



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2026



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIFTH SESSION - 2ND SITTING - THIRD MEETING

Thursday, 12 March 2026

Parliament met at 2.01 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker, Ms Anita Among, in the Chair.)

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I want to welcome you to this afternoon's sitting. I also want to take this opportunity to welcome you from the brief break.

As you may be aware, on the 29th of January 2026, this House approved the National Budget Framework Paper for 2026/2027 and 2030/2031. This paved the way for the tabling of the Ministerial Policy Statements for 2026/2027. Section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171, and Rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament stipulate that 15 March of the financial year is the deadline for submission of the Ministerial Policy Statements. However, this 15th is a Sunday, so we have decided to receive the Ministerial Policy Statements today.

Subsequently, the timeline for pending milestones for the budget process will be as follows: The Alternative Ministerial Policy Statements from the Leader of the Opposition provided for under Rule 154 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament will be submitted on Thursday, the 19th of March. They will be laid on the Table here next Thursday.

The prescribed timeline is the 29th of March, which falls on a Sunday. However, because of the transition from the 11th Parliament to the 12th Parliament, we must bring forward all these matters on the Floor before that time.

The statutory timeline for tabling the Tax and Revenue Bills and proposed Annual Budget Estimates is the 1st of April, as stipulated under Sections 7, 12, and 13 of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171, and Rules 155 and 157 of the Rules of Procedure.

The House will consider the Sectoral Committees' reports on Ministerial Policy Statements from the 15th to the 17th of April. When we receive them today, they will go to the committees, and they will come back to the House from the 15th to the 17th of April.

The Tax and Revenue Bills will be considered from the 21st to the 23rd of April 2026.

The Annual Budget Estimates 2026/2027 and the Appropriation Bill will be from the 28th to the 30th of April.

Honourable Members, during the consideration of the National Budget Framework Paper in January 2026, the Budget Committee tasked the Minister of Education and Sports with harmonising the Budget Proposals and re-table the sector Budget Framework Paper for Vote 166, that is, the National Council of Sports. As we consider the Ministerial Policy Statements, I will invoke Rule 26(1) to allow them to lay the harmonised Budget position for that Vote. That will form the budget process for that Vote.

Honourable Members, one of us was born on a day like today, and that is none other than my brother, Hon. Mao. Join me in celebrating his birthday today. We wish you the best, a happy birthday, and good health. We wish you a good and continued stay in the Cabinet in the coming year. *(Applause)*

Honourable Members, once more, I want to welcome you and wish my brother the happiest birthday. May the good Lord keep you. *(Applause)* Thank you.

We have a little congested Order Paper, and I heard someone ask whether that was an Order Paper, a wish list, or whatever. We have a number of Bills pending on the Order Paper.

These Bills were brought by private Members, and as we transition to the 12th Parliament, we do not want to leave any work pending from the 11th Parliament. Therefore, the Bills we feel cannot be considered must be withdrawn so we can clean our House. When you see the Order Paper busy like that, know that most of the things must leave the Order Paper today.

Yes, Doctor?

2.10

DR KEEFA KIWANUKA (NRM, Kiboga East County, Kiboga): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me to start by congratulating colleagues who have made it back to the 12th Parliament, and for colleagues who did not make it, it is said that when one door is closed, another door is opened, which is even wider.

Also, Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on being cleared by the CEC. You are now officially our candidate as the Speaker, and we wish you every success. *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, I rise on a matter of local governance. LCI and LCII elections were held in 2018 -

THE SPEAKER: Doctor, is it a reaction to my communication?

DR KEEFA KIWANUKA: It is a matter of national importance, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, I will give it to you. Can I get a reaction to my communication? Yes, size mate. *(Hon. Macho rose_)* Are you my size, mate? Hon. Gorreth?

2.11

MS GORRETH NAMUGGA (NUP, Mawogola County South, Ssembabule): I want to thank you, Madam Speaker, and equally congratulate all honourable colleagues who made it to the 12th Parliament.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate you celebrating with the women of this country. Happy belated Women's Day to the women of Uganda and colleagues in this House. The theme was very clear: "Justice, Action and Human Rights."

That is the matter that is on the table, and I implore you, Madam Speaker, to make sure that we observe human rights and justice for women in this country. And we should also remind colleagues that in the recently concluded election, women were mistreated.

The use of guns in elections against women was so high, especially in Ssembabule. We were seriously brutalised. So, Madam Speaker, I implore you that as you do take charge of that Chair — I do not know what will happen in the 12th Parliament but I pray that you give priority to issues of women, most especially women in leadership, and politics. I want to thank you, Madam Speaker, and I take leave of the Floor.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. There is a procedural matter -

MR NAMBESHE: Madam Speaker, you know our country, Uganda, is landlocked. The matter I am raising is of urgent public importance and requires the line minister to furnish us with some information.

Uganda is a net importer of petroleum products. The ongoing conflict -the US-Israel-Iran conflict, has already disrupted the shipping regions, which were supposed to ferry this fuel to this landlocked country.

That means the global price hikes put Uganda in a vulnerable position. Madam Speaker, these are shocks that ought to find us at least with some level of preparedness.

That is why I am of the view, Madam Speaker, as a matter of procedure, that the ministry would furnish this House with the contingency plans that they have in place and the level of preparedness because even then, the other ministry also ought to know, or rather inform us about our citizens that are in the Middle East and trapped there, stranded.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The minister will come and give us that report on Tuesday. Yes, Patrick.

2.15

MR PATRICK OSHABE (NUP, Kassanda County North, Kassanda): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Allow me also to congratulate colleagues who made it to the 12th Parliament and say sorry to those who never made it.

Madam Speaker, you have laid a very tight programme running up to the end of next month -

THE SPEAKER: April, yes.

MR OSHABE: However, Madam Speaker, I wanted to plead with you; we have just gone through an election - I plead with you to set aside a day for Members of Parliament to speak about what transpired in the election. *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, whatever day we pick can be relevant for this nation. Many of our colleagues are here, but they lost due to external factors beyond their control. They lost for many reasons.

However, if you squeezed one day to debate what went on in the 2026 elections, and it goes on the record of Parliament, it will be very relevant for the planning of the next election.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, I will give you a date after the 30th of April so that we can discuss that. Yes, Hon. Macho.

2.16

MR GEOFREY MACHO (Independent, Busia Municipality, Busia): Madam Speaker, on your communication, I too want to send congratulations to my good friend and brother, Hon. Norbert Mao, for having expressed his interest in contesting.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, we are in the 11th Parliament. Please sit. Honourable members, as I said, we have a congested Order Paper. We also have the Prime Minister's Time.

So, we should be able to move - then most of the things should be brought at the time the Prime Minister will be answering questions. Can we move with the Order Paper? Is that on matters of national importance - *Madam Teacher?*

2.18

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE:(NUP, Mukono Municipality, Mukono): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I raise a matter of national importance touching the plight of 13 Ugandans who are said to have been arrested and imprisoned in a foreign country, Mauritius, to be specific.

Madam Speaker, two of those people, Ssebuufu Deo and Sseluyange Yusuf Kayiwa, happen to be my constituents in Mukono.

This country does not lose responsibility over its citizens in whatever situation they are, whether good or bad.

First, the matter of national importance I want to raise is that I have information that 13 Ugandans are being held in different prisons in Mauritius.

Two, that they have not received any assistance from home, and the families, specifically the family of Ssebuufu Deo, have approached me as the Member of Parliament. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I request that this matter of

national importance be taken up, and that we be informed of the status under which our people are being held in Mauritius, whether they committed an offence, and whether there is any possibility for them to be transferred to serve a sentence at home. I do move. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Betty Nambooze, to help this House or to help the Government, do you have any evidence that shows that we have people in those prisons?

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE: Madam Speaker, the relatives of these people approached me, specifically the wife of Deo Ssebuufu, and she can turn up if requested to give the concerned office more details.

THE SPEAKER: Government.

2.20

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, just like you observed to the Member who raised this matter, she knows that there are 13 Ugandans. It would be of help for the honourable member to give the Government the better particulars of the 13 Ugandans, such that the appropriate diplomatic channels can be followed to handle the matter.

I undertake to contact you, honourable member, to obtain the details of the 13 members, so that we can, through our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, take the appropriate diplomatic action. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, the Government Chief Whip. Dr Keefa.

2.21

DR KEEFA KIWANUKA (NRM, Kiboga East County, Kiboga): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I rise on a matter of national importance regarding local governance. Local council elections were held in 2018. Their term expired in July 2023. The elections have now been extended six times. Apart from legal

and administrative reforms, boundary issues, clearing the registers, the main issue so far has been that there is no money; there have been funding constraints.

Whereas LCI and LCII systems are critical to the social fabric and the implementation of government programmes, we are now increasingly relying on arguably unelected structures. However, earlier this year, Justice Byabakama, the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission, told us at a press conference that money had been released. That was very exciting and created public expectations that elections could finally be held in the over 70,000 villages around the country.

However, shortly thereafter, the Ministry of Local Government indicated a funding shortfall of Shs 58 billion, which they needed to conduct the elections. This was followed by a statement earlier this year that, again, the Cabinet had directed that money could be released to conduct the elections. A timetable was given for them to be conducted in March and April.

Madam Speaker, because of the public anxiety around this, can we have confirmation from the ministers concerned on whether the money has now been released? Can we also have confirmation that we are still running with the timetable mentioned for March and April? Better still, can we have confirmation of the exact dates when these elections will be held?

Finally, Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Local Government had assured us, in response to a petition presented on the Floor here, that emoluments for LCI, LCII, and other people in those local structures will be enhanced. I think the date was mooted as 2026 or 2027. Can we have confirmation that it is still on track to motivate the people down there?

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Keefa Kiwanuka, thank you for that. Remember, we have been depriving the public of democratically elected LCIs. The Electoral Commission has said we will have elections in March and April; could we have that confirmation? Remember, the

Electoral Commission had said that they had received the funding, so which shortage are we talking about of Shs 58 billion? If there is a shortage, as the honourable member is saying, and it was approved by the Cabinet, why are we not releasing that money?

2.25

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Ms Victoria Businge): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I confirm to this House that the elections are not only for LCs I and II but also for the women councils. They were properly scheduled and okayed by the Central Executive Committee (CEC), which you chaired, Rt Hon. Speaker, when the Minister of Local Government presented. This information has reached all the districts, and there is no doubt that we shall vote by the end of April –(Interjection) - Yes.

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: Excuse me, the dates have been confirmed, and if you give me 10 minutes, Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Can we have specific dates for when the election will be held?

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: Yes. In the next 10 minutes, I can get them. I have already sent a message.

THE SPEAKER: Okay.

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: Number two about the emoluments, I think we passed the budget where we revised the emoluments. I do not have the figures off-hand, but at least we passed them in Cabinet and here.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, can you give us the figures that we passed in this House for the rest to know? It seems people are not sure.

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: In consultation with the ministry for finance, which is ably represented here, we can get the details, but I know -

THE SPEAKER: We will give you 10 minutes.

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: Alright.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Atwijukire.

2.27

MR DAN ATWIJUKIRE (NRM, Kazo County, Kazo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance, specifically regarding the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB).

Madam Speaker, UNEB has been conducting exams. Whenever they release examination results, they withhold some schools' results on the allegation that these schools cheated or engaged in malpractice. They conduct hearings; they decide to cancel or release the results.

Madam Speaker, it is UNEB's mandate to protect its exams. This Parliament allocates money to them for invigilation, inspection, scouts, and for everyone. They fail at their job. They take the blame to the young, innocent children. (Applause) What is more hurtful is that when this is happening, after the hearing, the owner of the school is not arrested, and the inspector is not charged. The invigilator -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, I want us to be parliamentary by not saying that they fail at their job. They do not fail at their job. There may be some kind of negligence.

MR ATWIJUKIRE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I take your guidance since you are our beloved Speaker, and use an alternative word. I will maybe get it later. (Laughter)

Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Anyway, they do not fail at their jobs.

MR ATWIJUKIRE: Madam Speaker, no one knows where the young children who are affected go. Some drop out of school; others get married off along the way, and no one takes responsibility.

My prayer is that the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) should be held accountable. The Ministry of Education and Sports should come and explain -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, give Hon. Yusuf Nsibambi a seat - (*Laughter*) - can I have order in the House? Hon. Kimosho is raising a very pertinent issue.

MR ATWIJUKIRE: Madam Speaker, my prayer is that UNEB should explain why, year after year, their own staff fail to do what they ought to do and shift the blame. Currently, we have residual elections. Can't we have residual examinations so that these children are able to continue with the rest of the other children? I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, let us first have this resolved - do you have a procedural matter?

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE: Madam Speaker, I have seen the excitement the sitting arrangement that took Hon. Nsibambi to the other side has brought to this side. Wouldn't it be procedurally right for me to know if the honourable member from Mbarara has also crossed to this side so that we can also celebrate?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, from the beginning, I said we shall have free sitting. The members on this side are fewer, so they need to be boosted - yes, honourable member.

2.33

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): Thank you, Madam Speaker. On the issue of UNEB and examination malpractice, we passed a law here, which is very pertinent. A lot of attention must be given to this. Even right now, school owners may not be aware of what is happening in their schools.

Take keen interest, honourable member, since you raised it, because we are going for sectoral committee sittings. I also had issues in my constituency. Pupils were called to UNEB with

their head teachers, and they testified to how they copied. It is very painful.

Madam Speaker, it is an organised crime; even if we get the Law enacted, it must receive more attention. I can attest to it here that there is a school I do not want to mention where pupils collect money from their parents. They collect over Shs 20 million to bribe invigilators and supervisors.

However, the main challenge arises when pupils must appear before the UNEB committee investigating malpractice and are asked to provide details of how they cheated. I think we need more time when we go to sectoral committees -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, this is a very sensitive matter. Honourable minister, you need to meet with UNEB management to see how best we can handle this. We cannot discuss this matter here. Let us have a closed-door meeting and see how this can be resolved.

2.34

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Dan for raising this very critical and sensitive matter. You have really guided wisely that this matter cannot be discussed, and we can get a way forward here.

Our mandate is to protect the integrity of examinations. I would like to agree with you that we will get together to discuss the matter with UNEB and other stakeholders. After that, we can give feedback to the Members. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, as we wait for the report from Local Government, I have seen Hon. Ojara.

MR MAPENDUZI: Madam Speaker, mine is a procedural matter. You had guided the State Minister for Local Government to provide details but I see a lot of contradiction in what she provided compared to what the senior minister announced to the public -

THE SPEAKER: She has not provided any information.

MR MAPENDUZI: Madam Speaker, she said that they were on schedule and also talked about the money, but the honourable minister -

THE SPEAKER: Let us not debate in anticipation.

MR MAPENDUZI: Thank you.

2.35

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Under Rule 229 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, Action Taken Reports are to be provided to us within 60 working days. Wouldn't it be procedurally right that the ministers should have provided that from the several proceedings, now that we are summarising assignments of the 11th Parliament?

The way you are closing off any pending Bills, we also have pending actions from our ministers. For example, regulations on the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2023. The ministers should bring the Action Taken Reports; wouldn't that be appropriate?

THE SPEAKER: That is okay. We will get whatever is pending.

Leader of the Opposition (LOP)?

2.36

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. First, I join you in congratulating the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs on clocking another year. In your communication, you wished him a happy birthday. Happy birthday, sir. I hope you have not amended your age – (*Laughter*) – nowadays, people amend too many things. Please keep your age that way.

Madam Speaker, I would like to raise one or two issues that received guidance from this House but are still somewhat pending. On 29 January, we were here, and I raised, among

other issues, the biometric voter verification kits that were used - or certainly not used - in the just concluded elections.

The concern was that this House appropriated plenty of money, billions upon billions of shillings, for these to be used in the election. The presiding officer at the time, the Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker directed that the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs come to this House with a statement regarding these machines. It is important we are accountable; otherwise, Parliament will be seen as an accomplice in wasting taxpayers' money.

We appropriated nearly Shs 400 billion. Part of that was to buy the machines, train those who would use them, and synchronise the ballot papers for scanning and so on. Did that money go down the drain?

We were told that these machines were the panacea to vote rigging, which has become all too common: vote rigging, ballot stuffing and all the drama that comes with our elections, which affects both sides. I saw some colleagues on the NRM side during the elections also complaining about vote rigging.

Madam Speaker, I think it would be a good reminder for that statement to come since the House directed as such.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, after 31 October, when we had the dangerous floods that caused mayhem and wreaked havoc in the city, traders lost merchandise, and plenty of money went down the drain. The Government committed to compensating these businesspersons to the tune of about Shs 20 billion. Those businesspersons up to now are asking whether the Government lied to them.

Recently, we saw another instance of heavy flooding, and the same people are saying we have lost more merchandise even before the first promised compensation has been fulfilled. We want the Government to tell us, was it just a mere puff, as we call it in law — that you actually do not intend to do this thing; you are just promising for the sake of it. The traders would like to know.

Maybe the Government could intervene in that regard on when they intend to develop a comprehensive plan, so that we can be informed about how to address the flooding in our country? We need to know. Poor drainage, poor planning — if it does happen at all with the numerous buildings that do come up — we want some kind of commitment from the Government. You should not be compensating them each time, especially when you have not compensated them the first time.

Relatedly, when the Kiteezi situation happened in August 2024, over 35 people died. Garbage killed people here in the city, close by. The Government, again, promised to compensate the victims and the bereaved families but to date, those families still complain, saying, “The Government has not compensated us”. Can we know from the Government what happened? Was it another lie?

Finally, Madam Speaker, in late October of last year, we raised concerns here when journalists from Nation Media Group were barred from accessing Parliament. Our Constitution has a Bill of Rights, Chapter Four, with specific Article 29(1)(a), which provides for freedom of the press, and that is why we get to have journalists here. In fact, our rules have domesticated it for the Parliament - they provide that our sessions will be covered by the press.

Journalists from Nation Media, NTV, Daily Monitor and others were barred from accessing Parliament five months ago. The management tells us that to date, they have not given any reason as to why they have not been summoned over any indiscipline issue. Yes, rights are in place, rights can be abused, and people can be checked. But then they ask, “Did we abuse the rights that allow us to come and cover Parliament?” Up to now, they have no idea. It would be good for this House to know whether there are journalists who are totally not allowed to come to Parliament, and if so, why? We are the ones who pass laws about freedom of the press and so on and so forth. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I see so many journalists there. You mean none of them is from Nation Media? (*Laughter*) Honourable Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, there is a report that was requested. We may need to put it on the Order Paper. I know you do not have it now.

2.43

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (Mr Nobert Mao): Madam Speaker, I want to confirm that the report is ready, and the moment it is scheduled, we shall bring it and present it before this august House. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: We can only schedule it once you have presented a report to the Clerk’s office. That is what will help us to ensure that it is on the Order Paper. Give us a copy, then we will put it on the Order Paper.

MR MAO: Much obliged, Madam Speaker.

2.44

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, the honourable Leader of the Opposition submitted to the effect that the Government committed to compensate to the tune of Shs 20 billion, if I got you right. I beg, Madam Speaker, because the learned Leader of the Opposition was not specific, who, in particular, made this commitment, such that my office can be able to communicate since you are mentioning Shs 20 billion -

MR SSENYONYI: Madam Speaker, I know that the honourable Government Chief Whip has been engrossed with numerous issues also to do with the election. He has probably not followed up on some issues that he is supposed to, but it is okay, I can remind him.

Your appointing authority held a meeting with the minister for Kampala, who is here, and the traders, and made that commitment. Ours is to follow up with those who are here. I had actually thought that the minister for Kampala would rise up and respond to that issue because

she was in that meeting when that commitment was made to the traders. With your permission, Madam Speaker, the informed minister can assist the minister who lacks the information. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Even the Government Chief Whip is informed.

MR SSENYONYI: I oblige, but of course, there are things he does not know because he has just conceded that he is not aware, and there is a minister who is aware.

THE SPEAKER: LOP, let us not belittle each other to that tune. He is informed and is a Government Chief Whip. He knows whatever is happening.

MR SSENYONYI: I agree with you, Madam Speaker, that he knows, so let him tell us. *(Laughter)*

MR OBUA: I can now respond without any fear of contradiction because, there is a saying that goes: “When you see a pagan quoting verses from the Bible, then he or she is about to accept Jesus as his Lord and Saviour,” *(Laughter)* By peeping and knowing what transpired in a meeting chaired by the President of the Republic of Uganda, could we take it that the honourable Leader of the Opposition is about to come to this side? *(Interjections)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, wait - you cannot raise a point of order because he is seated. Honourable members - just a minute. Minister of Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs, can you give us a report on what has been - *(Hon. Minsa Kabanda rose_)* -no, not now. I am not saying that you comment, I am saying that you come with the report on Tuesday.

Honourable members, in the VIP gallery this afternoon, we have the Members of Parliament-elect who have come to observe the proceedings of Parliament. We have Hon. Maseruka Robert, please stand up, and Hon. Amaniyo Sheilah. You are most welcome. They have come to learn and to observe. Hon. Amero, clap for

yours; Hon. Etilu Margaret, Hon. Ongorok Richard, Hon. Katusiime Adrine, Hon. Achom Esther, Hon. David Okwere, Hon. Tibyaze Peace, and Hon. Sarah Namulondo. You are most welcome, and thank you for coming.

We also have, in the public gallery this afternoon, students and teachers of Mount Saint Mary’s College Namagunga. You are most welcome. Join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)* They are represented by Hon. Abdallah Kiwanuka and Hon. Hanifa. You are most welcome, and thank you so much for coming.

In the VIP gallery, we also have a member of Parliament-elect for Nakifuma County, Hon. Kiwanuka Suleiman. Join me in welcoming these visitors. *(Applause)* Hon. David, do you have something to say?

2.50

MR DAVID LAGEN (NRM, Agago County, Agago): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I bring to the attention of Parliament a very important matter that needs an urgent response.

Madam Speaker, you know that the absence of peace at home is a nightmare. On the 18th of last month, the people of Agago County, Agago District, were invaded by cattle raiders. Two people were shot, one died instantly, and the other is still nursing wounds. The cattle raiders were in full uniform of the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) and loaded with AK-47s.

Not only that, late in the evening yesterday, another group of people came and raided the town. Imagine, in Adilang Town Council, they raided 32 goats. When community members and the LCs tried to call -

THE SPEAKER: Can we have order?

MR LAGEN: The local leaders were able to call the UPDF to respond -

THE SPEAKER: Are you saying the same UPDF came again and raided?

MR LAGEN: No, the suspected cattle raiders were dressed in UPDF uniform. Yesterday, they again came and raided the town council, and 32 goats were taken. The local leaders tried to call the UPDF to respond quickly, but the UPDF did not come. These raiders escaped with the goats. My community is very afraid because it is the season for planting. Community members are afraid to go to the garden because they fear that they will be killed or abducted by the cattle raiders.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR LAGEN: My humble prayer is that the family of the victims should be compensated. I am also praying that more security is enforced in some of the spots where the cattle raiders normally pass. It is my humble request that this House takes this into consideration to allow my people to peacefully farm in this season, to support the livelihood of the community. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: First of all, the first cattle thieves who were putting on a government uniform may not have been security or may not have been army men themselves. That must be on record. We cannot have-, because you are saying they were putting on the UPDF uniform.

MR LAGEN: It is true, Madam Speaker. This is reliable information that I am giving to Parliament because there are eyewitnesses. The cattle raiders were putting on the uniform of the UPDF. I am not saying it is the UPDF. I am saying the suspected cattle raiders were wearing a similar uniform.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Oboth. That could have been similar - resemblance.

2.54

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (Mr Jacob Oboth): Thank you, Madam Speaker and -

THE SPEAKER: At least it is on record that our UPDF have never been thieves.

MR OBOTH: That is right.

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

MR OBOTH: That is right. First, the honourable member mixed up a few things. Reliable information is that which you witnessed yourself. I, however, take it as a complaint that he has raised: there are concerns about insecurity on the border with the Karamoja side.

The UPDF - the raiding of the cattle and the goats, I will take it and follow up. The UPDF does not raid, and I think for the last few years, the support we have gotten from this Parliament, we have done our part, and the UPDF is doing a good job. For this isolated matter, we are going to handle it.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, our army is one of the most professional institutions. The cattle rustlers are not Karamojong. It must be on record that the cattle rustlers are not Karamojong. They do not write on their faces to show that they are Karamojong. Those are just cattle thieves.

In the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have students and teachers of Bukakata Seed School, from Masaka District. They are represented by Hon. Evans Kanyike and Hon. Joan Namutaawe. You are most welcome. The Namagunga girls - we also have our daughter there, Ketra. Daughter, Hon. Solomon also has a kid in Namagunga. Where are you, Ketra? Achieng Ketra, where are you? Next item. *(Laughter)* *(Hon. Zaake rose_)* Francis?

MR ZAAKE: Madam Speaker, I am standing on a point of procedure. The honourable minister for Local Government requested 10 minutes to furnish us with information, and I believe that the 10 minutes have expired.

THE SPEAKER: She has not yet come back.

MR ZAAKE: The senior minister for Local Government is here.

THE SPEAKER: I do not want them to contradict. Let the other one, honourable minister, I have not allowed you to speak. Can

we have your minister back? The fact that you allowed her to speak when you are in the House - let her come back and report. Next item.

BILLS
FIRST READING

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(NO.2) BILL, 2025

Pursuant to Article 91(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and 156 of the same constitution, and Rule 134(1) and (2) of the Rules of Procedure, I invite the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to table a Supplementary Appropriation (NO.2) Bill, 2025, for the First Reading. Honourable minister?

2.58

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Pursuant to Article 156(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Section 24 of the Public Finance Management Act, I beg to move that the Supplementary Appropriation No.2 Bill, 2025, be read for the first time.

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? It is seconded by Hon. Obua, Hon. Kafuuzi, Hon. Hellen, Hon. Silwany, Hon. Charity, Hon. Paul Omara, Hon. Kabanda, “Dubai”, Hon. Teira, Hon. Maurice, Hon. Noah, Hon. Komakech, Hon. Gerald, Hon. Nancy, Hon. Emmanuel, Hon. Victorious, Hon. Rose, Hon. Gabriel, “Obama”, Hon. David, Hon. Isaac, the Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Keefa, Vice chairperson, Hon. Achia, Hon. Pamela, Hon. Maximus, Hon. Flora, Hon. Akifeza, Hon. Mbabazi, Hon. Nsibambi –(Laughter)-*Nnalongo* is also there, Hon. Edakasi, Hon. Victoria Businge, MP for Ruhaama and Member from Mbale.

Honourable members, this is a Bill for the First Reading. Pursuant to Rule 135(1) and (2) of the Rules of Procedure, the Bill stands referred to the Committee on Budget for consideration.

BILLS
FIRST READING

THE MAGISTRATES COURTS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to Article 91(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 and Rule 134(1) and (2) of the Rules of Procedure, I will invite the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to table the Bill for the First Reading.

3.01

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (Mr Norbert Mao): Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill entitled, “The Magistrates Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2026” be read for the first time, in accordance with Rule 134 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

In addition, I beg to lay the Bill and Certificate of Financial Implications on the Table.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 135(1) and (2) of the Rules of Procedure, the Bill stands referred to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. I would like to request the chairperson, Hon. Baka, whom I have seen there, to return this Bill to the House next week.

LAYING OF PAPERS

THE REVISED SECTOR BUDGET
FRAMEWORK PAPER FOR VOTE 166 -
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPORTS

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, as I guided before, this was deferred for harmonisation between the ministry and the National Council of Sports. As we said before, this will form the basis for the Ministerial Policy Statement and budgeting for the sector. Honourable Minister of Education and Sports?

3.04

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the Ministry of Education and Sports Budget Framework Paper on National Council of Sports - Vote 166.

THE SPEAKER: Please lay. This is a harmonised position, and we will review it to see whether it meets expectations.

THE COMPETITIONS REGULATIONS,
2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, Section 27 of the Competitions Act, 2024 mandates the minister responsible for trade to make regulations that give effect to Section 27(4) of the Act. The minister lays regulations to make the Act before Parliament within six months, which he is specifically here to do this time.

3.05

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (COOPERATIVES) (Mr Fredrick Gume): Madam Speaker, in accordance with Section 4 of the Competitions Act, 2024, Cap. 66 and Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to lay the Competitions Regulations, 2025, made under the Competitions Act, on the Table.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The regulations stand referred to the sectoral Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry. Honourable ministers, in most cases, we get regulations that are inconsistent with the law. Therefore, the committee should review the regulations to assess their consistency.

THE SEMI-ANNUAL BUDGET
PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, Section 17(1)(c) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 Cap. 171 requires the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to present progress registered, in execution of the National Budget, biannually.

Pursuant to Rule 32 and 33 of the Rules of Procedure, I will invite the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to table the report.

3.08

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the Semi-Annual Budget Performance Report for Financial Year 2025/2026, pages 1 to 2,279. This is the first one.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 170 – do you still have more?

MR MUSASIZI: I still have more.

THE SPEAKER: Is that Volume 1?

MR MUSASIZI: Yes. Volume 2 starts from pages 2,280 to 4,560. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MUSASIZI: Volume 3 starts from pages 4,561 to 6,840.

Volume 4 starts from pages 6,841 to 9,122. I beg to lay.

Volume 5 from pages 9,121 to pages 11,400. The last volume, six, starts from pages 11,401 to 13,687.

Madam Speaker, the Members would like to know what is contained inside here. I invite you to read the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA). You will know what is contained in these documents. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, pursuant to Rule 179(h) of the Rules of Procedure, the report stands referred to the Committee on Budget.

WAIVER OF OUTSTANDING TAX
ARREARS FOR FRESH CUTS UGANDA
LIMITED AMOUNTING TO SHS
8,924,780,601

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, Section 43(2) of the Tax Procedures Code Act requires the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to seek parliamentary approval for the remission of tax. Pursuant to Rules 32 and 33 of the Rules of Procedure, I invite the minister to come and table the request for the waiver.

Honourable minister, I think at one time we asked what the basis of giving a waiver was.

Let us receive the request, and that is what we shall interrogate in the committee, because we need to get the criteria of who should be given a waiver and who should not.

3.12

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to lay on the Table the waiver of outstanding tax arrears for Fresh Cuts Uganda Limited, amounting to Shs 8,924,780,601.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The report stands referred to the Sectoral Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

WAIVER OF TAX ARREARS OF
INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION
(1001888598) PURSUANT TO SECTION 43
OF THE TAX PROCEDURES CODE ACT,
CAP 343

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, still pursuant to Section 43(2) of the Tax Procedure Code Act, the minister is to lay on the Table for approval, the waiver. Honourable minister?

3.13

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to lay on the Table the request for a waiver of tax arrears of Innovations for Poverty Action pursuant to Section 43 of the Tax Procedures Code Act, Cap 343.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. This is referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

THE NATIONAL PLANNING AUTHORITY
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR
THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, Section 18(3) of the National Planning Authority Act, 2002 requires the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to table in Parliament the annual report of the National Planning Authority. Pursuant to Rules 32 and 33 of the Rules of Procedure, I invite the minister to come and table the report.

3.15

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the annual performance report for the National Planning Authority for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 33(5) of the Rules of Procedure, the report is referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

FOLLOW-UP REPORTS ON THE STATUS
OF IMPLEMENTATION OF AUDIT
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE VALUE
FOR MONEY AUDIT ON:

I) THE PROCUREMENT AND
DISTRIBUTION OF ESSENTIAL
MEDICINES AND HEALTH SUPPLIES
BY THE NATIONAL MEDICAL STORES
(NMS)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, Section 21 of the National Audit Act mandates the Auditor-General to inquire into the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of the utilisation of public resources through value-for-money audits.

The reports are a follow-up, as one of the Members mentioned, on the implementation of the previous audit recommendations. Pursuant to Rules 180 and 187 of the Rules of Procedure, I invite the Parliamentary Commissioner to table the reports.

3.17

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker and honourable members, I beg to lay the report on the procurement and distribution of essential medicines and health supplies by the National Medical Stores.

THE SPEAKER: The reports are referred to the Public Accounts Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE).

II) GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO
ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

THE SPEAKER: Commissioner?

3.18

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker and honourable members, I beg to lay the report on the Government's efforts to achieve gender equality. I beg to lay for the Auditor-General.

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to Rule 180(3) and

(4), the report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts - Central Government.

III) THE REGULATION OF UNIVERSITIES
BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
HIGHER EDUCATION

3.26

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the regulation of universities by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE).

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to Rule 187(3) and (4) of the Rules of Procedure, the report stands referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (COSASE).

IV) UTILISATION OF THE DISTRICT
WATER AND SANITATION
CONDITIONAL GRANT BY SELECTED
DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

3.26

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the utilisation of District Water and Sanitation Conditional Grants by selected district local governments.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 180 (3) and (4) of the Rules of Procedure, the report is referred to the Committee of Public Accounts (Central Government).

V) FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON THE
VALUE-FOR-MONEY AUDIT ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PETROLEUM DATA
BY THE PETROLEUM AUTHORITY OF
UGANDA

3.26

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the follow-up report on the value-for-money audit on the management of petroleum data by the Petroleum Authority of Uganda.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. It is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (COSASE).

VI) PROGRAMMATIC AUDIT REPORT ON

THE GLOBAL FUND MALARIA GRANT
IMPLEMENTED BY THE MINISTRY OF
HEALTH FOR THE PERIOD ENDING
DECEMBER 2024

3.27

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the programmatic audit report for the Global Fund Malaria Grant implemented by the Ministry of Health for the period ending December 2024.

THE SPEAKER: The report stands referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government).

VALUE FOR MONEY AUDIT ON:
I)THE REGULATION OF PRIVATE
HEALTHCARE PRACTICE IN
UGANDA

3.27

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the regulation of private healthcare practice in Uganda.

THE SPEAKER: The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government).

II)THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMMES
BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME
MINISTER

3.27

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the implementation of the affirmative action programmes by the Office of the Prime Minister.

THE SPEAKER: It is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government).

III)THE MANAGEMENT OF ROAD

WEIGHBRIDGE BY-STATIONS BY
THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND
TRANSPORT

3.28

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the management of Road Weighbridge By-Stations by the Ministry of Works and Transport.

THE SPEAKER: It is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government).

IV)THE LICENSING AND INVESTOR
SUPPORT SERVICES BY UGANDA
INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

3.28

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the Licensing and Investor Support Services by the Uganda Investment Authority.

THE SPEAKER: It is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (COSASE)

V)THE EFFECTIVENESS OF
INTERVENTIONS BY THE OFFICE
OF THE PRIME MINISTER IN
FACILITATING THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF UGANDA'S NATIONALISED SDG
TARGETS BY 2030

3.28

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the effectiveness of the interventions by the Office of the Prime Minister in facilitating the achievement of Uganda's nationalised SDG targets by 2030.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. It is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government).

VI)THE IMPLEMENTATION OF

INTERVENTIONS TO TRANSITION FROM BIOMASS USE TO CLEAN COOKING TECHNOLOGY AS COORDINATED BY THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

3.29

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the implementation of interventions to transition from biomass use to clean cooking technology as coordinated by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development.

THE SPEAKER: It is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government).

VII)THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS UNIVERSAL SERVICE AND ACCESS FUND IN INCREASING ACCESS AND USAGE OF DIGITAL DEVICES AND SERVICES IN UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED AREAS OF UGANDA

3.29

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the implementation of Uganda Communications Universal Service and Access Fund in increasing access and usage of digital devices and services in unserved and underserved areas in Uganda.

THE SPEAKER: It is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (COSASE).

VIII)THE PERFORMANCE OF SPECIAL GRANTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

3.30

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the performance of special grants for persons with disabilities.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. It is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government).

IX)THE MARKING AND BRANDING

OF TOURISM ACTIVITIES BY THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES AND THE UGANDA TOURISM BOARD

3.30

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the marking and branding of tourism activities by the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities and the Uganda Tourism Board.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. It is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government).

X)THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH CARE WASTE

3.30

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the effectiveness of the Ministry of Health and public health facilities in the management of health care waste.

THE SPEAKER: It is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government).

XI)THE EFFICIENCY OF OPERATIONS OF PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN THE DELIVERY OF EDUCATION SERVICES

3.31

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the efficiency of operations of public universities in the delivery of education services.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. It is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government).

XII)THE MANAGEMENT OF MENTAL

HEALTH

3.31

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the management of mental health.

THE SPEAKER: It is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government).

XIII) THE PERFORMANCE OF THE
FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE
AUTHORITY IN THE ANTI-MONEY
LAUNDERING CHAIN

3.31

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the performance of the Financial Intelligence Authority in the anti-money laundering chain.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 187 (3) and (4) of the Rules of Procedure, the report stands referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (COSASE).

J) MINISTERIAL POLICY STATEMENTS
AND BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/2027:

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, Section 12 (13) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, requires the minister or the head responsible for a Vote to submit to Parliament, by the 15th of March, the policy statements for the preceding financial year, for ministries under this vote. As I guided before, the 15th will be a Sunday, so we decided that we receive the ministerial statements today.

Each minister will have a ministerial statement laid on the Table as per the same section. We will have the first Ministerial Policy Statement for Vote 1, Office of the President. There is a procedural matter -

MR ENOS ASIIMWE: Thank you, Madam

Speaker. Rule 33 of our Rules of Procedure is very clear that before they lay these documents, we should have copies. All the documents they have laid are not uploaded. We are now going for the ministerial policy statements, which are also not uploaded, nor do we have these copies in our pigeon holes. Is it procedurally right for the policy statements to be laid when we don't have copies?

THE SPEAKER: We are going to circulate copies of the policy statements immediately they are laid; we will give you copies of the reports.

MINISTERIAL POLICY STATEMENT AND
BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL
YEAR 2026/2027

Office of the President

THE SPEAKER: Are you now in the Office of the President?

MR SSEWUNGU: We want to make correct records, let them lay first, then we receive. How do we get copies on our iPads before they are laid? I know that once they lay, ministries will provide us with their policy statements in our pigeon holes. The way the honourable member is rushing to get them before they are laid - we need to be educated more on that.

MR ENOS ASIIMWE: Madam Speaker, Rule 33 of our Rules of Procedure is very clear. You can go and read it.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, these reports are going to the committees. Therefore, let us receive them; they will be uploaded when they come back for debate, and they are going to go to your committees. You will discuss them in the committees.

Honourable members, pursuant to Section 12(13) - yes, Minister of the Presidency.

3.31

THE MINISTER FOR THE PRESIDENCY (Ms Milly Babalanda): Thank you, Madam Speaker. In line with Section 3(13) of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171, I

am honoured to present to you the Ministerial Policy Statement of the Presidency - I do not need to read all that?

THE SPEAKER: It is okay, but it is not Section 3.

MS BABALANDA: Section 12(13).

THE SPEAKER: Section 12 (13).

MS BABABALANDA: Yes, Section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act and Rule 153(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of Uganda, I rise to lay on the Table the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Presidency for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

The Presidency comprises seven votes:

- i. Vote 11 - the Office of the Presidency;
- ii. Vote 22 - State House;
- iii. Vote 23 - Ministry of Kampala City Council;
- iv. Vote 17 - Uganda AIDS Commission;
- v. Vote 112 - Ethics and Integrity;
- vi. Vote 158 - Internal Security; and
- vii. Vote 159 - External Security Organisation.

Madam Speaker, to enable the Presidency to fulfil its constitutional mandate and contribute to the overall Government development agenda, I request that the budget for the Presidency of Shs 1.61192 trillion be approved. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Pursuant to Section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap 171, and Rule 153(3) of the Rules of Procedure, the policy statement stands referred to the Sectoral Committee on Presidential Affairs for consideration and report back on the 15th of April 2026.

Office of the Prime Minister

3.33

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, I move under Rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure, to lay on the Table, the Ministerial Policy Statement

for the Office of the Prime Minister, Vote 003 for the Financial Year 2026/2027. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to Section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap 171 and Rule 153(3) of the Rules of Procedure, the policy statement stands referred to the Sectoral Committee of Presidential Affairs and report back by 15th April 2026.

The Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation

3.34

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION INFORMATION (Dr Monica Musenero):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. In accordance with Section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2015, Cap 171, and pursuant to Rule 153 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of Uganda, I rise to lay, on the Table, the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Financial Year 2026/2027 of the Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat. It consists of two votes:

- i. Vote 167 and
- ii. Vote 110.

I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is referred to the Committee on Presidential Affairs.

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister - Ministry of agriculture has two - both ministers have stood up.

3.36

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (FISHERIES) (Ms Hellen Adoa):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. In accordance with Section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap 171 and pursuant to Rule 153(1) of the Rules of

Procedure of Parliament of Uganda, I rise to lay, on the Table, the Ministerial Policy Statement for Financial Year 2026/2027 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, consisting of:

- i. Vote 010 - Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries;
- ii. Vote 125 - National Animal Genetic Resources and Database;
- iii. Vote 142 - National Agricultural Research Organisation; and
- iv. Votes 601 to 950 - local governments for consideration by this august House. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to rule 153(3) of the Rules of Procedure, the policy statements are referred to the Sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries for consideration.

Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

3.37

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Mr Martin Mugarra): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the Ministerial Policy Statement for Financial Year 2026/2027 for the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities. Vote 022 – Ministry of Wildlife and Antiquities; Vote 117 – Uganda Tourism Board. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to Rule 153(3), the policy statement stands referred to the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry for consideration and report back by the 15th of April.

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

3.38

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (COOPERATIVES) (Mr Fredrick Gume): Madam Speaker, in accordance with section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and pursuant to Rule 153(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of Uganda, I rise to lay on the Table, the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives and its agencies for the Financial Year 2026/2027 for your consideration.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

The Votes involved are:

- i. Vote 15 – Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives;
- ii. Vote 110 – Uganda Industrial Research Institute;
- iii. Vote 154 – Uganda National Bureau of Standards;
- iv. Vote 168 – Uganda Free Zone and Export Promotions Authority; and
- v. Votes 601 to 935 – Local Governments.

I beg to lay. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The report stands referred to the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry for consideration and report back by the 15th.

Ministry of Health

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

3.39

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH (PRIMARY HEALTH CARE) (Ms Margaret Muhanga): Madam Speaker, in accordance with Section 12(13) of the Public Finance and Management Act, 2015 and pursuant to Rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, allow me to present to this House the Ministerial Policy Statement of the health sub-programme for Financial Year 2026/2027 for your consideration and approval.

- i. Vote 014 – The Ministry of Health;
- ii. Vote 114 – Uganda Cancer Institute;
- iii. Vote 115 – Uganda Heart Institute;

- iv. Vote 116 – National Medical Stores;
- v. Vote 127 - Uganda Virus Research Institute;
- vi. Vote 134 – Health Service Commission;
- vii. Vote 151 – Uganda Blood Transfusion Services;
- viii. Vote 401 – Mulago Hospital Complex;
- ix. Vote 402 – Butabika Hospital;
- x. Vote 403 – Arua Regional Referral Hospital;
- xi. Vote 404 – Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital;
- xii. Vote 405 – Gulu Regional Referral Hospital;
- xiii. Vote 406 – Hoima Regional Referral Hospital;
- xiv. Vote 407 – Jinja Regional Referral Hospital;
- xv. Vote 408 – Kabale Regional Referral Hospital;
- xvi. Vote 409 – Masaka Regional Referral Hospital;
- xvii. Vote 410 – Mbale Regional Referral Hospital;
- xviii. Vote 411 – Soroti Regional Referral Hospital;
- xix. Vote 412 – Lira Regional Referral Hospital;
- xx. Vote 413 – Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital;
- xxi. Vote 414 – Mubende Regional Referral Hospital;
- xxii. Vote 415 – Moroto Regional Referral Hospital;
- xxiii. Vote 416 – China-Uganda Friendship Referral Hospital, Naguru;
- xxiv. Vote 417 – Kiruddu Regional Referral Hospital;
- xxv. Vote 418 – Kawempe Regional Referral Hospital;
- xxvi. Vote 419 – Entebbe regional far hospital;
- xxvii. Vote 420 – Mulago Specialised Women and Neonatal Hospital;
- xxviii. Vote 421 – Kayunga Regional Referral Hospital; and
- xxix. Vote 422 – Yumbe Regional Referral Hospital.

I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The policy

statement stands referred to the Sectoral Committee on Health. Please report back by 15 April 2026.

Ministry of Education and Sports

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

3.43

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku): Madam Speaker, I move under Rule 153(1) of the Rules of Procedure Parliament of Uganda and in accordance with Section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015.

I rise to lay on the Table, the Ministerial Policy Statement for Financial Year 2026/2027 for the Ministry of Education and Sports Vote 013 and 19 – other Votes under the education and sports skills development sub-programme, namely;

- i. Vote 111 – National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC);
- ii. Vote 128 – Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB);
- iii. Vote 132 – Education Service Commission;
- iv. Vote 164 – National Council for Higher Education;
- v. Vote 166 – National Council of Sports;
- vi. Vote 169 – Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board;
- vii. Vote 170 – Uganda Health Professionals Assessment Board;
- viii. Vote 301 – Makerere University;
- ix. Vote 302 – Mbarara University of Science and Technology;
- x. Vote 304 – Kyambogo University;
- xi. Vote 305 – Busitema University;
- xii. Vote 306 – Muni University;
- xiii. Vote 307 – Kabale University;
- xiv. Vote 308 – Soroti University;
- xv. Vote 309 – Gulu University;
- xvi. Vote 310 – Lira University;
- xvii. Vote 312 – Uganda Management Institute;
- xviii. Vote 313 – Mountains of the Moon University; and
- xix. Vote 612 – Local Governments.

Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on Table.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, minister. The policy statement stands referred to the Committee on Education and Sports for consideration

MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Hellen, you can read it from there.

3.46

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (DISABILITY AFFAIRS) (Ms Hellen Asamo): Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to read from here. Pursuant to section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 as amended and Rule 153(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, I beg to lay the Ministerial Policy Statements of Vote 018 - Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

Madam Speaker, I also beg to lay Vote 124 - Equal Opportunities Commission for the Financial Year 2026/2027. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The policy statement stands referred to the Sectoral Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development for consideration

MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

3.47

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) (Mr Ecweru Francis): Madam Speaker, in line with Section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act, I have the honour of presenting to this Parliament the Ministerial Policy Statement for the integrated transport infrastructure services programme for the Financial Year 2026/2027. I beg to lay

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, the Ministerial

Policy Statement stands referred to the Sectoral Committee on Physical Infrastructure for consideration.

MINISTRY OF LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Minister of State for lands, Hon. Obiga.

3.48

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (URBAN DEVELOPMENT) (Mr Kania Obiga): Madam Speaker, in accordance with Rule 153 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to lay the Ministerial Policy Statement for Vote 0112, Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, and Vote 156, Uganda Land Commission, for the Financial Year 2026/2027. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, the Ministerial Policy Statement stands referred to the Sectoral Committee on Lands for consideration.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

3.49

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (Mr Norbert Mao): Madam Speaker, in accordance with Section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, and Rule 153(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I present to Parliament the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and its allied statutory institutions, namely:

- i. Vote 007 - Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs;
- ii. Vote 102 - Electoral Commission;
- iii. Vote 105 - Law Reform Commission;
- iv. Vote 106 - Uganda Human Rights Commission;
- v. Vote 119 - Uganda Registration Services Bureau;
- vi. Vote 133 - Directorate of Public Prosecution;
- vii. Vote 148 - Judicial Service Commission;

and

viii. Vote 311 - Law Development Centre.

I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. The Ministerial Policy Statement stands referred to the Sectoral Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for consideration. The chairman is too humble. Congratulations! (*Laughter*)

Parliamentary Commission

THE SPEAKER: Parliamentary Commission. Yes, Commissioner.

3.51

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Parliamentary Commission - Vote 104. I beg to lay, and this is our own.

THE SPEAKER: The Ministerial Policy Statement stands referred to the Sectoral Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for consideration. Thank you, Commissioner.

Ministry of Public Service

3.52

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE (Ms Mary Mugasa): Madam Speaker, in accordance with Section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and pursuant to Rule 153(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda, I rise to lay, on the Table, the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Financial Year 2026/2027 of the Ministry of Public Service for Vote 005.

Also, I beg to lay the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Public Service Commission for Vote 146 for consideration by this august House.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The Ministerial Policy Statement stands referred to the Committee on Public Service and Local Government for consideration.

Ministry of Local Government

THE SPEAKER: Yes, honourable minister.

3.52

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Mr Raphael Magezi):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to lay the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Financial Year 2026/2027 for Vote 011 - Ministry of Local Government; Vote 147 - Local Government Finance Commission, and Votes 601 to 935 for all local governments in Uganda. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The Ministerial Policy Statement stands referred to the Sectoral Committee on Public Service and Local Government for consideration.

Ministry of Water and Environment

3.53

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER AND ENVIRONMENT (WATER) (Ms Aisha Sekindi):

Madam Speaker, in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and pursuant to Rule 153 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda, I rise to lay, on the Table, the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Financial Year 2026/2027 for the Ministry of Water and Environment consisting of:

- i. Vote 019 - Ministry of Water and Environment;
- ii. Vote 150 - National Environment Management Authority (NEMA); and
- iii. Vote 606 - Local Government, plus the work plan for the National Water and Sewage Cooperation for consideration by this august House. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Aisha. The Ministerial Policy Statement stands referred to the Sectoral Committee on Environment and Natural Resources for consideration.

Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development

THE SPEAKER: Yes, honourable minister.

3.55

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (ENERGY) (Mr Sidronius Okaasai):

Madam Speaker, in accordance with Section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and pursuant to Rule 153(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I rise to lay, on the Table, the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development for the Financial Year 2026/2027. I also wish to lay Vote 139 for the Petroleum Authority of Uganda, for consideration by this House. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. The Ministerial Policy Statement stands referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources for consideration.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

3.56

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS) (Mr Okello Oryem): Madam Speaker, in accordance with Section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and pursuant to Rule 153(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of Uganda, I lay on the Table, the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Financial Year 2026/2027 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs consisting:

- i. Vote 006 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
- ii. Votes 501 to 538 - Missions Abroad, amounting to Shs 551,244,000,000, for consideration and approval. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The policy statement is referred to the Sectoral Committee on Foreign Affairs for consideration and report back.

Ministry of Internal Affairs

3.58

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Gen. David Muhoozi): Madam Speaker, in keeping with Section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) and Rule 153(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to lay, on the Table, the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the Financial Year 2026/2027 comprising:

- i. Vote 009 - Ministry of Internal Affairs Headquarters;
- ii. Vote 120 - National Citizenship and Immigration Control;
- iii. Vote 135 - Government Analytical Laboratory;
- iv. Vote 137 - National Identification and Registration Authority;
- v. Vote 144 - Uganda Police Force; and
- vi. Vote 145 - Uganda Prisons Service.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The Ministerial Policy Statement stands referred to the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs for consideration.

Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Oboth.

3.59

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (Mr Jacob Oboth):

Madam Speaker, I seek to move you and this honourable House, under Section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and pursuant to Rule 153(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, and lay on the Table, the Ministerial Policy Statement for Financial Year 2026/2027 of Vote 004 - Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, for consideration by this House. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The ministerial policy statement stands referred to the Sectoral Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs, for consideration.

Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic

Development

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister for finance.

4.00

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, in compliance with Section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act, I beg to lay, on the Table, the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and affiliated agencies, as follows:

- i. Vote 008 - Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;
- ii. Vote 108 - National Planning Authority;
- iii. Vote 123 - National Lotteries and Gaming Regulatory Board;
- iv. Vote 129 - Financial Intelligence Authority;
- v. Vote 130 - Treasury Operations;
- vi. Vote 141 - Uganda Revenue Authority;
- vii. Vote 143 - Uganda Bureau of Statistics;
- viii. Vote 153 - Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority; and
- ix. Vote 163 - Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. The ministerial policy statement stands referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development, for consideration.

Ministry of East African Community Affairs

4.01

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Ministry of East African Community Affairs for the Financial Year 2026/2027 for Vote 021.

THE SPEAKER: The ministerial policy statement stands referred to the Committee of East African Community Affairs for consideration.

Office of the Auditor-General

4.02

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to lay on the Table the Ministerial Policy Statement, Office of the Auditor-General, Vote 131, for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

THE SPEAKER: The ministerial policy statement stands referred to the Sectoral Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Kampala Capital City Authority

4.04

THE MINISTER OF KAMPALA CAPITAL CITY AUTHORITY AND METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS (Ms Minsa Kabanda): Madam Speaker, in compliance with Section 12(13) of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171, I present a Ministerial Policy Statement for Vote 122, Kampala Capital City Authority and Metropolitan Affairs for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

I also present the major achievements registered during the Financial Year 2024/2025 and the half year of 2025/2026, including challenges faced in implementation; the proposed budget estimation and planned outputs for the Financial Year 2026/2027; and key priorities that have remained unfunded.

Madam Speaker, addressing the funding gaps in this ministerial policy statement will go a long way in enhancing service delivery in the city and restore public trust and enhance the image of the city, especially as the country gears up to host the 2027 African Cup of Nations (AFCON). I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The ministerial policy statement stands referred to the Committee on Presidential Affairs for consideration.

Ministry of ICT and National Guidance

4.05

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Rule 153 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to lay on the Table, the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Financial Year 2026/2027 covering Vote 020 - Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and National Guidance and Vote 126 - National Information Technology Authority Uganda.

THE SPEAKER: The ministerial policy statement stands referred to the Committee on ICT and National Guidance for consideration.

The Inspectorate of Government

4.07

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Rule 153(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to lay on the Table the Ministerial Policy Statement Vote 103 - Inspectorate of Government, for the Financial Year 2026/2027. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The policy statement stands referred to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for consideration, and report back by 15 April 2026.

MOTION URGING THE GOVERNMENT
TO RECOGNISE THE SICKLE CELL
DISEASE AS A MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH
CONCERN THAT REQUIRES IMMEDIATE
BUDGETARY ATTENTION

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Isingoma.

MR ISINGOMA: Thank you. Madam Speaker, I beg to take Members back a bit. When the minister for education was presenting, she mentioned so many universities, which have Votes, but I did not hear Bunyoro University –

THE SPEAKER: And Busoga University –

MR ISINGOMA: Yes, and Busoga

University. Although the minister is not here, the Government Chief Whip, I think, appears to be a widely knowledgeable man, and he can give us an explanation. Why are we not having Bunyoro and Busoga universities? Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you could find out and then report back on Tuesday, because we need those universities in the budget.

MOTION URGING GOVERNMENT
TO RECOGNISE THE SICKLE CELL
DISEASE AS A MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH
CONCERN THAT REQUIRES IMMEDIATE
BUDGETARY ATTENTION

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure, the motion was brought, and I want to invite the mover of the motion to read it. Yes, Hon. Basalirwa.

4.09

MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I thank you so much. This is a motion for a resolution of Parliament urging the Government to recognise sickle cell disease as a major non-communicable condition that requires urgent public health intervention.

Madam Speaker, we move the motion with a lot of emotion as victims, as carriers, but also as concerned citizens.

The motion reads:

“WHEREAS the National Objectives and Direct Principles of State Policy of the 1995 Constitution enjoin the state to take all practical measures to ensure the provision of basic medical services to the population;

AND WHEREAS the 59th World Health Assembly that was held on the 27th of May 2006 under resolution 5920 on Sickle Cell Anaemia expressed concern that the global mortality and morbidity caused by Sickle Cell disease, particularly in developing countries, as well as

the suffering experienced by patients and their families among others;

AWARE that following the 59th World Health Assembly, member states in which Sickle Cell Anaemia is a public health problem were urged to design, implement, and systematically reinforce comprehensive national integrated programmes for the prevention and management of Sickle Cell Anaemia, including surveillance, dissemination of information, awareness raising, counselling and screening among others;

NOTING that in 2016, Uganda was reported to have a significant burden of sickle cell disease with a national sickle cell trait prevalent at approximately 13.3 per cent, indicating that about one in seven people is a carrier. While the prevalence of sickle cell disease was estimated at around 0.8 per cent, with notable regional variations;

FURTHER NOTING that sickle cell disease remains a public health concern prevalent in Uganda and a contributor to child mortality, with about 20,000 babies being born with the sickle cell disease annually, and approximately 6,000 to 9,000 children dying before their fifth birthday, largely due to lack of early diagnosis and inadequate access to comprehensive care;

AWARE that treating sickle cell disease imposes a significant economic burden on the patients and their families, especially given that according to the disease trends reported in the Ministry of Health annual health sector performance report 2022-2023, hospital admissions of sickle cell patients increased by 28.5 per cent;

COGNISANT of the Government interventions through the Ministry of Health in the fight against sickle cell disease, including mandatory sickle cell screening for all newborn babies, implementing targeted screening in high-prevalence regions, integrating sickle cell disease treatment within the non-communicable diseases department, and institutionalising sickle cell disease services within the national health system;

CONCERNED that despite the Government's

efforts to combat sickle cell disease, inadequate resource allocation and limited investment in sickle cell programmes continue to contribute to increasing prevalence and sustained mortality;

FURTHER CONCERNED that the sickle cell disease remains one of the most traumatising genetic diseases, resulting in significant psychosocial and economic consequences for patients and their families, including recurrent painful crises, chronic medical complications, increased mobility and mortality, frequent hospitalisation, reduced quality of life, social stigma, disrupted education and employment, and considerable financial strain due to long-term care and treatment;

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

- 1. To recognise the sickle cell disease as a major non-communicable disease that requires urgent public health intervention;*
- 2. To provide adequate funding to facilitate mandatory screening, treatment access, research, and public awareness; and*
- 3. To strengthen the sickle cell disease awareness campaign to educate the public on the genetic nature of the disease to prevent transmission of the disease."*

I beg to move, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? Okay, it is seconded by the whole House. I can mention that it is seconded by Hon. Dr Ayume, Hon. Oboth, Hon. Patrick, Dr Bwanika, Dr Bayigga, Dr Batuwa, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Kayemba Ssolo, Hon. Christine, Hon. Ikojo, Hon. Angura, Hon. Orono, Hon. Jovanice Twinobusingye, Hon. Goli, Hon. Odoi-Oywelowo, Hon. Ferigo Kambale - *Nnalongo* is also there - Hon. Kabanda, Hon. Chemonges, Dr Nekesa, Hon. Charity Bainababo, Hon. Naluyima, Hon. Aogon, Hon. Noah, Hon. Okumu – are you not putting me to the test? Okay, it is seconded by the whole House. Would you love to speak to your motion?

MR BASALIRWA: Thank you very much,

Madam Speaker. In the motion I tabled, I cited certain statistics that I want to highlight further to justify the motion.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Health, Uganda ranks fifth globally in sickle cell prevalence and third in Africa.

About seven million Ugandans carry the sickle cell trait, and it is found across the country's regions. Particularly in Lango, Alebtong District is most affected. In Busoga, Namutumba District, in Rwenzori, Bundibugyo District, in Bunyoro, it is Buliisa District, in Teso, it is Amuria District, with a prevalence of about 24 per cent. Other places like Bugiri, where I come from, have about 22.7 per cent. In Katakwi, it is about 20 per cent, in Kikuube, about 33 per cent, in Buliisa, about 26 per cent. About 9,000 babies die before 5 years.

Madam Speaker, the statistics I am adumbrating do not relate to forests. They are not about stones. These are statistics on human beings and "*Wanaichi*" affected by this disease.

These statistics have been exacerbated by the inadequate funding of this disease and the fact that, increasingly, there is declining development aid towards the health sector because most donors are not interested in funding non-communicable diseases.

Madam Speaker, as I highlighted, the burden on families and household income is immense, arising from the cost of treating this disease. We all recall the case of a lady, Hope Fortunate Aciro, who spent about Shs 2 billion treating her two children in India, only for them to unfortunately pass on. You can imagine spending such amounts of money, but still your children die.

At the political level, there are increasing community fundraising and funding requests from even us, Members of Parliament, whose families have been afflicted by this disease. Ideally, you require between Shs 300 million and Shs 1 billion to travel abroad, especially to India, for this treatment. The burden on us, even as MPs, is enormous arising out of this

disease.

There is increasing stigmatisation of the affected persons and increasing domestic violence in some areas, especially among women and children who are actually looked at as the cause of the disease and ailments of this nature, in our traditional and chauvinistic families.

Madam Speaker, sickle cell warriors in our schools are mismanaged due to a lack of awareness, training, and basic facilities needed to make these schools safe places for learners. Simple actions like removing sweaters from learners can deteriorate their health and potentially lead to loss of life. However, due to a lack of awareness, you find that school authorities are implementing such kind of actions to the detriment of the children.

Madam Speaker, I also want to mention that there are no specialised medical doctors for adolescents and adults with sickle cell disease. Paediatricians undertake all specialised sickle cell treatment in the country. This causes more stigma to the adults that are seeking treatment and more congestion in the paediatric clinics for the sickle cell.

We also noted that unlike Human Immune Virus (HIV), we do not have a sickle cell registry in the country and it is because of lack of a structured testing programme.

In light of what we have mentioned, we urge Government and this Parliament to consider a raft of interventions for purposes of addressing this scourge. All this can be possible if there are resources dedicated and committed. It is therefore incumbent upon us as Parliament to consider that while debating this motion. Once there are resources, we will be able to build a national registry for sickle cell disease to facilitate treatment. The capacity of health laboratories will be enhanced and this will enable comprehensive testing and also to scale up the treatment and care across the country.

As Parliament, I would also humbly submit that

the Honourable Prime Minister or the Minister for Health should occasionally present a report on the state of sickle cell disease in Uganda and the strategy for managing this growing non-communicable disease.

We can achieve all this, if there is a substantial allocation of resources towards management and treatment of sickle cell disease, and the need to ring-fence monies for treatment and management of this disease.

Madam Speaker, if this motion carries the day, it will not be the first time this Parliament ring-fences monies to cater for particular activities or projects.

As I have mentioned, sickle cell disease is a leading non-communicable disease in Uganda with dire consequences for the country and the victims and affected families, we can no longer afford to treat it casually. We need structured programming, dedicated funding and a national focus on this disease.

Madam Speaker, since this 11th Parliament has gone on record on many issues under your leadership, I pray that we should once again go on record for having recognised the sickle cell disease as a major public health concern that requires urgent public attention and focused funding. I know once the motion carries the day, it will once again go on your record as we prepare to usher you in as the Speaker of the 12th Parliament.

I submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Asuman. Honourable members, the issues that Hon. Asuman raises are very pertinent. Sickle cell disease has become worse than anything else. Yes, Hon. Hope.

4.25

MS HOPE NAKAZIBWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mubende): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I thank Hon. Asuman. As you have said, the motion he raised is very pertinent in this country. When you look at the globe, Uganda is ranked number five among the countries most affected by sickle cell disease.

Madam Speaker, I rise to second this motion that

the Government considers this a serious burden of public concern that needs urgent attention in terms of budgeting. Uganda has made a number of commitments towards achieving good health. Amongst the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that we are signatories to, health and well-being is number three. We cannot say we have good health and well-being when 13.3 per cent of Ugandans are suffering from the sickle cell disease, considering the poverty levels that we have in this country.

Madam Speaker, the other concern that we have to look into, as the 11th Parliament, in support of this motion, is that we are signatories to the Abuja Declaration, where we want to work towards achieving 15 per cent funding to health in totality of the budget of the country. We are currently at 8.1 per cent. If we do this strategic and deliberate funding for diseases like Sickle Cell, this will take us towards achieving the 15 per cent.

I urge this honourable House to support this motion that we consider sickle cell disease a serious burden to this country.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Nalongo. Let us hear from Dr Ayume.

4.26

DR CHARLES AYUME (NRM, Koboko Municipality, Koboko): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Colleagues, I would like to join the mover by supporting this motion to urge the Government to recognise the sickle cell disease as a major public health concern that requires immediate budgetary allocation.

Madam Speaker, it warms my heart that the mover of the motion is a non-medical person, but he also comes from a region where the disease is very prevalent, the Busoga Subregion. Sickle cell disease is preventable. The outcome of two excited adults who are carriers, nine months later giving birth to a child who is a sickler, can be prevented, if there is a lot of public awareness.

Thirty years ago, we came out strongly on

HIV/AIDS, and it was because there was big political will, religious leaders were on board, cultural leaders were on board, and today, our prevalence of HIV jumped from 20 per cent to 6.4 per cent.

Therefore, the statistics that the honourable member has given is possible if we put all hands-on deck. I, therefore, encourage that it should not only be scientifically led or driven by funding, but that politicians, especially the women MPs, should come out quite strongly. When you go back to your constituencies, you need to sensitise the population. We need to tap into the religious leaders. At one point, you would not get married if you had not had a certificate of HIV testing, and I think we can do the same for the sickle cell disease. The church came out strongly, and we need to be strong on that.

We can also tap into the cultural leaders and influencers, like you, Madam Speaker, you are a very big influencer, Bad Black, Zari *-(Laughter)-* all these are social media influencers and they have a following - Byaru, Gloria Bugie, and so forth - Balaam is a very big influencer.

THE SPEAKER: Actually, LOP is a very good influencer.

DR AYUME: Even the LOP is an influencer, Dr Bayigga Lulume and so forth. So, we need to tap into this.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to salute this Parliament that in 2023, when I was the Chairperson of the Committee on Health, we allocated money for a drug called hydroxyurea: we ring-fenced it and gave it to NMS with strict instructions that they should not touch that money or do a virement.

I would like to tell this august House that the drug has done wonders and alleviated suffering, and we now need to get it to our lower-level units - *(Applause)* - the cost of one capsule of that drug is Shs 1,000. If we allocated Shs 5 to 10 billion this financial year, ring-fence it and give it to NMS, we would be able to do

wonders.

As I conclude, the percentage of sickle cell disease - we have what we call the trait - the trait is higher, it is at 13.3 per cent but the honourable member told you that in Alebtong District, it is at 23 per cent. This mirrors the incidence where we get high malaria incidences. As we try to tackle sickle cell, we also need to look at the issue of Malaria.

Sickle cell is not only about the budget; it is about behaviour change. So, if two adults can say, "We are not going to get married because we are carriers of the trait," then we can wipe out sickle cell disease.

The Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC) is doing heavy research in what we call gene editing, where we are trying to see if we can delete the sickle cell gene, which is very prominent among blacks, and that is how God created us. It is less prominent among Europeans but common in blacks. About 45 per cent of Africans carry the Sickle Cell trait.

Madam Speaker, it is doable, and I would, therefore, like to join my colleagues in supporting the motion. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is very clear, and it is about creating public awareness on Sickle Cell disease, mandatory testing, and funding. Hon. Col. Dr Nekesa, do you want to say something?

4.32

COL DR VICTOR NEKESA (UPDF Representative): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support the motion about sickle cell disease. In modern times, many are aware that sickle cell disease is a killer, and unless known and treated early, it can give families misery.

Modern times dictate that our families are really looked into; they are treasures. A child born with sickle cell disease can be a burden to the family, the nation and the economy.

However, with modern technology, as

mentioned by the former Chairperson of the Committee on Health, besides gene editing, we can also be able to get and know that there are technologies that help children who have genes for Sickle Cell, and they get better children through techniques like intravenous fertilisation, and you get babies who are not sicklers.

We also pray that this august House, with time, is able to get technology and assist reproduction so that the foetus that has it does not have to grow up with it at all through intravenous fertilisation and others. For that matter, I support couples who are going to have anything to do with marriage to know their status, and if there are any genes for that matter that are at risk, science gets handy so that we are able to have better children and families.

I thank you for the opportunity, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: That tells you the importance of the Assisted Reproductive Bill that was brought in the House, and that is what Hon. Dr Nekesa is talking about. Maybe we could amend prayer No. two, where you said, “to provide adequate funding...” to “To urge the Government to provide...” Yes, Hon. Dr Batuwa.

4.34

DR TIMOTHY BATUWA (FDC, Jinja South Division West, Jinja City): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to second the motion. Particularly at this moment when the 11th Parliament passed a legislation: The Human Organ Donation and Transplant law, that really facilitates a science that cures the disease.

The World Health Organisation recognises that bone marrow transplant or the hematopoietic stem cell transplant is a potential curative therapy. It is a viable treatment option, particularly for patients with severe disease and complications.

What I should urge the Government to do is to improve access. Now that we have the law in place, we should have access so that for those

who are sick, at least they can get cured.

In improving access, we will be looking at developing expertise. What we need to cure is actually cells from the bone marrow. These are blood products, and the technology available in the blood banks can have sufficient technology to isolate some of these products that we need to actually come about with this cure. The specialist required is a - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Dr Lulume.

4.36

DR LULUME BAYIGGA (DP, Buikwe County South, Buikwe): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. There are - maybe my colleague could give way - he will come back and complete.

Well, I stand to second this important motion and also thank the mover for bringing it here.

First of all, the public health concern about educating the masses becomes an important ingredient in managing this scourge of the disease. The other concern is about the international agencies, which have been supporting the Ugandan Government - World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), whose resources cannot be predicted. This calls for our Government to ensure that the disease is contained.

We also want to descend down into the schools because this is where education is more important. The boys and girls may not wait until they are educated by radio, television, or through any other media because they will start their sexual activity while they are young. They will be making babies without knowing or even screening.

It is, therefore, important that this education is cascaded to the grassroots level, including primary and secondary schools, before children reach the age of majority, so that they make decisions while knowing what exactly they are going to come up with, just in case they are carriers.

The other thing is about the expense in the

management of this disease and the availability of the medicines that can help to prevent the severe pain, which our children go through, especially when they get attacks. Hydroxyurea is a drug of choice, which has been procured by the National Medical Stores and given to various health facilities, but you may find that many of our patients in the community may not even know that such medicines exist in the hospitals.

It, therefore, becomes imperative for us to advocate for more resources, to buy Hydroxyurea to prevent those already afflicted by this disease, in order to lead a better life and to assist in the management of the disease better so that our parents and children do not suffer the pain, which has been described by the learned friend here, Hon. Basalirwa. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Dan.

4.40

MR DAN ATWIJUKIRE (NRM, Kazo County, Kazo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to second the motion but also to tell the honourable colleagues and the country at large that as we urge the Government, we should also appreciate it because currently, we manufacture Sickle Cell test kits in Uganda. The Ministry of Health has launched a new initiative to provide kits for every child born, with testing for Sickle Cell.

If the motion takes the day of ring-fencing the money, this initiative will help to provide the funds that will enable the Ministry of Health to buy these kits now that they are locally manufactured. It will also support all facilities in the country to have them at the lowest level and train those who deliver women, even at Health centres III, to be able to test and be sure that a child has sickle cells or not. That, gradually, will help us reduce the burden, as stated by Hon. Basalirwa in his motion.

I second the motion and thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, not

everybody knows or knew that we manufacture the test kits. That is why it is important for us to create awareness. Maybe, in the first prayer, where you are saying, “to recognise”, we could say “to further recognise” the sickle cell disease as one of the major - because there are other major ones. We could also put that.

Yes, Hon. Laura.

4.42

MS LAURA KANUSHU (NRM, PWD Representative): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support the motion from a disability perspective. One of the causes of disability in this country is the sickle cell disease. It causes cognitive impairment and physical disabilities. Also, Uganda has an obligation, under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to, as much as possible, curb the rise of disability.

Therefore, the reason I am supporting the motion is because when we implement what Hon. Basalirwa has proposed in the motion, in one way or another, we will be trying to reduce on the number of persons with disabilities, which is an international obligation that we have as a country.

Also, much as we are persons with disabilities, one of the families that we believe should not grow is the family of disability. I support the motion from a disability perspective. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Let us hear from Government.

4.43

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, the debate about the sickle cell disease is not only for the scientists. That is why I would like to thank Hon. Asuman, for moving the motion.

I state that, on behalf of the Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Health, we recognise the sickle cell disease as a major or one of the major public health challenges. The national trait prevalence, as earlier on alluded to by Hon. Dr Ayume, is 13.3 per cent and

over 20,000 babies are born with the disease annually, to add onto the statistics.

The Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Health, has adopted a proactive and comprehensive position on sickle cell disease. Just to give an example of the Lango Subregion, where I come from, because I know for a fact that the testing machine is currently available in about four health facilities; one at Lira Regional Referral Hospital, another at Apac General Hospital, then Alebtong Health Centre IV, and Amolatar Health Centre IV, being part of the proactive management of sickle cell disease by the Government of Uganda.

Under the preventive focus, for us as public officers, it is important to take stock and use all the public gatherings in order to drum up support. First of all, by announcing the presence of this big lion within our midst, such that people can even move on their own to know their respective status as far as sickle cell disease is concerned, especially in health centres and general hospitals, where the testing machines are available.

The issue of the sickle cell disease is also getting integrated into the national health system by the Ministry of Health on behalf of the Government of Uganda. The Government is also trying its best to ensure the availability of essential medicines, just like Hon. Ayume alluded to that fact.

We are also encouraging and calling out for public-private partnerships. There are a number of organisations that are moving into the countryside to complement the efforts of the Government in sensitising our local communities on the presence of sickle cell disease.

Therefore, all is not lost. It is a work in progress. This is a new monster that has attacked our respective villages. It is important that we make the loudest noise in order to mitigate the prevalence rate and bring it down, as we did with HIV/AIDS. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I put the question

that the motion for a resolution of Parliament urging the Government to recognise Sickle Cell Disease as a major public health concern that requires immediate budgetary attention be adopted by this House, with amendments.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Motion, adopted.

THE SPEAKER: The Clerk is instructed to extract the resolution and transmit it to the relevant Government agencies or ministries. Next item.

BILLS SECOND READING

THE NATIONAL LEGAL AID BILL, 2022

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, you will recall that the National Legal Aid Bill was read for the first time on 28 September 2022 and referred to the Sectoral Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs.

The Bill came up for the Second Reading on Wednesday, 16 December 2022. However, a number of issues were raised, requiring harmonisation between the sponsor of the Bill, Hon. Silas Aogon, and the Executive.

On Thursday, 17 December 2022, a harmonisation meeting was held, during which it was agreed that further harmonisation between the sponsor, the Attorney-General and the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs was necessary. Since then, the Bill remains pending.

Given the tight schedule of the remaining duration of the 11th Parliament, I seek a conclusive resolution on this matter on the Floor. If the Government has a more sustainable option for legal aid matters in the Justice Law and Order Sector, then, the House should be informed and the sponsor withdraws his Bill, in the interest of greater common good.

The Attorney-General will give us an update

and tell us if he is willing to take on the Bill, in line with Rule 146 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

4.49

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. The summary and history of this Bill have been well enumerated, and I thank you for that.

Currently, legal aid is handled on an ad hoc basis using the justice centres under the Justice Law and Order Sector. However, we appreciate the intervention of the Private Member with his Bill. We agree with the principle behind the Legal Aid Bill.

What we have not been able to reconcile are some of the salient aspects, particularly the financing of this Bill. Madam Speaker, I am still conferring with my colleague and we think that we can be able to bring back this Bill after harmonising with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and finding a sustainable method of financing this legal aid.

If it pleases this honourable House, we would be happy to take over the Bill, under rule 147, but bring back the Bill, as we did with the Sports Bill – between the Government and the Private Member. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The mover?

4.50

MR SILAS AOGON (Independent, Kumi Municipality, Kumi): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. Three days back, when I saw on the Order Paper that the National Legal Aid Bill was Item No. 6, I got excited. I slept very well and woke up early; I was feeling sound because I was excited. *(Laughter)*

For the next two days, I decided not to sleep because I was preparing to have this Bill debated by this august House, so that the citizens of this country would have a final gift from this 11th Parliament to the nation.

Madam Speaker, when we talk about legal

aid, we are talking about legal support to the vulnerable, marginalised and indigent persons; those who cannot afford the services of lawyers. Look at our situation here. It can be somebody who was a candidate in the parliamentary elections. If you lose an election because there was an issue, you require the services of a lawyer, yet you cannot afford. Those are some of the instances, but we are talking about the family level –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Aogon –

MR AOGON: I am just giving a background, Madam Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Silas, everybody appreciates the importance of the legal aid Bill – and we all need it – but we do not want your Bill to collapse with the term. That is why we are saying: can we move it forward to the next term so that we have it brought back to the House? This is a very important Bill. *(Applause)*

MR AOGON: Madam Speaker, I had not yet concluded because, in my mind, I had something –

THE SPEAKER: I know that you will not conclude; I know you. *(Laughter)* I want us to be mindful of time; we have a lot on the Order Paper, please.

MR AOGON: Madam Speaker, I am so mindful of time. I treat this submission as a maiden –

THE SPEAKER: It is in your interest that this Bill is brought back to the House, other than letting it elapse with this Parliament. Look at rule 245.

MR AOGON: Thank you. Somebody is advising me not to cry. I am always a strong man, even under circumstances such as this one. Madam Speaker, let me read my –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Silas Aogon, what I am requesting you to do is to bring back this Bill in the 12th Parliament, together with

the Government, the way the Sports Bill was brought to the House. When you bring it, you will work together with the Government since you have all the information – data, and literature – to that effect.

MR AOGON: Madam Speaker, you are the custodian of all this and I want to proceed straight away and read the motion for withdrawal of the National Legal Aid Bill, 2022. I am well informed – I am an adult.

Based on the guidance from the Attorney-General, the Speaker of the House, the committee and well-wishers from Uganda, I beg to move that in accordance with Rule 146 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the National Legal Aid Bill, 2022 be withdrawn.

The justification is that the National Legal Aid Bill, 2022, was read for the first time –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, you need seconders to that effect first. (*Members rose.*) I have Hon. Muwuma, Hon. Ferigo, Hon. Laura, Hon. Richard, Hon. Achan, Hon. Hope, Hon. Fox, Hon. Jacob, Hon. David, Hon. Edakasi, Hon. Akifeza, Hon. Rose, Hon. Linda, Hon. Margaret, Hon. Victorious, Hon. Noah, Hon. Gabriel, Hon. Apio, the honourable Chief Opposition Whip, and the Members for Kassanda – both man and woman. (*Laughter*) You know I cannot mention his name because he is my father.

MR AOGON: Madam Speaker, I accept this because I am so excited that the Government has now agreed to take full responsibility for funding legal aid. I beg that you undertake and fulfil the commitments as outlined below.

THE SPEAKER: He has already undertaken.

MR AOGON: Madam Speaker, give me the chance, I beg.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Attorney-General, the withdrawal of this Bill is based on the fact that you are going to co-own the Bill. That is number one. In the process of co-owning the Bill, the Government will take

responsibility for the Bill.

MR AOGON: I beg for your indulgence, Madam Speaker, that I read out my own plea to the Government.

Number one, that the Government undertakes to jointly develop a Bill and have it ready for reintroduction in the first session of the 12th Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: The first session of the 12th Parliament is the voting of the Speaker of Parliament, who will be triple A and double T.

MR AOGON: Madam, Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: That is the first session. The first sitting of the first session. Honourable Attorney-General, just give him confidence. Let him give you his requirements, and then you give him the confidence.

MR AOGON: No, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, go ahead.

MR AOGON: I beg you to protect me as your member.

THE SPEAKER: It is okay.

MR AOGON: Allow me the liberty. When I talk about the first session, I am talking about the first 12 months of the next House. I am just not referring to the first sitting, but the first session.

Number two, that the finance minister undertakes to timely grant a certificate of financial implication to the Bill when applied for.

Number three, that the Government undertakes to finance the provision of legal aid services in Uganda.

Finally, the Government undertakes to report to the House on the progress of this process quarterly. That is every three months. Then I will know that you are determined and serious.

I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Attorney-General.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Madam Speaker, as I said, the Government is undertaking to co-own and co-sponsor a Bill on legal aid. I cannot usurp the powers of this House on how the money of Government will be appropriated. Therefore, this House will determine what it will give to this Bill. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Oboth?

4.59

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (Mr Jacob Oboth): But the - I have-

THE SPEAKER: You are the seconder of the Bill. Do you want to go with the Bill?

MR OBOTH: I must thank the Speaker and the Attorney-General for this very innovative way of saving business ahead of time. I think, Hon. Silas, you should be more excited that this matter has finally gotten the attention of the Government. I only got a bit discouraged when you were reading conditions as if you were getting out of the Bill. The Government has given you the latitude and opportunity to work together. Therefore, if you are saying all this, what will you say behind the scenes?

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the National Legal Aid Bill, 2022, be withdrawn.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Bill withdrawn.

BILLS
SECOND READING

THE HUMAN ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY BILL, 2023.

THE SPEAKER: Attorney-General, do you have somebody to handle that?

5.03

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Madam Speaker, this was a private Member's Bill, but a conversation had been commenced between the Ministry of Health and the private Member. The Ministry of Health also had a Bill. So, they were reconciling the two.

THE SPEAKER: The same Bill?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: The same Bill. They had finished the regulatory impact assessment, gone through the principles, and started drafting. So, the two parties were harmonising. Then, before we could get into that, we entered into this new space. This Bill will be brought by the Government. So, I pray that this Bill be withdrawn or lapsed, so that it can be brought by the Government. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

MR SIMON OPOLOT: Madam Speaker, whereas I respect the advice of the learned Attorney-General, I would suggest that we give time to the mover, who brought the Bill, so that we hear whether he concurs with the Attorney-General officially.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, one of the issues that we agreed on this Bill was that the Government takes it over because the same Bill was before Cabinet. We can still stand over it and wait for the mover, and if the mover is not there, Rule 245 will sweep it off. Next.

BILLS
SECOND READING

THE CONTRACT FARMING BILL, 2023

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, you recall that the Contracts Farming Bill 2023 was read for the first time on 30 April 2024 and referred to the Sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. On 4 March 2025, the Bill came up for the second reading, during which various issues arose, leading to the harmonisation meeting

between the sponsor, Hon. Dr Abed Bwanika, the Attorney-General and the committee.

This outcome of the harmonisation remains pending to date. Just as we treated the National Legal Aid Bill, I require the front bench to undertake and conclusively address the matter. If need be, the Government is convinced that the object of the Bill can still be achieved within the existing legal and policy regimes; they should persuade the House accordingly, which will help the Legislature.

If the mover of the Bill, Dr Abed, is around, he could move a motion to withdraw the Bill, and then the Bill would be reintroduced in the 12th Parliament. Hon. Abed?

5.05

DR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimaanya-Kabonera County, Masaka): Madam Speaker, motion for withdrawal of the Contract Farming Bill 2024. Madam Speaker, and Honourable members, I beg to move that, in accordance with Rule 146 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the Contract Farming Bill, 2024, be withdrawn. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Seconded? Is the withdrawal seconded by Hon. Basalirwa, Hon. Rose, Hon. Gabriel, Hon. Muwuma, Hon. David, Hon. Okwalinga, Hon. Yusuf Nsibambi (counsel), Hon. Hope Grania, Hon. Ayume, Hon. Oboth, Hon. Obua Hamson Denis, Hon. Fox, Hon. Jackson, Hon. Peninah, Hon. Achan, honourable member for older persons. Do you want to speak to it?

5.05

DR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimaanya-Kabonera Division, Masaka City): Madam Speaker, the Contract Farming Bill, 2023 was read to Parliament for the first time on 30 April 2024, and the Speaker referred the Bill to the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries for study, scrutiny and report back within 45 days.

The Bill seeks to create a legal framework to regulate the execution of transactions relating to the consolidation of parcels of land and

agricultural establishment in a single land unit for commercial agriculture; sale of future agricultural produce at a mutually agreed price and supply of farm inputs and services between a farmer and a buyer of agricultural produce.

This Bill seeks to address one of the biggest challenges facing farmers in this country: the price of their commodities.

The Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries conducted the study, scrutinised the Bill, and presented its report to the House on 24 March 2025. The presiding officer then raised issues requiring harmonisation among the committee, the mover, and the Attorney-General.

The harmonisation was begun. We interacted with the Attorney-General, and we picked up on many issues that were useful in the Bill. He advised that the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries take it on. We are supposed to interact more, but I believe we have been caught up in time.

This is a crucial Bill that requires all stakeholders to be in agreement in order for it to be effective. Accordingly, I hereby seek leave and permission to withdraw the Contract Farming Bill, 2023.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Dr Abed. I put the question that the Contract Farming Bill, 2023, be withdrawn.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Bill withdrawn.

BILLS SECOND READING

THE SEXUAL OFFENCES BILL, 2024

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the Sexual Offences Bill, 2024, was read for the first time on 14 October 2024 and referred to the joint committee comprising the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and the Committee on Gender, Labour and Social

Development.

During scrutiny of the Bill, it has emerged that the Government has reservations, given that the object of the Bill is to define and criminalise sexual offences which are already covered under the existing laws. To conserve time and effort, I will ask the sponsor of the Bill, Hon. Anna Adeke Ebaju, and she delegated Hon. Flavia of Kassanda, to bring a withdrawal motion.

5.11

MS FLAVIA NABAGABE (NUP, Woman Representative, Kassanda): Thank Madam Speaker. On behalf of the mover of this motion, Hon. Adeke Anna Ebaju, District Woman Member of Parliament, Soroti, I beg to move that, in accordance with Rule 146 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the Sexual Offences Bill, 2024, be withdrawn.

THE SPEAKER: It is seconded by Hon. Obua, Hon. Baka, Hon. Teira, Hon. Muwuma, Hon. Gabriel, Hon. Noah, Hon. Gerald, *Mukatuliki*, Hon. Vicky, Hon. Linda, Hon. Moses Walyomu, Hon. Margaret, and honourable member for Kassanda.

MS NABAGABE: Thank you, Members. Justification: The Sexual Offences Bill, 2024, was read for the first time on Monday, 14 October 2024, and referred to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for scrutiny and consideration.

The object of this Bill is:

- j. To enact a specific law on sexual offences for the effective prevention of sexual violence.
- k. To enhance the punishment of sexual offenders.
- l. To provide for the protection of victims during sexual offence trials.
- m. To provide for the extra-territorial application of the law.
- n. To repeal some provisions of the Penal Code Act, Cap 128.

The committee has so far carried out extensive

consultations on the Bill and has received varying views, which have the effect of altering the Bill's subject matter.

I, therefore, move to withdraw the Sexual Offences Bill, 2024.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the Sexual Offences Bill, 2024 be withdrawn.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Bill withdrawn.

BILLS SECOND READING

THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS BILL, 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the Human Resource Management Professionals Bill, 2025, was tabled by a private Member, Hon. Margaret, on 9 September 2025 and referred to a joint committee of the Committees on Public Service; Local Government and Gender, Labour and Social Development. The Bill sought to professionalise and regulate human resource management practices.

During the consideration, it emerged that the Government intends to take over the Bill to broaden its scope and application. I invite the sponsor, Hon. Margaret, to move a withdrawal motion.

5.14

MS MARGARET RWABUSHAIJA (Independent, Workers Representative): Thank you, Madam Speaker. We had started moving with the Ministry of Public Service and we have had meetings, but the way I see it, it is better that they take it over as long as the workers –

THE SPEAKER: Then you can reintroduce it when the new term begins.

MS RWABUSHAIJA: I will. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Therefore, move a motion

of withdrawal.

MS RWABUSHAIJA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to give notice of my wish to withdraw the Human Resource Management Bill, 2025 in accordance –

THE SPEAKER: You are moving a motion to withdraw, not a notice.

MS RWABUSHAIJA: I move a motion that the Human Resource Management Professionals Bill, 2025 be withdrawn until further notice.

THE SPEAKER: Seconded by Hon. Teira, Hon. Oboth Jacob, Hon. Mary Mugasa, Hon. Baka, Hon. Dennis Nyangweso, Hon. Faith Kunihira, Hon. Noah Mutebi, Hon. Vicky, Hon. Linda Auma, Hon. Moses, Hon. David, Hon. Charles, and Hon. Dennis.

I put the question that the Human Resource Management Professionals Bill, 2025, be withdrawn.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Bill withdrawn.

BILLS SECOND READING

THE ADMINISTRATION OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the Administration of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2024, is a Private Member's Bill that was tabled on 1 October 2024, and referred to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs.

In the process of considering the Bill, there was convergence by almost all witnesses, including the Attorney-General, that the object of the Bill was at odds with the known principles of the Westminster Parliamentary System.

Since we are a people-centred Legislature, we

are duty-bound to be responsive to the views and aspirations of the masses. Therefore, if indeed the Bill is considered, why would we proceed with it? I will ask the mover/sponsor of the Bill, Hon. Richard Lumu, to concede and withdraw the Bill pursuant to Rule 146 of the Rules of Procedure.

5.18

MR RICHARD LUMU (DP, Mityana County South, Mityana): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am here to move a motion to withdraw a Bill entitled, "The Administration of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2024", in accordance with Rule 146 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Seconded by: Hon. Francis Mwijukye, Hon. Denis Nyangweso, Hon. Ssimbwa, Hon. Akena, Hon. Matovu, Dr Lulume, Dr Kamara, Members for Kassanda; women and men, Hon. Gilbert, Hon. Nambeshe, Hon. Ssewungu, Dr Batuwa, Hon. Baka.

Honourable members, we need a comprehensive amendment in the Administration of Parliament Bill, and that comprehensive amendment should be brought in the 12th Parliament. We should not bring it piecemeal.

MR LUMU: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Bill had its first reading on 1 October 2024, and it was referred to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. I heard the Attorney-General advised very well, and I also got an opportunity to visit and interact with all political parties, and other stakeholders.

Madam Speaker, most of them were not in favour of the Bill which I had moved, except a few, which I cannot mention here. With that, I accordingly seek permission that the Bill be withdrawn. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the Administration of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2024, be withdrawn.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Bill withdrawn.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL (AMENDMENT)

BILL 2024

THE SPEAKER: Why don't we look at the Marriage Bill?

BILLS
SECOND READING

THE MARRIAGE BILL, 2024

THE SPEAKER: Who was the mover? Hon. Sarah is not there. Next item.

BILLS
SECOND READING

THE CONSTITUTIONAL (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2024

5.22

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Madam Speaker, this is a RAPEX (Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure) Bill with the object of merging the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Uganda Human Rights Commission. We are in a budgeting cycle, and can be extremely disruptive if we make this amendment at this time.

I am seeking the indulgence of this House to delay the consideration of this Bill pursuant to Rule 147 of the parliamentary rules. I beg to submit *-(Interjection)-* not to withdraw. The idea is that we are still continuing with the rationalisation of Government. The first phase was completed; we had some two or three Bills that remained.

However, we have gotten into another budgeting cycle, and as you have noticed, Votes have been given here for the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Uganda Human Rights Commission. We want to delay the consideration of this Bill, we go through this cycle then when we are done with that process, we can come back and consider it. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Attorney-

General, Rule 147 of our Rules of Procedure on delay refers to the committee. On top of the 45 days, you extend the days. Since that was a Government Bill, the Attorney-General could want to go and get permission from the Cabinet to come and withdraw the Bill and reintroduce it.

We can give him up to Tuesday to come back on that.

MR KIRYOWA: Most obliged, Madam Speaker.

BILLS
SECOND READING

THE COPYRIGHT AND NEIGHBOURING
RIGHTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2025, was tabled for the first reading by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs on 13 May 2025. The Bill was referred to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for consideration. The committee is ready with its report, and I will invite the minister to move the motion for its second reading.

5.22

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (Mr Norbert Mao): Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2025, be read the second time.

THE SPEAKER: Seconded by: Hon. Magoola, Hon. Richard, Hon. David, Hon. Fox, Hon. Jacob and Hon. Edakasi; Hon. Okwalinga, the honourable minister for Public Service, the honourable members for Ruhama and Kajara. Hon. Goli, Hon. Achia, Hon. Felix, Hon. Angura and Hon. Obua. Hon. Rose, Hon. Linda, Hon. Muwuma, Hon. Elijah, Hon. Basalirwa and Hon. Teira. Would you like to speak to your motion?

5.25

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (Mr Norbert Mao): Madam Speaker, this Bill is in response to the demand by the creatives for more protection of their literary, scientific and artistic intellectual works, neighbouring rights and other related matters.

The Bible says “You shall eat bread by the sweat of your brow.” Unfortunately, those who sweat are often cheated. Musicians are frustrated that their works are exploited, copied and played yet they do not earn from them. Therefore, this Bill is aimed at ensuring that the intellectual property, which is inherent in the creatives, gets rewarded appropriately.

There have been extensive consultations. We have met various creatives, musicians, song writers, authors of books and even consulted internationally. We even hosted both the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organisation and the Director General of the Africa Regional Intellectual Property Organisation who happens to be a Ugandan. This is an organisation based in Harare.

The musicians have been turned into beggars. We saw what happened during the COVID-19 period – because they do not get rewarded. Now, it is the policy of the Government to ensure that these creative people are rewarded. We are extremely grateful to Parliament for the response that you have given to the musicians.

The President even appointed one of the famous performing artists as his Senior Presidential Advisor on Creatives. We consulted - even in this House we have Members of the creative industry who are world famous. Therefore, there is demand for this Bill. I do believe that Members should support the Bill so that it can pass today.

Finally, Madam Speaker, our engineers have already created an app, which will ensure that every bar, discotheque, radio and television station can track each time any work of art - particularly music and films are played. The Bill also provides for organisations to collect this data and the musicians will be paid a

proportion of what they are entitled to in accordance with what is in the Bill.

This equipment was demonstrated to us at the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and I believe at the earliest opportunity, it can also be demonstrated to Members of Parliament. It has been demonstrated to the musicians themselves and they are satisfied. I, therefore, urge you honourable colleagues and Madam Speaker, to respond to this demand that is overwhelming for fairness so that creativity can be rewarded. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, the chairperson of the committee is ready with the report. Could you come and present your brief report?

5.31

MR CHARLES BAKKABULINDI (Workers Representative): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The report is ready indeed. I have a copy here for laying on the Table, together with the minutes of the committee meetings that we held with the various stakeholders - it is in this yellow file. Let me lay it on the Table.

Madam Speaker, I can now proceed with the presentation of the report. It is 23 pages but I will try to compress it to ensure that we can be able to pass it today before the sugar levels go very low. This is the report of the Sectoral Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs on the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Background

On 13 May 2025, a Bill entitled, “The Copyrights and Neighbouring Rights (Amendment), Bill 2025” was read for the first time and in accordance with Rule 135 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament referred to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for scrutiny.

Objectives of the Bill

The object of the Bill is to amend the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act, Cap 222, to;

a. Domesticate the Copyright Treaties of the World Intellectual Property Organisation such as;

- xv. The Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, which is the foundational international agreement on copyright protection. The Berne Convention establishes the principle of “national interest” meaning that foreign authors receive the same protection as domestic authors.

It also provides for automatic protection of works without the need for formal registration. It outlines the minimum term of protection, moral rights and the scope of exclusive rights granted to authors, to authors.

Domestication of this convention ensures that Ugandan law aligns with these global principles, thereby safeguarding Ugandan creators’ works with global principles and granting foreign creators reciprocal rights within Uganda.

- xvi. The World Intellectual Property Organisation Treaty of 1996. This treaty addresses the challenges posed by digital environment, particularly the protection of works and the rights of authors in the context of digital communications. It sets out obligations concerning technological protection measures and rights management information to areas essential for combating digital piracy and ensuring that authors receive fair remuneration in the online marketplace.

- xvii. The WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty of 1996, which strengthens the rights of performers and producers of phonograms, especially in relation to their works in the digital space. It grants

them exclusive rights to authorise reproduction, distribution and making available of their performances and recordings both offline and online.

It further imposes obligations on member states to provide adequate legal protection and effective legal remedies against circumvention of technological measures used by right holders.

- xviii. The Beijing Treaty on audio-visual performances of 2012 grants performers in audio-visual works, such as actors and musicians in films and television, economic rights over the use of their performances as well as moral rights to be credited to and to object to distortions that prejudice their reputation. This represents an important expansion in the recognition of performers’ rights in Uganda;

- xix. The Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled (2013), which requires member states to provide exceptions to copyright rules, allowing the production and cross-border exchange of accessible format copies of works. Its domestication will enable Ugandan institutions and organisations to legally reproduce books and other literary works in an accessible format without infringing copyrights, thereby promoting inclusion and access to information.

- xx. In the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS), which forms part of the World Trade Organisation Frameworks. TRIPS sets comprehensive minimum standards for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, including copyright and related rights, and mandates that member states adopt enforcement procedures that are fair, equitable, and not unnecessarily complicated or costly.

By incorporating these treaties, the Bill not

only brings Uganda into full compliance with its international obligations but also positions the country as a reliable partner in global intellectual property protection. This alignment is likely to foster cross-border trade in creative works, attract foreign investments in Uganda's creative industries, and enhance the competitiveness of Ugandan creators in international markets.

- b) The other one was to provide for the protection of copyrights and neighbouring rights in their use and exploitation through the Internet, online services, and other technological means;
- c) to provide for the management and exploitation of orphaned works;
- d) to provide for the regulation of exploitation contracts; and
- e) to streamline the registration of collecting societies with the registrar.

Colleagues, the next item is methodology, which is very clear. There are the entities that we interacted with.

Then the next one, 4.0, is the need for the Bill. I will take us through this one because it is very important.

Copyright is a form of intellectual property that protects original works of authorship, including literary, scientific, and artistic works. A functioning copyright law facilitates creativity and innovation, which fosters access to knowledge and information, technology transfer, development of culture, industries, and job creation.

The Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act, Cap. 222, is the law that governs the recognition and protection of copyrights and neighbouring rights in Uganda. The Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act commenced in August 2006 and was enacted to replace the previous Copyright Act, Cap. 215, under the 2000 Revised edition, Laws of Uganda.

The Act protects creators of original works

by granting them the sole right to produce or reproduce any substantial part of their work in any form, to perform the work in public, or, if the work is unpublished, to publish the work or any substantial part of it. Copyright protects only the form of expression of ideas, not the ideas themselves. Ideas, concepts, procedures, methods, or other things of a similar nature are not protected by the Copyright and the Neighbouring Rights Act.

Copyright gives the owner of the works both economic and moral rights. Economic rights allow right owners to derive financial reward from the use of their works by others. Moral rights allow authors and creators to take certain actions to preserve and protect their link with their work.

However, these rights are subject to certain exemptions and limitations. These limitations include fair use, public benefit works, compulsory licence, and access by persons who are blind, visually impaired, and otherwise print-disabled.

Due to the passage of time, technological advancements, and innovation, changes have occurred in the mode of content creation, distribution, and exploitation, which were not envisaged in the present Act. This has made the provisions in the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act inadequate. For example:

- a. The Act does not provide for enforcement mechanisms against online piracy and unauthorised exploitation, modes of remuneration of performers in addition to the one-off payment, and the regulation and administration of collecting societies. These inadequacies have increased the piracy of copyright-protected works and discouraged innovation and creativity in the copyright industry;
- b. The Act has been affected by advancements in technology and innovation, which have changed the mode of content creation, distribution, and exploitation, which is not adequately provided for in the Act;
- c. The Act is not aligned with Uganda's

- international obligations as provided in the international treaties which Uganda acceded to. I mentioned these ones previously;
- d. Whereas the current law has provisions against piracy of protected works, the law does not provide adequately for the regulation or control of online exploitation, online piracy, or unauthorised distribution of works under the Internet, social media, or streaming platforms;
 - e. The current copyright law does not provide nor empower the registrar to issue take-down orders blocking, or obstructing, among other measures of infringing online content. Further, the Registrar of Copyright does not have adequate enforcement powers against infringement, especially online infringement;
 - f. Whereas the current law provides for mandatory written contracts for exploitation of works of rights, assignments, or licences, registration of these contracts, assignments, or licences is not mandatory. The non-mandatory registration of contracts, assignments, or licences has led to grossly unfair terms, exploitation of rights holders, and challenges in tracking ownership;
 - g. Whereas owners of rights are entitled to remuneration for their works under the current law, digital revenue streams from their works, such as caller ring-back tones, are unregulated with no standard remuneration model;
 - h. Whereas the Registrar of Copyright is the regulator of collecting societies, the Registrar has limited authority to intervene in disputes or governance failures, including collecting societies, because these disputes are referred to the arbitration and conciliation forum, which the Registrar is not able to offer. These societies handle significant sums of money collected from users of rights, but often lack transparency, governance structures, and accountability to their members;
- i. Further, the enforcement of copyrights and neighbouring rights through civil remedies under the current law is restricted to instituting civil proceedings in the Commercial Court section under Section 44(1) of the Act, which limits the scope of the adjudication mechanism for the enforcement of copyrights and neighbouring rights. Thus, there is a need to amend the Act to expand the jurisdiction for obtaining civil remedies in the High Court generally and to provide for quasi-judicial processes in dispute settlement related to copyrights and neighbouring rights.
5. Changes proposed in the Bill
- This is the only part, colleagues, I am going to take us through. The observations and findings are also clear; you can be able to follow.
- The Copyright and Neighbouring Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2025, intends to address the problems identified above in order to ensure rewards for creativity and innovation, compliance with international legal obligations, enhanced economic benefits, including employment opportunities within the intellectual property value chain, foster innovation, creativity, education, knowledge, and access to information, and improve the regulation of the sector and market Uganda on the global space.
- The Copyright and Neighbouring Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2025, broadly makes provision for the following general matters:
- a. Amend the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act to strengthen the Act in light of the technological advancements and global best practices;
 - b. Domesticating international treaties acceded to by Uganda to ensure comprehensive global protection for works in the digital environment and protection for vulnerable groups like persons with disabilities;
 - c. Strengthen enforcement mechanisms

- against infringement of copyrights and neighbouring rights, including online content, through criminalising unauthorised access, exploitation, and piracy, and enable mechanisms to identify and shut down infringing content;
- d. Enhance remuneration mechanisms for the creative industry, such as benefits from call back ringtones;
 - e. Provide for better compensation beyond the model of one-off payments and create systems for equitable sharing of revenue generated from the use of their work, particularly in the digital realm; and
 - f. Protect orphaned works whose owners are unknown, untraceable, or unavailable, while balancing the rights of copyright holders and enabling access and exploitation of orphaned works;
 - g. Prohibit measures that are aimed at circumventing technological protection measures and penalise any person who bypasses, digital locks, or distributes circumvention tools;
 - h. Expands the exemption to fair use under Section 14 of the principal Act to include transcription of works into accessible formats and use of online learning environments, improving access for disabled individuals and educational institutions. The purpose of this amendment is to domesticate the Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate access to published works by persons who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled.
 - i. Makes additional regulation on reprographic copying under fair use exemptions by limiting reprographic printing copying of passages from published literary or musical work to no more than 5 per cent of the published literary or musical work at any one time, or within a period of three months except where a licensing scheme exists.
- that restrict reprographic copying to less than 5 per cent to have no legal effect.
- Specifically, the bill introduces new matters;
- a) Introduces new definitions such as accessible format copy, anonymous work, beneficiary person, orphan works and technological protection measures. See Clause (1).
 - b) Introduces new categories of literary works such as novels, stage directions and encyclopedias. Further works such as translations, adaptations and expressions of folklore are to be explicitly recognised as derivative works, ensuring protection for traditional knowledge as their own form of intellectual property aside from copyright. See Clause 3.
 - c) Furthermore, the Bill expands the duration of copyright protection for computer programmes and photographic works from 50 years to the lifetime of the author and another 50 years like all other protected works. See Clause 4.
 - d) The Bill also introduces a requirement for the registration of transactions involving assignments, licenses, and transfers with the registrar of copyrights within 60 days of signing such contracts. The provision further requires non-registration renders the transaction voidable and such transactions to be in writing. See Clause 5.
 - e) Imposes a maximum duration for license, assignments and contracts at 20 years and introduces a requirement for the reversion of the author's rights at the end of the transfer for assignment period. See Clause 6.
 - f) The Bill also introduces an additional pay to producers and performers of a sound recording or audio-visual fixation for every commercial use of such works, including broadcasting and public performances. See Clause (9). Hon. Kabanda, you had an issue with this one, you need to take note.

The provision also declares terms of licences

- g) The Bill introduces a requirement for

all contracts relating to the exploitation of rights such as publishing, public performances and broadcasting bill writing and registered in the registrar of copyright. Non-registration renders the contracts voidable. See Clause 10.

- h) The Bill also introduces fixed remuneration rates for caller ring back tones to ensure fair compensation and distribution among authors, among other performers, telecom operators and aggregators. This will address the remuneration gaps that exist in exploitation of call ring back tones. Ensure fair remuneration for the owners of the copyright content. See Clause 11 which is the proposed Section 39(A).

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, wouldn't you discuss that when it comes to the committee stage?

MR BAKKABULINDI: Yeah, I am just concluding.

Now, when it comes to observations and findings, it is more like a repetition of this, but in detail; so, I will not go through that. Members who may want to understand in detail can just go to the particular areas and then we can -

THE SPEAKER: Yes, let the *Hansard* capture.

MR BAKKABULINDI: So, let me just conclude with this and then –

- i) Introduces the requirement for registration of transactions. Yes. The Bill enhances powers of the registrar of copyrights to entertain and settle disputes in copyright registration, contract and collecting societies. This will ensure effective regulation and administration of copyright and neighbouring rights by the registrar. See Clause 12.

Just one page to go, Madam Speaker.

- j) The Bill specifies the jurisdiction for settlement of copyright disputes to the High Court rather than limiting it to the

Commercial Court. The purpose of the amendment is to empower the various circuits of the High Court in Uganda to hear and determine copyright-related disputes in Clauses 13 and 19.

- k) The Bill enhances the penalties for copyright infringement significantly, with fines not exceeding 2,500 currency points and terms of imprisonment not exceeding 10 years or both being proposed for various offences. The proposed amendment is intended to provide for deterrent penalties for copyright infringement and piracy. Those are Clauses 14, 15, 16 and 18.

- l) The Bill seeks to enhance the protection of rights and copyright works in a digital environment, empower the registrar of copyright to issue takedown orders to online platforms that host infringing content, and ensure compliance by digital platform operators. Clause 17, which is the proposed 49A.

- m) The Bill provides that a person convicted of infringement of copyright works bears the cost of seizure, storage, destruction and infringing materials. See Clause 18.

- n) The Bill provides that a person alleging infringement of copyright works produce a certificate of registration for the works. See Clause 17.

- o) The Bill also streamlines the registration of collecting societies with the registrar of copyright by reducing the number of members to register a collective society from 30 to two.

- p) The Bill expands the functions of collecting societies to introduce the mandate to collect the pay royalties to its members or any other owner.

- q) The Bill provides for holding of annual general meetings of collecting societies with the view to promote transparency, accountability and good governance among collecting societies.

So, Madam Speaker, the next page is

observations and findings.

This gives a detailed analysis on what the committee received from the stakeholders on the various provisions as I have just outlined and what the committee decided. It is quite lengthy and as advised by the speaker, I will skip it and go to the conclusion.

However, where you think you need to understand the details, you can just refer to a particular provision which has been well analysed under observations, findings and recommendations.

There is just one part, Madam Speaker, that I wanted this House to hear. These are the limited AI and emerging technology provisions.

Various stakeholders such as the LDC, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Creative Industries, all criticised the Bill for not addressing critical issues relating to copyright ownership, authorship and liability for works generated or assisted by artificial intelligence.

The stakeholders the committee interacted with, including Uganda Communications Commission, the Centre for Law and Emerging Technologies led by advocate Robert Kirunda, the Law Development Centre (LDC), National Information Technology Authority-Uganda (NITA-U) and others, observed that although artificial intelligence technologies increasingly contribute to the creation, modification and distribution of creative works, the absence of explicit provisions leaves uncertainty over who holds the rights, how such works should be dealt with and how they should be protected and who bears the responsibility in cases of infringement.

The stakeholders also observed that the Bill lacks regulatory guidance on the lawful use of AI tools in content creation, adaptation and dissemination. This gap may lead to legal ambiguities, hinder enforcement and necessitate frequent amendments as technology continues to evolve.

While the Bill includes provisions for

technological protection measures, it does not establish a dynamic framework for managing AI-created content, automated licensing systems or AI-driven performance enforcement mechanisms. The stakeholders emphasised that without such forward-looking provisions, the legislation may struggle to address the complexities of emerging technologies.

The committee recommends that the intellectual property laws be amended to cater for AI. As a committee, we could not dive into the details and so we urged the Government to quickly study this matter of AI and come up with appropriate amendments to the law.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, the committee recommends that the Bill be passed subject to the proposed amendments by the committee which are hereby attached and which I will be introducing as we proceed. The committee report is duly signed by the requisite number of members and we are ready to proceed. Thank you so much Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable chairperson. Members, you have heard; it is a very good report. Any reaction to the report? Yes, Hon. Timuzigu?

5.55

MR MICHAEL TIMUZIGU (NRM, Kajara County, Ntungamo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank the chairperson and the entire committee for giving this Bill enough time, because it has been long. People started asking for this law a long time ago. Artists were losing money and sometimes, consumers were getting low-quality products which did not even belong to the artists themselves. This law will protect both consumers and producers.

Secondly, there were some conventions we needed to really support in this country. We are part of certain conventions like the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. The second one is the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. These are conventions that we, as Ugandans, are part of.

This law comes to really put everything that has not been in order, in order so that we are in tandem with what we accepted in terms of conventions.

Therefore, I support the motion and this Bill, and my prayer is that we go ahead and pass it into law. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. David Kabanda?

5.57

MR DAVID KABANDA (NRM, Kasambya County, Mubende): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also join my other colleagues in thanking the committee members for this report.

However, as the chairperson of the committee has mentioned here, I still have an issue. Yes, we have not reached the committee stage, but I have an issue with Clause 9, where the committee suggests that if Mama Bukedea FM and Sure FM radio stations want to play songs of either *Mpenkoni* or any artist, they have to pay the artist. Madam Speaker, I think, yes, the radio or the television may benefit from playing these songs, but also the artists –

THE SPEAKER: You are popularising the artist.

MR DAVID KABANDA: Yes, the artist also benefits. If I do not play the music of a certain artist, I do not know how that artist will be able to organise a concert in Hon. Nsamba's constituency when his or her music is not actually known by the people there. I think we need to think about that clause. It is not prudent for the committee to come here and convince us that we should allow these media houses to enter into an agreement with an artist, if the media houses want to play their music. I think that this august House needs to think about it. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Okay. You take note of it; when we reach Clause 9, we will discuss it exhaustively.

6.00

MR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak South County, Amuru): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to appreciate the chairman for the well-read report.

The chairman concluded with a very important concern about artificial intelligence. Madam Speaker, when we are handling copyrights, we need to look at the issues of artificial intelligence (AI) very carefully. Where the country has reached, you will find someone editing and removing one person's head and superimposing it on somebody else, and you will think that this person is the other person. Therefore, we need to come up with a very clear law to control artificial intelligence. If not, then what we are discussing may be very hard to implement.

I think we need to come up with a Bill that will control the use of artificial intelligence in this country. The way we are moving, we are going to the extreme. I beg to move.

6.01

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. In the same vein, I congratulate the committee on how far they have gone. The current law has become archaic and backward; we really needed to refresh it with this.

Of course, not to make it so stringent, I will have to go with my brother on Clause 9. If we are to pay first, then what happens? The same law also protects both the consumer and the producer. There are these songs that are not even songs; people are just talking - (*Laughter*) - and then they want you to pay. In my campaigns it was hell. Somebody insists that if you do not pay you are going to fail. At least, if we work on this current law quickly, it will save all of us. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Magoola?

6.02

MS RACHEL MAGOOLA (NRM, Woman Representative, Bugweri): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to express my appreciation to the committee for the work they have done. I just want to address some of the comments my colleagues have made. Misuse would be the right word to use. AI, you can use it, but when you misuse it, that is when it becomes a problem.

With regard to Clause 9 that my honourable member has mentioned, every creator, and it is internationally recognised and accepted that creators are compensated for their work. The radio stations that play any work are the ones that have the burden to compensate the creators of that work.

Therefore, the person who has come to the radio station does not have to pay. It is the radio station that pays for having used –

THE SPEAKER: No, we are the owners of radio stations. You are not going to make us pay for playing your music yet we are popularising you.

MS MAGOOLA: The purpose of this Bill then will be totally watered down. I need Members to really appreciate and understand that when an artist creates something, they earn from it. If you use it, the royalties that come from that piece of work is what the performer or creator earns from. In the same way if somebody has written –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Magoola, can I ask you a question?

MS MAGOOLA: Yes, ma'am.

THE SPEAKER: If I played "*Obangaina*" on Bukedea radio, how would you know?

MS MAGOOLA: That is why the monitoring system has been put in place. Every time any work is played, the monitoring system will say, "This radio played this song at this time," and it is registered, so that when the radios collect through the management organisations, they divide among the creators.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us get a

clarification from the Attorney-General.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Madam Speaker, Clause 9 of this Bill – (*Hon. Oshabe rose*)

THE SPEAKER: Let us first get clarification. You do not own a radio station. Let us first get clarification. You will come – No, I want clarification before I proceed.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Madam Speaker and honourable colleagues, the clause that is being discussed by Hon. Kabanda is actually the heart and the purpose of the Bill. If you do not have Clause 9, you may as well not pass the Bill. This artist has made his music and he has not requested anyone to promote the music for him. Therefore, if you choose to promote his music, the very least you can do is go to him and say, "I would like to promote the music for you." The law has allowed you to go and make arrangements with musicians to play their music.

The issue here is that if you have no arrangement with that musician – and that is why the collective societies come in. You can get into an arrangement and say, for the first six to eight months of my music, you may play it for purposes of promotion.

Madam Speaker, if the artist produces his music and he has it himself – unless he requests you for commercial purposes to promote the music for him – if you play it, then you have to pay for it –

THE SPEAKER: There is a procedural matter.

MR OSHABE: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. We have delved into discussing clauses of the Bill. It is my humble appeal –

THE SPEAKER: He is discussing the report because it was brought in the report. Before we move to the Bill, he discussed the report. Yes. It is something that was brought up in the report.

Yes, Hon. "*Mukatuliki*"?

6.07

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): Thank you, Madam Speaker. There is no way you can discuss a report without talking about clauses.

As the Attorney-General stated, in music there is what we call “releases”. A musician releases and makes a hit; the song or his piece. What we are talking about now, Mr Attorney-General and Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, is that most musicians are paying radio presenters to play their music.

Do you know why they do that? It is because there is no way they can market their songs without radio stations. Indeed, the majority of presenters are getting challenges from their bosses for overplaying the music because they want people to know it.

Therefore, as you said, Mr Attorney-General, that is the heart of the Bill. We must tread very carefully because there is no way your music can be known without radio stations. This is factual.

We must look at what stage, as we go to the Bill, when does this person need to know that I am controlling my music on the radio.

We have heard music from South Africa, the Ken Rogers – You know I am an artist as well. I have ever composed for primary schools, by the way. By then, it was not easy to record music.

Madam Speaker, I would like to emphasise this; as we are stating, we must look at that clause very emphatically on the limitations of someone’s music, because how will they know your songs?

How would I have known Hon. Rachel Magoola without Radio Uganda at the time? By then, there were no FM radio stations, but their music was growing, and then FM radio stations came on, but - (*Interruption*)

THE SPEAKER: Information to who? Allow me to first have Hon. Dr Lulume and then Hon. Christine.

6.09

DR LULUME BAYIGGA (DP, Buikwe County South, Buikwe): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I thank you, hon. Ssewungu, for giving way. It will be beneficial for an expert in music to come after this critique.

The committee needs to persuade this Parliament that they did a cost-benefit analysis on Clause 9 so that we can know what the creatives are going to benefit out of this and what they are going to lose.

We also want to know the consumers or the users of their creativity; what they are benefitting from playing their music or whatever it is, and what they can lose if at all they do not play it. You may find an elitist way of contributing to the formation of this Bill, when only those people who are able to access this Parliament have contributed ideas in building this case. There are very many creatives outside there who may not have had their voices added here and they want to access the media houses to popularise themselves so that they can get a benefit out of what they have created.

Now, you will have closed that outlet into the media which is popularising them and giving them a benefit of employment out of what they have created, simply because those who are accessing Parliament can communicate ideas about the popular music that they have spoken on their behalf.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, we need a cost-benefit analysis.

DR LULUME: A cost-benefit analysis would have convinced us faster and it must be scientific. That is the only way you can persuade this Parliament to support this Bill. That is the gist of the matter at clause 9. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Let me have Hon. John first, Hon. Christine.

6.11

MR JOHN TEIRA (NRM, Bugabula County North, Kamuli): Madam Speaker, Clause 9 is not forcing any radio station or manager to pay a creator of any content; it is asking you to have an understanding. It can be at a zero fee, as long as the creator is comfortable –

THE SPEAKER: No, there must be a consideration. Consideration is never –

MR TEIRA: It is contractual. It is an understanding between the creator and the person paying the content.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. John – You will give us information.

6.12

MS CHRISTINE KAAYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Kiboga): Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. We are now looking at music and we have forgotten some other patent rights. For example, when I submit now, I need to have an understanding with the media house to play what I have shared here. It is similar.

Therefore, we need to understand the rate at which – when somebody releases something to the public, there is a percentage of freedom by the public to play that. By the time you release it to the public, the public must have some liberty. It should not be infringed on that there must be an understanding. There must be space that even when there is no understanding, because you released it to the public, I have some freedom to also use it. That freedom must be there.

I see the provision for some voluntary submissions. Some of these artists need to come out clearly that, “For me on this submission, I do not mind; use it the way you want,” or “On this one, should anybody need this, there must be some provisions at the start of the...” Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable members. In the VIP gallery, we have the District Woman Representative-Elect of Sironko District, Hon. Aisha Mafabi Nabulo.

She is here to observe the proceedings.

You are most welcome. (*Applause*)

Yes, Hon. Okwalinga?

6.14

MR SIMON OPOLOT (NRM, Kanyum County, Kumi): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. While perusing the report from the committee, I noticed that they talk of fair doctrine permits. Could the chairperson clarify the concept of the fair doctrine permits vis-à-vis clause 9, which we are discussing at the moment?

I would really advocate for a law of this nature. If the artists, for example, are going to perform, say at a wedding or are invited to perform at a function where they earn money, we should tax them, but not them demanding that we pay them for playing their music.

THE SPEAKER: Is the law limiting us to radios only? What if I played that music in my car? What would happen?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Madam Speaker, this is only when you play music for commercial use. For example, if you are playing it in a discotheque – people are coming to your discotheque to listen to music and they are paying to enter the discotheque – that is when you need to deal with that. However, if I am playing it at my home, for my private use, there is no problem.

THE SPEAKER: Radio station?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: For a radio station, if you are doing it for commercial purposes –

THE SPEAKER: Let us say Mama Bukedea is playing to entertain the public.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Yes, for free. When you advertise on Mama Bukedea, it is free.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, this

is a very serious law. We need a cost-benefit analysis on this issue. The fact that we do not have a quorum – *(Laughter)* – honourable members, we will continue with this debate. We want this debate to continue when everybody is in the House.

The House is adjourned to Tuesday, the 17th of March at 2.00 p.m.

(The House rose at 6.18 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 17 March 2026, at 2.00 p.m.)