Hon. Martin Mugabi Muzaale Kisuule;
19. Hon. Christopher Komakech; and
20. Hon. Dr Keefa Kiwanuka.

Honourable colleagues, I now put the question that the verification committee for the by-election of Members of the East African Legislative Assembly be approved.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The one who has said “nay”, I heard him saying: “I will say nay”. (*Laughter*) I know him, but he is a good friend of mine.

Honourable colleagues, business is going on at EALA. These are two people. So, really, we only need to see whether they qualify to be Members of Parliament.

The issue of gender is even now much more sorted because there were two men, but now we have sent a man and a woman. Political representation is clear.

So, this committee should sit tomorrow and report back to the House on Thursday so that we sort out this issue and our colleagues go to work at EALA. Okay? Sit tomorrow, and we close this chapter by Thursday. Ensure that you report back by Thursday. *(Applause)* Next item.

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION
OF PARLIAMENT TO REINSTATE
PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS THAT
LAPSED AT THE DISSOLUTION OF THE
11TH PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA**

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, as I briefed you on Thursday – honourable commissioner, please, do the needful.

3.36

MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak): This is a motion for a Resolution of Parliament to Reinstate Parliamentary Business that lapsed upon the dissolution of the 11th Parliament.

This motion is moved under Rule 58 and Rule 245(2) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, and it reads:

“WHEREAS Article 77 of the Constitution of Uganda establishes the Parliament of Uganda and further provides that the term of Parliament shall be five years from the date of its first sitting after a general election;

AND WHEREAS Article 96 of the Constitution provides that Parliament shall stand dissolved upon the expiration of its term;

AWARE THAT the 11th Parliament was dissolved on the 24th of May 2026, having served its five-year term;

NOTING THAT at the time of the dissolution of the 11th Parliament, there was parliamentary business pending consideration by the House and committees of Parliament;

RECOGNISING THAT Rule 245(1) of the Rules of Procedure provides that parliamentary business pending before the House or a committee during a term of Parliament lapses upon the dissolution of Parliament;

APPRECIATING THAT Rule 245(2) and (4) of the Rules of Procedure authorises Parliament to reinstate, by resolution, within the first 14 sittings of the first session of the Parliament, parliamentary business that lapsed upon the dissolution of the previous Parliament;

COGNISANT that the parliamentary business that lapsed upon the dissolution of the 11th Parliament is of vital nature relating to statutory reports, petitions and statutory instruments, the consideration and approval of which is a preserve of Parliament;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by this House that the following parliamentary business which lapsed upon the dissolution of the 11th Parliament be reinstated:

1. *The Political Parties and Organisations (Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue) Regulations, 2025;*
2. *The Annual Report of the Auditor-General to Parliament for the audit year ended 31 December, 2025;*
3. *The National Planning Authority Annual Performance Report for the Financial Year 2024/2025;*
4. *Petroleum Fund annual report for the year ended June 2025;*
5. *The 28th Annual Report of the Uganda Human Rights Commission on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2025;*
6. *The Annual Performance Report of the Education Service Commission;*
7. *Petition by National Sports Officers Association over persistent discrimination of sports officers as non-scientists, lack of structure and inadequate welfare to*

- support sports delivery services of local governments in Uganda;*
8. *Petition by Uganda Technical and Vocational Trainers Union over the continuous neglect of the TVET subsector and the urgent need for parliamentary intervention;*
 9. *Investigation into the destruction of Zoka Forest;*
 10. *Inquiry into complaints by Small and Medium Enterprises on historical leadership and governance challenges at Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), (SMEs) on historical leadership and governance challenges at Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UBOS);*
 11. *Report on a recommendation for a waiver of tax arrears for the New Plan Limited;*
 12. *Report on a recommendation for a waiver of tax arrears for Fresh Cuts Uganda Limited; and*
 13. *Report on a recommendation for a waiver of tax arrears for Innovations for Poverty Action."*

I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? Okay, it is seconded by Hon. James Kakooza, Hon. Nambeshe, Hon. Pacuto, Dr Musa Noah, Hon. Acon, Hon. Kanushu, Hon. Cuthbert, Hon. Rwakoojo Hon. Paparu, Hon. Ayepu, Hon. Otimgiw, Hon. Emely Kugonza, Hon. Ndeezi, Hon. Ababiku, Hon. Linda and the whole House. Honourable, kindly justify the motion in two minutes.

MS NAKUT: Thank you, Mr Speaker and members for seconding this motion. Mr Speaker, the documents are here. When I finish my two minutes, I will beg to lay if it is necessary.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you do not justify before laying. I thought you had laid.

MS NAKUT: I beg to lay the following:

- i) The Political Parties and Organisations, Inter-Party Organisations for Dialogue Regulations 2025;
- ii) The consolidated audit report for the year ended 31 December 2025;

- iii) The annual performance report of the National Planning Authority for the year 2024-2025;
- iv) The Petroleum Fund Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025;
- v) The Uganda Human Rights Commission 27 Annual Report on the state of human rights and freedoms in Uganda in 2024;
- vi) The annual performance report for the Education Service Commission 2024-2025;
- vii) The Uganda Technical and Vocational Trainers Union petition on the continuous neglect of the TVET sub-sector and the urgent need for parliamentary intervention on the same;
- viii) The National Sports Officers Association of Uganda on the petition against the persistent discrimination of sports officers as non-scientists in Uganda;
- ix) The letters for tax waivers on the arrears of New Plan Limited;
- x) The waiver of the outstanding tax arrears for Fresh Cuts Uganda Limited;
- xi) The waivers for tax arrears of Innovations for Poverty Action; and
- xii) The write-off of tax by Kilembe Mines Limited.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those different documents are referred to the relevant committees because we are reinstating. Let them go back to the committees where they were. Clerk, you will extract for each, and you will guide accordingly.

Yes, Hon. Kirumira.

MR KIRUMIRA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the 11th Parliament, Hon. Asuman Basalirwa sought leave for Parliament to introduce a Private Member's Bill with regard to the Kadhi Courts. I seek clarification from the mover of the motion whether that matter was also put in consideration. Thank you.

MS NAKUT: Mr Speaker, the thirteen matters that I have presented are the ones that, in the wisdom of the Business Committee, have been considered as the priorities. The others, maybe, can come later since we still have the grace period.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You see, honourable colleague, a motion which is not yet considered here for seeking leave cannot be reinstated. It is still on the order paper. Leave is not yet granted, but even for those bills where a Member had already moved that much, any Member can come and take them up and reintroduce them.

I would encourage you, if you are interested, this can be one of the issues you can take up as a Member. You come, we grant you leave and continue with the business.

MR KIRUMIRA: Much obliged, Mr Speaker, and thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Commissioner - Hon. Rose Obigah, is it on the same matter?

MS OBIGAH: Mr Speaker, thank you for this opportunity. The West Nile victims who suffered loss during the Kony attacks in the National Park and also in Sudan were raised in the 11th Parliament.

Two, the tobacco farmers were to be compensated, and this was not completed. I would kindly beg this to be part of the business that is to be shifted to the 12th Parliament. Thank you.

MS NAKUT: Mr Speaker, not all the businesses of the 11th Parliament that were not done are in this motion, because some of those businesses can actually come through the Members.

The businesses that are here are those that were captured on our Order Paper of the 11th Parliament and were not dealt with. So, there are some petitions that had not even appeared on the Order Paper. The Members can still support the people of Uganda to bring those petitions, and they will be considered. Thank you.

Mr Speaker, the justification -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, Commissioner, for being given a hard time and interrupted. Just allow me.

MR OCEN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a point of procedure under Rule 245(1) and (3).

Mr Speaker, as you may recall, a Bill was not concluded in the 11th Parliament and the President did not assent to and brought back some clauses for reconsideration.

Would it not be procedurally right to be considered under the unfinished business of the 11th Parliament? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, please, the business under Article 91 of the Constitution is totally different from the business under Rule 245 of our Rules of Procedure.

Rule 245 deals with business, which is before the House. These are Bills and petitions that we did not finish. Therefore, the business under which the President recommits to the House is business which the House had completed. In fact, when we are communicating to the President, we do not send him a Bill but rather an Act. He assents to an act. Then, once he returns something, is when we reconsider.

Honourable colleague, it cannot be the same because under Rule 245(3), which you referred to, it means it is a fresh reference. We have to start afresh from the beginning. But here, you are only limited to the clauses that the President referred to. You cannot open up any other clause in the law. Yes, guidance, Hon. Mwiru.

MR MWIRU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Given your guidance on the business under Article 91, let me move to the Bills which Parliament passed into Acts and forwarded them to the President for assent. Despite the fact that Article 91 makes no provision for the President to retain the Bill, the President has not returned those Bills.

I seek guidance from you, Mr Speaker. For instance, I will talk about the Minimum Wage Act and the one on medical insurance, which were passed by this House, sent to the President, and the President chose an option which is not within the Constitution.

Mr Speaker, I would like to seek guidance on how to proceed because that is not business, which was with Parliament. That is business which was already with the President and is not provided for under business, which can be saved. I seek guidance on that. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleague, in such a situation, I needed to consult with the Office of the Clerk. Allow me to consult with the Clerk to find out if there is any other pending communication from the President that I am not privy to. That will help us best.

I urge the Attorney-General and the Leader of Government Business to take note of any of the Bills, which might be pending before the President for signature. This is very important for us to be able to do our work.

Honourable colleagues, why don't we move? Hon. Masaba, you are the last on this.

MR MASABA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I am seeking your guidance because we have in the past done very good reports that have been challenged in the courts of law. For example, I was part of the Ad hoc Committee on the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) that was challenged on technicalities.

Mr Speaker, the issue I am seeking your guidance on is: when you look at the Constitution, you will notice that is, Article 163(4) and (5) – Article 163(4) states thus: *“The Auditor-General shall submit to Parliament annually a report of the accounts audited by him or her under clause (3) ...”* While Article 163(5) says, *“Parliament shall, within six months after the submission of the report referred to in clause (4) of this article, debate and consider the report and take appropriate action”*.

Mr Speaker, when you look at the National Audit Act, Section 19(4) says, *“Parliament shall, within six months after receipt of the report submitted to it under subsection (3), debate and consider the report and take appropriate action.”*

I am privy to the fact that these Auditor-General's reports were brought to Parliament on January 29th and they were sent to the committees and the committees started work in February.

Given that it is on the record that the Auditor-General received and submitted to Parliament and we began on the 29th of January – Mr Speaker, the six months end on July 29th, which is two weeks from now. Therefore, for us to continue and or reinstate it in my view, would be an illegality, which could be challenged. I think the Auditor-General should restart the process so that when he has laid them before us, we start the work afresh instead of this continuation. Mr Speaker, I seek your guidance. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, you are debating - you can debate by seeking guidance. I look at what you have said - I do not look at how you have come here.

The Member has just moved a motion, which she is justifying. I do not know whether or not that is part of the justification she wants to handle. Now, I, who is barred from debating and controlled by Rule 86 of our Rules of Procedure on anticipation cannot really move quickly. So, I allow the debate to take place and then I guide, in case such a matter of the law comes up.

Honourable members, let us first allow the Member to justify why despite all the legal provisions she is moving that we have all this back on the Table. Then, I will guide you thereafter.

MS NAKUT: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will begin with the one Hon. Karim Masaba has raised; the matter of the Auditor-General's report for the accounts of the Government for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

The reason we are reinstating this in the House is to give this House privilege to review the Auditor-General's recommendations so that we can inform policy, guide the Government, see what the money did and to see the loopholes in

the exercise of the Government. It is good for the country.

Remember, the financial year I am talking about is the year when our national budget leapt from Shs 52 trillion to 72 trillion. It is not something we will sweep under the carpet and allow it to pass when we have made a significant change in the volume of the budget of this country.

Mr Speaker, it is for the good of this Parliament and this country that the relevant committees look into the Auditor-General's report for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

One of the other issues that I have listed here is the Petroleum Fund. Just before I rose to move this motion, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development laid another report of the Petroleum Fund for this House to receive and review. The Petroleum Fund, given the materiality of the things therein and the risks involved, is a report that this House cannot just let go by events. We must look into it.

Mr Speaker, you are very aware that sometime last year, this House allowed a drawing from the Petroleum Fund for the construction of the Hoima Stadium. Therefore, you need to look into what the money did and see how the fund is moving. If we do not, then we will have a fund without seeing what is in it. So, it is very important.

Mr Speaker, one of the other businesses that we will reconsider here, if you allow the reinstatement is the petitions - two of them are petitions from distinguished associations and unions of our people. The other is a complaint.

As you are aware, Members, in Rule 31, petitions are one of those critical means by which the public communicates to the Government through us. It is how they present their grievances. Therefore, for us to let these petitions just slide without a resolution of the House is a breach of our own mandate as the representatives of the people. Honourable members, we need to consider this with the utmost attention we can give.

The other is Zoka Forest. A few days ago, we were in this House debating the effects of climate change, which we are battling with. Now there is an investigation report into the destruction of Zoka Forest that was laid in the 11th Parliament. Maybe that report shall give us the solution on how to protect the other forests or how to manage the effects of climate change. How about we just consider that instead of starting afresh?

Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this House considers this motion given the significance of the issues I have raised.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. James Kakooza.

3.59

MR JAMES KAKOOZA (NRM, Older Persons' Representative, Central): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I second the motion. My honourable colleagues, you must understand that this Parliament is the only authority that appropriates money. When we appropriate money, we must get feedback from those audited reports of accounts.

I have extracted a note from the Auditor-General's report for 2024/2025. These are 6,800 reports, and they entail Shs 72.4 trillion. What was handled in the 11th Parliament was only 1.0 per cent of the reports because some work has been dealt with. That means, when you look at Shs 72.7 trillion - they handled work of only Shs 770 billion, and that other work is still pending. The responsibility to do it is with Members of Parliament. That is why it is very important that we deal with that work now.

What the honourable colleague from Mbale said about the constitutional obligation - I do not know whether the Attorney-General has gone. In reality, the framers of the Constitution thought that six months would be enough to deal with the work, by then when there were only 49 districts, unlike now when we have 144 districts. That means the workload is enormous for members of Parliament. In future, the Attorney-General should think about the

workload we have vis-a-vis the time given by the Constitution, of six months. It cannot be possible. So, I support the motion to reinstate the work.

We should also look at those audited reports because, Mr Speaker, when you look at the Auditor-General's report, you notice that there are some things which are funny that you Members of Parliament need to get interested in. Institutions that have internal auditors and external auditors - why should the diversion of money happen in those institutions? What do they do with those reports?

I do think it is quite important for us to deal with this work; offload it, but also in consideration that six months are not enough. The National Audit Act gives powers to the Auditor-General to co-opt other members within the jurisdiction of accounts; auditors and whatever, to deal with the work but Parliament does not have the capacity. I do think that also by nature we need to extend the months of dealing with these reports. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Nambeshe?

4.02

MR JOHN BAPTIST NAMBESHE (NUP, Manjiya County, Bududa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also rise to throw my full weight behind this motion in support of the reinstatement of all business that lapsed with the dissolution of the 11th Parliament.

Mr Speaker, the rule that governs lapse and reinstatement of Parliamentary business upon dissolution of Parliament is Rule 245, and it is unequivocally clear on the reasons as to why Bills, motions, petitions and other business that are pending before this House, and not only the House but also the committees, are reinstated, and that is by a resolution of this Parliament.

I would not want to belabour the point, but the truth of the matter is that after colleagues scanned through the list of those motions, petitions and Bills that are highlighted in the motion, concerns emerged. Among them is the

one that Hon. Hassan Kirumira has just raised, and there are many other grave concerns. I was here when the Qadhis Courts Bill was introduced. Although, as a matter of fact, it did not see the light of day, it can be assumed to have been business that lapsed among those that are before the House, not the committee.

Mr Speaker, even the challenge that this institution grapples with, of the backlog of the Auditor-General's reports, could easily be dealt a blow if reinstatement of this Parliamentary business is done. That is why I am here to beseech the House to consider an urgent resolution on this matter so that business that lapsed with the 11th Parliament is reinstated in good time. I beg to support.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ongiertho?

4.05

MR EMMANUEL ONGIERTHO (Independent, Nebbi Municipality, Nebbi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I rise to also support the motion that the business from the 11th Parliament be reinstated. I was on the Committee on Public Accounts for local government, and I can state that Members know, at least for those who were there, that for the last year we had not gone even a half or even a third of the entities that we were supposed to work with. Even the little that we did was rejected by Parliament. I must admit that the way we did it, although there is collective responsibility, as an individual, I was not happy.

Still talking about local governments, we have already heard here how the entities are so many, yet the districts have the local Public Accounts Committees. My suggestion is that as this business is reinstated, we need to look at how, even if it means changing the law, to reinforce the position of Public Accounts Committees within local governments, to be able to carry out some work. Mr Speaker, we are talking about "*kisanja* no sleep", and if that is to happen, then, particularly for local government accountability, something needs to be done.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, for purposes of our official record, what is *kisanja*? (Laughter)

MR ONGIERTHO: Okay, this ‘term’.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

MR ONGIERTHO: This term is a term where there should be no sleep, and even in areas of accountability, we need to get stronger. That is why I am proposing that for accountability for local governments, we need to reinforce the positions of Public Accounts Committees for local government to be able to also take care of some of the entities.

Mr Speaker, I was very happy that we had started receiving reports from even secondary schools, primary schools and health facilities that receive monies from the Government. That was good, but for as long as we are expanding to those other entities, that would all be swallowed up under a district. When you now go to the individual organisations within districts, it will become much more difficult for us as a committee to deal with. Therefore, I support the motion so that we can look at all those and things do not pass like that. Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Akol, then Hon. Ababiku.

4.08

MR ANTHONY AKOL (NRM, Kilak North County, Amuru): Mr Speaker, I appreciate the step being taken by the Business Committee to ensure that the business of the 11th Parliament is brought forward. This Parliament should be a continuous business place, because we lost in the 10th Parliament. When we started the 11th Parliament, every business of the 10th Parliament was left aside.

The spirit with which you have started is really very good. Therefore, my concern is simple: we should not list only this one that you have brought forward. Instead of saying honourable members introduce at an appropriate time, since we have limited time for introducing

this particular motion, it should not be more than 14 days’ of sitting in this Parliament. It is better that we put it as “this listed one and any other” because this morning when we were receiving a report from the outgoing committee chairperson, there were some other businesses that he brought forward, some of which are not among this list.

Similarly, as the different committees now receive the handover reports, there will be other businesses left behind by those committees that are very important to this House.

I therefore support this motion, but I wish we could include other businesses that are still outstanding in the committees. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, rule 245 is very clear; we cannot be general. You cannot give a blank cheque. For your comfort, we instructed the Clerk to extract all business pending before committees. We looked through business, item by item, at Business Committee level. There is a business that has been overtaken by events. There is business which was already complete and ready for signatures. So, we reviewed all the business with the committee chairpersons and felt this was the only business for now.

As the Business Committee, we need you to start work. Honourable colleagues, business will come. We are going to give you business; you are going to be very busy. What we are working on are strategies for accountability committees.

We found that accountability committees dealt with only 10 per cent, yet oversight is one of Parliament’s most critical functions. That is an indictment on ourselves, so we must do whatever we can to strengthen the oversight function and support accountability committees.

The Speaker and I have been meeting with several agencies. Honourable colleagues, the kind of support we are having, especially on strengthening accountability, is a lot. I am sure we are going to do more. We have even created

a department in charge of accountability in Parliament to strengthen the accountability function, not only within but also outside Parliament, especially by training Members on accountability committee reports, so that we process as much business as possible. We would not want to continue making blanket resolutions about things we have not verified. We want to do more.

We are having very good dialogue with the Office of the Leader of the Opposition on how this can be realised. Count on us for support to ensure that you become effective in delivering on your mandate. The resolution has to be very clear. We do not want you to add any other business, and we get into trouble. Hon. Jesca Ababiku and then Hon. Melsa -

4.13

MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I support the motion because of the following reasons. We are the makers of the laws and rules and therefore, to implement them to the dot is what is best for this country.

Secondly, we are here as representatives of our population, and whatever we discuss here has demands for feedback so that Ugandans get to know what Parliament has decided or the resolutions that have been taken.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, it is best practice that can avoid manipulation. If people know that items that come when we are about to dissolve Parliament are not concluded, they can target such periods and bring sensitive matters, knowing that they will not be concluded. Thank you very much, I support the motion.

4.14

MS MELSA AVAKO (NRM, Woman Representative, Yumbe): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. I rise to strongly support this motion that Parliament reinstates the business that lapsed in the 11th Parliament.

Mr Speaker, the citizens have very high hopes in this 12th Parliament. As we all know, there are many people who are struggling outside there, yet there had been petitions and many issues tabled in the 11th Parliament that were not fully resolved.

I am, therefore, happy that the motion is requesting this Parliament to reinstate the business that lapsed. Among them is the compensation of victims who were trading in South Sudan that we did not conclusively finish. I will be grateful if this business is brought to our attention. Thank you so much.

4.15

MR ISAAC OTIMGIW (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I think we need to look at the reasons as to why some of these businesses were not concluded in the 11th Parliament. One of the reasons is the limited time that we have for committee sittings.

If you look at it, you will see that a number of committees will probably sit from about 9.00 a.m., but Members will arrive at about 10.00 a.m., and by 1.00 p.m., they are closed. That means only three hours. That is nine hours a week because they go to their constituencies on Fridays.

In the 11th Parliament, we benchmarked in a number of parliaments, like in Tanzania and Kenya, and we see the practices that they do. There are a number of weeks allocated for only committee business and oversight, whereas here, we tend to put it together with the Sittings, hence limiting the time provided for committees to conclude their business.

I beg that, as presiding officers, you commit to giving committees ample time to make sure they carry out oversight and also finish the business in any way possible. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, this is something we are already looking at. We assigned the Clerk to prepare a document for the Business Committee to consider in that regard because we do not

need to be sitting in plenary every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We have to give enough time for committees to do their work.

For committees, we have to be very clear. We will have time for sectoral committees and time for standing committees - (*Applause*) - so that we avoid a situation where Members are running around committees. "My committee is meeting; my committee is here." You end up having a running Member, not an effective one. (*Laughter*) We are waiting for the Clerk to report back on these issues.

4.17

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was with my new committee, Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises, today. Frankly speaking, the performance of committees is determined by the leadership. It is very key. I am sorry to say this, but nobody will blame me because sometimes it is factual.

Where the chairperson and the vice chairperson are not within the country for 10 days, there will definitely be no work in committees. Parliament has a timetable; it has a calendar on how it moves. Once you follow the calendar, there is no way standing committees can avoid working, even during recess. We used to do that. We would go for recess, but committees remained working because you have to cover the work you were given by the committee.

Performance is determined, and it is upon you, Mr Speaker and the Business Committee, to determine the evaluation of the chairpersons of committees. We shall be available. Moreover, it attracts an income for me whenever I attend; that is key for me. I do not look at that money as little; it offers many solutions to win again in my constituency.

Mr Speaker, I am happy. Some accounting officers were already jubilating that they are going to throw out that business and they survive accountability. Let them know that we shall consider their accountability. Where they messed up with funds, we have them. I am not

"*Kisanja no Sleep*"; I am for "Remove it, and we go by the law" because people will sleep again.

Mr Speaker, provide Members with effective facilitation and support in committees so that they can carry out their work diligently. If you tell me to go to the field and you think I will look after myself, then it will be a challenge. As a Member of Parliament, as I go to Budadiri or Mitooma to carry out my work, I expect consideration for my journey and everything to be available.

These are facts that cannot cause debate in the public. A Member of Parliament carries out his or her oversight function with the support of Parliament, not from his or her own resources. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, you will be facilitated - (*Applause*) - maybe one other thing, which I should tell you is that we no longer want Members of Parliament to travel abroad on business of Parliament before they receive their per diem. (*Applause*) Many Members have been going to moneylenders such that by the time we pay you, we are indirectly paying the moneylender.

We have worked out arrangements whereby we shall only authorise your travel when your money is available. If it is not, we shall tell you to postpone the trip. There is no more business of saying, "Give me a ticket then I go to the SACCO."

I had assigned the Attorney-General, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Chief Opposition Whip to discuss this issue of time. The Constitution is very clear; we have six months, but we needed the guidance of the Attorney-General. I did not want to ambush him. I wanted to shorten the debate by the Attorney-General talking to the Leader of the Opposition, who is the head of the accountability side, so that we move in consonance.

Had I picked another honourable colleague? I think you are next, Hon. Naluyima.

4.21

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On the same matter of time given for the accountability committees to present the different reports to Parliament, you realise that these audit reports are presented either in late December or early January. In the first three months, we are always in sectoral committees considering the budget, which takes priority.

The six months needs to be revised because we literally have three months to consider the reports from the accountability committees. I pray that we look into that matter because there are three months, not six months as outlined.

I also support the motion because we are the people responsible for accountability. We cannot stop the accountability process by the entity of Parliament not performing its role. The fact that we are reinstating business means that we are performing our accountability role further and ensuring that the money we allocate is the way it has been spent. I appreciate you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. There is an honourable colleague here, and then the next one.

4.22

MR PATRICK KITIYO (Independent, Kapchorwa Municipality, Kapchorwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the motion to bring forward the lapsed business of the 11th Parliament. My attention is drawn to a Bill that was brought to Parliament by the Member of Parliament for Mityana County South, Hon. Richard Lumu. By then, he was on an Independent ticket. He was granted permission to introduce a Private Member's Bill to amend the Administration of Parliament Act, the law that governs the elections of parliamentary leaders.

I request that this particular Bill be included in the lapsed business of the 11th Parliament. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Marshall and then Hon. Opio.

4.24

MR MARSHALL ALENYO (Independent, Jonam County, Pakwach): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to support the motion and to very briefly state that it is good practice that we follow up the audit queries, particularly for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

Mr Speaker, we are all aware that in 2025, as soon as the election calendars were out, our performance in Parliament declined. Most of us were looking at politicking. It is very important, particularly for the taxpayers of this country, to have outstanding issues resolved. Therefore, I support the motion that we look into the matters of the last Parliament.

4.25

MR SAMUEL OPIO (NRM, Kole County North, Kole): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also rise to support this motion to reinstate the business of the 11th Parliament. However, I believe that for purposes of clarity, the action-taken reports on business that had been presented on the Floor of Parliament should remain valid; they will not apply under this rule.

Secondly, I would like to propose, perhaps as an amendment in the future, that even when Parliament is dissolved, the accountability committees and the Auditor-General's reports should ideally remain valid. My concern is that in future, God forbid, you may have a Parliament, that may not be very well aligned, so they may not reinstate the Auditor-General's report. In the end, that accountability function ceases.

Since the provisions allow that you can amend, I want to propose that in the future, we should amend that inasmuch as the Bills and petition will lapse, the Auditor-General's report and accountability committee reports, which are being processed, should not lapse. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Attorney-General, I reported to the House

that I had assigned you and the Leader of the Opposition and your teams to look through this matter and report back on the issue of time. Would you like to report on my assignment, for purposes of guidance? Then I will give the final guidance.

4.26

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Dr Sam Mayanja): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We had agreed that the Leader of the Opposition would present this matter.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Leader of the Opposition? I can see everyone is running away from belling the cat.

4.27

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Mr Speaker, there are people who think that Government and the Opposition never agree. We do agree, sometimes. For example, we have, today - (*Applause*) - I actually thought our senior, the Attorney-General, would give the report to the House, but yes, I can.

We have combed the laws, the Constitution, the Rules of Procedure of Parliament and the Audit Act. What we have zeroed in on is that the six months that are talked about within the Constitution will commence counting after the House carries the motion. As far as we are concerned, right now, all those reports collapsed with the 11th Parliament. We are saying, however, that because it is an important business that we have to attend to, we are reinstating it. In essence, we are pressing the reset button.

Counting of the six months that are provided within which we are meant to consider this work, and then the committees bring reports and so on, commences today, if the vote is carried. If it is carried tomorrow, it will commence tomorrow. Then the committees will have six months to excogitate over the reports, the different motions, Bills, and so on, and then report to the House. That is the consensus we had with the Attorney-General.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General?

DR MAYANJA: What the Leader of the Opposition has stated is accurate. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Karim Masaba, are you satisfied?

4.29

MR KARIM MASABA (Independent, Industrial Division, Mbale City):

Mr Speaker, I was in the meeting and considered the options. The 29th date we were going with is when the Auditor-General hands in the report to Parliament. However, that report is officially handed in by the Parliamentary Commissioners. Therefore, we are taking the date on which the Parliamentary Commissioner lays the report as the date when Parliament receives the report again. That forms part of the business that we will begin with. We agreed on that position, Mr Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, we are within time. Let the committees process the report, and if any further guidance is needed from the presiding officer, it will be provided. They have been laid within the constitutional framework, and if there is any other guidance, we shall give it. I think we have debated enough.

I now put the question that the motion for the resolution of Parliament to reinstate parliamentary business that lapsed at the dissolution of the 11th Parliament of Uganda as laid on the Table and listed in the motion be approved.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable members. Let the Clerk extract the recommendations with a copy of the *Hansard* and transmit to the relevant committees and ministries so that we start business. Accountability committees, you have business to start right away. Next item?

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION
OF PARLIAMENT URGING THE
GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW THE
GOVERNMENT UNDERGRADUATE
SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME WITH
A VIEW TO INCREASING THE SLOTS
ALLOCATED TO THE DISTRICT QUOTA
SYSTEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Mapenduzi?

4.30

MR MARTIN MAPENDUZI (NRM, Bardege-Layibi Division, Gulu City): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to move a motion for a resolution of Parliament urging the Government to review the Government undergraduate sponsorship programme with a view to increasing the slots allocated to the district quota system. I move this motion under Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

“WHEREAS Article 30 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda provides for a right to education for all persons and Objective VIII(ii) of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy further obligates Government to take appropriate measures to afford every citizen equal opportunity to attain the highest educational standards possible;

AWARE THAT Government runs an undergraduate sponsorship programme where 4,000 slots are allocated to the best performing students at the Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education level to join public universities across the nation on the basis of the national merit admissions scheme, district quota scheme, sports scheme and special needs scheme;

FURTHER AWARE THAT out of 4,000 slots, 3,000 slots which represent 75 per cent, are allocated under the national merit admissions scheme and 1,000 slots which is 25 per cent, are allocated under the three remaining schemes, namely; 896 slots under the district quota scheme, 40 slots under the sports scheme and 64 slots under the special needs scheme;

APPRECIATING THAT the district quota scheme was introduced by the Government in 2004 to address the imbalances and inequalities associated with the national merit admissions scheme in order to enable each district access slots for admission of its outstanding students to public universities based on the population of a district;

NOTING THAT since 2004 when the district quota scheme was introduced, the population of Uganda has been gradually increasing, and so has been the number of students who qualify for admission to public universities;

FURTHER NOTING THAT for the last five consecutive years, between 60,000 and 80,000 students qualify for admission to public universities annually, yet the Government undergraduate sponsorship programme remains at 4,000 students, the majority of whom come from top-performing schools, which are mostly afforded by students from well-to-do families;

CONCERNED THAT the district quota scheme, which was intended to address the inequalities and imbalances in the distribution of slots under Government undergraduate sponsorship programme, is allocated only 896 slots, which are distributed on the basis of the population of a district and as a result, rural districts end up with fewer slots because of low population, while districts in urban areas are allocated more slots due to high population;

CONVINCED THAT unless Government reviews the distribution of the slots under the Government undergraduate sponsorship programme so as to reallocate more slots to the district quota scheme, the poor, disadvantaged and underprivileged students shall remain marginalised, which defeats the objectives of affording every citizen equal opportunity to attain the highest educational standard possible;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Parliament urges Government to review the Government undergraduate sponsorship programme with a view to increasing the slots

allocated to the district quota scheme to enable the poor, disadvantaged and underprivileged students to benefit more from the Government programme.” I beg to move. (Applause)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? It is seconded by Hon Baatom, Hon. Paparu Lillian, Hon. Aza Tom, Hon. Obigah Rose, Hon. Sowedi, Hon. Akol and many Members of the House. Honourable, can you use two minutes to speak to your motion? Let Hon. Ssewungu, who has been a long-standing member of the Committee on Education and Sports -

MR SSEWUNGU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was the shadow Minister of Education and since I joined Parliament, I have been on the Committee on Education and Sports, until my boss sent me to the Committee on Defence and Veteran Affairs, as well as shadow Minister of Defence.

Before I support this motion, during the rationalisation, the justification was to remove the Higher Loan Financing Board and to allocate all monies and student slots to the district quota.

The Higher Loan Financing Board got a lot of money because students were getting these loans through borrowing and paying back. I would like to know, before I support this motion, what is at stake now. Where are these funds? Where are all those slots? That was the justification that was brought before Parliament; that the loan scheme would be used to get students under the loan scheme for the district quota -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, what is your procedural matter?

MR SSEWUNGU: Is it procedurally okay to ask the Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Muyingo, my good friend and doctor, what exactly is happening with the higher loan financing board funds and with those students whom they convinced us would be taken through the district quota by rationalising that board. That is what I would like to

know because it would be a solution to Hon. Mapenduzi's motion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, is that a procedural matter in your heart of hearts?

MR SSEWUNGU: I have driven it very well, and of course, I first built my issue, but I said, would it be procedurally right for the minister to inform this House so that as we support the motion, we know where those students are and the funds from the Higher Education Financing Board, which was taken to the Ministry of Education and Sports.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, Hon. Mapenduzi prepared his motion well. I would not want to divert from his motion. The minister can touch on that issue during debate, but for motions of this nature, the mover finishes submitting, then the two seconders.

Usually before we open up debate, we allow the minister to make a quick response which would guide the House during debate, to avoid repeating ourselves.

So, honourable minister, take note that the Member is going to justify his motion and he has just been allowed. Thereafter, we shall have the two seconders and the minister before we open up for debate. Hon. Mapenduzi, two minutes because you have already touched on critical issues.

4.41

MR MARTIN MAPENDUZI (NRM, Bardege-Layibi Division, Gulu City): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the overwhelming support. Allow me to begin by thanking His Excellency the President and the NRM Government for initiating and sustaining the undergraduate government scholarship scheme, which is commonly referred to as government sponsorship.

This scheme began in the early 1990s, and by 1996, Government was providing about 2,000 slots of government scholarship. However, it is important to note that in 1996,

Uganda's population was about 21.2 million. The government introduced the district quota system in 2004, and by then the number of slots had increased to 4,000. But remember, again, the population at that time had grown to about 27.1 million people.

Today in 2026, the slots have remained stagnant at 4,000 while the population of Uganda is hitting 50 million plus. The number of students who sit yearly - for example, last year alone, the number of students who sat A' level was 165,172 compared to only 59,329 in 2004. The difference is over 100,000 since it was introduced in 2004. Mr Speaker, don't you think that there is a need to consider the population growth and increase the slots for government sponsorship from the current 4,000?

Secondly, as I conclude, Mr Speaker, all the records indicate that the majority of the students who qualify for this admission are mainly drawn from schools that are said to be performing much better, and most of these are congested in the urban centres, as I had indicated.

As such, schools from Kaabong, Koboko, Madi-Okollo, Kisoro and elsewhere have to struggle and you can imagine the schools that are concentrated in the urban centres. I will not mention districts and cities. You may find one school alone producing 80 or 100 students admitted on government sponsorship while there are regions in this country that cannot even produce 50 students.

The very bad impression is that children from poor families are not able to access this education and it appears as if we are trying to reward the rich and segregate those from poor families.

My prayer is that this is supported for the good of this country and for the good of the future of our children. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Mapenduzi. Secunder, Hon. Baatom Koryang-

4.44

MR BEN BAATOM (NRM, Dodoth West County, Karenga): Mr Speaker, I want to commend the mover of this motion because it touches a matter that is very important to us.

In my considered view, this motion seeks to realign government sponsorship within the constitutional values of equity, equal opportunity and balanced national development.

My support for this motion is founded on three issues. The district quota system was created precisely to mitigate disparities and inequity of access to quality education. As such, increasing its allocation within the national merit scheme is not a departure from merit but an effort to ensure that merit is assessed within a fairer and more equitable educational environment.

When students sit UCE exams, the educational outcome does not just come on its own. Rather, it is significantly influenced by the environment that the students learn in. Students from well-resourced schools will pass highly and if you consider admission based on national merit, it means most of the students that will be in this category of merit will be from those well-resourced schools, compared to those that are under-resourced.

It follows that when the students are sitting exams, they are already rigged because the students that are going to benefit from this sponsorship are going to be from those within a certain criteria of schools.

Uganda requires skilled professionals in every district. Our hospitals, schools, local governments, agriculture extensions, name it - The Public Service grapples with attracting and retaining staff in many of the rural - (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, switch on and conclude.

MR BAATOM: Thank you. For example, if you counted how many districts have qualified district engineers, there would be less than 20

out of the 140-something districts. However, if we consider that the slots for the district quota system are considered based on that fair consideration, we would attract students from all these districts, including the rural districts, to do civil engineering and many other courses. This is so that when they qualify, they will be able to return to an environment where they are comfortable working.

My reason for proposing and entirely supporting this motion is that even the Ministry of Education has, on many occasions, come out to say they want to review the undergraduate scholarship program. Therefore, bringing it to the Floor of this House is actually giving education the right time to review this scholarship program.

In conclusion, public confidence in our education system, especially the merit-based admission system, is very low. The admission is concentrated in a few districts, while the rest of the country thinks it is rigged to benefit those districts. Therefore, moving this motion in this House will regain the confidence that people have in us.

This motion presents a practical, balanced and evidence-based opportunity to strengthen one of Uganda's most important investments in human capital. By increasing sponsorship opportunities and enhancing the district quota system, Parliament will widen access to higher education, promote equity - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Paparu -

4.48

MS LILLIAN PAPARU (NRM, Woman Representative, Arua): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to second this motion because nations have bridged gaps between the poor and the middle-income earners through provision of education.

Uganda has made strides by introducing Universal Secondary Education and Universal Primary Education, but access to higher

institutions is limiting beneficiaries from the rural or poor communities. We know that in this country when you get two principal passes, you have actually passed A' level. However, for the poor, even if their students get two principal passes, they cannot afford to pay for their children under the private sponsorship scheme.

Mr Speaker, the tuition at universities is at about Shs 3 million per semester. We have parents who can pay for their children to attend good schools in this country, and they pay about Shs 3 million per term. These are the students who are the cream; they perform very well and are the ones admitted to universities for medicine and all that.

When you see the courses for which students are admitted under the quota system, you will realise that some of these courses are not highly marketable. There will be very few people doing medicine or engineering under the quota system.

Our environment for learning is different. In rural places, people are congested, and they are day scholars. However, in good schools, people attend morning and evening preps and sit for the same standard exams. If a student in this rural area can afford to get two principal passes, we pray in this motion I am seconding that the number for the quota system is increased so that those who are resilient in the rural areas can benefit from those courses. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, since the cities were created, the ministry has maintained the quota for the mother districts to be shared with the cities. I am from Arua District and our quota is merged with that for Arua City. For two consecutive years in the past five years, Arua District has not been able to compete with the students in the city and we have missed out completely. We have eight slots, with Arua city. However, at times we get one or none. I think the ministry should also look into that.

Therefore, I stand to second this. Let - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister? *(Members rose_)* Before I open up debate, the minister needs to guide us.

4.52

THE ACTING MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS (Dr John Chrysostom Muyingo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to begin by thanking my brother, Hon. Mapenduzi, for moving this motion. *(Applause)* I also thank the Members who have seconded it.

I would like to remind you that the Government acknowledges that increasing enrolment of learners at secondary level, improved completion rates under Universal Secondary Education, the exponential population growth, and the creation of new districts have increased the demand for government-sponsored students.

Consequently, the existing allocation, under the district quota system, is under increased pressure. However, the Government is also mindful that any expansion of government-sponsored admissions must be carefully balanced against the available fiscal resources and competing national priorities.

Mr Speaker, I wish to clarify that contrary to what is stated in the motion, the Government is sponsoring more students than 896 under the district quota system.

Following the enactment of the Higher Education Student Financing Act, 2014, a greater number of undergraduate students are being admitted under government sponsorship, through the district quota system. Currently, 60 per cent of the beneficiaries under the Higher Education Student Financing Scheme are selected through the district quota system. For example, in the current academic year, 1,228 out of 2,048 students selected to benefit from the scheme were admitted under the district quota system. We have been increasing the number of people that are supported.

Mr Speaker, the Government undergraduate sponsorship is financed through the annual appropriations approved by this Parliament under the budget of the Ministry of Education and Sports. The level of funding available each financial year determines the total number of students who can be sponsored. Give us more money, and we shall be able to deliver and give to you.

The ministry continually reviews education policies to ensure that they remain responsive to the national development needs. The Ministry of Education and Sports is assessing various aspects of access to higher education, including a review of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, as amended, assessment and admissions, including the operation of the district quota system, to determine whether the existing framework remains fit for purpose in light of the current demographic, educational and fiscal realities.

I, therefore, thank the mover for bringing this matter to the attention of this august House and assure honourable members of the Government's continued commitment to expanding equitable access to quality higher education while ensuring that any proposed reforms remain financially sustainable. I submit, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Would you mind sharing that statement or submission of yours, which seems to have been written, with us so that we can upload it for Members' reference, even in the future?

(Mr Ssewungu rose_) What is the procedural matter that you are raising, Hon. Ssewungu?

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, with due respect to the minister, the honourable member brought his motion and it has attracted the attention of all Members. When I raised my procedural matter, I had a particular component of that higher education financing scheme coming into the district quota. That is what I wanted the minister to specifically respond to,

as you had directed, so that Members positively debate the motion of the Member.

Are we proceeding well when the honourable minister, Dr Muyingo, has brought all the answers, trying to insulate the motion brought by Hon. Mapenduzi from debate?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu, Rule 76 of the Rules of Procedure talks about the scope of debate. We have a motion and the minister has submitted within the confines of the motion, as provided for under the rules. Now, you are the one complaining that the minister is not proceeding well because he has refused to go outside the rules! *(Laughter)*

Scope of debate! What if he is uncomfortable? For now, let us remain within the scope of debate, as provided for under rule 76. Let us have Hon. Ndeezi, followed by Hon. Laura Kanushu.

4.57

MR ALEX NDEEZI (NRM, PWD Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is a very important and brilliant motion. It is grounded in Article 32 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, on affirmative action and other relevant provisions of the Constitution enacted to address imbalances that exist in our society.

When talking about this motion, we are talking about leaving no one behind. I passionately love these issues and, therefore, support this motion very strongly.

Mr Speaker, the motion is very nice. It specifically mentions the three categories: in the first, second, fourth and fifth paragraphs, the District Sports Scheme and Special Needs Education.

However, Mr Speaker, in the last very important paragraph, the one calling for action, two important categories have been left out: the Sports Scheme and Special Needs Education.

Mr Speaker, for the benefit of the Members who did not come with their iPads, I would like to read it:

“NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Parliament urges the Government to review the Government Undergraduate Sponsorship Programme with a view to increasing the slots allocated to the district quota scheme to enable the poor, disadvantaged, and underprivileged students to benefit more from the Government programme.”

Mr Speaker, what I am trying to emphasise is that two categories have been left out. Therefore, I have an amendment which seeks to insert sports and special needs education in the last paragraph. That is my first amendment. The mover has already mentioned that the challenges faced by these groups are always the same as these other people from the districts.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, the resolution has no time frame and as such, follow-up and accountability will be a problem. Therefore, I propose to add the following: The review should commence this Financial Year 2026/2027. That is my second amendment, Mr Speaker. We would like to give the minister responsible for education the responsibility and opportunity to come and report to us on the progress of the review.

Therefore, I have the following amendment: the minister responsible for education shall report to Parliament on the implementation of this resolution within one year of its passage. The idea is to give the minister an opportunity to come and update us on how far we have gone with the implementation of this resolution.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, the heading has a consequential amendment to reflect the spirit of leaving no one behind. In the heading, we should also mention “Sports Scheme” and “Special Needs Scheme”. “District” is already mentioned in the heading, but “Sports Scheme” and “Special Needs Scheme” are not. Therefore, I beg to move that the heading should include the words “Sports Scheme” and “Special Needs Scheme”. I appeal to all Members to support – *(Member timed out.) (Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable member. For guidance, I just want it clear, colleagues. Action taken reports are clearly provided for under Rule 229 of our Rules of Procedure, and it gives 60 days to the minister to report back.

However, the Member is being generous by saying we give one year. Since the rules are already covering that part, we should keep it at 60 days; then the minister can continue updating us. That is, if the motion is carried. I do not want to be in contravention of Rule 86 of our Rules of Procedure on anticipation, by ruling before we could put an end to it. I had allowed Hon. Laura Kanushu.

5.04

MS LAURA KANUSHU (NRM, PWD Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me first mention my name, as this is my maiden speech. My name is Laura Kanushu; I am the National Woman Member of Parliament for Persons with Disabilities. My colleague was asking me why I am putting up my hand. It is because the rules allow me since I am a person with a disability.

I just want to start from where Hon. Ndeezi has stopped. We see, at the beginning of the motion - I want to commend Hon. Mapenduzi for that motion. At the beginning, we talk about special needs, but somewhere along the way, we lose it. I think that we need to make that amendment.

I also want to say that from the time the affirmative action programme started, persons with disabilities have been at that number. It would only be fair that as we approve this motion, this Parliament is cognisant of the fact that there can never be a more vulnerable student than one with a special need.

If there are people who need the sponsorship at universities more than anyone else, it would be the students with disabilities. Therefore, we cannot afford to leave them out, and we also need to increase the number.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, while we talk about rural schools, we should also be specific and say

public schools or Government schools. I do not think that a poor person can take their child to, for example, Kampala Parents School. Therefore, if they are able to take their child to Kampala Parents School, then they are able to pay at the university.

However, the children who go to public schools are the neediest. I would like us to emphasise that the children who will be given more priority should be those that go to UPE and USE schools. I beg to submit. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Laura, I just want to get you clearly there. We have some private schools in the villages that are cheaper than the Government schools. In the villages, parents cannot afford public schools; the so-called UPE or USE schools, but they can afford private schools, especially church-based or faith-based. How would you handle?

MS KANUSHU: Mr Speaker, I would be advised by the minister in that regard. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Colleagues, I want to take advantage of one of us who has much experience in this sector; Hon. Bruce Balaba, who has been at the Makerere University Council. I know when this District Quota System came, you and Gyaviira - Gyaviira was at Makerere working as a bursar and just receiving money. If we did not have it, he would chase us. However, this one was on the council where they were discussing -

5.07

MR BRUCE KABAASA (NRM, Rubanda County West, Rubanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to join colleagues in thanking Hon. Mapenduzi for thinking through this idea.

From when the district quota system was introduced in 2005 to date, there is evidence that children from the rural schools who come with slightly lower grades - because we look for the best with two principal passes in those areas - perform better than those with excellent grades from the other schools when they reach the university.

Mr Speaker, the scientific nature of testing this has been the introduction of pre-entry exams for law schools in the country. Now we know that what we have been calling merit is no merit at all.

It is therefore important, Mr Speaker, that we think through this idea very comprehensively so that Ugandan children from rural parts of the country do not just join the university on the quota system but join the university to participate in what matters in the development of the country.

Today, 90 per cent of students on the district quota system are doing humanities. It is therefore important that as Parliament discusses this matter, there is an amendment to include a 50 per cent share of whatever will be for the district quota to be for sciences.

Mr Speaker, Hon. Mapenduzi indicated, very accurately, that the number is 896 students as of today. The list is available and we can submit it when it is required.

Mr Speaker, the minister talked about an additional measure to carry the district quota that will involve students who borrow money and pay back when they get jobs. We cannot confuse that to be Government sponsorship.

Mr Speaker, the science component and the district quota need to be given percentages. Today, the district quota system is 25 per cent and the national merit is 75 per cent. I request Parliament to flip it to reflect 75 per cent for the district quota and 25 per cent for the national merit. Also, we should have 50 per cent of the 75 per cent for sciences and 50 per cent of the 75 per cent for humanities. I submit. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, what usually pains me with such motions is that they are not all that resolute because we are just “urging”. Article 93 of the Constitution limits a private Member from moving any motion that has a charge on the Consolidated Fund.

Honourable minister, we have shared a lot and I think this is something we should really handle and sort out. We should not take long. Allow me to just -

DR MUYINGO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have taken note of all the issues and recommendations that have been raised. We shall look into it as our resources allow.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I now put the question that the motion for a resolution of Parliament urging - Have you heard the word, “urging” - the Government to review the Government undergraduate sponsorship programme with a view to increasing the slots allocated to the district quota system be approved.

Honourable members, I have put the question, but allow me to review it because there were some amendments. I am sorry. Let me just recommit it. Thank you, honourable member, for being alert.

Honourable colleagues, this is “urging”. Even if you bring amendments - I put the question that the motion for a resolution of Parliament urging the Government to review the Government undergraduate sponsorship programme with a view to increasing the slots allocated to the district quota system be approved with the proposed amendments.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Congratulations, Hon. Mapenduzi. I also thank you, honourable colleagues. *(Applause)*

Clerk, extract the resolution and the *Hansard* with very clear amendments and forward it to the minister.

Honourable minister, you can see that you already have support cutting across on this issue; that the children of the rich do not continue benefiting from this. Someone comes from a school where they were paying Shs 8 million and you hear, the Government is sponsoring them on a course of Shs 3 million.

For God's sake, that is not good, especially with the meagre resources. Next item.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF
PARLIAMENT TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE
TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA,
YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI, FOR THE
CLEAR AND PRECISE EXPOSITION OF
GOVERNMENT POLICY CONTAINED IN
THE STATE-OF-THE-NATION ADDRESS
TO PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA ON 4
JUNE 2026

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, before I open up the debate on this issue, honourable minister, rule 229 requires you to update the House within 60 days on the action taken. Honourable minister, continue to update us so we support you in ensuring this injustice -

Hon. Enos, do you have a procedural matter?

MR ENOS ASIIMWE: Thank you so much. As the honourable Minister of Education brings an action taken report, I kindly request that he gives us a comprehensive review of the Government sponsorship policy.

Mr Speaker, there are other inequalities that have not been captured in this specific motion that affects students, for example, the allowances. There is a disparity between the cost of housing and the money they give to the students.

Mr Speaker, there is also an issue of employability versus the loans. I think the minister should give us a comprehensive report regarding the Government sponsorship policy so we can have a comprehensive debate and make resolutions to that effect. Otherwise, there are other bigger challenges than even the inequalities that we have not addressed in this motion. Mr Speaker, thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, that is an indirect way of amending the resolution of the House, and it would not be procedurally right for us to do so. The sectoral

Committee on Education and Sports should take note as part of its business. They should interact with the minister on this.

Honourable colleagues, I request that when we are in this House, we sit properly. In this House we sit; we do not sleep. *(Laughter)* You cannot use your body size as an excuse for not fitting well.

Honourable colleagues, we are going to have the debate on the State-of-the-Nation Address by His Excellency the President and the response from the Leader of the Opposition.

In this debate, I request that we do not interrupt colleagues. Each colleague gets three minutes without interruption unless it is extremely factual or he/she has gone into an illegality. Let us give Members a chance because we want this to be a session for maiden speeches. You are actually introducing yourself to the country.

Also, this is an opportunity for you to relate the State-of-the-Nation Address to what is expected from your constituency. The President spoke but now you can localise or domesticate the State-of-the-Nation Address to your constituency in what you expect the Government to do in your constituency.

Honourable members, I received lists from the Government and the Independent sides. The Chief Opposition Whip told me he was calling Members. They said, they will be picked as they are here.

Honourable members, the purpose of the list was for us to follow order because we do not want to pick you three or four times on one item when others have not been given a chance. Clerk, take note of whoever submits on this debate so we do not repeat ourselves.

Honourable members, let us open the debate with Hon. John Calvin Okoya. Each one is given three minutes' maximum. If he is not here, let us have Prof. Manyisa Ahebwa.

5.17

MR WILBER AHEBWA (NRM, Nakaseke North County, Nakaseke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to commend the President because in his speech, he addressed most of the pertinent issues that are affecting the economy. In my submission, I will focus on agriculture and particularly on two major issues.

Mr Speaker, the President touched on the issue of stabilisation of agriculture. Right now, we cannot continue to rely on rain-fed agriculture. We are losing a lot, especially when it comes to prolonged droughts. For most of the crop yields, we are losing more than 50 per cent of the expected value.

When the President addressed the issue of irrigation, I think he was on point. The Government is already focusing on it, as evidenced by the approval of phase two of the solar-powered irrigation project targeting 427 systems across the country. This is very important, particularly for my people in Nakaseke North, where we are trying to diversify income streams so that in addition to cattle, people are going into coffee growing. We commend the President for that.

The other point has to do with the President's emphasis on indoor feeding where he emphasises setting up feedlots so that we can be able to grow pasture and store. That is very important because it points to sustainable productivity throughout the year.

Mr Speaker, if I may quote an example in my constituency where we produce between 200 and 250 litres of milk daily, in this dry season, we are facing a lot of problems. Milk production has gone down by more than 50 per cent. Therefore, by the President emphasising the issue of growing and storing pasture, it would be an assurance that we can be able to sustain productivity throughout the year. The other thing is, of course, when we emphasise indoor feeding – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable, it is three minutes but since you are the first one, people have known that three

minutes end at that door. One more minute to conclude.

MR AHEBWA: Thank you very much for the opportunity. Focusing on indoor feeding has other advantages: one, you are able to look after more cows using relatively smaller land compared to free range.

Secondly, cows are not exposed to ticks and as you know, Mr Speaker, the number one problem on farms is actually tick-related diseases. When cows are on free range, they pick up ticks. Therefore, I think the President was on point by emphasising indoor feeding. To us who are in the cattle corridor, it becomes very relevant that once we go into it, it is going to help us increase productivity. I submit. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Baseke Fred.

5.22

MR FRED BASEKE (NRM, Ntenjeru County South, Kayunga): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity. I rise to second the motion moved by the Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

During the State-of-the-Nation address, the President gave a clear account of the achievements made, where the country is, the challenges that remain and the direction that Government intends to take in the next five years. I particularly want to commend the President for emphasising commercial agriculture and wealth creation.

In his address to the nation, the President committed to supporting irrigation and to providing low-interest capital in the form of Parish Development Model to all households with land in the next five years. That is commendable and gives hope to our people.

Secondly, the President committed to support infrastructure. I would like to thank the President for his continued commitment to infrastructural development. Without supporting infrastructure, there is no way we can talk about wealth creation.

Lastly, the President reminded us that for any wealth creation initiative to succeed, we must have peace, law and order. You will agree with me that Uganda is a secure country courtesy of His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. The peace we are enjoying is because of Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. The 6.4 per cent economic growth registered in the last financial year is partly because of the peace we enjoy as a country. Regardless of our political affiliations, we all benefit from a stable country.

Therefore, I would like to wholeheartedly support the motion that this Parliament expresses gratitude to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda for the clear and precise exposition of the Government policy as contained in the State-of-the-Nation Address. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Jay Shyam Tanna?

5.24

MR JAY TANNA (Independent, Tororo Municipality, Tororo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Today I stand to appreciate His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the State-of-the-Nation Address, particularly focusing on wealth creation. For this country to stop depending on subsistence farming, wealth creation is important, and he identified commercial agriculture, manufacturing, and services.

Along those lines, he spoke of some enablers. Now, in the enablers, the one I am particularly going to focus on is the Standard Gauge Railway. Our neighbour, Kenya started the 107-kilometre stretch from Kisumu to Malaba in March, and on completion, they would have finished 1000 kilometres. As Uganda, we are six years behind. Now, despite getting €650 million in funding, we are missing out.

Six major towns are going to get workshops, six major towns are going to get employment, and there is going to be a 40 per cent decline in costs for transportation. The time from here to Nairobi would be four hours, and we would be a regional hub for Central and East Africa.

I would like to urge this House and the relevant ministries - there is a small challenge, especially in my constituency. The owners of the land that was taken for the railway have not been compensated, especially Kasoli. Alongside the railway, we need roads. Being a border district, Tororo has failed to benefit from our geographical advantage because of poor roads. That is the only highway taking us to Kenya, and there is no expansion on that highway.

With those few remarks, I want to thank His Excellency for a wonderful speech, and we will commit to working with him in *Kisanjja hakuna kulala*. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable ministers, before we adjourn, I will allow those of you who will still be here to comment on the issues which the Members would have raised. You can take note, and if there are issues in your docket, you will be able to make a response.

Honourable colleagues, I am trying to balance. I have to pick from the NRM, the Independents, and the Opposition. Yes, Hon. Malende and Nansana Municipality member has to give his maiden speech today.

5.27

MS SHAMIM MALENDE (NUP, Woman Representative, Kampala): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. On the aspect of economic growth, the President clearly stated that Uganda's economy continues to grow steadily with increased exports, industrialisation and investment. The President clearly spoke on increased exports but did not come out clearly on the issue of importation of goods.

Kampala Central Business District, which I represent, comprises of many businessmen and women who are the biggest taxpayers in this country. They continue to grapple with challenges on importation of goods, and among others, the delays in clearances at the customs office which results into demurrage costs because in most cases, when a businessman or woman brings in their goods and they are taken

into the bond for verification, they are supposed to be valued by customs. However, during that period when the goods are in the bond, each passing day those items attract \$60 per day, as demurrage and that depends on the space that you have occupied. It is \$60 and above daily.

Currently, Mr Speaker, the business community in Kampala have their items and goods stranded at the bond for over a year. Clearing goods takes between six months to one year and they are suffering. They have taken loans and have sold their property, including houses. What I want the honourable minister to clarify or to help us with is, can the line minister inform this House on what action is being taken to avert this delay? How are they tackling this issue because the business community in Kampala is losing a lot of money. I beg to submit, Mr Speaker.

5.30

MR BULASIO ZAMBAALI (NUP, Nansana Municipality, Wakiso): I thank you, Mr Speaker. The logical question in the State-of-the-Nation Address was: how do we move cashless people into the money economy?

Sports is no longer merely a recreation activity but it is a strategic investment that creates jobs, promotes social cohesion, nurtures talent and enhances Uganda's international profile. As a shadow Minister for Sports, it is equally concerning that sports received minimal attention in the State-of-the-Nation Address. More focus was put on women and persons with disability and the President did not explain where the funding – *(Interjections)* – Mr Speaker, I am standing on rule 89(1) (e) that this being my maiden speech, they do not interrupt me. Thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Laughter)*

There was no emphasis on school sports yet competitions in schools are a key source of talent. Equally worrying is the welfare of our athletes. The concerns over delayed facilitation, inadequate medical care, limited insurance covers, poor retirement planning and insufficient psycho-social support all affect our sportsmen.

As I wind up, Mr Speaker, as Uganda is preparing to co-host 2027 AFCON, the success of AFCON 2027 should not be measured only by the completion of stadiums, but it should have a lasting legacy through improved sports infrastructure across the country, strengthened institutions, increased youth participation in sports, and sustainable sports development programmes.

The Government should, therefore, prioritise the rehabilitation and construction of community sports grounds, district stadiums, multipurpose indoor sports facilities, and high-performing training centres across all regions of Uganda, rather than concentrating investment in a few urban centres.

Every district, Mr Speaker - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable, you see, you used your time sorting issues with the neighbour who was not on record – *(Laughter)* – Let me compensate you, even if it was out of your own making. Conclude.

MR ZAMBAALI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was saying that every district should have functional sports infrastructure capable of supporting schools, clubs and community competition, and Government should strengthen talent identification by establishing regional sports academies, increasing support to the National Council of Sports and recognised sports federation. I beg to submit. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Zambaali – *(Interjection)* – Honourable, you are on a microphone without my permission – *(Laughter)*

5.34

MS JOANNE OKIA (NRM, Woman Representative, Madi-Okollo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to support the motion passed by the Rt Hon. Prime Minister. The State-of-the-Nation Address is not only a constitutional requirement but also a roadmap showing us

where Uganda has been, where Uganda is, and where we are going. It also demonstrates that for the last 40 years, the NRM Government has shown the way.

The President highlights three specific issues:

1. Wealth creation.
2. Human capital development.
3. Infrastructure development.

The PDM programme, which is our flagship programme, has been inclusive, including even the last man at the village level. I stand to support the motion to appreciate His Excellency for such a wonderful State-of-the-Nation Address.

In the area of infrastructure, we have a road that runs from Pakwach all the way to Difule, the border between Uganda and Sudan. The President emphasised that our infrastructure development supports wealth creation and trade. We remind the Government about tarmacking the road from Pakwach through Madi-Okollo, through Moyo and Obongi up to South Sudan. Thank you.

5.36

MS EVELYNE NINSIIMA (Independent, Woman Representative, Rubanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is my first term in the Parliament of Uganda, and I would like to appreciate the people of Rubanda for overwhelmingly voting for me and giving me the opportunity to serve.

I want to associate myself with the State-of-the-Nation Address of the President because he focused more on agriculture as an enabler, which leads Uganda to the money economy. It is timely because approximately 70 per cent of the population deals in agriculture.

To be precise, 33.1 per cent of the people of Kigezi participate in subsistence agriculture. Mr Speaker, I am a practical farmer, and I want to bring it to the attention of the Government that many farmers in our communities are unable to afford knapsack sprayers. A majority plant crops and are unable to spray their

crops in a timely manner, resulting in low productivity. Does the Government of Uganda agree with me that each village, for example, Rubanda district that has 478 villages, should have a knapsack sprayer at village level.

However, Mr Speaker, I believe development does not effectively progress in isolation of enabling the health capability.

Kigezi Subregion has six districts with a population of 1,787,231 people, as per the 2024 Census report. Unfortunately, the subregion has no cancer centre, despite the increasing number of cancer patients, particularly among farmers and peasants in rural communities. Most of these patients have to travel to Mulago and Mbarara to access these services.

Mr Speaker, I conducted a fact survey and the findings, based on Uganda Cancer Institute, indicate that cancer in Kigezi Subregion is increasing, with 1,200 new cases every single year – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Conclude. Honourable colleagues, let us use three minutes.

MS NINSIIMA: For the record, Rubanda patients are 130, Kabale has 220 patients, Rukungiri 190, Kanungu 170, Kisoro 150 and Rukiga 100 patients' increment every single year. The most frequently diagnosed types of cancer in Kigezi are: cervical cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer and sarcoma cancer, to mention but a few.

My prayer to the Government is to ensure that it prioritises a cancer centre for Kigezi and at least each village has a knapsack sprayer. Thank you very much.

5.40

MR REMIGIO ACHIA (NRM, Pian County, Nabilatuk): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to appreciate His Excellency the President for the historical mission and work of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) from the 1960s to the present. He gave a very vivid example of how, in the 1960s, he worked

with a number of people in the cattle corridor, transforming not only the cattle corridor, but the rest of the country today.

He gave an example of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Uganda of US\$ 3.6 billion in 1986. Today, we are at US\$ 69 billion, going to US\$ 500 billion. He gave the example of life expectancy rising from 43 years to now 68 years and infant mortality reducing from 122 to 36. He mentioned that poverty had reduced from 56 per cent to almost 16 per cent.

Honourable colleagues, in terms of tracing the history of NRM and the work of President Museveni, we must applaud him for the dedication to this country – *(Applause)* – bringing us from a state of hopelessness to hopefulness.

However, the historical mission of NRM in Karamoja is not yet done. As we talk, the vulnerabilities to weather are still persistent. We appeal to this House and country that Karamoja is now in a state of dire need of food. More than 900,000 people are affected. People are starting to die in Kotido, Kaabong and some parts of Moroto because of bad weather, which is actually affecting the whole country. In Karamoja, without a cow – and most people lost animals to insecurity.

There is a dire need to refocus the mission of NRM in Karamoja to equalise this country. We were talking about education and equity here, but there is still more to be done in Karamoja. In terms of monetary poverty, Karamoja stands at 74 per cent. In terms of multidimensional poverty, Karamoja stands at 56 per cent. We are the best in all bad indicators – infant mortality, life expectancy; all of these. We need to focus and find a better strategy to address the challenges that face that part of the country.

Karamoja constitutes 10 per cent of this country, and it is now starting to deliver to the rest of the country in terms of minerals. We already have four new cement factories helping us. We have now got a clinker factory, so we do not have to import. We have marble; we are getting materials for tiles. Therefore, let

us support Karamoja so that it can support this country. *(Applause)*

My appeal to the Government and to this country is, let us re-focus on the historical mission of NRM under – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Achia. Whenever I find honourable colleagues from Karamoja, it touches me because Karamoja can be the food basket not only for Uganda, but the whole region. I hope the Government is designing a deliberate programme for transforming Karamoja and tapping its potential.

I had picked Hon. Freedom Kwiwucwiny, Hon. Waluswaka and Hon. Amelia Kyambadde. Then, I will come this side. Honourable colleagues, each one of you will speak on this – *(Applause)* – we shall not close until you say, “Please, close that debate.” *(Laughter)*

5.44

MS GRACE KWIYUCWINY (NRM, Ora County, Zombo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I stand to support the motion and express my gratitude to His Excellency the President for his concise and clear State-of-the-Nation Address, which is working instantly.

When he said, “no more sleep,” I think everyone is now awake. Even in my village, they are calling ministers to go and see their school and water projects. When he said, “no corruption,” the country is on fire; everybody is active. When he talked of middle-income status, this has given hope. People now feel that we can actually reach middle-income status through the Parish Development Model (PDM).

However, Mr Speaker, on this PDM, I would like us to help this country. In my county, Ora County in Zombo District, there are parishes with 2,500 households but the parishes with 500 households are beginning another cycle of five years for the distribution of PDM. The one of 2,500 households needs 15 years at this rate.

I would like to appeal to you and the Ministry of Local Government to please carry out research. We cannot make one parish wait for 15 years to round all the households, yet one parish is only taking five years. Anyway, how long is this PDM programme? Is it a forever programme or is it time-bound? I think we should begin to think specific. In this, we need fairness and objectivity.

My second point is that if we are going to reach the middle-income status, Zombo is the only district which has not been connected to another district through a tarmac road. The President campaigned and said, "By April, you will have a contract and the road will commence." I think it is the technical people who deceive the President. April passed, but there is no contract or commencement.

I am putting the minister on notice that I am bringing leaders from Zombo district to his office so – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. By the time Hon. Kwiycwiny goes to that extent, you know things have been bad. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I request that you help your former colleague in Cabinet to follow up on this issue.

5.47

MR JAMES WALUSWAKA (NRM, Bunyole West County, Butaleja): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Congratulations.

I would like to thank the President, but in doing so, Members and the country still know that the President still has the power. The way he moved to the podium showed that we still have a minimum of 50 years to lead this country - *(Applause)* - and in case of anything, we already have a substitute.

Mr Speaker, whenever the President comes, our brothers and sisters from the other side do not attend. When they do not attend – it is good they realised that there is one President; they come and discuss whatever he has given.

Mr Speaker, the President mentioned bicycles for Parish Chiefs. May I know from

the Prime Minister when the bicycles are coming? *(Laughter)* Yes. When we go to the constituency, people ask for bicycles.

On fighting corruption, I think it has started. As the State and Government, I know we have just started. You wait for the beginning. The corrupt time has gone.

When the President was in Butaleja, we reminded him about the tarmac road, which he had already given an Executive Order on. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, may we know why? I think it is a Government policy to do tarmac where they usually do not get votes. Members here from rural areas where we give - Can we know from the Prime Minister whether they do the reverse? If that is the case, we may not withstand this.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I commend the President on the fight against Ebola. He told us that he has fought many wars. I think the Minister of Health will come, but Ebola is almost gone. So, I commend the President for his visionary leadership.

I urge Members, especially my brother from Busoga, to join. We have been thanking Hon. Mapenduzi. He was on the other side; now he is this side. You have seen the motion he has brought. The honourable member there is a very good cadre. Thank you very much. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Amelia Kyambadde, followed by Hon. Fiona Nakku and Hon. Gashaija.

5.50

MS AMELIA KYAMBADDE (NRM, Mawokota County North, Mpigi): Mr Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the President for the State of the Nation Address, which has given us hope, especially economically. My focus, however, will be on health.

The President has campaigned drastically on our health issues. Number one, on COVID-19, AIDS, Ebola, and all that. In this statement,

I realised that the Government is going to establish regional cancer centres. Cancer has eaten us up insidiously. It is a serious matter. Now that we are going to get regional units, that gives us more hope. I looked at maternal health; the Government is going to establish maternity wards in most of the districts.

Another issue that most health centres have been suffering from is lack of medicine. With Namanve and a large pharmaceutical centre, we will be able to get drugs and necessary equipment.

Let me go down to Mpigi. In 2014, the President pledged to upgrade Mpigi Health Centre IV to a hospital status. The population has risen from 212,000 to 390,000. Highway accidents have increased. We have 570 reported cases every year. We do not have a hospital to cater for the accident victims. They are driven to Mulago National Referral Hospital. In most cases, they die on the way.

I would like to appeal to the Minister of Health, through you, to ensure that he fulfils the President's pledge of raising the level of the Health Centre IV to a hospital status. I rest my case. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Fiona Nakku, followed by Hon. Steven Shyaka Gashaija and Hon. Brian Kapyagon.

5.52

MS FIONA NAKKU (Independent, Female Workers' Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to support the motion, and I appreciate His Excellency the President for the State of the Nation Address for the Financial Year 2026/2027. The address presented a clear vision of wealth creation, industrialisation, and economic transformation under the theme, "*Kisanja* of No More Sleep".

Mr Speaker, the progress highlighted deserves recognition. Uganda's economy continues to grow, with 67 per cent of households now participating in the money economy, up from only 9 per cent in 1962.

However, as the Female Workers' Representative, appreciation must go hand-in-hand with accountability. First, I recommend that the Government ensure that the Shs 2.2 trillion allocated for agriculture reaches the women farmers who constitute the majority of Uganda's agriculture workforce. Resources without effective extension services and accountability will not deliver the intended transformation.

Second, while the Private Sector is growing, with Kampala startups attracting \$30 million in investment in 2025 compared to \$4 million in 2024, we must ensure that this growth creates decent jobs, fair wages, and safe working conditions for Ugandan workers, especially the young people and women.

Thirdly, the Government has allocated Shs 5.2 trillion for health and Shs 6.6 trillion for education. These are commendable investments. Ugandans will judge the success not only by allocations alone, but also by whether medicines are available in the health facilities, whether teachers and health workers are motivated, and whether service delivery improves.

If this is truly the era of no more sleep, then it must be an era of no more corruption, no more inefficiency, and no more exclusion of workers from the benefits of economic growth.

In the absence of the Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I would like her, next time she is –(*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Nakku. Your time is up. The Government has never been absent. (*Laughter*) Please conclude.

MS NAKKU: What happened to the Minimum Wage Bill? The workers of this country are yearning for a Minimum Wage Bill. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Shyaka Gashaija, Hon. Brian Kapyagon and Hon. Doreen Katushabe.

5.56

MR STEVEN GASHAIJA (NRM, Entebbe Municipality, Wakiso): Mr Speaker, my name is Steven Shyaka Gashaija, Member of Parliament for Entebbe Municipality.

I would like to say that I am privileged to have the President in my constituency. We usually have a cup of tea and discuss such matters. *(Laughter)* So, I pity those who stay far from Entebbe.

We commend the President's speech. However, for some of you who have used Uganda Airlines and Emirates, when you land in Entebbe, there is a road that runs along the airport. It is a snake road, a dirt road. Do you know it? That road is called Buku Road.

Entebbe is the image of this nation. Mr Speaker, I want the Minister of Works and Transport to ensure that the Buku Road project is completed. Our people in Kigungu are dying of dust. The hospital bills are over the roof. It is a matter of urgency. Entebbe must be beautified. It is the gateway of Uganda.

Two, we have the Nakiwogo-Buwaya Bridge. We want to open Entebbe to go to Masaka. When we open Entebbe, there will be civilisation. The road will go to Masaka and Mpigi. So we need a bridge installed there. That way, Entebbe will be near. People can come and see the airport. We want this bridge to be completed for some of you from constituencies far from Entebbe.

Mr Speaker, we ask the Minister of Works and Transport to prioritise all the roads in Entebbe, which is a beautiful city. Members of Parliament come and invest; that is where the President stays; it is safe. You are most welcome. Thank you, I so submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, can we swap constituencies? You seem to be- *(Laughter)*

MR GASHAIJA: Entebbe is the best. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kapyagon Brian and then Honourable Member from Lyantonde.

5.58

MR BRIAN KAPYAGON (Independent, Kongasis County, Bukwo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I must thank His Excellency the President of Uganda for giving us direction as a country, specifically the points I raised within my constituency, to extend the electricity grid to the subcounties. However, my constituency is off the grid, with only a few subcounties connected to electricity.

Being a one-stop border point constructed in Kongasis County, it is my prayer that the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development extend the electricity grid to Kongasis County so that some of these institutions can operate.

For example, with the country's large population, we need electricity in the health and education sectors. The other day, there was a report from Health Centre IV of a maternal death because they used torches to do the operation because we did not have electricity.

I urge the Government, specifically the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, to extend electrification in the county.

This county is a border point; there is a road that connects us to the other side of Kenya, stretching from Suam-Kapnandi to Kaptererwo. How I wish the Ministry of Works and Transport would have this road tarmacked, because we are now looking to establish a market to promote the integration of East Africa. I beg to end there.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member from Lyantonde, then Hon. Aguti Sarah.

6.01

MS DOREEN KATUSHABE (NRM, District Woman Representative, Lyantonde): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate His Excellency the President of Uganda for his clear focus on electrification in Uganda, as my honourable

colleague has just mentioned in his speech. He noted that there has been progress, as Uganda has moved from 60 megawatts in 1986 to 20098 megawatts to date.

As a Member of Parliament from Lyantonde, I commend Lyantonde for not only seeking electricity for lighting but also a cattle corridor; we are looking for Lyantonde to make progress in agro-business and move from subsistence to the money economy.

I commend the President and also pray through you to the Rt Hon. Prime Minister; kindly consider Lyantonde. It has been facing vandalism of electric poles over the last six months because our security forces lack the support they need for their night patrols.

Who should we seek facilitation from for police to have those night patrols made to protect all these other Government properties, not only the electric poles but even the other activities that are going on in the district? I pray that it is also considered.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable. The minister responsible will respond. Hon. Aguti Sarah, then Hon. Muzaidi Khemis. I am picking the opposition for now; then after, I will go back to the other side.

6.04

MS SARAH AGUTI (UPC, District Woman Representative, Dokolo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I congratulate you upon winning the seat. On page three of the State-of-the-Nation Address by the President of Uganda, the President said that by 1962, the infant mortality rate was at 128 per 1,000 live births. Today, as I speak, the under-five mortality rate is between 46 and 52 deaths per 1,000 live births, meaning that, as of now, the population of Uganda has increased compared to 1962.

Along those lines, between 1962 and 1986, the Government led by the late Apollo Milton Obote constructed 22 hospitals across Uganda that could accommodate the population at the time, but as I speak, the population has increased across Uganda.

For example, Dokolo District is still operating under a health centre IV, but we have more referral cases daily, which is overwhelming the status of a health centre IV at Dokolo District. Meaning that Dokolo District deserves a hospital capable of meeting the demand.

Secondly, Lango subregion has one referral hospital, which is Lira Referral Hospital. Last week I was at Lira Referral Hospital, and they have fewer beds, so they cannot accommodate all the referrals they are receiving from the Lango subregion; they can only accommodate people who are operated on. When you are...
—(Member timed out.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Muzaidi Khemis followed by Hon. Nabawanuka Sumayah and then Hon. Jalameso Fred.

6.07

MR MUZAIDI KHEMIS (FDC, Arua Central Division, Arua City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am Muzaidi Khemis, Member of Parliament, Arua Central Division. One of our colleagues here, whose name I cannot remember, said that those of us sitting here were not there when the President was giving the address.

That was an accusatory sign; one of the roles of a Member of Parliament is representation, and I have come here to represent the people of Arua Central. So, I am informing him that we were there. (Laughter)

Now, when the President -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: But, honourable member, we do not know about that person.

MR MUZAID: He is around. He will identify himself. (Laughter)

The President emphasised the issue of the cash economy, particularly PDM. Mr Speaker, PDM is a good programme in some areas. However, for the urban centres, there are some challenges. PDM has got the Board of Governors (BOGs) and Parish Development Committees (PDCs)

that manage the programme, but there are no clear funds that are given to them to handle this programme. This has a very big impact on this programme.

When the Minister of Local Government goes on the ground, he will have problems with the people, yet the component for running this project was not clearly put there.

So, I urge that more funds, as the President has shown greater interest in PDM, be allocated to take care of the PDCs and the BOGs.

Secondly, PDM is not good in urban areas. Mr Speaker, in 2021, there was a pilot project done by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development – that was the urban cash programme. That project was piloted in Arua City in 2021, in 50 cells in six parishes. That project had a very big impact on the – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Conclude it, Hon. Khemis.

MR MUZAID: What I was trying to say about urban cash was that since PDM is not doing well in the urban setup, can we have that project that we had piloted – Urban Cash for Work Programme – which did very well and had a positive impact on the road sector and the health sector, brought back?

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Sumayah Nabawanuka?

MR MUZAID: Mr Speaker, my sister is requesting that I should inform you that – *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know Hon. Khemis very well. We know each other very well. *(Laughter)*

6.11

MS SUMAYAH NABAWANUKA (NUP, Mubende Municipality, Mubende): Thank you. Mr Speaker, allow me, before I start,

to inform this House that, in the 2026 World Bank report on African countries, Uganda was classified as a “low-income country”.

Now, I will only appreciate the President if – because I am here to speak for Mubende Municipality. Mubende Municipality has a regional referral hospital which serves six districts. However, the hospital is overstretched.

I want to thank the President for having specialised doctors at the hospital. However, the hospital is not fully equipped. We have no medicine. The hospital is understaffed. That is number one.

Secondly, we have a high rate of rural-urban migration because Mubende is basically a rural municipality. There is high youth unemployment. PDM and Emyooga funds are delayed and are insufficient.

These youth could be absorbed into different jobs. For instance, we have 75 villages in Mubende Municipality. However, out of the 75, only 31 have electricity. They have trained them, but they cannot do those jobs because there is no electricity in the areas where they live.

The last issue which caught my attention in the presidential address was the commercialisation of agriculture. Things that inspired Ugandans such as Ignatius Musasizi and others to demand independence were, among others, colonial exploitation and economic grievances. Cotton and coffee prices were controlled by Asians and Europeans. Ugandans felt that they were producing wealth that they did not actually control. *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us have Hon. Fred Jalameso, Hon. Godfrey Saazi, Hon. Vincent Opito - honourable member, what is your name?

Honourable colleagues, the challenge I have – okay? – is that I try to balance. Someone can say “I was number this on the list”, but you find that all of you are from one region. Okay? I have seen that the lists that I got were not well balanced. So, I have to try to balance.

For example, from the Opposition, I have to see how I can balance the different political parties so that I do not pick from only one political party. However, each of you, honourable colleagues, will get a chance. Even if it is not today, each one of you will get a chance to talk on the State-of-the-Nation Address. For the past four weeks, we have been discussing this topic. Yes, Hon. Jalameso?

6.15

MR FRED JALAMESO (UPC, Ajuri County, Alebtong): Mr Speaker, on the 4th of June, the President delivered the State-of-the-Nation Address. What captured my eye was wealth creation and the money economy. The President clearly put 67 per cent of Ugandans under the money economy.

Mr Speaker, to the NRM Government, I am saying: we celebrate that success. However, from the economic perspective, this has got serious implications that the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development needs to take note of. An economy which has graduated into middle-income status, number one, no longer qualifies for concessional loans. That is why the loan we passed here for irrigation a few weeks ago was not concessional.

Hon. Keefa tried to say it was semi-concessional, but, from an economic point of view, it was a commercial loan. The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development needs to prepare for this because we are likely not to get more concessional loans.

Secondly, the drugs to support our health sector may have a significant reduction in donations by the donors. As a country, how are we prepared for this?

Then, to the people of Ajuri and Alebtong, the subsistence economy is not at 33 per cent, as the Government said, but rather 48 per cent. Mr Speaker, to the whole country, it is one in three. We cannot celebrate this when one in three of Uganda - (*Member timed out.*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, but honourable, I think for the record - because you see when we

say - you can take your seat. When we say that the loan was commercial or near-commercial, because we are now considered a lower-middle-income status country. It is - we have been passing loans which are concessional and non-concessional. Therefore, I think that needs to be clarified and put on record.

Secondly, today, as I was revising my reports, Uganda is still ranked among the least developed countries - for the 2026 rankings, only Togo has graduated to lower-middle-income status.

I had to call the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development to say, "But you told us ABCD". They said, "Yes, our ranking will be confirmed once we do it consistently for three years". So we are not in that position yet, but we have to prepare. So, for the record, we cannot say we passed a loan for UK Export Finance (UKEF) - of all UKEF loans which we have been passing, none is concessional, depending on the lenders. So, I had allowed Hon. Saazi, followed by Hon. Kiirya, then Hon. Kamukama Molly.

6.19

MR GODFREY SAAZI (NUP, Gomba East County, Gomba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Godfrey Saazi, and I represent Gomba East County. Mr Speaker, it is clear that the State of the Nation Address is a constitutional mandate, but it should not be a mere formality, but rather an address to hold the Executive accountable to Ugandans.

A speech to address challenges facing Ugandans in a particular season. I want to point out two issues that the President did not address well: the corruption factor. The President always uses the same words to mean the same thing. At one time, he said, "I am going to crush the corrupt ones". The other day, he said, "*Kisanja hakuna mchezo*," and this time "No more sleep".

Mr Speaker, the Ugandans expected the President to address several corruption scandals we have seen, and how far we have moved. How has the Government addressed corruption in the recent past? Instead of threatening us

with words like “Corruption, I am going to crush, *Kisanja hakuna mchezo*”, I think I did not see anything there.

Secondly, the rising cost of living for Ugandans. Look at the increased fuel prices. How do I say that the President spoke when he did not talk about increased fuel prices, and yet we are saying that we are hitting our first fuel this year? How will that affect or improve people’s well-being? To me, I did not see anything in the presidential speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, honourable colleagues, that is according to him. And, you know, for Hon. Saazi, the President is a resident of his district, Gomba. Maybe they share the issues in the evening where we are not. Like Hon. Shaka - or has he not been given the tea and coffee like Hon. Shaka? But he is raising, according to him. Isn’t it, Hon. Saazi, according to you? Hon. Kiirya -

6.22

MR GRACE KIIRYA (FDC, Butembe County, Jinja): Thank you for catching my eye, Mr Speaker – (*Laughter*) I want to appreciate you. Ladies and gentlemen, let us listen a bit; give me my time. The three minutes are now beginning. I am the honourable Member of Parliament representing Butembe, Jinja District. I am a new Member of Parliament.

Whatever mistakes I make, kindly allow them. My name is Kiirya Grace Wanzala. The President’s speech is where I will concentrate, and all my submissions will not go beyond it. I was impressed by the write-up, but I am a practical farmer, and at the same time, I do business.

The President comes out to clearly explain how Western Uganda, especially his place, has evolved, where he has made sure that targeted programs are made, his people are trained, and he has even supported them with coolers; bulk production in milk started, and factories developed in Western Uganda. I want to re-echo this: heifer cows were brought into Uganda, first by the Busoga Diocese in Uganda under the FREP program.

Secondly, in 1986, when they had just taken overpower, the Heifer Project came in with cows under the minister, then Hon. Victoria Ssekitooleko, and my constituency was a beneficiary. Later, MAKAPU came in. I want to concentrate on that area. Once Heifer left and MAKAPU as a project came in, almost all the cows disappeared in Busoga. Why? Ticks.

Another reason was that extension systems were not working, and all these things collapsed. Up to now, we have not had extension workers in those villages in the sub-counties. The minister for agriculture will confirm to us whether they are there -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, we took your minute; we disturbed you for one minute. Let us compensate. You are raising an important point, but you need to reach a conclusion.

MR KIIRYA: So, what disturbs us now is that if you used an integrated program like the one in Western Uganda, where even milk coolers were put in place - I sold milk in my place when my father had that cow. We would move around the whole day, and we boiled it until we lost because we could not maintain the project. To me, what I learned from the President’s speech should be replicated in the country.

Use an integrated approach and think: if you want milk coolers, are they anywhere in Busoga? Dairy Development Authority came in to develop one area - I want to be open on this because I have been in Government programs. Busoga used to have milk coolers. We used to have a lot of milk. Right now, it is almost coming to zero. Almost all the development farms that were established by the Obote II Government closed. This is a symbol that if we want to change the country, we need to think holistically.

Let us look for ways of changing this country. The President had a good write-up and a good speech on agriculture and the loans. To get a loan from the bank - I am an extensive farmer. To get a loan from UDB, which is 12 per cent, is a problem. If you go to ACF, the titles you

must bring - How many titles? For example, how many people in Busoga have titles? Titles are an issue in Buganda and so on. Now, in Busoga, we have resorted to persuading banks to enter into agreements and extend goodwill. Which means that 90 per cent of the farmers are not benefiting – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I have developed a strong interest in this point because we have been grappling with the issue of finding an alternative to sugar cane growing in Busoga. Everyone, you know, is rushing to sugar cane, but the potential for dairy is huge. Therefore, I request the Rt Hon. Prime Minister to arrange a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries with the Members of Parliament from Busoga Subregion so that you can discuss this in detail. Okay?

I can see Hon. Nangoli wants to tag on Bugisu, but on the State-of-the-Nation Address, I want us to remain focused. You will have your chance. I wanted to pick up on that point regarding alternative income-generating activities for Busoga. I had allowed Hon. Molly Kamukama, Hon. Prof. Lubega, and then Hon. Katabaazi.

6.28

MS MOLLY NAWA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kazo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to support the motion to thank the President for his State-of-the-Nation Address.

First of all, the President, in the State-of-the-Nation Address, again pushed hard on infrastructure. Without infrastructure, you cannot have manufacturing. No one can come and invest in your country. I thank him for that because he is focusing on the key issues.

Secondly, the issue of diversifying our economy. The President, in his State-of-the-Nation Address, told us how he would handle the issue of natural resources. He said that we are no longer going to export raw materials. We are going to process them in Uganda. Adding value to our natural resources gives us another

leg of our economy. You know, people have been saying that Uganda is a least developed country. It is true. However, our economy is so diversified that we can withstand many shocks in the future.

We have agriculture, our natural resources, oil, and manufacturing, which is now overtaking agriculture. That is the whole vision of the President: making us stable even though we are least developed.

The other issue is pushing for non-traditional crops and I am a beneficiary of that. I come from a cattle corridor. We did not have anything to export. Now, dairy and dairy products are like third in export earnings. That is part of his vision. He again told us in the State-of-the-Nation Address how he is going to support the sector.

I would like to make two points to the ministers present. I come from the cattle corridor. I see Karamoja is crying. They do not have food. We do not have water. We kindly beg you to provide us with water bowsers. The farmers can even fuel them, but at least they should be in the area so we can get water and water our animals.

Mr Speaker, in my district, we have Foot-and-Mouth Disease. It is there. Now, it is so dry. The animals are getting out of their farms, so it is now going to spread. We have a crisis at hand. I beg that the ministers look into that.

Secondly, the people who are managing our economy - the President in the State-of-the-Nation Address told us that he wants the economy to run or be in a double-digit economy and not to grow in a single digit. I would like us, as leaders and parliamentarians, to support the President.

Apart from oil, which the President elaborated on further in his State-of-the-Nation Address, what other low-hanging fruit are you, ministers, putting forward to ensure the economy is growing not in single digits but in double digits? You could really update us and appraise us such that we support and ensure that we fulfil the mandate of the President. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Prof. Lubega, Hon. Kiconco, Hon. Alenyo, and then Hon. Opio.

6.32

PROF. GEORGE WILLY LUBEGA (NRM, Bugangaizi South County, Kakumiro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. May I begin by congratulating you, Mr Speaker, on winning the Chair.

In the State-of-the-Nation Address, I would like to commend the fact that life expectancy has risen from 43 to 68 years and infant mortality has reduced from 122 to 36 persons per 1,000 live births.

I really want to point out the investments and policies that have made this possible and will likely continue to do so. One is the primary health care services. There has been an increasing trend in safe water and sanitation coverage, improved maternal and child health care, expanded immunisation, expanded ambulance services, and enhanced educational campaigns against malaria, HIV, Ebola, and other diseases. Now, immunisation coverage for children under one year has reached 94 per cent. Whereas measles-rubella coverage has reached 93 per cent.

Mr Speaker, indoor residual spraying for malaria has been rolled out to 20 districts. With the regular upgrades of health care coverage through the decentralised tier system of health centres I to IV and hospitals, planned at each village, parish, subcounty, district, region, and national level, such results are expected.

Last year only, 17 regional and 25 general hospitals were equipped with neonatal intensive care units and 14 referral hospitals got CT scan machines. Mr Speaker, the establishment of specialised hospitals such as the Lubo – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, colleagues, we have three minutes. Colleagues, a professor remains a professor. His submission is widely researched.

PROF. LUBEGA: I would like to commend the establishment of specialised hospitals and the recruitment of specialists, such as heart surgeons, oncologists, and bone marrow transplant specialists. This is not only good for reducing the number of Ugandans seeking treatment abroad, but also for promoting medical tourism and generating additional income in that sector.

In conclusion, there are good general and specific health care initiatives, which is why Uganda will continue to live longer. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Professor. Hon. Katabaazi.

6.36

MR KATABAAZI KICONCO (NRM, Rukiga County, Rukiga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was an economist in this Parliament and I am very grateful to the people of Rukiga and God for enabling me to cross from the corridors to this Chamber.

I rise to support this motion, Mr Speaker. I listened to the address through an economic lens, and I was happy to note that the economy has grown 17-fold, from \$3.9 billion in 1986 to \$69.3 billion today. The poverty level has declined, life expectancy has risen, and our economic growth now stands at 6.4 per cent and is accelerating towards 10 per cent, which reveals to us that the ambition of the \$500 billion economy is no longer a distant dream but a realistic trajectory.

Mr Speaker, we cannot talk about transformation of the economy when the transformation of our communities is lagging behind. I want to commend the President for the Parish Development Model, a presentation he delivered in great detail via video, which revealed to us that people's lives are being transformed and that they are entering the money economy. What we need to do now is to strengthen oversight, improve recovery rates, and ensure that this Parish Development Model actually revolves and extends to all households.

Mr Speaker, there is also one issue that is very pertinent with the Parish Development Model. I have heard the President imploring members of Parliament to actively participate and also in other Government programs. But we need a policy and legal framework that extends to members of Parliament beyond the oversight functions manifested in parliamentary committees and Parliament as an institution.

If we do that, Mr Speaker, I am very sure that the members of Parliament will be able to participate more actively in Government activities at the constituent level with greater confidence.

Mr Speaker, the President elaborated on how the economy has grown in terms of production of coffee, milk, and many other areas. This production requires effective transport. That is why I will be very relentless in ensuring that the Muhanga-Kamwezi – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude that point.

MR KICONCO: Mr Speaker, the construction of roads: the Muhanga-Kamwezi Road, a strategic gateway to Rwanda and regional trade, is undertaken while also ensuring that our interconnectivity with other districts through the Muhanga-Kisizi-Kebisoni Road is upgraded.

Improvement of hospitals; ensuring that we have technical institutes; and extending electricity to most of our parishes, such as Nyakashebeya, Ibumba, Burime, Nyakagabagaba, Kibanda, and Karorwa, which currently do not have a single pole.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable representing Mubende District, then Lt. Gen. Kavuma. I will take those in that order.

6.40

MS HOPE GRANIA NAKAZIBWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mubende): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also want to join the other Members in supporting the motion moved by

the Prime Minister to thank His Excellency the President for the precise, clear, and well-thought-out State-of-the-Nation Address, delivered in one afternoon on 4 June 2026.

Mr Speaker, it would be very outrageous for one to think that His Excellency the President would speak about everything in detail in that one afternoon. I want to thank him for everything he talked about.

Firstly, he talked about the Parish Development Model. Mr Speaker, in his address, he said that - I realised he was alive to the needs and experiences that the people he leads go through. He said, "If there is need to increase the Parish Development Model funds from Shs 100 million per parish, that can be revised."

We were all present: Parliament, the President, and the people eager to utilise them were available. He said that can be revised. Mr Speaker, it is unfortunate that some members of Parliament were not present to listen to it from the horse's mouth. And maybe when they took the time to read the State-of-the-Nation Address that he gave, they read between the lines.

Mr Speaker, His Excellency the President told us that previously in 1989 we were producing milk in millions of litres, but as of now, we are producing billions of litres of milk. So, I appreciate him.

Secondly, he indicated to us when he started the wake-up call to Ugandans to join the money economy, and he indicated that he did that in 1959 - all of us can actually make a very simple calculation and realise that he did that in his youthful age. I want to utilise this opportunity to call upon all of us to return to our communities and awaken the people we lead, so they can also join the money economy and help us achieve high middle-income status.

Mr Speaker, His Excellency the President also talked about the enablers. It is my prayer, through the Prime Minister present here, to ensure that the ministers that are supposed to facilitate Ugandans to get that enabling

environment, most especially when we talk about electricity - (*Member timed out.*)

MS NAKAZIBWE: Thank you, Mr Speaker for this minute - That they take it upon themselves to ensure that people get good health services. His Excellency the President and the Government have a plan of extending health services, especially at health centre IVs, to Ugandans. Let us work towards that.

Let us work towards ensuring that the people of Uganda get electricity, so that agro-industrialisation, as it is prioritised to support the economy, surely does. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Lt Gen. Kavuma.

6.43

LT GEN. SAMUEL KAVUMA (UPDF Representative): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to join my colleagues in appreciating the President's State-of-the-Nation Address.

I want to, of course, try to utilise my three minutes, Mr Speaker. What interested me in the State-of-the-Nation Address by the President was the way he packaged it. He did break his address into three phases.

Phase number one: he talked about his work as a young man, not in Government but as a student in 1968, when he used his pragmatic leadership skills without resources to try to help the communities he came from. He gave us, those of you who attended, you remember my family was given as an example. Therefore, I stand here as a beneficiary of that phase because our people were cattle-keepers, but they did not have the skills to tame nature to benefit them. Instead, they followed nature. They were cattle-keepers. When it rains in a place, they settled to water their cows. When the water dried up, they did not know how to tap the water and harvest it, hence making them move from one place to another looking for water.

My background: my parents moved from Kazo District, now to Buwekula in Mubende District, to Buremezi in Ngoma. That was where I was born 64 years ago, in Gomba District, Sembabule District, back to Ankole Region. That was where he met them in 1968.

The second phase of his speech or address was his work after 1986, where he took over a Government that had actually collapsed. Uganda was a failed state where - the other day I was in Somalia; I bring greetings from Somalia. I do not live here; I work in Somalia, but while I was in Somalia, you passed a budget in this House of about Shs 84 trillion, if I can remember well, out of which -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now General, let us agree. Do you think you can carry out a rescue operation in one minute? Like they say? Please, do. I know you can do it. That is why you are a General.

LT GEN. KAVUMA: Out of the Shs 84 trillion budget you did pass in this House, the Government of Uganda was going to fund about half, maybe Shs 44 trillion. But in 1986, the whole country was collecting only Shs 5 billion. That is the country the President took over, where all the essential commodities were being obtained from outside. No roads, no infrastructure, et al. That was the second phase of his speech, from 1986 up to about 2006 after the insurgency.

Then the third phase was the economy taking off, with so many factories and other things. So, with half a minute remaining - (*Laughter*) - what was the purpose? What do we learn from this State of the Nation address? Is it enough for us to stand here and appreciate him without learning from him? Leadership is not only about positions like Generals, honourable members, or ministers, or about having a lot of resources; rather, it is about commitment. It is about being a pragmatic leader so that you use whatever you have to move your people from one stage to another. I beg to submit, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, Gen. Samuel Kavuma.

6.44

MR TOM ALITI CANDIA (NRM, Maracha East County, Maracha): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Tom Aliti Candia, Member of Parliament for Maracha East constituency in Maracha District in the West Nile region.

I would like to support the motion to express appreciation to His Excellency the President for the State of the Nation Address. I add my voice and I bring the voice of the people of Maracha District to support this motion.

I would like to start from where His Excellency concluded his State of the Nation Address. He said, let us work differently this time. Indeed, we need to work differently this time. I am very happy that His Excellency the President brought in legislative agenda number 3: the amendment to the Education Act, 2008. I am saying so because of the alarming, disturbing and catastrophic levels of primary school dropout rates.

For Maracha and West Nile, the dropout rate for boys is now 90 per cent. The dropout rate at primary level for girls is at 93 per cent. So, out of 16,000 children who join primary 1, only 1,600 complete their primary education program or cycle. It is very disturbing and the tide is increasing. The cause of this is poverty: it is out-of-pocket spending on education; it is non-coded community primary schools.

We have 15 community primary schools but because of poverty, parents cannot pay those teachers. For 10 years now, no primary school has been coded in Maracha district. We have applied and have not gotten a reply. We are so disturbed. Coupled with that, we have a callous mindset of some parents who do not care. They have given up.

I really love this amendment of the Education Act. We need to move from UPE to CPE. CPE means Compulsory Primary Education. This is how we can manage this dropout rate and reduce it from 90 per cent. We need to code

these schools in all districts. Let us say, okay, two community schools per district need to be coded.

In five years, we would have done a lot. In some areas, children cannot cross rivers to reach government-aided primary schools.

My plea is to the Parliamentary Committee on Education and Sports: we need to fast-track the Education Amendment Act and bring about compulsory primary education and also code the non-coded community primary schools in our districts. I thank you and I am happy that you have given me this maiden opportunity. God bless you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, Rt Hon. Leader of Government Business, this is really alarming. I would request that you arrange a meeting between MPs from Maracha and Hon. Phyllis Chemutai, the Minister of State for Primary Education, so that this issue is taken up seriously because some of the issues go beyond.

Now, honourable colleagues, we have just started this debate today. I can assure you that this is a debate where you should not panic about me not picking you. Each one of you is going to speak. You can see the time we have. Allow me for now to call on the ministers.

Now, Leader of the Opposition, we are debating your report. I think he is raising the issue of the islands, but for now, let us first sort Maracha and then we can continue handling area by area.

I wanted to start with the Minister of State for Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities because there is an issue of the elephants which I do not want again to come tomorrow - or that we have to make it an item on the Order Paper and we clog it.

Honourable Minister for Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities, kindly address the issue which the Rt Hon. Leader of Government Business had said would be communicated to you, that is, the issue of the elephants.

6.46

THE STATE MINISTER FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE, AND ANTIQUITIES (Ms Susan Nakawuki): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I apologise for coming in a bit late, but I received information about a concern raised by a member regarding the 200 elephants that escaped and were ravaging the community.

I would like to inform this House that the elephants came from the Karenga wildlife corridor. In this area, there is a village called Tikao village in Gule Parish, Orom sub-county. This is an area which has been encroached upon by the community. They are farming around that area. These are people who came from Orom sub-county in Kitgum and because this area is adjacent to Agago, three herds of elephants are moving around that area.

This has been a common problem. The Uganda Wildlife Authority actually received funding from the Government to fence off that area, but the community resisted, saying the Authority wanted to take over their land.

That is why, up to now, only around 176 kilometres of Kidepo has been fenced off. We already have the materials, but the problem is that the community resisted, including the politicians in the area.

Therefore, I would like to implore the Members of Parliament from that area to mobilise the community. Uganda Wildlife Authority is willing and ready to fence off the area because we already have the materials and the funding. The only solution is for us to do an electric fence in that area.

Usually we plant chillies along the borders of national parks, and when elephants taste them, they know this is a no-go zone. However, because the land harbours people's gardens, UWA is no longer able to plant the chillies.

I would like to request the members to mobilise the community, and the moment you are ready, Uganda Wildlife Authority is going to come in and fence off that area.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, we cannot work that way. You cannot shift a responsibility to a Member. You come to the Floor and say, "I told the Member to mobilise the community, and they failed, and that is why elephants are still here." No, it is your duty.

This is where I tell ministers that please work with the Members. If the Member, for example, had this information, he would not come here but link up with you. I request, honourable minister, that you link up with the Member and work together to solve the community problem. Otherwise, he will come back here if you fail and we continue in a circle.

MS NAKAWUKI: Thank you very much for your guidance, Mr Speaker. I am going to do the needful. Please, Members, avail yourselves.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I can see the ministers are ready. Hon. Tom Aza, issues to do with your ministry, which have been raised?

6.57

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CO-OPERATIVES (CO-OPERATIVES) (Mr Tom Aza): Thank you, Mr Speaker and honourable Members of the august House. For the benefit of the new Members, I am called Alero Tom Aza, Member of Parliament for West Moyo Constituency and the brand-new Minister of State for Trade, Industry and Co-operatives. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, this is my maiden response to issues raised by Members, as captured in the President's State of the Nation Address, as a Member of the Cabinet.

My ministry is the engine of the economy of this country and contributes 75 per cent. It drives the economy of this country. In the year 2010, Government of Uganda coined what we refer to as "Vision 2040," which is supposed to be implemented through six National Development Plans (NDP). That is, NDPI, II, III, IV, V, and VI. As I talk, we are in NDP IV.

Also related to that is the fact that my ministry is also responsible for the Tenfold Growth Strategy, which is supposed to propel the Ugandan economy from \$50 billion to \$500 billion in the next 30 years or so.

We also have the updated Diagnostic Trade Integration Study, which is ongoing to improve the economy of the country and to help us in all that we are talking about here.

We have the National Industrial Policy of 2020 and Museveni-economics, which presupposes that we must embark on the enablers for socio-economic transformation. What are these enablers? Infrastructure, electricity, irrigation, social services, security, financial services, ICT, among others. Moving away from subsistence Agriculture to commercial Agriculture; from lower-middle-income status to upper-middle-income status. All this is in our ministry.

As we move on to upper-middle income status, my dear colleagues, as leaders, let us go down to the grassroots and tell our people to once again shift from subsistence Agriculture to modern or commercial Agriculture, so that we can have what you call sustainable development goals. Thank you. *(Applause.)*

7.02

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CO-OPERATIVES (INDUSTRY)(Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in thanking the President for a very clear and constructive State of the Nation Address. It is very insightful for the future and exhibits his leadership over the last 40 years.

The Members raised a number of questions, and I want to take a few minutes to respond to four specific questions. One was raised by the honourable lady Member of Parliament for Kampala District, that the traders and businessmen and women are complaining about the delays in clearing their imports at the customs points.

Ideally, the clearance should take two days, but what we have been able to observe is that

some of the importers have no clearance from institutions like the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) or the National Drug Authority (NDA) because of their goods. Getting those clearances adds to the clearance from the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA). Some have offenses with customs.

Some of these issues are the ones that actually delay the importers from clearing the goods at customs. In the context of the President's vision for import substitution and export promotion, we have been engaging with the traders, especially the importers, to join the industrialisation agenda. To take advantage of opportunities that we have like Uganda Development Bank (UDB) and others, to be able to join the manufacturing sector.

Honourable colleagues, the industrialisation agenda is one of the surest ways to create jobs, pay taxes, and pave the way to achieving the \$500 billion economy in the next 14 days.

The second point was the issue of Karamoja by our colleague, Hon. Remegio. I know the Prime Minister will touch on one aspect of water – *(Interruption)*

MR KIRUMIRA: I thank you, honourable minister, for giving way. The clarification I seek concerns industrialisation and how the President is encouraging Ugandans to join the industrial sector. As we all know, the industrialisation sector has been taken away by foreign nationals. If you move, for example, to Luwero, industry by industry, most of the industries are foreign-owned.

Honourable minister, clarify which industries you would wish Ugandans to join in the industrialisation process. Thank you.

MR BAHATI: Mr Speaker, I must make this bold statement. It does not matter who has put up a factory in Uganda, but are we creating jobs for our people? Are we adding value to the things that we produce? Are we creating wealth for our Ugandans?

We encourage our indigenous Ugandans to go into the manufacturing sector. That is the reason we have put up institutions like the UDB to help them access money, but I think the most important thing is: are we adding value to what we are producing? Whoever puts up a factory, whether you are a Ugandan or a foreigner, as long as you are employing our people, you are welcome. *(Applause.)*

The second issue was about Karamoja. Mr Speaker, I have to say that Karamoja has a special place in our development agenda as a country and we are creating a number of opportunities to develop it.

One of the things that we are focusing on in our sector is having factories in Karamoja, and so far, as Hon. Remigio said, we have two industries: cement and clinker. Because of that factory, we are going to save close to 80 per cent of the money that has been used for clinker for road construction, using our local materials from Karamoja.

We also have good news for the people of Karamoja. We are finalising a feasibility study to establish a multi-billion-dollar industrial park in the subregion. We hope that when this comes up, it will create more jobs and investment opportunities for the Karamoja people.

Regarding the aspect of drought and others, we had a discussion, and I know the Prime Minister will comment on that *—(Interjection)—* Hon. Mwiru, my brother, I am stressed with *—(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, honourable minister, you can see it is past seven. That is why I did not give Members an opportunity. LOP, you will have time to come and raise all these issues.

MR BAHATI: Hon. Mwiru, you can understand.

The second-to-last issue concerned the honourable member from Gomba, who said that the President has been threatening to fight corruption. I have a different view. The

President is not threatening, but is actually taking action, and the writing is on the wall. We are happy and glad to be having a President who says what he means and means what he says. He is walking the talk, and we should be proud of our President. *(Applause)*

Hon. Molly asked an important question and said, “As sector commanders, what are you doing to fulfil the intention of the President in the State of the Nation Address?” In our sector of industry, we are focusing on creating value for the things that we are producing, especially agro-industrialisation and also import substitution. We would like to manufacture everything we import into the country.

For example, honourable colleagues, you may need to know that almost 40 per cent of the honey taken in European countries is made in laboratories, yet here in Kabale, Buganda and Arua, we have a lot of honey. For example, our focus now is on processing honey so that we can export it to these countries *—(Applause)—* so that they get out of this honey made in laboratories and start enjoying the natural honey that comes from Africa.

Lt Gen. Kavuma, I cannot agree with you anymore. We have made good progress over time. We used to import sugar, but now we have excess sugar and also industrial sugar. The sugar that is used to produce soda and others is processed here from Kinyara. We used to import carbon dioxide which is used in soda. We now have factories that manufacture it.

We are currently importing close to \$1 billion of steel and steel products, but we have now almost set up factories that have reduced this import substantially. So, we are producing steel here. Companies like Roofings and Tembo are setting up in Tororo and Kigezi Subregion to take advantage of the iron ore stocks that we have in our country, which is approximately 312 million tonnes. We want to utilise this to produce steel and steel products.

Mr Speaker, the statement of the President was very important and I am glad that Members of Parliament are appreciating it. Let us join hands with the President to industrialise our country,

create jobs for our people, and build wealth for our country. Thank you so much. *(Applause)*

7.12

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Dr Sam Mayanja): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As Attorney-General, I would like to bring up the point on the agenda of this House that His Excellency the President raised in his speech or the State of the Nation Address.

In the State of the Nation Address, His Excellency the President appended an annex, where there was a list of legislation. That list contained 23 Bills intended to be brought by the Government for enactment by this Parliament. The annex also contained eight reports relating to the budgeting of Government. It is important to note that the reports are to enable transparency of the Government and hold it accountable to the budgeting process.

The bills listed in the annex range across all sectors of Government, including education, infrastructure and transportation, trade, professionalism, the health sector, local government and taxation, among others.

The proposed legislation list contained in the annex to the State of the Nation Address is a springboard for this Parliament to harness the achievements and protect the gains that have been achieved so far, which include wealth creation, budget alignment for grassroots growth and promotion of Uganda's independent economic choices, and resource management. That legislative agenda gives the full work for this Parliament in this coming period. Thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General, we shall be glad to receive those laws on the Floor. We are waiting and hope to receive some this week, since the Prime Minister promised two Bills.

7.15

THE MINISTER, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES) (Mr Hillary Onek): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I came to add to what has been

stated about Karamoja. Karamoja is normally an area of lean rain; there is not enough rain there. This has been compounded by climate change, which has now made the weather unpredictable. You get excessive drought and excessive rainfall during El Niño.

The current drought, which is causing hunger in many parts of Karamoja and the neighbouring districts, is because rainfall ceased; it stopped around May. From the end of May up to now, there has been no rainfall. This is the period when most of these areas would be harvesting crops, but the crops dried up before they could be ready.

The challenge before us now is to make sure we provide emergency relief to Karamoja. The Ministry of Relief, Disaster Preparedness, together with the Ministry of Karamoja Affairs, is working on that.

However, the problem of Karamoja needs a long-term solution. The Office of the Prime Minister, under instructions from His Excellency the President, has put together a task force, integrating the Ministry of Water and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, and other stakeholders to develop durable solutions for Karamoja.

One of them is to ensure that we have adequate water for irrigation in Karamoja. This should be planned, designed, and developed intentionally, not just by chance.

Another factor we must be aware of is the rampant degradation of our environment resulting from population growth. So, more and more forests are being destroyed, which have been the ones causing rainfall and helping keep our climate stable; swamps are being drained, and the Ministry of Water and Environment is struggling to restore these systems.

However, that needs all of us to be responsible to ensure that our people stop the destruction of the forests. The Sahara Desert is moving southwards due to such destruction. If we allow it to continue, Uganda will become a dry country. So, let us work collectively as leaders to ensure that that is done.

Finally, the cattle corridor, particularly the Western part of Uganda, also experiences a similar shortage of water for their animals. We shall plan for the whole country to find solutions within the next year to address this problem in the long term, not the short term, as we have been doing before. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs-

7.19

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (Ms Huda Oleru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join my colleagues in thanking His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the precise, concise and smart State of the Nation Address that he gave to the Ugandans.

In his first statement as a God-fearing President. He started his statement by saying, "I thank God for making Ugandans achieve the numerous victories."

Honourable members, that shows what the leader of this country is like. He knows that there is one above him. As President, he could have just stood up and enumerated every achievement. But being a servant of God, he started by saying, "I thank God."

That lesson is for all of us that, as leaders at various levels, let us bow to God. That is what he meant.

Two, on the first page of his statement, he said, "I thank God, everything that is going on is because of the peace we have in this country." Honourable members, peace is a cardinal pillar for the development of any country and any community.

Uganda now enjoys strong diplomatic relations, attracts development partners, and participates actively in regional trade because we now have peace in this country. We can attract these people to work with us, which was impossible when this country was stateless. Our entrepreneurs, researchers and industrialists

now do tremendous work because of the peace that you talk of.

Our farmers can now freely pick their hoes, go to the garden, dig and plant their seedlings. You cannot go to the farm when you are hearing gunshots everywhere, when you know that you can be abducted anytime. We should not take the peace we are enjoying as a country for granted.

I therefore appreciate the Commander-in-Chief, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, for this peace. *(Applause)* The peaceful environment now allows democratic institutions to function effectively. Promotes the rule of law and enhances accountability.

You are aware that there were very funny elections in this country, but since President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni came to power, democracy has been the order of the day. The President just mentioned peace but never enumerated it as I am doing now. It is about national unity; it fosters harmony among different ethnic groups, religious leaders and cultural groups, strengthening national cohesion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, are you done?

MS OLERU: He is on order-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I am the one who allows members. Since you have allowed, please, Hon. Tebandeke-

MR TEBANDEKE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thought that by your guidance, you had given ministers the opportunity to come and respond to Members' questions. Instead, I see the minister as campaigning for the President. *(Laughter)* Is she in order?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers are also members of Parliament. I was in the Cabinet. As a Minister, we usually limit these colleagues of ours, and yet they also need to submit on the Floor. However, Hon. Oleru, please conclude.

MS OLERU: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for that wonderful ruling. Honourable member, I am a Member of Parliament representing the people of Aringa East County in Yumbe District. I can use the opportunity to speak both as a Member of Parliament and also as a Minister of Defence – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, time is running out. I do not know if there is any other minister with the – Rt Hon. Prime Minister, did you want to sum up today? If not, we just stop here.

We want in every session – instead of waiting until members raise issues and we find we cannot have an opportunity to respond to them at once or that it would take the whole day to respond to them. I urge the ministers that when we have this debate, towards the end of every session, they should be able to respond to the issues.

The Prime Minister, at the end, will sum up, with a focus on the response to the Leader of the Opposition, who raised critical issues which, I think, you need a chance to respond to – and that is your chance.

Honourable colleagues, we have started this debate and, as I said, we might take around four weeks or more on it. We will ensure that each one of you submits on it.

So, do not go feeling “the Speaker has not picked me”. You know, I was a backbencher. After standing up three times without being picked, you start thinking: do I have an issue with the presiding officer? *(Laughter)* It becomes a feeling. However, I want to assure you, honourable colleagues, that the section of Hon. Nakiyi is where I will start from next time.

Also, instead of you dying with that feeling, please, come and talk to me – give me a call or even send me a message. Some MPs can even form an opinion – “Aah, you know, he can never pick me!”

I have some of you who come and tell me: “You know, I only speak when you are the one chairing.” Then, they go to the Speaker also and say: “You know, Rt Hon. Speaker, it is only when you are chairing when I speak.” *(Laughter)* So, you are very clever people. *(Laughter)* Then, you say: “It is between you and me – the other one should not know.” *(Laughter)*

Honourable colleagues, please, we are extremely fair. For now, you might not agree, but the item is still on. This item has not been closed. We shall ensure that each one of you is given a chance to speak on this item, as part of the maiden speech.

So, tomorrow we shall resume. Today, we had a much shorter time because we had very many issues on the Order Paper, but we have sorted out most of the issues. I do believe that tomorrow, we shall have much more time.

Please, I want you to forgive me if I did not pick you. It is not personal; it is just starting and, slowly by slowly, we shall ensure that everyone is picked.

ADJOURNMENT

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: House adjourned to tomorrow at 2:00 p.m.

(The House rose at 7.29 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday, 15 July 2026 at 2.00 p.m.)