



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

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FIFTH SESSION - 16TH SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Wednesday, 17 September 2025

Parliament met at 2.11 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: Thank you. Honourable members, I welcome you to today's sitting. Matters of national importance. *(Hon. Luttaguzi rose.)* State the rule under which you are rising and proceed with your submission. *(Laughter)*

Honourable members, there is a polite way of asking me for an opportunity to talk. You can always do it better. Hon. Atkins Katusabe?

2.14

MR ATKINS KATUSABE (FDC, Bukonzo County West, Kasese); Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. First of all, I thank you for making it to Kasese. The bishop asked me to deliver his deepest gratitude to you –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Luttaguzi, take your seat. You can consult when seated.

MR KATUSABE: Mr Speaker, the Rt Rev. Bishop Francis Aquirinus Kibira Kambale asked me to deliver his gratitude on behalf of

the Diocese and the people of Kasese, for the work and support.

Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of national importance, first of all, thanking the President and the Government of Uganda for the good relationship between the two entities. The Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu Kingdom had an interaction with the President of Uganda relating to rebuilding the Rwenzururu Kingdom and creating an income-generating project. As a matter of fact, the Government agreed to buy for the kingdom the Gen. Kazini Hotel in Kasese, to provide income for it.

The third point, Mr Speaker, was to create a Nyabaghole Women and Girl Fund to support the women and girls in the Kasese community and to provide the royal guards' families with a resettlement package.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, was to take care of the medical bills and facilitate a specialised treatment for the King.

Mr Speaker, I respectfully ask the Government to work with the Rwenzururu Kingdom, specifically the Prime Minister, and have a clear plan and a roadmap on when some of these things, or all of them, will be actualised. I really appreciate you for the opportunity.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Atkins Katusabe. Yes, Government?

2.17

THE MINISTER, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Ms Justine Kasule Lumumba): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I thank the Member for the issues he has raised. First of all, on the issue of appreciating you for the efforts of going there; very few people appreciate it. I also thank him for appreciating you.

Secondly, I thank him for appreciating the good relationship between the Government and the Rwenzururu Kingdom. On the issue he has raised of the Government supporting the girl-child, most importantly supporting the Kingdom and the royal guards, I am going to take it up with the Prime Minister so that the plan is brought here after a discussion with the Kingdom, the royal guards, him, and the leaders of the area, and we shall roll it out together. I thank you. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Luttamaguzi. *(Laughter)*

MR LUTTAMAGUZI: I rise under rule 52, Mr Speaker, on ministers to attend the House to answer questions. Mr Speaker, we have several ministers for different dockets but right now, we only have two. Imagine, out of eighty-something, we have only two ministers, yet they are supposed to answer very important questions for this country. Are we moving procedurally right?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We can leave the questions and handle other issues that do not require answers.

MR LUTTAMAGUZI: Mr Speaker –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, that is not how they access the microphone. You do not stand up, switch on, and do what you want to do, no. When you want to access a microphone, you stand up and you catch my eye, like what you have done now. I have not allowed you, and I have not even called you. *(Laughter)* Catching my eye does not mean that you start speaking, no. When you catch my eye, I will call you. Hon. Luttamaguzi on the Floor.

MR LUTTAMAGUZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We have a big number of ministers. I think Uganda might have the biggest number of ministers in the region. It hurts Ugandans to see that when we have such an important sitting, we have only two people. There are several questions that these ministers are supposed to answer, especially at this critical moment, Mr Speaker.

Therefore, the issue I am raising is not just a trivial matter. We want to see our ministers answering questions because we are now attending to matters of national importance. Each docket has its own minister. No single minister is a jack of all trades to answer every question raised by each Member. Mr Speaker, are we moving procedurally right?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. We have a minister for general duties. *(Laughter)* Honourable members, Hon. Luttamaguzi is raising a very important matter. Under rule 52(3), Wednesdays and Thursdays, specifically - maybe we need to share these rules with the ministers, so that they know that on Wednesdays and Thursdays, they should be here to answer critical questions. Yes, honourable minister for general duties.

2.20

THE MINISTER, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Ms Justine Kasule Lumumba): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. What the Member is raising is right, and I am going to raise it with the Chief Whip of Cabinet; that is the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business. I will put it in writing and give you a copy, so that it is taken by our head on our side in this institution.

I take this opportunity to say, Mr Speaker, we apologise for the inconveniences our absence in Parliament has caused because it is so clear that in every sector, there must be at least one minister in here. When you observe in our ministries, we have more than one. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Luttamaguzi, let us pick the questions. Your

point has been made, and we should follow this matter seriously. Yes, Hon. Dr Byakatonda Abdulhu.

2.22

DR ABDULHU BYAKATONDA (Independent, Workers Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance. Objective 3(4) of the National Objective Directives, Principles and State Policy says that institutions and procedures for the resolution of conflicts shall be established and nurtured fairly and peacefully.

And whereas this requires institutions of Government and a tripartite arrangement to ensure that at least they handle issues of grievances in the workplaces, to enhance industrial harmony and productivity.

Mr Speaker, this has compromised service delivery in a number of areas, and this is at hand. One, we declared industrial action last week by taking the convocation of schools all over the country. All institutions are now at rest. This week, the teachers declared industrial action at the beginning of this third term. This has caused much unrest in our schools. The local government workers have also ended their 90-day notice and are due to declare industrial action. Mr Speaker, this has compromised service delivery and jeopardised our education.

My prayers are: one, the government engages in an inter-ministerial dialogue –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Byakatonda- honourable colleagues have that “We should always apply the rules.”

Rule 78, I see that you have a document you are reading.

The rule states that the moment you have a document to be read, it should be shared with honourable members.

Otherwise –

DR BYAKATONDA: Much obliged, Mr Speaker. I beg you to lay. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you should share so that we can put it on our system. These are your own rules, according to Rule 78 of our Rules of Procedure. You submit. I am interested in the document you are reading. Next time, please submit it if you want to read. Otherwise, you should speak off the cuff, but you can refer to notes.

DR BYAKATONDA: I am now speaking off the cuff, Mr Speaker, to avoid data anomalies. Mr Speaker, I would pray that there is a need for an inter-ministerial dialogue. We should have ministries for education, public service, finance, and local government so that they handle this matter amicably and ensure that our children go back to school and teachers are in the class.

Two, Mr Speaker, there should be a follow-up. This is because in July, we had an engagement in the State House where we agreed on four thematic areas.

One, phase enhancement, waiving PAYE and giving accommodation. All these have been part of the issue that would bring commitment to the workforce.

Mr Speaker, there has been silence. I beg that there should be communication. Let us have dialogue under the public service negotiation machinery, so that we can actually resolve this matter. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister for Education and Sports.

2.26

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank my colleague, Hon. Byakatonda, for raising this very important matter of national importance. It is true, as he stated, that there is ongoing industrial action. There is also ongoing negotiation and dialogue to ensure that we come to a common table and agree.

Two, as he stated, the Government of Uganda is already committed to providing adequate support for our teachers at all levels. This commitment is still in place. What I can say is that we have just started the budgeting cycle, and this commitment is being factored into the budget for the next financial year. I want to once more say that we commit to the welfare of the teachers and the negotiation. Mr Speaker, we will bring a statement to brief the House at the end. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, in the VIP gallery this afternoon, we have Hon. Usher Wilson Owere, Deputy Prime Minister, Tieng Adhola, also former Chairman General, Uganda National Teachers Union (UNATU). He is accompanied by Mr David Muzaale, Team lecturer, Ecumenical Inter-Faith Association in Uganda. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please, join me in welcoming them.

Honourable colleagues, also in the public gallery this afternoon, we have pupils and teachers from Ombachi Satellite Nursery and Primary School, Arua City. They are represented by Hon. Geoffrey Feta and Hon. Mourine Osoru. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please, join me in welcoming them. Thank you. Yes, Hon. Tebandeke.

2.28

MR CHARLES TEBANDEKE (NUP, Bbaale County, Kayunga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance regarding the removal of the public address system in Kayunga District. I rise to bring to the attention of this august House a matter of national importance concerning the recent action by the Uganda Communication Commission (UCC), to remove the public address systems, commonly referred to as “Loudspeakers”, community megaphones, in Kitimbwa Town Council, Nkokonjeru Village, Kayunga Town Council, Nazigo and Kangulurumira in Kayunga District.

Mr Speaker, these public address systems are standalone communication devices that do

not operate on television or radio frequencies, thus posing no interference to regulated broadcasting spectrum –(Interruption)

MR OTIMGIW: Mr Speaker, you earlier guided the colleague before that, as we rise on matters of national importance, you are not supposed to read without sharing the document. I do not know if the honourable member has shared the document with us, though we cannot access it. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR OTIMGIW: Is the honourable member proceeding right?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Tebandeke, please submit. Honourable colleagues, it is your own rules. Maybe we shall talk to the seniors here and see how best to remove some of these rules, but like rule 78 - you know, it is a very serious rule, and on several occasions here, when someone is submitting, the member says, “*I do not have a copy of the document the colleague is reading.*” Hon. Tebandeke, please comply with the rules.

MR TEBANDEKE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. These standalone megaphones are used as security alerts, community engagement, youth employment and economic opportunities, and emergency communications.

Mr Speaker, I pray that the minister provides a detailed explanation of the reasons and circumstances under which the Uganda Communication Commission has removed these public address systems despite their non-interference with regulated frequencies.

Two, it outlines the potential socio-economic and security consequences of removing these community megaphones, particularly in rural areas with scarce alternative communication platforms.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, I would also like the minister to clarify whether UCC has developed or intends to develop guidelines to regulate the use of public address systems to ensure

continued operations, given the significant benefits to community welfare, security, and youth engagement.

I beg to submit, Mr Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me guide that the question be addressed to the Prime Minister so that we get a substantive answer, just like how you prepared a substantive submission and read it on the Floor. The Prime Minister should receive it. This needs detailed data. It cannot be answered off the cuff.

MS KASULE LUMUMBA: Most obliged, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let it be considered for Prime Minister's Time; they will give a written answer.

2.32

MR NOAH MUTEBI (NRM, Nakasongola County, Nakasongola): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance. The Government of the Republic of Uganda is implementing a nuclear energy project in two districts. The first phase is being implemented in Buyende District, and the second phase will be in Nakasongola.

Mr Speaker, the energy ministry has engaged stakeholders in Nakasongola. They had a meeting where they met the district executive committee and the council, the LC III chairpersons and their councils, and LC I chairpersons. However, Mr Speaker, because this is a political time, after that meeting, the propagandists started popularising it, and said that the Members of Parliament who were in Parliament in 2017 are the ones who have caused the evictions of people, or threatening them to be evicted.

Mr Speaker, my humble request is that the Ministry of Energy –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Procedure.

MS NDIWALANA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am wondering why this old man is reading. At least, Hon. Tebandeke is a young man –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are you wondering?

MS NDIWALANA: Why is he reading this –

MR MUTEBI: Mr Speaker, I am not reading –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please. I just want to know what you are wondering because I did not hear you properly.

MS NDIWALANA: I wonder why this honourable Member of Parliament is reading and he looks to be a very well-experienced man. Can he please just present without reading? I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleague, the rule is very simple; it does not stop you from reading. You can refer to the notes to refresh your memory but then the Speaker under Rule 78(2) can allow you under exceptional circumstances. Therefore, today, starting with Hon. Lutamaguzi, going to Hon. Tebandeke, now to Hon. Noah, I have allowed it under exceptional circumstances, but I was just trying to remind you that you need to revise and come when you are well-grounded with your submission.

Clarification? There is no one on the Floor.

MR MUZAAL: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We normally submit our matters of national importance to the Office of the Speaker. By doing so, I would expect that you are now in charge of that document. By the time I come to the Floor and read, I expect that the Office of the Speaker has received my document and, therefore, it can be uploaded on the system.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Martin Muzaale, I never receive such kind of questions. Members come and engage with me. The reason for engagement is simple: to be guided, because I know matters of national importance should be questions of an urgent nature. Questions that cannot wait and questions where an oral answer is even satisfactory, an off the cuff answer is even satisfactory.

We share with you for purposes of guidance because many of you come and I say, honourable colleague, I think this one is fit for the Prime Minister because it will need a detailed answer after consultations have been made or I guide you, by saying, no, for an oral answer but addressed to the Minister, because the rules provide for all these kinds of questions.

However, matters of national importance are part of the communication of the Speaker. They are not among the questions which are provided for under our Rules of Procedure. Here, I use my discretion and my time during my communication and say, since I have communicated, colleagues, you might also have very urgent matters you want to communicate, and I give you that chance. Therefore, they are totally different from the questions that are provided under the rules.

Conclude, honourable, by going to the prayers.

MR MUTEBI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for your wise ruling. My humble prayer is that the energy ministry goes to Nakasongola District, particularly to Lakeview Secondary School, Kalungi Subcounty and meet the village people - the residents - who are being threatened to be evicted by this project, so that they are given a clear picture, and proper information, so that they get to know how the project will be implemented and what will happen. That is my humble request, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister for energy.

2.37

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (ENERGY) (Mr Sidronius Okaasai): Mr Speaker, we are truly developing nuclear energy, mainly to enhance the electricity we generate in the country to meet the projected demand. It is also true, one of the sites that we have identified as suitable for the development of nuclear power is in Nakasongola. It is also

true that we are creating awareness. We have Buyende for our Phase 1, and Nakasongola for Phase 2. We also have Gulu as our Phase 3.

When we started planning this, we created awareness, and that awareness is what is causing what he is saying. We are actually going to enhance the awareness; Nobody is going to be evicted from his land, especially when you are far off from the implementation. We are going to engage the communities and create more awareness about it so that they do not have fears. In case that time comes, they will be compensated. We have a provision for compensation of the project-affected persons. We shall engage them.

2.39

MR HENRY KIBALYA (NRM, Bugabula County South, Kamuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On the 5th of this month, there was a heavy downpour. The rainstorm was heavy in the area of Naibowa, a parish in Butansi Subcounty in Kamuli District. More than 50 homesteads, gardens, and people's animals were destroyed. There is a lady who is near there, who is a traditional healer, who took advantage of those families that got affected; those with wounds, and broken limbs because of the downpour, so she is hosting and treating them because the number was too big to be accommodated in Kamuli Hospital. There is a lot that is going on there, Mr Speaker.

The families in the small villages of Bulyampanda, Butimbo, and Buluke in that parish are really struggling and suffering. My prayer is that the Office of the Prime Minister could come to the rescue of these people and help them with some food. At the same time, most of these structures that were destroyed require some iron sheets and some help. The Office of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Disaster Preparedness could come to the rescue of these people and help them.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister.

2.41

THE MINISTER, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (GENERAL DUTIES) (Ms Justine Kasule Lumumba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the honourable member for raising this issue. It is very unfortunate, but what I request from the member is that the committee should write because when the District Committee in charge of disaster writes, it gives details and the requirements that they expect from the Office of the Prime Minister.

Just this morning, we were looking at all of those issues that have come to the Prime Minister's attention, and it was not part of what we looked at this morning. I assume they have not yet written.

Also, Mr Speaker, as a Member of Parliament from the area, I would request him to take it up and rescue the people who are under the traditional doctor because she may not be able to handle the issues that these people are facing. That may even exacerbate the problem, especially issues to do with health. The Ministry of Health is going to take it up, and as the Office of the Prime Minister, we will also take up our portion. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Okaasai, Minister of State for Energy and Mineral Development, on the issue raised by Hon. Wanzala, from the information you gave, people within a radius of 30 kilometres are going to be affected. There must be homes. It cannot be as simple as how you put it here. I request that you link up with MPs from the affected areas, and they tell you the problem so that they can engage their communities. That would be more helpful.

MR OKAASAI: Mr Speaker, I have assured the Member that we shall engage the MPs to lead us. We have done it in Busoga, where we also engaged the cultural leader. We are also going to engage his cultural leader, and we are actually discussing that intervention with him. We shall take all the structures.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Dr Charles Ayume.

2.43

DR CHARLES AYUME (NRM, Koboko Municipality, Koboko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance. South Sudan is one of our biggest trade partners, and the Koboko District, like many border districts, hosts a number of South Sudanese refugees.

However, I am concerned about the growing insecurity because we do trade with South Sudan. On 9 September 2025, a commuter taxi going to Juba from Koboko was ambushed by unknown gunmen, and people were killed. One of them is called Innocent Metaloro, and others whose names I cannot confirm.

My prayer is that our embassy in South Sudan takes an interest in these killings and ambushes because it is common that every six months we get these ambushes, and as a Member of Parliament, the funeral services are very emotional; we do not have answers, and as the Government, we do not have answers. Therefore, I request that the embassy take an interest in following up on these cases.

Secondly, let Government-to-Government ensure cross-border security along the road, especially the Kaya to Yei road and Nimule to Juba. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Bhoka Didi, I know you are from the same area, and it seems you have something to add?

MR BHOKA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The second person who was killed is called Kusanya, and what is sad is that the ambush occurred just about 200 metres away from a security installation of the South Sudan People's Army. Therefore, I add my voice to console the families, but also request that our Government protect our citizens on the way to Juba and within Juba because that is not the first of its kind. I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, honourable minister.

MS KASULE LUMUMBA: It is very unfortunate that we have lost lives, yet we are brothers and sisters with just artificial boundaries in between. Mr Speaker, I condole with the families, but like the person who has raised it has advised that we should talk government to government and in this case, we will be talking under the spirit of the East African integration. These cases used to happen, but they had stopped. Now it has started again. It is very unfortunate, but we shall take it up, including the ministries, East Africa, Security and Defence, but also to the level of heads of state, so that we save lives because we are all the same.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The Leader of the Opposition (LOP)?

2.46

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Mr Speaker, I would like to begin by doing something I rarely do. I appreciate the acting Prime Minister, Hon. Justine Kasule Lumumba, because she is sitting in for the Prime Minister. When we raised the matter of the Front Bench, I think there were just two at that time. She stood up and, number one, conceded, apologised to this House, and promised that they would do better. I think that is important, and for that, I want to give you your flowers because rarely does the Government concede on – we have raised this issue, I do not know how many times and usually whoever is sitting in for the Prime Minister comes here and says, well, ministers are busy, they are coming and so on, but she did not take us in circles, which is good.

Hopefully, now, you will follow up on the commitment you have made to write, to see to it that the very many ministers in each docket, at least one gets to be available. That is a good thing.

Be that as it may, I want to put two quick issues to her. This is our country's Constitution. In law, we call it the grand norm. It provides for everything related to the law in our country. Chapter four, which is the Bill of Rights, has several articles. One very critical one about

personal liberty, Article 23, provides for the mode of how somebody gets to be arrested if they are suspected of having committed an offence: who gets to conduct the arrest, how the person gets to be arrested, they are taken to a designated place; family members and lawyers get to know where this person has been taken, and they are also held in that gazetted designated place for not more than 48 hours, and produced in court. That is in Article 23 of our country's Constitution.

Of late, this provision of our Constitution has been violated. People are picked up. You know, when we use the word "kidnap", it is because of how people are picked up. A drone, that is an ordinary car, people wearing ordinary clothes, wielding guns, they will break into people's homes or abduct them on the road and take them to no one knows where. That is not an arrest as provided for in our Constitution. I saw the spokesperson of the Police, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Kituuma Rusoke. As we raised these complaints, he said, "No, the public is not going to give us orders on how we are going to conduct an arrest." It is not the public; it is this Constitution that orders the Government on how to conduct arrests; Article 23, it is here.

Therefore, what we need to know from the Government is whether this is the new mode of arrest? Has the Government sat in Cabinet and amended this Constitution without the knowledge of Parliament, which you preside over, because laws are made and amended here?

Therefore, has Article 23 of the Constitution been amended, and by who and under whose authority? We need to know because this business of just picking up people, they are taken wherever, beaten up, and then we hear they are in people's basements. It is ultra vires; it is outside of the law. We need to know because this Parliament is the custodian of this constitution.

Second and final, again, regarding personal liberties. For a while, we kept demanding answers from the Government about missing

persons. One of those whose name stood out among the pack was John Bosco Kibalama, who was kidnapped on Martyrs' Day in 2019. The Prime Minister, Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, told the nation that John Bosco Kibalama was arrested and was in state custody. Of course, we kept asking, where is he? Can we know? There were no answers after she admitted that.

Last week, I saw the spokesperson of the Uganda People's Defence Forces, acting Maj. Gen. Felix Kulayigye. He was recently appointed in acting capacity in that role. He said that Kibalama is out of the country and we know the country where he is. I thought he was going to go ahead to tell the nation that country. So, is that the new position of Government that this gentleman and the other missing persons are outside of the country?

The initial Government position by Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja was that this man was arrested. Where is he? We do not know. Now, the spokesperson of UPDF is saying he is outside of the country and we know where. Is that the new position of Government? That is important because it will help us. Who knows? I might come here and I apologise to the Government and say, "I am sorry, all along I was saying you kidnapped this person, but now we have found out that he is hiding in this country. So, I apologise for saying you abducted him and yet he is in another country." We would like to get that information now that it is coming from a Government official. Is that the government's position? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister- a procedure from Hon. Kibalya, just wait a little.

MR KIBALYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My procedural matter is related to what the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) has raised. This is an issue of human rights and law. We have the office of the Attorney-General, the Ministry of Justice, and Constitutional Affairs. These are issues involving the Police, yet the Internal Affairs ministry has three ministers. Wouldn't it be procedurally right, that maybe, before the issue of LOP is answered, one of the ministers

in that docket be given five or ten minutes to come and give us a better line of guidance? However, it is you who is the custodian of the Constitution, you could guide.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. It will be up to Hon. Lumumba to say that I may need support from the Attorney-General. If she can answer sufficiently, please let her answer. Let us give her a chance.

MS LUMUMBA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition has raised quite a few issues, but what is paramount is that we are all here because of the Constitution. The procedure to amend the Constitution is clearly laid out in the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda itself. The final decision in amending it lies with this House.

Therefore, assuming that we could have amended the Constitution, we do not have the powers as the Cabinet. The powers are with the august House. There has not been any amendment. We have not usurped the powers of the Parliament of Uganda. On arrests and human rights, Mr Speaker, I suggest that this be part of what will be answered by the Prime Minister during the Prime Minister's time, because that is where we even get the benefit of it being in writing under the signature. So the details will be contained at that time. I thank you. For the issue of the Attorney-General that my MP is raising, the Prime Minister chooses who should help her as she responds to the House. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Odur.

MR ODUR: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Under Article 208 (C), it gives the function of the Uganda People's Defence Forces. It is stated in that article that the UPDF is meant to foster understanding and harmony with civilians, which is a good thing.

In the past, we have not seen how practical this understanding and fostering of unity are because of the confrontations. However, last week, I happened to see several trucks

of the UPDF loaded with civilians dressed in uniforms of one of the political parties, the NRM. I was actually happy because that reflected the provision under 208 that the UPDF is of national character.

In the past, this House has been informed of the services available from the UPDF, including Uzima water, how to buy it, and, if you want protection, how to contract security. But this particular service of transporting political supporters was not told to us. And yet UPC, NUP, and so many other political parties would now like to start transporting their supporters to different venues.

Wouldn't it now be procedurally correct that the Government informs us of this new service and how the UPDF is fostering harmony and understanding with different civilians, so that we can also benefit. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Lumumba.

MS KASULE LUMUMBA: Thank you, Rt Hon. Speaker. I would like to thank the member. When it comes to the work of UPDF, in terms of emergencies, it can also come out and rescue Ugandans. So when the Member comes here and raises this, unless I have seen it, I cannot explain. I do not know. Since rains are on, they could have been somewhere and there was a disaster and the UPDF came in to rescue. *(Applause.)*

I cannot - unless the Member gives me the details so that I get to UPDF and then we can come and explain based on what UPDF will have showed us. But UPDF are human beings, trained by Ugandan taxpayers' money because they offered themselves to serve Ugandans. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. One day you might jump on to it and mix with the prisoners. You will transport yourself to prison. Thank you. Next item. That was on a light note, for sure. Yes, Kiboga.

MS KAAYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand on a procedural matter, under rule 47, response by ministers to our queries. There are questions asked here or matters that were already presented. I will give an example of what Hon. Tebandeke tabled already. I also raised it, that the megaphones are not allowed in our laws but it is selective implementation of the law. In some districts, they are cut off, in some districts, they are operational.

The Prime Minister had promised a response, but we have never gotten a response from the line minister. Could it be procedurally right that, Mr Speaker, you call upon members whose issues have never been responded to? They should be compiled such that the ministers may get a recall to respond to them.

Otherwise, you find a Member coming with the same issue that you raised some time back, and another one will still come back yet our rules stipulate a week's response for those issues. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. That is a good proposal. Let us discuss it with the Clerk, okay? We will see how best we can manage, and then I will be communicating to the House and guiding the members. Thank you. Hon. Otimgiw. Honourable colleagues, we are behind -

MR OTIMGIW: Thank you. I rise under rules 9(1) and 7 regarding seating arrangement. One is that the Speaker will ensure that every Member has reserved a seat. I have noticed that there are some seats that have special names labelled to them; for example, where Hon. Lutamaguzi is seated. Special arrangements are made for disabled persons. One of the names there is Hon. Asuman, who is the chairperson of sports. I play football with him; he even runs faster than me. I do not know how he qualifies for special arrangements.

Under our rules, no Member is more favourable than the other. Therefore, I wonder why some members here have special seats with names reserved in their area, than others, yet they are not disabled. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Asuman is the Whip of JEEMA, though he whips himself. *(Laughter)* There are also some colleagues who have reported special circumstances to us.

Firstly, some of you - I do not know why God chose to create you in doubles, like Hon. Akol. I hear the man would sit, and every time he would come out when his legs were in pain. Hon. Feta has not yet applied for “business class”. *(Laughter)* there are people who we felt would need more space. If you come to the Speaker and explain your special circumstance - we have colleagues with back problems. I do not need to mention names here, but please, if you have any special circumstances, we will provide for you in a special way. It is not that we are trying to make some Members look special, but we consider the circumstances, most of which are medical, and we cannot bring them here on the Floor. Yes, Hon. Niwagaba.

MR NIWAGABA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is a follow-up on the acting Prime Minister’s response to the Leader of the Opposition’s questions. I wanted her to be very categorical, clear, and unambiguous that the Prime Minister will tomorrow respond in writing to all missing persons, including Mugumya, who has been missing for the last 20 or so days.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Lumumba—please, I do not want us to think that a minister can go and direct a Prime Minister. The Prime Minister determines her schedule when she comes here. The commitment she made- even if she commits here, she does not know whether the Prime Minister will come or not. The Prime Minister can, at any time, call me and explain to me the emergency she has. I do not want us to indict our colleague here. I think what is very important is to ensure that, indeed, she should just communicate. Hon. Niwagaba put it - if she can commit that she will inform the Prime Minister, that would be very important. Also, she does not know the schedule of the House; whether we can have a sitting or not, but let her communicate with the

Prime Minister. Can it go on record that you will communicate?

MS KASULE LUMUMBA: Mr Speaker, as a student of protocol, my work is to communicate to my boss. The action taken is up to the boss, and I will communicate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you; Hon. Roland.

MR NDYOMUGYENYI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mine is a small concern. I happen to be a Member of Parliament for one of the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) Generals, Maj. Gen. Henry Masiko. People keep on asking in the village why he does not talk in Parliament. It is a big concern for them, and I am wondering if there is a law that stops the UPDF representatives from debating in this House. I have got so many questions. Whenever I go to the village, they ask me why Hon. Maj. Gen. Masiko is not submitting on the Floor of Parliament. Thank You, Mr Speaker. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I think the public should know that our work here is more or less - well, because it is broadcast live and all that - but it is about 20 per cent of what we do. Most of the work is done in committees, and the moment that work is done, Members of those committees are not allowed to discuss and debate their own reports because our own rules limit us. Hon. Masiko has been one of the most active Members in this House.

Whereas some of us come here twice a month, he comes here nearly every sitting and also guides most of us who are young Members of Parliament with the issues beyond the House. These are our elders who are offering a very good service. Also, he does not just speak for the sake of speaking; he only stands up when he raises very substantive issues.

Next item. There is no rule that stops him from speaking if he wants to, the rules allow us. Thank you.

BILLS
SECOND READING

THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND
CONSERVATION BILL, 2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister.

3.07

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (ENERGY) (Mr Sidronius Okaasai): Mr Speaker, in accordance with Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to move that the Bill entitled, “The Energy efficiency and Conservation Bill, 2024” be read for a second time.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? Hon. Gabriel Okumu, Hon. Muwuma, Hon. Muzaale, Hon. Roland, Hon. Isingoma, Hon. Luttamaguzi, Hon. Alanyo, Hon. Masiko *-(Laughter)-* Hon. Col. Dr. Nekesa, Hon. Kaducu, Hon. Ariko - colleagues on the whole National Resistance Movement (NRM) side. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, would you like to briefly justify your motion or brief the House?

MR OKAASAI: Mr Speaker, justification for the motion.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bill, 2024, was read for the first time on 4 February 2025, and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources for scrutiny and to report back per Rule 135(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

The Bill’s objective is to establish a legal, institutional, and regulatory framework to enhance energy efficiency and conservation in Uganda. I beg that the chairperson of the committee present the report after scrutinising it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable chairperson. You do not need to read the whole report; summarise.

3.09

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (Mr Edmund Ariko): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources received the Bill and went ahead to consider the Bill through its scrutiny and now reports.

Before I present the report, I would like to lay on the Table the minutes of the committee proceedings during which we considered it. I beg to lay. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bill, 2024, was read for the first time on 4 February 2025 and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources for scrutiny and a report in accordance with Rule 135(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament. The committee has considered the Bill in accordance with Rule 135(2) and hereby reports.

Mr Speaker, the Bill – I will just quickly run through its background and then go to the other aspects, in light of the guidance that we should not take so much time reading the entire report. Energy efficiency involves using less energy to do the same job. Improving energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective measures that Uganda can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Energy conservation, on the other hand, involves using less energy by changing one’s behaviour and habits to use less energy in order for us to retain it for more strategic purposes. It generally includes actions to reduce the amount of end-use energy consumption.

Mr Speaker, energy is critical for the development of any country as it is a critical component of economic production. The trend for energy demand, globally, suggests that more and more energy will be required, yet many of the sources of energy are finite, which makes it imperative that we devise ways to efficiently use what is available.

At the same time, the increase in energy demand is directly linked to global warming and climate change and, as the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework

Convention for Climate Change noted at its 28th meeting in 2023, there is need to double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency from around two per cent to four per cent until 2030.

In developing countries such as Uganda, the demand for energy is even more pronounced because of the need to improve infrastructure and to industrialise. Moreover, for countries such as Uganda where over 85 per cent of households rely on biomass for cooking, improved cook stoves and efficient technologies have the potential to cut fuel consumption by up to 25 per cent and, in the process, save 11 million tonnes of tree biomass annually. This not only reduces deforestation but is also crucial for protecting biodiversity and curtailing global warming.

Mr Speaker, energy efficiency and conservation are also key to attaining sustainable development and are equally critical if the world is to remain on course to attain targets set out in the Paris Agreement, of keeping the global increase in temperature to not more than 1.5 per cent.

Mr Speaker, the advantages of energy efficiency and conservation are numerous for Uganda. These include: economic savings through the use of technologies that use less energy and, therefore, less cost; job creation through opportunities in innovation and manufacture of energy efficient appliances; and energy security through electricity mobility, which has the potential to significantly reduce petroleum importation.

By using energy more efficiently, energy demand can be reduced, leading to lower energy bills for the consumers, lower emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, reduced need for energy infrastructure and increased energy scrutiny through the reduction of imports. Globally, energy efficiency has contributed to substantial savings in energy consumption.

Mr Speaker, having given that background, I wish to state, quickly, the objects of the Bill.

The objects of the Bill are:

- i. to regulate the efficient and rational use of energy in Uganda;
- ii. to provide for regulatory functions of the commissioner responsible for energy efficiency and conservation and the minister, in relation to energy efficiency and conservation;
- iii. to provide for efficient utilisation of energy and for energy conservation in all sectors;
- iv. to provide for the regulated use of specified energy-consuming technologies;
- v. to provide for the financing of energy efficiency and conservation schemes;
- vi. to provide for public awareness about energy efficiency and conservation; and
- vii. to enhance and promote energy efficiency and conservation in the country.

Methodology

Mr Speaker, the methodology is largely in line with how committees operate in this Parliament. We conducted meetings and met with the line ministries that are responsible for this. We also had interactions with Government institutions and other agencies. We met subject matter experts, professional associations, business community members and did documents review, among which were laws of Uganda and policies in relation to socio-economic development.

Observations

General observations

Compliance of the Bill with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda

The committee observed that the Bill, through its principle where it seeks to establish a legal, institutional and regulatory framework to enhance energy efficiency and conservation in Uganda, reflects Objective XXVII (iii), which states: “*The State shall promote and implement energy policies that will ensure that people’s basic needs and those of the environmental preservation are met.*”

5.1.2. Compliance with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, containing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is a blueprint for peace and prosperity for all, adopted by the member states of the United Nations.

SDG 7 mandates all member states to undertake and ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

SDG 7.3.3 particularly urges all member states to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. By providing for legal and institutional framework for energy efficiency, the Bill speaks to SDG 7, through its principles.

Compliance with the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV) and the Energy Policy, 2023

The Bill, through its objective of establishing a legal, institutional and regulatory framework to enhance energy efficiency and conservation in Uganda, is in line with one of the pillars of the NDP IV, specifically, sustainable energy development, which aims to, among others, reduce the share of biomass energy used for cooking.

The Bill is in line with the Energy Policy, 2023, notably under Strategy 4.6, which is to, “*Promote the adoption of energy efficiency and conservation practices.*” Under this strategy, the policy highlights adopting energy-efficient technology and appliances and informed energy management practices that allow for rapid scaling up of energy efficiency.

Specific observations and recommendations

Clause 5(a) – Preparing and updating the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan

The committee notes that the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan is key in ensuring energy efficiency as it elaborates the targets set out in the energy policy and sets out interventions for meeting those targets.

However, the committee notes that in the Bill, under clauses 5(a) and 17(1), the obligation to prepare the National Energy Efficiency Conservation Plan is placed upon both the commissioner and the minister respectively. The committee further notes that this double assignment creates ambiguity and may lead to delays in preparing the plan.

We, therefore, recommend that the role of preparing the national energy efficiency conservation plan should be left to the minister and the commissioner’s role should be limited to periodically improving it.

Energy efficiency and conservation in the transport sector

The Bill provides for energy efficiency and conservation in the transport sector –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable committee chairperson, I think you have now gone into details of the clauses.

MR ARIKO: Mr Speaker, let us just note a few recommendations –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those not related to the clauses but majorly focusing on the principles and objectives.

MR ARIKO: Mr Speaker, we wish to state that –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can just go to page 11.

MR ARIKO: Let me run to page 11. Under clause 39, management of information, the committee observes that it is important for us to include other stakeholders outside Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the energy management process. We, therefore, recommend that this clause be amended in order to provide for consultation with other relevant stakeholders outside Government MDAs.

Mr Speaker, the committee also recommends that under clause 42 -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Committee chairperson, you have taken us to Committee Stage. This is what you are going to be doing at that stage.

MR ARIKO: Mr Speaker, I beg to summarise as follows: the committee welcomes the principles of the Bill in establishing a legal, institutional and regulatory framework to enhance energy efficiency and conservation in Uganda.

The committee also takes cognisance of the impact of the unregulated use of energy inefficient equipment and its effect on energy equity, especially given the fact that the Government, through the Energy Policy, 2023 aims to achieve universal access to sustainable and quality energy services for all Ugandans.

Mr Speaker, this Bill marks a significant step towards the Government's efforts to ensure that energy is efficiently and sustainably used for socio-economic development in the country. The committee notes that the provisions that relate to energy audits, incentives for energy saving measures, and the involvement of local governments will go a long way in ensuring that energy efficiency and conservation across all sectors of the economy is achieved. We, therefore, move that the Bill is considered with its merits by this House for purposes of debate and passing. I beg to move. *(Applause.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Committee chairperson, your report is not complete.

MR ARIKO: Mr Speaker, we also got notice that some of the honourable colleagues in the committee had a few dissenting views, which they wish to bring before the House by way of a minority report.

Mr Speaker, I wish to note that during the consideration of this Bill, honourable colleagues, particularly the shadow Minister for Energy and Minerals had informed the committee that if it took a position that it took, as far as the areas where he dissented were concerned, in particular clauses 19, 20 and 21,

there would not be any basis for him to proceed with a minority report.

However, we were baffled that at the end of the day, even when the position that the committee took was in relation to what he stated, he still came up with a minority report. Be that as it may, it is within his rights and whims as a Member of this House to come up with a minority. Mr Speaker, I wish to give the opportunity for the other side of the report to be received. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Evans Kanyike -

3.26

MR EVANS KANYIKE (NUP, Bukoto County East, Masaka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will take this opportunity to present our dissenting views, which were shared with the committee. We did not agree on a few ideas, which are in our report.

The statement of reasons for dissenting from the position –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, I request you to read the report. It is not a statement.

MR KANYIKE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. This report is moved under Rule 215 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of Uganda. This minority report is submitted in dissent from the committee's majority report on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bill, 2024.

While the intention of the Bill may be commendable, its design and focus are profoundly mismatched with Uganda's energy realities. The proposed law risks creating additional bureaucracy without tackling the core barriers to energy efficiency and access in the country.

Uganda's energy story is a painful one. Over 90 per cent of families still cook with firewood and charcoal because of a lack of alternatives, while modern electricity reaches only a small segment of the population. Given this reality,

you would expect a law that addresses the struggles of ordinary Ugandans.

Sadly, the Bill before us concentrates almost entirely on electricity efficiency measures, namely labelling, audits, and charging points, with only a brief mention of biomass. This overlooks the real issue.

Our people are not suffering because the bulbs lack labels or charging stations. They are suffering because electricity is too costly, unreliable, and often simply unavailable in many areas. If we truly care about energy efficiency, we must tackle the heavy reliance on biomass, make electricity affordable for the average household, and propose solutions that genuinely reflect Uganda's circumstances. Anything less is merely superficial while millions remain trapped in energy poverty.

The grounds of our dissent are outlined below:

1. The energy efficiency targeting electricity consumption in Uganda is self-defeating;
2. The duplication and the legal overlaps;
3. The Bill reflects climate change concerns but fails to align with or reference the Climate Change Act, 2021 thereby creating risks of duplication and policy incoherence;
4. The electricity tariff already provides a penalty for inefficient electricity users;
5. The Bill has a direct effect of increasing the cost of doing business;
6. The Bill, therefore, will significantly raise the electricity end user tariff; and
7. The unfair transitional clause.

Areas of dissent

1. The energy efficiency targeting electricity consumption in Uganda is self-defeating.

Uganda's energy mix is overwhelmingly dominated by biomass, namely firewood, charcoal, and crop residues, accounting for about 90 per cent of the total primary energy consumption, with the remainder primarily from petroleum products (around 8 per cent) and a very small contribution from electricity,

which is 2 per cent. Even if this proposed law led to 100 per cent efficiency in electricity consumption, we would have fixed only 2 per cent of Uganda's energy use/needs.

A credible energy Bill should focus on:

- a) Strategies to reduce reliance on biomass through affordable and accessible alternatives;
- b) Mechanisms to make electricity tariffs affordable, thereby incentivising a shift from biomass to modern energy; and
- c) Investment in clean cooking technologies and rural energy access.

By focusing on electricity only, the Bill fails to appreciate the energy poverty in Uganda.

Our proposal

We propose that under the Climate Change Act, regulations intended to reduce the use of biomass while increasing and not reducing the use of electricity and other eco-friendly energy sources should be promoted. The Bill should be declined by this House and instead compel the minister responsible for the environment to do her job of handling all energy efficiency matters, which are intended to support us to cope with current and future impacts of climate change.

2. Duplication and legal overlaps

Uganda already has a robust framework addressing energy efficiency, standards and environmental management, making much of this Bill redundant, namely:

Electricity Act (1999). It establishes the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) to regulate electricity generation, transmission, distribution and sales. It also enforces efficiency standards and promotes renewable energy.

- a) The National Environment Act (2019). It strengthens the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)'s mandate for sustainable resources, resource use, and environmental integration in development.

- Article 65 specifically addresses energy conservation;
- b) The Uganda National Bureau of Standards Act (1983) sets and enforces standards for products and services, including energy efficiency, labelling, and industrial processes;
 - c) The Physical Planning Act (2010). It ensures all developments, including energy infrastructure, follow approved plans, energy-efficient designs, and environmental safeguards;
 - d) The National Climate Change Act (2021). It provides a legal framework for low-carbon development, mainstreaming climate action, and promoting renewable energy. Part three emphasises public participation and section 22 offers incentives for climate actions; and
 - e) The Building Control Regulations (2020). It guides construction practices to ensure safety, sustainability, and energy efficiency in public and private projects.

Our proposal

These laws and regulations already provide comprehensive mechanisms for energy efficiency, renewable energy promotion, and sustainable resource management. The proposed Bill largely overlaps with existing frameworks, raising questions about its necessity and potential for duplication.

- 3. The Bill reflects climate change concerns but fails to align with or reference the Climate Change Act, 2021, creating risks for duplication and policy incoherence.

The Bill, in its current form, is trying to address matters of climate change when the country already has a Climate Change Act, 2021.

The Bill was not brought in good faith because all the provisions could have been ably handled through a Statutory Instrument issued by the minister responsible for the environment as part of the implementation of the Climate Change Act, 2021.

For the avoidance of doubt, it remains unclear whether the minister responsible for the environment or the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) were ever consulted during the processing of the Bill.

What is certain, however, is that their input would have been paramount. Given their statutory mandate under the Climate Change Act and the National Environment Act, their contribution should have formed the cornerstone of any serious legislative effort on energy efficiency. The fact that their perspectives are absent from this process casts doubt on the adequacy and completeness of the Bill.

Mr Speaker, I invite this honourable House to guide the Executive that efficient utilisation and regulation of biomass use is a function related to the ministry responsible for environment, not energy and mineral development. This can be done through:

- i) The National Environment Act
- ii) The Climate Change Act, and
- iii) Regulation issued by the minister responsible for the environment.

Our proposal

We reiterate our position that this House should not proceed with the Third Reading of the Bill. Instead, we propose that the House passes a resolution urging the Government, through the minister responsible for the environment, to issue the necessary statutory instruments to extend energy efficiency measures beyond electricity.

- 4. Uganda already penalises inefficient electricity users

The Electricity Tariff, guided by the Grid Code and the Quality of Service Code under the Electricity Regulatory Authority, provides for penalties on industrial users or customers who use power inefficiently. The honourable minister is aware of this.

In practice, large consumers who draw more electricity from the grid than they actually utilise, particularly in the form of reactive power, are sanctioned by the regulator to encourage them to install more efficient equipment. The honourable minister is aware.

Mr Speaker, if large consumers are already penalised for operating inefficient equipment, it begs the question whether this new law is instead targeting smaller consumers, our *wanainchi*, the local people. If that is the case, then the Government is simply shifting the burden onto the ordinary Ugandans who are already struggling with high electricity tariffs and unreliable supply and the blackouts after UEDCL took over.

5. The Bill has a direct effect of increasing the cost of doing business in Uganda

This Bill has the direct effect of escalating the cost of doing business in Uganda. It introduces new financial and administrative burdens on consumers classified as “designated energy consumers.”

Clause 10(2)(a) obliges such consumers to establish an energy management system in a manner to be prescribed by the minister.

However, the Bill does not provide a clear definition of who qualifies as a “designated energy consumer.” This omission creates uncertainty and opens room for arbitrary application, potentially exposing even small and struggling businesses to costly compliance requirements.

Furthermore, clause 10(2) places an additional obligation on businesses, including the recruitment of a technical officer designated as energy manager.

The engagements of licensed energy auditors to carry out periodic audits and the preparation and submission of compliance reports to the minister impose recurring costs on businesses that are already grappling with high operational expenses. Specifically, section 15 also compels every designated energy consumer to submit reports to the minister periodically.

For the businesses operating in distant areas, to mention Koboko, Karenga, Zombo or Kisoro, compliance would not only be burdensome, but it would also attract extra logistical and administrative costs.

Our proposal, Mr Speaker, is that at a time when businesses are struggling with not just the cost of living but the electricity tariff itself, we invite this honourable House to reject a Bill that seeks to impose additional costs on the businesses of our people.

We propose that other business-friendly avenues provided in other legislative laws, like the Climate Change Act and the National Environment Act, be implemented in order to achieve the intended principles in the Bill.

6. As I wind up, Mr Speaker, the Bill will significantly raise the electricity end-user tariff. The end-user electricity tariff is a function of two variables namely; total sector financial requirement and the total expected number of units to be sold or consumed.

When more electricity units are sold to customers, given the sector’s financial requirements, the tariff comes down as many more people share the burden of debt service on the dams like Karuma, Isimba, and Bujagali. The Minister of State, the Hon. Okaasai Opolot, informed the honourable committee, while we were processing that Bill at Hotel Africana, that the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bill, 2024, if passed into law, would have the effect of reducing electricity consumption by up to 380 megawatts by 2030.

This is a very unfortunate revelation by the minister because it has the effect of, number one, significantly raising the electricity tariff when everyone is looking for ways of having a lower competitive tariff. Two, it lowers the speed of economic expansion as lower electricity demand is expected to lower economic performance.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, is the unfair transitional clause. Mr Speaker, clause 56 provides for

existing consumers adopting the technologies that comply with this Act. The Bill compels consumers to be compliant within one year, while the majority committee adopted two years.

Mr Speaker, we find two years to be so short a time for a business already facing significant costs to procure new equipment that complies with the law in its current form.

In conclusion, in its current form, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bill, 2024, is misaligned with Uganda's realities, duplicative of existing laws, impractical in its provision, and is silent on critical issues of biomass, affordability, and financing. It also risks becoming an ineffective and unenforceable statute that adds bureaucracy without delivering tangible results.

We, therefore, recommend that instead of passing this Bill, the Government should, namely, issue statutory instruments under the Climate Change Act and other laws like the Uganda National Bureau of Standards Act to provide for all relevant matters raised in the Bill.

Number two, strengthen the enforcement and coordination of the existing laws and policies on energy efficiency.

Number three, prioritise biomass transition and clean cooking solutions in accordance with Uganda's energy mix.

Lastly, lower electricity tariffs and incentivise the uptake of modern energy sources.

For those reasons, we therefore, dissent from the committee's majority report and call for a reconsideration of this Bill.

Mr Speaker, we signed this report: Hon. Christine Kaaya Nakimwero, the shadow Minister for Water and Environment, and the Woman MP for Kiboga District and I. Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable colleague. Honourable colleagues, we are going to have a debate. However, a debate on a report in a Bill is limited to principles and objects.

You do not start going clause by clause and say Mr Speaker, we do not need this clause. No, it is on principle and object of the Bill. Then, if you go on to the Committee Stage, you go clause by clause to the nitty-gritty of each clause.

However, before that, the honourable colleague who has presented the minority report has raised salient issues, which I would request the minister to first respond to, and put the House at ease before I can open up the debate. And if you need the honourable chairperson to add on, okay, he will add on, and then I will open up the debate. Honourable minister -

3.49

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (ENERGY) (Mr Sidronius Okaasai): Mr Speaker, I take note of what my shadow minister has submitted. We have taken care of whatever he has submitted; it was part of the debate and for the notice of the House, and he was privileged to go where energy efficiency is being done. He was driven in a car, which was an electric car, from the airport to his hotel. He clearly understood what law we are putting in place.

Therefore, we shall answer the questions as we go through, and I request -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, what about us who are not driven in the car? How are we -

MR OKAASAI: Yes, you will benefit from the report and I will ask -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, the Member has raised critical issues. He is saying that the proposed - Take your seat, honourable minister. He is saying that the proposed law is misplaced; it is redundant and

that you would rather strengthen the existing laws.

Now, if you could use your own Bill, you have clearly stated the gaps and defects in the existing law which you are trying to cure. You have your own policies that you feel can be well maintained by - We cannot just say we go on to the Committee Stage, then stage by stage. No, we need to be satisfied.

By the way, I must put the question on whether we should proceed to the Second Reading. It is not that from here we are proceeding. So, you have to justify why we should proceed. If you cannot do it then make it easy for us. Honourable minister, if you need support from the committee chairperson or even time, let us know.

MR OKAASAI: Yes, Mr Speaker. In coming up with this law, we studied the various laws that he pointed out and truly, if we went by that, we would not achieve the objectives of this law. I pray that we go through the proposed law, and I request the committee chairperson, who officiated on this, to come and give a clear defence.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Committee chairperson, would you like to supplement the - honourable colleagues, you now see the report is also ours, so let us move in a way, okay?

MR ARIKO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me begin with the much lighter one, if you will permit, that the minister was attempting to emphasise a fact that should have been one that the committee should have benefited from.

Mr Speaker, there was an opportunity to benchmark where energy efficiency and conservation have been regulated. I deliberately, when requested to nominate Members to participate in the benchmarking, requested the shadow Minister of Energy and Minerals to lead the team of committee members that went, minus the deputy chairperson and myself, because we knew that it would help the committee to understand better.

Unfortunately, we never got a report from the leader of the delegation. If these arguments are brought here in the House, the committee may have been denied the benefit of this report for purposes - Mr Speaker, I gave the colleague an opportunity to present. I, therefore, need to put the House in perspective so that we can debate the merits of the Bill.

Mr Speaker, what are the issues that we seek to remedy? Currently, the issues regarding regulation, as well as providing for a mechanism to promote, incentivise, and enhance energy efficiency and conservation, are not provided for as aspects of the law. The laws that my colleague cites in the minority report simply provide for a framework under which other institutions may support the process of energy conservation. However, in this aspect, the law seeks to ensure that this framework of energy - *(Interruption)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just let us get a procedural point, honourable, and then we will proceed.

MR EKANYA: Mr Speaker, I thank you very much, and I have high regard for Hon. Okaasai. Our procedure and practice, which is in our rules and unwritten practice, is that once a committee chairperson has presented the report and the Opposition has done its part, you are so kind, Mr Speaker, to request the minister who owns this Bill and who signs the Bill to help the House and elucidate more.

Mr Speaker, the minister ceding his authority is a vote of no confidence in the ministry. This is something that some of us do not like because the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development is headed by very capable ministers: Hon. Ruth Nankabirwa and Hon. Okaasai, very good professional and technical people.

Mr Speaker, isn't it just proper for the minister to own up and since we have an election coming up, to declare that the committee chairperson will be blessed, maybe as the next minister for energy?

However, on a serious note, Mr Speaker, I think the minister needs to own this Bill because this is a serious Bill. If you are not ready, tell the House that you are not ready and request that the Speaker gives you another date.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, these are laws that are going to be of great impact on us; we need to scrutinise them very well and answer questions that would be raised.

Also, beyond the defects, you know we always need the support of the Attorney-General when we are having such critical matters, especially now when you go to defects in the law and all that.

I received the minority report when I was here. Personally, I did not know there was a minority report. What I did is, I got the committee chairperson and the minister. Usually, that is how I work. I first meet them to know whether they have any contentious issues so that we do not look shabby on the Floor; we agree on how best we can move.

Now, I received the minority report here, and it is raising critical issues. The most critical question would be for the team to meet and agree on whether we can address these gaps through mere regulations and statutory instruments or whether we need to have them under a law. Okay? I think there you can have a meeting of minds. The moment you have a meeting of minds, it becomes easier for the rest of us here to come and discuss with you and move with you.

Therefore, let us stand this over. Okay? I would say we stand this over so that I give the two parties time to meet with the guidance of the Attorney-General, shadow Attorney-General, and we come up with a way forward. Hon. Odur, is that okay? I saw you -

3.58

MR JONATHAN ODUR (UPC, Erute County South, Lira): Mr Speaker, that would be fine but I request that you could spare us some few minutes so that we can also raise

some issues that may not have come out clearly on the principles and the policies and I am going to cite a few examples.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: So that all those issues are considered when they are meeting.

MR ODUR: Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, for the minister take note. That would mean that I have allowed a debate. We can do it this way, honourable colleagues. We allow a debate without putting the question for Second Reading so that all these issues, honourable minister, are captured. Then, you come here and give a response; it can even be a written response to the issues raised with the support of the Attorney-General. If the House is satisfied, we put the question for Second Reading and we go on - no, whenever responses come, we usually allow one or two depending. If they are satisfactory, the Members will not stand up but if they are not, they will again come up before we put the question for the Second Reading.

Colleagues, we can move that way. We pick your issues; if there are those that need a response, the minister can go and prepare a response. So, let me start with Hon. Jonathan Odur, then I come to our senior. I will allow you, honourable colleagues. Let us use not more than three minutes.

MR ODUR: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Briefly on the policy and principles, the minister lists about three parameters at industrial, commercial and household level.

My question is on this policy and principles. There seems to be a narrow target of the application of this law to the following: limited to cooking, transport and in transport, they are targeting only motor vehicles and yet under transport, we have railway, aircrafts, water vessels and they are not provided anywhere.

When you come to the issue of other sectors, agriculture is targeted and there is a subheading for it. You do not see anywhere issues to do with manufacturing, oil and gas, mineral

development plus all these sectors that we talk about. So, my interest is, are you bringing this law with a view of capturing a particular sector and when you talk about agriculture, you know how many people are directly involved.

We need a clear justification why you are isolating certain sectors to apply in this law and leaving out others. The other thing is about the defects in the existing law. You have listed the Electricity Act, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards Act, the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act and Traffic and Road Safety Act.

The question I would like you to answer is, it appears you admit that all these laws are in some aspects dealing with issues of energy efficiency. Why are you allowing those laws to continue dealing with some aspects and you want to provide for other aspects of energy efficiency in this separate law? Is there a problem if you had gone to amend the provisions of this Act or repeal completely so that we have only one law that can cater for everything else? I think those are the few clarifications on the policies and principle, Mr Speaker.

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

4.01

MR JAMES BABA (NRM, Koboko County, Koboko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am of the view that the Bill should also deal with issues of climate change and mitigation measures. I agree that the Ministry of Water and Environment should have been involved in this Bill. There is no evidence when this Bill was being presented here.

Secondly, we have a number of international conventions to deal with climate change, key among them is financing to support developing countries like Uganda. The United Nations (UN) system has set up funds to help mitigate issues of climate change so that we do not remain forever as a carbon sink absorbing all the dirt of the polluters and yet they do not pay for it.

I do not see in this Bill how we are supposed to benefit from arrangements of financing globally with the united system, a setup of which we are members. Honourable minister and Mr Chairman, kindly look into this so that Uganda does not lose out on these benefits which are already agreed on internationally under the global sustainable environment. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Okeyoh, Hon. Pacuto and then I come to honourable on this side.

4.04

MR PETER OKEYOH (NRM, Bukooli Island County, Namayingo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. What I want the minister to clarify on is the question of the end user. If the burden is going to be on the end user, I think that it should come out clearly. Even one of the dailies clearly indicated that if somebody uses a fridge and leaves it on overnight, we will have to pay and it has really disturbed us.

People out there have got mixed reactions about this Bill saying that Parliament wants to pass a Bill that is going to burden Ugandans as end users of electricity. So, I want the minister to come out clearly and allay the fears of Ugandans.

Secondly, if you efficiently use and conserve what is there, for example, the islands of Sigulu and Buvuma, what are we really going to conserve and efficiently use? I think this is a serious issue that we should not put the cart before the horse. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

4.06

MS JANE PACUTO (NRM, Woman Representative, Pakwach): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Picking from my honourable colleague, Hon. Okeyoh, when you look at this law, when it is passed and comes into effect, I am wondering if in most parts of Uganda, we are now prepaying for electricity.

If I have bought my *Yaka* and I leave my cooker or fridge on, how on earth does the energy officer come and say, no, you are not

sufficiently using energy. I thought it would be in a way of sensitising Ugandans that when you leave your cooker or fridge on, you are incurring an unnecessary cost rather than coming up with a penalty.

Mr Speaker, other than that, it looks like this law is targeting our traders, probably not importing certain kind of equipment like cookers or fridges. What will happen if we pass this law this week and tomorrow it comes into effect? What will the traders that have these cookers and fridges in their stores or for some of us with these cookers and fridges in our houses, what will happen? What is the Government going to do with their provision for compensation?

Two, like what Hon. Okeyoh said, some of our districts or parts of our districts have no electricity. For example, in Obongi District, the people there have never even seen an electricity pole. So, how are you passing a law that every Ugandan will have to use or benefit or work against them and yet you have not reached every area of Uganda?

Even where you have reached in Pakwach, half of the district has no electricity. Why don't we do the first things first and then come up with other things later? Again, the minister needs to clarify as they harmonise because the minority report clearly spelled out the concern about driving costs.

We, the people of Uganda, are struggling with whatever kind of business and there is no law that we should pass in this House that will drive the cost up. Rather, we should bring it down so that our private sector can thrive beyond the Ugandan economy. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, sometimes I ask myself, if you do not want something, why don't you ban it? Why do you allow me to bring it and then you say, you will regulate my use?

This is like the issue we have with the nets on the lakes. I usually ask myself, who clears these nets? They pay taxes, Uganda National Bureau of Standards clears them and then - But

Hon. Pacuto, if you read - let us read the law, honourable colleagues. Let us not read the law from here, let us go deep. For example, on the issue you have just raised; clause 56 of the transitional clause which the shadow minister raised clearly that you are giving us only two years.

So, the debate would be, are the two years sufficient? Are we able to clear? Also, honourable minister, when you have a law which is only punitive and has no incentives - a very good example is when you look at - because I read through what you call incentives and you said that the minister, "may". It is not helpful. We always go for benchmarking and see several cities. They say, in this zone, use cars which are electric. If they go into this area, they do not pay parking fees or even congestion tax. The ones, which are diesel-powered will pay a congestion tax of this much. Can we go into detail if we want to sort out something?

Okay, let us hear from the learned shadow Attorney-General and then Hon. Dr Batuwa, then I will come to the UPC MP. I will pick all of you.

4.10

MR WILFFED NIWAGABA (Independent, Ndoorwa County East, Kabale): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In 2012 I had the opportunity to undertake a study on U.S. energy efficiency, conservation and security in the United States for six months. This particular Bill does not even mention all forms of energy that we should ordinarily have in the country. It is targeting a specific part of the energy, not wind or solar energy.

Two, when you look at the definition sections themselves, particularly the definition of energy efficiency and energy conservation, you realise that these are matters that ordinarily would have been provided for in statutory instruments and regulations but not in an Act of Parliament, as is.

Talking of legislating on behavioural change on the use of energy; of course, if you misuse energy, the bills themselves will hurt you. You do not need to legislate on this.

You are also anticipating technological advancement; you want to legislate on something that will come in the future? With all honesty - possibly this particular Bill could be a work of some individuals targeting a specific product or business. I do not think it is intended to help the country whose energy – *(Applause)* - is currently - especially electricity, at 22 per cent.

In my view, we should support the view that this is not a Bill that should take Parliament's time.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I had called Hon. Dr Batuwa and then the UPC MP.

4.12

DR TIMOTHY BATUWA (FDC, Jinja South Division West, Jinja City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In energy efficiency, among many other things, we are discussing the idea of setting standards for appliances. And these could be writings, equipment or factory machines.

Since human civilisation got us into industrialisation, the concept of energy efficiency is just recent. A lot that has not got these standards has been manufactured and it is on the market. For these standards to come today, the world will be redefined again to set standards for a socket, a wire, a bulb holder, and the minimum size of a window to allow a lot of light inside, you are rewriting so much to make it practical. We should look at critically and know where to start and where to end.

Again, the industries, which could be an easier way to start, where we set standards for some of the equipment that is being procured, that equipment comes at a cost since it is energy efficient. Who matches that cost? If it is rebates and incentives, we should know because the ministry that is presenting this work does not have the liberty to give incentives. That assurance should be embedded within the law for it to work well and for you to be true to your word that you are protecting the consumers. Otherwise, you are just going to raise the prices. Thank you, very much.

4.15

MS SANTA ALUM (UPC, Woman Representative, Oyam): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I agree with the minority report by saying that we do not need this piece of legislation. After listening to the majority and the minority reports, I am fully convinced that the existing legislation can address the challenges that we have.

Secondly, when the minister was put to task to convince the House as to why we need this piece of legislation, I saw a lot of difficulty. Even when the chairperson came to support the minister, he gave us an example of a foreign trip that the state minister went for – *(Laughter)* - failing to convince me in particular.

Mr Speaker, as I read the report and the Bill, I saw a lot of penalties yet if we are going to come up with a good law for energy efficiency and conservation, while leaving out a majority of the Ugandans and not targeting other forms of energy, I do not think, in this current form we are doing anything good for this country.

Therefore, I am of the view that let us leave this Bill and look at what we have in the provisions. We are good at making laws but poor at implementation. That is why we are coming up with another law yet we are failing to convince ourselves, as the House, that we need this piece of legislation. I thank you.

4.17

MR PATRICK ISINGOMA-MWESIGWA (Independent, Hoima East Division, Hoima City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join my colleague, Hon. Santa Alum, in appreciating a pertinent point, which the presenter of the minority report, Hon. Kanyike, put forward.

That before you talk about conserving and creating efficiency, prioritise the issue of provision of power for all, then you can proceed to the aspects of efficiency and conservation.

Mr Speaker, you recall that since the disbandment of the Rural Electrification Authority, it has been almost impossible to get

most of our areas onto the grid. For the last five years, we have been grappling with this problem and going to the Ministry for Energy to solicit for support in extending the grid to our areas, to no avail.

Therefore, there are many issues that should be addressed by the ministry before thinking of conservation and efficiency, by focusing on providing power for our people. We badly need power, the problem is ongoing, and the earlier we solve it, the better. Moreover, is this time when we are going into elections. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Karubanga and then Hon. Namugga.

4.18

MR DAVID KARUBANGA (NRM, Kigorobya County, Hoima): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We are still on the justification of the law and indeed I have heard Members - and I want to state that the way we are now, one can do anything in Uganda -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you a Member of the committee?

MR DAVID KARUBANGA: Yes, but we are still justifying -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, rule 214 does not allow you, please. *(Laughter)* We are at debate level. Hon. Namugga, then we have one of our energy experts. In this House, we have many experts. Hon. Joel Leku.

4.19

MR GORRETH NAMUGGA (NUP, Mawogoola County South, Ssembabule): I thank you, Mr Speaker and equally appreciate our committee for the report but I am in support of the minority report.

However, we are mixing issues here. The major problem energy efficiency and conservation enforcement. After failure to enforce, the Government is trying to convince itself that it needs another law. That is the reason why we are all saying that this law is very redundant.

Everyone has been wondering what the Uganda National Bureau of Standards is doing, when we have very old equipment coming to this country. For example, in the medical sector, we have equipment that has been brought to various hospitals but they have failed to get spare parts, even after a year.

So, is the existing law the problem or the enforcement of the standards of all these?

Two, Mr Speaker, from the currently concluded census, extension of hydro-power is just at 35 per cent. Sembabule District is at 14 per cent. I therefore, wonder how my good friend and a young brother, the minister, picks attention in bringing such laws in place rather than concentrating on doing your basic mandate under Objective 27 of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy. You have clearly spoken the basics, and what we have talked about is a basic. You have failed to provide the basics.

Then you are moving for the hardest. You have failed to do the simplest but moving to what you cannot even do.

My friend, I do encourage you to concentrate on doing what is basic than struggling to even to look out for what you cannot afford.

Mr Speaker, we believe this law is very redundant and a waste of taxpayers' money in processing it. I thank you.

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

4.21

MR JOEL LEKU (NRM, Terego West County, Terego): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Bill on Table is about energy efficiency and conservation. I think we are losing a point. We have not talked about the sources of energy but rather energy efficiency. When you look at energy efficiency, you will notice that it is about using less energy either to cook or do your refrigeration and light the house. For example, if you had an appliance, which is like 1,000 watts and you get another appliance of

500 watts, that is the energy efficiency that we are talking about. That is what the Bill is coming to address.

Mr Speaker, this Government moved already. You need to remember that we used incandescent bulbs. These were bulbs, which were ordinary and were about 100 watts. The Government moved away from that by giving us LED light bulbs, which were free. That was part of the energy efficiency we are talking about.

We are talking about how to get equipment, which are efficient, which do not use a lot of energy. That is what the Bill has come to address. We are not talking about - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude. I want to benefit from your explanation.

MR LEKU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We are not talking about whether you are using grid power, solar and thermal. We need an efficient appliance in our houses.

Mr Speaker, there was something that I talked about earlier, especially in regard to commercial buildings, where we could introduce a law requiring the commercial buildings to install solar systems on the rooftops, and generate about 20 to 30 per cent of their energy needs.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Leku, whatever you have said is okay, but the question is: do you need this law? For example, like the intervention you gave on bulbs, if the Government said that "All Government vehicles should be electric or hybrid." Then it says, "No, Government buildings should have solar panels". You can say that we can widen the windows and all that, so that we do not use air conditioners in Government buildings; all of that. Or you can say, "We are not going to put tax on electric cars and we are going to put charging points." Don't you think that would work better than the law because I would voluntarily bring myself to benefit? I would like to know the countries, which have such laws. You say, for example, in Kenya and

Tanzania that they have this law, or we are going to be the pioneers and all that. These are issues that you will respond to when you come back. This is for you to reflect on. Hon. Leku, that is enough.

I want to allow the Member for Wakiso, and then I come to the Member from Rukiga.

4.25

MS ETHEL NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. As the minister comes back to this House over this law, we request that he look critically at the matter of overlap of the legislation.

When you get to clause 9, you will realise that you are bringing in local governments. As per the Local Government Act under Fifth Schedule, part one, bullet 15, it is entirely the central government to handle the energy policy. You have allocated local governments to come in so that they handle it in their area of jurisdiction.

Therefore, the matter of overlap, as raised by the shadow minister, is very key to see the assignments you have given to the local governments. Otherwise, I associate myself with all matters raised by the alternative government on this matter, especially considering our consumers await us, as Parliament, to see how best we can provide more power to the whole country and reduce tariffs. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Okay, let us hear from Hon. Roland and Hon. Isaac Modoi.

4.26

MR ROLAND NDYOMUGYENYI (Independent, Rukiga County, Rukiga): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I associate myself with the minority report.

First, when you look at the definitions, I found two definitions which are very intriguing. One is 'dealer'. Whenever I see the word 'dealer' in a Bill, I get scared.

Secondly, the designated energy consumer. A designated energy consumer here, they say, “Means an energy consumer or class of energy consumers with an energy consumption threshold determined by the minister.”

Mr Speaker, when you look at this, it automatically tells you that there is another body that is going to be formed somewhere where there will be staff employed, and then we shall start grappling with the costs of the administration of this body.

Most importantly, Mr Speaker, you cannot have energy efficiency where you do not have energy. When you look at this book, I hope every Member of Parliament has got a copy; “Report on public debts, public debt grants, guarantees and other financial liabilities for the Financial Year 2024/2025,” there are pertinent issues, especially relating to scale-up projects.

Mr Speaker, we approved this loan in 2023, but as of now, only 11 per cent of it has been disbursed yet this loan is expiring in 2026. We do not have power in our constituencies and districts.

Our good minister should tell us what he has done with this money that we approved for him to extend the power to our constituencies and districts, instead of bringing Bills, which are very confusing. Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, it is Hon. Isaac Modoi.

4.29

MR ISAAC MODOI (NRM, Luteseshe County, Bududa): Mr Speaker, I want first of all to thank you so much for the guidance you have given that they go back and try to bring together the views before we come up with the law.

You cannot provide enabling regulations in the absence of the law.

To me, I will not agree with the minister. Bring the law, and then you come with enabling

regulations because we are in a period of actual development, and indeed, energy has become an issue.

Some of us who were not here, you realise that the minister gave us poles, but we never got the wires, and have become victims.

However, at the same time, there is electricity, or rather, power development in the country. We have importation of materials of all types, but we need to have a law. That law should be expanded, and also look at the existing laws to be harmonised. When you harmonise them, then you come up with enabling regulations. I want to be guided here by the minister through you, Mr Speaker. Do we have a law? If it is not there, then, this is the moment for us to look at it critically.

To me, even the views of the minority report could be incorporated to enrich it – to make a law - we should not treat it as the Opposition’s matter or a matter for the Government side. Those views were good, but maybe lacking somewhere. We could incorporate those views, look at the existing laws, and enrich them for the good governance of this country.

In the rural areas, the local governments must have a stake. This is because, right now, whether you like it or not, there is a big issue. Where I come from – Bududa – getting firewood is a problem.

In the north, recently, I saw them burning charcoal, but there were no alternatives. We can extend electricity and even the solar system, but let us have the law. We should debate this law fairly without fear or favour, and incorporate those issues, so that when we come to the regulations, we can discuss them at that stage.

However, as of now, I agree with the minister that we need a law. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, this is a law where you cannot bring politics. Even if you tried, the politics wouldn’t come. This is an area that is very clear. There

is no way you can bring politics in this area. Who would not want to have efficient energy use in their home? All of us would. However, the question now is: do we need a new law or the existing laws are sufficient?

The Government side is saying they are not; there are gaps in the law.

So, can we enrich the existing laws or it is that even under the existing laws you have enough authority or power to bring statutory instruments - to bring regulations and other interventions – without necessarily going for the law. Okay?

Like I said earlier – I think I was sharing with the minister when we were in my office. I told him: “Honourable minister, when you are making a law, you make a law that fits in society and not society to fit in a law.” Otherwise, it will be difficult for people to buy in to the law. You know, buy-in is very critical for any law, which you make.

I am not seeing that we are having a huge disagreement. We are all saying that we need to have energy efficiency – it is very critical – but the issue is the approach. That is where we need to go back – and allow the minister to conclude.

Honourable colleagues, let us stop – (*Mr Ssenyonyi rose*) - oh, Leader of Opposition (LoP)! We shall stop on the LoP. We shall open up again, when the minister tables some of the responses. I will allow you to ask more questions at that time.

4.33

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Mr Speaker, work was put into these two reports. I, especially, want to appreciate my colleagues on this end because they are not opposed to this Bill even for political reasons, but they are saying that the objective of the Bill is a good one. In fact, in the minority report, the word they use is “commendable”. However - and that “however” is what we are trying to address.

First, the good honourable chairman of the committee said something that was self-defeating. He said that he sent our shadow minister to benchmark. The shadow minister went and benchmarked. Now, he has given you a report, based on the benchmarking, and you do not want to believe it. (*Laughter*) Now, if you who did not go, why don’t you want to believe the person whom you sent, honourable chairman? (*Laughter*) I found that to be self-defeating.

When you send people on a task and they come back and give you a report, as the chairman, you believe them because you sent them well knowing that they were going to give you a good report. So, please, believe them. (*Laughter*)

Away from that, Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The shadow minister maybe reported to the Shadow Cabinet - (*Laughter*) - and they concluded.

MR SSENYONYI: No, I did not even know about it. He reported to his boss, who sent him on the benchmarking.

Anyway, as we are saying, yes, we want regulations, but must it be in the law? Can it not be a regulation? Good people, regulations are laws as well. In fact, we call them “subsidiary legislations”. Not every law has got to be passed here. Statutory instruments, regulations – by the way, even our local councils are empowered by this House to make laws and they are also laws – those bylaws and the ordinances that they make. What is important is that they should not be contradictory to the Constitution. So, let us not worry that a regulation is not law. It is actually law and it is okay.

However, even as we do that, Mr Speaker, I worry that our focus is on a very small percentage: electricity. How many people actually have access to electricity? How many are utilising it? The bigger bulk of our population is using biomass – firewood, charcoal, plant residues and so on. I do not know why we think that that is not critical.

The Bill is saying “efficiency and conservation”, but even if we achieve 110 per cent efficiency, it will only be on a very small fraction – and that is electricity. How about the bulk of it? This is important. That is our population, honourable minister. The reality is that that is our population and that is what they use a great deal of the time – biomass.

Therefore, what we are saying is that – because, for us, we think it should be a regulation – if you want to do an all-round 360-degree picture, then, do not focus on just electricity because, then, you will not be doing much. That is the point that we are making. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, I think we have enriched the response that you would need to bring in, but I am interested in the issue of incentives. What incentive would you give me to make me use energy efficiently? Even if you put what kind of punishment, sometimes the punishment is cheaper than the option. A very good example is that you put a punitive tax on old vehicles, but the tax on brand new vehicles is still way high and I end up going back for an old vehicle. That is what we call “constrained demand” in economics – you constrain me from accessing this service by making it expensive, yet you are punishing me for getting this one.

Therefore, if you did, for example, say that “for brand new cars or hybrid cars and electric cars, there is no tax” – okay? – I would weigh the cost benefit. I can say: “Oh, if I add on five per cent or 10 per cent and get a brand new car, it is much better than me paying this much to buy an old vehicle!” Those are the interventions that will - and I am really interested in the incentives. Thank you.

So, honourable minister, please, pick these – Clerk, get a copy of the *Hansard* for the minister – have a meeting with the Attorney-General and first look at these issues. After, you hold a meeting with the chairperson of the committee and the shadow minister who brought the minority report and we see a way of narrowing the debate on these issues – and you

come and advise us here, on the Floor. That is much better for you, honourable minister. So, let us stand over this item.

Honourable colleagues, yesterday, Hon. Milton Muwuma raised the issue of Busoga University and I requested the minister for education to give a response today. The minister has brought it. I was told it is an urgent issue for the people there, so, it would be important for them to receive this response. So, I propose that we amend the Order Paper to accommodate this item.

RESPONSE BY MINISTERS TO URGENT QUESTIONS

(I) STATEMENT ON THE STATUS OF CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT BUSOGA UNIVERSITY

4.39

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to make a statement on the status of the construction works at Busoga University, Iganga Campus.

On Tuesday, 16th September this year, Hon. Milton, the Member of Parliament of Kiguli County South, raised a concern over the stalled construction works at Busoga University in Iganga District. The Ministry of Education and Sports wishes to update this august House on this matter as stated below.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Works and Transport, the Ministry of Education and Sports developed an architectural and engineering design for the critical renovation of the university’s Iganga campus.

Mr Speaker, the UPDF Engineering Brigade, under the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, was contracted to undertake these works at a cost of Shs 3,795,849,158. The project began in March 2025 and was initially scheduled for completion by the end of June 2025. The contractor received 100 per cent of the contract price.

Current progress and achievements

As of August 2025, the project reached 75 per cent completion. The majority of the construction work is complete as of now, including roofing, roof reconstruction, demolitions and wall reconstructions. Most of the buildings have been roofed with the exception of a few blocks in the central teaching facility that required additional support after showing signs of collapse.

The current works are focusing on the finishing stages, which include fitting windows, doors, and electrical fixes, as well as laying terrazzo flooring in several facilities.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you can consult the Clerk if there is any issue.

DR MORIKU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We are at page 3 on the outstanding works. The following tasks are behind schedule:

1. Mechanical installations: air conditioning, firefighting systems, sanitary fittings, and gas supply;
2. Electrical finishing: lighting, cabling, switches, sockets, data system, and lighting protection;
3. Internal finishes: painting, joinery fittings, gypsum ceiling boards, and wall preparations;
4. Furnishings: installation of finishing, and
5. External works: landscaping and other external site works.

Mr Speaker, the delays on the project can be attributed to the following factors:

1. Renovation of old structures has proven more complex and time-consuming;
2. The contractor experienced internal operation issues, which negatively impacted the project timeline; and
3. Several necessary on-site variations and designs were adjusted and required to enhance safety and usability. These included addition of a chemical holding tank, the installation of more sinks in the

science block and the replacement of the roof on Block B in the central teaching facilities.

Mr Speaker, based on the current timelines, the project is now due for completion by the end of October 2025.

As I conclude, Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Education and Sports has engaged the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs to address the project's progress and the delays outlined. We are optimistic that continued collaboration will resolve the outstanding issues and ensure the timely completion of *(Inaudible.)*

Mr Speaker, we appreciate Parliament's oversight role on this strategic project. Your proactive participation will help us rally more support for the timely completion of the project to enhance the delivery of education services for our people. Once again, we pledge our total commitment to complete this project so that we can see the commencement and the operation of the university once everything is complete. Thank you and I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. This is very clear. Honourable colleagues, I do not want to open this for debate. Before LOP, I will allow Hon. Muwuma who raised the question. In fact, I wanted an oral answer. I do not want us to go into details.

4.48

MR MILTON MUWUMA (NRM, Kigulu County South, Iganga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank the honourable minister, for responding to my concern. I would also like to thank the UPDF because just yesterday I raised this matter, but today, the engineering brigade reported to the ground. *(Applause)* Therefore, I need to thank them for responding accordingly.

Finally, Mr Speaker, since we are serving the general public, can the minister shed some light - the official communication was that the commencement was supposed to be in August. It would be good because we are in a political

season, and the Government is committed to serving people. Maybe they will say, "Since we are behind schedule, instead of August, maybe we are looking at December," so that the public knows exactly what is happening. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Leader of the Opposition.

4.49

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Mr Speaker, I thank the minister for the statement. You see, some time back we were told that our friends in uniform, aside from being good at using the gun and other artillery, are nowadays also good at construction. Therefore, the Government began to deploy them for various projects.

Now, when you read the Auditor-General's report, you will realise that it chronicles several projects that are being handled by the UPDF that either stalled or are not progressing. That is the Auditor-General's report. That is not the LOP's off-cuff remarks. So, as she has said, as usual, the Auditor-General's report - I do not know why you are castigating the Auditor-General, but we employ him.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, I did not hear her say anything, and it should not go on record. Side talk cannot be put on the *Hansard*.

MR SSENYONYI: The people in the military follow orders. You have heard the order of the Speaker. Anyhow, the Auditor-General is raising a red flag. What is the issue? Is the UPDF actually competent? I am asking this based on the Auditor-General's report. Are they competent to do this work? Is it that they are not supervised to do this work? Otherwise, why is the Auditor-General telling us that many projects, schools, hospitals that are being handled by the UPDF Engineering Brigade are not progressing? What is the issue? This is one of numerous examples.

Finally, Mr Speaker, you see in project management, there is the project management triangle; the interplay between scope, time and

cost. The initial timeframe for this project was about four months; March to June. The minister is now telling us October. That is double the initial timeframe.

I would like to think that - because even the scope is affected according to your statement. There are many other things that you discovered now; we need to do this, that and the other. So, the time has doubled, the scope has grown. Is the cost not affected? Who is going to pick up that bill because you do not mention it here? We might have a challenge.

In October, the date you have given us might come and then she says, "Well, we have not finished because we need more money." From where? Why is that not being mentioned or actually, maybe it does not arise.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister.

DR MORIKU: Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. Two things for me to respond to.

One, about when the university can begin to operate in terms of teaching, and opening the doors for the students to get admitted. This will be done as soon as National Council for Higher Education approves the curriculums, which are ready.

Two, the site that is being renovated is ready, suitable for learning purposes. I can confirm that this process has started. The National Council for Higher Education has started the process of accreditation. So, I am sure that in the next coming calendar year, we will be in position to approve and accredit the site, accredit the curriculum and ensure everything is ready so that the doors are open for lectures to begin.

On why the work has taken probably quite long - this is not a new building. This is not a new scope of work. We are doing comprehensive renovation for the entire campus. There were a lot of anticipated delays as I have mentioned in the statement. However, what is clear is that 75 per cent of the work has been done. That does

not mean that the funds have been exhausted. It also it based on when the money comes at hand. I would like to thank you for the support you have given to ensure that money is provided for this work.

Mr Speaker, as of now, the UPDF engineering Brigade has not yet requested any extra money to complete the project. The Shs 3.7 billion is what is still available to complete this work.

What I can finally say is that they are doing quality work. Quality work does not need you to rush. *(Applause)* You need to do work that can last and that can really see to it that this is a university, and not just any other institution. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, honourable colleagues - you want to add on anything?

MS KASULE LUMUMBA: Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. The issues the Leader of the Opposition raised were issues to do with Busoga University, but he also raised a general question about the work of UPDF, and I have come to respond to that. We made a decision, as Cabinet - if you remember, when we had under Education and under Health; where we had the rota system, where a contractor would be given responsibility to build schools in a sub-region, and there was the issue of the delay in work, but also the quality and the cost.

Therefore, under the leadership of His Excellency, a decision was taken that we stopped the lotting; let UPDF take on the construction of secondary schools, health centres, and above, those are referral hospitals and the like. That decision was taken for the reason that we have the Engineers' Brigade under UPDF, who can do the construction, quality work, and at a slightly cheaper cost.

Why the delays now? This is because of resources. Once resources are availed to UPDF, construction goes on. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, from my experience -

I do not know if colleagues on this side, you have had an opportunity of having a project being done by UPDF in your area.

In my constituency, I got a project. At first I had doubt, but I want to be honest, I was surprised by their level of quality and professionalism. For example, I got blocks used by the other contractors who are being subcontracted under World Bank and all that, and then I compared with the blocks used by the UPDF. Totally unbelievable difference. Even where these people could try to use only hollow - *(Interjections)* - honourable colleagues, I also represent a constituency and it is important I give you information.

The quality of materials, but also I think what they need to be cautious about - because they are so patriotic, there is where they reach and they say, no, I would rather adjust for the better of the final product. A very good example, in the design, the roofs were supposed to be for wood but they said, it was unfair to do wood; they suggested that we do metal. That is an extra cost.

Then you find they say, no, you cannot do, for example, staff houses and you do terrazzo in them. Let us use tiles. I have gotten information that they have done it in many areas. Therefore, trying to make things better, but sometimes you find that money is not there.

What we need most, honourable minister, is if you have given UPDF all this much work, also bring a funding proposal so that we can improve on their capacity. This is because if you give someone around 200 schools to build and you do not give them more capacity to recruit more engineers, to purchase more vehicles to use and all that, they are going to first wait to finish this project, before they go on to the next. That is why you will have issues of complaints from Members.

Therefore, I think as Cabinet you need to go back, you look at it. When we say we are giving this assignment to the UPDF Engineering Brigade, let us build their capacity to be able to take on these assignments in a timely manner.

This is because most of the complaints are that they are not on ground. Why? It is because they are busy, they are overstretched. I think we need to give them support to address that concern. Hon. Ekanya.

MR EKANYA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The UPDF got a contract to a health centre in Merikit more than two years now. According to the UPDF guidelines, I was told that they receive 100 per cent release because I followed with the Ministry of Health; they received 100 per cent release. However, for more than one and a half of the financial year, the structure is still incomplete; the health centre and the maternity ward in Merikit.

Besides that, the quality of work was very sub-standard, if it was not for the intervention of the district engineers. Therefore, I request the UPDF - it is good to treat the Speaker well because it would be embarrassing if you produced poor quality work in the Rt Hon. Speaker's constituency, but do quality work in the entire country.

I agree with the proposal by the Rt Hon. Speaker to build the capacity of the UPDF and allow them to request resources so that they can carry out good work for Uganda. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ekanya, when you are carrying out a project in my constituency, since it is Government money appropriated there, I will follow up. You cannot do shoddy work. That is why you have also said that when the district followed up, they produced good work; meaning if you had followed up earlier - no! That means if you had done your work of oversight - because I do not take it for granted. I do not think they are doing this because it was my area; I think this is a standard, but for every standard to be easily achieved, we also need to go in and check on the work. You cannot fail to get wrong elements in many places.

We will need the Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs to come and update us on the projects under the UPDF Engineering Brigade. I am receiving many complaints from

colleagues that they were given a project and got money, but they have not started, and we see how best we can support them. Next item.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF
PARLIAMENT TO AUTHORISE THE
GOVERNMENT TO BORROW EURO
183,309,947.16 FROM STANDARD
CHARTERED BANK AND UGX
120,395,249,259 FROM THE DOMESTIC
MARKET (6-MONTH TREASURY BILL)
FOR FINANCING THE STRATEGIC
TOWNS WATER SUPPLY AND
SANITATION PROJECT – PHASE II
(STWSSP II)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, we dealt with this matter substantively. I now put the question that the motion for a Resolution of Parliament to authorise the Government to borrow €183,309,947.16 from Standard Chartered Bank and Shs 120,395,249,259 from the domestic market (6-month Treasury Bill) for the financing of the Strategic Towns Water Supply and Sanitation Project be approved by this House.

(Question was put and agreed to.)

Motion, adopted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, House is adjourned sine die.

(The House rose at 5.03 p.m. and adjourned sine die.)

