



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - SECOND MEETING

THURSDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2024



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FOURTH SESSION - 5TH SITTING - SECOND MEETING

Thursday, 19 December 2024

Parliament met at 2.05 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, especially most of you who are from Mombasa. I do not know whether that is where Hon. Rwemulikya got the new dress.

Honourable members, at the start of this month, due to the heavy rains, we lost over 28 people to mudslides in Bulambuli District. These kinds of deaths traumatise the communities and it is a big loss to the nation yet it has been recurring. Most of these things have been happening year in and year out.

On behalf of Parliament and my own behalf, I want to express our sincere condolences to the families who lost their dear ones, the people of Bulambuli, and the country at large. I urge the Rt Hon. Prime Minister whom I saw in the field doing hard work to fast-track the relocation of the affected people so that we do not lose more.

I also want to voice that the leaders from the affected areas and the Government should give her all the necessary support to ensure that we prevent this from happening again by taking preventive measures.

Honourable colleagues, on Saturday, 14 December 2024, we lost a gallant son of our country, Hon. Dr Frank Nabwiso, a former Member of this House. He represented the people of Kagoma County in the Seventh Parliament. He was an accomplished politician and educationist who contributed immensely to the development of the Busoga Region and the country at large.

I have received a copy of the motion from the Rt Hon. Prime Minister to pay respect to the late. With time, I will be allocating it space on the Order Paper so that we can pay a befitting tribute to that gallant son of ours. I want to thank the Government for considering that motion important.

On the same note, our colleague, Hon. Ssemujju Nganda, lost his father, Hajji Ali Nkwanga Nganda who passed on, on 12 December 2024. Hon. Pauline Kyaka, also lost her father, *Mzee* Paul Kyaka. I request that we stand up and observe a minute of silence.

(Members rose and observed a moment of silence.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, join me in congratulating our colleagues who participated in the 14th Edition of the East African Parliamentary Games in Mombasa, Kenya. The teams excelled in many disciplines and at an appropriate time, I will give the Chairperson of the Uganda Parliamentary Sports Club to present the trophies that we won in Mombasa.

I also congratulate all other East African countries which participated in the Games as we continue to deepen the integration process. Special thanks to the Republic of Kenya and its Parliament for the wonderful hospitality and to the President of the Republic of Kenya who graced the opening ceremony. They prepared very well and we were well hosted in Mombasa.

I want to thank our staff of Parliament who gave us all the support we needed. Colleagues, once we finish this session, you are all invited to the annual end-of-year party today, 19 December 2024 in the parking yard.

We held prayers at that same place early in the morning and the Archbishop declared it a holy ground. We appointed Hon. Eсенu, Hon. Robina and Hon. Bahati to monitor those who will not dance in a very prayerful manner. *(Laughter)*

So, dance in a prayerful manner so that we do not distort what we achieved today at our holy ground. We do not want those dancing strokes which we saw in some of these –

Honourable colleagues, I do not know whether the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is here yet, but I request him to comment later.

Honourable colleagues - Hon. Amos is here - Sorry. Hon. Musasizi has been coming all the time, sometimes we forget my brother but thank you.

Honourable colleagues, recently, I received a call from someone who identified herself as an agent of *ManguCash*, an online money lending app threatening me to repay a loan for I do not know anything about this company and I have never signed for anyone as the next of kin. someone who borrowed and put my number as the next of kin.

I humbly explained to the lady that I did not know what she was talking about; I do not know the company and the person but I was rudely responded to. I said, maybe I could say who I am but when I said who I was, that even

became worse. They said, “That is why I have told you, you are a conman” - but how did we allow- I had read something from India where some people are committing suicide because of those apps.

How those apps work is that you download them on your phone and in consent, you allow them to access your numbers and photographs. Since they do not have any security and connections, they put anyone as next of kin. They start threatening you by sending messages. I am told some send compromised doctored pictures from Artificial Intelligence saying, if you do not – I decided to put this on my X handle to see the response of the public.

Colleagues, people outside are dying and are being tortured. When I reached home, my wife showed me messages she had been receiving from another company threatening her. I also started receiving messages from Government officials and other people - This is what we have been going through all the time. Someone borrows money and puts your number as the next of kin and then disappears and then they come for you.

These apps are a menace because they seem not to be traceable. The trend I got from the public was that they are owned by people you cannot touch. Even when you try, they fight back badly; they use very crude methods. There is a gentleman called Ronald Egesa who, I was told, had been fighting with them online, but they are very strong.

Therefore, Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development - lucky enough I had called Hon. Musasizi about it. Attorney-General, these online money lending apps are killing people because they are not regulated. Money lending is a regulated business; anyone can be allowed to do it. However, these ones seem to be playing below the radar, where there is no monitoring or regulation. It is only harassment, harassment and harassment.

I shared this with the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Hon. Musasizi, now you are the regulator. We put

the regulation function under the ministry through the merger. Is there anything you want to comment on?

2.16

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. When you shared it with me, I brought it to the attention of the officer responsible for the central bank. He acknowledged that this is a matter which has already been brought to their attention and advised that we give them time to do a proper investigation. The outcome will be reported to the public through Parliament and yourself. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, I think what is very important is that we do not kill anyone's business but we are saying let them be regulated and work within regulations. I think it would be very critical to the regulation aspect.

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker, the issue is not about regulation because what is happening is illegal. The regular one is regulated and there is no problem. However, what these people are doing - like they came to you - is that they were doing it illegally. This is what we are investigating and we shall give a full report to the House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, in a month's time you will be able to give us feedback.

Honourable colleagues, lastly, I will amend the Order Paper to allow:

- i) The Minister of Education and Sports to present the National Sports (Amendment) Bill, 2024 due to the urgency that I was notified of;
- ii) The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to present the Fourth National Development Plan (NDPIV) and Supplementary Schedule 1 for the Financial Year 2024/2025; and

iii) The Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to present a statement on hosting the African Union Extraordinary Assembly on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

Thank you. I will handle matters of national importance after these items - but I did not comment on anything on education. The Bill will come. Hon. Linos?

2.19

MR LINOS NGOMPEK (NRM, Kibanda North County, Kiryandongo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Like the Minister of Finance – *(Interruption)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order, Hon. Ssewungu?

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, with your directives, you say that this row is for ministers. Above all, I am a shadow minister. Hon. Linos is ever hitting us thoroughly on our side, abusing ministers. Therefore, is he in order to access our microphone, where a smart minister like me is speaking from, at this juncture?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, when the House is not full, each party should sit within their position. We usually say "free sitting" when the House is very full. The chief whip on this side needs to count his numbers, see his troops, and communicate easily.

However, on speaking, he can speak from any microphone. On sitting, the front row is for the Shadow Cabinet.

MR NGOMPEK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As we are talking about the online people who lend money, the Ministry of Finance should work hand-in-hand with the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) because the UCC regulates social media and others. Most of these borrowers and lenders use social media for clients to access money. They should work together in order to come up with a comprehensive report. Thank you.

2.21

MR FREDRICK ANGURA (NRM, Tororo South County, Tororo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I know you have talked about the trophies that will be coming, but I want to congratulate you in advance for being part of the team.

Mr Speaker, you have talked about these comen. Last week, I also received a call from someone who said he was calling from Boda Boda *Banja*. I asked, “What is Boda *Banja*?” He insisted and emphasised, “We are demanding you here. Your details were brought here as a surety, someone who is taking responsibility for *Banja*.” It became difficult for me to continue with that argument.

Therefore, on what you are saying, so many people have positioned themselves very well. They are running away with our addresses and it is starting to become a problem for us. When I insisted on this person giving me details, he only told me, “We shall come for you.” What you are saying should be taken seriously. Let the Government help us. Many of our people are dying quietly with these kinds of scams that are happening. Thank you very much.

2.22

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luwero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Yesterday, on the 18th of December, military personnel raided one of the business premises of the leadership of the National Unity Platform –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, that is not part of my communication.

MR KIRUMIRA: I am coming up with the procedural matter.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no, no! This is a reaction to my communication. You must limit yourself to what I have communicated. Then, you can raise those issues under matters of national importance. I want us to be organised.

2.23

MR GEOFFREY MACHO (Independent, Busia Municipality, Busia): Mr Speaker, in our communication, I noted one thing that this year, the Speaker in the chair, you and the Rt Hon. Speaker, Anita Among – did a good service to this country by passing very many good Bills that I believe will help our people in Uganda –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable members, it is you who passed the Bills, not me.

MR MACHO: Yes, Mr Speaker. As a presiding officer, I cannot cross to 2025 without appreciating you. You are a blessing to this country and therefore – (*Applause*)

At the same time, I want to appreciate the parliamentary sports team that went to Mombasa of “Gulu” where my sister and good friend, Hon. Namugga, was one of the best players. In fact, I appreciate the Leader of the Opposition for having allowed your people to go to “Gulu” to play all the sports. This is –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We had no sports in Gulu. It was Mombasa.

MR MACHO: Mr Speaker, I am calling it “Gulu” because Mombasa is nearer than Gulu of Uganda. I want to appreciate the National Unity Platform for having allowed its members to go and participate in the parliamentary games. This is a demonstration that they are people who are patriotic and love their country. The trophies that we have brought, I believe, will make the flag of Uganda fly high. Thank you very much.

2.25

MS CHRISTINE KAAYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Kiboga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am reacting to your submission on the theft. There is also an application called “Afro Mobile” which was hosting several television and radio stations. They no longer provide a service, yet they receive subscriptions. The people are not informed about the fault of that application. We continue

to pay subscriptions, periods end, and we are not reversed on anything.

Therefore, I request that they not only look out for individual challenges, like the Speaker experienced but dive into all applications like *ManguCash*, *Boda Banja*, and *Afro Mobile* - they should have some limitations online and people stop using them. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, we are facing a problem with technology in this country; people are wrongly using technology. I have received many messages from people saying their WhatsApp has been hacked, including honourable colleagues on our platform. Honourable colleagues keep posting that their WhatsApp has been hacked, they are extorting money from people and we should ignore them.

Our Information Technology (IT) team may again need to enlighten our Members, but the Ministry of Information, Communication Technology and National Guidance should look into this issue of technology abuse, which is supposed to be facilitating easy transactions and easy operations, but now is being used by the wrong people. Hon. Rwemulikya?

2.27

MR IBANDA RWEMULIKYA (Independent, Ntoroko County, Ntoroko): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I congratulate you and the team for the work well done in Mombasa.

Mr Speaker, I would like to react to your communication about the floods. I send my sympathies to the people of Bulambuli for the lives lost; it was very unfortunate.

I have an issue with the Office of the Prime Minister.

In Ntoroko, we have had floods since 2019; people are living in water. I have come here several times lamenting and the Office of the Prime Minister had promised to buy land and relocate these people. However, up to now,

there is no land and people are still living in water.

Recently, the water level on Lake Albert increased and more places are being eaten up. People are living in camps in a terrible situation. Therefore, we pray that the Office of the Prime Minister takes action. As they relocate people in Bulambuli, Ntoroko should not be left out. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. That is for noting and it will be passed on to the Prime Minister. What is the procedural issue, Hon. Ssewungu?

MR SSEWUNGU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have a procedural issue and I am happy that the education minister is here. We first got it as a rumour that the teachers marking the Uganda National Examination Board (UNEB) examinations -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, that is not a procedural matter, I am sorry. Procedural matters are to do with things going on here now. Those are matters of national importance; I will give you a chance. Thank you. Hon. Sarah?

2.29

MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity to also congratulate the Ugandan team that participated in the East African Legislative Assembly Games and welcome you back from Mombasa.

However, Mr Speaker, the year is coming to an end and today may be our last sitting. We have had games; this is the 14th East African Legislative Assembly Games. When games are going on, Parliament has been sitting, because not all Members of Parliament participate. The majority of us remained here; over 300 Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I am requesting that as we move to the 15th East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Games - even when the games are going on - let business continue because we

have issues and motions, and we are going into elections. By next April next year, you may not see Members here.

We have pending motions before you on your desk that have not yet been handled. I would like to plead that even when there are EALA games, the House should continue with its business. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Nakut?

2.30

MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak): Mr Speaker, to speak to the matters you communicated, I suggest that - just like other countries do - they regulate the kind of Apps that are acceptable within a jurisdiction. The ministry for ICT should look into that matter so that not all Apps from anywhere can find a place in Uganda, even the harmful ones.

Mr Speaker, on the 14th of October, this House honoured me and gave me the responsibility of leading the ad hoc committee to inquire into Posta Uganda. We have been doing our work pretty well, except we have time constraints. One of the key witnesses was indisposed for some weeks. Also, one of the witnesses hinted to us that we needed to do a further investigation because the information at our disposal accounted for only 10 per cent.

Therefore, I request that you allow my committee more time. Eight weeks will do us good.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, we have gone into the budgeting process - yes, Hon. Nambeshe, is it the same?

MR NAMBESHE: No

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have gone into the budgeting process we cannot afford eight weeks; I need Members to be released back to sectoral committees to work on budgets. Honourable colleagues, if we give them four weeks, it would work. Isn't it? We have granted you four more weeks.

MS NAKUT: Much obliged.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: LOP?

2.35

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr John Baptist Nambeshe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I add my voice to yours to give a congratulatory message to the Members who participated in the inter-parliamentary sports in Mombasa. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, other than my good friend, Hon. Macho vulgarising this wonderful sport, it is not merely about competition. It is about fostering unity, deepening, widening integration, and nurturing talent.

Mr Speaker, the issue you raised of the online lending scam bears a very close similarity with what the honourable Member of Katikamu was raising; Hon. Kirumira. What happened in Busabala is physical - the online one is invisible, but this particular one in Busabala, which happened yesterday evening, is of physically armed and uniformed military officers, who invaded and subjugated the workers at this particular beach.

They rained all manner of brutality on them. A number of them are maimed, as we talk, and this matter is of urgent public importance, which requires investigation. The perpetrators of this terrorist action should be brought to book.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Sometimes, it depends on how you want to bring matters. This is a matter which I would put the minister to task to explain. When you bring it under my communication, it is just a comment. This is what I was emphasising, Hon. Kirumira. When you bring such a matter, it should be a question of a minister to explain why this happened. Next item?

BILLS
FIRST READING

**THE PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION FUND
BILL, 2024**

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister? Hon. Ssewungu, I will give you a chance.

2.35

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE (Mr Wilson Muruli Mukasa): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Public Service Pension Fund Bill, 2024 be read for the first time.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, is there a Certificate of Financial Implications?

MR MURULI MUKASA: Yes, Mr Speaker. It is accompanied by the Certificate of Financial Implications. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I refer the Bill to the Committee on Public Service for consideration and report back in accordance with Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure.

**THE UGANDA PEOPLE'S DEFENCE
FORCES AMENDMENT BILL, 2024**

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister for defence?

2.36

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (VETERAN AFFAIRS) (Ms Huda Oleru): Mr Speaker, pursuant to rule 128(2) of the Rules of Procedure, I beg to move that the Bill entitled, "The Uganda People's Defence Forces Amendment, Bill 2024" be read for the first time.

The Bill is duly accompanied by the Certificate of Financial Implication in compliance with Rule 118 of the Rules of Procedure and Section 76 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. I will refer the Bill to the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs for processing and reporting back.

**THE UGANDA PEOPLE'S DEFENCE
FORCES AMENDMENT BILL, 2024**

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Procedure, Hon. Sarah?

MS OPENDI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the minister for bringing the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) Amendment Bill, 2024.

However, recall, Mr Speaker, sometime back - you were actually in the chair when I raised the issue of uniformed officers dressing themselves with hoods during the day and carrying guns.

I was at an event where the honourable minister was - and she actually witnessed this herself. Why should we have UPDF officers or even police officers dressed in hoods, carrying guns in public during the day? It is only thieves who do that.

Mr Speaker, she actually indicated that she was coming to respond and she is here now. Can I hear whether that is one of the amendments in the Bill? Thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, when a minister is coming to respond here, he seeks for space on the Order Paper and then we give it to them. I do not want to ambush a minister. Let her prepare her response. Thank you.

Honourable colleagues, like I told you earlier on, we are going to amend the Order Paper to receive the Sports Amendment Bill.

BILLS
FIRST READING

THE NATIONAL SPORTS AMENDMENT
BILL, 2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister for sports?

2.40

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, pursuant to Rule 128(1) and (2) of the Rules of Procedure -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I need order in the House.

MR OGWANG: I beg to move that the National Sports Amendment Bill, 2024 be read for the first time.

The Bill is duly accompanied by the certificate of financial implication in compliance with Section 76 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and rule 118 of the Rules of Procedure.

Mr Speaker, with your permission, allow me move a motion for the suspension of rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure. Mr Speaker, before, you refer the Bill –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, you asked but I have not allowed you. Because before you do that, we must announce it for first reading, otherwise, we will have jumped a critical stage. Clerk?

BILLS
FIRST READING

THE NATIONAL SPORTS AMENDMENT
BILL, 2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister.

MR OGWANG: Mr Speaker, colleagues here are making me laugh, but that is not for now. I will answer that after I have moved the motion.

Mr Speaker, I move a motion for the suspension of rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure.

Mr Speaker, before you refer the Bill to the relevant sectoral committee, I move that Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure be suspended to enable direct and urgent consideration of the Bill by the House without referral to the committee.

The justification for the suspension of rule 129 is the urgent need to align the provision of the National Sports Act with the World Anti-Doping Code and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) International Convention against Doping.

Uganda has to urgently comply with this requirement, lest we risk losing the hosting rights of African Nations Championship (CHAN), Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) and other international competitions here.

I am aware that the House might go into recess, so I beseech the august House to directly consider the Bill.

The Bill has four clauses all related to the amendment to align the law with the global anti-doping standards. I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I put the question, honourable colleagues, I discussed this with the minister and the Attorney-General, and I had to look through the Bill. Basically, the four clauses which they have put in the Bill have nothing to do with our local regulations.

It is only just cutting and pasting from international regulations to do with anti-doping. Okay? There is nothing outside that. However, it is very - maybe, Attorney-General I do not know if you want to add something, then I will allow and put the question, because I should put the question on whether the motion is seconded, but Members should know what they are seconding, before anything else.

2.43

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA): Mr Speaker, and honourable colleagues, you recall that sometime last year, we brought the National Sports Bill for enactment by this House. At the time of bringing this Bill, we did make mention of the requirements to comply with the World Anti-Doping Code.

Upon sending the Bill back to the World Anti-Doping Association, they required that certain aspects be specifically stated in the Bill, and particularly stating that this particular code will be adopted as far as doping.

Therefore, the four provisions that we are dealing with in this Bill relate to introducing the code for anti-doping into the law, specifically for that purpose.

Secondly, they require that there must be clarity on the issue of the independence of the body that is handling anti-doping. They said that we need to state clearly that it is independent. So, those are the two aspects and they all relate to compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code. And I beseech colleagues to take it in good faith and allow us to proceed with this Bill.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I put the question, Hon. Ssewungu you wanted to –

2.45

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): Mr Speaker, the Committee of Education sometime back ran a Bill within two days and it was processed and returned here and we never had challenges. But as you stated that you met the Attorney-General and Minister, but on our side - I am the shadow minister for education who processed the Bill.

We have not been involved and the Attorney-General – specifically looking at the law as you also do the same. You know that when looking at the law, there are sections that move within others, as you try to interpret them. So, we had very serious clauses on doping in the Bill, the Act we passed and assented to by the powers that be.

So, how does our side come in to prove what you are saying and what is the urgency of this Bill? I pray that you give this committee time, to process and look at the amendments you have made- because you know that with sports, there are other international laws where we are signatories.

Attorney-General, how would you feel, through the Speaker, that you give us - because on our side, I doubt - we have the shadow minister and the shadow Attorney-General, who are not informed?

How do we come to accept it? And my good friend, Hon. Ogwang, did not even call to me to look at the amendments he wanted to make. How will I generate a minority report after moving it straight on the Floor by suspending a rule on a matter which is not so urgent? Because we are ready to do it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is important to talk about the urgency because they told me about it. I reached out to the acting Leader of Opposition (LOP) and I explained to him that the shadow Minister of Sports should link up so that they harmonise but it was late. However, is not that as a presiding officer, I did not reach out to the opposition side. I did.

MR SSEWUNGU: Most obliged, Mr Speaker, but even when I am going to move anything in the committee, we have a technical team on our side and reading is very important. I can tell you, Attorney-General, that up to now, the regulations for the law we passed have never been produced by the Ministry of Education and Sports.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu, let us make it very simple. If these are international provisions, from the code of the Anti-Doping Agency, they are not allowing you to add a comma or a full stop. They are saying that for your sports people to participate internationally, you must adopt this. Hon. Jonathan Odur –

2.48

MR JONATHAN ODUR (UPC, Erute County South, Lira): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, we need to have the Bill properly before the House and I submit that it is not. When the minister moved for the first reading the Bill had not been accepted; so we cannot even proceed to that next step to consider whether it is urgent.

The second one is that even when a matter is urgent, it is proper that procedures are followed, not for the minister to come and hurry as if this House is just a group of robots seated here to process their business.

His explanation for the urgency should come that maybe this week or next week you have a group of athletes from Uganda who are going to participate and if we do not pass it today, it means they are not going to - but it has not come out.

Therefore, I propose that we first receive the Bill and it is referred appropriately. And then, if the Executive has any issue, they can stand up, move and we can then consider that motion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Hon. Jonathan Odur, I am the one who guided that way because the Bill's title was already read for the first time. Now, because the Clerk called it, if I refer it to the committee, you go through the process of getting it from the committee back to the House.

So, I had not yet referred it. However, the moment the title is called, and announced, we have it for the first reading. We called it for first reading and we have had - No, the Clerk did. I do not know whether you were not hearing properly.

MR ODUR: Mr Speaker, the Clerk called the item, and the minister moved. After the minister has moved, the Clerk is supposed to read that title, which he did not.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: He did.

MR ODUR: I was here, but it is okay; we can leave it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Maybe for clarification, the minister went on the Floor to move and I stopped him. I said he could not continue before the Clerk could read the title and the Clerk read the title. Clerk read it again for the satisfaction of my colleagues and the record.

THE NATIONAL SPORTS (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, the issue is on the urgency. How urgent? That is because we are going for recess; so how urgent? During this period, won't you be able to work without it?

MR OGWANG: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable colleagues, I would like to talk about the international events for which we have the hosting rights. To begin with, we have CHAN. I can confirm that beginning the 1st of January going forward, I have the Confederation of African Football (CAF) team here in the country.

To go on record, Mr Speaker, you are aware that on Saturday, the president of the Confederation of African Football with the members of the CAF executive are visiting Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

However, we have received serious warning letters from the World Anti-Doping Agency, telling us of the urgency to align our laws, the National Sports Act, with the World Anti-Doping Code, as the Attorney-General has said.

Without this, even our athletes, who have been going to compete in other international competitions - and even the flag of Uganda is not going to be allowed to fly in all areas where those specific athletes go and compete.

Secondly, we have AFCON, which is coming to Uganda. Therefore, even those Ugandans who qualify to go and bid or get elected in the international sports events will not be allowed to compete or participate in those events if we do not pass this very specific code.

For that matter, I am also aware of the parliamentary programme; today you might adjourn the House. For that matter, I would beg, honourable colleagues, that we have this Bill be passed as they have clearly come out to say, it is specifically aligning our law with the World Anti-Doping Agency provisions of the law.

There are specifically four provisions in this law. And even if you say that we send this law to the committee, I implore my colleague, particularly, the shadow Minister of Sports and the shadow Minister of Education. I regret not having called, you know you and I talk. For that matter, I beg that you allow and we move as a team for purposes of approving this law. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Committee Chairperson, have you looked at the Bill? The copies should be in the pigeonhole and also, it should be displayed here.

2.53

MR JAMES KUBEKETERYA (NRM, Bunya County East, Kibaale): Mr Speaker, I have looked at the Bill and there is nothing dangerous to the old Act that we passed. It is a matter of realigning the international regulations with our Act.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now put the question that Rule 129 be suspended to enable the House to proceed to the second reading of the National Sports (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE NATIONAL SPORTS (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I want this to go on the record because sometimes when you are a presiding officer, these things are brought to you, you have to go back, and you first look through. I would not also accept that you come and rush in something, which would need much scrutiny.

However, from what I saw, the Bill is going to be displayed here. If you find issues that have nothing to do with Anti-Doping Agency regulations, then we drop them. It is a very small Bill. We should handle and align it for sure, honourable colleagues. Hon. Jonathan, handle Hon. Ssewungu for me.

Honourable colleagues, in the VIP Gallery this afternoon, we have some of the religious leaders who presided over the Parliament of Uganda end-of-year prayers and thanksgiving service:

1. Sheikh Muhammad Bukenya, Deputy Mufti of Uganda;
2. Sheikh Suleiman Kakeeto, Amir of the Tabliq Sect, Clock Tower Mosque;
3. Dr Ali Sulaiman Walugembe, the Imam of Masjid Fauz;
4. Msgr John Baptist Kauta, the Secretary-General of the Uganda Episcopal Conference;
5. Rev. Fr Ponsiano Kaweesa, the Chaplain of the Parliamentary Catholic Chaplaincy;
6. Rev. Gillian Okello, the Chaplain of the Parliamentary Anglican Chaplaincy; and
7. Rev. Dr Mulindwa Muwonge, the Church Relations Manager at Uganda Christian University.

The service was led by His Grace, Bishop Luke Orombi, Retired Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, and a declaration was made that every member of Parliament will return back to Parliament in 2026. *(laughter)*

Those of us who have already booked our seats are praying for you, our honourable colleagues who missed out. We hope that you will also make it.
Clerk.

BILLS
SECOND READING

THE NATIONAL SPORTS (AMENDMENT)
BILL 2024.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

3.01

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to move that the Bill entitled The National Sports (Amendment) Bill 2024 be read for the second time.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? Hon. Rwemulikya, Hon. Luttamaguzi, Hon Christine Nakimwero, Entebbe Municipality, Brig. Charity, Gomba West, Kiruhura, Kapchorwa, the Chairperson of the Committee on Education and Sports, the Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Education and Sports, Deputy Prime Minister, majority of members of this House. Hon. Niwagaba Wilfred, Hon. Isingoma.

Honourable minister, can you just, in summary, speak to the motion?

MR OGWANG: Mr Speaker, the object of the National Sports Amendment (Bill) 2024, is to align the National Sports Act, Cap. 151 relating to the anti-doping with the World Anti-Doping Code and to provide for the related matters.

Mr Speaker, like I had earlier on said, the other one, of course, is to not allow our country to be banned from participating in the international competitions for purposes of complying with the World Anti-Doping Code. Honorable colleagues, I beg that this Bill is supported for its amendment. I thank you so much.

Mr Speaker, for the record, let me lay the Certificate of Financial Implication on the Table because it is here to accompany it. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, I now put the question that the National Sports (Amendment) Bill 2024 be read the second time.

(Question put and agreed to.)

BILLS
COMMITTEE STAGE

THE NATIONAL SPORTS (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I request that the IT team display the Bill?

Clause 1

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that clause 1 stands part of the Bill.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 1, agreed to.

Clause 2

I put the question that clause 2 stands part of the Bill-

MR OGWANG: Mr Speaker, I would like to interest honourable colleagues on Clause 1, specifically on, any other violation of the Article. Instead of 3; it is Article 2 of the World Anti-Doping Code. Can we go to clause 1?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: No, we shall recommit it. We have already passed it. Honourable minister, if you have any amendments, please, alert me early.

On Clause 2, Honourable Sarah Opendi-

MS OPENDI: Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson. I want to find out, when you read Clause 2 as it is; it says, "The National Anti-Doping Organisation, including staff and directors, shall be appointed on terms and conditions outlined in the internal regulations adopted by the minister." In the previous Bill, it was stating that the minister shall appoint the staff.

When you say that members of the organisation shall be appointed, and you do not mention by who - who is going to appoint them? We need to be clear because where it brings in the minister; it says, “based on the terms and conditions outlined in the internal regulations adopted by the minister.” To me, the previous provision was clear. It was saying, “the minister shall appoint the staff.” What is different in this particular clause?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Attorney-General.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. What is expected of us, and you are correct, in the last provision, the minister was supposed to set the terms and conditions of appointment of the persons who are sitting in these offices.

What the World Anti-Doping Agency requires of us is that we are required to adopt the regulations as set internationally. The minister should not have direct control in a way to fetter their independence. That is the change here. This provision is saying; you adopt the regulations here, internally the minister adopts them and they are appointed in accordance with those regulations.

MS OPENDI: Mr Chairperson, is the Attorney-General talking about international regulations or internal regulations? Because the Bill is talking about internal regulations.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Yes, there are internal regulations adopted by the minister. They exist, and we are required to adopt them.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Attorney-General, the minister adopts international regulations, then once they are adopted, they become internal. Is that so?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: There are existing regulations which we are required to adopt here, and once they are adopted here, they now become your regulation. Domestication, kind of.

MR NAMBESHE: Mr. Chairman, the Attorney-General is oblivious of what he commenced with. You talked about the anti-doping code, and that code literally is a document, a core document that harmonises the anti-doping policies, regulations, and rules which you should take us through, not the internal ones.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: The Attorney-General seems not to be getting you well.

MR NAMBESHE: I am reminding you of the code, which is merely a core document that harmonises the anti-doping policies, rules, and regulations. These are all international. Do we have internal? Honestly?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: If it is a drafting issue, we can have it sorted.

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Attorney-General, a while ago, I inquired about the issue of regulations. Once you talk about international regulations, we have to domesticate them. Have we done so? Or is it going to be done after? Let us know. I know the way we are rushing with these amendments – we are already at the Committee Stage. Could you help us know that? I think we can have internal regulations which is supposed to be brought by the Ministry of Education and Sports.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Mr Chairperson, I do not know whether this is appropriate, but if you looked at the amendment of section 53, which is clause 3, what you are talking about is exactly what we are required to do. It is saying that we are required to insert a clause here to publish in the media and wide circulation the international anti-doping in a timely manner following the adoption of the amendments.

What they are saying is that once they do any amendments there, you adopt them here, through those processes. That is what we are looking to achieve after this amendment because we did not provide for it. We did not provide for that gazetting of those regulations here.

MR ODUR: Mr Chairperson, the section of the law that the amendment is intended for reads as follows, “The minister shall appoint members of the National Anti-Doping Organisation on such terms and conditions as the minister may determine”. That is what we have in the current law.

Now, when you look at section 52, where we establish the National Anti-Doping Organisation, we have stated and we named the members – the chairperson and four other members. Here, the inclusion of the words “staff and directors” must be justified. This is because under 51 and 52, where we establish the organisation, the staff and directors – we do not have those two, the word “director”.

Even then, if the minister says he wants the power to appoint, I find that the provision in the law as it is, is actually better because it says as the minister may determine. Therefore, you already have the powers to determine whether according to the regulations or another instrument.

We must get justification why staff and directors are now being included and yet we had agreed that there is one chairperson and four other members who are going to form the National Anti-Doping Organisation.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: I think what we are dealing with here is that what the World Anti-Doping Agency would not like to see happen is any minister at any time determining the terms. When I am appointing person X, this time I set these terms, another time I set different terms. That means that the person who, in essence, negotiates best terms gets those terms for appointment.

What they want to see happen is that the terms that you are going to be appointing these members against must be known at any given time before you exercise that decision. Therefore, they are saying, get these terms; what the person is supposed to be, what qualifications they are supposed to have, what they are supposed to do, gazette them. Whoever is appointed at any time is appointed against those terms.

They are saying that if you have the minister with the discretion to determine the terms at any given time, then that means the independence of this person who is being appointed is being taken away by the fact that his terms of service are determined at the whim of the minister. That is what this clause is trying to remove.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Honourable colleagues, where I see a difference - I am seeing in the Act, the minister may determine. Okay? But in the amendment, the minister will only adopt, meaning it is not the minister who is going to make these regulations. The minister will adopt the regulations that are going to be made. Now we need to know by who - by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

In the current law, the way it is, it was the minister to determine. Now, this one gives more independence to the agency than the current law.

MR RUHUNDA: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I totally agree with what you have indicated and submitted on this matter because international regulations are a standard for the whole globe to adopt. You cannot change according to your own tune.

I think this is why the current request is to see that the minister does not in any way influence the appointments and even change regulations at his or her own whim. They must be tied and create the independence that is desired. That is why I think this is the right direction.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Now, Attorney-General, we are handling two issues at once. There was an issue of independence which we seem to be now agreeing on – Honourable colleagues, what is going on? Do we need an anti-talking agency in Parliament? *(Laughter)* Sorry about that.

We have two scenarios and we seem to be settling one. The one of powers where the minister’s influence should be reduced. We seem to agree on that one. The current law says “the minister will determine” and the amendment says “the minister will adopt”. That is clear.

But now, Hon. Jonathan Odur is talking about composition. You are bringing in individuals who were not considered in the Bill and you are not providing for them in the amendment.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: I do understand what the honourable member was saying. I think what we had here was that the anti-doping organisation shall consist of the following members. That is what the clause had. A chairperson and four other members with knowledge and experience in anti-doping.

What WADA is saying is that these five people here will not be the ones running the entire anti-doping agency. There will be people who actually go and take the samples. There will be people who investigate. All those people are there, and they are saying that the protection that needs to be given should not be given only to the board and the top leadership of the anti-doping agency. It should be given to all the staff – even those who go to take samples from the athletes need to be protected. Hence this introduction.

What we are saying here is that the organisation shall consist of the following members, and the members include the staff. So what we are saying is that there will be that top agency of the board but we are saying the protection that is being provided here must extend to the staff and members. All of them.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: But Attorney-General, Hon. Jonathan Odur is saying that you are not proposing to amend section 52(1). You are leaving it the way it is. You are only providing 52(2). He is saying, do you think it will work without amending 52(1)?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: If you give me a minute, Mr Chairperson - we have already provided for staff and members. They are provided for in here. What this clause is looking to introduce is their protection. But this law already provides for the appointment of staff of this agency. This provision only introduces the protection. Let me identify the clause.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

MS OPENDI: Thank you very much, Chairperson. I thought regulations are adopted by Cabinet. It is not a single minister that can adopt regulations. This particular clause states that members of the National Anti-Doping Organisation, including staff and directors, shall be appointed based on the terms and conditions outlined in internal regulations adopted by the minister. It should be Cabinet. A single minister cannot adopt the regulations. That is my understanding. Unless this is specific – how I wish under interpretation, that we define what we mean by internal regulations so that whoever is reading it understands that the internal regulations being referred to here are maybe the international ones.

MR SSEWUNGU: We have to correct that impression. We cannot put anything in the law to deal with the Cabinet and illegal drafting - it is clear. It talks about the minister. By talking about the minister, you are actually referring to the Cabinet because he cannot generate any business without sitting in the Cabinet. Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

THE CHAIRPERSON: In fact, you want someone you can hold accountable. You are referring to the President because the minister works for the President.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: For completeness, Mr Chairperson, if you look at the current Section 41 of the National Sports Act, it says, “*The board may, on the advice of the General Secretary, appoint other officers and staff of the council. An officer and staff of this council shall hold office on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the board now.*”

That is what the amendment is looking to add protection to these people that their terms and conditions cannot just be changed around by the board and the minister without any control. That is why we do not need to amend - the other one relates to the board, but the protection will go to all the staff and board members.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable colleagues, I put the question that clause 2 stands part of the Bill.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 2, agreed to.

Clause 3, agreed to.

Clause 4

THE CHAIRPERSON: The Attorney-General.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson. In clause 4, subclause 3, I propose to amend by removing the word “Section” immediately after 2 in clause 3A to read, contrary to Article 2.8 - it is not a section. The World Anti-Doping Agency provisions are called articles. We had marked them as sections.

Therefore, in A, I would like to propose that contrary to Article 2.8 of the World Anti-Doping Code, and then in B, to replace the word “Section” with the word “Article” to read, “Contrary to Article 2.7 of the World Anti-Doping Code.” I beg to move.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable colleagues, I put the question that clause 4 be amended as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

The Title, agreed to.

MR OGWANG: I beg to move, under rule 138, to recommit clause 1.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable colleagues, I put the question that The National Sports (Amendment) Bill, 2024, be recommitted to consider clause 1 of the Bill.

(Question put and agreed to.)

BILLS COMMITTEE STAGE

THE NATIONAL SPORTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

Clause 1

MR OGWANG: Mr Chairperson, I recommit clause 1 to read as follows;

“or any other violation of Article 2 of the World Anti-Doping Code.”

I beg to move.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable colleagues, I put the question that clause 1 be amended as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable minister?

MR OGWANG: Mr Chairperson, I beg to move that the House resumes, and the Committee of the whole House reports thereto.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable colleagues, I put the question that the House do resume, and the Committee of the whole House reports thereto.

(Question put and agreed to.)

The House resumed, the Deputy Speaker presiding_)

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

3.21

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of the whole House has considered the National Sports

(Amendment) Bill, 2024 and passed it with amendments.

MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE HOUSE

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister.

3.21

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the House adopts the report from the committee of the whole House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I put the question that the report of the Committee of the whole House be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

BILLS
THIRD READING

THE NATIONAL SPORTS (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2024

3.22

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Honourable members, I beg to move that the National Sports Amendment Bill, 2024, be read for the third time and do pass.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I put the question that the National Sports Amendment Bill, 2024, be read the third time and do pass.

(Question put and agreed to.)

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, "THE
NATIONAL SPORTS AMENDMENT ACT,
2024"

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable members, I thank you for your consideration. Sometimes we go this way when it is not controversial when there are international relations and all that. If they are our local issues, we have to because Hon. Ssewungu may request one hour to write a minority report.

Thank you, honourable colleagues, for the solidarity in handling this very urgent issue, which is going to facilitate our sports personalities to go and participate globally and be recognised in the many ways that they have been participating.

Honourable minister, congratulations. Honourable Shadow Minister, also congratulations.

The Shadow Minister had an issue he wanted to raise, so let me just allow him, as a thank you.

3.23

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): Mr Speaker, I thank the shadow minister as well, for not informing me early enough about the same amendment. At least when it came up on the Floor, we definitely passed it, and it is for the betterment of Sports in Uganda.

I know Hon. Ogwang loves sports very much, the way I do. The Attorney-General and I are lovers of sports, and he runs our team, Express Football Club. We are always together.

However, Mr Speaker, what I was trying to raise before was that we got information from social media, which later on, turned out to be true. Teachers are at marking centres. The new curriculum, O-Level, has had challenges. What was in the social media was that teachers used to mark papers of the old curriculum within a day. They used to mark 250 papers. However, now, they mark 50 scripts. At the marking centre, they had strikes, and the army came in

to direct them to either mark or go out. What happened was that the teachers left the marking centre.

Mr Speaker, before you go for marking, you are trained. What is exactly happening in the Uganda National Examination Board (UNEB)? When they came to the Committee of Education, we gave them all the funds they desired to carry out marking. We even gave them supplementary funding one time.

Here we are with a new curriculum. Teachers are on strike because they are not paid well. Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) at a marking centre, which is very irregular, has intimidated them, and the Ministry of Education and Sports has not come out to give proper information on what is happening.

I got information from one of the soldiers who was there, also crying, that, "Please, Mr Ssewungu, you always talk about education in Parliament - even my children did senior four. So, what is going to happen?"

Could we know exactly what is happening at the marking centre? If teachers have left the marking centre, how have you got other teachers going there to mark, when they are not trained in marking? What are you paying them? This is because the repercussions of marking children's papers, mainly in the new curriculum, can affect each and everyone here. Therefore, could we hear from the minister and take quick action? If they can get money to increase for those who were marking, we can solve - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much.
Honourable minister?

3.26

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Before I get to the issue my colleague has raised, first, I thank all of us for passing the National Sports (Amendment) Act, 2024. I congratulate all of us here. *(Applause)*

Secondly, Mr Speaker, I would like to begin by regretting, if at all, it is true, like Hon. Ssewungu said, that the soldiers participated in such a matter, which is an internal matter. In my considered opinion, this could be handled by the Uganda Police Force, if at all a case arises.

Thirdly, as far as the issue he has raised, I ask you, Mr Speaker, to permit me to come up with a formal statement, which I will be able to read and inform the House of what transpired. I thank you.

MR SSEWUNGU: I agree with the statement, but what is happening now? Those teachers marking exams do not even go home for Christmas -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu, the minister, can only tell you what he knows. He has asked you to allow him to go get information and give it to you.

MR SSEWUNGU: Most obliged, Mr Speaker, but you see -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you and I know that this is an urgent matter. I do not think the minister looks at it as casual.

MR SSEWUNGU: Most obliged, Mr Speaker. At any instance of challenges at marking centres, the only remedy available is to first halt marking, send everybody back home, and you - *(Interjection)* -

That is the only remedy you have. Once there is a battle at the marking centre, the only remedy you have is to first halt marking, then you prepare something - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Next item?
Honourable minister for finance?

LAYING OF PAPERS

Thank you. Next item?

I. ADDENDUM TO THE PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS \$374.8 MILLION (EQUIVALENT TO USD 518 MILLION) AND RECEIVE A GRANT OF SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS OF 34.8 MILLION (EQUIVALENT TO USD 48 MILLION) FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE WORLD BANK GROUP, AND BORROW UP TO EUROS 40 MILLION (EQUIVALENT OF USD 42.66 MILLION) FROM AGENCE FRANCAISE DE DEVELOPMENT (AFD), TO FINANCE THE GREATER KAMPALA METROPOLITAN AREA URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (GKMA)

II. PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO EUROS 45 MILLION FROM THE AGENCE FRANCAISE DE DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT KAMPALA WATER, LAKE VICTORIA WATER AND SANITATION II PROJECT

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

3.28

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay on the Table an addendum to the proposal to borrow up to Special Drawing Rights \$374.8 million (an equivalent to USD 518 million) and receive a grant Special Drawing Rights of 34.8 million (an equivalent to USD 48 million) from the International Development Association of the World Bank Group, and borrow up to Euros 40 million (an equivalent of \$42.66 million) Agence Francaise de Development (AFD), to finance the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area Urban Development Program (GKMA). I beg to lay, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. The loan proposal is referred to the Committee on National Economy in consultation with the Committee on Presidential Affairs, as per Rule 155 (2) of our Rules of Procedure.

Vice-chairperson of the Committee on National Economy, do you have something to say? You had an issue? No, Rule 155(2) - you talk to the sectoral committee – So, the Committee on Presidential Affairs comes in because of Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA).

3.31

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the proposal to borrow up to Euros 45 million from AFD to support Kampala water, Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation II (KWLW Watts and II Project). I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The proposal is referred to the Committee on National Economy and the Committee on Natural Resources for consideration. This work is mainly for the Committee on National Economy.

The sectoral committees - I think you could even do a joint meeting because the sectoral committee only needs to look at the work plan to know whether it is within our work plans, but the borrowing and all that is scrutinised by the Committee on National Economy. This should not disturb us that much.

Hon. Migadde, Vice-Chairperson, Committee on National Economy?

3.32

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ECONOMY (Mr Robert Migadde):

It is good you have guided us because previously, we had referrals to two committees, as our rules stipulate. The chairpersons of sectoral committees have tried to bring reports to the Committee on National Economy. Therefore, this actually hinders progress because we normally wait for the sectoral committee. The perception they have is that we have to wait, as the Committee on

National Economy. When you give us 45 days, for example, to report, then the other sectoral committee takes 20 days, and the committee on National Economy is kept waiting. It is good that you have communicated that way, and I am sure all of us have heard.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why did this come up? We were having issues where the sectoral committees would say that they did not even know about the source of funding and all that. Any loan should be within the work plan of that ministry's budget. Then, the committee on National Economy will go to scrutinise the terms and all that. Therefore, if the sectoral committee is going to go through all that, it would be a problem.

The report should come as one and should be read by the Committee on National Economy. Sectoral committees should not be bringing reports here.

Honourable colleagues, we are going to lose time if I open this up for debate. We are going to have a debate on the rules so I hope these are issues which we can capture under the rules in case there are gaps. Next?

III. THE NATIONAL BUDGET FRAMEWORK PAPER FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026 TO FINANCIAL YEAR 2029/2030

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister for finance.

3.34

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, pursuant to Rule 8 of our Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to lay on Table the National Budget Framework Paper for the Financial Year 2025/2026 to Financial Year 2029/2030. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Mpuuga, on Procedure.

MR MPUUGA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Honourable Minister is within time, no doubt, but I was sure that the Minister is also alive to the command of Section 9 of the Public Finance Management Act. He is also aware, as well as everyone else, that the National Development Plan is not yet approved and not yet laid before Parliament. The Minister has laid the cart and the horse is no show.

Mr Speaker, is the Minister proceeding well in laying the Budget Framework Paper (BFP) without first laying the National Development Plan IV, because then what is the BFP feeding into or picking from?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Mpuuga. You are right, but that is what I alluded to in my communication at the beginning. I am going to amend the Order Paper to allow the National Development Plan IV to be presented here today. Once it is laid on the Table, I will give guidance. The guidance I wanted to give is going to sort out the issue you are raising.

I just want us to receive the Budget Framework Paper and the National Development Plan IV, and then I will guide you on how it will be processed and ensure we cure that anomaly- We will be waiting. Thank you - *(Mr Musasizi rose)* - why doesn't he first give a short brief or Leader of the Opposition; do you want to do it now?

MR NAMBESHE: I wanted the minister to clarify the relevance of operating through this sector-based committee when we have transitioned into programme-based budgeting because you are laying a Budget Framework Paper, and we still operate in committees that are sector based, when we have already transitioned into programme-based budgeting. Could you clarify that?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can see the minister is looking at me-*(Laughter)*- You remember last financial year, I assigned this issue to the Committee on Rules, it studied it and gave feedback. The Attorney-General and the Minister for Finance were to bring an amendment to the PFMA because the PFMA

talks of sectors the way it is now. As long as we do not amend the PFMA on our side, we cannot amend our rules to provide for committee-based programmes. Therefore, the earlier you do that, the better.

However, honourable chairpersons who get problems while you are processing, you should come, and we will guide you on how to handle.

Last year, we had a problem; I think it was the Committee on Presidential Affairs and the Committee on Physical Infrastructure - while processing the budget for Kampala City Infrastructure. The one of infrastructure - it is their programme, but they were saying that they do not see the money. The Committee on Presidential Affairs was also failing. Therefore, we agreed that since the Committee on Presidential Affairs has been looking after Kampala, let it handle, but the earlier we cure this, the better. Honourable minister, you also wanted to add something to that?

3.39

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, I wanted to add something that the Public Finance Management Act defines a sector, and a sector means “a group of institutions or votes that have common functions, objectives and mandates.”

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Abdu is our Chairperson Committee on Rules- because Hon. Abdu and the team scrutinised that deeply and they are the ones who discovered that anomaly. Please Hon. Abdu

3.40

MR ABDU KATUNTU (Independent, Bugweri County, Bugweri): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I think the minister is trying to be clever, but not fully. *(Laughter)* We had a thorough debate on this issue, and the minister was here; we all agreed - the Attorney-General was here too. Why do you open up a debate which is useless?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Good.

MR KATUNTU: And the report was adopted. Are we looking into the report again? I think you were guided well.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask for an action taken on the report which we adopted here. *(Laughter)*

MR KATUNTU: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister.

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker, the Budget Framework Paper I laid is accompanied by the following in fulfilling the requirements of the law;

1. The Certificate of Climate Change Responsive Budget Framework Paper. I beg to lay *-(Interjection)-* Certificate of climate change. How the National Budget Framework Paper speaks or responds to climate change issues? I beg to lay; and
2. The Certificate of Gender and Equity Compliance to the National Budget Framework Paper. I beg to lay.

Mr Speaker, there is always a question in the public about what is in the Budget Framework Paper, and I beg the indulgence of the House that I briefly mention a few things the Budget Framework Paper emphasises.

Mr Speaker and Colleagues, the theme of the budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026 remains: “*Full monetisation of Uganda’s economy through commercial agriculture, industrialisation, expanding and broadening social services, digital transformation, and market access*”.

Mr Speaker, I wish to inform the House that we shall subsequently lay the NDPIV, and I wish to inform the House that this National Budget Framework Paper has been prepared in consistency with the National Development Plan IV, which we want to lay shortly.

It is also consistent with the Charter of Fiscal Responsibility and satisfies the requirements of gender equity responsiveness and balanced development. It is in two parts;

Part 1 highlights the economic growth strategy, the medium-term macro-economic forecasts, the medium-term fiscal framework and forecast, compliance with the Charter of Fiscal Responsibility, the resource envelope for the Financial Year 2025/26, the policy measures, the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework for the Financial Year 2025/2026 and the fiscal risks and mitigation measures.

Part 2 provides details of the proposed programme plans and interventions.

Mr Speaker, allow me to reaffirm to the House that Uganda's economy has fully recovered and is on the right growth path, driven by investments in the 10-fold economic growth areas. Currently, there is high business and investment optimism in Uganda, with inflation contained at 2.9 per cent, way below the policy target of 5 per cent.

Mr Speaker, in line with the 10-fold growth strategy, the Fourth National Development Plan, and the NRM Manifesto, and the guidance by His Excellency the President, the Financial Year 2025/2026 budget will continue to prioritise the following economic fundamentals;

Peace and security, roads, railways, electricity, irrigation, reducing the cost of capital, human capital development in health, education, water, international relations and disaster management.

These will be driven by the full monetisation of the economy implemented through the ATMs. These are agro-industrialisation, tourism, mineral-based industrial development, science, technology and innovations, including information, communication technology, as well as the creative arts industry.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, it seems to be a long statement.

MR MUSASIZI: I am trying to summarise my statement and wish to add that our preliminary resource envelope is Shs 57.441 trillion, and we shall raise this money through domestic and external sources.

I also wish to inform the House that in the next financial year, we do not intend to introduce new taxes. We shall only do the Bills to clean up. *(Applause)*

As I conclude, maintaining macroeconomic stability is good for economic growth and fiscal sustainability, including keeping prudent debt levels. Therefore, I call upon all the stakeholders to support this Budget Framework Paper and contribute to its financing. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The budget framework paper is referred to the Committee on Budget and the sectoral committees to pick the areas which are within their jurisdiction. And as rules require, it must pass it by 1st of February. Honourable colleagues, as you go for Christmas, you should know that we shall be coming back quickly to process the budget framework paper. Hon. Naomi -

3.48

MS NAOMI KABASHARIRA (INDEPENDENT, Rushenyi County, Ntungamo): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. Before I raise my point of procedure, allow me to use this opportunity to congratulate my sister from Kisoro because she was sworn in when I was not here. I congratulate her for having defeated the NRM electoral thief chairperson in the name of Tanga Odoi - *(Laughter)* - I congratulate her for that. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, let us listen to one another, hon. Naomi that is a very unfortunate statement on a person who does not have a way here to defend himself. I know you can use better language even when you have issues.

MS KABASHARIRA: Okay, the point is made. I it, but I congratulate her - *(Laughter)*

- my point of procedure is that last year, I brought a motion to your office, you willingly received it, and I was given a letter from your office that it was sent to the Attorney-General to guide because I was given a copy.

Now that we are closing Parliament today, the motion was to downsize this Parliament. How long does the Attorney-General take to reply to such a small thing? He is the only one we can rely on but he has not-*(Laughter)*- because I got a message from you saying that you sent it to him but I have never received anything and yet it is now a year.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS KABASHARIRA: And downsizing will not be for you people, it will be for those who will be coming. We are too many for the country.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Maybe for clarification, first, today, we are not closing Parliament. Parliament will remain open. We only adjourn, I do not have the power to close Parliament.

MS KABASHARIRA: Most obliged; I am sorry, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will consult with the Attorney-General on the same and ensure he talks to you.

Next-

IV. THE FOURTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN NDP(IV)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister -

3.51

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (PLANNING) (Mr Amos Lugolobi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the Fourth National Development Plan called the NDP(IV) for the period 2025/2026 to 2029/2030.

With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, I just need to make a few points to summarise some of three key issues that the House may need to know.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, it seems to be a big statement, is it more than two pages?

MR LUGOLOOBI: Mr Speaker, I will just summarise it. It is a big statement that will accompany the document for the committee to read in detail, but just to make a few highlights;

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, closely working with the National Planning Authority, has developed the fourth National Development Plan to guide the country for the next years. So, it is a five-year planning framework, which is in line with the legal requirements of section 86 of the NPA Act 2024 as amended and section 93 of the Public Finance Management Act.

The preparation of this plan has taken a participatory and consultative approach, with the consultation of Parliament having been conducted for two days on the 3rd and 4th of December 2024 at the parliamentary premises.

We have also consulted with His Excellency the President, the Cabinet and the various stakeholders both at the national and sub-national level.

As the law requires, the Budget Framework Paper, which my colleague has just laid on the Table, has to be consistent with this plan. We have taken that into account by consistently following every step in the process of preparing the budget framework to make sure that the two actually rhyme. So, a number of issues my colleague highlighted here are derived from the plan.

Mr Speaker, permit me to indicate that the National Development IV (NDPIV) is benchmarked on key achievements, challenges, and lessons learned in implementing NDPIII. The goal and the theme of NDPIV, therefore, is to achieve higher household incomes,

the full monetisation of the economy, and employment for sustainable social-economic transformation. We have worked out indicators to reflect how far-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Procedure, Hon. Muwanga-Kivumbi.

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: Mr Speaker, I was heavily constrained to raise a procedural matter because; one, there is an extent to which some people should not take Parliament for a ride. You have brought a budget framework paper that should have been accompanied by the National Development Plan IV, and you have brought them together for us; assuming that we are going to rubberstamp that NDPIV, then you have already brought a document that should have been aligned to what should have been agreed.

To insult us further, you are attempting to read the whole document, which is not even uploaded. To what extent do you want to take this Parliament, and to what level? I would have said for fools, but parliamentary language does not permit me to do it. Otherwise, it is so much of an insult to use the process. You are putting us in a very bad light- this parliament is a very unserious House.

How on earth do you bring NDP IV before - I mean, Mr. Lugoloobi and cabinet take us for a serious people. My procedural matter is that can he if he is not even – *nani* - that document is not uploaded, could he humble himself and, for heaven's sake, not read it? It is too much of an insult to this House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clerk, is the document uploaded? Honourable ministers, you know it is courtesy. When you have such issues, you visit the presiding officer in the office and give them a copy of the document. I do not have a copy of that document here. That is why I was wondering if it is a big document. If such a statement is not uploaded, honourable minister, it becomes difficult. What I want to go on record is simple and very clear; that parliament was never consulted. There is

a procedure for consulting Parliament. I have spoken to the Speaker.

When you make your pronouncements as ministers, you say we are inviting members of Parliament for a consultative meeting. That is not how they consult Parliament. You write to the leadership of Parliament; they arrange for you a process of consulting members of Parliament. But when you meet them somewhere, that is not formal. Consultation should be formal, especially if it is provided for in the law.

I cross-checked with the Speaker because she is the one who has been here, and she confirmed to me that we were never consulted. I want the Hansard to capture it very clear that Parliament was never consulted.

Honourable colleagues, Section 8 of the National Planning Authority (NPA) requires us to approve this plan, okay? Then Section 9 of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), the BFP must be consistent with the national development plan. That is where I wanted guidance when Hon. Ssemujju raised this issue, that we shall - sorry, Hon. Mpuuga. He sat in Hon. Ssemujju's position. (*Laughter*)

That is where I wanted to guide, honourable minister that I will refer the plan to the Committee on Budget to handle, and I give them two weeks. They report back here, and we first approve the plan. After we have approved it, it is when we shall start on the budget framework paper because if we find that the budget framework paper is not consistent, then it would not be in line with the law. Honourable colleagues, we have deadlines to meet which are statutory. Instead of sending back the minister, I cannot say, "Now, minister, go back, do this." No, we must get a solution even where someone made a mistake. Hon. Jonathan.

4.01

MR JONATHAN ODUR (UPC, Erute County South, Lira): Mr. Speaker, thank you for your guidance. The NDP is the pillar of planning for the country. I beg your indulgence

that outside the committee of budget, each sectoral committee of this House-

Mr Speaker, I was emphasising the point that the NDP is a very important document for the country. Each and every corner of this country must see themselves into that plan for the next five years. Outside the Committee on Budget, I beg your indulgence that the sectoral committees are invited to look into this plan. I will give one example of how important it is.

On the 22nd of November, the President launched a very ambitious and important project in my opinion, called the Standard Gauge Railway, which every Ugandan from Karamoja, from whatever region, is going to finance and contribute to. When you look at the plan of that railway line, other Ugandans are not involved. It is not passing through the entire country, but it is a project that may be done once. I do not know which other government will come and do it.

I invite your attention, Mr Speaker that within these two weeks, let the sectoral committees for each sector look at the components of the National Development Plan and make recommendations, so that every part of this country is seen into this.

I have previously argued here, you remember, Mr Speaker, when the Government came and said that some money was being allocated to a particular region under what they called the tourism roads. Then, another section of roads was given as security roads. Then I was asking, what about the other parts of the country? Which roads will go to them? If we have started saying, these are for tourists, these are for security, these are- yet everybody is paying the loan to make those roads, for example, oil roads.

What about the coffee, cotton, and milk roads and the rest?

We can only interrogate that, Mr Speaker, when we look at this National Development Plan at once.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Jonathan Odur, if we are to take this plan to the sectoral committees, I think the time we shall need really - I am thinking that since sectoral committee Chairpersons are members of the budget committee, they should be able to look at issues of each sector. We have two weeks yet we have a deadline of approving the budget framework paper by 1st Day of February. I need us to have two weeks of the NDP and then two weeks of the BFP. Colleagues, I think this would be fair. Okay? Hon. Mpuuga who had raised the issue, then Hon. Kateshumbwa.

4.04

MR MATHIAS MPUUGA (NUP, Nyendo-Mukungwe Division, Masaka City): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your indulgence. This, from the word go, was my concern because, eventually, what is going to come out of the BFP will be the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), and whichever projects and programmes are not seen with those will never appear anywhere probably until some special being orders so.

Mr Speaker, when you allowed the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to lay the BFP and read some statements that were not uploaded, I thought Parliament was being short-changed because we did not debate his statement. He is making reference to inflation at 2.9 per cent without referring to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). He does not know what is happening to our people out there. So he has some paper inflation in his book and we have not debated that.

Mr Speaker, I think these two finance ministers are smart and they know what they are doing. Parliament can only be smarter than them to tell them that these documents can also be put in the pigeonholes of Members but they are not received here as official documents until the proper procedure is followed and we do justice to the business you are laying honourable ministers. We have never failed to handle it - remember the other time, the National Development Plan III (NDP III) was brought after the BFP and nobody saw it. This is why we talk about paper tigers; those

documents that have never been implemented. Probably, today we can roll back. I am happy, Mr Speaker, that you are telling them in their faces that they never informed Parliament as to what they are trying to do.

Informing the Parliament does not mean putting up a post at the Parliament or putting messages in Members' WhatsApp groups. Probably, this is your day, Mr Speaker, to ask the ministers to retreat. The House is here and we shall handle their business and do justice to this very delicate process. NDP III was mishandled. NDP IV is coming. As Hon. Jonathan has observed, the Budget over five years is a national mirror.

If you are seeing the entirety of your head - I want to see my nose alone in that mirror. I want to see my ear in that mirror. So what will happen over five years when other citizens are alienated and they believe the Budget is the preserve of some very smart people that can understand the BFP and the attendant MTEFs? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, we have – Hon. Kateshumbwa -

4.06

MR DICKSON KATESHUMBWA (NRM, Sheema Municipality, Sheema): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think as Members of Parliament, we must be seen, and we have a responsibility to add value to the processes that we are talking about: the process of planning and budgeting. The minister has indicated that he did consultations in whatever form it was. I think it would be good for us to know from the minister whether the views and ideas that the Members gave him during the consultations have been incorporated into the documents he is tabling.

Mr Speaker, we are talking about NDP IV. We have not had a statement about the performance of NDP III. Yet, we know that NDP III and NDP II did not achieve the target that was set, so it would be good for us to know. How sure are we that we are going to do better with NDP IV than NDP III? We need a statement from the minister so that as we go out there to

talk to our people about this new plan that we have, it is realistic and the people know that we are serious about its implementation. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I do not want this to be a much longer process. This is laying of papers. We have been on this since morning. Listen to me! The minister wanted this NDP to be approved today, but we refused. That is why we have said two weeks. Why am I saying that? There are statutory deadlines for the BFP. Whether we express our anger here, we rotate - we have timelines to meet.

Honourable colleagues, my ruling is clear that it takes two weeks for NDP IV so we can scrutinise it deeply, and then we come back and go to the Budget Framework Paper, which we shall be able to know because we will have either approved or not approved the NDP. Then, for any anomaly we find in the Budget Framework Paper, we make recommendations, which they go back to when they are making the MTF they sort out. It is very simple. Otherwise, the Budget Framework Paper is not a final document to say that you have now approved this, and this is what they are going to implement.

We give our views - they capture our proposals, and they go, and they make a Budget, so this should not be a very difficult issue. This should be a policy issue. We would have sent it to finance, but in finance, the chairpersons of sectoral committees do not sit there, and we do not have time to come and include all these views that would wish to capture the way honourable colleagues were raising. So, let it go to the Budget Committee. The Committee on Budget can work with the finance committee, and we ensure that we capture all these issues. Hon. Namugga -

4.10

MS GORRETH NAMUGGA (NUP, Mawogola County South, Ssembabule): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do appreciate that

we have deadlines, but we are handling a very serious matter. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has on several occasions taken this Parliament for granted, we are talking about the National Development Plan. Hon. Kateshumbwa was asking about the performance of NDP III. It was at 17 per cent when the NRM Manifesto's performance was at 57 per cent. I want to question, where did you get those projects that were handled in your manifesto when the NDP III was at 17 per cent.

When we are talking about some of these documents, we are tired of seeing the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development bringing statements for the sake of submitting documents. On several occasions, we have asked serious questions about the performance; these documents feed into the Budget. You bring them late because you want to beat deadlines and normally, when we look at the performance of the Budget, it is very low.

The reason Members of Parliament are suffering is because of some of these processes that are taken for granted. From today onwards, Mr Speaker, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, should stop, with immediate effect, from taking Parliament for granted. We have suffered out there because of the recklessness of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. You should stop taking us for granted, Hon. Prime Minister. I am stating this as the former shadow minister and on behalf of the public that they should stop taking this country for granted.

On the side of accountability, we have brought up these issues. The performance of the Budget is very poor because we do not spend time on planning. That is why we are suffering, so they should stop taking us for granted –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Namugga, what should we do to these two documents? I want solutions. We send them to the committees for processing. That is it. Hon. Mwijukye? It is almost the same.

4.13

MR FRANCIS MWIJUKYE (FDC, Buhweju County, Buhweju): Mr Speaker, before I can say what we should do, last year, the corrigenda came late, and they were saying we had no time, and we had deadlines. We want to let you know this should be the last time you come to this Parliament and tell us, you see, we have no time and we have deadlines. If you cannot plan, just get out of those ministries.

As my colleague has suggested, we are all interested in looking at those documents. All sectoral committees should be given an opportunity to look at the documents. Otherwise, we will have a problem processing what we have not read. The chairpersons of committees will respect them, but they do not reason for us in those committees in the Budget Committee. We are all interested –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will come here for approval so you will debate here.

MR MWIJUKYE: Then you will tell us we have no time. You will be telling us one minute. We want to be part of the processes -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, what interests me is very simple. When I give you time to debate here, you will start talking of bridges in your constituencies only. This is a national development plan. In our debate, we must have a national outlook, not just a local outlook. When you say I give you one minute, it depends on how you present. When you bring up Local Council I (LC) issues, I will give you one minute because they should be handled in one minute. Next item.

V. THE SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULE 1 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

4.14

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Pursuant to Article 156(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, Section 24 of the Public Finance Management Act, and Rule 53

of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to lay on the Table the Supplementary Schedule No. 1 for the Financial Year 2024/2025 amounting to Shs 1.051 trillion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. The supplementary schedule is referred to the Committee on Budget for consideration and report back to the House in accordance with Rule 173 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

Honourable colleagues, earlier on in my communication, there was a communication I had wanted to include, but I was waiting for the letter to be brought to my desk; it is to inform you that His Excellency, the President has assented to the following Acts:

1. The National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Act, 2024;
2. The Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Act, 2024;
3. The Uganda Road Fund (Amendment) Act, 2024;
4. The Uganda National Roads Authority (Repeal) Act, 2024;
5. The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2024;
6. The National Information Technology Authority of Uganda (Amendment) Act, 2024;
7. The Dairy Industry (Amendment) Act, 2024;
8. The National Agriculture Advisory Services (Amendment) Act, 2024; and
9. The Cotton Development (Amendment) Act, 2024.

I read the letter from the President so I can only read what has been - and the next page is blank - (*Laughter*) - Next.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT TO AUTHORISE THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO REALLOCATE BUDGETS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025 AND REVISE WORK PLANS FOR INSTITUTIONS AFFECTED UNDER THE RATIONALISATION GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURES (RAPEX) REFORM

4.17

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In accordance with Section 20 of the Public Finance Management Act and Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of Uganda, I beg to move a motion for the House to consider the reallocation in the budget estimates for the Financial Year 2024/2025 and revised work plans for institutions affected by the rationalisation of Government agencies and public expenditure reforms.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Is the motion seconded? I think we refer it to the Committee on Budget.

4.19

MR MUHAMMAD MUWANGA KIVUMBI (NUP, Butambala County, Butambala): Mr

Speaker, we have an issue here. The motion we are sending is about the powers of Parliament because solely, it is the one entrusted with powers to reallocate funds. At the same time, I have listened very carefully; they have just laid a supplementary schedule of Shs 1.1 trillion. The critical examination is that the supplementary schedule could be only 3 per cent and it has been brought here when money has been spent, as a post-mortem approval.

The reallocation of money cannot take place until Parliament has approved it. Therefore, a critical analysis – because the Government has been doing this with impunity - is for us to read the two together clearly. One is to examine whether there is no money that has been spent

out of budget cuts on 3 per cent, which is the one trillion they have brought because that is illegal.

Mr Speaker, you are referring these two reports, this motion for process and the one for supplementary. We need to get one report out of the two. The report on the motion on reallocation must speak to what is contained in the supplementary schedule. Budget distortion –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kivumbi, let us leave the committee to do its work.

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: Mr Speaker, my simple procedure is that we tie the two reports. When the committee is bringing the report, they must be brought together.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kivumbi, that is an administrative matter. Let the committee go. I do not want to start now interfering with the liberty of the committee and their wisdom. We have very clever people on that committee. I know you are always interested. So, go and package your information that way and come to the presiding officers to say, “This is how we want to present.”

However, we do not make it a resolution here, then the committee says, but why did you change the practice of the way we have been doing things? Let us leave them with some latitude. Honourable colleagues, this is lying. These are very clear matters. Please, handle them in the budget committee. Procedure?

MR ODUR: I am sorry, Mr Speaker. I thank the Prime Minister for her attentiveness. The issue I want to raise, relating to this matter on the procedural aspect, if I heard the minister well, he is asking Parliament to authorise him to reallocate the Votes related to RAPEX.

My issue is, and I wish the Attorney-General were here when we processed the RAPEX Bills, each one of those had a clause either under savings or transition. If I remember correctly, we said that all assets, liabilities, and responsibilities on commencement would

be transferred to the mother ministry. My point is that when Parliament sits, I suppose we sit to handle very serious business and the Executive should not come and waste our time. My submission is: we are already authorised by an Act of Parliament. We already gave the Executive liberty to transfer/move by that amendment.

This is a good exercise for you to come and ask us to again give you a resolution. Under Rule 25 of our Rules of Procedure, the Speaker is supposed to give and entertain Government business on the assumption that the Government is serious. If you are not serious – (*Interjection*) – no, I have evidence to back this. There is a tendency, Mr Speaker, for the Executive and the Government -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Odur, maybe it is important to listen to the minister and why they insisted on coming here. Leader of Government Business?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, everybody is aware that this NRM government has been overwhelmingly supported by Ugandans many times. The honourable Member here - I respect him a lot and we are very close friends, but I feel like this is a big insult.

Mr Speaker, this Government has supported the people of Uganda. Even now as I speak, the President is in Bugisu and everybody is appreciative. To me, this is a very serious government. Is it in order for you, Hon. Odur, to say the NRM government is unserious? (*Laughter*) Are you in order? (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. I understood Hon. Odur to say that the business you are bringing here is not serious. However, the Rt Hon. Prime Minister has been bringing serious business. We have done serious business.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the reason Hon. Odur is saying that is because he feels like this should not have come here. He feels like we gave you authority to transfer everything. Hon. Kateshumbwa, is it on the same?

4.26

MR DICKSONS KATESHUMBWA (NRM, Sheema Municipality, Sheema):

Yes, Mr Speaker. I would like to highlight the consequences of the decision you have made. I agree with Hon. Odur. The Bills catered for the transition. I thought that the minister coming here with a motion, if it was a requirement, was something that we needed to consider because the laws have been signed and assented to by the President. The consequence of that is that the agencies ceased to operate. There are no accounting officers.

Therefore, there has to be payment of staff, severance packages, and operations for the period starting when the laws changed. By us keeping this matter pending and the Government not doing anything because we have not handled the motion is not being fair to Ugandans, especially those people who have been affected.

I would like to appeal to you, Mr Speaker, that we think about the consequences because those accounting officers, who are responsible for those agencies for which the money we appropriated, have ceased to operate. There has to be payment or operations must continue. Otherwise, you are creating a standoff and a standstill. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Niwagaba?

MR NIWAGABA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am just seeking clarification from Hon. Kateshumbwa. In some of the Rationalisation of Agencies and Public Expenditure (RAPEX) Bills, some were either repealed or an amendment.

In the existing Act, which the President has assented to, do the saving and transactional clauses have a connection with the budget pursuant to the Public Finance Management Act to the extent that you can now think of transferring funds from agents that have been repelled using the saving and transitional clauses?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Kateshumbwa?

MR KATESHUMBWA: I strongly believe that perhaps the minister for finance - With all due respect, we are not handling this matter properly. You cannot come up with a motion to deal with the issues of budgeting. If you had come with a supplementary to take care of everything, then we would all be at par.

We need clarification from the Attorney-General whether what my colleague is asking is catered for within the transitional clauses. However, the point I am mentioning here is that, if, for example, the UNRA Act was merged - UNRA was abolished and taken into the Ministry of Works and Transport. From today, they do not have the power, as accounting officers, to pay staff to do any operations.

What happens between now and then? You have not empowered the minister to take over the resources to handle the process.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kateshumbwa, this money was supplied under the Appropriation Act so the clauses which Hon. Jonathan referred to - can we say it was to the extent of even supplying? This is because these Votes had to do with supply. At this stage, when we refer to the Committee on the Budget, you should be able to come up with proposals and we do supply. Honourable minister, you know the Public Finance Management Act very well.

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. We manage public resources in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act. That is the cardinal law we use. Section 20 of the Public Finance Management Act provides that Parliament may, by resolution, authorise the minister to reallocate funds from a Vote to another Vote, where the functions of the Vote are transferred to that other Vote.

Mr Speaker, I wish to state in this House that I am blind to the transitional clauses and sections

which you provided during RAPEX. My eyes only see this PFM Act and I cannot transfer funds unless you give me the authority to do so. That is why I am here.

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

4.32

MR ABDU KATUNTU (Independent, Bugweri County, Bugweri): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do not know why we are having this debate. You cannot appropriate money by any other law. You can only appropriate money under the Public Finance Management Act. It is pursuant to the sections Hon. Odur is citing; that the minister is doing what he is supposed to be doing. To transfer resources, the reason is that you have already done what he is saying.

The transitional provision under the RAPEX law cannot transfer funds. It is pursuant to those provisions that now we go to the actual transferring of the funds.

I do not know where the Attorney-General is, but I see somebody who sits in his office there – *(Interjection)* - Oh, they share an office, I guess. Hon. Mao -

All said, Mr Speaker, I think the minister is in order. These provisions will be hanging if he does not transfer or allocate the money and he can only allocate the money by resolution under the Public Finance Management Act.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Next item?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON
HOSTING OF THE AFRICA UNION
EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY ON
THE COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA
AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister for agriculture – and I hope the statement is uploaded - Kindly display the statement if it is uploaded.

4.34

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (Mr Frank Tumwebaze): Mr Speaker, we sent in the statement to the Clerk; I hope it was uploaded to the Member's iPads and this is really for information purposes because it is updating Parliament on what Government will be doing in January.

I make this statement to Parliament in line with Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure to brief the House on Uganda's hosting of the forthcoming African Union Extraordinary Assembly on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CADAP) that will be held on 9th to 11th of January 2025.

In November 2023, Uganda, represented by the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, was elected to chair the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment and one of Uganda's key deliverables during its tenure is to oversee the development of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Strategy and Action Plan for 2026-2035.

The CADAP is a flagship Africa-wide programme adopted in 2003 by African Union Heads of State and Government as a framework of action for agricultural transformation across Africa. One of the major strategies towards the realisation of the African Union's Agenda 2063, "The Africa we want".

The CADAP is implemented through 10-year successive strategies and action plans. The first 10-year strategy was adopted in Maputo, Mozambique in 2003, and the second in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in 2014 for the period 2015-2025.

The third, 2026-2035, will be adopted during the forthcoming Extraordinary Assembly Summit of the African Union in Kampala on 9th to 11th January 2025 to be hosted at Speke Resort, Munyonyo. The result of this assembly will be the Kampala CADAP Declaration, which will guide the continent for the next

10 years. I therefore felt that I should brief Parliament on this.

The decision to host the Extraordinary Summit was made by the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from February 17th to 18th, 2024.

The structure of the Extraordinary Summit will be:

9th January 2025 - Meeting of ministers responsible for agriculture will be with relevant experts;

10th January 2025 - Meeting of ministers of foreign affairs with ministers in charge of agriculture;

11th January 2025 - Extraordinary summit of Heads of State and Government.

The theme of the CADAP strategy and action plan, 2026-35 and the Assembly is, “*Sustainable and resilient agri-food systems for a healthy and prosperous Africa.*”

As part of the summit, the Government of Uganda and the African Union Commission will host two major side events on women and youth in agri-food systems and refugees/forced migration and agri-food systems in Africa.

These two will be held under the sub-theme, “*Building Resilience of Agri-Food Systems through Commercialisation*”. In addition to this, the African Union Commission has launched a call for proposals for side events that are related to the theme of the Summit and objectives of the CADAP Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2035.

The expected attendance of the Summit is 49 African Union member states at Heads of State and Government level, plus regional economic communities, development partners, and agriculture practitioners overall. Over 2,000 participants are expected to participate in both the summit and the side events in Kampala.

Mr Speaker, assessment of country implementation of the CADAP is independently done at continental level by the African Union

Development Agents, (AUDA-NEPAD) and partners through the biannual reviews.

The most recent biannual review, the fourth, was undertaken in 2023 and noted that no country was on track to achieve the Malabo targets by 2025. The continent, as a whole, was not on track with regard to implementing the seven commitments of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared, Prosperous and Improved Livelihoods.

However, some Member States have shown continuous progress from the first to the fourth biannual reviews. Special mention for Member States that have shown continuous improvement in their scores from the first to the fourth biannual review, where Comoros, Lesotho, Cape Verde, Zimbabwe, Gambia, Nigeria, Uganda, Egypt, Morocco, Rwanda, Burundi, and Kenya.

Overall, the rating of Uganda’s implementation of CADAP is given in the 2023 biannual review as “progressing well” thanks to the several Government policies and programmes that foster resilience to climate change, inclusivity, and the integration of several CADAP initiatives in the National Development Plan.

Mr Speaker, allow me to formally register to you our gratitude as the Executive arm of Government for the continual support you have rendered in implementing programmes that have enabled us to achieve this rating in the implementation of CADAP. I urge you to continue rendering that support so that together, we can drive the transformation of Africa’s agricultural sector and stand to benefit more from that transformation as a country.

Mr Speaker, allow me to brief you on our preparedness to host the summit. Following the decision of the February 2024 African Union General Assembly in Addis Ababa to host an extraordinary summit to consider and adopt the post-Malabo CADAP Agenda, the Governments, through the Ministries of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, commenced preparatory works, including the presentation

of a Cabinet Paper on 30 September 2024, constitution of the National Organising Committee, and invitations to the African Union Heads of State and Government for the summit.

The technical documents, which include the CADAP Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2035 and the Kampala CADAP Declaration have already been concluded under the leadership of the African Union Commission and the Strategic Direction of Uganda and were adopted by AU member states for presentation to the Assembly by the ministerial segment of the Special Technical Committee on 25 October 2024.

A recent African Union Commission assessment mission, November 11th to 15th, classified the country's state of preparedness as commendable.

Benefits of hosting the summit in Kampala

As I conclude my statement, let me highlight that Uganda stands to reap several benefits from hosting the African Union Extraordinary Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the benefits include:

1. It is an opportunity for the country to guide and shape continental policies and strategies in the agriculture sector and related sectors for the next 10 years.
2. The blueprint of Africa's Agriculture Transformation will be referred to as the Kampala Declaration for the period up to 2035, thus enhancing the profile and international credibility of Uganda as a country.
3. With the anticipated number of participants in the assembly, Uganda's private sector will earn considerably big. The Government will also ultimately earn increased tax collection from the enhanced private sector earnings.
4. The hosting of another big event at the Heads of State and Government level

within a year of hosting the NAM and G77 plus China summits will improve the international rating of Uganda as a conference destination, hence promoting the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) and reaffirm the country's credibility as an icon of peace and stability in the region. This has an important positive bearing on investment, attraction and tourism, besides its reputational benefits.

Mr Speaker, the formal invitation to Parliament will be delivered in due course and I request that you create time to attend.

Mr Speaker, I once again thank you for giving me an opportunity to brief you on this topical subject and for listening to me. I appreciate the support you have rendered to us in the past and urge you to continue doing the same. I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, this statement is for information purposes. I would have allowed debate but I know that we have urgent issues. We are going into a break so I want us to use this opportunity to ensure that we have the Prime Minister. I will amend the Order Paper to provide for:

1. Statement of Business by the Leader of Government Business; and
2. Prime Minister's Time.

Clerk –

STATEMENT BY THE RT HON. PRIME MINISTER ON GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FOR THE SUCCEEDING WEEK PURSUANT TO RULE 28 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister -

4.44

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, I move under Rule 28 of our Rules of Procedure that

require me, as the Leader of Government Business, to make a statement in this House regarding the Government Business of the succeeding week. I am therefore submitting the following Government Business:

1. The Building Control (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
2. The Valuation Bill, 2024;
3. The Culture and the Creative Bill, 2024;
4. The Workers' Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
5. The Copy Right and Neighbouring Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2024

I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. Next -

PRIME MINISTER'S TIME

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to make a special request to the Prime Minister that for the written questions and answers, we upload them and Members can access them so that we pick issues of matters of national importance quickly and they are settled. A procedural issue, Hon. Opendi?

MS OPENDI: Yes, thank you, Mr Speaker, for that guidance. So that Members are on the *Hansard*, I request that the Prime Minister states that she received a question from this person. Yes, so that it is on the record that these people asked questions.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, sure. Yes, Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

4.47

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Following your guidance, I received a question from Hon. George Didi Bhoka of Obongi County, Obongi District and my response is herein.

The other question was from Hon. Ephraim Biraaro of Buhweju West, Buhweju District and my response is hereby attached.

The third question came from Hon. Christopher Komakech and the response is provided.

Hon. Dr Abdul Byakatonda and Hon. Dr Noah Musa, Koboko North, that was question five.

Question six was from Hon. Tom Alero, West Moyo and question seven was from Hon. Jackson Atima. My response is hereby attached. Thank you, so much, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. Now, honourable Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, I forgot to wish you a successful assembly and in case you need the support of Parliament, in one way or another - sometimes you reach out to us for logistics and we are always willing to help and to ensure we have a very successful assembly.

We are receiving questions. I will start with Hon. Onzima, followed by Hon. Luttamaguzi, Hon. Sarah Opendi and Hon. Sserukenya. Let us be - one minute. We need a summary so that we pick as many colleagues as possible.

4.49

MR GODFREY ONZIMA (NRM, Aringa North County, Yumbe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I just want to bring to the attention of the Prime Minister an issue that was raised to me by a gentleman who calls himself Lubango Hamada, a Cold Chain Assistant for Bundibugyo.

He said that whereas the Government had given them appointments where their gross salary was supposed to be Shs 1.44 million and the net should be Shs 1.09 million, that is U7 (medical), without their notice, this was reduced to a gross of Shs 390,000 and the net, which is Shs 260,000. This is after they had earned Shs 1.09 million for around three years.

Whereas the Government has been increasing salaries for medical workers, theirs has been the opposite. For example, the cold chain technicians' money was raised from Shs 1.55 million to Shs 2.2 million.

Therefore, they want to know why the Government reduced their money from Shs 1.44 million to Shs 300,000 and yet many of them are servicing salary loans. This has put a lot of problems on them and they need an explanation. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister –

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I request the Honourable Member to give me that in writing so that I can get an appropriate answer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: And action.

MS NABBANJA: Action will definitely be taken.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree with you. This question needs a detailed answer so Hon. Onzima, please -

4.51

MR PAULSON LUTTAMAGUZI (DP, Nakaseke South County, Nakaseke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, there was a grand project of supplying goats throughout the country, especially in the cattle corridor, including my district of Nakaseke. They had injected billions of money into that goats' project but it stopped abruptly.

The youth have petitioned me from different areas of the cattle corridor on what really happened to that project because it had started very well, and you know you are under the programme of empowering the youth. So, what happened to the goats' project where the Government had injected billions of money? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister –

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I do not have a definite answer because it is the first time I am hearing about the national goats' project. What I knew was that one of Karamoja was under my office. I saw the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries here. I request that you –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not know who is the acting Government Chief Whip today. You would -

MS NABBANJA: I request that the minister –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: One Member can volunteer to call the minister.

MS NABBANJA: The minister be allowed in.

MR LUTTAMAGUZI: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, this project was under a gentleman called Sembeguya. They had injected billions of money into it and had started in the cattle corridor areas of Nakaseke, Gomba, Ssembabule –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Luttamaguzi, let us wait for the - You can repeat the question. I am giving you a chance to repeat the question.

MR LUTTAMAGUZI: Yes, Mr Speaker, there was a goats' project programme under the Government of Uganda where they injected billions of money. They had started supplying goats, especially in the cattle corridor areas; my district of Nakaseke, Gomba, Ssembabule - Many youths had actually received part. However, the programme abruptly stopped. We want to know because we have received several petitions from these youths on what happened to that programme.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who was heading it?

MR LUTTAMAGUZI: It was under one gentleman; Paul Sembeguya. We want to know what happened to that programme.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kabanda, do you have more information on it?

MR LUTTAMAGUZI: Yes, Hon. Kabanda seems to be having information on that programme.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, do you know about the project?

4.54

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (Mr Frank Tumwebaze): Mr Speaker, MAAIF has not had that programme for the last three years. We have not had a programme for that. However, I have scanty information that many years back, His Excellency, the President directed Ssembeguya to have a goat breeding programme and was given land. I can only pledge to go and find out more information and report to this House. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: These are issues - because that means me giving you space on the Order Paper. These are issues the sectoral committee can take up when they are working on the Budget Framework Paper. Pick such issues, thank you. I had picked Hon. Sarah Opendi.

4.55

MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. There is an advert that has been ongoing by the Rella Women's Foundation and it is calling on people to apply for various - The advert is actually requesting people to apply for various positions -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: IT, what is happening to our microphones?

MS OPENDI: There has been an advert, I came across it online, actually on some platform, and I interested myself because they are young people who are looking for jobs. They wanted a communications officer, finance administration manager, office administrator and others.

I interested myself in knowing about the organisation before I could actually forward this to those who are looking for jobs. I was shocked to find out that this organisation is based in Mpigi, Buyala, and among their mission is to create a resilient, sustainable, safe space for LGBTQ; lesbians, bisexuals, and queer persons through entrepreneurship advocacy and access to essential services.

Mr Speaker, we passed a law in this country against LGBTQ activities. For an organisation to actually advertise and amongst what it is supposed to do is to ensure that it employs people to promote and ensure that the lesbian, bisexual and queer people in this country are protected and supported.

I wonder how this can happen when this law is still fresh in our minds and we have President Trump reversing what is going on in the United States. Mr Speaker, Rella is a queer feminist umbrella organisation founded in 2017 to address challenges of LBGTQ. No, this one is lesbians, bisexual, and queer. Theirs are three. It is actually in this country.

I took a step in calling somebody at the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) and the response I got is that what is registered at URSB is not what this organisation is promoting and doing in this country. What they are going to do, from their mission and objectives, is, they are giving employment to people. How? Through providing resources so that people can engage in entrepreneurship.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Questions to the Prime Minister?

MS OPENDI: So, Mr Speaker I want to ask the Prime Minister whether she is aware of this Rella Women's Foundation or not. What the Government is going to do to such institutions that are actually promoting or undertaking activities that are against our own laws and morals as a country. Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: This is a very relevant question. Since she has information that these people are promoting what is not supposed to be promoted in this country, I direct the minister for internal affairs, Uganda Police, and all security agencies to swing in action and make sure that this -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Sserukenya -

MR SSERUKENYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

MS NABBANJA: Now that URSB registered them but they are doing different things, they should go and investigate, and if found guilty, let them be deregistered.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your minister for ethics is also seated there.

MS NABBANJA: She is also directed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Sserukenya -

MR SSERUKENYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Over 200 families in Ssabagabo are concerned with the merger of UNRA because they have contracts with UNRA. Their concerns are:

- 1) They were valued two years back and never received a report. The value of their land has changed. Are they going to be valued again?
- 2) Will the Ministry of Works and Transport honour their agreements?
- 3) Are we retaining the contractor of Busabala Road? When is he coming back? Because the drainage is bad and is spoiling people's houses.
- 4) What has the Government done on the loan so that our road can be worked on?

Another question is, when is the compensation? Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, the Prime Minister has said, stand in. Thank you. You can tell us about Karuma Bridge.

5.02

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Gen. Katumba Wamala): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the questions from the honourable member. We have just had a one-to-one discussion with him about the same questions and I had given him my answer but since he has brought it on the Floor, I will again answer him.

The contracts signed by anybody, be it a service provider or any of those people who are what

we call the PAPs; the Project-Affected Persons, are contracts signed with the Government of Uganda. They are valid and they will be honoured.

The valuations will be updated, we have a chief government valuer and their standards which we follow. If we say they need to re-evaluate, we re-evaluate those people who will need to be.

The contractor on Busabala Road has halted work because of the lack of payment, which is being worked on. The Prime Minister and minister for finance are here; we are aggressively working on that and very soon, all the contractors to whom we owe money will be paid and I know they will resume work; all those problems will be resolved.

On the issue of Karuma, I am happy to inform Parliament that I promised that before Christmas, Karuma Bridge will be opened for people travelling in that direction. Karuma will be open tomorrow by 6.00 a.m. for light vehicles and buses. *(Applause)* As we finalise the repairs for the heavy trucks, please bear with us. We will start with buses and light vehicles. Tomorrow by 6.00 a.m., you can travel through Karuma Bridge. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Amos Okot -

5.03

MR AMOS OKOT (NRM, Agago North County, Agago): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This year, we conducted a census but there are many enumerators and supervisors who are still complaining to date that they have not been paid their money, including some LC1 chairpersons. During this period, when we went for a small break, I met several of them.

My question is: when will they be paid? It seems to be an urgent matter. Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I chair the census committee as the Prime Minister of Uganda. According to me, all the money that was supposed to pay the enumerators, the

guides and everybody was paid. If there are issues, I request that you inform me in writing so that we can – those are irregularities in districts maybe. According to us here, we closed our books of accounts. If there are people who stole the money, those culprits will go.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Okot, please follow up with the Prime Minister.

5.05

MS HOPE NAKAZIBWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mubende): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we have Mubende Regional Referral Hospital and we received an X-ray machine from the Government. We appreciate that.

However, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I want to bring to your notice the fact that this regional referral hospital has been working without an X-ray machine since June of this year. This X-ray machine has been down. We reported it earlier but we were told that they were working on the procurement of the part that is required. It is in the process.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, it is over six months. I wonder what procurement is taking over six months. This is a very deadly season where people are prone to accidents. We understand the roads – How soon shall we have that X-ray machine repaired? Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: The Ministry of Health is directed to send their teams to go and repair the machine. Thank you.

5.06

MR FRANCIS MWIJUKYE (FDC, Buhweju County, Buhweju): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. While the Prime Minister was doing great work in eastern Uganda, the rains swept off the bridge that connects Sheema and Buhweju. As I talk, we cannot cross at Kyankanda.

I know you are doing something about that road, as you promised, because it is the only main road to Buhweju and it is a murrum

road. You had pledged that you were going to do something about it. Is there anything you can do in the meantime so that this shadow Minister of Works and Transport and the people of Buhweju are able to go home for Christmas? Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Katumba, come and stand in for your colleague.

5.07

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Gen. Katumba Wamala): I appreciate your challenge, my comrade, the shadow minister. I cannot deceive that we can be able to fix the bridge between now and Christmas time.

However, I will send my team to investigate what needs to be done and also come up with an estimate of what we need to do and we will attend to the bridge at the right time and with the right materials.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can continue consulting at ministerial level.

5.08

MR SILAS AOGON (Independent, Kumi Municipality, Kumi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. Allow me to first appreciate the Rt Hon. Prime Minister. At the time of your appointment, some people were doubting your capability, saying that maybe we need a man in that position but the way you have taken charge, I feel now -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have 30 seconds left. Please ask your question.

MR AOGON: My question is: Kumi Municipality has been lucky to receive quality tarmac under the NRM Government. We are celebrating you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, in particular. You gave a directive and it worked.

I now call upon you to direct on the issue of giving us traffic lights because there are several accidents happening there. (*Interjections*) Yes, there are several accidents between Tirinyi, Pallisa and Kumi. In town, over six trucks got

into accidents at the same point. I request you to direct so that something can happen. Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: By powers given to me, I direct that the minister present here – Members, we have an obligation as a country. Once you put on traffic lights, in any corner of the country, you are done with accidents and the criminalities that happen on our roads. Therefore, when we construct good roads - the President directed that we should really put lights on these roads. Therefore, I direct you, Hon. Katumba Wamala, to go and install lights. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Aogon cannot praise you for free. *(Laughter)* Hon. Joanne Okia?

5.11

MS JOANNE ANIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Madi-Okollo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Government has plans to connect the whole country to the network and to the internet.

On a private basis, for the last two years, I have been pursuing a private network; a private organisation to come and install some masts in Madi-Okollo. They installed it in one far corner in a place called Offaka.

Now, we have been talking for two years and they were supposed to install a mast in a place called Rigbo. Rigbo is a refugee hosting area and the sub-county headquarters do not have internet. They kept telling me that they were about to bring the mast. Out of the blue, they told me that the Office of the Prime Minister has directed that, that mast should not go to the sub-county headquarters but instead, it should go to the refugee area yet the biggest population of the people are at the sub-county. The refugee area already has a mast.

The people in Rigbo are in distress and wondering why the refugee population is being prioritised over the Uganda population.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, they are saying the Office of the Prime Minister is the one which interfered. Therefore, Hon. Kabbyanga is very innocent.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, Hon. Kabbyanga may not answer this. According to her, Madi-Okollo and that sub-county is a refugee hosting district, therefore, it is my office. I request that you allow me to investigate. I will get in touch with the honourable member. I have been to Madi-Okollo. We shall handle this matter together. I promise.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Allan Mayanja -

5.12

MR ALLAN MAYANJA (NUP, Nakaseke Central County, Nakaseke): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity.

Mr Speaker, I have raised this matter before this House; the delayed completion of Luwero-Kiwoko-Butalangu Road, which is under DOTT Services Limited as contractors, and which was contracted at Shs 93 billion.

As I speak, the workers constructing that particular road are on strike because of delayed salary payments and a poor working environment.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, when will you complete this road? Secondly, the workers are on strike. When will they be paid their meagre salaries so that this road can be completed in time? It is causing tension and commotion – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister for works?

5.14

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, on every project we do, we have what we call the grievance committee. It is composed of the local authorities, the contractors and the social workers.

I request the honourable member to look for the grievance committee and deal with them because they will answer the questions on the ground. That is the best way to deal with it, because once they get to know the grievances, they can move from person to person to answer those grievances.

As for the completion of the –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, just on that part of grievances, when a Member brings an issue here, you should raise it with your grievances committee and link them with the Member.

GEN. WAMALA: I will do that. Much obliged, Mr Speaker.

About the completion of the roads, Mr Speaker, I want the honourable members to be appreciative. When we are constructing a road, we also have to take time to ensure that we do a good job. You cannot put the base, and the sub-base, and straight away put the tarmac. You will not have a good product.

When they put those layers, they allow them to settle and make checks every time to see whether that level has stabilised, before you put on another layer. That is why it takes time. This road was done - the Prime Minister was there - about a year ago, so it is not going so slow but we have to be sure. First of all, we had an issues with compensation, with some people not wanting to take money until later on, when they agreed to take it. All that delays the work.

This project is scheduled to be completed within three years from commencement. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ruhunda.

5.16

MR ALEX RUHUNDA (NRM, Fort Portal Central Division, Fort Portal City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

The people of Tooro have asked me to ask you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister - it has been a long time since the President pledged the

construction of Buhinga Stadium. Buhinga Stadium construction has been moving along with the construction of Akii-Bua Stadium.

The people of Toro have seen Hon. Ogwang happily sign a contract for the people of Lango. The people of Tooro asked; how can you forget them who gave this Government 98 per cent of the vote? They wonder how the President will face them when he comes to the region.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, do you need the minister for sports to help you? Hon. Peter Ogwang -

5.17

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): First of all, I begin by thanking the Rt Hon. Prime Minister and all honourable colleagues. I thank hon. Ruhunda Alex for raising this very pertinent issue regarding the stadium. I reiterate the commitment of H.E. the President to the people of Tooro that the NRM government is committed to fulfilling the pledge of constructing Buhinga Stadium.

As of now, it is true that the Government has committed money: one, to construct Hoima City Stadium; two, to construct Akii-Bua stadium; three, as a ministry, and if funds are available, it is within our plan to construct the stadium. Ours is to work within the available resources to construct Buhinga Stadium.

Therefore, mine is to reiterate a commitment of the Government and of H.E. the President that we will continue to fulfil these pledges. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Teira.

5.18

MR JOHN TEIRA (NRM, Bugabula County North, Kamuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I thank you for the good work you are doing.

Mr Speaker, we are entering the budget cycle and there are some light pledges which the President made to various communities.

Bugabula County North, for example, has some schools due for renovation, which he committed.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, may we be deliberate and incorporate these pledges into the budgeting cycle, now that we are nearing 2026, so that some of them which are light can be captured in this year's coming budget, so that we fulfil them?

In Bugabula North, for example, there are two schools which the President pledged to rehabilitate and which you have visited. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for education?

5.19

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Well, first of all, I thank my colleague for raising the matter before the Prime Minister. However, like you correctly said, how I wish we could have the names of the schools so that within the ministry, looking at next year's financial budget, some of these would be incorporated.

Mr Speaker, I inform the country, on the issue of Akii-Bua Stadium, that as per the contract signed, I will be handing over the site officially on Tuesday, in Lira City. I call upon all Members of Parliament, all resident district commissioners, LCV chairpersons, and other persons, to join me to hand over the project to the contractor for the construction of Akii-Bua Olympic Stadium. I thank you so much, on behalf of the Senior Minister.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kamara, followed by Hon. Rose Obigah.

5.20

MR JOHN KAMARA-NIZEYIMANA (NRM, Bufumbira County North, Kisoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, I have, in the constituency I represent, a bridge called the Kanyamateke Bridge. The contractor is Geses Uganda LTD.

They started on the bridge and halfway, they left it. People do not have where to pass. It is now close to one year and people cannot move from that area to Kisoro town, to access services like hospitals. They have got a health centre III called Buhozire Health Centre.

Mr Speaker, during the construction –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: How we do questions here - that is enough. Ask your question.

MR KAMARA-NIZEYIMANA: The question is that water was flowing backwards and spoiling people's crops. People's crops were on about 300 acres, and they could not get food to eat, and they have nowhere to pass to access Kisoro Town. Patients at the health centre there can no longer be referred to Kisoro.

Mr Speaker, my question to the Rt Hon. Prime Minister and the Leader of Government Business is: how will you rescue my people? They do not have what to eat, or where to pass and the health centre III is incomplete because we only constructed the foundation and it is not on - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, when you see an issue bringing Hon. Kamara to Kampala, then just know it is a very serious one. Yes, Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, queries about Kanyamateke Bridge will be answered by Hon. Katumba. Let me talk about the food, and on this, I request that the district disaster committee writes to the Office of the Prime Minister; we shall provide the food. Talk about Kanyamateke Bridge.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, honourable minister.

5.24

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Hon. Kamara, I request you to share the contact

of that contractor so that I follow it up and give you feedback.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, I request you do it today before Hon. Kamara goes back.

GEN. WAMALA: I will do it today because I know when he crosses Katonga, coming back will take another year.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Aisha? Hon. Kamara, do not go before sharing the contact. I know the bus is leaving you but do not go. *(Laughter)*

5.24

MS AISHA KABANDA (NUP, Woman Representative, Butambala): Thank you, Mr Speaker. A few months back, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development launched the GROW Project for giving out money to women, which is supposed to last a couple of years; I think three years.

However, hardly six months into the project, or even less than that, the money has been finished. Many women have applied to the banks but the money is not there yet the project is supposed to last for years. What has happened to this Grow Project, Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I know she is aware that sometimes we plan these projects. This GROW Project is in three phases. In phase one, the money may have been finished. Those people will be considered in the second phase because we got overwhelmed by the demand from the people who wanted the money.

I suggest that the minister regularly updates us, as Parliament, because every time I am here, the question of the Grow Project comes up. I request that you allow the minister to update the House regularly.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon Prime Minister, we do not have any pending statement

from her. Whenever they request, we do. Nonetheless, that project is doing very well, Rt Hon Prime Minister. Okay, let us have Hon. Obigah Rose and then Hon. Kabanda David.

5.26

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The people of West Nile requested a semen centre in Abin which NAGRC operates but up to now, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries has not established this semen centre, which we think can improve the quality of our cows. May I know, from the Prime Minister, when this will be effected? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister for agriculture, we need semen in that area. Sorry, the semen for the animals. *(Laughter)*

5.27

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (Mr Frank Tumwebaze): For sure! Thank you, Mr Speaker. Our agency for breeding, NAGRC & DB has stations in the country. We have a Nitrogen Centre in Entebbe. Establishing a semen centre is something that requires investment. I will get details from the Member of Parliament on what is required.

However, we can give semen to the farmers in her area because we have been training subcounty inseminators. Otherwise, I will liaise and see how to help them.

Artificial insemination is a detail that we do not encourage massively to farmers before we are sure that in that area the inseminators have been trained and the farmers have been trained. We allow bulls to serve the animals because they are not in short supply. It is mainly the zero-grazing farmers that require more artificial insemination.

I will liaise with my sister and we will see how to serve that community. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kabanda, Hon. Clare, and Hon. Angura.

5.28

MR DAVID KABANDA (NRM, Kasambya County, Mubende): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to give information about the GROW money to the Rt Hon. Prime Minister. It is not that this money has been used up in the banks but the bank people make it very hard for people to get it. Even getting a form to fill, while in those banks, can be very difficult. They just convince you to apply for their loan. This money is there but even getting a loan becomes very hard.

The other day, I saw Hon. Frank Tumwebaze - if you could just give him a chance - launching the same loan for the large commercial farmers and I think the money is going to be channelled through the Housing Finance Bank. I hope it does not become the same as what is happening to the GROW money.

The Government comes up with very good ideas but the people in the banks end up harassing our people, convincing them to go and apply for their loans yet the Government project money is there.

Therefore, I would like you to interest yourself in this so that you follow up on what exactly happens in the banks. Also, to Hon. Frank Tumwebaze, this project of yours is very good. It is going to help our large-scale farmers but you need to interest yourself in how these banks are managing it. Are they really going to give our people the money or they are going to harass them into applying for their own loans?

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

5.30

MS CLARE MUGUMYA (NRM, Woman Representative, Isingiro): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. My issue is also on the GROW Project. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we thank the Government for that project because it is supposed to help uplift the status of women in business. However, that money,

even before it came to the banks, the women were complaining that the money was not there. The bank is instead encouraging them to get money at the commercial bank rates.

Therefore, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we would like you to interest yourself in this thing and support the women by making sure that they receive this money. Right from the beginning, it was very difficult for women in Isingiro to even qualify for that money. When they changed the terms and conditions, it still became very difficult. When they go to the banks, the banks make the process so hard; the women have failed to benefit from that.

One next one, Rt Hon. Prime Minister - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable, we do one question on this.

MS NABBANJA: I have got information from colleagues. I promise that we shall investigate and make sure - if the banks are doing this, then we shall have no alternative but to give government banks the chances to handle such monies.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

5.31

MR FREDERICK ANGURA (NRM, Tororo South County, Tororo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the President was in Bukedi recently and during that tour, we reported to you, the Parish Development Model (PDM) SACCOs that are not receiving funds.

In Bukedi we have 32 that have not received these PDM funds yet for the inclusivity in the money economy, we are challenged and reminded by these SAACOs, as to when they will get the money - we are now going back home for Christmas. The assurance that was given through you is that they are going to receive this money. Are they going to have it in this next quarter? Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker and honourable members, there was a mismatch of information by the Ministry of Local Government and the President directed that we handle this. We have so far had two meetings to harmonise between the Ministry of Local Government and the Electoral Commission. It is not only in Bukedi but we also found that same issue in other districts like Bududa; in his place, there is one parish that does not receive money. We are going to handle this conclusively throughout the country because I cannot deceive Parliament that we are going to get money tomorrow and give. After all, you already budgeted for the parishes that are already in existence. These ones are going to be handled next financial year.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us have a maiden speech from Kisoro - Oh, she already spoke. When I am chairing, it is her maiden speech.

5.34

MS GRACE AKIFEZA (Independent, Woman Representative, Kisoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: And congratulations!

MS AKIFEZA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In Kisoro, we do not have a dialysis machine, so people have to be referred to Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital yet it is a service that requires one to visit the hospital so often. We are requesting that the Government considers giving Kisoro a dialysis machine.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is Mutorere?

MS AKIFEZA: Mutorere and Kisoro Hospital are the two big Hospitals.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker and honourable members, dialysis is a specialised treatment for only consultants and we do not have consultants in district hospitals. Yes, they are hospitals but they are only at regional referral hospitals. That is why we have categories of hospitals; we have the district hospital, we have

the regional hospital and we have the national specialised hospitals. Some treatments cannot be done even in Mbarara and one has to come to Mulago. As we move, we shall be there but we are not yet there.

5.35

MR CHRISTOPHER KOMAKECH (Independent, Aruu County, Pader): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. IDP camps came in northern Uganda, Acholi sub-region and they left, thanks to the armed officers and the Commander-in-chief. The IDP camps left us with a very stubborn and stringent weed to the point that when our farmers do agriculture, this weed does not succumb to herbicides and it is affecting crop production.

We thought the tractors that His Excellency gave us that were launched by our honourable minister, Nobert Mao, and the Minister himself, Hon. Frank Tumwebaze, would help us in cultivating the wheat, but the tractors have no plough. Up to today the tractors you gave us do not have any ploughs and are just packed in. The question is: when is the Ministry of Agriculture sending specialists to first name that weed and deal with it?

Secondly, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, when are we having the ploughs for the tractors? Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you can also comment on the issue raised by Hon. Kabanda about the loan for big farmers.

5.37

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (Mr Frank Tumwebaze): I am really sorry to hear that the tractors have no ploughs. I need to find out why they were not picked. It is something I am going to follow up on, but also I am wondering why the people who took the tractors did not raise that to us. I am going to follow that up and I will update you.

Let me reply, colleagues, the issue - *(Interjection)* - just a minute.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, during Prime Minister's time we do not give information -

MR TUMWEBAZE: Regarding the issue of agricultural services, I have written an extensive circular and shared it. You have district production coordinators, who are experts as the people I have in Entebbe. I have sub-county extension workers. The Rt Hon. Prime Minister and the President of Uganda doubled their salaries. Why are they not working?

I am appealing to you, colleagues, to launch a resistance against absenteeism. I want the district production coordinator of your district - I am going to call them to tell me if they have a problem with prescribing treatment for that weed. Why have they not informed us? We must not keep here to defend each other but must hold people we pay, accountable. I apologise for the tractor not having discs but I am going to follow it up; I will give you a report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, how about on the loans for big farmers?

MR TUMWEBAZE: Mr Speaker, it is great news and I want to thank the Ministry of Finance and the Cabinet. Give them a round of applause. (*Applause*) With your permission, we could come with the Ministry of Finance to give a statement.

Together with the Ministry of Finance, we have been discussing how to finance large-scale commercial farmers who are not covered under the PDM. They came up, with the approval of the Cabinet, with an interest-free loan facility for people ploughing or dealing in food security crops - soya bean, maize, cassava - I think even coffee, livestock. We can bring a statement explaining the details, the participating banks and the criteria but it is a wonderful policy framework.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Mpindi Bumali and Hon. Mapenzi - no, under this one, there is no procedure.

5.40

MR MPINDI-BUMALI (Independent, PWD Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I also know you as a person who fights for the vulnerable Ugandans, but if you go to the NIRA offices, you will find Ugandans crying every day because of the huge amount of money that is charged to them just for minor mistakes that may have been made on their national ID. If the name is misspelled and someone wants to correct it, they ask for 250,000 yet Ugandans do not have that money. Is there something that the Government can do to help those Ugandans who cannot raise that money?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, as you come to answer this, there is something that I saw, it was an announcement by NIRA, saying that if one loses their ID, they pay Shs 50,000 for replacement and then if one damages their ID, they pay Shs 200,000. Why should I go to report a damaged ID when I can lose it and then I pay - (*Laughter*) - I just throw it away and say, "It is lost" and I pay Shs 50,000 instead of carrying it as a damaged one and I pay Shs 200,000 - (*Hon. Aisha Kabanda rose*) - please, honourable, you know how we handle microphones here.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker and honourable members -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, never access a microphone without my permission.

MS NABBANJA: The high charge is a deterrent measure. Honourable colleagues, there was a time when we started with the SAGE project, people had reduced their years on the national ID and when SAGE came, they all wanted to be 80 years and above - (*Interjections*) - yes, it is a deterrent measure.

Every day you go to NIRA offices, you will find lines and lines. When retirement is about to come, people want to change their age and they become maybe 45 when they are already 60- (*Interjection*) - I have not talked about that. Honourable members, this is only about trying to deter people from fraudulently changing their identity.

Secondly, this is also to make people a little bit more responsible because this exercise has been taking place and people can get these IDs for free but within just one week, the moment they know that maybe somebody - especially the younger people who want to change their age. Let it be a deterrent measure. If you want to change your name to another, pay. If you say you want to change your age and become a little younger so you can serve longer, you have to pay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we save time for members?

MS NABBANJA: It is a deterrent measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, let the sectoral committee follow up on that issue. Yes, Hon. Mapenduzi.

5.43

MR MAPENDUZI OJARA (Independent, Bardege-Layibi Division, Gulu City): Mr Speaker, in March 2020, the Government commenced the construction project for the Gulu Logistics Hub, a very strategic facility serving the entire Northern Uganda, Uganda and the neighbouring countries.

However, the project affected several families. The Government had made a commitment to pay them in the form of compensation and severance packages. Some were paid but families that are mainly tenants of Uganda Railways Corporation were not paid.

We made several attempts to have them paid. I have personally travelled to the Ministry of Works and Transport more than 12 times; I have been counting but we have not heard any positive feedback.

Therefore, I would like to ask the Rt. Hon Prime Minister, if she can very kindly, as usual, compel the Ministry of Works and Transport to have these affected persons, who have been struggling for almost five years now. Some of these families have nowhere to stay. They are in Gulu City. You can imagine the life! My request to the Rt. Hon Prime Minister is to

prevail over the Ministry of Works to pay these people. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt. Hon Prime Minister, the Member said that he went to the Ministry of Works 12 times, and now they are running to you.

MS NABBANJA: I am going to coordinate the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Works so that money is availed to the Ministry of Works to have these people paid but after investigations.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Rwemulikya, Hon. Koluo, Hon. Kazini, Hon. Kwizera - I have MPs I started with in today's session. I know the ones who were here. Hon. Migadde - let us do a quick round and go for the party.

Honourable colleagues, I see all of you, do not think that you are too many that I cannot remember when you enter; I keep monitoring.

5.47

MR GERALD RWEMULIKYA IBANDA (INDEP, Ntoroko County, Ntoroko): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. Rt. Hon Prime Minister, I would like to thank you so much for the work you are doing we really appreciate it so much.

Ntoroko District secured a wage bill because we are lacking critical staff in different departments. The government had to halt recruitment because of a forensic audit but the ban was lifted.

I have seen the ministers promising to permit us - the district has written several letters. And lack of staff in critical departments is crippling work in the district.

Rt. Hon Prime Minister, when are you allowing or maybe you should intervene, so that we are given - because we have our wage. We want to recruit so that work goes on in the district because our district projects are being crippled.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the issue of Ntoroko is well known to me. I know it caused some transfers and interdiction of some Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs).

I know they have the money, but the Government instituted a forensic audit and the reports are out. I think we can now allow you to recruit. I will ask the Ministry of Public Service to give you a letter of no objection.

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

5.48

MR JOSEPH KOLUO (Independent, Toroma county, Katakwi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt. Hon Prime Minister, the people of Toroma, whom I represent, have requested me to ask you about the policy on the establishment of a technical school.

Katakwi District has three counties; Ngariam has one technical school, Usuk has one technical school but Toroma has none. However, the new Permanent Secretary has been misguided by the planning department to establish again a new technical institute in Ngariam, moreover in a remote area with only one sub-county and one school under construction - Toroma County has six senior secondary schools that can feed this technical school.

Rt. Hon Prime Minister, can you direct, as you have directed in Kumi, that this technical school be built in Toroma because the district council has rejected the use of those funds to build a technical school in Ngariam - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, you should ask for your own; you do not say take away from this one. You also lobby for your own. That should be the approach. You do not – yes, Minister of Education and Sports.

5.51

THE STATE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) MR OGWANG PETER: Mr Speaker, maybe I need to declare my conflict of interest so that I state some facts

clearly. In 2001, I do not know which class I was in, but I think I was somewhere there. His Excellency, the President pledged a memorial technical institute in memory of the 39 people who were massacred by the cattle rustlers in Ngariam.

I was not a Member of Parliament then but when I became a Member of Parliament for Usuk County, again, His Excellency, the President, through Her Excellency, the Vice President now, who was the Minister of Education and Sports then, again, pledged another technical institute in memory of the father of Her Excellency the Vice President who was killed by a landmine by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

So, I want to first bring these facts clearly before this august House. So, for that matter, there is one technical institute, that the Ministry of Education and Sports has built in Katakwi District. It is called Katakwi Technical Institute, which is in my constituency because even Usuk County was my constituency. What my colleague is bringing, I want to answer it squarely.

It is not Ogwang who pledged, it is the President who pledged in memory of the people who were killed by cattle rustlers, then in 2001. Today is 2024; 23 years and this pledge has not been fulfilled.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, the other two are memorial monuments.

MR OGWANG: They are.

THE SPEAKER: Then, this one is a technical institute.

MR OGWANG: It is a technical institute - what I expect from my colleague is to work with me, as his colleague to see how we can get you a technical institute in Toroma County but not to take away a monument, which was pledged in memory of the people who were killed. It is also wrong, Mr Speaker, because now I declared my conflict of interest, for my colleague to come and insinuate that there

are no people in that sub county. Whom do I represent here? *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, I had picked Hon. Isingoma and then Hon. Kazini. Hon. Isingoma, we do not have time.

5.53

MR PATRICK ISINGOMA (Independent, Hoima East Division, Hoima City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, my issue has to do with the ongoing construction of the Hoima City National Stadium. I have been receiving very many reports of a high level of attrition by the local people in this area. You know, this is my constituency. When I tried to share this information with Hon. Ogwang about the problem, he said that the problem was that the Banyoro are very lazy. Really? Really? He put me off that way. However, the rate of attrition is very high. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, point of order.

MR OGWANG: Mr Speaker *-(Laughter)-* first of all, maybe because one of my colleagues is saying that my colleague was insinuating that a one Ogwang, not Ogwang. If he is insinuating Ogwang, then I really want to think that is Cecilia the late, with due respect -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we confirm which Ogwang?

MR ISINGOMA: MR Speaker, Hon. Ogwang, this one. *(Laughter)*

MR OGWANG: Point of order, Mr Speaker. Is my colleague in order to insinuate or to try to bring me into the picture that I have said that the Banyoro are lazy? This is a tribal issue, which raises questions about my reputation, yet with due respect, I have been working with one of the strongest Munyoro; the only one I have ever worked with. He is here, the Rt Hon. Prime Minister and she knows the calibre of person standing before the House.

Mr Speaker, is he in order to try to bring my name into a matter, which he needs to address squarely as a Member of Parliament? Is he in order? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think it depends on what time the statement was made and what the two of you were drinking. *(Laughter)* We were not there; I do not know why it should be here. But Right honourable -

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker and honourable members, I have also got reports that people from that place have not been given an opportunity to work at that site and you know, Mr Speaker the Banyoro have never been lazy.

I am advising the Hon. Ogwang to go down onto the ground, otherwise, we shall have many challenges in the upcoming season. You just go and prevail over those contractors to give our people employment; we are entitled to a percentage, by law.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kazini and then Hon. Migadde.

5.58

MR KAZINI TWINOMUJUNI (NRM, Buhaguzi County, Kikuube): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. Currently, our good Government is giving land titles in my constituency, Buhaguzi, in Kikuube District, at a very low price. However, there is a category of people in Bukinda Parish that were settled by the Government, through the Office of the Prime Minister.

These categories of people are denied an opportunity to get these cheap land titles. May I request our able Prime Minister to give directives such that these people can also benefit from these land titles?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker and honourable members, I was in Kikuube last week and this issue was brought to my notice. I have interacted with the minister for Lands - they

are going to go on the ground and investigate and come up with a way forward. I promise I will inform the member.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Migadde, then Albert.

6.00

MR ROBERT MIGADDE (NRM, Buvuma Islands County, Buvuma): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, in Buvuma - because it is an island district, there is one specific town council, which is Lyabaana Town Council - month after month, we have piracy on the lake. I have raised this issue before. Boat engines are picked by people speaking Swahili.

Last month, 40 engines were taken, and 22 people were hacked, seven of them were admitted to different health centres in critical condition.

For the last so many years, we have reported but no response, and actually no senior officer from the security has gone to this area, at least to comfort the people. My question is: what arrangements does the Government have to protect members of the fishing community from the pirates?

I have to be clear, this is not about the Fisheries Protection Unit (FPU), these are pirates. Therefore, what arrangement does the Government have to protect these people with their property and also their lives? There is no deployment in this area and it is near the Kenya-Uganda border. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can see the minister for Defence is willing to help you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. Yes, defence - they are the ones guarding - Hon. Huda Oleru.

6.01

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (VETERAN AFFAIRS) (MS Huda Oleru): Mr Speaker and Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we have taken note and deployment will be done as soon as possible.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Albert and Hon. Kwizera.

6.02

MR ALBERT LOKORU (NRM, Tepeth County, Moroto): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Works and Transport, is doing a wonderful job of upgrading Moroto- Lokitanyala Road. The only challenge or question that I want to ask is: some of the Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) have been paid but some have not.

The project is almost complete. The affected people are now asking, if the project is complete, the contractor will go, and who is going to pay them. They want some assurance, especially from UNRA or the Ministry of Works and Transport. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, is it not what the minister answered at the beginning? Maybe you can confirm.

6.03

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Gen. Katumba Wamala): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I had already alluded that every contractor and service provider who has been working with UNRA, has also been working with the Government of Uganda. Whatever contract was signed with UNRA will be honoured by the Government and by the ministry.

MR SOWEDI KITANYWA (NRM, Busongora County North, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. For over three years, we have had people in Kasese, in Muhokya, who are living in a camp as a result of the disasters. We want to thank the Government for procuring land for these people.

However, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you have been giving directives. May I plead with you to also give a directive for this land to be given to these people who have lived in a camp for the last three years? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: She is the Rt Hon. Prime Minister, not the minister.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I want you to remember the Shs 5 billion that I directed to be used for those disaster-prone areas, which we used to buy land in Kayunga and Kaseseto to construct health centres in Rwampanga, Ntoroko, and many other places. We bought that land but it brought issues.

The family members that owned that land reported us to the Inspector General of Government (IGG). The IGG has just cleared that this land was not fraudulently acquired. I think two or three months ago, I wrote a letter to the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development to help us open up boundaries and demarcate. We are currently going to put roads so that we can have access to the whole land. Thereafter, we shall demarcate two acres per person. So, we are aware. I am one of those who directed that this land be bought. Thank you so much.

6.05

MR SAM OTUKOL (NRM, Pallisa County, Pallisa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I received a letter from the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, around March of this year, requesting me to mobilise the people they had given CG Company to construct power lines in Pallisa County. However, to date, that company has never appeared on the ground. When we try to call the numbers that were given to us, they are elusive.

Could you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, direct this company to come to the ground? My people need power in Pallisa County. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister -

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development will be contacted together with my brother so that we find out whether this contract exists.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will link the honourable colleague to the owner of the company who might be our colleague around this House.

6.06

MR EDDIE KWIZERA (NRM, Bukimbi County, Kisoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is a matter of policy that in each county, the Government said we should have a vocational institute and that there should be a secondary school in each subcounty.

As far as I am concerned, in Bukimbi County, we do not have a technical institute and in some subcounties, like Nyarutembe, Kirundo, and Bukimbi, we do not have any secondary schools, contrary to Government policy.

May I humbly request the Prime Minister to direct the Minister of Education and Sports to implement the Government policy, because the failure of the Government to implement such policies is rated against the Member of Parliament. I thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, it is true that the Government has a policy to have a secondary school per subcounty and a technical institute per consistency. There is a lot of work that has been done in that direction.

We currently have a few subcounties without a secondary school and we continue to appropriate money to make sure that each of these subcounties gets a secondary school. This year, we are going to have 60 secondary schools constructed and a number of technical schools. So, the ministry is directed to make sure that while looking at where to put this infrastructural development, Bukimbi could be one of them.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Itungo -

6.07

MR NATHAN ITUNGO (Independent, Kashari South County, Mbarara): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. Mine is a kind reminder to the Rt Hon. Prime Minister about Bwizibwera-Nsiika Road. Nsiika is in Buhweju. This road has been a matter here, raised by my colleagues, Hon. Koyekyanga and Hon. Francis Mwijukye.

In June, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you said all the processes were complete - it was the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and I am happy the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Minister for Works and Transport are here. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we thought this would be our gift to our people for this Christmas. So, can you say something as we go for Christmas?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Works and Transport? Bwizibwera-Nsiika road - it seems today, Gen. Katumba did not come with gifts.

6.09

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Gen. Edward Katumba): Mr Speaker, Bwizibwera-Nsiika Road is a road in the pipeline but we are finalising with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development the financing modalities.

Otherwise, we have the contract ready and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is still negotiating on the term sheet. Once that is done, we will have the project launched; and it is not in NDP IV; it is in NDP III and we will implement it before NDP III expires.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Tebandeke -

6.09

MR CHARLES TEBANDEKE (NUP, Bbale County, Kayunga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am aware of the Shs 1 billion allocated to the district for road maintenance and such activities. During this flood season, a lot of roads have been affected yet the district has no capacity to acquire the Armco culverts that can be installed in the drained swamp areas with waterlogging, huge capacity.

May I get to know from the Minister of Works and Transport who is my brother, why he cannot improvise these districts with Armco culverts to effectively maintain these roads? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister -

6.10

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Gen. Edward Katumba): Mr Speaker, the issue of the flooding is of course a challenge not only in Bbale and Kayunga. We had already made a budget for acquiring, and we know the neediest spots.

We have already come up with a budget and we have shared it with the Prime Minister. She will tell you possibly that she is coordinating with the finance minister to see whether we can get some emergency funds to respond to this rainy season situation which is not the normal situation for road maintenance. Let us be hopeful that the Prime Minister will be able to get some money.

MS NABBANJA: I want the honourable Member to appreciate. Some time back, you came here and requested the Government to connect Galilaya to Kawongo. That was done. Once in a while, appreciate Hon. Tebandeke, my son.

MR TEBANDEKE: Mr Speaker, on behalf of the people of Bbale, we appreciate the elevation of the Kanda-Kawongo Swamp by the Government but now, there are a lot of other pending issues -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: By which Government? - *(Laughter)* - NRM Government.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I feel it necessary that when the Government has acted on Members' issues, they should once in, once in a while and appreciate. One of them is that.

Mr Speaker and colleagues, as you are aware, the policy is now that people leave the swampy areas. I want you to inform your people, those who are settling back in those swampy areas, not to go back because that place will flood again. We are told that they are going back there yet we bought for them land at a place called Kyedicho. We are going to settle them there so let them not go back. Thank you.

6.12

MR JOHN BAPTIST NAMBESHE (NUP, Manjiya County, Bududa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will be very brief. I want to thank the Prime Minister for dispensing lots of justice to the questions. *(Applause)*

A quick one on traffic lights, which is the question that was raised by the Hon. Aogon of Kumi Municipality. Much as these traffic lights are hyped, where they are even in the capital city here, most of them are malfunctioning. I would like the Prime Minister to appreciate that either they could be using old technology or - because most of these junctions in Kampala if it were not for traffic police officers, there would be accidents and lots of confusion and clashes by road users because of those traffic lights malfunctions.

This last question on road maintenance in disaster-prone districts, places that have natural calamities like floods or even landslides; the ministry should regularly prevail upon accounting officers not to have roadworks during heavy downpours. This has always affected the structural integrity of roads all over. With those few comments, I rest my case.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: On that last point, Hon. Nambeshe, I think the ministry did - I was in my area and I asked, "Why aren't you working?" My chairman, LCV, Mr Karyeija Benon, told me the ministry had issued guidelines that they should not start on road works during the rainy season.

MR NAMBESHE: Most obliged. However, there were some very stubborn Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) - I want to mention adversely, the one of Bududa, for instance, who purportedly, conducted work during heavy downpours. There is virtually nothing to show.

With this, I would like to wish you, honourable members, the best of Christmas and the next year, 2025. May God abundantly bless you all.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I want once again, a guide - okay, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, is it a statement? Prime Minister, that one would require me to amend the Order Paper but if it is a verbal message, you will speak it out.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker and honourable members, I want to, first of all, thank you, for conducting business this year very well - *(Applause)* - a lot of Government business has been achieved and done, especially on the RAPEX.

To Members, I want to appreciate you and most sincerely, the chairpersons of committees and the party whips, for the work well done. *(Applause)*

The year 2024 has been a successful one. I want to also inform Members that I was again elected as the Female Leader of the Year in Africa - *(Applause)* - I believe all of this is because of the teamwork.

The Cabinet ministers, I want to thank you and more especially for the work well done. May God bless you all. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. You can see we have more reason for celebration after this. Honourable colleagues, once again, I want to inform and guide committee chairpersons, especially for sectoral committees that we have today received the Budget Framework Paper and the National Development Plan IV (NDPIV).

The NDP IV should inform the Budget Framework Paper. Note that you cannot start processing the Budget Framework Paper in sectoral committees before we approve the National Development Plan IV.

Therefore, sectoral committees, please use this period to sort out your business, which you have not yet completed because we are going to be handling the budget. We want to

concentrate and scrutinise the budget deeply. Use this period, which we are going into, the two weeks when the Committee on Budget will be handling the NDP IV, very well, scrutinise and finish.

The Committee on National Economy can utilise the time when the Committee on Budget is very busy, to tap into members to process the loans we have brought quickly so that they can be completed.

There is one loan, which is expiring tomorrow yet it was brought today. I am sorry, I had to insist. A loan cannot spend two years in the corridors of the Executive and come to spend one day on the Floor of Parliament. It had to be processed the way it should be.

I want us to avoid these situations. When loans are ready - Rt Hon. Prime Minister, always facilitate the minister for finance, especially on issues that require statutory deadlines, to get space quickly on the Cabinet Order Paper so that we do not stampede Parliament. I know he finished a long time ago most of these but Cabinet approval usually takes some time. If we can co-ordinate very well on that, we will do a very excellent job.

Otherwise, we promise to continue supporting you and continue working together this coming financial year. Now, we are going into budgeting. Honourable colleagues, read the documents they are giving. Do not wait to ride on submissions of others on the Floor. Go and read. That is when you will be able to ask the relevant questions. We do not complain.

We want to thank you, as the leadership of Parliament. The main speech thanking you will be at the venue outside but on behalf of the Speaker and the leadership of Parliament, we appreciate you for always supporting us to execute our mandate. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. *(Applause)*

I am going to adjourn the House *sine die* but the committees have to come back quickly. When you look at it, two weeks from now, we might call you back very early, in the first or second week of January, to approve the National Development Plan so that we can now go to debate the Budget Framework Paper. House adjourned *sine die*.

(The House rose at 6.20 p.m. and adjourned sine die.)