



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

SECOND SESSION - FIRST MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2022



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IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

SECOND SESSION - 32ND SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Wednesday, 21 September 2022

Parliament met at 2.16 p.m., at Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable members, I welcome you to today's sitting. Following yesterday's sitting, we have a few issues that arose, against which I requested the ministers to return today and respond.

On the issue of seedlings, I have been in touch with the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and the Government Chief Whip; there is a critical meeting going to take place at 3.00 p.m. and so, I have agreed with him to report tomorrow. He will bring a statement to the House. However, all is being done to ensure that we can expedite the process of approval; whether there are seedlings or not.

After matters of national importance, I will require the Minister of Internal Affairs to respond to the issue raised yesterday by Hon. Allan Mayanja of Nakaseke Central, on arbitrary arrests, abductions and detentions of his constituents, and some other members. I hope the Government Chief Whip and the minister will be here by then; and of course, the issue of delays in the processing and issuance of passports.

As I communicated yesterday, the verification committee that is vetting candidates for the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) elections has started its work, and they will be reporting back tomorrow so that – I hope by the time we finish plenary tomorrow, we shall be able to know the fully-vetted candidates so that you decide on whom to support. I wish you all the best in that exercise, colleagues. *(Members rose)* I have not communicated much for you to react – *(Laughter)*– Hon. Ssewungu, you also want to be briefed?

2.20

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank you for your communication. I am responding on matters arising from your communication because I raised those matters here. The issue is that when you raise some of them, they are not handled. Recently, I raised a number of issues on matters concerning education, especially on the closure of teacher training colleges, but the ministers have refused to come here.

I raised matters concerning salary disparities; what is going to be done to these teachers who are likely to give us bad results? And the only thing I have heard recently, Mr Speaker, was the Prime Minister coming out to say that they are going to ask parents to pay for milk at school at Shs 20,000, yet Government is paying Shs 10,000 per child per year for school fees. How do you expect parents who have not been paying money, and whom you have been giving Shs 10,000 per UPE child per year, to pay Shs 20,000 for lunch?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: But Hon. Ssewungu, you are diverting me because yesterday, you were here. You heard me direct the Clerk to extract all these issues for consideration by the presiding officers, so that we give them space on the Order Paper to ensure each and every issue is responded to.

Colleagues, once an issue is responded to on the Floor, then the sectoral committee concerned should ensure that it is indeed handled in line with what the minister will have committed himself or herself to, on the Floor. We shall not be coming to plenary to repeat these issues every day. So, committee chairpersons, once a Member raises an issue and the minister gives a response and commitment, take it up.

MR SSEWUNGU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Most obliged. But then what happens to the ministers who commit themselves to give a response immediately and they do not?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is what I have said: that we get for them space on the Order Paper. If they do not come, then we know what to do next. And I hope next week, we shall look through most of these issues that have pending responses.

2.23

MR PATRICK ISINGOMA (Independent, Hoima East Division, Hoima City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise under Rule 220 of our Rules of Procedure, regarding a matter which my colleague, Hon. Ojara Mapenduzi, the MP for Bardege-Layibi Division, raised on the Floor of this House about a month ago. He raised a matter about the late validation of staff structures in the new cities, one of which is Hoima, which I represent in this august House.

Mr Speaker, although the exercise was virtually undertaken and the validation done, there has been a lot of public outcry regarding the manner in which it was handled; there were a lot of discrepancies, and a lot of impropriety. People are crying, some staff were put -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Isingoma, we guided on how you bring such matters

on the Floor. Other Members come to our chambers, they sit and wait and we give them time to raise their issues. Now, you want to pass via the kitchen; you want to take a shortcut and we don't want to be encouraging such a culture of taking shortcuts. Anyway, since the minister is here, conclude it so that she can respond. But next time, do not do it that way.

MR ISINGOMA: Most obliged, Mr Speaker. Yes, there have been a lot of discrepancies and I am wondering: wouldn't it be procedurally right if the minister came back to this House under rule 220 with an action-taken report so that he can explain the status quo and how some of these anomalies are going to be rectified?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, before I guide, do you want to respond?

2.25

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Ms Victoria Rusoke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Just before you entered, the same person came to me and explained -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, honourable minister, he is not a "person"; he is an honourable colleague.

MS RUSOKE: The honourable member came to me and I explained that I have prepared the answers and submitted them to your office to book for space. One -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, it is okay because I have not given you space. You have prepared and you are waiting for space. I am going to give you space tomorrow.

MS RUSOKE: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clerk, kindly capture it so that tomorrow, she can give us a comprehensive answer. Yes, Hon. Cecilia Ogwal -

MS CECILIA OGWAL: Mr Speaker, as a follow up on the matter we are handling right now, I am raising a procedural issue on a matter, which was raised on the Floor about two weeks ago. Unfortunately, because we had a one-week recess, the minister was not in position to appear, but he wrote to me a personal letter explaining the matter I thought was very sensitive and heavy. He wrote to me saying that the matter could not be responded to, other than the decisions, which had already been taken.

Mr Speaker, I am not satisfied with the response the minister gave. You guided them to come and report on the Floor of Parliament on what was to be done on the issue raised about the late Robert Ekinu, who died while serving as minister of this country. I am not satisfied with this letter.

I would like to lay the letter on the Table for Parliament to follow up and for you, Mr Speaker, to guide us on what to do. I do not think this is happening only to the late Robert Ekinu; there must be very many other people facing the same situation. It is, therefore, important that this Parliament be given an opportunity to address such sensitive issues. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, if you can remember very well, the matter regarding Hon. Ekinu, which was raised by Hon. Cecilia Ogwal, was in relation to compensation and ex-gratia of around Shs 30,000 - when converted into the current rates.

The army occupied his house for nine years. They paid the rent, but they never considered renovation of the house to leave it in the state in which it was supposed to be during handover. Also, two tractors were taken. It was also to do with pension, but with other underlying claims from the family.

I called the minister and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Service - because we realised there might be other Ugandans facing the same problem in our

constituencies. I wanted the minister to give an answer that cuts across. I told the permanent secretary to look through their records and see if there are other affected Ugandans.

Hon. Cecilia Ogwal came to me saying, "Do you know I have received a personal letter?" I told her that in her era, she used personal letters, but for us, we use *WhatsApp*. Maybe if you were our age, they would have sent a *WhatsApp*. Considering the response, I found it extremely unsatisfactory.

Honourable members, I had taken this matter to the Minister of Public Service directly to handle reason being that I want to give the Executive chance to do their work. When I receive a petition, which I believe a minister can handle, I give him or her chance. However, to my surprise, of all the ministers I have given petitions, no one has given any response.

I want to inform you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, that I save you and the House the burden of coming and debating, then after we say, "go and handle" yet the rules allow me to forward it to you for action. Once we are not satisfied, it is when we would bring it here.

I am forwarding this matter to the Committee on Public Service and Local Government to look into it because I know there are other people affected like Mr Ekinu, but unable to reach out to you on this platform. Chairperson, I am giving you one month to study it very well. The minister says he is tied by the law. We want you to come and advise the House, after studying it.

2.30

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Mr Godfrey Onzima): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Most obliged.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

2.31

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Some of us have had issues with

some of the matters of national importance before.

I want to request you, Mr Speaker, if the rules cannot be changed to allow us to raise matters of constituency importance. Mr Speaker, many colleagues raise matters that ordinarily are matters of constituencies. Colleagues who visit your office will come out grumbling here that he allowed Hon. Ssemujju, and did not allow me.

My request is to allow and create time for us to be able to raise constituency issues, instead of hiding under matters of national importance, when they are not. Maybe a day in the week, so that we can come here and tell you which roads in our constituencies are not motorable.

Otherwise, yesterday, colleagues raised matters of roads in their constituencies - we all have them. If each MP is going to be given an opportunity to speak about roads in his or her constituency, it means all of us should. My request to you is for you to create time for constituency issues, such that we stop bothering you with them, profiling them as matters of national importance.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The message Hon. Ssemujju is giving is not for me; it is for you, honourable colleagues. That time is already provided for - Prime Minister's Time. Rule 41(8)(b) of our Rules of Procedure provides for that time, where the Prime Minister is asked questions for oral answer, right away. You would raise all these issues. We will handle it because we have been handling it.

MR RUHUNDA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. When someone raises an issue of a road, I do not know whether that road just stops in his or her constituency. *(Laughter)* Otherwise, I thought there is a road network in the whole country, and every road matters. Maybe you can look for another example.

I am not satisfied because I know the road network in the country is supposed to be planned nationally. Even locally, they must follow national plans. When someone raises

a matter of that nature that contributes to the economy, it becomes a matter of national importance.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you now decided to rule? You even threaten me in broad daylight. Hon. Kabanda, do you also want to threaten me further? *(Laughter)*

MR DAVID KABANDA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to inform Hon. Ssemujju that the nation, first of all, begins from the village. If you say matters coming from my village are not national, then I do not know what you are talking about. If Hon. Ssemujju believes that the roads in his constituency are okay, the roads in other people's constituencies are not okay and so, they feel those matters are national and should be presented on the Floor of Parliament.

The nation does not begin from Kampala. The nation does not begin from Kira, where he represents. The nation begins from Kasambya, my village Lwegula, and everywhere I come from.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kabanda has also finished the little that was left of my position. The presiding officer determines the matters to listen to. Usually what I do, - for example from my list like today, we have 17 issues to do with roads. Each one of them is to do with a constituency; so, I cannot allow 17 issues around that.

But we compile all these issues that we do not pick and pass them over to the Leader of Government Business. So, we shall find a way of handling them.

2.36

MS FLORENCE NAMBOZO (Independent, Woman Representative, Sironko): Thank you, Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance concerning the conflict between the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and the community in Sironko District over the Mount Elgon National Park.

Mr Speaker, we have issues over boundaries. Right from 1936 to 1993, the people of Sironko

have had problems of boundaries and these have hindered them from knowing exactly where to stop while on their plantations.

On the 30th of August, we held a meeting – because the UWA staff had destroyed food that was ready for harvesting – and we asked that they halt the process. While the Government grapples with buying food for other districts, Sironko, at least, has some food. It is very unfortunate that a Government entity came to destroy people's food.

My prayers are:

1. That the Office of the Prime Minister expedites the process of deciding the right boundaries. People have sharpened pangas and are saying that UWA staff should not step there, yet we must co-exist.
2. That UWA staff halt the operation of destroying our people's food because they are inciting violence in the communities. They are calling on people to come and pick food that they did not plant, yet the people who planted cannot go and pick it - you cannot go and just pick food.
3. That the UWA staff that extorted money from the community be apprehended. These people were there for three months and in the three months, they have worked out a way of extorting money from the communities.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable member, next time when raising such issues, please, do not conclude on matters which need to be investigated. When you conclude that extortion took place, you leave no room for investigation.

Now, this is a very sensitive issue, Prime Minister. Some time back when I was the Government Chief Whip, I was hosted by Hon. John Faith Magolo at Mt. Wanale in Bungokho, and I met several people there.

The issue of boundaries is very important. The issue is that UWA is saying, "You should maintain the boundaries of 1968", but the people are saying, "No, we should go with the one of 1992."

You have a group which talks of 1992 and another one that talks of 2000 something. If you are to go with the one of 1968, you will find that part of Mbale City is in the national park. *(Laughter)* These are the issues we should be realistic about. I moved around and I saw it.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you need to take this issue seriously. On top of what she said, you need to meet the MPs from the Elgon area and discuss this matter. It is at boiling point and you better address it early. However, do not focus on what I raised. The Member raised her issues properly.

2.41

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Mr Speaker, I know it is a very sensitive issue because it touches the community. When food is destroyed, we, again, have to take them food, which sometimes is not available.

I am going to call the Members of Parliament and the ministry in charge of UWA – the ministry for tourism – so that we talk about those issues. The ministry should expedite the boundary - oh, I have the minister here to give some information.

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOR AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (FISHERIES) (Ms Hellen Adoo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The information I would like to give is that when we had a meeting with His Excellency the President about insecurity in eastern Uganda, the President directed that the Prime Minister should go and consult with the leaders of Sebei and Bugisu, concerning the boundaries that have disturbed them for long. That is the information I wanted to give.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the highhandedness of UWA staff – you do realise you have not yet sorted out the issue regarding the boundaries, but there is highhandedness in terms of destroying people's crops. Can you investigate that as well as the issue of extortion?

MS NAKADAMA: I think we have to add the issue of the people of Sebei because she has brought that information. They will be handled together, with immediate effect, by the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prime Minister, instruct the relevant minister to visit and investigate the allegations made against UWA to the satisfaction of the Member.

Colleagues, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have students and teachers from Bukedea Secondary School in Bukedea District. They are represented by the Rt Hon. Anita Annet Among and Hon. John Bosco Ikojo.

Today, she sent me to represent her. So, she is the one you see here. *(Laughter)* They have come to witness and observe the proceedings of this House. Please, join me in welcoming them. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Also, in the Public Gallery, we have students and teachers from St Claver Schools Limited. They are represented by Hon. Bashir Kazibwe. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please, join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)*

Furthermore, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation of committee clerks from the National Assembly of Zambia. They are here to benchmark with the Department of Clerks and to observe the proceedings of this House. Please, join me in welcoming them. Thank you. *(Applause)*

2.44

MR EDDIE KWIZERA (NRM, Bukimbiri County, Kisoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am from Kisoro District. Kisoro shares borders

with the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. The matter of national importance I am raising is that whereas we have the East African Community that allows free movement of goods and people, at Kyanika border point, which is between Rwanda and Uganda, there is no such implementation of the treaty.

As a result, business in Kisoro is at a standstill. Banks are threatening to close and it has also affected the economy. Although one of the ministers said that the Ugandan economy got an accident, in Kisoro, the economy is very hard. *(Laughter)*

Worse still, the Bunagana border between Uganda and the DRC is also closed. We ask the government to work with the local community in resolving those conflicts because we are one people, although separated by the borders.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prayers?

MR EDDIE KWIZERA: We pray that the local communities are involved, under the Joint Permanent Commission, that allows border communities to dialogue together, - and even the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. That is what we should ask the ministry or Government to help us do to resolve these conflicts. Even when the UPDF went to the DRC, we did not benefit because insecurity is still high at the border. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Foreign Affairs, on full reopening of the border -

2.46

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (REGIONAL AFFAIRS) (Mr John Mulimba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the honourable colleague for raising the matter.

Mr Speaker, I beg your indulgence to afford me time until tomorrow so that I can come here with a report regarding our relationship with the Republic of Rwanda, in respect to trade and/or issues on movement of people and goods across the borders.

What I can assure you, in the meantime, is that a lot of progress has been made since the reopening, but of course, when you get infected with a disease, healing is a process. However, we have made tremendous progress. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, on top of that, you need to reassure the people of Kisoro, the people across the border and the people of Uganda that indeed, you are making very good progress in addressing this matter.

2.47

MR JOHN MUSILA (Independent, Bubulo East County, Namisindwa): Respect, Mr Speaker. *(Laughter)* Thank you.

I rise on a matter of national importance, concerning the cracks – I should not be named “the landslides person”, but I have about three National Water and Sewerage Corporation collection centres in my constituency and in the district, and that is Sono Treatment Plant, Laaso and another one at Lilima.

These collection tanks feed four districts with water, knowing very well the adage that water is life. The four districts are Namisindwa, Tororo, Manafwa and Mbale. I rise because of the cracks around these collection tanks, especially that of Sono Treatment Plant. The multibillion uptake tank is completely cracked as a result of the landslides.

Therefore, my prayer is to the ministry to move these tanks about two kilometres away because they have cracks. That will be pitting the population – the hundreds of thousands of people – in the four districts from taking this water.

My prayer is to the ministry, specifically in charge of water and environment, to assist the National Water and Sewerage Corporation, which is a very good institution doing its work, but may not have enough money, to move these tanks away from where they currently are. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Government?

2.49

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Mr Speaker, I am going to inform the ministry concerned - that is the Ministry of Water and Environment, and we will work together to see that the tanks are renovated or moved away from that place. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. You see, these are not issues that I want to keep coming on the Floor; and we clog our Order Paper with very many issues. So, when you take action, it becomes very easy for me.

Hon. John Musila, if no action is taken in two weeks’ time, you can come back here or to my office, and we see whether we will require the minister to come and report on the Floor.

2.51

MS TEDDY NAMBOOZE (NUP, Woman Representative, Mpigi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The urgent matter of national importance I am raising is about one of my constituents, Dr Stephen Ssewambwa, aged 26, who is volunteering at Mulago National Referral Hospital and saved many lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He was born with sickle cell disease from a humble family in Jjalamba, Buwama Town Council, Mpigi District. He has struggled with life as an orphan, until last year when he graduated from Makerere University, under Government sponsorship.

A few days back, he got an attack that caused damage to his hip bone and he developed persistent severe pain, making him unable to walk and do routine work. The orthopaedic team at Mulago recommended hip replacement surgery to replace the bones with implants, which is scheduled this month, but the missing link is the required funds of at least Shs 30 million for the implants and medical supplies.

Mr Speaker, we are struggling, as a country, to train more scientists to boost service delivery in various fields. Additionally, Stephen's passion to become a doctor stems from his hard life journey as a sickle cell patient –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prayers?

MS TEDDY NAMBOOZE: Mr Speaker, may this House, under your visionary leadership, and the Parliamentary Commission, do something in form of contributions to save Dr Stephen's life. I also interest Government, through the Office of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health, to join me in this noble cause. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Health -

2.53

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH (GENERAL DUTIES) (Ms Anifa Bangirana): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the honourable member for the concern that has been brought before this Parliament.

On a passionate note, I add my voice to urge the honourable colleagues to come in, as requested – (*Applause*)– so that we do something, to rightfully help this person. However, on behalf of the Ministry of Health, I pledge to call the honourable member any time from here so that we can discuss the issue of the patient. I can call in our people at the facility and see how we can come in to assist this person.

She can come in after here or early tomorrow morning, so that we work on it. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, the care of your very critical staff will not be put to fundraisings on the Floor of Parliament. Go and handle that; these are critical staff. Find a way of helping.

2.54

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The matter I am raising is about what happened on Monday, 19 September 2022,

during the traffic operation that was mounted. Whereas it was very important to have that operation, I am among those who believe that if someone is not behaving well within the traffic rules –

I am rising over the manner in which the traffic officers, with the deployment of the UPDF, could be helped. As I left Parliament – I pray that these machines are handled well and get better as far as ICT is concerned.

Mr Speaker, whereas the operation was good, my car windscreen was almost shattered by the traffic and UPDF officers that were deployed.

Whereas we need the workforce to handle issues of security – Hon. Allan told me yesterday that he had security issues at his home.

I have matters concerning police deployment and the UPDF that foiled a match on International Youth Day at Bulenga, during the youth celebrations yet those are very key matters that the security forces should be handling in the country. However, when you look at their deployment-

Therefore, my prayer is: can we know from the honourable Minister of Internal Affairs how he provides for the regulations concerning deployments? And could we also know the motivation behind the disruption of different key social functions like the football match in Wakiso that was foiled by deploying the UPDF and the police officers? I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Before the minister comes, we have the chairman of the platform on road safety.

2.57

MR ALEX RUHUNDA (NRM, Fort Portal Central Division, Fort Portal City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I am one of those who applaud the action of the police because we have had serious traffic matters in this city - And majority of Ugandans who drive with impunity, and those who think they are entitled, and especially those driving government vehicles, drive with impunity and cause hell

and mayhem on the roads. We have pushed the traffic directorate to ensure that they stop that mess in our city.

My prayer, Mr Speaker, is not for us to discourage these gallant soldiers who are restoring sanity in this city because of people who feel entitled. There is so much entitlement and mental sickness and you will find that everybody wants to drive with sirens.

Mr Speaker, there are very few people with the right of way on our roads. So, it is my prayer that we encourage the traffic officers to do their job.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the Member raised an issue to do with the brutality - how they were handling it. So, Government -

2.58

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Mr Speaker, the Minister of Internal Affairs is supposed to come here tomorrow to answer most of the issues that were raised, concerning internal affairs. So, he will be informed about what has been raised by the colleague, and he will add it to the statement. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the minister give us a statement on this operation so that we can all be on board and mobilise our people, for everyone to appreciate it. And if there are other issues, they should be raised on the Floor.

MR SSEMUJJU: Mr Speaker, our rules require ministers to come here and answer questions. Our rules do not require someone designated outside Parliament, as Deputy Prime Minister, to use Parliament as a platform for training; that for every question, you must be the one to answer. The rules are very specific that ministers should come here and attend Parliament and answer.

For every issue being raised, the Prime Minister's delegatee - the Deputy Prime Minister - is the one answering. I do not know whether she is recreating Prime Minister's Time, which is provided for on Thursday.

Therefore, the procedural issue I am raising is whether the Third Deputy Prime Minister - I hope I got the title right - should become a super minister by answering for ministers, who, in our rules, are supposed to individually attend to parliamentary business.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Colleagues, I received a call from the Minister of Internal Affairs. Today, they have a very urgent meeting to do with their sector, in relation to national identity cards and some of these issues were raised and discussed here. So, from the communication I got, they are meeting with the President.

Now, on the Prime Minister - not every question gets an immediate answer because some of the questions we ask here need research; and we may not expect someone to right away give you an answer. But those same people also need to sometimes research, the way we do; it is not that because one is a prime minister or a minister, that they must answer right away.

However, the honourable ministers' attendance had improved, but it has, again, declined. Rule 50 is very clear on the attendance of ministers. So, I hope you can resume that to avoid such questions because what Hon. Ssemujju Nganda is raising is valid.

I also do not envy the position the Rt Hon. Nakadama is in, but she has to stand in for her government because, if there is a vacuum, then Hon. Ssemujju will take over. However, he has a point in terms of ministers being here to answer their questions. Colleagues, I do not want us to be bogged down by this.

3.03

MR JAMES BABA (NRM, Koboko County, Koboko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In this situation -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: And you were once a minister.

MR BABA: Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Of Internal Affairs.

MR BABA: A powerful one too –(Laughter)– I supervised the toughest Bill in this House - the Public Order Management Bill, for eight months before it was passed; nobody has that record.

Now, in regard to the issue Hon. Ssemujju raised and the clarification you have given, Mr Speaker, if an honourable member comes to you or to your chambers, saying they want to raise an issue of national importance and you grant it, is it possible to list all these requests down, then pass them to the responsible ministers so that they can go and research and work on them, then give them a day or two and then the Member can come and raise it formally on the Floor when the minister is prepared? In that situation, we will get concrete answers to queries Members have raised.

Sometimes we raise them here, but the minister is not ready and needs to go back and consult with his team in the ministry. So, let us see how best we can arrange this so that we can get satisfactory answers, both to the Members and their service to this country. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: For your information, Hon. Baba, the Member brought the question yesterday and I passed it on to the minister, yesterday. I passed on all these issues to the minister yesterday and I promised the Member that she would get an answer today. But then as we came for plenary, I received information that the ministers had been - that is a practice; that is what we have been doing.

MR BABA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In that situation then, the Prime Minister should not be answering questions she is not fully conversant with. She should just say, “I will ask such and such a minister” instead of wasting our time. Thank you.

MS NAKADAMA: Mr Speaker, the honourable Minister of Internal Affairs called me too, and he told me that he would not be in Parliament today because yesterday, there was something to do with the Ministry of Internal Affairs - that was about the passports.

He said that they will be here tomorrow, which is Thursday, and it is the reason I had to stand and defend that position because I am Government.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you do not need to defend your position. You are very clear and are here in your right. You are the Leader of Government Business. Questions cannot be asked to Government and you remain seated, as if there is no Government here. Let us move on.

3.03

MR ISAAC TIMGIW (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the last two months, due to heavy rains, the West Nile region almost came to a standstill for almost two consecutive days. Last month and even earlier last week, the area near Pakwach Bridge along River Tangi flooded and movement has been restricted tremendously. It is now putting great risk to the Pakwach Bridge, and we are very afraid of what might happen next.

Secondly, because of the heavy rains, the area between Nebbi, Goli, Vvura and Warr is causing problems. Those three border areas combined raise more money than Malaba border. That is why we do pray that the road gets tarmacked. If it is not, we will keep losing revenue. Every year, it is missed out in the annual budget. This time, we have started the process much earlier. Hopefully, it will be included.

I pray that UNRA visits or makes a report on how they plan to stop flooding around Pakwach bridge because movement is being restricted, yet that is the major highway – actually, it is the national highway to West Nile and so, the issue of flooding needs to be sorted.

Secondly, I request that we also have a route through Murchison Falls National Park, just like it is with other national parks. I wonder why it is only this park where people in transit have to pay. Vehicles have to pay Shs 40,000 to access that route. It is causing a problem, whereas for other routes through the national

parks in other regions like Queen Elizabeth, people do not have to pay.

Lastly, I would like to make a humble request to the members of the Committee on Budget that as West Nile, we have started on the process of ensuring that the Nebbi-Goli-Vvura Road appears in the budget. So, kindly help us when it comes to this matter. That road is very viable in our area and we pray that it gets included in the next financial year budget.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Clerk, extract these issues and pass them over to the ministers responsible, for the responses.

Colleagues, the Minister of Internal Affairs called me and requested that since some of the issues raised were very urgent, especially the issue raised by Hon. Allan Mayanja, he prepared a statement to that effect, but requested me to allow the Government Chief Whip to submit on the Floor for him.

Government Chief Whip, the issue is on Jakana Nadduli. It is not the one on which I directed yesterday. Let them come tomorrow and address the issue.

The one on Jakana Nadduli, I think, is among the issues, which we will also handle tomorrow, if the statement is ready.

BILLS FIRST READING

THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Agnes Kunihira was not feeling fine; so, she asked for permission to allow Hon. Margret Rwabushaija to present it on her behalf.

3.11

MS MARGRET RWABUSHAIJA (Independent, Workers): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This Bill is being reintroduced because it was passed in the Ninth Parliament

and is among business that collapsed. As per the Speaker's ruling, it was delayed and we are presenting it -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, you know what to do when presenting the Bill for first reading.

MS RWABUSHAIJA: Yes, I thank you for the opportunity and I beg to move that the Bill entitled, "The Employment (Amendment) Bill, 2022" be read for the first time. I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable member, do you have a Certificate of Financial Implications?

MS RWABUSHAIJA: Mr Speaker, about the certificate, the ministry concerned has not yet responded, but I have a letter from the Clerk; he wrote officially on 5th of May.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, to protect ourselves, we said that once we submit a Bill, we wait for 60 days and if the Secretary to the Treasury does not respond, then we will consider that they have cleared the Bill. We do not want Bills to be frustrated in that manner; that you receive a letter, sit on it and deny a certificate, without any explanation and the Member remains in darkness.

When was the letter written? In May? It means the 60 days have already lapsed. Therefore, I refer the Bill to the Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development for consideration in line with Rule 129 of our Rules of Procedure. Thank you.

However, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development - I have gone an extra mile to take my own initiative to explain - if you want to deny a Member a Certificate of Financial Implications, do it in writing and give reasons. Otherwise, Private Members' Bills are provided for in the Constitution and in our Rules of Procedure. We do not want this to continue happening.

RESPONSE TO A QUESTION RAISED
BY HON. NAMBESHE JOHN BAPTIST,
MP MANJIA COUNTY AND CHIEF
OPPOSITION WHIP, ON APPROPRIATION
TO THE CONTINGENCIES FUND
PURSUANT TO RULE 43(1) OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE

3.14

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET (Mr Wamakuyu Mudimi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is the response. On 31 March 2022, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development laid before Parliament the proposed annual budget estimates for the Financial Year 2022/2023, which included a proposed budget allocation under Vote 130: Treasury Operations; of Shs 223.9 billion for Contingency Fund. This proposed allocation constituted 0.5 per cent of the previous financial year's budget of Shs 44.778 trillion.

However, on the 18th day of May 2022, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development laid before Parliament a corrigendum to the draft annual estimates for the Financial Year 2022/2023, which revised the proposed budget allocation of Shs 223.9 billion to Shs 62.068 billion for Contingency Fund.

Justification by the minister

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for the reduction of the proposed budget for the Contingency Fund was to provide an additional fund for debt servicing shortfall.

Mr Speaker, the Committee on Budget is aware that service costs are statutory expenditures that have a first call on the budget provided for under Article 160 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. Given the constrained resource envelope and the statutory obligation to prioritise servicing of public debt, the Committee on Budget established that it was prudent to provide that debt service shortfall.

In future, Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should comply with the statutory obligation as per Section 26 of the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Act, 2015. In short, the allocation was provided, but removed by the finance ministry.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, the Member asked why you did not appropriate. You can respond later because Hon. Nambeshe called and informed me that he had delegated Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi to raise supplementary questions in regard to your response.

3.17

MR MUHAMMAD MUWANGA KIVUMBI (NUP, Butambala County, Butambala): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. I am standing in for Hon. Nambeshe, under the rules. Being a member of the committee, I am somehow constrained.

Mr Speaker, this is a statutory command. The Public Finance Management Act states clearly that no budget should pass without a Contingency Fund. The word is "shall" not "may". It is consistent for all budgets. At one time, we wiped out the whole Contingency Fund. I said this country, from time to time - now during floods, we need a Contingency Fund. The best way to avoid a supplementary is to consistently provide money in the Contingency Fund. Therefore, the Chairperson of the Committee on Budget should admit.

We even had an opportunity, during reallocation within the Committee on Budget, to do what the Public Finance Management Act commands us to do, but we did not do it. Therefore, it is not only just the ministry that reallocated; even the budget committee should take responsibility for that anomaly.

I would have expected the Chairperson of the Committee on Budget to tender an apology to say, "We did not do a smart job; we also did not follow the Public Finance Management Act." In the minimum, I would have expected the Chairperson of the Committee on Budget

to tender an apology, and then make a firm commitment that never again, shall we allow a budget to pass, without providing for the Contingency Fund because it is an obligation to us.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable colleague. I do not want us to indict any committee because the House approved whatever the committee did and any Member of the House would have raised this matter in the House.

We did not raise it as a House. However, it is an eye opener. What I loved about this, is that we can police ourselves and ensure we address such constitutional requirements. Therefore, in the next budget, it is an eye opener. Let us ensure that we comply with the law as suggested by the Chairperson of the Committee on Budget. Thank you. Next item.

**MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON ITS OVERSIGHT
VISIT TO KATUNA BORDER POST TO
ASSESS THE STATUS OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY**

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, you have 15 minutes. Focus on observations and the recommendations.

3.21

THE VICE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr Boaz Ninsiima): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Before I proceed, allow me first table the original copy of the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on its visit to Katuna border post, to assess economic and commercial diplomacy. I beg to lay.

Mr Speaker, allow me lay on the Table a file containing the minutes of the committee. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, chairperson.

MR NINSIIMA: Mr Speaker, the mandate of the Committee on Foreign Affairs is derived from Rule 187(k) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament. It establishes the Committee on Foreign Affairs and mandates it to cover Missions abroad, bilateral, multilateral and intergovernmental relations.

It should be recalled that Katuna border is an entry and exit point of import and exports, through and from Rwanda. Katuna has a distinct geographical terrain with a steep and rocky highland. Although the highlands are a tourist attraction, they also increase the cost of construction of physical infrastructure.

Travellers through Katuna, from East African countries, do not require a visa to cross, but are required to have documents such as a tourism visa or a national identity card that are facilitated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the scrutiny of the ministerial policy statement for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Missions abroad, the ministry emphasised the promotion of economic and commercial diplomacy (ECD) as the immediate target. In addition, it was reported that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was promoting regional and international peace security, Uganda's commercial and economic interests abroad, regional and continental integration, adherence to international law and commitments, enhancing diaspora participation in national development, strengthening the promotion of the diplomatic protocol, and consular services, both at home and abroad, and promoting Uganda's image abroad through public policy, and enhancing institutional capacity of the ministry and its affiliated institutions.

Basing on the above-mentioned targets, the committee found it prudent to undertake the assessment of the status of economic and commercial diplomacy at Katuna border. Therefore, we set out with the following terms of reference:

- a) To assess the level of promotion of economic and commercial diplomacy at the border;

- | | |
|---|---|
| b) To assess the level of engagement and role of MoFA in promoting tourism; and | vehicles are disposed of and replaced with more appropriate vehicles. |
| c) To establish the Ministry of Foreign Affairs involvement in facilitating movement of travellers at the border. | Commercial diplomacy |

Methodology

The committee reviewed documents provided by the stakeholders, made site visits and observed what was on the ground, and held meetings with various stakeholders, who included immigration officers found at the border, site engineers, officials from the Uganda High Commission in Rwanda and Uganda Revenue Authority officials.

Economic and commercial diplomacy

In enhancing economic and commercial diplomacy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Government agencies employed various economic tools to achieve Uganda's national interest, which interests include observing and enhancing international agreements that Uganda entered into, to influence exports, imports, investment, lending, and free trade agreements.

The committee also learnt that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was prepared to facilitate travellers who would participate in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2022, which was scheduled to take place on the 20th of June in Kigali, Rwanda.

Observations

The committee observed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs invested and intends to invest further in trade foreign delegation visit, among others.

Recommendation

In view of the above observation, the committee recommends that Government should ensure that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' diplomatic

The committee established that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs engaged in business development negotiations with countries that use and benefit from the existence of Katuna border. The interactions between the neighbouring countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the High Commission of the Republic of Uganda in Rwanda, generated commercial gains in form of inward and outward trade.

Observation

The committee observed that given more financial support, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the High Commission of Uganda in Kigali would ensure high level of commercial diplomacy at Katuna border. If achieved, commercial diplomacy would also enhance economic stability, welfare and create competitive advantage not only for people at the border, but also the country at large.

How commercial diplomacy has been enhanced

The committee further observed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in conjunction with other Government agencies such as Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, created an enabling environment for the business community at the border. This has come with socially beneficial international business ventures such as inward and outward investment as well as increased trade.

An unspecified tax-free period was granted to moneychangers at the border to enable them to transact business and facilitate travellers.

Government agencies, URA in particular, used its network to promote international trade and investment at Katuna border to improve the functioning of the markets and reduce the costs and risks of cross-border transactions.

In the absence of a forex bureau, the department of immigration set aside some space from where businessmen and moneychangers transact their business. This is commended because it enhances commercial diplomacy and ensures that travellers have more confidence in transacting business with people stationed in a defined place.

The committee also observed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Government agencies at Katuna enforced regulations related to health, safety, environment and consumer protection, hence positively impacting on global trade.

General observations

In execution of its duties, the committee inevitably made cross-cutting observations, which were not directly under its mandate, but had a bearing on the success of the foreign affairs sector as indicated below.

Construction of a one-stop border post

Construction of a one-stop border post at Katuna started in July 2014, with funds that were expected to be provided by the World Bank and the Government of Uganda. Amugoli General Enterprises Limited was awarded the contract, but later stopped work due to non-payment. The World Bank also pulled out over the alleged breach of contract. Works were halted until 2022 when construction resumed. This has slowed traffic at Katuna border.

One-stop post is expected to:

- i) Facilitate quick clearance of goods as a one-stop centre;
- ii) Create more employment;
- iii) House URA offices, border security, a health facility and a canteen;
- iv) House a weigh bridge, stores and bonded warehouses; and
- v) Make easier the movement of traders crossing Rwanda-Uganda border for business.

In a meeting held with the engineer and the supervisor of Amugoli Enterprises, Eng. Eyatu, the committee heard that the building was completed and that it had already been commissioned and handed over to URA for occupation.

The committee noted with concern the state of the said building – we refer to the pictures, which we have attached as an annex. The building was full of cracks and the ceiling was almost falling down. Eng. Ivan Eyatu, however, informed the committee that the cracks were part of the building's architectural and engineering design. *(Laughter)* The blocks were also detached from each other, a fact that was not explained by the contractors.

Recommendation

The committee would like to recommend that the Auditor-General carries out a forensic audit on the said building and reports to Parliament within six months after the adoption of this report.

High cost of living at Katuna

The committee observed that the border had very few relaxing and resting places and no restaurant, where Government officials would have breakfast, lunch and supper, yet the border was open 24 hours a day. This made it expensive for Government officials, who had to travel very long distances to access offices.

It had been hoped that the construction of a one-stop border post would come with it the provision of accommodation for at least the 11 staff who work at night, but this was not the case.

Insufficient certificates of identity

The committee learnt that there had been a shortage of certificates of identity for a long time, both at the border and at the Mission in Rwanda. These certificates of identity are emergency travel documents issued to Ugandans and non-Ugandans, who cannot

readily access travel documents in emergency situations. They are issued at foreign missions, border points, regional passport centres and headquarters of the immigration office.

However, the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control (DCIC) had received various Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) equipment from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Uganda. The equipment includes servers, passport readers, fingerprint readers, computers, webcams, printers as well as related licences. This latest technology was expected to enable Uganda's border post to collect, store and analyse traveller's information in real time.

Darkness at night

There were no lights despite the fact that the border operates 24 hours a day. This poses a security threat.

Lack of barrier gates

Construction operates in open space. There were no barrier gates, hence manpower was used. This is a problem to revenue and security.

Non-nationals holding Ugandan passports

The immigration officer expressed concern that there were non-nationals who held Ugandan passports.

General recommendations

1. Extension of enabling services at Katuna border

The Government of Uganda should expedite the process of extending the necessary services at Katuna. These include banking services to ease foreign exchange, telecommunications to enable fast transmission of information by the various types of technologies over wire, radio, optical or other electromagnetic systems, and; agricultural support programmes since the district community is highly engaged in agriculture.

2. Completion of the road at Katuna; in order to protect Uganda's image and enhance economic and commercial diplomacy, Amugoli General Enterprises Limited – the contractor – should expedite the construction work and completion of the road connecting Katuna and Gatuna on the Rwanda side.

The Ministry of Works and Transport should also intensify the supervision of the construction of the road to avoid further wastage of funds and ensure that there is value for money.

3. Conduct a forensic audit on the one-stop border post. The Auditor-General should carry out a forensic audit on the said building and report to Parliament within six months.

4. Formulation of a written foreign policy; commercial diplomacy is designed to influence the country's foreign government policy and regulatory decision, that affects global trade, investment and commerce. It should also be noted that the country's foreign policy entails the country's objective and activities in relation to its interaction with other states, unions and other political entities – whether bilateral or through multilateral platforms.

Uganda's foreign policy agenda states that its foreign policy is to safeguard Uganda's national interest and achieve its goals on the international arena for the benefit of the people of Uganda, the region and the international community. The Government of Uganda should, therefore, come up with a written foreign policy, which will help to streamline the main objective and guide diplomacy.

5. Avail certificates of identity: the Ministry of Internal Affairs should ensure that at all times, certificates of identity are available at all centres, to facilitate and enable people to enter or exit our country. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, committee chairperson. Colleagues, reading from the different reports that we have today, there are some cross-cutting issues. I want us to have a structured debate.

I am going to call the chairperson; I need the chairperson to also read the next report so that we have a joint debate, to avoid repeating ourselves on cross-cutting issues.

**MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON AN OVERSIGHT
VISIT TO THE UGANDAN MISSION IN
KINSASHA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
CONGO**

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, chairperson. I know you have an executive summary. The full report will be captured on the *Hansard*. Please use 15 minutes to do that.

(The report is hereby appended.)

3.39

**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Ms Norah Bigirwa):**

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs oversight visit to the Uganda Mission in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, together with the minutes. I beg to lay.

In accordance with Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure, sectoral committees of Parliament are mandated to examine policy, Bills and budgets; initiate action programmes and monitor Government's performance and their compliance with budgets and approved plans.

The mandate of the Committee on Foreign Affairs covers two broad areas: Missions abroad and the bilateral, multilateral and intergovernmental relations.

In view of the above mandate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs undertook an oversight visit to the Uganda Mission in the DRC, to follow up on key issues identified during the consideration of the budget for the Financial

Year 2022/2023, and the ministerial policy statement. The visit was part of the committee's oversight activity on budget performance, and to also understand the challenges faced by the Mission.

This report is laid according to rule 33(2) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament. The report is structured as follows:

- i) The introduction;
- ii) The methodology; and
- iii) Findings, observations and recommendations.

Mr Speaker, the key objectives of the oversight visit were: the execution of the committee mandate of carrying out oversight to follow the resources appropriated by Parliament as per Article 163(4), which mandates Parliament to monitor all Government expenditure, and Rule 189 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, as stated above.

The terms of reference are in the report.

A brief history of the mission

This Mission was established after Independence. The Mission was closed after the war - commonly known as the first Congo War - by the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire or AFDL, that brought into power former President Laurent Kabila in 1997. During and after this war, all Uganda properties were destroyed.

The Mission reopened in 2007. The Mission is in charge of Government properties, among which include Uganda House, and the Chancery Building (under construction), and the current ambassador is H.E. Farid Kaliisa.

Currently, the Mission is housed in a rented building, paying USD 12,000 per month, since May 2021, paving way for the construction of a new Chancery. The Uganda Government has rent arrears for the building, which now stretches over a year.

Strategic objective of the mission	The charter that ended had the following specific outcomes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To promote trade, tourism, investment between Uganda and DRC, Congo Brazzaville, Republic of Gabon, Central African Republic, Angola and Republic of Cameroon; b) To promote peace and security in the Great Lakes region through cooperation; c) To strengthen bilateral relations with countries of accreditation, for example, the DRC; d) To maximise benefits for regional international organisations in countries of accreditation; e) To promote sustainable management and cooperation for maximum and peaceful exploitation of natural resources in the Albertine Region; f) To promote and safeguard the interests and welfare of Ugandans in the diaspora; and g) To provide diplomatic protocols and consular services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To engage or lobby the DRC and other countries of accreditation to be supportive of the various peace building initiatives or process of interests to Uganda and the Great Lakes region; (ii) To lobby the DRC for her understanding and appreciation of Uganda's positions on various issues including security, terrorism, refugees, exploration and natural resources, border re-demarcation and others as contained in the Ngurdoto Agreement 2007 and other bilateral cooperation agreements; (iii) Promote exports to the DRC and other countries of accreditation annually; (iv) To engage the DRC and other countries of accreditation to be supportive of regional trade, infrastructure development, and other transboundary activities aimed at deepening regional integration; (v) Handle at least 95 per cent of consular cases reported to the mission annually; (vi) Attract tourists from the DRC and other countries of accreditation annually; (vii) To acquire, develop and maintain Government property in Kinshasa; and (viii) To engage the diaspora for development.
I have already told you about the jurisdiction of the five countries.	
The committee recommends that border demarcation should be resurrected to solve problems relating to border conflicts, especially on the shared waters.	
Uganda should continue to dialogue with the DRC for image sanitation, and to protect our nationals in the DRC.	Uganda House, Kinshasa, and the construction project of the Chancery building
There are maps that show the jurisdiction of the mission; you could read them. The Mission charter is there.	The committee recommended that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should ensure that all Mission Charters are updated and aligned to the NDP III, in particular to the Kinshasa Mission. The ministry should expedite the process of providing the Charter, since there are many diplomatic engagements taking place given the geopolitical situation and also the DRC's admission to the East African Community.
Mr Speaker, the committee establishes that the Mission charter expired, and that the new head of mission is yet to get a new charter that is consistent with the current NDP III, and Uganda's interests in the Congo.	

This will enable the Mission to get the requisite budgetary allocation, given the mandate and the wider coverage of the other five countries for accreditation.

The Uganda House in Kinshasa

The committee visited the Uganda House in Kinshasa to establish and assess its condition. And during the site tour, the committee was informed that the building was destroyed during the war, and all properties and equipment were looted and destroyed.

The building used to house the Mission and the Chancery, but because of allocation problems and the destruction, the Mission relocated to a rented building. The Uganda House has since been rehabilitated and is being rented out.

However, although the house was rehabilitated and occupied, more needs to be done on the rehabilitation because some sections of the building have cracks. Colleagues, there are photos attached to this report.

The committee was further informed that a total of Shs 800 million was collected in the Financial Year 2021/2022, and this forms part of the non-tax revenue.

The committee is convinced that further habitation and expansion of the Uganda House will enable the country to collect more non-tax revenue, given its strategic location in Kinshasa.

The new chancery building in Kinshasa

The committee visited the construction site for the new chancery building. It was established that Uganda was provided with land on a reciprocal basis during the Government of President Idi Amin and President Mobutu.

The street where the property is located is named, "Uganda Avenue"; it is a prime location because it houses other missions or embassies as well and it is very close to the residence of the former President.

It was also established that initially, the donated land was utilised as the official residence of the ambassador.

However, over time, the house got dilapidated and was demolished.

Over the last years, Parliament has allocated money to build a new chancery/office of the embassy and construction is underway.

The committee was informed that according to the contractors, over 60 per cent of the work was completed, as per the attached pictures below. The committee commends the Mission for the effective utilisation and monitoring of the project.

The committee recommends that the funds for the remaining part of the project should be provided so that Government saves money for rent and also have the Mission in a befitting location.

Challenges faced by members of staff

- a) Availability of several travel documents in the DRC, which is not the case in Uganda, complicates both the staff and the Ugandans, who work in the DRC and who require consular services.
- b) Insecurity in eastern DRC, which affects planned activities. For example, the business forum last year was postponed due to security concerns.
- c) Insufficient funding affects the implementation of plans in all areas of jurisdiction.
- d) Non-payment of allowances for additional roles. For example, the accounting officer's role has no additional payment.
- e) Poor roads, especially in eastern DRC, led to several cars getting stuck and this affects accessibility.

Connectivity challenges within the country

The country is very large; big for inland movements, which are largely by air because of the lack of road infrastructure. There are challenges with other online visas, especially among the Congolese, who may not find it easy to apply online, as well as language barrier on the Ugandan online visa application.

Poor facilitation of officers at the mission for education, allowances and family reunions

The committee established that all Foreign Service Officers are given only US 2,000 dollars, which is not enough in many missions, to pay for educational expenses for their families.

It is a uniform payment of allowances to Foreign Service Officers across the board, yet the cost of living in the different countries is not the same.

Observations on economic and commercial diplomacy

Mr Speaker, the delegation was informed that the Mission in Kinshasa is not part of the missions considered for commercial and economic diplomacy by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The DRC was Uganda's No. 1 source of trade surplus in 2020 according to the Bank of Uganda trade statistics. Uganda earned \$241 million in trade surplus from the DRC in 2020; and about \$177 million is remitted in trade exports that pushed the figure to \$418 million trade earnings.

This makes the DRC Uganda's No.1 source of trade surplus. Such trade statistics make Uganda's investment infrastructure in eastern DRC a tick. I would like to applaud Government for that.

Billions of trade balance between Uganda and the DRC

Uganda has maintained a positive trade balance with the Democratic Republic of Congo. This

has tremendously increased over time, from \$467.52 million to \$547.72 million and to \$672.39 in the Financial Year 2019/2020 and the respective years.

The tables that speak to that kind of trade volume are hereby attached and I request that we go through them, to understand.

Mr Speaker, the committee established that the DRC is one of Uganda's top destinations for some products. The products we trade with the DRC include; cement, fish, steel products, beer, wheat flour and rice.

With the full implementation of the Parish Development Model programme, it is expected that the volumes of trade will increase, hence maintaining a positive balance of trade. The table below provides the list of products that are exported to the DRC with their attendant values in US dollars.

I would still implore colleagues to go through these tables for us to understand Uganda's position with the DRC. The DRC market matches the demand for Uganda's products.

The committee established that the DRC market has become vital for Uganda, given the DRC admission to the EAC, and Kenya's recent scheme to block Uganda's products from entering its markets.

The committee established that Uganda's products have a comparative quality advantage in the DRC, mainly because Uganda produces food products; beef, fish, chicken and poultry products of high quality than what is available on the Kinshasa market.

The food market in Kinshasa can be split into two: the high-end consumers - the rich and the middle class consisting of people making at least \$500 a month, and the lower-end poor consumers. Uganda's products fit more into the first category.

The committee recommends that Uganda should work on the supply side constraints to increase productivity so that they can

have a sustainable and consistent supply of commodities to the DRC markets.

The challenge in Uganda, as established during the visit, is the lack of reliable supply to almost all commodities. The Government of Uganda should have strategic interventions to increase production to specifically target this market.

The impact of Uganda Airlines

Uganda Airlines has also added to the economic and commercial diplomacy justification for Congo. During our visit, the Civil Aviation Authority and the DRC Government's counterpart signed agreements for Uganda Airlines to be given more routes to the other destinations in the DRC. These include Goma and Lubumbashi; these will be added to the five weekly flights in Kinshasa that are currently being operated by the national carrier.

In future, Government needs to plan to add to the current fleet of aircraft because other countries in the DRC's neighbourhood are also yearning for the services of Uganda Airlines; for example, Congo Brazzaville.

The committee established that there exists a potentially lucrative market in Kinshasa for high-value items, such as spare parts and hardware, which can take advantage of Uganda Airlines' air connection. The Uganda airlines map shows the coverage of the current routes and the proposed new routes.

The committee recommends that Uganda Airlines should be considered as a strategic investment by adding funds for the purchase of more aircrafts, the DRC market is for real for both passenger and cargo planes, given the vastness and lack of road infrastructure.

Free trade warehouse and cold rooms

The committee established that Ugandan traders are suffering the burden of transportation, given the state of roads in the DRC. The Government of Uganda's participation in road projects is intended primarily to facilitate trade.

However, there is urgent need for establishing storage facilities and a free processing zone. Kenya has moved faster in acquiring big chunks of land. To establish warehouses, Uganda needs to get a reliable supplier who can consistently and reliably supply to the available markets and meet the demand.

The market in the DRC is very big and, therefore, needs a reliable supplier. Kasindi-Mpondwe is an effective cattle movement corridor. However, Government needs to encourage value addition on animal products other than selling live animals.

The committee also established that the eastern part of the DRC, where Uganda has a lot of commercial interest, houses over 43 million people. Uganda has a huge comparative advantage in most of the products consumed. The main challenge could be supply response issues, and the sustainability of the market. The government has invested heavily in ensuring the security of the border and inside Congo, and this should be leveraged by benefitting from the trade and other investments.

The committee recommends, therefore, that:

1. Government should do more mobilisation of Ugandans to tap into the potential and virgin markets, now that the DRC has joined the EAC community. The demographic dividend should spill over to the Ugandans to access the huge markets. This requires strategy and commitment on the side of the government to ensure that what is demanded can be produced in quantities expected;
2. The Government of Uganda should also consider construction of warehouses and cold rooms to facilitate Ugandan traders;
3. The DRC Missions should be considered for budgetary allocation and provision, and for the economic and commercial diplomacy programme;
4. There is need to streamline Uganda's policies for consistency and reliable supplies to the regional markets; and

5. Ugandan banks should be facilitated to open up operations in the DRC, especially the eastern side, to facilitate Ugandan traders and the business community.

Opening of the consulate of Goma

Observations

The committee was informed that Goma consulate was closed during the war and it was never reopened. However, since 2018, a number of meetings between the two countries have taken place, and engagements at Heads of State level culminated in the acceptance of the reopening of the liaison office in 2020, under the administration of the former Ambassador. This liaison office will later be upgraded to a consulate when all necessary processes are completed, Mr Speaker.

It was established that Goma has a good and strategic location for Uganda and, therefore, a one-stop border point, which required an upgrade to a fully-fledged consulate with an independent vote, its own budget and additional staff.

Currently, the liaison office is managed by only one technical staff, yet the majority of Ugandans in the DRC are domiciled in Goma and other eastern parts of the country. This will enhance effective consular services and ease the facilitation of Ugandan traders.

Mr Speaker, during the interaction, the committee was informed that Goma and other areas in the DRC such as Bukavu and Lubumbashi require cold rooms and warehouses since there is ready market for food, beef, milk, fish, and poultry products.

The committee recommends that:

1. Goma should be upgraded from a liaison office to a fully-fledged consulate to handle both commercial and consulate issues. It is of key strategic importance to Uganda's commercial interest. Uganda's Government has invested in road infrastructure to facilitate trade and

handling of the insecurity threats. The presence of a consulate will be key in achieving these objectives;

2. The consulate in Goma should be fast-tracked so that Uganda can benefit from the trade in eastern DRC and Ugandans served effectively with consular services;
3. Commercial and economic diplomacy should be rolled out to other deserving missions. There has been no addition to the original piloted mission; and
4. The Mission should register and document all success stories of Ugandan businesses in the DRC for the country to ascertain the value of money from Uganda's participation in building initiatives.

Joint Permanent Commissions (JPC)

The committee established that the Mission has a cooperation framework, which concretised its existence and guides the activities through Joint Permanent Commissions. Uganda has had a Joint Permanent Commission with only the DRC, but the rest of the accredited areas of jurisdiction have not yet been able to join the JPC.

Cooperation frameworks in countries are all presented in a JPC. The JPC between Uganda and the DRC is done on a rotational basis after every two years. The last one was in Kampala in 2018. However, the proceeding one was interrupted by COVID-19. There is no budget provision for this activity in this current financial year.

Mr Speaker, it is important to note that there is a pending JPC for Financial Year 2022/2023, but no funds have been provided, yet these JPCs are instrumental in enhancing cooperation between the States in the agreed areas. The JPC activity has a funding gap of Shs 1.240 billion.

The committee considers the JPC as a key priority if Uganda is to benefit from having not only political and diplomatic ties, but also on the economic front. We, therefore, recommend

that Government considers funding this year's JPC since Uganda will host, as agreed on a rotational basis.

The committee recommends that a total of Shs 1.240 billion should be provided as a supplementary budget in Financial Year 2022/2023 to cater for the activity.

There is need to follow up on the unsigned cooperation frameworks and document the level of implementation of the signed ones.

Mr Speaker, among the diaspora issues, there was:

1. Lack of consular services in Goma, where the majority of Ugandans have businesses;
2. Lack of national ID facilities at the Mission; and
3. Inability to vote in national elections, as compared to our neighbours, the Kenyans, who vote in their Missions.

Other opportunities and challenges pertaining to the DRC that require the intervention of Parliament

The committee established that Uganda released Congolese prisoners; over 76 prisoners and 264 Congolese boats were released, in the name of peaceful settling of disputes between the two countries. Reciprocity was agreed upon.

However, to date, the Congolese Government has never released any Ugandan prisoner.

The Mission has had a series of meetings and negotiations that led to prison exchange. Congolese prisoners were freed and handed over to the DRC authorities. The same is expected as a reciprocal arrangement, where the DRC authorities are expected to free Ugandans in Congo prisons.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is expected to request for a list of prisoners and inform Parliament, and Parliament can then ensure that this is followed to a logical conclusion.

Fleet issues

The Mission has only two vehicles, which are over seven years old. They are due for boarding off. The Ambassador's car is also old and is not representative of Uganda's image. The committee is concerned that even the funds that were approved in the Financial Year 2022/2023 budget for development, which include funds for Missions, were not released in the first quarter.

We recommend that all development funds for Missions, as approved in the Financial Year 2022/2023, should be released in the subsequent quarters to ensure effective operations of the Missions.

Mr Speaker, in conclusion, we thank you and the Parliamentary Commission for availing funds to the committee to enable us execute our oversight mandate. Indeed, the visit to Kinshasa has enabled the committee not only to monitor Government funds, but also to explore the potential the DRC Mission can offer, in terms of economic and commercial diplomacy.

Uganda has invested heavily in the DRC, maintaining peace and security, and also opening up roads and other infrastructure to facilitate trade. In light of the committee findings, Parliament should ensure that the Mission in Kinshasa is enlisted on those Missions that are funded for economic and commercial diplomacy.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable chairperson. Colleagues, you have heard the issues. For some of you who have travelled and visited our Missions, most of the issues raised have come up whenever you visited.

However, I think when structuring our debate, most of the issues in the first report are to do with Katuna border post, whose loan was approved in 2007 by this House, yet up to now, we are grappling with issues of implementation.

I called Hon. David Bahati here because he is the area MP, to begin with, but at the same time, he is the Minister of State for Trade and Industry - the Speaker is still talking. I need to be given a small prison nearby. *(Laughter)*

Secondly, the issues raised in the DRC report - the issue of education allowance for our staff in diplomatic missions is totally laughable. Some of them are selling their properties back here to pay fees.

I learnt of a case in Canada where one of the staff completely failed to concentrate. He decided to come back because the money given as allowance for school fees for the children could not even pay fees for one person in London. He is in Canada, but the children are in Uganda. We make our staff manage their families via *Zoom*, and *WhatsApp* video calls yet the money needed is not much, from the information I have.

Therefore, Minister of Foreign Affairs, this is an issue we need to take seriously. Please capture it. As Parliament, we engage the government and allocate money for education allowances for staff abroad. *-(Applause)-* Do you know staying in New York, London, Tokyo, and Ottawa is really –

I will allow Hon. Cecilia Ogwal because I sent her to London and she has a report on our residences in London, Ottawa and others. We have consulates in critical cities; a very good example is California State. If it stood alone, it would be the fifth largest economy in the whole world, but we do not have any single presence there.

I was there and people were asking me: “Where are your priorities?” Honourable members, the world has shifted so much to commercial diplomacy. You must make money from other countries. You must attract investors - and the investors are asking: “Do you think we shall sit down and do research about Uganda, when we have other countries knocking at our door every day, through their missions here?”

Honourable members, about our commercial attachés and all that, the foreign affairs ministry really needs affirmative action *-(Applause)-* in terms of support.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, it is interesting to note that we cut money for travel abroad for ministers, but we never supported the embassies abroad to do the duties that ministers were supposed to do.

Recently, I went to one of the countries - despite what they said regarding my status - I had to pick a taxi from the airport because the embassy was stuck and yet they had been formally informed that I was coming. Luckily enough, I am young and flexible; so, I jumped into a taxi and went to my *kafunda*. *(Laughter)* However, not everyone can take it lightly, especially in other countries. So, we need to look into that.

I have seen your recommendation to buy more fleets for Uganda Airlines. Honourable members, we have an investigation going on and there are still a lot of issues. Therefore, it is not right for one committee to make such recommendations when another committee of Parliament is still investigating what is going on there. So, committees have to be complementary; you have to be alive to what other committees are doing in terms of the oversight role.

I also noted the recommendation on Katuna that the Auditor-General should do a forensic audit. Now, the Auditor-General did some audit; Parliament has done its oversight, and made a report yet we have recommended that again, the Auditor-General goes back and does another report on the cracks, which are very visible. In fact, you have been told that there are architectural cracks - MPs do not understand architectural cracks.

Therefore, on such a matter, we need serious action. We should invoke article 225 - Who is that on the microphone? I have not seen who has done it, but I hope they repent. *(Laughter)* Colleagues, it is on a light note.

Article 225(1)(e) of the Constitution, gives the Inspector General of Government (IGG) powers to investigate such a matter. Luckily, Article 227 of the Constitution is very clear; the IGG reports to Parliament. Therefore, colleagues, we should change this recommendation so that the IGG can investigate, take action, and report to Parliament in one month. Otherwise, a forensic audit on a crack should be outright. I felt I should make these comments, as I open up the debate.

Hon. Bahati, would you like to say something? But we will shoot down your debate. Let Members first debate and then I will call you.

I will start with Hon. Cecilia Ogwal, the Member for Kabale, the Member for Terego, and our senior former minister, Hon. Baba, who is a senior diplomat. I will pick you, colleagues; so, do not worry. I combined the reports so that I can give you more time in terms of the debate. Two minutes each.

4.12

MS CECILIA OGWAL (FDC, Woman Representative, Dokolo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I would like to appreciate what the leadership of - *(Interruption)*-

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: Mr Speaker, I am sorry, but I am not raising a procedural matter.

Mr Speaker, there are Members from our side who were duly appointed shadow ministers. By virtue of that, they are supposed to sit on the Frontbench for a quick assignment, but they deliberately choose to sit behind -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs, can you lead your group and -

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: I have quite a number

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Naluyima, can you lead?

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: Including the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shadow ministers, please take up your seats. Those who are not ministers in the shadow cabinet, also take up your rightful seats. Colleagues, the debate is on two reports, though the questions will be put separately.

There are Members whom I did not know were shadow ministers - *(Laughter)* Thank you, Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi.

MS CECILIA OGWAL: Mr Speaker, on a light note, I feel uncomfortable to put Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please.

MS CECILIA OGWAL: It is supposed to be the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) today. I do not know why he is acting as whip, but that is a matter for another debate.

The committee report on the DRC and the findings are very important to Parliament. Mr Speaker, we have now shifted to commercial diplomacy, and commercial diplomacy means we should actually focus or recommend new embassies to be created where we can generate more trade.

Therefore, having strengthened activity in the DRC would be good for us in the region. This is important. Whatever the DRC needs, I think we need to fix it.

That is my recommendation because given the way things are changing - and now that the DRC has joined the East African Community - we need to focus more on the DRC.

On top of that, as you pointed out earlier, Mr Speaker, I was with you in the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, the death of the Queen interrupted the core work that we were supposed to do there. You requested me to take a look at the embassy and their challenges.

Mr Speaker, I was extremely disappointed with the shape in which our key embassy in the world was – at the home of Uganda's former colonial master, where we have a very well exposed embassy at the Trafalgar Square. The shape of the embassy really left me devastated.

Recently, the wall collapsed because there was too much rain and they needed over £4,000. However, in the budget, they only allow £6,000 for repair work.

Secondly, despite the fact that the UK or the London centre is very important to us, the ambassador does not have a residence. The residence is in a dilapidated state and I understand a committee went and saw what happened. They have no place to house the ambassador or the high commissioner.

Above all, do we really need embassies if we cannot fund them? That is the question we should ask. The staff do not have enough money. As you said, sometimes they do not have education funds. In some cases, they do not have money for rent. Really, it paints a very bad diplomatic picture.

Therefore, I plead with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to do something to fix Uganda's image abroad. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I understand the committee also visited London and they are in the final stages of doing a report. However, do a report for all missions because we are going to repeat ourselves. There are cross-cutting issues. I have been to most of these missions; the issues are the same.

In fact, you also need to highlight issues facing our diaspora people. We are their MPs; this is their Parliament. So, you should also focus on them.

4.18

MS CATHELINE NDAMIRA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kabale): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the committee for the

report. I would like to talk about the issue of the building at Katuna.

The challenge they cited has been cited before. The cracks they have seen were there, but the contractor continued. We went there, as the leadership of Kabale, and made a report. We recommended that this building be demolished because they were using poor quality materials, but they continued construction. Now, the building is complete, but the cracks are all over.

Mr Speaker, the engineers are saying that even if they use it, it will collapse before 10 years. Now, the committee has given the Auditor-General six months to bring another report. Committees have gone there and given reports on the same issue. How can we keep going on like that, as Ugandans?

Secondly, last month, we were in Kenya; you know we do exports, but they were clear that when our products reach the coast, they are of low value. So, they rebrand our –(*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister of gender, who gives the Certificate of Occupancy for such? Is it under the gender or the works ministry? This is a Government building. Let the minister help me.

4.20

THE MINISTER OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Betty Amongi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the ministry is supposed to assess, inspect and issue occupational permits to buildings. However, if it is outside Uganda, then, it is the similar agency in that country –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is in Uganda.

MS AMONGI: If it is in Uganda, then, it is our mandate. We will take it up.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, please, take it up and update us, as the IGG investigates the criminal part of it. Hon. Musila, procedure?

MR MUSILA: Rule 7(2) and other rules instruct us that you should preside over this House in complete order and decorum. We have had reports here. Actually, we would struggle to even listen because of the incessant laughing, noise and murmuring outside. It has been going on.

Mr Speaker, could you, with all due respect –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. John. I have been signalling to the whips. When colleagues leave the Chamber, they go into the corridors and make noise. Do you want us to close those corridors? It would be unfair for us to do that, but we need to do business here.

We shall not close ourselves here because some people want to make noise in the corridors. Whips - can I appoint Hon. Omara to help us that side.

Also, some of you are always inside, but compete with the ones outside in talking to each other. If you do not change, as presiding officers, we shall take serious action on that matter.

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, wouldn't it also be procedurally okay for Hon. Musila to develop listening skills? I know there is noise outside, but he must be listening to what is happening in the House. Otherwise, if he continues to hear from the other side, it means he is not stable in the House. He is more attentive to what is outside than to what is inside.

I do not hear anything from outside, but I can hear the murmurs. Shouldn't he also gain listening skills, as a Rasta man? Thank you. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu could not hear anything because he was also outside, talking to his colleagues the other side. *(Laughter)* However, we need to be serious, honourable colleagues. Let us respect colleagues who are inside here. We have a canteen; if you want to make noise, just go there and enjoy. Thank you for raising that issue, Hon. John.

4.23

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join the rest of the colleagues to thank the committee. I sincerely appreciate.

On the issue of the continued detention of Ugandan prisoners on the Congolese side, yet Uganda has released – it is not only Congo. We need a lot of bilateral discussions. We have many Ugandans, who are languishing in China and other countries.

I request the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to ascertain how many Ugandans are there, and if they could be tried at home.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, I was with you in Canada - it is very embarrassing. Our Ambassador in Canada does not have anywhere to stay; and even the current location of the embassy is a terrible embarrassment. It is a tall building and Uganda just has a small section upstairs; and the embassy has been left in ruins.

We need bilateral relations; we need our own embassies, whether in California or elsewhere; it is very crucial.

Mr Speaker, I had many meetings with the diaspora. They have a lot for us, Members of Parliament. You need a meeting with the diaspora. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable chairperson, capture issues of the diaspora in your next report on the status of missions. Honourable shadow minister, you cannot discuss your report because you signed it; we recorded your submission in the report.

4.26

MR DAVID WAKIKONA (NRM, Bushigai County, Bududa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs for the report.

In aviation, there are aeroplanes, routes, and airbuses, but she only recognised the five. Before that, airbuses for Uganda were

more than five; they were about 20. If we are working on an Airbus and Bombardier and so far, you are at only five, when are you getting the rest? In addition, what is the service the new aeroplanes are giving now?

Mr Speaker, aeroplanes do not fly until they have certificates of airworthiness. These certificates are not valid because you have repaired a plane today; they are valid because you have repaired it today, according to the manufacturer's manual, or you have kept it down for a period of certain months, maybe three or two months.

I heard the presenter say that we were going to buy more aeroplanes –(Member timed out.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable. Honourable member, we never go beyond the time given because we have other colleagues who want to submit. We shall handle issues of aeroplanes when COSASE presents a report to do with Uganda Airlines.

4.28

MR JAMES BABA (NRM, Koboko County, Koboko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me also thank the chairperson and the vice- chairperson for the excellent report. I have three issues:

One, embassies abroad are the face of Uganda; they are a reflection of this country. If it is in shambles, then that is what will be portrayed abroad. Many of our embassies are in a sorry state.

I speak as a former Foreign Service Officer for the last 30 years. Many of our embassies were on their knees. Government should consider the issue of embassies and facilitate them properly. Let us reflect on what we are abroad, instead of the shambolic structures and poorly remunerated diplomats in very expensive places. That is my first prayer.

Prayer No.2, it is proper that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has identified commercial diplomacy as their key strategic plan in the execution of their work; they need support in that area.

The report clearly shows how the DRC, for example, is our key trading partner right now, even bigger than Europe, Asia and anywhere else. We are trading more within the region. So, why don't we invest there strategically so that we can benefit maximally from the proximity of these areas?

Mr Speaker, in 1973, my first posting was to Kinshasa. At the time, the East African Airways used to fly there. It was mainly cargo; taking smoked fish and chicken from Wankoko, where the Americans have now –(Member timed out.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Baba, sorry about the time. Please, conclude.

MR BABA: So, trade is key. Lastly, the human rights of Foreign Service Officers are being abused on account of the education of their children. Families have been separated, some have even collapsed because an officer has to work abroad and he leaves the wife home so that the children go to school here. Let the government find money for the education of the children of these foreign officers, who are abroad. They used to do it before; this should be revived.

My own children were educated by taxpayers' money and I was abroad with my family. I worked well. Of recent, families of Foreign Service Officers are being broken; this is violation of their rights. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Awany Tony - he was also a service officer in Abu Dhabi.

4.31

MR TONY AWANY (NRM, Nwoya County, Nwoya): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I am a former First Secretary in the Uganda Embassy in Abu Dhabi.

I thank the committee for this beautiful report. I remember in 2018, when the Committee on Budget visited our mission in the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi, we presented an array of issues. I thank the committee that all that we

presented to them has been included in this report.

My question is on the recommendation we made, in which we called for the deployment of commercial attachés to diplomatic missions that were designated to do economic and commercial diplomacy. I am happy the gender minister is here; I do not know how many commercial attachés they have deployed to these designated missions to undertake economic and commercial diplomacy. I hope she will make a report.

Secondly, Kinshasa is one of the ring states that is befitting of economic and commercial diplomacy. As we do our advocacy for uplifting the level of economic and commercial diplomacy, I would also want the gender ministry to give us a plan of how and when they will probably deploy a commercial officer in -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why the gender ministry?

MR TONY AWANY: Because the commercial officer attachés are from the trade and gender ministry.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, trade is with industry.

MR TONY AWANY: Yes, the trade and industry ministry. Thank you for the correction, Mr Speaker.

About the issue of reciprocal offer of land for the construction of the embassy, the Mission in Abu Dhabi requested the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Government to give them land. The UAE Government requested the Government of Uganda to offer land here for the construction of their Mission. I do not know how far this has gone. Maybe, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can help us in that respect. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I now want to go to no-man's land. *(Laughter)* I will pick Hon. Omara, Hon. Christine and Hon. Ebwalu.

4.33

MR PAUL OMARA (Independent, Otuke County, Otuke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the chairperson for a beautiful report.

Nothing would happen if there was no security. I appreciate the President and the East African Community States for deploying the regional force, which we believe will keep peace in the DRC. I would like this Parliament to have unanimity on matters of security, and we should do everything possible to make sure that the region is stable.

Mr Speaker, the chairperson also talked about the positive balance of trade, which has taken place between us and the DRC. We have achieved a positive balance of trade with most of our neighbours, and we were only overtaken recently by Kenya. This has been a result of the manufacturing sector, which is booming in our country.

There will be a meeting in Nairobi about the harmonisation of standards of the oil seed sector; on edible oil and fats. However, I have been informed that there will be no representation for Uganda because of lack of money. I would want the Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives to come and confirm to us; that Uganda will be represented because what this means is that if we do not harmonise the standards, then Ugandan commodities might be rejected on the international market, especially in the oil seed sector.

This meeting that will take place in Nairobi between the 26th to the 30th of September is very important for trade, and as you know, we are now in commercial diplomacy; the manufacturing sector is what is making us strong. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Christine?

4.36

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT (NRM, Woman Representative, Kumi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. First, I want to appreciate the leadership of the Government of Uganda

for the various interventions that are now in the DRC in terms of peace, security and the roads. It is an indication of the achievements of regional integration. No wonder, our dear President has been given a new title of “the father of regional integration.” He really deserves it. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, we have also noted from the report, that the contract started in 2014. So, we want to find out: how far is the country with the contractor in terms of payments, now that we have challenges of cracks and the ceiling that is almost collapsing? That is the reason I support the report that we should have a forensic audit because we need value for money. Uganda is trying to fight corruption, which is destroying our country. I beg to submit.

4.37

MR JONATHAN EBWALU (Independent, Soroti West Division, Soroti City): Mr Speaker, sometimes, when we are ministers in Government, we do not advise Government. It is only when we are backbenchers that we start advising Government. I want to appeal to our people that when you are in Government, get up and advise Government appropriately.

My senior here was the Minister of Internal Affairs at the time and if you had advised Government that time, they would have listened more than now when you are a backbencher.

Mr Speaker-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: But Hon. Ebwalu, we are debating a report. Is that a preamble? *(Laughter)*

MR EBWALU: Mr Speaker, I request that to avoid further embarrassments, this Parliament makes a statement here and directs Government that if there are areas where we can buy land, we should buy land and build our own embassies in those countries where we do not have offices. In many of these places, we are paying rent. *(Interruption)*

MR OKIN OJARA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The honourable Member who was on the Floor is making a statement and a speech. He is not

making a keynote address to this Parliament. Is the Member in order to veer off the content of the report? We are debating a key report of the committee, but he is veering off and making his keynote address to the House. Is he in order?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ebwalu, unfortunately, the preamble to your debate and submission has taken long; it has taken all your time. Hon. Teira -

4.40

MR JOHN TEIRA (NRM, Bugabula County North, Kamuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to extend my appreciation to the committee for the good report.

Kinshasa is more or less a net importer of all consumables, which we produce here. Our biggest challenge is the inability to prioritise where we have high-value interests and where we do not.

Mr Speaker, the report highlighted Kinshasa and Katuna. Our figures of trade are where priority and emphasis are needed. Several reports have been made in this House in regard to our foreign Missions and we keep going through the same circles time and again.

Prioritising trade should not be left only in the hands of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. If we are looking at improving trade, then we should have a joint understanding between the various committees that relate to trade, foreign affairs and any other that can be of value, in order to have a streamlined approach of managing our relations with the various Missions.

Mr Speaker, there is a lot of potential within our region that we can economically exploit. *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Colleagues, the Kinshasa Hon. Teira is talking about - if you have been a trader or you want to be a trader - that is a city where you will go and right away start making good money. I have been there. *(Laughter)* Colleagues, I have to look for money because it cannot find me seated.

This is a city of 14 million people. Basically, anything you can trade moves. The purchasing power is very high because they need lots of services. Of course, the issue is still logistics management, transport and all that. With the coming of Uganda Airlines, it would be a city, which, if we could focus on, – go to eastern Congo, which is well known for minerals, but a lot of trade goes on there.

Hon. Kabbyanga's area, Hon. Atkins Katusabe - that is why you have heard Hon. Katusabe insist on reopening their market.

About stretching up to West Nile, you heard Hon. Otimgiw talk about the border in Goli-Zombo - all of them will connect. This is very important because it is a cash cow for the region. If we could give more attention to the DRC, then I believe as a country – that is why in the 10th Parliament, when they requested approval of money for opening roads, despite some of us not having roads in our constituencies, we supported it because we were opening opportunities for Uganda to make money, which would in turn transform our economy. So, we need to give it serious attention, honourable colleagues.

4.43

MR RAUBEN ARINAITWE (Independent, Isingiro West County, Isingiro): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. When you talked of the cracks in Katuna, I got a chance and went to Bunagana, which is on the side of Zaire.

They have built a good, big complex of three storeys and the Ugandan side is like a kiosk. It seems it has become a habit for our people to enjoy Government money. When I asked how the DRC does it yet Uganda cannot, they said, "In the DRC, you cannot touch a shilling that belongs to Government."

I request that with this report, we recommend that the IGG investigates and if possible, we ensure that whoever has touched Government money in these constructions, is held accountable and responsible. I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can see people who have ever touched DRC's money; they call it Zaire. *(Laughter)* These ones touched the money of Primus and other products.

4.45

MR ATKINS KATUSABE (FDC, Bukonjo County West, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I had the opportunity, in the 10th Parliament, by the grace of God, to serve for five years as minister of foreign affairs, in the shadow government. I know, that by the grace of God, when Government changes, I will be a Cabinet Minister for Foreign Affairs. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, there are a lot of challenges -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, you have already shared the positions? *(Laughter)*

MR KATUSABE: Mr Speaker, I am the minister for foreign affairs in the people's government, headed by Dr Besigye, and I am a minister in waiting. This is the deal.

The country is making a lot of progress. I remember having a one-on-one with the President, Gen. Dr Yoweri Museveni, in New York, on the third floor of Uganda House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, that is a problem with preambles. Can you conclude?

MR KATUSABE: This is what I told the President: Mr President, Sir, this building in which we are has 14 floors and it was constructed by President Iddi Amin -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, I have lobbied for you so that you remember me in your kingdom, but it seems – please, conclude.

MR KATUSABE: I told the President that I would be glad to have an 80-storey building in Manhattan during his Government. The President listened and said he would do it. I hope he can do it this year. The reason I say

this, Mr Speaker, is because Togo now has a 57-storey building in New York, Manhattan. We can make it, if Togo can. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

4.48

MR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak South County, Amuru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to appreciate the content in the two reports. The issues of insecurity at the border are very serious. Our districts are at the border. The issue of insecurity needs to be handled very seriously because it is a major problem hindering businesses in the border districts.

Secondly, is the issue of boundaries: the country needs to have clear boundaries with other countries. When travelling from Arua to Koboko, the boundary between the DRC and Uganda is a road. People will tell you that this side of the road is the DRC and the other side is Uganda. The community living there is at risk.

We are told that the DRC alone has 23 rebel groups. The majority of rebel groups live mostly on Uganda's side. It is very important to control affairs in our country. We are not yet clear about —(*Member timed out.*)

4.49

MS VERONICA NANYONDO (NUP, Woman Representative, Bukomansimbi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Thank you, Chairperson, for the report. Embassies are the face of Uganda; they wield the mandate to offer services to our people living abroad and those interested in investing in our country.

Therefore, I pray that in the next budget, we fund these embassies so that they can offer the services they are supposed to offer to the people, to avoid them telling Ugandans how they are suffering from abroad. Let us fund the embassies so that they do their mandate. Thank you.

4.51

MR KARIM MASABA (Independent, Industrial Division, Mbale City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to talk about the issue

at Gatuna. I heard my honourable colleague comparing the Ugandan border post to a kiosk, and people laughed, but this is the bitter reality.

I have been to most of the one-stop border points and many other border points. I noticed that most of them are in a bad state. I was told Uganda does not own land at the border. They are renting a small *Muzigo*, which they are using as a border post office. We were told that the land is owned by people and had -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, there is language we use in this House. We do not have interpreters to tell us what a *Muzigo* means —(*Laughter*)— Please, use the language that Members understand.

MR MASABA: Mr Speaker, I was told that they are renting small rooms around and the land to do their work. However, when you reach Katuna, apart from that building being in a very bad state - and I do not know if the committee looked at the areas of accommodation, but this was also a key concern when the finance committee went there. Most of the staff reside in one small room, shared by about four - (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shadow minister for East African Affairs.

4.52

MR FRANCIS KATABAAZI (NUP, Kalungu East County, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This being my maiden speech as Minister of East African Community Affairs -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, honourable member. The Minister of East African Community Affairs is the Rt Hon. Rebecca Kadaga.

MR KATABAAZI: Mr Speaker, I meant minister for the government in waiting. I would like, first of all, to congratulate our colleagues in Kenya for going through a very teargas-free election and abiding by what the court decided.

About the issue at hand, I would like to thank the chairperson of the committee for the report. First of all, on the Katuna border, I would like

to stress the issue of the shoddy work being done by Amugoli General Enterprises Limited. We have had a series of shoddy work done not only at the border, but also for the different departments.

I sit on the Committee on National Economy.
(*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, take your seat and let the Speaker talk. We are debating - this is like a radio talk show and someone calls to send greetings.

This is a debate, but you started by congratulating people and informing us - Let me give you space for your maiden debate. Can you debate now? (*Applause*)

MR KATABAAZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was talking about the shoddy work at Katuna. We should take serious action because many things are done in a shoddy way. For example, some of the schools constructed in Uganda are launched looking like they are old. Action should be taken against this company.

Secondly, there has not been proper flow of goods and services across the Katuna border. I am sure by the time the committee did the report, it was not, and up to now it is not yet fully opened. Therefore, I would like to seek some guidance from the minister concerned on how we can fully restore business at the border.

Mr Speaker, we are at the East Africa Community integration, but somehow, there are some restrictions. (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable colleague. The minister promised to come with that statement tomorrow. I will give you more time to respond to the minister then.

MR OKIN OJARA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am rising on a matter of procedure, under Article 50 and rule 59, which is on a motion without notice.

Mr Speaker, you mentioned very clearly that there is still a lot to be discovered in most of the foreign embassies, including the issue of infrastructure and economic contribution to this country. We expect another report, which will enable us to continue the debate.

I propose that we postpone this debate until we have a comprehensive report so that we debate this matter once and for all. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleague, you stood up on a point of procedure, but then, you moved a motion. Which is which? You do not move a motion on a point of procedure.

Honourable members, let us go on. I am aware - I raised it since some of the issues are specific to the DRC and Katuna. I will not make the debate last long because the committee is still compiling a report, which should be general for all embassies. Otherwise, we shall not handle each country separately.

4.58

DR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimaanya-Kabonera Division, Masaka City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Democratic Republic of Congo is a giant and our presence there should be evident. You talked of Kinshasa, but another key city is Lubumbashi.

The people in Congo do not dig, but they eat; they needed our agriculture products yesterday. Another important country in that catchment is Gabon because its per capita is \$7,000. They are looking for our food because they do not dig. Our presence there, in terms of transport - the airline, a consulate or embassy, should be priority. Even Angola - these are key in that catchment. Our presence should be felt so that we can facilitate economic diplomacy and help our nation grow economically. Thank you.

5.00

MR RONALD KANYIKE (NUP, Bukoto County East, Masaka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My concern goes to the businessmen

and women who were closed at the border while transporting their goods to Rwanda and the DRC.

I did not see in the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the men and women - actually, some of them came from your district Mitooma, Mr Speaker. They were exporting agricultural products and building materials, but I have not seen the fate of our businessmen and women. Therefore, can the committee responsible for foreign affairs and tourism, trade and industry come up with a report, indicating the businessmen and women who lost a lot of money at the border?

We were promised that the border would be opened and these people remained there for some good time. We need to cater for these businessmen and women who are now battling with loans in the banks. In fact, they are selling off their properties. Thank you.

5.01

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luwero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Seemingly, we have gaps in the procurement process and that explains why we end up with contractors doing substandard or shoddy work. The competence of contractors positively informs the final product. In this case, we have Amugoli General Enterprises Limited telling the committee that the cracks are part of the engineering plan.

Taxpayers' money is lost in very many ways. Therefore, I enjoin the investigation on the procurement process because seemingly, people are being corrupted during the award of contracts to these companies. Since we are incompetent, the World Bank, which is supposed to fund such projects, withdraws because of obvious reasons. Thank you.

5.03

MR FRED KAYONDO (DP, Mukono County South, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. When Parliament starts discussing cracks in the infrastructure of

the contracts that are awarded by Government - gone are those days.

For each contract that Government awards, there is always a consultant who is supposed to monitor every step of the contract as decided in the bills of quantities and the terms of reference. Therefore, before we roast the contractors over shoddy work, what are these consultants, who are supposed to represent Government, doing? These are the people who prepare completion certificates before works are paid for.

Works cannot be paid for before a consultant approves. *(Applause)* So, if these works are paid for, what are the consultants doing? Before we bring the contractors on board, let us also look at the consultants who are consuming a lot of money from Government, but are not doing their work. *(Applause)*

5.04

MR SAMUEL OPIO (Independent, Kole North County, Kole): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Uganda has been known as a key player in regional security. Unfortunately, we have a challenge in our strategy because we create peace and then, we withdraw. Other countries bring in security to promote trade and they stay to develop the trade itself.

If you consider the exports between the three countries of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania to the DRC, we are sharing almost the same amount in terms of the value and volume of our exports, yet we have been the key player in bringing security. We create peace, withdraw and other people take advantage. We have hunted the animal and put it on the table for other people to enjoy. The trade ministry should take a big role in driving trade in the DRC.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, on the Vote given to a Mission, I believe the criteria should be dependent on the amount of trade that it has generated. The more the volume of trade, the more the money that should be allocated. We should adopt that as a criterion and make an impact. Thank you.

5.05

MR MILTON MUWUMA (NRM, Kigulu County South, Iganga): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I will pick it from where Hon. Opio has ended.

Mr Speaker, there is need for our country to revise and revisit our foreign and economic policies. As we advance to pacify these neighbouring countries, what is our key interest? The last time I visited Somalia, our “children” were risking lives to ensure it becomes peaceful, but we were at pain when consumables were coming from South Africa and Kenya. Ugandan products were nowhere to be traced in Somalia, then. Now that our products are somewhere, let us revise it.

I remember when we were studying imperialism, we learnt that the Christians held the Bible in front, but had something behind. - *(Laughter)* - Yes. As they were advancing to preach the Gospel, something was following from behind and they, indeed, achieved it. That is why our minerals were depleted.

So, Mr Speaker, for today, I rest my case, but I want to say – *(Member timed out.)* Mr Speaker, I was still –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have said you rest your case for today. *(Laughter)*

4.07

MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We were in Tanzania on Thursday last week and met our embassy staff. The situation is very bad across the board.

My proposal is that before we wait for next year, we should have a supplementary to support them. Our commissioner there told us that he has five other states to visit, but to date, he has not visited them. They cannot do commercial diplomacy because they need to have meetings. They cannot even have meetings with other people to expose what our country has. I feel there is an urgent need to have an alternative as we wait for the budget process for next year.

Secondly, Mr Speaker – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, we have just passed the budget. It cannot be this House to start saying “go and bring a supplementary” when we have been condemning supplementaries.

All these issues were happening when we were budgeting. However, what I get from your point is that it is very important that we take their issues seriously. In the next budgeting cycle, we should consider them.

5.09

MR NATHAN BYANYIMA (NRM, Bukanga North County, Isingiro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. You have said it all, but it is entirely our fault. It is unfortunate that this financial year, because of the loss of our dear Speaker, we never had time. There is no way a Member of Parliament can be here and they do not have a policy statement for another sector. You do not have them.

Honourable ministers, let us have your wish list of all priorities. Let us look at it before you are overwhelmed by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development so that we are able to determine our fate here. Let us not allow the finance ministry to overrule us.

We have a PS/ST who does not know the practical means of doing things. He does not; I must say it. Let us be honest with ourselves. Let us be practical. You cannot have a 260-page policy statement on an iPad. You cannot read it. You must have a copy so that if I am in the Committee on Physical Infrastructure, I can know what is in the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources or the Committee on Foreign Affairs. We are now all in darkness.

Each Member knows only what is in his sectoral committee, but we used to have a copy, read and compare notes. *(Applause)* We never had chance to debate our reports.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Byanyima. Colleagues, let us avoid situations of directing information or bringing up names

of individuals who do not have a chance to sit here and defend themselves. The PS/ST is not the one who did the budget. We approved this budget. He brought it here and we made changes, but we never gave the foreign affairs sector due attention.

Secondly, each ministry should work on their policy statements - and I agree with Hon. Byanyima - to ensure that, indeed, we have hard copies of those statements. We do not want to hide behind soft copies and all that because any time, we have to delete documents from our system to create space for others. So, we need the hard copies so that colleagues can always refer to them, especially when we have such issues.

When we say that tomorrow, we have a debate on foreign affairs, then, I would pick the ministerial policy statement for foreign affairs ministry, read through and it guides me on what their plan was.

5.12

MR RICHARD OSEKU (NRM, Kibale County, Pallisa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to appreciate the committee for the report. My attention is drawn to the committee visit to Kinshasa. They report that during the war, our Mission was destroyed, looted and that we had to rehabilitate it; we are struggling to put up the Chancery.

Mr Speaker, diplomatic missions are founded under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Article 22 obligates the host country to ensure that the Missions there are inviolable, protected and that no damage or insecurity affects them.

My concern is: what has the Government done to claim the damages that we incurred from the war in Congo, aware of the fact that Uganda is paying \$325 million to the Government of the DRC out of the alleged - actually, it was proved that we had looted and caused havoc in Congo during our intervention there? Of recent, we just paid over \$65 million to that effect. *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: *(Mr Oseku rose.)* the minister has picked the point, Hon. Oseku.

5.12

MS JULIET KINYAMATAMA (NRM, Woman Representative, Rakai): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. My concern is that the Government of Uganda should refocus on its failing foreign policy and majorly concentrate on the economic gain or the economic affairs, because this is why we see ourselves providing security in the East African territories; we ended up with security withdrawing and other countries taking on the economic gain. It is just because they are focused on the economic front. I think that is one thing that the Government of Uganda and foreign ministers should concentrate on. Thank you.

5.14

MR IGNATIUS WAMAKUYU (NRM, Elgon County, Bulambuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. All our embassies and Missions around the globe are in a total mess. This time, we have done something in the budget, but even the little, which was provided to these Missions and embassies, was not given.

Therefore, instead of asking for a supplementary, let the finance ministry release the additional monies that we have provided to these embassies. Members agitating for a supplementary should not take that route, but instead, advise the finance ministry to release what was provided in the budget. Otherwise, we will feel embarrassed when we move out.

5.15

MS LILLIAN ABER (NRM, Woman Representative, Kitgum): Mr Speaker, the issue of diplomacy must be looked at as commercial diplomacy. We are in a Government, which is very peaceful. No one in this House can worry about these issues that I am going to raise because the current Government is good. However, in the event that you have a bad government, there are three things you should expect when you become a politician. No. 1 is exile; No.2 is jail and No.3 is death. I want to bring it to the attention

of this House that the need to restructure a functioning and well established embassy out of the country will be of help to you in future, in the event that the NRM Government is no longer in power.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to note a big concern on the money we spend on rent for the embassies abroad. With this money, we can make a decision to buy houses that would be used or sub-rented and generate money to support the embassies, instead of spending huge sums of money on rent and at the end of the day, we are still complaining about funding.

Lastly, on Katuna, I think it is very important that we take - *(Member timed out.)*

5.17

MR JAMES MAMAWI (NRM, Adjumani East County, Adjumani): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. Uganda signed an agreement with the DRC to release prisoners on both sides. Uganda made sure that 76 prisoners were released and 264 boats were also released and given to the Congolese Government.

However, up to now, the DRC Government has not released Ugandan prisoners and even the items, which they withdrew from Ugandans, are still with them. Why is the ministry writing letters to the Government of the DRC instead of having a comprehensive meeting so that these people are released? We need a situation where I release your people and you also release mine. Why isn't the DRC Government doing that? Thank you.

5.18

MR TOM ALERO (NRM, West Moyo County, Moyo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The issue of military intelligence and immigration at the border should be strengthened because more often than not, most of the vehicles stolen from Uganda are taken to the DRC. Recently, the Arua Regional Hospital ambulance was stolen and smuggled into the DRC and yet, it passes and goes through the immigration system. What is happening?

We need to strengthen the military intelligence network and also the politics of defence, the police, prisons and so on. If there is anything that has been taken to the DRC illegally, it must be brought back. This should be said to the intelligence system of the DRC and that of Uganda. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

5.19

MR SAMUEL OKWIR (NRM, Moroto County, Alebtong): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I join my colleagues in thanking the chairperson of the committee for the report that has been well presented. It is true that I also visited Katuna and I saw the construction that is going on there; they are doing swamp-filling that needs a lot of technical detail. What we saw there is really horrible. The structural cracks are a very clear indication that quality was compromised.

However, I also would like to agree with my colleague who blamed the consultants that clear the contractors for the certificates of payments; leading to the advancing of money when the quality of work is not commensurate to what is on ground. The situation is very bad. I thank you.

5.20

MR PAULAKAMBA (NRM, Busiki County, Namutumba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will refer the august House to page 21 of the report, on the recommendation for strengthening commercial diplomacy in Goma and indeed, in other Missions.

I would like to add that since commercial diplomacy is strategic to our nation, we should sufficiently fund these Missions especially in the areas of commercial diplomacy because I have been to other countries; our Missions are struggling; they cannot sufficiently render this activity, which is core in those various Missions.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I would like to add my voice that this Mission should be sufficiently funded. I thank you.

5.21

MR YONA MUSINGUZI (NRM, Ntugamo Municipality, Ntugamo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committee for a good report. However, I would like to add my voice on the issue of commercial diplomacy. They are talking about commercial diplomacy, infrastructure abroad, but to me, who is a victim in Sudan - in the other Parliament, I wanted to undress and show you my scar, where I was shot at in Sudan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, do not do it in this Parliament. *(Laughter)*

MR MUSINGUZI: Okay. With your request, I will not. Mr Speaker, in their report, I would have implored the members of the committee to really discuss more about the diplomacy and international relations we have in the Middle East, not only leaving it for the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

I have studied the trends. We all know the statistics of Ugandans who have died there, but you should relate it to the Biblical history of that kind of group of people whom I do not want to mention here. If you compare the Israelites and Palestinians, these people only listen to a ransom. If it is diplomacy, they will always kill us until we stop taking our children there. I urge this House - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Yona threatened to undress; now, he is very tough. Please, Koboko, save us.

5.23

DR CHARLES AYUME (NRM, Koboko Municipality, Koboko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was a bit concerned about the rent of \$12,000 per month, which translates to Shs 45 million. Annually, that is Shs 550 million. For the economists here, that is a bit of wastage. How would we get that money, even if it meant servicing a loan, get the bulk that is needed, finish the Chancery and pay back that Shs 550 million annually as opposed to giving it out to somebody in the DRC?

Finally, there is a border crossing in Koboko called Birijaku, which is quite active, but there is no presence of Government, apart from a pole and a vigilante. Those crossing have to go all the way, 20 kilometres to Oraba to get permits and documents stamped.

Government should look into this because we are losing revenue there. Thank you.

5.24

MS FLORENCE ASIIMWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Masindi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am talking about the field trip we had to Pretoria. I wish to thank the NRM Government for buying the ambassador a house in Pretoria – a very nice house. Some of you will get the chance to visit.

In regard to the quality of work of the contractors, I have stood here before. I do not know the capacity of the UPDF Brigade because we are disappointed by these contractors. We have proved beyond reasonable doubt that the UPDF is doing good work. However, can we be informed of their capacity so that we build it, so that they are able to do most of the work in health, education and everything else? We are getting tired of these contractors.

For rent, we better take advantage of mortgages as was done in South Africa. Instead of renting, they should take on the mortgage system and eventually, acquire that property. In so doing, embassies will acquire property wherever they will be. We should have commercial attaches in most of these embassies where you can exhibit. In Pretoria, they told us that they do not have money to exhibit what Uganda has to offer. –*(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. But Hon. Florence, what you are telling us about South Africa is different. A mortgage is borrowing and I do not remember us approving the borrowing by our Mission in South Africa - committing Government. Chairperson, Committee on Foreign Affairs, we need to get the details of that. If they borrowed, who allowed them to do so? Borrowing can only be approved by this Parliament.

5.26

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu County West, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. To correct the record, the asset we have in South Africa was procured under the late PS/ST –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The minister will confirm.

MR SSEWUNGU: I thank the chairperson and the members of the committee. However, Mr Speaker and honourable members - especially Members on the ruling side - when you go to the caucus, just get time and ask His Excellency what happened to Uganda's Missions since 1986. Fortunately, in your caucus, you have a former UPC member – the gender minister. They know what Obote and Amin left behind.

Therefore, as they continue poking your noses for COVID-19 that is not there, first find out what happened. As soon as Gen. Museveni took over in 1986 up to the present, embassies are – *(Interjections)* - I can assure you Amin left a building in America, which is next to the UN Headquarters – 18 storeys. When they took over power, they went to pluck off Amin's name from that building with many hammers, but it couldn't get off.

All the embassies have been killed. I visited these embassies under PAC; they are all dilapidated. In the DRC, it is the same story. How would you construct the roads – *(Member timed out.)*

5.28

MR OJARA MAPENDUZI (Independent, Bardege-Layibi Division, Gulu City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join the rest in thanking the committee. There are people, including those in this room, who spend a lot of time every morning working on their faces simply because they know the important role the face plays.

In this Parliament, we are saying our embassies are the face of the country. If we know the importance of the face of our country, why can't we then concentrate on putting the faces we have out there in the correct shape, so we

are able to give the kind of impression the world needs?

A few months ago, I went to our embassy in Kenya. It is unbelievable where they are located. They are squeezed in - somebody called it a *kafunda* – they are squeezed somewhere and it is difficult to locate them.

We have very prime property in the heart of Nairobi, on Kenyatta Avenue. This structure could play a very significant role in giving that image, but we are not putting any resources to improve it.

A Member said previously that a similar report was presented. *(Member timed out.)*

5.30

MR ROLAND NDYOMUGYENYI (Independent, Rukiga County, Rukiga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committee for the good report. There is a word on page two that is misleading.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Which report? We are discussing two reports.

MR NDYOMUGYENYI: Let me get the title: *"The Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Oversight Visit to the Ugandan Mission in Kinshasha."* There is a phrase "sight visits", which makes the whole report misleading - that they did a sight visit. The word they are using is "sight." I do not know if it is "site". It will mislead us if they say "sight visit", the way they have stated.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Maybe that is what they did. *(Laughter)*

MR NDYOMUGYENYI: They need to tell us. Mr Speaker, I would like to refer to page 19 where the committee is saying Ugandan banks should be facilitated to operate in eastern DRC. In Uganda, unfortunately, we do not have banks owned by Government; we have private banks and most of them are foreign-owned. *(Interjections)* There are very few banks owned by Ugandans. I would like to – *(Member timed out.)*

5.31

MR YOVAN ADRIKO (NRM, Vurra County, Arua): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. The issue of the border between Uganda and the DRC is a serious one. I worked for 15 years at the border as the LC III chairperson.

Currently, there are many cases of stolen vehicles, which are transported through my constituency. If you try to check the border between Uganda and the DRC, there is no road. If you went there now, you would get lost. You would think you are in the DRC and yet you are on the Uganda side.

I request our Government to do border demarcation from Vurra Custom, Logire up to Zombo because there is a lot of confusion there. People claim to be land owners or landlords, but it always causes a lot of confusion.

Secondly, as my colleague has said, recently, the Arua Regional Referral Hospital ambulance was stolen. We have a neighbouring district called Aru. All our vehicles are there in the DRC.

Currently in the DRC –(*Member timed out.*)

5.33

MS JENNIFER DRIWARU (NRM, Woman Representative, Maracha): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will pick from where Hon. Adriko has left. The issue of insecurity along our border is very horrible. We are neighbouring Congo. The road that stretches from Odramacaku to Paranga up to Koboko is terrible.

You also talked about an open market in Kinshasa, but our people cannot access this market because of the bad roads, which also brings a lot of insecurity.

Mr Speaker, I thank the committee for the good report. It captured something about our prisoners who have not been released. I want to bring it to the attention of this House that our West Nile people are suffering in the hands of authorities in the DRC and South Sudan.

Let me inform this House that many of our people have been arrested. If Uganda can release foreign prisoners, how about our Ugandans –(*Member timed out.*)

5.31

MR AMERE ONEKALIT (FDC, Kitgum Municipality, Kitgum): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like, first of all, to thank the committee for the good report that has been presented.

Mr Speaker, I want to specifically talk about the visit to the Katuna border. When the report was read, I heard that Ugandan passports had been netted in the hands of non-Ugandans.

It is a public secret that our issuing officers in the Ministry of Internal Affairs are not very keen on the process of issuing passports and national identity cards.

My humble request is that it is high time we protected our citizenship. Our passports and national IDs need to be limited to only the citizens of this country, in order for us to become proud of the citizenship that we carry with our passports and IDs. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

5.36

MR MUHAMMAD MUWANGA KIVUMBI (NUP, Buntambala County, Butambala): Mr Speaker, my boss is around; after this, I will handover.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: But he has just come. Please, conclude. Do your work. (*Laughter*)

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: Mr Speaker, it is the human resource that makes the difference. Before we go far, I have had the benefit of travelling and visiting some of our embassies and I noticed that the era of career diplomats, as a pool of our strategic resources, is coming to an end.

When I travel around, I notice that most of our embassies and high commission offices are full of our cadres. (*Interjections*) I have said the

cadres and I will restrict it to that – who include former Members of Parliament, ex-ministers, ex-secretaries to the NRM Secretariat; those cannot make a difference.

It is high time –(*Interjection*)– I know you were one of them at some time, after failing in an election. If we are going to address this problem, let us start from where the problem is. Diplomacy has its own career growth.

The people who make a difference and make these embassies tick are career diplomats. Until we address the issue of human resources, we may not go very far, and I know that is political and sensitive. However, the appointing authority and Parliament that approves those appointments need to check themselves.

Secondly, there are things in the debate that should be left out because we do not want to go into those debates. Hon. Lillian, with due respect, as a politician, you expect three things. I would like to tell you that there are politicians in this country that are in exile and some of them come close to you.

There are politicians in this country that are in prison and we have scores of death. Therefore, the three evils you talk about happen on our watch and so, for that to go on record without response, we also call for another - but for a debate of this nature, we better leave that out.

Mr Speaker, I also happen to be the shadow minister for finance and I have moved around in that capacity. Hon. Mudimi touched on an important issue of respect for our appropriation. Of late, a culture is emerging in the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, which renders what we do here just a ritual.

After passing the budget, the finance ministry goes back and does another budget using “powers of release” to usurp appropriation. Until we stick to our boots and say, what we have passed - that is why Members of Parliament come and say supplementary because it is a song. You can only talk about a supplementary when the budget you are allocated has not yet been fully released.

Therefore, embassies are suffering, not because we have not done our work, but because some people there have usurped the powers of Parliament; we need to do the needful. (*Applause*)

Lastly, I went to some countries where I noticed we already have prime land, which can even be used commercially because we can even build a floor or two for rent. However, we are not doing smart things. Investing small money there will make a difference. We are not putting money in areas that actually matter. That is why I want to thank the committee for this report.

However, let us ask the Government to come up with a comprehensive policy and programme on how to turn our embassies into viable institutions that are self-sustaining; it can be done. I beg to move, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, for the good submission. I will start with the Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, and then conclude with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, but only three minutes.

5.41

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Thank you. First, I want to make this bold statement: that the role that you play, as Parliament - the oversight role - adds value to the work of the Executive. I want to thank you for the work you are doing. I also appreciate the chairperson.

In 2007, I was a member of the Committee on National Economy and as a Member of Parliament for Ndorwa County West, I moved a motion and Parliament supported me, that the Katuna one-stop border be added to Busia and Malaba one-stop border points that were to be constructed. It is very disturbing that delays have caused this project to take this long, from 2007 up to now.

However, I appreciate the fact that you have come out with this and in fact, we have identified them, as Hon. Catheline Ndamira said, and we think that Government will

address some of them. For example, we have put up a committee, chaired by the First Deputy Prime Minister, to also do the work that you have been doing; to go there and look at what should be done. They came back and we have now resolved that this building should be completed in the next three months.

And if there are any issues to do with shoddy work, people who are responsible should pay back the money or be put in prison. I agree with the Member from the other side who said that consultancy plays an important role in this matter because every penny paid, is after signing –(*Interruption*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, have you allowed?

MS KABASHARIRA: Thank you, Mr Speaker and honourable minister for giving way.

I have heard the minister saying a committee in Cabinet has also done a report; that they should go and do the completion on this Katuna border. When they say cracks are all over – will it be a completion or working on it to put it right? If they do a completion, they will say the thing is – those who have studied engineering; the scientists say it will collapse after 10 years. May I be clarified so that I understand what is going to be done?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Especially with the pictures, which we were shown on TV.

MR BAHATI: The completion will include the correction of the defects that are happening. (*Interjections*) According to the report we have from the Ministry of Works and Transport, the integrity of the building is okay, but there are defects that need to be corrected. So, that is the difference that is there.

On the issue of the DRC, as you recall, Members, our trade balance between the DRC now stands at \$726 million, so it is an important market. Government has been making priorities, first and foremost, to have peace and stability in the region before talking about the market.

Now that there is relative peace and stability in the region, we think that we can answer the question of people who have been asking, “Why do you go and provide security to the region; and then other countries come and take over, and do the trading?” We are doing both.

Recently, my colleague, the Minister of State for Trade, Cooperatives and Industry, together with the First Deputy Prime Minister led a committee to the DRC, and we signed deals for Ugandans to go and do business in that country. So, we are on the right track.

We have trained commercial attachés; we are ready. If the ministry is resourced, we can deploy these commercial attachés working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, so that we promote our country and create wealth for our people.

Hon. Omara asked whether, given the circumstances of lack of resources in the ministry, we would be able to attend the manufacturing conference in Kenya. Yes, we are going to have presence there. If the ministry is not there, our embassy will be there, but we are going to attend with the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS).

Lastly, Katuna is a very important strategic border because it is a gateway to Rwanda. Before its closure, we had a trade balance of \$219 million. When the border closed, we went down to \$3.7 million. Now the border has opened – the reason we want that road that Members looked at to be opened and completed quickly, is to allow business to take place. And because of the pressure and your oversight role, the Uganda National Roads Authority, for example, has agreed that in the next financial year, we will have resources to install street lights on that road so that we can work day and night without any interruption.

Mr Speaker, the oversight role of Parliament - the Committee on Foreign Affairs and other committees are doing a great job by putting pressure on the Executive. We want to assure you that as the Executive, we respect your recommendations and we will take action on

them so that we can offer services to the people of Uganda. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Minister of Foreign Affairs -

5.47

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (REGIONAL AFFAIRS) (Mr John Mulimba): Mr Speaker, I join my colleagues to thank the committee for work well done. I cannot agree with them more in respect to a number of issues that have been identified.

I think today, for me, it is a holiday, because a lot has been done for us, as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This is exactly what is contained, if you have a reflection on the ministerial policy statements dating back to the last five years. Mr Speaker, this time, we did prioritise commercial and economic diplomacy based on the strategic location of Uganda; our comparative advantage and the connectivity that we have. What is lacking is resources and I want to applaud the Committee on Budget.

Mr Speaker, I was personally before the budget committee. We discussed and agreed on most of the strategic issues. Although the resource envelope was small, they tried to cater for strategic interventions such as construction of our Consulate in Mombasa, adding funds for completion of the Kinshasa Embassy and that of Nairobi. We have strategic pieces of land in strategic locations such as Addis Ababa.

Addis Ababa is the Headquarters of the African Union. Uganda is highly revered in the whole of Africa, but we do not reflect the image that we are given in terms of positioning ourselves in Addis Ababa. We have identified these areas; what is lacking is resources.

I do not agree with my colleague, Hon. Muwanga, when he says that it is the cadres who matter. We are talking about a dilapidated roof in New York. How will an individual or human resource fix this? It needs financial resources. How will a cadre or a career diplomat fix a

house or a building in Addis Ababa? This has nothing to do with cadres or career diplomats. All we are requesting this Parliament to do is to fix the issue of budgets.

The other thing on which I agree with Hon. Mudimi and Hon. Omara is that Parliament has done its job; they really appropriated funds, but I think there is stagnation somewhere. Mr Speaker, I really call upon you - that Parliament had better put her foot down to ensure that there is respect of the Appropriation Bill.

I welcome the issue of affirmative action. Amidst the few resources that have been allocated, we still need a little more. The direction of affirmative action would be very critical. Why are we investing in pacification in blood and not investing in trade? Commerce is concluded when you service the interest coupled with aids to trade, but the moment you do not do that, you will never conclude a cycle. We are talking about trading with the DRC. Are we addressing the connectivity with the DRC?

I agree with the committee that we must invest in our airlines by procuring cargo carriers. We should not go for passenger planes. The strategic investment here is in procuring cargo carrier planes. *(Applause)*

I will tell you, Mr Speaker, what is happening here now – there are many trucks plying between Kampala and Kenya. Kenya recently constructed about five other international airports. All our pineapples, watermelons and bananas are all taken and packaged in Kenya before they get to Kinshasa. When you ask people in Kinshasa “Where is your food coming from?” They will tell you it comes from Kenya just because it is labelled as that. So, the strategic location of Uganda requires that we get into connectivity. Kinshasa is a huge market and so is Juba and Somalia.

The other area in which we need to invest heavily is finance; the banking sector. That is where we have a problem. We need to invest in these strategic areas to make sure that we conclude the cycle where we have invested in heavily in respect to pacification. It is also in our

National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy that Uganda will participate in all efforts in pacification, or which cause peace and security in the region and nationally. *(Interruption)* I will take the clarification.

MR SSEWUNGU: Thank you, honourable minister, for giving way. I know you are really a diplomat since you are in foreign affairs.

Mr Speaker, he has tackled something very strong that I would like to seek clarification on. In UK, half a bunch of a Ugandan banana taken in a box costs Shs 250,000. The challenge we have with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is that they have failed to open up a market, like Kenya did in the UK, where Ugandans could take their goods and we have our employees there.

Is it possible, honourable minister, for you to organise a meeting and we bring these exporters to you so that they give you their problems? We met the agriculture ministry, but we failed. Uganda has the capacity.

Lastly – still on foreign affairs – we had 10 cargo planes that were given to the UPDF. We need to take up an investigation on these planes. Where are they and what happened to them? They were cargo planes, giving us a lot of foreign exchange earnings. Uganda needs planes to carry cargo. If you can take that clarification, my heart will be at peace.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Colleagues, I do not have much time. Honourable minister, please, conclude.

MR MULIMBA: Mr Speaker, on the issue of compensation for damage, which was meted on our embassy during the war, the protocols which govern diplomacy, especially the Vienna Convention, exclude compensation during times of war. That is the clarification I wanted to give the Member who alluded to it.

On the issue of exchange of prisoners, Uganda is very peaceful and always very welcoming. When we go to the negotiating table, we always offer our best. It is true that we handed

over prisoners to the DRC and they did not hand over our prisoners, but negotiations are underway. We have made remarkable progress. We are very sure that in a short while, we will be reporting to this House that we have actually got all Ugandans who are in those prisons.

Finally, regarding the planes, which were handed over to the UPDF, I think that is another matter. I will talk about the issue of markets.

In our strategic plan, this is one of the strategies that we need to invest in – the issue of getting markets, where we can have our cargo or goods taken just like other countries have done. Like I have said before, the issue is about resources. You cannot do that with bare hands. We need to be resourced. We have the strategy and the will, but the budget has not allowed us.

Mr Speaker, once the budget allows, we will be here to answer issues of accountability. I want to thank you. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The issue of Uganda Air Cargo is under the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs. Chairperson of the committee, please, take up the issue, which Hon. Ssewungu raised. I remember that some time back, I discussed it with the CDF and he was seeking more support in regard to that issue.

Indeed, colleagues, the margins are no longer even on the product you make, but how you manage logistics around the product: the turnaround time. If your container spends two weeks and another one spends one month, you are in trouble. Even service level agreements in the logistics sector are very tight, especially the perishables which we are talking about. It is an issue we have to look into deeply. *(Mr Muwanga Kivumbi rose_)* Have I provoked the inner spirit?

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: Mr Speaker, for the London market, we are losing out because of lack of a cold room at Heathrow Airport. For most of our goods, especially vegetables, fruits and perishables, you need a cold room facility at Heathrow. Kenya and many other countries

have cold rooms there, but because of lack of that strategic investment, we are losing out. Can you find a way, urgently, of putting a budget requirement?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, these are the issues you should capture in your report. I do not want to burden you now because you have stated your issues. You will again have some of the issues to do with embassies. I hope that will be handled.

Colleagues, we have had a comprehensive debate. As presiding officers, we have to ensure that resolutions of this House are respected, including the Bills we pass; they have to be implemented. We started linking up with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. We shall call a meeting to look at the implementation of the budget of the Appropriation Act: how far and the rationale behind choosing to suppress A and raise money for B. We are going to follow that up. That is a concern that has come up several times here.

Colleagues, we have the two reports. I want to put a question on each report. I put the question that the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on its visit to Katuna Border Post to assess the status of economic and commercial diplomacy be adopted, with amendments.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I direct the Clerk to extract the recommendations, together with a copy of the *Hansard*, and transmit them to the relevant ministries, departments and agencies for implementation. As per Rule 220 of the Rules of Procedure, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should report back to this House with an action-taken report within three months.

Colleagues, I also put the question that the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on an oversight visit to the Uganda Mission in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clerk, please, extract the recommendations and forward them to the relevant ministries. Also, in three months, honourable minister, we expect an action taken report on the recommendations of this House.

Colleagues, we have very many issues, which are related to your questions. I want to have them as a priority. Let us clear these issues because they are going to be overtaken by time. So, you will bear with. We should at least handle issues to do with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and then tomorrow, we can handle issues to do with the ministry of lands.

Chairperson, vice-chairperson and members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, I thank you. The shadow minister of Foreign Affairs did a great job and they worked as a team to ensure that we have a very good report.

Instead of giving them time to make statements, we would rather give that time to Members to debate.

RESPONSES BY MINISTERS TO URGENT QUESTIONS

A) ON VIOLATION OF EMPLOYEE RIGHTS BY SOME CHINESE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN MPIGI DISTRICT RAISED BY HON. TEDDY NAMBOOZE

6.01

THE MINISTER OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Betty Amongi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The question is on violation of employee rights by some Chinese manufacturing industry in Mpigi District. It was raised by Hon. Teddy Nambooze, the Woman Member of Parliament, Mpigi.

I would like to start by saying that the Government of Uganda and the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda guarantees the rights of workers, under Article 40 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. This Article stipulates the right of persons to work under satisfactory, safe and healthy conditions, the right to equal pay for equal work without discrimination, the right to rest and reasonable working hours, the right to form and join trade unions and the right to collective bargaining.

This has been operationalised under the various acts; The Employment Act of 2006, The Labour Unions Act of 2006, The Labour Disputes Arbitration and Settlement Amendment Act of 2021, The Occupational Safety and Health Act 2006, The Workers' Compensation Act CAP 225, The National Social Security Fund ACT CAP, 222 among others.

Mr Speaker, when I got the information and the question from the Honourable Member, I constituted a team of labour officers to undertake a comprehensive inspection of factories in the district.

The inspectors visited Chinese Evergreen Wood Industry, Zhong Bang Industry, BE Energy Limited, China Civil Engineering Construction Company Limited, Guangzhou Dongsong Energy Ltd, Forest Paper Packaging Ltd, LK Filling Station, Sun Labelling and Printing Company Limited, Total Petrol Station, and Hong Long Energy among others.

After the inspection, we gave the companies 60 days to address the issues that were found to have gaps, in compliance with the labour laws. Some of the issues that were found were lack of letters of contracts and appointments for the workers, lack of first aid kits, absence of safety signs, inadequate provision of personal protective equipment, and poor sanitary facilities among others.

A follow-up was done by a team from the ministry and we found later that the gaps were addressed. On the specific issues of Miss

Peninah Nantunda, who works for Evergreen Woods Industry as a machine operator-

She got injured in the course of her employment on the 24th June 2021 and was immediately provided with first aid and treated at Mengo Hospital at the cost of the employer until she was discharged on 11th July 2021.

She lost her arm at the wrist and in accordance with the second schedule of the worker's compensation, the medical practitioner assessed her permanent incapacitation at 65 per cent.

She was, therefore, in accordance with Section 6 of the Act paid 65 per cent of 60 times of her monthly earnings. Her monthly earning was Shs 213,000 per month. So, the employer paid her Shs 8,307,000 and she later returned to work and was assigned light and appropriate duties by the employer. She is currently working.

Mr Amos Alemigo also works with Evergreen Wood Industry as machine operator and got injured on 16th, October-(*Interruption*)-

MR ALLAN MAYANJA: Mr Speaker, we cannot access the statement being read by the minister; I am seeking for your guidance.

MS AMONGI: Mr Speaker, on August 2nd 2022, a detailed response, which I am reading was forwarded to the Clerk of Parliament.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clerk, please, have it loaded, but also according to our Rules of Procedure, as long as the Member who asked the question is satisfied - As per rule 44(2), it is only that Member who can raise a supplementary question to that question. Let the minister continue, but I will request the Clerk to ensure that this is uploaded.

I had also asked for a copy. Usually the Chief Whip has many copies, but this time, he hasn't given me. I do not know whether he has a copy.

MS NALUYIMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Since the minister has already mastered the question and knows what the matter is about and also the Member is present, the minister could summarise what the issue is other than reading. Won't it be procedurally right-?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I totally agree with you, honourable, and that is how I had guided the minister. My sister, we have our other secrets - now you are making her shy. You people are not kind. Honourable minister, please, summarise.

MS AMONGI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Amos Alemigo was also treated, compensated at Shs 8,057,000 and he is back at work. Pauline Namuli was also treated and discharged from hospital. She had sustained injury to her right middle finger, a deep cut wound and a fracture in the index finger. She has been compensated Shs 2,000,802 and is also back at work.

Those are the specific ones and the rest of the detailed answers contained here are the procedures that can be taken by Honourable Members in guiding their constituents on how people are meant to be compensated once they get injured at workplaces. Mr Speaker, I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, the rules do not allow questions. Honourable colleague, are you satisfied with the response?

6.10

MS TEDDY NAMBOOZE (NUP, Woman Representative, Mpigi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I would love to get a copy of the minister's report. Secondly, my prayer is that we should not stop at only compensation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The minister showed that she acted. So, now get the report, go and confirm.

MS NAMBOOZE TEDDY: Alright.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Clerk, can we go to B.

**B) ON THE REMOVAL AND
RELOCATION OF 161 CHILDREN TO
KOBLIN REHABILITATION CENTRE
IN NAPAK DISTRICT RAISED BY HON.
FAITH NAKUT**

6.12

THE MINISTER OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Betty Amongi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Street children are repatriated to Koblin youth skilling centre. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development with development partners plays a role in ensuring that street children and issues related to children are addressed.

In respect to that, in April, the Rt Hon. Prime Minister contacted me with a concern related to many children from Karamoja on the streets and directed that we act and get the children out of the streets.

On 20th April, we notified our principal of Koblin Youth Skilling Centre in Karamoja, together with the Kampala Capital City Authority and the Ministry for Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs. We made arrangements for the children to be removed from the streets and taken for rehabilitation.

The principal made a quick assessment including looking for food and supplies for the skilling centre; getting emergency clothing, getting social workers from our development partners and ensuring that we get all the emergency health requirements for the children to be rehabilitated.

So, the children were taken to Koblin Rehabilitation Centre and 24 babies aged three years and below were among those taken off the streets. At the moment, together with the local Government and an NGO called Cooperation and Development (C&D), we have already reintegrated all returnees into their communities, except for three children whose mothers are in prison, serving charges for trafficking.

Note that it was discovered that among the people of Karamoja, there are people who are

perpetrators of this trafficking. So, these three mothers were among the people charged with trafficking. We are now working to ensure that these three children, whose mothers are in prison, can be assisted by their relatives to be integrated.

Koblin is a skilling centre for the youth, but when we have operations like this, we use it for purposes of rehabilitation and making sure that we offer psycho-socio support, training and resettlement, and that is what happened in this circumstance. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Is Hon. Faith Nakut around? No.

C) ON UGANDAN YOUTH IN UNITED ARAB EMIRATES RAISED BY HON. BETTY NAMBOOZE BAKIREKE

6.15

THE MINISTER OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Betty Amongi): Mr Speaker, this was a matter raised by Hon. Betty Nambooze on the youth in United Arab Emirates. In the paper, I state the legal framework for externalisation of labour, the regulations that govern externalisation of labour, the migrant workers that are currently in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Iraq, Somalia, Kuwait and Qatar.

I state that today, 20,486 migrant workers are in UAE and these have either gone through licensed companies or as individuals with visitors and tourist visas. I note that of recent, a big number of migrant workers in UAE are stranded, most of whom are those who went through visitors and tourist visas and do not have employment. Most of them are thrown out of the homes where they are and some of them are in prison.

Therefore, I state the measures that have been put in place to make sure that we promote safe, regular and orderly labour migration, including revision of the law, which is the Employment Recruitment of Uganda Migrant Workers Regulation, 2021. I give the details that are in that regulation.

I state the bilateral labour agreements that are always signed with the countries to promote labour migration, especially those signed in the Middle East, including the UAE. I state measures related to the online system for management of external employment, which manages, traces and tracks our people who go through the formal system within our ministry.

Therefore, I note that the issue raised by Hon. Nambooze is a matter, which requires a multi-sectoral approach because majority of the ones that she asked questions are those that went through visitors' visas and tourist visas, and are not protected by the bilateral labour agreement that we have signed with UAE. However, note that Government, together with the Government of UAE, have come up with a programme to repatriate those migrant workers from the UAE with free tickets. At the moment, they are being assessed at Al Aweer Immigration Centre in UAE.

I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. (*Hon. Mpuugarose*) Leader of the Opposition, unless Hon. Nambooze has sent you, she did not raise this as – she raised this as an individual MP. Let me make an exception because we have been missing you these days.

6.18

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Mathias Mpuuga): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your kind indulgence. I ably delegated and you know I have been well represented. Thank you.

The matter raised by Hon. Betty Nambooze, in absentia, is a very serious one in this country. My dear sister and old friend is missing out on assurance. I am wondering what the parents of these children listening to the submission think about Government, because it sounds as though this is a problem whose solution lies in the long-term.

Will the minister be kind to advise - because people are being sorted? Clearly, you said the bulk of these went on their own on tourist

visas - very much understandable. So, what are the premises for assessment and at what stage do you envisage this to end, so that the parents of these children and their relatives can rest assured that Government is serious and probably 1,000 tickets are ready for their repatriation?

Minister, you need to give that assurance with timelines for the comfort of the country. This is a huge problem. I am very sure you have heard - probably informally - from the Committee on Foreign Affairs over their visit to that place and the kind of challenges they found.

Would you like to give some assurance on timelines because your statement was more political? I am afraid you did not assure me of you being in charge of this problem.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not be too political, honourable minister. *(Laughter)*

MS AMONGI: Mr Speaker, two lots have already been flown back to Uganda. I can later bring to the Speaker, for information of this House, the number, but the first two groups were majorly pregnant women and mothers with children.

The biggest problem we have had now are those who asked - we are still in the process of processing their travel documents because for those who went with visitors and tourist visas; what happens is they either reach the airport and dispose of their passports or the agents who take them remove it from them because they are supposed to first work to pay for the agent - Shs 5 million, Shs 7 million or Shs 10 million.

So, the agents remove travel documents from them and tell them to look for their own jobs. In most cases, girls or women, end up in brothels to try and look for these jobs. Once you fail - and because of the strictness of the country they are in, they then end up on the street. Most of them do not have documents.

For the lot that was supposed to come back, some of the mothers do not have documents for themselves and the children. So -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: But honourable minister, these are documents from Government of Uganda because they are coming to Uganda. These are people being deported. They are being brought to their country; you have verified they are Ugandans. So, what we need is to expedite the process of issuing them documents to come to their country. If they needed a document from the other country, it would be a problem, but they need documents from the Government of Uganda. *(Applause)*

MS AMONGI: Mr Speaker, that is what is happening and that is why we already have two lots that have returned. However, I take note of the need to expedite the process and that is what we have taken up seriously.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Update us on Tuesday next week, honourable minister.

MS AMONGI: Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The final one, which is closely related to this; it is almost the same.

C) ON UNCOORDINATED LABOUR EXPORT, RAISED BY HON. KAMUSIIME CAROLINE

6.23

THE MINISTER OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Betty Amongi): Mr Speaker, this is a question from the honourable woman Member of Parliament, Rukiga. The key issues I raised earlier, I stated the legal framework and the regulation on the specific case of one Nyakaisiki Barbara, from Muhanga Town Council.

The matter came to our ministry in respect to her issue; we did everything possible to support the family. At the time that I sent this reply, Nyakaisiki Barbara was at the deportation centre and she had stayed there for four months.

The deportation centre is where somebody is first sent before repatriation. It is a holding centre, where people who do not have travel documents, passports, exit visas, or those who have mental issues are settled before their case

is handled for processing. Nyakaisiki did not have a travel document or exit visa and at the moment this process is on-going to return her back. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. So, colleagues, tomorrow, we want to handle the issues from the lands ministry. I want all issues and questions, which were raised by the Members to be answered so that we are clear because we no longer want to spend two weeks without Members receiving responses to the issues.

For example, you can imagine that was since Hon. Namboze was here - So Clerk, we no longer want these issues to take a long time because they get overtaken by events; and Members even lose interest. We want them to be handled expeditiously. When the issues are raised, the next day, they should be extracted.

Chief Whip, in your office, you have a staff; the director in your office is a staff of Parliament. Okay, so after every session, let the director extract the issues. We no longer want this business of saying the Clerk did not extract and forward the issues. From now onwards, let the issues be extracted by the Director in the Office of the Government Chief Whip, Office of Leader of Government Business who is the staff of Parliament So that the issues are transmitted to the ministers right away. We no longer want to spend a week without responding to Members' issues. *(Applause)* *(Mr Kivumbi rose)* let the Chief Whip finish then you come on, Hon. Kivumbi.

6.26

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Denis Obua): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Let me affirm that it is already work in progress. For honourable members who have always raised matters on the Floor, they can confirm that my office has always written and copied them in. Even yesterday, I signed over 10 letters to different ministries. So, with your commitment, we will continue along that trajectory. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: And honourable Chief Whip, the ones you wrote yesterday, the Clerk and I have received copies and so, we shall put them on the Order Paper next week so that the ministers are cleared. Tomorrow, lands minister, please, come and answer these issues.

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of procedure. Last week, I read a statement on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, on several issues concerning releases, salaries of civil servants and district quarters. And you directed the finance minister to respond. You gave them one week, which has ended today, but there has been no response.

We have only seen partial responses because the matter has been in the press. We have seen adverts being run to respond to a statement in the newspapers without - and you cannot respond to what is in the newspapers.

Therefore, I rise on a point of procedure and beseech you to request Government to respond as you directed, which was one week ago.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable. Tomorrow, I want it to be about Members' issues. I have many issues to sort out tomorrow. I had already directed the Clerk on what to capture. So, this item should be on the Order Paper on Tuesday without fail.

I saw the response in newspapers, but am aware we gave you a forum on which to answer. So, why didn't you answer on the Floor of Parliament? Why rush to the public? You do not have money, but you are spending more money releasing adverts. So, they advertise responses instead of using free space here.

Therefore, ministries, when we ask you questions here, you say you do not have money. Instead of advertising your responses before they are brought here, come and we give you free space for advertisement. The space you get on the Floor of Parliament is free space and very important.

I therefore, thank you, colleagues, for your patience and being here until this time. I

adjourn the House to tomorrow at 2.00 p.m.

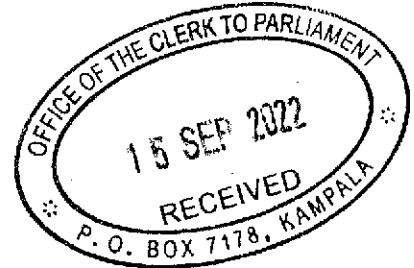
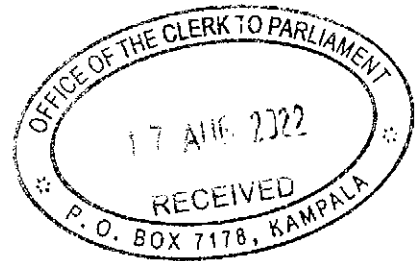
Thank you.

*(The House rose at 6.29 p.m. and adjourned
until Thursday, 22 September 2022 at 2.00
p.m.)*

Roma



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA



**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ON ITS VISIT TO KATUNA BORDER POST
TO ASSESS STATUS OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY**

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Matta

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**Office of the Clerk to Parliament
Parliamentary Buildings
KAMPALA**

AUGUST, 2022

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K. Lira

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Phitoni

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1.0. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

Rule 187 (k) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament establishes the Committee on Foreign Affairs; and mandates it to cover:

- i. Missions abroad; and
- ii. Bilateral, multi-lateral and inter-governmental relations.

It should be recalled that:

- Katuna Border is an entry and exit point of imports and exports to, through and from Rwanda;
- Katuna Border has a distinctive geographical terrain, with steep and rocky highlands. Although the highlands ARE a tourist attraction, they also increase costs of construction of physical infrastructure.
- Travelers through Katuna from the East African Countries do not require Visas to cross, but they are rather required to have documents such as Tourist Visas or National Identification Cards that are facilitated by MoFA.

During the scrutiny of the Ministerial Policy Statements for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and the Missions Abroad, The Ministry emphasized promotion of Economic and Commercial Diplomacy (ECD) as its immediate target.

In addition, it was reported that MoFA was:

- Promoting Regional and International peace and security;
- Promoting Uganda's Commercial and Economic interests abroad;
- Promoting Regional and Continental Integration;
- Promoting Adherence to International Law and Commitments;
- Enhancing Diaspora participation in National Development;
- Strengthening the provision of Diplomatic, Protocol and Consular services both at home and abroad;
- Promoting Uganda's image abroad through Public Diplomacy; and
- Enhancing Institutional Capacity of the Ministry and its affiliated Institutions.

Basing on the above mentioned targets, the Committee found it prudent to undertake an assessment of the status of ECD at Katuna.

1.1. Terms of Reference for the oversight activity

The following Terms of Reference were set for the field:

- (a) To assess the level of promotion of Economic and Commercial Diplomacy at the border;
- (b) To assess the level of engagement and role of MoFA in promoting Tourism.
- (c) To establish MoFA's involvement in facilitating movement of travelers at the Border.

B3

1.2. Methodology

The Committee reviewed documents availed by stakeholders, made site visits and observed what was on ground; and held meetings with various stakeholders who included immigration Officers found at the Border, Site Engineers, and Officials from the Uganda high Commission in Rwanda and Uganda Revenue Authority Officials.

2.0. ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY

2.1. Economic Diplomacy

In enhancing Economic Diplomacy, MoFA and other Government Agencies employed various economic tools to achieve Uganda's National Interests, which interests include observing and enhancing international agreements that Uganda entered into to influence exports, imports, investments, lending and free trade agreements.

The Committee also learnt that MoFA was prepared to facilitate travelers who would participate at the Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) Meeting 2022, which was scheduled to take place from 20th – 25th June 2022, in Kigali, Rwanda.

Observation

The Committee observed that MoFA invested; and it intends to invest further in trade foreign delegation visits, among others.

Recommendation

In view of the above observation, the Committee recommends that the Government should ensure that MoFA's Diplomatic Vehicles are disposed off and replaced with more appropriate vehicles.

2.2. Commercial Diplomacy

The Committee established that MoFA engaged in business development negotiations with countries that use and benefit from the existence of Katuna Border. The interactions between neighboring countries, MoFA and the High Commission of the Republic of Uganda in Kigali; generated commercial gains in the form of inward and outward trade.

Observations

The Committee observed that:

- i. *Given more financial support, MoFA and the High Commission of the Republic of Uganda in Kigali would ensure a high level of Commercial Diplomacy at Katuna Border.*

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- By guest*
- ii. If achieved, Commercial Diplomacy would also enhance economic stability, welfare, and create competitive advantage not only for people at the Border, but for the country at large.
 - iii. How Commercial diplomacy has been enhanced
The Committee further observed that MoFA, in conjunction with other Government Agencies such as Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs created an enabling environment for the business community at the Border. This has come with socially beneficial international business ventures such as inward and outward investment, as well as increased trade.
 - iv. An unspecified tax free period of time was granted to the money changers at the border to enable them to transact business and facilitate travelers using that border.
 - v. Government Agencies, (URA in particular), used its networks to promote international trade and investment at Katuna, to improve on functioning of markets and to reduce costs and risks of cross border transactions.
 - vi. In the absence of a Forex Bureau, the Department of Immigration set aside some space, from where business men and money changers transact their businesses. This is commended because it enhances Commercial Diplomacy and ensures that travelers have more confidence in transacting business with people stationed in a defined place.
 - vii. The Committee also observed that MoFA and other Government Agencies at Katuna enforced regulations related to health, safety, environment, and consumer protection, hence positively impacting on global trade.
- U. D. /*
- MoFA*
- [Signature]*

3.0. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

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In execution of its duties, the Committee inevitably made cross cutting observations which were not directly under its mandate, but had a bearing on the success of the Foreign affairs sector as indicated below:

3.1. Construction works of a One-stop Border Post (OSBP)

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Construction of a one-stop border post at Katuna started in July 2014, with funds that were expected to be provided by World Bank and the Government of Uganda. Amugoli General Enterprises Ltd was awarded the contract, but it later stopped working due to non-payment. World Bank also pulled out over alleged breach of

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contract. Works were halted until early 2022 when construction resumed. This has slowed traffic at Katuna.

- OSBP was expected to:
 - Facilitate quick clearance of goods as a one stop centre;
 - Create more employment;
 - House URA offices, border security teams, a health facility and a canteen;
 - House weigh bridges, stores and bonded warehouses and
 - Make easier the movement of traders crossing the Uganda-Rwanda border for business.

In a meeting held with the Engineer and Supervisor of Amugoli General Enterprises, Eng. Ivan Eyatu, the Committee heard that the building was completed and that it had already been commissioned, handed over to URA for occupation.

The Committee noted with concern the state of the said building (refer to pictures attached herewith). The building was full of cracks, and the ceiling was almost falling out. Eng. Ivan Eyatu however informed the Committee that the cracks were part of the building's architectural and engineering designs. The blocks were also detached from each other, a fact that was not explained by the contractors.

Recommendation

The Committee would like to recommend that the Auditor General carries out a Forensic Audit on the said Building and reports to Parliament within six months after the adoption of this report.

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3.2. High cost of living at Katuna

Meas

The Committee observed that the border had very few relaxing and resting places and no restaurants, where government officials would have breakfast, lunch or supper, yet the border was open 24 hours. This made it expensive for Government officials who had to travel very long distances to access office. It had been hoped that the construction of OSBP would come with provision of accommodation of at least the 11 staff who work at night, but this wasn't the case.

Summary

3.3. Insufficient Certificates of Identity

The Committee learnt that there had been shortage of Certificates of Identity, for quite a long time, both at the border and at the Mission in Rwanda. These Certificates of identity are emergency travel documents issued to Ugandans and non-Ugandans who cannot readily access Travel documents in emergency situations.

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They are issued at Foreign Missions, Border points, Regional Passport Centers and Headquarters of Immigration Offices.

However, the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control (DCIC) had received various Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) equipment from The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Uganda. The equipment included servers, passport readers, fingerprint readers, computers, webcams, printers, as well as related licenses. This latest technology was expected to enable all Uganda's border posts to collect, store, and analyze traveler information in real-time.

- 3.4. **Darkness at night**- there were no lights despite the fact that the border operates 24 hours. This poses a security threat.
- 3.5. **Lack of barrier gates**- Construction operates in open space. There were no barrier gates, hence manpower was used. This is a problem to revenue and security.
- 3.6. **Non Nationals holding Ugandan passports**- the Immigration Officer expressed concern that there were non-nationals who held Ugandan passports.

4.0. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. Extension of enabling services at Katuna Border

Government of Uganda should expedite the process of extending absolutely necessary services at Katuna. These include banking services to ease foreign exchange; telecommunications to enable faster transmission of information by various types of technologies over wire, radio, optical, or other electromagnetic systems; and agricultural support programs, since the district community is highly engaged in agriculture.

4.2. Completion of the road works at Katuna

In order to protect the image of Uganda and enhance Economic and Commercial Diplomacy, Amugoli General Enterprises Ltd, the Contractor, should expedite the construction and completion of the road connecting Katuna Border to Gatuna.

The Ministry of Works and Transport should also intensify supervision of the construction of this road to avoid further wastage of funds and to ensure that value for money.

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Handwritten signature: Aburhond

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4.3. Conduct a forensic audit on the OSBP

The Auditor General should carry out a Forensic Audit on the said Building and report to Parliament within six months after the adoption of this report.

4.4. Formulation of a written Foreign Policy

Commercial Diplomacy is designed to influence a country's foreign government policy and regulatory decisions that affect global trade, investment and commerce. It should also be noted that a country's foreign policy entails a country's objectives and activities in relation to its interactions with other states, unions, and other political entities, whether bilaterally or through multilateral platforms. The Foreign Policy Agenda of Uganda states that its foreign policy is *"to safeguard Uganda national interest and achieve its goals on the international arena for the benefit of the people of Uganda, the region and the international community"*.

The Government of Uganda should therefore come up with a written National Foreign Policy, which will help to streamline the main objectives and guide to use diplomacy.

4.5. Avail Certificates of Identity

The Ministry of Internal Affairs should ensure that at all times, Certificates of Identity are available at all centers to facilitate and enable people to enter into or exit from any country.

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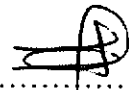
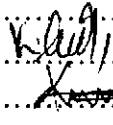
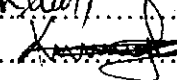
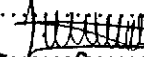
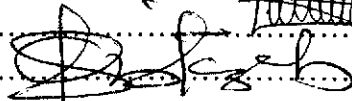




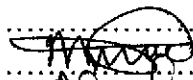
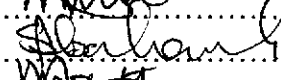
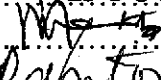
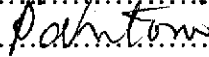

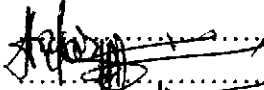
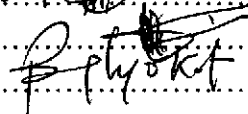

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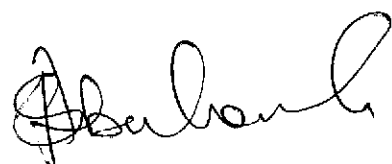

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**MEMBERS WHO CONSENTED TO THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ON ITS VISIT TO KATUNA BORDER POST
TO ASSESS THE STATUS OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY**

S/N	Name(s)	Signature
1.	Hon. Bigirwa Norah Nyendwoha	
2.	Hon. Ninsiima Boaz Kasirabo	
3.	Hon. Achan Judith Peace	
4.	Hon. Akampurira Prossy Mbabazi	
5.	Hon. Akello Lucy	
6.	Hon. Atugonza Allan	
7.	Hon. Gen. Mbadi Mbasu Wilson	
8.	Hon. Hashim Sulaiman	
9.	Hon. Isamat Abraham	
10.	Hon. Kato Mohamed	
11.	Hon. Kayogera Yona	
12.	Hon. Kinshaba Patience Nkunda	
13.	Hon. Kisa Stephen	
14.	Hon. Komakech Christopher	
15.	Hon. Lumu Richard Kizito	
16.	Hon. Maneno Zumura	
17.	Hon. Muheesi Jenipher Abaaho	
18.	Hon. Mutebi Noah Wanzala	
19.	Hon. Mutono Patrick Lodoi	
20.	Hon. Nkunyingi Muwada	
21.	Hon. Obong Vicent Shedrick	
22.	Hon. Ocen Peter	
23.	Hon. Okae Bob	
24.	Hon. Okin P. P. Ojara	
25.	Hon. Okot Boniface	
26.	Hon. Okot Ogong	
27.	Hon. Olobo James	
28.	Hon. Opolot Fred	
29.	Hon. Sserubula Stephen	
30.	Hon. Ssewanyana Allan	

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Annex A



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M. H.
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Annex B



Handwritten signatures and marks:

- Top left: A signature that appears to be "Antonio".
- Below it: A large, stylized signature that looks like "Quinn".
- To the right of "Quinn": A signature that looks like "Matty" with a checkmark above it.
- Below "Matty": A signature that looks like "Pakstan".
- Top right: A signature that looks like "P. P. and".
- Below it: A signature that looks like "P. P. and" with a checkmark above it.
- Bottom right: A signature that looks like "P. P. and" with a checkmark above it.
- Bottom center: A signature that looks like "P. P. and" with a checkmark above it.
- Bottom left: A signature that looks like "P. P. and" with a checkmark above it.
- Bottom center: A signature that looks like "P. P. and" with a checkmark above it.
- Bottom right: A signature that looks like "P. P. and" with a checkmark above it.

Annex C



[Handwritten signature]

By Mauro

[illegible]

~~revised~~

Mexico



Handwritten signature and initials in black ink. The signature is a stylized, cursive name, and the initials are 'X' followed by a checkmark.



Palmer

V. but /

Sub Sahoul



Ris

Annex C



Handwritten signatures and marks:

- Top left: A signature with a large 'X' over it.
- Top center: A signature that appears to be 'M. S.'.
- Top right: A signature that appears to be 'F. S.'.
- Middle left: A signature that appears to be 'K. S.'.
- Middle center: A large, stylized signature.
- Middle right: A signature that appears to be 'M. S.' with a large 'X' over it.
- Bottom left: A signature that appears to be 'A. S.'.
- Bottom center: A signature that appears to be 'P. S.'.
- Bottom right: A signature that appears to be 'B. S.'.

[Signature]




Amhar

Slydus

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~~Me 42~~

M. M. M.



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Page 13

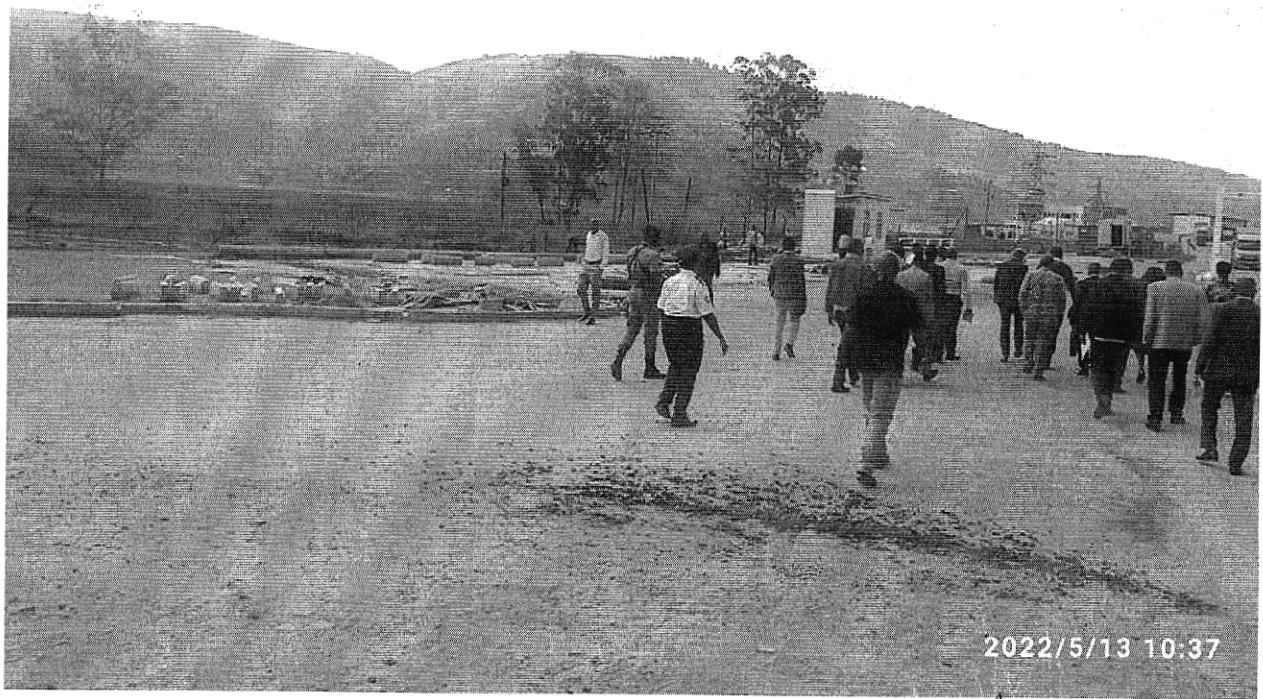


H. Pitt

Harlow



Annex E



Handwritten signatures and marks:

- Top left: A signature that appears to be "Amir".
- Top center: A circled mark with a diagonal line through it.
- Top right: The word "Flyover" written vertically.
- Middle left: A large, stylized signature that looks like "Omar".
- Middle center: A small drawing of a bridge or structure with the word "Main" written next to it.
- Middle right: A circled mark with a diagonal line through it.
- Bottom left: A signature that appears to be "Khalid".
- Bottom center: The word "Palatin" written above a signature that looks like "Abulhak".
- Bottom right: A large, stylized signature that looks like "Fahad".

PK

Annex F



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By hand

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M. S.

[Signature]

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Patricia

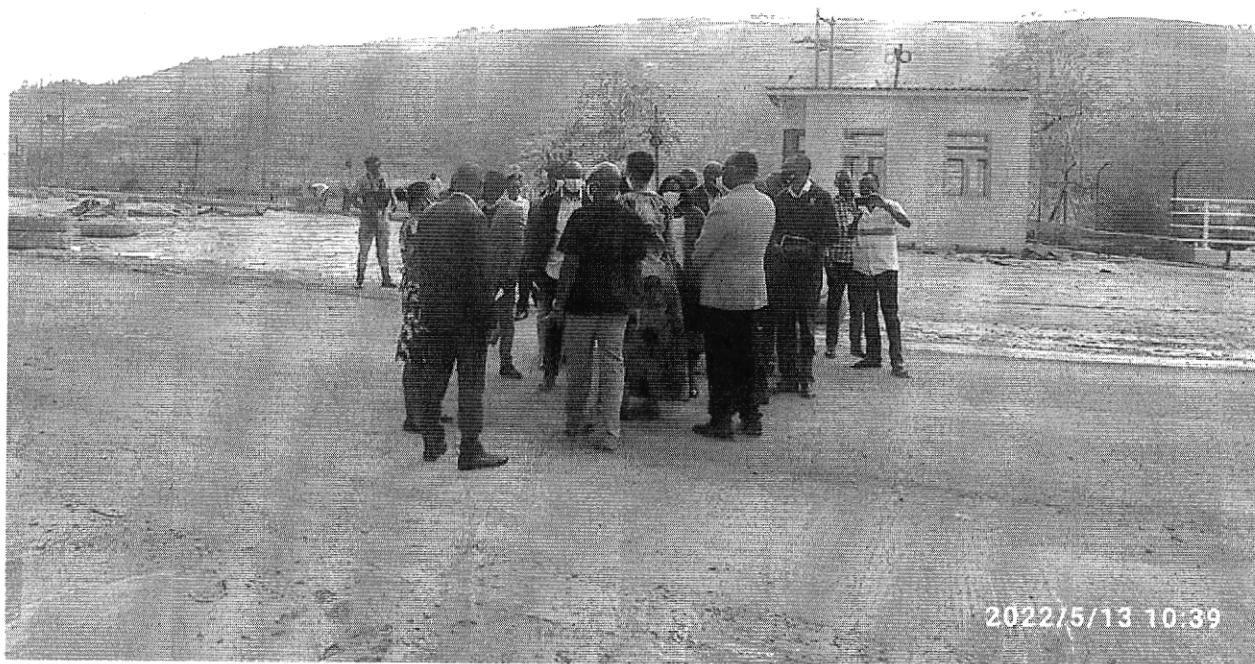
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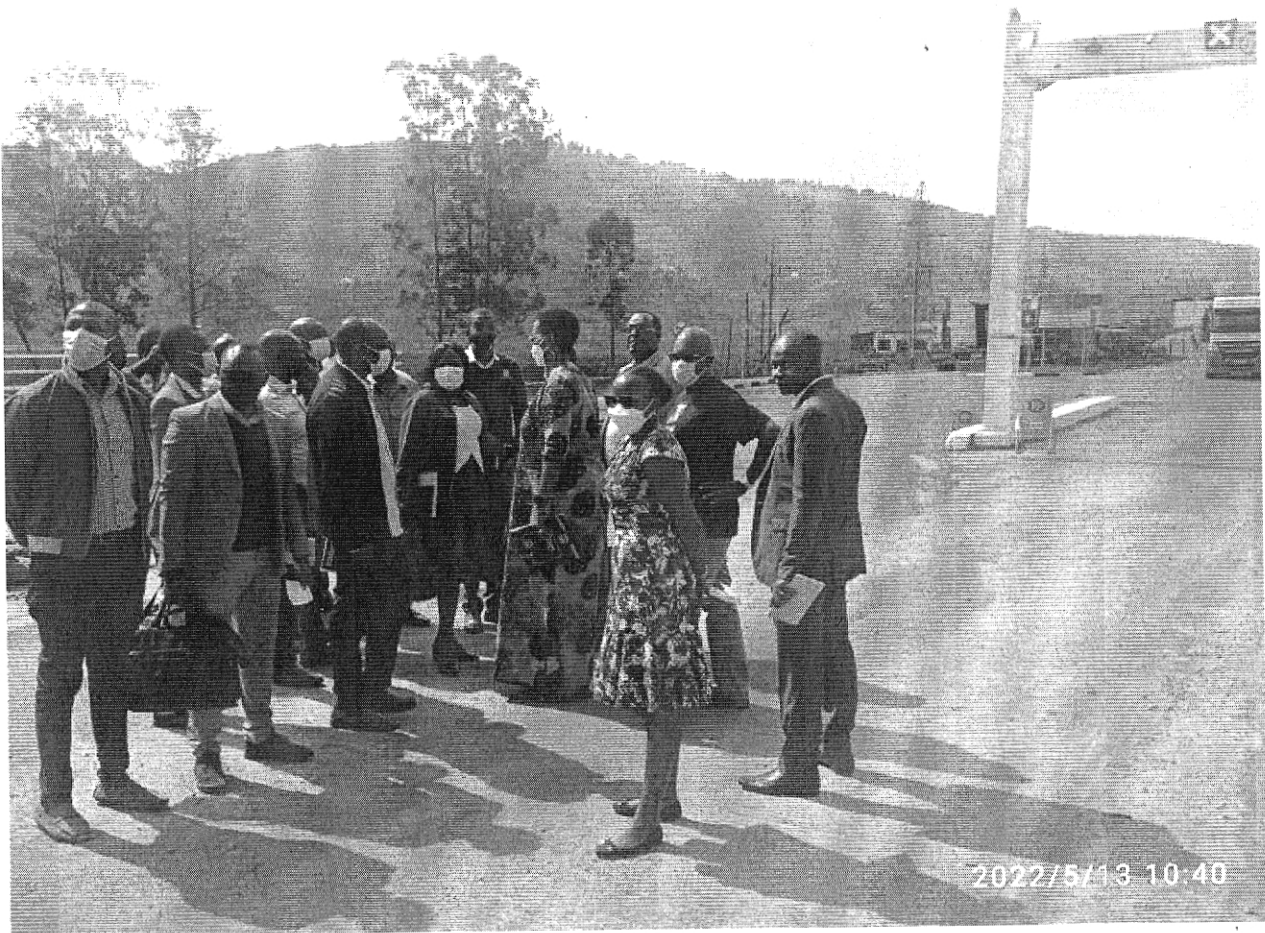
Annex G



V. Paul
Quilly
Antor
M. K.
fgout
M. K.
Polster
Stech
Barlow
16

Rec
2022

Annex H



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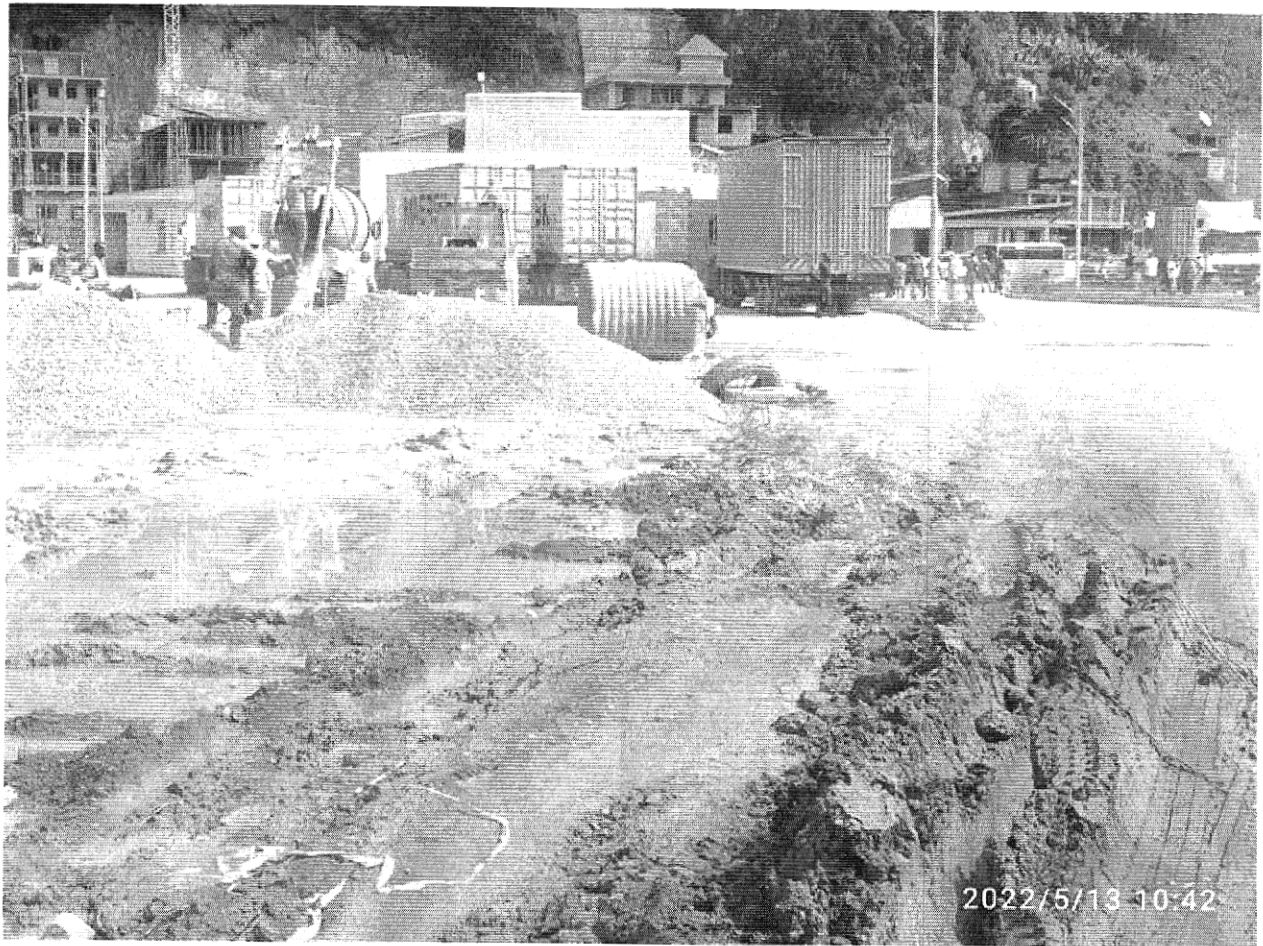
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Annex I



Handwritten signatures and marks:

- Top left: A large, stylized signature, possibly "Quilly".
- Top center: A signature that appears to be "M. B. M." with a small diagram of a structure above it.
- Top right: A signature that appears to be "P. K. Pong".
- Middle left: A signature that appears to be "V. K. Pong".
- Middle center: A signature that appears to be "P. K. Pong".
- Middle right: A signature that appears to be "P. K. Pong".
- Bottom left: A signature that appears to be "P. K. Pong".
- Bottom center: A signature that appears to be "P. K. Pong".
- Bottom right: A signature that appears to be "P. K. Pong".

Handwritten mark

Annex J



Handwritten signatures and marks:
- A stylized signature on the left.
- The name 'Fy hnot' written in cursive on the right.

Handwritten signature and mark:
- A signature with a horizontal line through it, followed by 'M. 2023'.

Handwritten signature and mark:
- A circular signature with a vertical line through it.

Handwritten mark:
- A small 'X' mark.

Handwritten signature and mark:
- A large, flowing signature with a circular mark below it.

Handwritten signature and mark:
- The name 'Paluton' followed by a circular mark.

Handwritten signature and mark:
- The name 'K. dwt' followed by a mark.

Handwritten mark:
- A stylized signature or mark.

Handwritten signature and mark:
- A large signature, possibly 'H. 2023', followed by another signature.

Handwritten mark:
- A stylized signature or mark.

Annex K



Handwritten signatures and marks:

- Top left: A large, stylized signature, possibly "Quany".
- Top center: A signature that looks like "H. Kar" with a checkmark-like mark next to it.
- Top right: A signature that looks like "f. y. y. out" above a circled signature.
- Middle left: A signature that looks like "L. f. sh" with a checkmark-like mark next to it.
- Middle center: A signature that looks like "P. ch. u. t. a".
- Middle right: A signature that looks like "A. B. u. l. h. a. n. t" with a checkmark-like mark next to it.
- Bottom left: A signature that looks like "K. d. d." with a checkmark-like mark next to it.
- Bottom center: A signature that looks like "A. B. u. l. h. a. n. t" with a checkmark-like mark next to it.
- Bottom right: A signature that looks like "A. B. u. l. h. a. n. t" with a checkmark-like mark next to it.

Rk

Annex L



Hydro

Pyrocl-

M. K.

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Palat

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Blong

Annex M



Handwritten notes and signatures:

- Quilly
- Meets
- Py host
- V. (a)
- Polinton
- Barbours
- 22

Page

Annex N



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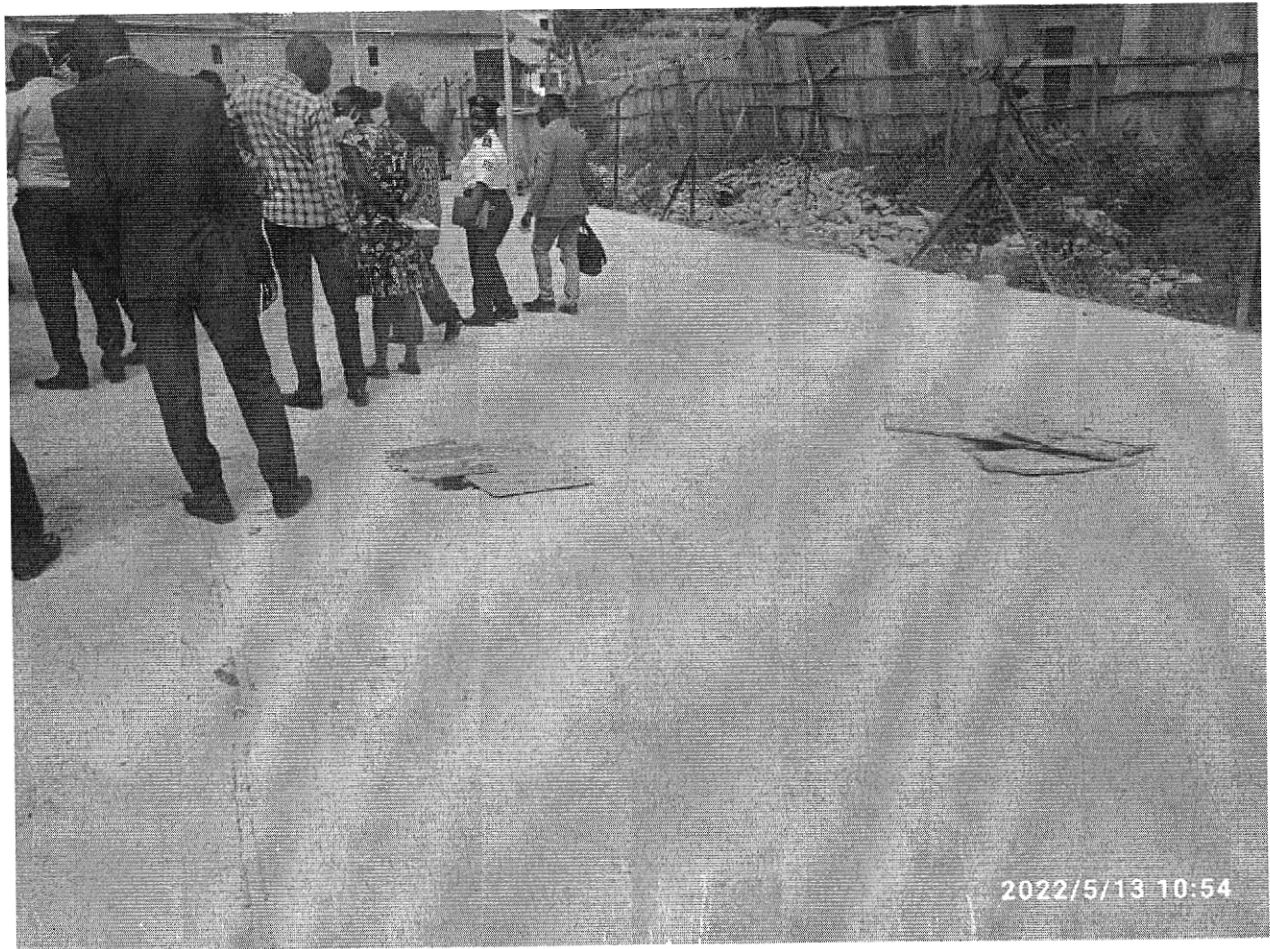
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Annex O



Handwritten signatures and marks:

- Top left:* A signature with the word "Marta" written below it.
- Top center:* A circular stamp or signature.
- Top right:* A signature that appears to be "F. Lyder".
- Middle left:* A large, stylized signature.
- Middle center:* A signature that appears to be "Palmira".
- Middle right:* A signature that appears to be "Balon".
- Bottom left:* A signature that appears to be "V. Lail".
- Bottom center:* A signature that appears to be "Palmira".
- Bottom right:* A signature that appears to be "Balon".

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Annex P



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Matta

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Annex Q



W. H. H. H.



fy hant

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A handwritten signature, possibly reading "A. R.", enclosed within a hand-drawn oval border.



~~Arado~~




Richard

Palatka

Handwritten signature





R. Henry

Annex R



Hyder
R. G. S. S.
K. G. S.
Amir

M. S.

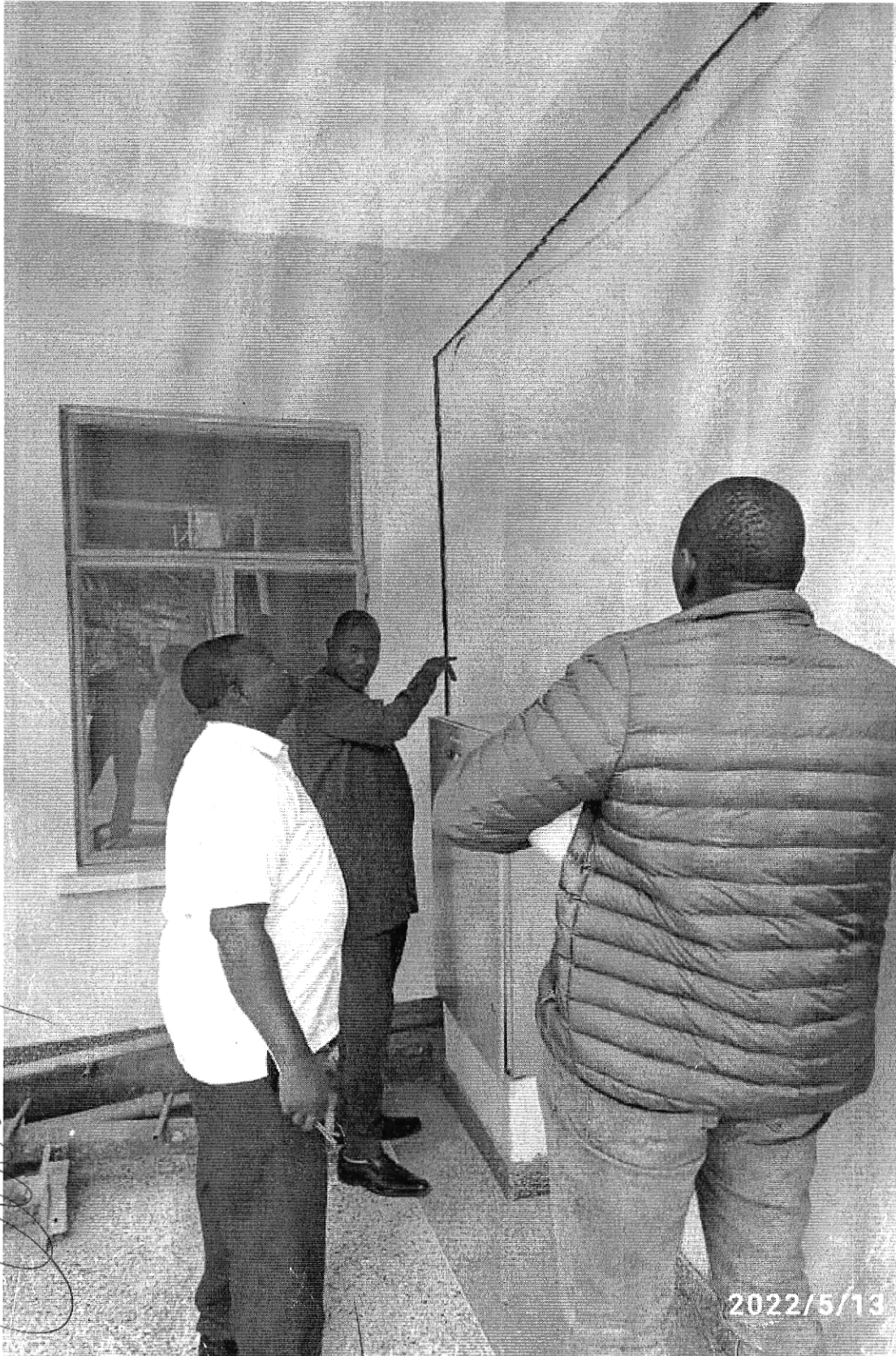
Rehman *Abul* *Amir* *Amir* *Amir*

P. Nema

Arthur

[Signature]

Annex S



flyout

Matt

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

2022/5/13

[Large signature] ²⁸ *[Signature]*

Annex T



[Handwritten signature]

Fly sheet-

K. L. L.

Amuly

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

M. P. V.

[Handwritten signature]

Pahatni

[Handwritten signature]

Abul Kalam

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

Handwritten initials/signature at top center.

Handwritten signature at top right.

Annex U



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Large handwritten signature or scribble on the left side.

Handwritten signature or scribble on the right side.

Handwritten signature or scribble on the right side.

Handwritten signature or scribble in the lower right area.

Handwritten signature or scribble on the right side.

2022/5/13 13:17

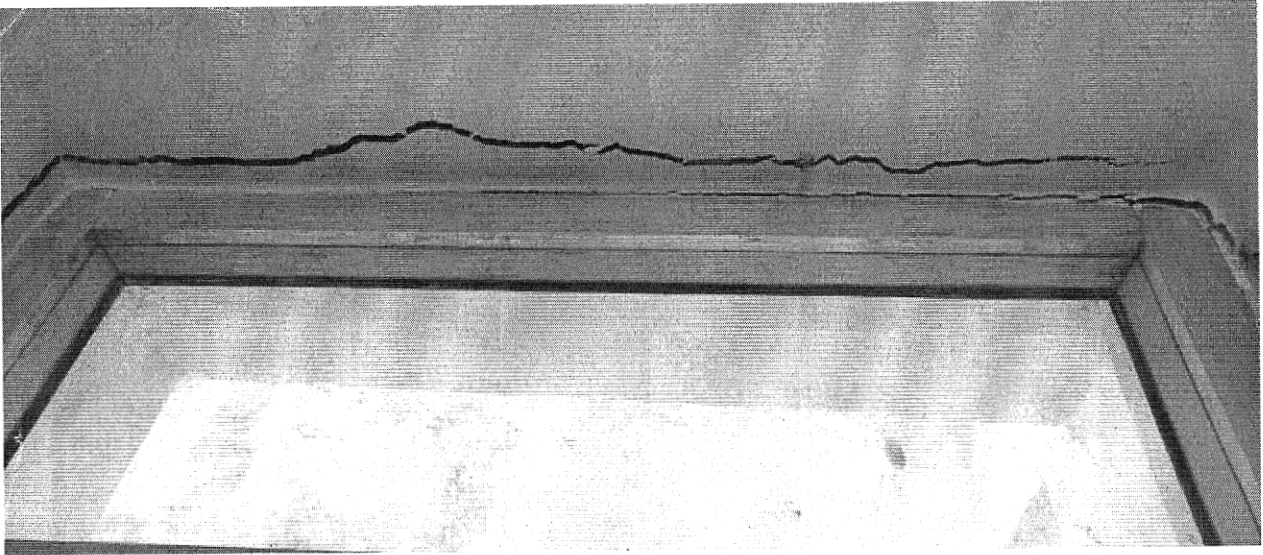
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Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom center.

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom right.

PC

Annex V



PC

W. H. H.

Stefan

Stefan

Stefan

Stefan

Stefan

Stefan

Stefan

Palmer

31

Palmer

Palmer

Stefan

Stefan

A black and white photograph showing a large group of people, primarily men in suits, seated around a long table in a conference room. The room features large windows in the background, and the scene is brightly lit. A timestamp '2022/5/13 14:39' is visible in the bottom right corner.

2022/5/13 14:39

Handwritten signatures and scribbles on a page numbered 32. The signatures include "P. Wilson", "R. H. Hest", "M. H. Hest", "B. H. Hest", and "B. H. Hest". There are also several scribbles and a large circular mark.

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