

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION - SECOND MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2026

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIRST SESSION - 10TH SITTING - SECOND MEETING

Wednesday, 21 October 2026

Parliament met at 2.18 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Colleagues, I welcome you to our sitting of today. In the public gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation of NRM Women League Chairpersons from Lango Subregion. They are here on the invitation of Dr Aceng Jane Ruth Ochero. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)*

Can you stand up so that they can see you properly? Thank you. Just ensure the video captures them very well for the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) to take note of who they are, because he says that they should have sat on the other side so that he targets whom to recruit when he goes to Lango next time. Thank you.

Yesterday, in my communication on the issue of the Bachelor of Pharmacy degree at Mbarara University of Science and Technology, I praised nurses as professionals who can be amazing leaders because some of them even have PhDs.

However, a journalist called Ssebadduka John Paul, accredited to Parliament and working with CBS FM, edited the video and shared a version on his private media channel, SPJ Exclusive Media and made it appear as though I was demeaning nurses and suggesting that they cannot be leaders.

By the time I woke up this morning, I found many calls and messages. Someone got the full video, cut out parts and joined them. He is accredited here for CBS but used that opportunity to also work for his online channel.

When the video went viral, my team and I leapt into action and managed to trace where it originated. These days, we are able to trace sources until we found him. Mr Ssebadduka, who shared the video, talked to me and apologised, and I told him to make a public apology because you cannot tarnish my name in public but apologise in private. *(Applause)*

The video went viral, and I think the whole of last evening and this morning I was being abused all over – that I demeaned nurses.

I even talked to their association because my full video is available, and I also shared it on my X handle.

This is a serious issue which is unacceptable, and I have forwarded it to the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) to take interest in. I have also asked our Communication and Public Affairs department to handle this matter through their stipulated guidelines as a department so that accurate reporting in this House is recorded. I will own up to whatever I

say, but when you twist it, you should also own up and face repercussions.

Honourable colleagues, I believe that at any time, we can all become victims of distortion of our videos and audio recordings. We must take this matter seriously and promote responsible and ethical media practices.

We are trying to be media-friendly and putting in place everything that can make us a media-friendly Parliament because media is very critical for the performance of this Parliament. However, when they do wrong things, they are not above scrutiny. It disturbed me a little because the abuses had extended to my family and had gone beyond. That is why the bigger part of this morning I had to go- because the video that was posted was bad. I even asked myself if I could say that.

There are people who will say, "You are overreacting; why are you…?" You know, people destroy you and then blackmail you into silence. That is the problem we are facing as politicians. Someone has the right to abuse you, but you do not have the right to question anything or to clarify. You should die silently. No, I am not among those who are going to die silently, and I encourage you, honourable colleagues, please, do not allow that. *(Applause)* So I just wanted to clarify and put on record what happened.

I registered 20 matters of national importance, but out of those only three could meet the yardstick for matters of national importance – as in those which come from the Speaker's communication. Your matter is important, but the Speaker guided- and I had also already guided you.

Under this arrangement, we allow matters for which you get a response that is actionable immediately. For example, a disaster has hit your place, a certain accident has occurred, a building has collapsed – very urgent.

Otherwise, the rules give you room where you could – so I will pick all these other matters tomorrow with the Prime Minister because most of them fall under that category. Bear with me as we handle them at that.

On the matter I have communicated about how someone portrayed me, I request we stop at that. I just wanted to share and encourage you that if you get into such a situation, do not die in silence. Please share with us, and as an institution, we are going to support you, especially if you know that you are being portrayed in a manner that is different from who you are or what you said.

Hon. Kinobere Herbert? Hon. Tebandeke, do you have a procedural matter?

MR CHARLES TEBANDEKE: Mr Speaker, thank you for your guidance. On Tuesday, 13 October 2026, last week, I raised a matter which I thought was urgent in nature – over the suspension of services of the Ministry of Lands from the zonal offices. I got a notice from the Government Chief Whip, and I appreciate it.

However, I raised the matter on behalf of the public, and the Government Chief Whip wrote to me personally. I have no capacity to inform the entire public. But the main issue is that when the ministry suspended its operations on affairs regarding land, it is affecting the entire public in terms of the economy because land is life, land is a cheque, and money when it comes – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You see, honourable member, when it is a procedural matter, the main issue should be about operations of the House, not outside the confines of this House. So, what do you want this House to do? What is the procedure with this House?

MR TEBANDEKE: Mr Speaker, I am seeking your indulgence on whether it is procedurally right. I am missing the presence of ministers from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development in the House to answer relevant questions of such a kind. The public is losing a lot.

When you mortgage or remove a mortgage, it does not amount to fraud. I request that, if it is procedurally right, you guide that the Government gives us a substantive answer to the effect, so that we do not get very many people falling victims of the same. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, that usually depends on how the presiding officer structured it. If the presiding officer asks the minister for a statement, then the statement is brought here. However, if the presiding officer sometimes refers matters to say respond to a Member or come out in public and respond. Government Chief Whip, why did you prefer that kind of response?

2.30

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng): Mr Speaker, it is true the honourable member has asked this question twice; the method of answering the question was supposed to be a statement. May I request that the Minister for Lands make this statement tomorrow without fail. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister for Lands, I will give you space on the Order Paper tomorrow. I saw some guidelines issued everywhere, but if the matter was raised here, that is what I told ministers – to always come, share here and then you get the buy-in of Members. Hon. Kinobere Herbert?

2.31

MR HERBERT KINOBERE (Independent, Kibuku County, Kibuku): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to forward a matter of national importance regarding one school: Kapyani Primary School in Kapyani Parish, Nankodo Subcounty, Kibuku Constituency, Kibuku District.

On the 17th, we received heavy rain, which left the school damaged, including the destruction of the textbooks. As I speak, the learners have nowhere to study. I remember during our days, if we got such incidents, you could go under the tree. These days there are no trees, because of those who burn charcoal and so forth.

Mr Speaker, some time back in the 11th Parliament, we got a serious disaster in Buganza Village. I raised that very matter of national importance for immediate attention by the concerned ministry. And I did submit that it has happened several times; whenever we raise a matter of national importance, it ends on paper. We make write-ups from the district level up to the concerned ministry; no action. However, when it comes to other regions, you see in the media, even at night, they travel and intervene.

Mr Speaker, you were chairing the session then. You asked me to withdraw that statement, and I withdrew it, but no action was taken. Currently, that village has never received any single relief from this Government.

The learners in this school have nowhere to go, and yet it has a capacity of 1,900 pupils. They are all outside, not studying. This term is a compacted term, very short.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prayers, honourable?

MR KINOBERE: My prayer, Mr Speaker: I am requesting, and I pray, that the ministry concerned takes immediate action to support this school, to have the textbooks made available, and also probably put up temporary structures to support the learners. I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I see the Government Chief Whip ready to respond.

2.33

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng): Mr Speaker, the whole country is aware that we are in the season of El Niño. And we shall be having heavy rains with thunderstorms and hailstones that may affect service delivery points like schools, hospitals, even churches and many others, including our homes. Allow me to inform this august House that the Government is in a high preparedness mode right now.

All these challenges that we are facing, honourable members, I request you to compile

them and submit them to the disaster committee. The Office of the Prime Minister is mobilising resources to respond to these situations. This one is very urgent, and the prayers are very clear. My honourable brother Kinobere, I request that you compile the evidence and make it available to the disaster committee. I will follow up myself. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, this is the guidance we gave. I think we have been repeating it. On how the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) works. So, when you get a disaster in your area, inform the district disaster committee, because it is on the ground and comes and assesses.

After assessing, they submit to the OPM. Now, it would be easier for me when you are presenting a matter; for example, if the district did its work, you can even lay it on the Table. Not just your word.

No, Hon. Kinobere, that is not how we work. I cautioned colleagues. Someone came today to say that I should be flexible. When you get a microphone, you know Tayebwa is rigid. If you are five people speaking, who would they capture on the *Hansard*? Personally, you can only access a microphone with my permission. If you cannot be patient, I am sorry. So, Hon. Kinobere, what did you want the Government Chief Whip to clarify to you?

MR KINOBERE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I just wanted to confirm to you that in the previous issue, we did everything at the village level and district level; I submitted the report myself to the Prime Minister's Office. I even have the hard copies I can lay on the Table. No action was taken. So, I am wondering: should we also waste our time and go through the same.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleague, failure to get support the other time does not allow you to bypass procedure. This is a stated procedure, okay? It is like how you apply for a visa to go to a certain country, and they denied you. Do you go to the airport and you say, "I want to go?" They say, "But you do not have a visa." Then you say, "No, last time I applied, you denied me the visa." You must apply, and you get it.

Honourable colleagues, I just forgot one thing when I was making my communication. The other day with the Speaker, myself and the Clerk, there is something which we worked on. We found that all our telephone numbers are online. They were just published online, and conmen are using them, cloning your numbers, doing whatever.

I asked: who gave permission? Because I remember when they were asking me for my number, they never told me it was going to be published. No one asked me for that permission; it is a private personal number.

Therefore, we have instructed the Clerk to remove all our numbers from Google and put the numbers of Parliament. If anyone wants the number of Hon. Mwiru, he should call Parliament. Then Parliament will provide them with the number. However, not using them to put us in a thousand groups. Then that one which you refuse to go in, they say, "You see, he is not social; he does not even want to interact with us." No. There are groups of funeral associations, weddings, gold dealers, properties and birthdays. You know, I have never celebrated a birthday, but I am in over twenty groups of birthday celebrations.

We have instructed the Clerk to remove all your phone numbers online, and whenever a number is needed, it will be provided.

Hon. Kimosho, do you have a procedural matter?

MR KIMOSHO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Every day, Parliament receives matters of national importance and they all concern rain-related disasters. Our meteorological department warned us of El Niño, and it is very clear that we are headed for more disasters.

Isn't it procedurally right, Mr Speaker, that you request the Office of the Prime Minister to present a comprehensive response plan to this

House on disaster response and management? In addition to what we shall be submitting, they should also be on standby and respond instead of mobilising after we have submitted. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kimosho and honourable colleagues, if you remember, at the beginning of this term, we demanded the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness to submit a preparedness report, and they did. Hon. Sam Engola brought it here, and we had a long discussion; they showed us that they were ready.

However, the Government Chief Whip has said that they are preparing for resources at the time - and that is why we usually do it a bit early because some of us, who are Catholics, know that it starts raining by the 15th of August. They told us they were ready, and I hope that they prepared enough, but let us try to follow the procedure.

Hon. Nancy Acora?

2.40

MS NANCY ACORA (NRM, Woman Representative, Lamwo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance. The elephants have invaded Lamwo District, Madi Opei Subcounty, for the last two weeks. Over 200 elephants have invaded the people of Popany, Odiya Oket, Okol and Kirombe Villages. It is disastrous to the extent that since yesterday, the community has shifted, and they are now sleeping at Wanglango Primary School.

It is my humble plea and prayer to the Ministry of Tourism, through the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), that they need to do immediate interventions.

The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) at Bana Bana Barracks have tried all their best, but the elephants are not doing us any favours. We fear that even today or tomorrow, the security of our community is not going to be good because people have moved from their homes; they are so fearful. Elephants kill people, but we have not yet registered any deaths, except the destruction of crops in the gardens in all these parishes.

My second plea is to the Office of the Prime Minister. Together with my honourable colleague, Hon. Nyeko Johnson, very soon, we will write to your office to intervene and then provide some food relief, despite the fact that Acholi Subregion has had a very long dry spell of drought. Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister for Tourism?

2.42

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Ms Susan Nakawuki): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Acora for raising the matter. Actually, I spoke to her on the phone this afternoon. I have already engaged UWA; they are on their way to Lamwo to address the matter, and then we are going to work on the issue of compensation accordingly. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Tumusiime Bamuturaki?

2.43

MR JOHN TUMUSIIME (NRM, Kashari South County, Mbarara): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My point is on floods, a disaster which destroyed the only reliable permanent source of clean water in Bukiiro Town Council, Kashari South, Mbarara District.

Mr Speaker, I rise to bring to the immediate attention of this august House a severe flood disaster in Kigoro Cell, Rubingo Ward, Bukiiro Town Council, Kashari South Constituency, Mbarara District, caused by recent torrential rains on the 18th, which was a Sunday, and disrupted public utilities, local economies, and basic livelihoods, including water infrastructure, agriculture, and transport infrastructure.

I pray for the following immediate interventions:

1. The Office of the Prime Minister immediately dispatches humanitarian aid, relief food, and clean water to the affected population.
2. The Ministry of Water and Environment conducts an emergency technical assessment to repair and restore the damaged water pipes, boreholes, and piping networks.
3. The Ministry of Works and Transport undertakes emergency rehabilitation of the Bukiiro-Rubindi access road to restore connectivity and access.

I submit. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister or Government Chief Whip, whoever is ready.

2.45

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Mr Speaker, I thank Hon. Tumusiime Bamuturaki for informing us about the floods and all the disasters that are happening in Bukiiro Town Council. As we have said before, let us have that report from the disaster committee. I addressed some people, a caucus from one of the regions, but they said that they were not aware of the disaster committee.

However, there is a disaster committee at the district level, from which we expect a report. It is headed by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), and there is also the Resident District Commissioner (RDC). Let us have these reports so that the ministry can react and send teams on the ground, following those reports. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister. I would want to guide this way:

First, now that you have taken note, let your people liaise with the CAO, who is the Chairperson of the District Disaster Committee.

Secondly, I request you to write to all Members of Parliament and drop those writings in their pigeonholes so that they all have a copy, giving them guidance on how issues to do with disasters are processed up to implementation. It will be much easier for us because, as you said, you are meeting members who are saying they do not know that there is a District Disaster Committee. Therefore, it is very important that we handle it at that level.

Next item.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE EDUCATION, SPORTS AND SKILLS SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clerk, let me guide that we first receive the statement of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries because we are not going to debate it today; we shall debate it on Tuesday. We can go on, and we will handle items four, five, six and seven, because items six and seven will also be presented, and then the debate will be next week. Then, once we finish these, then we will start debate on 3.1 and 3.2 so that debate is prolonged.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. How many minutes, honourable minister?

2.48

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (Mr Frank Tumwebaze): It is quite voluminous, but you can guide me to summarise.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since we are not going to debate -

MR FRANK TUMWEBAZE: I can read the whole of it?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. Summarise, then we shall read the statement another time. However, pick out the critical

issues which you want the country to seriously take note of.

MR FRANK TUMWEBAZE: I will try to summarise. Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to make a statement on the performance of the agricultural sector to this august House, where many voices of our farmers from different parts of the country are represented.

In this presentation, I will point out the major highlights of the sector's achievements and challenges encountered, as well as the mitigation measures. I wish to state from the onset that the sector is quite big, and therefore, this single presentation may not exhaust all the programmes and achievements. However, it will always be an honour for me, Mr Speaker, to make additional presentations on any matter of national importance concerning the sector whenever the need arises.

Just at a glance, the sector continues to make remarkable contributions to the sustenance of many livelihoods and the development of the country. The different value chains (crops, livestock, and fisheries) supported and developed by the Government continue to transform the lives of more than 70 per cent of the population through job creation and food security.

Despite the coming on board of other means of livelihood for our population, for example, skills- and knowledge-based economies, the agricultural sector still remains the dominant source of employment and livelihood for most Ugandans. Statistics show that 7.12 million out of 10.8 million households are employed in agriculture.

Agriculture continues to be a source of raw materials for our growing industrial sector. The country is still endowed with substantial chunks of arable land to utilise and thus expand production horizontally. With the adoption of new technologies and precision farming enablers (irrigation, new research varieties, animal breeds, et cetera), vertical expansion in terms of increasing productivity is also possible.

The sector's contribution to the country's GDP increased, Mr Speaker, from a 10-year average of 23 per cent to 26.2 per cent by the end of the Financial Year 2025/2026. Similarly, the agricultural sector expanded by 6.5 per cent at the end of the Financial Year 2025/2026 compared to its 10-year average growth rate of 4.2 per cent. Fishing grew by 17.8 per cent, and cash crops grew by 9.8 per cent, led by coffee and cocoa. Livestock grew by 8.8 per cent, mainly dairy, and food crops grew by 4.8 per cent. Overall, agriculture continues to account for an average of 40 per cent of earnings from the country's exports.

Table 1, honourable colleagues, summarises the growth. Coffee increased by 161 per cent, bringing in $2.2 billion. Cocoa grew from $93 million in Financial Year 2022/2023 to $620 million. Dairy (milk and milk products) grew from $102 million to $285 million. Fish and fish products grew to $209.83 million, and of course, fruits and vegetables grew equally, as you can see.

Mr Speaker, the above positive outlook has been made possible through correct policy instruments and deliberate Government efforts to support farmers in transitioning from subsistence to the money economy, especially the rollout of the Parish Development Model (PDM) programme.

Mr Speaker, in response to the policy guidance of His Excellency the President and the commitments in the NRM Manifesto, which we are running as a country, the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and its partners - I was trying to remind my brother, Hon. Mwiru- that the leadership of MAAIF and its partners adopted a hybrid strategy in planning for the agricultural sector. The strategy caters for both smallholder and large-scale commercial farmers.

The former - in that case, the smallholder - are advised to practice intensive farming of particular high-value enterprises (coffee, fruits and vegetables, dairy under zero grazing, poultry, piggery, fish farming, apiculture, et

cetera) suitable for small plots, while the latter can do both intensive and extensive farming of all enterprises of their choice, enabled by the advantage of their large landholdings. If you have land, you can do any.

Mr Speaker, for the last five years, the main flagship/strategic intervention for smallholders has been PDM. While the performance of PDM will require another independent comprehensive statement from my honourable colleague of Local Government, one major highlight about the achievements of the programme is that it has caused a financial revolution in the country by closing the gap in the financial inclusion ecosystem. Substantial amounts of money continue to grow in the PDM SACCOs at the parish level, thus enabling those who have hitherto been financially un/ underserved to gain access and engage in the money economy. To date, the Government has cumulatively injected up to Shs 4.4 trillion into this financial programme. This money is within the parish financial ecosystem, as you all know, honourable colleagues.

For medium and large-scale farmers not covered under PDM, the Government, through MAAIF and other agro-industrialisation MDAs, continues to roll out other support interventions following the Agriculture Value Chain Development Strategy. As I will be highlighting below, MAAIF has rolled out interventions to support production and productivity enhancement, harvest, post-harvest handling and storage, value addition and processing, and market access.

Financing programmes for medium- and large-scale farmers such as the Agricultural Credit Facility (ACF), Uganda Development Bank (UDB) loans, and interest-free financing for large-scale commercial farmers implemented through Government financial institutions like Housing Finance, Pearl Bank and Pride Microfinance, have also been rolled out.

Mr Speaker, working together with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) - and if this House deems it fit - an independent paper on the performance of each of these facilities can also be presented at an opportune time for Members to discuss.

Key milestones under the priority areas

Mr Speaker, MAAIF and its agencies have established the following priorities in the short, medium and long-term to be the guiding framework for all interventions. Detailed accounts of our achievements and the challenges we encountered are outlined under each priority area.

The first priority is production, multiplication, certification, and distribution of seed and stocking material. Mr Speaker, the quality, quantity, and value of any agricultural enterprise's yield is only as good as its foundational seeds and stock. The quality of your seed will define what you get out. Consequently, the ministry has placed significant emphasis on supporting research into high-quality, resilient, and productive seeds and breeding stock to empower farmers across various levels. Within this priority area, the ministry is focusing on:

i) Research, breeding for animals, and technology development;
ii) Regulation, inspection, and certification of crop, livestock, and fisheries inputs and products.

Our lead sector agencies mandated to carry out agriculture research and breeding for the country are the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) and the National Animal Genetic Resources Centre and Data Bank (NAGRC & DB). Over the years, these agencies with the support of the Government, partners and this Parliament, have produced and availed quite a number of impactful products/ services that have sustained our food and livestock resources, especially in the new resilient stocking and planting materials.

Mr Speaker, allow me to give you some highlights about NARO and NAGRC&DB achievements. The table below shows the new crop varieties introduced by NARO since 2021.

You can see Maize 63 Vita; it has high - you can see them, and we have even put pictures there. I encourage you, honourable colleagues, whenever we have food days, to come and look at these exhibitions. We have Maize 64 STR resistance to Striga, Rice WDR 73 (big grains like super yield: 10 tonnes per hectare), Rice KF – It is all in the table. It is unfortunate that the pictures are not coloured, but in this presentation, they should be coloured.

We have NAROPOT - these are Irish potatoes; they are all there. These are new varieties, and I will explain later, Mr Speaker, why the new varieties, why the hybrids, and answer the perennial question of our indigenous seeds, whether they are lost.

So, the table shows the varieties that our scientists keep innovating and bringing out.

They have produced a banana, NAROBan 6,

i) with a mean bunch weight of 32.5 kg. You can see the bunch there.
ii) It is tolerant to Black Sigatoka; it is a pest.
iii) It is tolerant to nematodes and weevils.
iv) It morphologically blends well with the landraces. Landraces are our indigenous seeds.
v) It can be grown in all banana-growing areas of Uganda.

These are the new ones that the scientists keep producing every year. For a scientist to bring up a new variety, colleagues, it is like a mother producing a baby after nine months of pregnancy. So, we should congratulate our scientists.

Livestock Breeding and Genetics Infrastructure Development by NAGRC&DB.

i) They have managed to introduce and build liquid nitrogen plants in Mbarara and Buikwe with a production capacity of 500 litres per day, serving over 6,000 PDM farmers. Nitrogen banks and plants are the ones where semen is kept and other AI materials.
ii) We have expanded the National Semen Collection and Evaluation Laboratory in Entebbe.
iii) We have established an embryo transfer services unit with a mobile laboratory van.
iv) We have established the Teso Animal Breeding and Demonstration Centre (TABDEC) in Bukedea to improve the quality of livestock genetics in the Eastern region and enable PDM farmers to equitably access breeding stocks. This centre of excellence will also act as a learning and skilling centre for better animal husbandry.
v) 22 exotic bulls procured, providing semen collection capacity of 800,000 to 1 million doses a year.
vi) Renovated, expanded and equipped the poultry hatcheries in a number of areas to hatch and provide chicks to PDM. The table there shows the hatcheries. National Poultry and Piggery Development Centre Wakiso holds millions of birds; its capacity is 240,000 chicks per week.

Livestock experimental station in Entebbe rehabilitated. It has 120,000 birds. Kasolwe, 120,000. Tororo, 60,000. Abim, 60,000.

Dual-purpose goat breed

Mr Speaker, we have developed a new appropriate dual-purpose goat breed called the Kasolwe brown goat that farmers can now access from selected Government farms and ranches. This goat breed is noted for its twinning ability, resilience to intestinal worms, good mothering ability, and high kid survival rates. The picture was there. Faster growth rate of 145 grams per day, amongst others, has been multiplied to more than 1,000 in number and is now available for multiplication by private breeders and farmers countrywide.

Animal seed

Animal seed is also known as stock. Animal seed, breeding stock available to farmers by NAGRC&DB through a subsidised access framework.

Multipurpose poultry chicks: quantity 5.1 million, reaching 15,022 farmers;

Improved meat goats: 18,659, reaching 1,916 farmers, as you can see in the table.

iii) 4,028 heads of cattle were inseminated, directly benefiting 451 farmers across the country.
iv) Six 600-litre regional liquid nitrogen storage tanks were supplied to AI hubs in Gulu, Soroti, Buikwe, Entebbe, Luwero, and Mbarara.
v) Distributed 1,975 AI kits across 10 subregions, creating about 1,975 jobs for AI technicians.
vi) Trained 1,382 para-veterinarians, AI technicians, and multiple ovulation and embryo transfer professionals, reaching 37,243 farming households. The table also shows the animal feed produced.

Silage: about 151,280 metric tons. Compounded feed, total mixed ration. The table also shows the hay.

Farms transformed into centres of excellence under NAGRC.

i) Kasolwe in Busoga, 5 metric tons per hour feed plant with 3,000 metric grain storage, floating fish feed plant, hatchery of 120,000 chicks per week and a 150-head Jersey dairy unit constructed.
ii) Aswa Ranch in Acholi: beef breeding centre for Brahman and Boran crosses, mechanised feed and fodder centre with 10 silage bunkers and a shea handling and processing unit.
iii) Ruhengyere, Sanga and Lusenke: converted into dairy farms with 500 Holstein-Friesian and Ayrshire mother cows.

Mr Speaker, however, we have a challenge with these farms: encroachment on land. It continues to be a struggle.

Distribution of coffee seedlings.

Mr Speaker, despite the policy shift from free distribution of inputs to PDM, where farmers are expected to acquire money from their circles to buy inputs on their own, during the Financial Year 2025/26, Cabinet, under the directive of H.E. the President, approved an exception for an affirmative action intervention for Northern Uganda to promote coffee growing.

Consequently, the Ministry received funds for the Northern Uganda coffee programme covering Mid-North, Acholi, Lango and West Nile. A total of 24,437,367 seedlings were distributed to 49,695 beneficiaries in Northern Uganda. Mid-North received 12.26 million seedlings for 24,510 beneficiaries. West Nile received and distributed 12.17 million seedlings among 25,355 beneficiaries.

I am happy to note that so far, the performance of coffee in the northern part of the country, a region which traditionally was regarded as not being a coffee-growing area, is performing well. As budget resources enable us as a ministry, we shall continue rolling out similar affirmative action programs in subregions without a perennial cash crop due to earlier colonial distortions like Teso and Bukedi, among others.

Regulation, inspection, and certification of inputs.

Mr Speaker, MAAIF has completed the construction and equipping of an internationally accredited national metrology laboratory at UNBS. The facility is currently being used to calibrate equipment used in the national food safety laboratory and other agro-food processing laboratories and industries, such as lactometers, moisture metres, thermometers, and hydrometers, to ensure accurate measurement and reliable testing results.

These efforts have already contributed to a reduction in export interceptions at various European Union market destinations, with cases falling from 54 recorded in 2024 to 11 in 2026. These comprised two instances of harmful organisms, seven documentation errors, and two due to pesticide exceedance.

The National Seed Laboratory in Kawanda has been upgraded and is well equipped to conduct testing for seed germination, purity, and seed health. This enhancement strengthens

the ministry's capacity to address the growing challenge of counterfeit and substandard agricultural inputs in the market.

Consequently, only seed that meets the prescribed quality standards will be issued with official labels, seals, and certificates, while non-compliant seed lots will be rejected and excluded from the supply chain.

Furthermore, similar quality assurance measures will be strengthened for other agricultural inputs, including agrochemicals, to protect farmers from counterfeit, adulterated, and substandard products.

Construction, installation, and equipment of the inoculum laboratory and soybean farmer training centre (MUARIK, Kabanyolo), under a project called NOSP, are at 90 per cent completion for the production of a climate-smart soybean variety. We have been experiencing a shortage of soybean seed.

Access to fertilisers

In an effort to bridge the fertiliser usage gap, address productivity challenges in selected enterprises, and following H.E. the President's directive, my ministry procured and initiated the distribution of fertiliser to smallholder farmers of strategic crops, that is, tea, coffee, cocoa, horticulture, et cetera.

A total of 347,826 bags of 50 kg each, that is about 17.39 million kilograms, have been contracted, and distribution is ongoing, targeting mainly smallholder farmers in tea and coffee-growing districts of Uganda. The criteria for targeting smallholder farmers were discussed and approved by Cabinet.

When distribution is complete in all the districts, an additional statement, Mr Speaker, can be made to this Parliament if deemed necessary.

On this note, I would like to appeal to you, honourable colleagues, that while in your constituencies carrying out your oversight mandates, you demand to be updated on the distribution of these inputs from your Chief Administrative Officers.

The fight against counterfeits

MAAIF is strengthening the agricultural police and agricultural inspectors to increase surveillance and crackdown on unscrupulous dealers of agricultural inputs. You may have also seen a number of operations by MAAIF inspectors in the past targeting vendors of counterfeits in districts and places like Container Village.

Mr Speaker, on a bigger front, however, and without sounding speculative - I know our rules avoid speculation, but it is not speculation; I am already here on the Floor - the Cabinet decided to establish the Food and Agriculture Regulatory Authority (FARA) that will have full power and resources to fight against counterfeits and all contaminants in food, agriculture and veterinary inputs. This Bill was presented before this House for first reading and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries for processing. It is my appeal and request to this House that the processing and passing of the Bill be given priority.

Additionally;

i) The ministry has operationalised 10 zonal offices to strengthen inspection, regulation and enforcement against the proliferation of fake and substandard agricultural inputs and agrochemicals. The zonal offices will work closely with the district technical teams to monitor input suppliers, agro-dealers and distribution channels and ensure compliance with the relevant standards and licensing requirements.

ii) Registration and licensing of seed companies, seed merchants, seed conditioners and growers is ongoing in accordance with the Seeds and Plant Act and the attendant regulations. This has strengthened traceability and accountability within the input supply chain and minimised opportunities for

unscrupulous middlemen to introduce fake or substandard inputs on the market.

2.2 Pests, disease and vector control

Mr Speaker, the Government has consistently invested in animal and plant health systems to protect our livestock and crops from diseases and pests that endanger food safety, farmers' incomes and trade. Through sustained funding in veterinary biotechnology, disease surveillance, vaccination programmes and agro-food safety innovations, the Government has achieved remarkable progress in developing local capacity to manage pests, diseases and vectors.

Below I highlight some of the key achievements.

Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
The Government is implementing a compulsory biannual mass vaccination programme for all susceptible domestic animals in a deliberate effort to eradicate FMD in the country. This marks a departure from the previous free provision of FMD vaccines, which often resulted in only 2-10 per cent of animals being vaccinated because of budget shortfalls, and a consequent failure to manage the disease. Under this initiative, the Government has established vaccine cold chain storage facilities at the National Animal Disease and Diagnostics Centre in Entebbe and across 53 districts to ensure proper vaccine storage and facilitate veterinary officers in carrying out vaccine administration. More districts are yet to be covered with cold chain facilities.

However, in the interim, all districts were equipped with mini cold chain facilities, industrial fridges and ice boxes for vaccine storage while awaiting the setup of permanent cold chain storage facilities.

The farmer is expected to cover only the cost of the vaccine - i.e., Shs 8,000 per dose for cattle and pigs, and Shs 4,000 per dose for goats and sheep.

With the support of the Government, 44,778,994 doses of vaccines were procured. A digital IT system was developed with the support of the National Information Technology Authority – Uganda (NITA-U) and participating government banks, enabling farmers to enrol with the assistance of extension staff to make payments and have their animals vaccinated. To date, 80,000 farmers have been enrolled and have had their animals vaccinated against FMD.

However, a number of challenges have affected vaccine uptake. Notable ones include stakeholders' insistence on receiving free vaccines, as was previously the case and, to some extent, the indiscipline and/or corruption of the lower-level veterinary staff who oppose the exercise due to their illegitimate commercial interests.

To mitigate this, MAAIF has developed regulations that will give the force of law to mandatory vaccination and compliance. These regulations are currently awaiting clearance from the Solicitor-General. When these regulations come into effect, proof of FMD vaccination will be a precondition for the issuance of livestock and livestock product movement permits, whether for sale or other purposes.

I repeat this: these regulations are currently awaiting clearance from the Solicitor-General. Once they come into effect, proof of FMD vaccination will be a precondition for the issuance of livestock and livestock product movement permits, whether for sale or other purposes. If we do not enforce this, we will never eradicate this disease, honourable colleagues.

Anti-tick vaccine deployment and roll-out

Mr Speaker, the Government, through NARO, developed an anti-tick vaccine called NAROVAC and established a local anti-tick vaccine manufacturing facility at Nakyesasa in Wakiso District with a capacity of three to six million doses a month. All the necessary equipment has been installed, calibrated, and fully validated, and five million doses are in stock. His Excellency the President launched

the facility, and the National Drug Authority issued a final approval certificate for the vaccine and the suitability of the premises, including good manufacturing practices.

MAAIF and NARO are still engaging the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to get more support to enable commercial production and rollout. On this note, Mr Speaker, allow me - this is for you, Mr Speaker, Hon. Musasizi should not take it away from you - allow me to specifically thank you and other Members of this Parliament for having visited Nakyesasa where the production is taking place and for all the support and encouragement you give to our scientists. And the picture of the anti-tick vaccine is there- *(Ms Naluyima rose_)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Ethel? When they thank me, you raise a procedural matter?

MS NALUYIMA: Mr Speaker, I will also thank you tomorrow when we are discussing the statement. The honourable minister is presenting a statement, which we are going to discuss but he is reading most of it word-by-word. Would it not be procedurally right if he summarised for us at least some of the key points so that when we go back, we can have time to read and internalise it? This would enable us to handle as many items as possible today. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, these statements are not only for us but also for the public. This is like an address to the nation on agriculture. We requested the ministers to bring us these statements so that the public - That is why I requested him, even when I told him to summarise, I had said that pick out the critical issues which you feel the public should know so that the debate does not only stop with us, but also the public is sensitised and given critical information. Honourable minister, I do not know how you will strike a balance to address Hon. Naluyima's issue but also ensure that you satisfy the public.

MR FRANK TUMWEBAZE: I am trying to summarise it, but I was also avoiding the temptation of being told that I have made an inadequate statement. This House is a very important House that requires knowing all the details. Therefore, it has to be a balance of not underfeeding you and overfeeding you. I will try to summarise -*(Interjection)*- I am coming to that. *(Laughter)* It is important that you first save the animals.

Mr Speaker, the ministry procured and distributed 13,000 litres of Deltamethrin to 41 high-risk districts in six subregions. Why, for example, honourable colleagues need to know such things, you need to know and ask your district: "You got Deltamethrin to control flies; where is it?" It was distributed in Ankole, Lango, Acholi, Karamoja, Buganda and the Murchison Falls area. The chemical kills tsetse flies and other biting flies, and four million heads of cattle have been sprayed. Here, I was telling you that our laboratory at Entebbe is internationally accredited.

Management of aflatoxin in cereals

i) NARO completed setting up an Aflasafe facility at Namulonge to help in the management of aflatoxins in cereals, which have become a threat to food safety and trade in the region.

ii) The facility has a production line with capacity to produce five tonnes of Aflasafe per hour. Already, the effectiveness of the Aflasafe product in preventing grain (groundnuts and sorghum) from being contaminated by aflatoxin has been evaluated in different grain fields across the country. The results have revealed that the product is able to reduce aflatoxin contamination by over 90 per cent.

The Government is finalising the establishment of regional animal disease control centres in Kiruhura (Ssanga), Bunyangabu (Rubona), Nakaseke and Soroti (Katine) to strengthen livestock health management in the respective regions and improve timely diagnostics in the country, without having to rely on the national referral system. The centres will be

equipped with laboratories, cold and dry stores and animal holding grounds. Construction is complete, and operationalisation is ongoing.

Agricultural Mechanisation

Honourable colleagues, I believe you have an interest in this, so I will go through it quickly.

Mr Speaker, the Government has continued to prioritise agricultural mechanisation as a key driver of agricultural production and rural transformation. Mechanisation and irrigation address Uganda's two biggest constraints: farming that depends on human labour and farming that depends on nature.

Agricultural mechanisation enables farmers to cultivate or open more land with ease, supports value addition, creates jobs and service businesses and infrastructure; while irrigation helps farmers to produce more often and more reliably in a predictable and precise manner. Together, they are central enablers of moving many Ugandan farming households from subsistence to commercial farming.

Deployment of Tractors with Implements

Since 2018, the Government has acquired and deployed a total of 1,080 assorted tractors with their matching implements, alongside 1,350 single-axle walk-behind tractors or power tillers, equipped with various accessories. This equipment is directly allocated to farmers, farmer groups, associations and institutions through a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the beneficiaries and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF).

However, our target is to provide 10,000 tractors over the next five years to bridge the gap in arable land utilisation and make agricultural mechanisation both accessible and affordable. To achieve this, our policy strategy proposes two lines of intervention:

i) The establishment and operationalisation of 21 mechanisation centres. The development of these centres will prioritise areas where Government land is available for local governments. Currently, construction is ongoing in four centres, although progress has been hindered by land allocation challenges (like in Mbale) and budget constraints. Nevertheless, supported by loan projects like one called "Climate Smart," additional centres will be initiated and fully equipped; and

ii) The ministry is also proposing, but has yet to obtain Cabinet approval, a cost-sharing approach to tractor acquisition involving the Government, commercial farmers and producer organisations. This is how the huge demand we have will be met and sustained.

To that, there are so many. I have heavy earth-moving equipment and training of tractor operators; you can read, honourable colleagues. Let me go to distribution of hoes –*(Interjections)*- do you want hoes more than tractors?

Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues, allow me to address you on the issue of hand hoes, a concern some colleagues have been raising in this House -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, why are you skipping the issue of tractors? They are critical; please take your time.

MR FRANK TUMWEBAZE: Thank you so much. Mr Speaker, there was someone in Bunyoro who told a chef, "I need my meat. Do not roast it. Do not burn it; I want it." Let me now take my time and read the whole statement as it is. *(Laughter)*

Acquisition of Heavy Earth-Moving Equipment

It is in your interest, honourable colleagues. It is very important because some of you are big farmers.

The ministry has so far acquired and deployed five sets of heavy earth-moving equipment for the construction of water for agricultural

production facilities, valley dams, tanks and fish ponds, farm market access roads and land clearing.

Access to this equipment is subsidised by up to 60 per cent, significantly reducing costs for farmers and commitments. As the budget permits, with support from the Government of Uganda, and donor loans and others, we will keep expanding the fleet to meet our target of at least 20 sets, with one set stationed at every mechanisation and farm service centre per subregion.

Training of tractor operators

To ensure efficient, safe and productive operation of the distributed machinery, a total of 2,036 tractor operators and technicians have been trained at Namalere Mechanisation Centre and deployed across the country. These operators are always nominated for training by the tractor beneficiary group - they are not our staff – and commercial farmers, trained at Government cost for about one month in tractor operations, maintenance and management.

Distribution of Hoes

Mr Speaker, allow me to address you on the issue of hand hoes, a concern some honourable colleagues have been raising in this House. Following the Cabinet directive of September 2025, the ministry has so far procured and distributed a total of 4,060,000 plain hand hoes to farming households across the country in 50 district local governments, as part of Government's efforts to support agricultural production and productivity at household level. The decision of Cabinet is to supply seven million hoes; one hoe per household. We have now covered more than half of the households.

An extra 990,000 plain hand hoes are under procurement. *(Applause)* We will continue acquiring and distributing these, based on available resources, until we meet the target of seven million farming households. A list of districts so far covered is attached. Honourable colleagues, do you want me to read the districts?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, honourable member. We do not have that time. The list is attached.

MR FRANK TUMWEBAZE: You can look at them there: Central Uganda, Northern Uganda, Eastern Uganda, Karamoja and a few others –*(Interjections)* – whatever is not there is not there. It is attached to that statement. You chose that we submit things digitally, and we comply to the dot. When the other procurement is done, all districts will be covered. Just take heart and explain to our farmers.

Through various interventions by the ministry over the last five years, the following value addition equipment and installations were provided to farmers. 358 farm organisations received matching grants to build stores and install processing machinery, adding about 82,000 metric tonnes of storage capacity.

Under coffee infrastructure, the ministry procured and distributed 14 hullers, 94 motorised pulpers, 15 wet mills, 77 solar dryers and four irrigation demos. Maize and rice infrastructure provided 250 rice threshers, 500 maize shellers, 250 forage choppers and 16,400 tarpaulins for post-harvest management.

748 milk collection centres, 12 bulk milk collection centres and 200 registered milk tankers were established, operating mainly in the central region (51.3 per cent), South-Western (33 per cent) and Mid-Western (12.4 per cent) milk sheds. These are both Government and private sector.

Processing

Milk processing facilities increased from 120 in 2019 to 170 in 2025, including Pearl, Brookside, Jesa, Amos, Paramount, Lakeside and GBK.

Milk coolers

34 units of containerised milk coolers with matching generators were provided, and 18

milking machines were distributed. Under mini dairy processing plant equipment, two sets of mini dairy equipment were delivered and installed.

Honourable colleagues, the above value addition equipment across various value chains looks minimal but is strategically deployed, following demand, to create impact. When the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), which had been investing heavily in value addition infrastructure, was rationalised, its entire development budget was reallocated to fund the Parish Development Model (PDM). That explains the scaling down of support to value addition under the ministry.

However, with new projects coming on board, such as the Uganda Climate-Smart Agricultural Transformation Project, the Resilient Livestock Value Chain Project (ReLIV), and Enhancing Agricultural Production, Quality and Standards for Market Access (UKEF funded), this segment of the value chain will be strengthened. The actual deliverables will be seen in the short and medium term, as the implementation of the above projects progresses.

Market access: A total of about 2,110 kilometres of choke points across the country were fixed on farm-access roads, including about 345 small bridges or culverts and about 59 swamp crossings. This was done through various interventions on community roads that are not coded and budgeted for under the Ministry of Works and Transport, cities, urban councils and local governments.

That is important to note. It is not our mandate to build roads, but we intervene on those choke points that normally cut off our farms and farmers from the market. These choke points are of great concern to our ministry because they are the ultimate enablers of market access and the completion of the value chain, from garden to market.

We are also evaluating bids for the construction and rehabilitation of 642.8 kilometres of road choke points in 69 districts under the Uganda Climate-Smart Agricultural Transformation Project.

Mr Speaker, water for agricultural production and irrigation is critical to the sector and has been flagged as one of the core priorities needed to support and stabilise agricultural production. Today, as we face highly erratic weather patterns, we can no longer overlook the need for irrigation and on-farm water for agricultural production.

Following guidance from His Excellency the President and a directive from Cabinet, the ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), has submitted a detailed National Irrigation Development Plan to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for funding under the National Irrigation Development Project (NIDP). It is proposed to cover the whole country, if funds allow, either at once or in phases.

The project objectives include: To support and guarantee food security through resilient agriculture; support and guarantee income security through sustainable commercial farming of suitable enterprises; support and guarantee animal-feed security through climate-resilient livestock farming; and support fish farming as an alternative livelihood for communities near wetlands while protecting wetland ecosystems.

The target enterprises will mainly be our food-security crops, high-value income-security crops and animal-feed crops. We have to balance food crops, income crops and animal-feed crops, and do so in a manner sensitive to the environment.

This national irrigation plan will have the following components. Colleagues, I can skip that one. After all, we will present it in detail when we get to it.

Large-scale and medium-scale irrigation schemes

The Government, through MAAIF and the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), has completed construction of 10 large-scale irrigation schemes, increasing the total area

under formal irrigation by 7,203 hectares. The completed schemes are listed in the table: Doho II in Butaleja, Mubuku II in Kasese, Ngenge in Kween, Olweny in Lira, Agoro in Lamwo, Rwengaju in Kabarole, Tochi in Oyam, Kirema in Nakaseke, and others.

Mr Speaker, some of these schemes are not operating optimally because of operational, maintenance and management issues. The plan articulated above will prioritise their rehabilitation, expansion and sustainable maintenance by establishing a structured management framework with local governments and user farmers.

Then we have irrigation schemes under construction. Several medium and large-scale irrigation schemes are currently at various stages of construction, representing a strong pipeline of investments to be handed over- These are Kabuyanda, Sipi, Namaitsu, Chembobai, Atari, Unyama, Namalu and Matanda in Kanungu.

We also developed valley tanks and dams. Besides the irrigation projects, the ministry has constructed and rehabilitated water-harvesting and storage facilities, such as valley tanks, dams and fishponds, in water-stressed, drought or dry-spell-affected, floodplains and cattle-corridor areas. It has prioritised the deployment of heavy earth-moving equipment sets for excavation of water for agricultural production.

Several valley dams and valley tanks in the Karamoja and Teso sub-regions have been and are being constructed. For example, in Nakapiripirit, Komoret; Napak, Lokumama; Nabilatuk, Napayan;
In Karenga, Lukori; Amuria, Onganyakonyen; Moroto, Nakonyen and Nadunget; Kaabong, Usake; Kotido, Sinat and Longomorit; and Abim, Omunga. These are the dams either being worked on or about to be completed. However, work stalled in Abim because of land-access issues, but we are now resolving them.
In Amudat, Kosike; Katakwi, Ongunga; Serere, Owinya; Kumi, Agurut; Kween, Cheptere; and Bukedea, Okula. We prioritised Karamoja and Teso because of the problems. Honourable colleagues, when I mention these dams, note them down and visit them independently to know the status.

Additionally, the ministry is overseeing the construction and desilting of several valley tanks in areas such as Yumbe, Amolatar, Nakasongola, Kiryandongo, Masindi, Nakaseke, Gomba, Sembabule, Lyantonde, Masaka, Kyotera and Isingiro, among others, while utilising the ministry's internal fleet of heavy earth-moving equipment.

By increasing our stock of earth-moving equipment, we will be able to scale up our operations and meet the current overwhelming demand from many farmers across the country. We continue to design new dams, rehabilitate and desilt old dams as budgetary resources allow.

Solar-powered irrigation systems: We have established more than 6,657 small- and medium-scale solar irrigation schemes across 135 districts, including 6,300 under UgIFT, adding 5,000 hectares of land under irrigation.

Mr Speaker, the Ministries of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and Water and Environment have fully harmonised their mandates regarding irrigation and water for agricultural production. This issue has traditionally presented challenges.

Mr Speaker, you left us with this fight when you were in Cabinet, so I am glad to inform you that we are now very well married.

The aforementioned report on the developed irrigation schemes is the collaborative work of both ministries. The report I gave is for both MAAIF and MWE.

Furthermore, His Excellency the President has issued an Executive Order clarifying the respective mandates of each ministry concerning the planning and development of

water infrastructure for agricultural production, including irrigation.

Accordingly, our ministries have established an inter-ministerial working committee to plan collaboratively and operate synergistically.

Extension, farmer education and mobilisation: I can skip the preamble. MAAIF has developed 10 enterprise-selection manuals to guide farmers regarding the profitability, suitability and feasibility of different enterprises across various ecological conditions.

These manuals are particularly crucial for farmers with small landholdings, helping them engage in intensive farming of high-value enterprises while maintaining food and nutrition security. These manuals are with the district extension staff for use as part of their work tools.

We have mobilised extension workers to increase farmer outreach, both in person and through available media platforms, particularly radio, to advise farmers on optimal agronomic practices, as well as pest- and disease-control measures. This message was reiterated during our recent engagement with local government leaders and extension staff in Kampala.

Honourable colleagues, every week, public and private radio stations have given the Government one hour of free airtime. I appeal to you to demand that, when you return to your districts, these extension workers, district veterinary officers and district production officers utilise that time to educate people on how to fight diseases and look after their gardens. We can increase our productivity solely by following correct agronomic practices.

The Government has gradually taken steps to close the staffing gaps within the agricultural extension system by recruiting additional personnel and improving their remuneration. Following the salary enhancement for Government scientists, the pay for extension workers has more than doubled. An extension scientist was earning Shs 2.2 before, the salary now has doubled to Shs 4.25.

However, staffing challenges persist in many districts across the country due to wage constraints. While the approved establishment consists of 9,667 positions, only 4,310 are currently filled, leaving a shortfall of 5,357.

MAAIF continues to collaborate with Ministry of Local Government to urge Ministry for Finance and Ministry of Public Service to allocate the necessary wage funding to recruit additional extension workers and address the current staffing shortages.

MAAIF has so far procured with the support of Ministry for Finance and procured and distributed a total of 200 cars and 2,650 motorcycles to support the mobility of extension workers.

Colleagues, when you go for your oversight roles, demand to know whether these motorbikes are being used for the work or they have been turned into boda bodas. An additional 1,043 motorcycles are scheduled to be distributed in November 2026.

Partnerships with big commercial farmers for the production of strategic commodities to meet national and international demand

Mr Speaker, as highlighted earlier, the Government's strategy has been to plan for both smallholder and large-scale commercial farmers. However, numerous interventions implemented over the years, including the current Parish Development Model, have all targeted smallholder farmers. Yet, certain enterprises, particularly those critical to food and animal feed security, such as maize, soya beans and sorghum, which intensive farmers require but cannot sustainably cultivate on their own due to land size limitations, must be grown by another category of farmers possessing extensive tracts of land.

It is for this reason, therefore that we consider partnerships with large-scale farmers to be a strategic intervention. Large-scale commercial farmers can either be individuals; if you have big land, or institutions like churches, schools, cultural institutions, among others that own land.

When large-scale commercial farmers are supported, they also provide a pull effect for smallholder farmers. They provide aggregate and offtake, and they also provide extension to the network of their suppliers. So, to support large-scale commercial farmers, the Government has been intervening in the following ways: provision of tractors and value-addition equipment to those profiled and found to have a linkage with the smallholder farmers.

Provision of cheap credit through the Agricultural Credit Facility by the Ministry of Finance. Planning and Economic Development and the banks.

Provision of a Shs 176 billion interest-free facility by the Ministry of Finance, managed by Government-affiliated financial institutions, and Uganda Development Bank loans for agriculture. You may have questions about the facility; maybe in the future, working together with the Ministry of Finance, we can provide a statement on the performance and seek your opinions. We will continue to provide earth-moving equipment for bush clearing and construction of water harvesting and storage facilities on a cost-sharing basis, with the farmer covering fuel only.

In all our current and future programs of agricultural development, large-scale commercial farmers will continue to be an integral part, given the strategic role they play in completing the value chain.

Affirmative action for the fisheries subsector

The fisheries sector plays a vital role in the economy. Fishing communities have consistently demanded affirmative action to help them secure alternative sources of livelihood alongside their traditional occupation of capture fisheries. The Government has acknowledged the need for affirmative action targeting these communities and the following interventions are currently being implemented under the agriculture sector, and will remain a priority in the short to medium term.

Other Government MDAs offering public services like education and health have also been directed by Cabinet to plan relevant affirmative interventions for the fishing communities. MAAIF intervention areas include: promotion of aquaculture through development of fish ponds and cages.

Promotion of aquaculture through development of fish ponds and cages. E.g., in Pallisa, Kibuku, Kembogo in Kiboga, Buvuma, Kalangala, Buikwe, among others.

During the Financial Year 2025/2026, the ministry restocked Lake Mulehe and Chahafi, which are in Kisoro, with over five million fingerlings. Restocking of additional valley dams in Bukedi, Teso and Karamoja will be undertaken in due course, while assessment of other small water bodies for possible restocking is underway.

Provision of the correct certified fishing gear to support the fishing communities will continue to be rolled and more is under procurement.

Promotion of sustainable fishing. The ministry has identified and mapped 140 fish breeding areas, (FBAs). They are on Lake Victoria, 43; on Lake Albert, 44; Lake Kyoga, 19; Edward, 19; Lake George, 15. These FBAs will be physically marked and protected from fishing activities to serve as spawning and nursery grounds for fish in the water bodies.

The ministry continues to intervene in the area of aquatic weed control by acquiring an amphibious excavator and two support long-boom excavators.

MAAIF continues to sensitise fishing communities and enhance fisheries compliance enforcement across major water bodies to curb illegal fishing and fish-related activities. Going forward, and under the guidance of H.E. the President, a dedicated fund for affirmative action for fishing communities will be rolled out. This fund will support fishing SACCO groups, provide them with proper fishing gear and generally shift a substantial number of

fishing communities to aquaculture, thereby lessening the pressure on large water bodies.

Other strategic investments. Oil palm. Uganda needs the preamble even if I skip it. The table there shows the oil palm hubs and areas we have planted. Kalangala, Buvuma, they are all there. Maruzi, Mayuge, Bugiri, Namayingo, Masaka and Kyotera.

Mr Speaker, we are processing a loan with the Ministry for Finance under IFAD. When it's ready, it will come here to expand aggressively in Busoga.

The benefits of oil palm, colleagues you can read them, and I know very well you are well you are very well-read people you can even know. They are there.

Challenges and constraints

Mr Speaker, as I conclude, despite the significant achievements recorded, the ministry continues to face several systemic and operational challenges that limit the full realisation of the sector's mandate. These include, number one, difficulty in tracking and ensuring that the beneficiaries of PDM use the funds for agricultural production activities as agreed in their circles.

The final decision on how to spend the money is in the hands of the recipient. Someone gets money, you are not sure what he will do with it. Yet the intention of the Government is to ensure they buy the inputs.

MAAIF however, as the leader of pillar one, is engaging the PDM secretariat and Ministry of Local Government to agree on a mechanism that discourages diversion of funds by the recipients from the intended purpose. It is on this note that I appeal to you colleagues, that while carrying your oversight role in your constituencies, you pick interest and interrogate more on how PDM fund beneficiaries spend their money in regard to input acquisition.

Limited and poor structuring of sector funding. Most critical sector activities have remained underfunded. The dominant source of the sector budget over the years has largely been through externally funded projects that sometimes come with restrictive conditions that do not facilitate timely and quick implementation of activities as demanded by farmers.

However, we continue to engage with the Ministry for Finance to increase our domestic development budget, MTEF, and explore mechanisms of negotiating with the funders to ease loan project implementation conditionalities.

Other prominent challenges include extension staff shortfalls, as highlighted above, thus limiting the reach and quality of extension services to farmers. There is continued demand, colleagues, even from this house, for direct supply of inputs to farmers, coffee seedlings, maize, etc., against the policy of PDM. So when we have no funds, we feel constrained.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker and colleagues, the agricultural sector, which covers crops, animals and fisheries, is a wide one. Due to time limitations, this presentation could not exhaust all past and ongoing interventions and programmes. I have only managed to provide the major highlights of the completed and ongoing works.

The respective subsectors of crop, animal, resources and fisheries, as well as the research and breeding agents of the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) and the National Animal Genetic Resources Centre (NAGRC), our agriculture training colleges, the Bukalasas and others, have all contributed significantly to the development of agriculture and the sustenance of our food systems.

On the research front alone, a number of resilient crop varieties have been developed and raised to farmers, as I told you. A few days ago, on World Food Day, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) launched and raised three purple-fleshed sweet potato varieties.

These are rich in vitamins A and C, as well as contain antioxidants that characteristically prevent the occurrence of cancer, improve health, and provide dietary fibre. On this note, I salute our scientists for their various innovations in the sector.

I cannot conclude this presentation without addressing the frequently raised issue regarding the conservation of indigenous seeds and why most of them cannot be replanted as they were traditionally. Due to climate change and the emergence of pests and diseases, the performance of our indigenous seed varieties has deteriorated, leading to low crop yields or complete failure.

Accordingly, our research system has had to continuously improve them through breeding to develop high-yielding hybrids that are resilient to stressful weather conditions, pests, and diseases. These hybrids are conventionally bred at our research institutes and are not Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), I insist, contrary to the fears of some individuals.

Furthermore, indigenous breeds and seeds continue to be conserved in our gene banks and government farms for ongoing utilisation as research materials and for future use.

Mr Speaker, I will conclude this presentation by thanking His Excellency the President for being a lead champion of agricultural development and modernisation, and he deserves a round of applause. *(Applause)* He has done so in words, through his teachings, policy guidance, and also by practice as a farmer. His analysis of the agricultural sector alone of creating 50 million jobs is correct and feasible, if we all can fully mobilise our people to at least utilise 60 per cent of our God-given arable land, about 40 million acres. Now we cultivate between 35 per cent and 38 per cent.

We continue to invest in the development of each crop enterprise value chain for job creation and retention and for value addition maximisation. I thank you, Mr Speaker, and honourable members of this august House for having consistently supported and prioritised resources that have enabled the sector to achieve all the above. You deserve a round of applause. *(Applause)* I continue to pray and appeal to you for more support as we modernise and expand the agricultural sector.

Finally, I salute all our farmers, small, medium, and large scale, for sustainably supplying our dining tables, our restaurants, and our markets with enough food to eat. They form a strong fiscal tool that enables the Government to sustainably manage the economy.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. This is what they call ministers aligned with areas they understand. When I was young - not that young because Hon. Frank Tumwebaze is not much older than me - I used to find him at the offices of the National Farmers Federation teaching us about agriculture. He is very passionate, and you can see that from the statements.

Honourable colleagues, this is a statement with a few things that you will need to go back, verify and cross-check with your communities. Let us give it adequate time for debate on Tuesday after cross-checking.

MR FRANK TUMWEBAZE: Mr Speaker, on Tuesday my colleague, Hon. Bright, will competently handle the debate. I will be away for some other official engagement.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. You have been working as a team and as the agriculture ministry, you have been organised on the Floor, so I am sure honourable colleagues will be here to support.

LAYING OF PAPERS

THE PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO EURO 142,687,962.61 FROM CITIBANK FOR THE UPGRADING OF HAMURWA-KERERE-KANUNGU (47KM), AND KANYATAROGO-BUTOGOTA-BOHOMA ROAD (33KM) TO PAVED ROAD

3.53

THEMINISTEROFFINANCE,PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay on the Table the proposal to borrow up to EURO 142,687,962.61 from Citibank for the upgrading of Hamurwa-Kerere-Kanungu (47km) and Kanyatarogo-Butogota-Bohoma road (32 km) to paved road. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. I can see now you have gone to tourism roads and I hope more tourism roads across the country are going to be given priority.

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker, with your indulgence, I can use one minute to inform the House about the plan we have for upgrading the tourism roads. We have a number of tourism roads across the country. We recently passed a loan here to finance the Kitgum-Kidepo Road. *(Applause)* It starts from Kitgum to Kidepo, and we have a plan to continue the road up to Karamoja; that road from Kaabong to Moroto.

There is an arrangement to construct an airport in Kidepo. This road is in the Kigezi tourism circuit, where we have the mountain gorillas and other tourism attractions. The plan for this road is one of them.

We are mobilising funding for the Muko-Rubugiri-Nkuringo Road; now this one stops in Buhoma. Then, from Buhoma, we have another about 50 kilometres to Ruruhija National Park in Rubanda, connecting from Rubaare, in Ntungamo, Muhanga to Kisizi, then we go to Kanungu. We also have a plan to improve the airfield at Kihihi and Kisoro.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, under our Ten-fold Growth Strategy, we are determined, this term, to support the tourism infrastructure. This is because if we are talking about raising revenue, the only sure way to attract revenue is through marketing of tourism. I, therefore, want to appeal to this House that irrespective of where these roads are, they are not roads of location but rather where the business is.

We should all be seen to be supportive of the development of tourism infrastructure in this country. *(Applause)* Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, now you are talking because some of us were concerned. In the neighboring country, tourists pay $25,000 per night, and they are very comfortable. In our country, we negotiate for $500 per night, and someone – I have talked to many, and they were very clear in saying, "No, how can I move on these roads."

So, if you can create that potential, well and good. Honourable colleagues, the loan request is referred to the Committee on National Economy as per Rule 162 of our Rules of Procedure, for processing and reporting back. Next item. Hon. Emma, when the committee reports back, we will debate then and capture all these issues. Hon. Mwiru?

3.58

MR PAUL MWIRU (NUP, Jinja South Division East, Jinja City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise under Rule 57 of our Rules of Procedure regarding making statements on personal explanation. On 14 October 2026, the Minister of Works and Transport, Hon. Fred Byamukama, made allegations that Mwiru Holdings SMC, Ltd encroached on the railway land in Jinja whereas not and I would wish to clarify as hereunder. That I am a shareholder in Mwiru Holdings SMC, Ltd, which owns land comprised in these register volumes: JJ98 Folio 21, Plot 16, Nyaza Road, Jinja Municipality.

History of the land

Mr Speaker, the said land was leased to Salamugo Investments Ltd by the Jinja District Land Board from 1 September 2014 for 49 years.

That Mwiru Holdings SMC, Ltd acquired the same for purposes of expansion in 2022 from the former registered proprietor after the necessary due diligence, which never uncovered any information linking Uganda Railway Corporation to the said land, and in view of Section 59 of the Registration of Titles Act and Title Assurance and Indivisibility of Title, Mwiru Holdings SMC Ltd acquired the said land. I beg to lay a copy of the title on the Table for ease of reference.

That the claims, therefore, raised about the said property to form part of railway land actually are misconceived and without merit. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, Rule 57(2) - statements of personal explanation are not debated. It is just for setting the record straight. Thank you, Hon. Mwiru. Next item.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) ON THE REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL FOR THE AUDIT YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2025, COVERING UGANDA POLICE FORCE, UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE, MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I would like to thank the chairperson and the committee. I can see the speed at which accountability committees have been working. So far, PAC-Central has five ready reports.

COSASE was covered yesterday, and the chairperson told me that they have another one ready.

The Committee on Government Assurance and Implementation also told me that they have the report ready for presentation. We must utilise these last days of October and then November. I hope the chairperson is ready because I know the reports are here so that we are able to do all this work.

Leader of the Opposition, we have to ensure that they expedite because, as you know, we are stopping in December when we will be receiving new reports, and then that report is the one we shall handle.

4.03

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We have been engaging our colleague leaders of the accountability committees and, in turn, they have been engaging their colleagues on the committees to expedite the work. We are glad they have been meeting with a couple of entities and are working on reports. We hope that soon enough they will be churning out a lot more reports, as they have been, and in our engagement with the leadership, we assured them that time will be allocated on the Order Paper so they can present the reports.

Our biggest challenge continues to be action-taken reports. The Treasury Memoranda and action-taken reports because when these reports are adopted by Parliament, we do not want these committees – and even though they are headed by opposition members of Parliament, they are still committees of Parliament. In fact, the majority of Members are NRM.

Mr Speaker, as a former committee chairperson, I know that committees normally feel frustrated. Sometimes they would ask me – by then, I was the Chairperson of COSASE: "So, you call us to sit very early in the morning, sometimes on days when Parliament does not sit. We do all this work, reports are presented, but then the Government does not act upon them."

I think that is the biggest area we need to improve so that committees are motivated to keep doing this work. Otherwise, when they know they will do all this work, meet in the night, write reports, go wherever you send them to put together these reports, present them, and then no action is taken, they get demotivated. So, that is an area I believe we need to polish.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development can comment.

4.04

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the Leader of the Opposition for committing to meet the timelines for reporting back to the House on the recommendations of the Auditor-General.

Mr Speaker, the law is very clear. When the recommendations of the committee are adopted by the House, as a minister, I am compelled to report back to this House within six months on the actions taken on the report of the Auditor-General, as recommended and adopted by the House, and I report through a Treasury Memorandum.

Time and again – I became a minister of state in 2021, but I cannot count the number of times I have laid Treasury Memoranda on this Table. As of last week, there is Treasury Memoranda which is in transit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, last week you laid on the Table five Treasury Memoranda.

MR MUSASIZI: Yes. Maybe what the Leader of the Opposition needs to invest himself in – these Treasury Memoranda are also supposed to be audited, and the report by the Auditor-General on the Treasury Memoranda should be laid before this House, and that is when the accountability cycle is completed.
What we have not seen is the audit report on the Treasury Memoranda, but if you are asking for the Treasury Memoranda, I want to challenge you to give me a report within six months, and I will come back with it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is the commitment we needed. Thank you. Now, chairperson, straight away to the report. No, honourable colleagues, let us go to the report. An item was called, and I want us to adhere to it.

4.06

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (CENTRAL) (Mr Patrick Nsamba): Mr Speaker, I am sorry you called me while I was away, but I was away to work on the other reports you asked me there, that you want to be put on the Order Paper tomorrow. As Public Accounts Committee, we want to appreciate you for the pro-activeness to have our work ready.

As I communicated to you yesterday, we have five reports ready. For us to be on the Order Paper today, and you have granted us space even tomorrow, I think members of the Public Accounts Committee should be much appreciative of you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, on the issue of Treasury Memoranda, allow me a minute. Mr Speaker, the way the law is currently, Section 49(3) d of the Public Finance Management Act, expects accounting officers to report in their financial statements the actions taken, when they are reporting about the financial statements, at the end of the financial year. The accounting officer is supposed to report between July and August.

The Minister is expected to report about actions taken within six months and that will be December. Therefore, by December, the Minister comes back and reports here.

Mr Speaker, Section 12(15) of the Public Finance Management Act, expects an audited Treasury Memoranda to go before the Budget Committee, during the process of considering the budget. Rule 153(e) of our Rules of Procedure, expects the Budget Committee to look at the Treasury Memoranda. Now where the problem is, Mr Speaker, when the Minister comes to report in December, after six months from June, the report of the Minister is supposed to go for auditing, to the Auditor-General.

So, what he reports to us here cannot be used by the Budget Committee. Why? It has to go to the Auditor-General for auditing. Now the law does not prescribe the amount of time the

Auditor-General has to report on the Treasury Memoranda. Mr Speaker, we lose a lot of time. And the Budget Committee cannot act on un-audited treasury memoranda.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Nsamba, if you were here yesterday-

MR NSAMBA: Allow me to finish it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I handled it yesterday; if they are being repeated, then I should guide, because I started this yesterday. Yesterday, when we were opening the session, I touched on that issue, the issue of the whole auditing period and the challenges we are facing as Parliament. Because for example, you have around 6,000 reports, okay? Are you able to work on all of them within six months, the Treasury Memoranda and all that?

I guided that the Clerk to Parliament meets with the Auditor-General first and officials of finance, then guides us as a leadership first.

Then we shall have a meeting as the critical leaders to do with the accountability that is; the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Clerk, Auditor-General, Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Leader of Opposition (LOP), Whips, chairpersons of accountability committees, and we look at a way forward. Because whatever you are saying here, we are stating the same problem, which we have already assigned a team to go and work on. So, we are waiting for the proposal.

So let it come, and then we will seat, otherwise we cannot conclude it here. That is the guidance I wanted to give, what I did yesterday, Chairperson.

MR NSAMBA: Mr Speaker, I totally agree with you. But allow me to say that even the Public Finance Management Act needs to be amended, so that either the Auditor is given some ample time to present the audit of the treasury memoranda, so that the Budget Committee can use that treasury memoranda during the-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we let the Clerk and Auditor-General report back?

MR NSAMBA: Granted, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, let us go on to the report now.

MR NSAMBA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I have been given the opportunity to present the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the report of the Auditor-General for the audit year that ended December 2025.

Report one, Mr Speaker, is the compendium on security entities, that is Vote 144, Uganda Police Force; Vote 145, Uganda Prison Services; Vote 009, Minister of Internal Affairs; and Vote 004, Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs.

Mr Speaker, handling so many reports required us to break into small teams as the Committee of Public Accounts Committee. Those small teams are able to give us these reports. Kindly allow the gentleman that led this team, Hon. Wanyama, to come forward and read this report, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Chair. I briefed you that by 5 p.m. I will cut off your two items, moreover –

MR NSAMBA: Hon. Wanyama, you have 30 minutes. We will try, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Wanyama, you have 20 minutes.

4.14

MR RICHARD WANYAMA (NRM, Samia Bugwe Central County, Busia): With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, allow me to report to this House the report of the Committee on Public Accounts, Central Government, on the report of the Auditor-General for the audit year ended December 2025. On Vote 144, Uganda Police Force; Vote 145, Uganda Prison Service; Vote 009, Minister of Internal Affairs; Vote 004, Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs.

Introduction. Article 163 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda requires the Auditor-General to submit to Parliament annually a report of the accounts audited by him or her for the immediately preceding financial year. Article 163(5) further requires Parliament to debate and consider the report and take appropriate action within six months after its submission.

At the 9th sitting of the 1st meeting of the 1st session of the 12th Parliament, held on 14 July 2026, the House passed a Motion under Rule 245(2) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament reinstating the report of the Auditor-General.

The committee considered the reports of the Auditor-General on Vote 144: Uganda Police Force, Vote 145: Uganda Prison Service, Vote 009: Ministry of Internal Affairs, Vote 004: Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, in accordance with Rule 183 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.
In line with Rule 184, the committee considered the reports to satisfy itself, among others, that:

a. the monies appropriated by Parliament and disbursed were legally available for and applicable to the service or purpose to which they were applied or charged;
b. the expenditure conforms to the authority which governs it;
c. re-appropriation has been made in accordance with the provisions of the rules of the competent authority; and
d. and lastly, the intended value of the expended monies was attained.

The scope of this report covers the findings, observations and recommendations of the Auditor-General on vote, which is Uganda Police, then Uganda Prisons, Minister of Internal Affairs and Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, for the financial year ended 2024/2025.

Methodology: The committee examined the report of the Auditor-General and the financial statements for the year under review and held meetings with accounting officers who executed the budgets during the year under review and other relevant technical officers.

The committee further examined and considered the written responses of the accounting officers and other documents were submitted.

Mr Speaker, I beg to report as follows:

Part A: General issues

4.0 Budget performance

The Auditor-General reported that the Uganda Police Force (UPF), the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs (MoDVA) had revised budgets of Shs 1,226.28 billion, Shs 383.64 billion, Shs 52.467 billion and Shs 4,734 billion respectively, and received Shs l,208.14 billion, Shs 383.64 billion, Shs 51.467 billion and Shs 4,593 billion respectively, as illustrated in the table below.

Of the appropriated budgets above, classified expenditure amounted Shs 1,200 billion, Shs 10. 75 billion, Shs 26.58 billion and Shs 2,054.5 billion for the UPF, UPS, MIA and MoDVA, respectively. A11 the four entities received over 95 per cent of the funds appropriated by Parliament.

Committee Observations

The budgets of all the four entities were revised upwards during the year, Shs 214.08 billion which is 21 per cent at the Uganda Police Force, Shs 26.26 billion which is 7 per cent at the Uganda Prison Services, Shs 18.445 billion (54 per cent) at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Shs 233 billion (5 per cent) at the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs. Notably, the upward revision of more than half of the initial budget of the Ministry of Internal Affairs points to weaknesses in its initial budget estimates. Further, a significant share of the budgets of the Uganda Police Force and Ministry of Defence is classified, which limits the scope of public scrutiny of that expenditure.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that the accounting officers should prepare realistic

initial budget estimates in order to minimise in-year revisions and that the PS/ST should issue warrants in accordance with the budgets appropriated by Parliament.

Part B: cross-cutting issues

During the examination of the audit reports and the subsequent interactions with the accounting officers of the UPF, UPS, MIA and MoDVA, the committee identified diversion of funds from budgeted to unbudgeted activities, expenditure outside the approved work plans, under-absorption of warrants, procurement violations, partial and non-implementation of funded activities, accumulation of domestic arrears, unrealistic budgeting for non-tax revenue (NTR), accumulation of arrears of revenue, poor management of Government land, increasing contingent liabilities and questionable accounting treatments, contrary to the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) CAP. 171, as explained below.

5.0 Diversion of funds

Section 21(1) and (2)(a) of the PFMA, Cap. 171 allows the minister responsible for finance, upon request by an accounting officer, to vary the amount of money allocated within a vote, as long as the virement does not exceed 10 per cent of the amount appropriated to a programme by Parliament. A virement in excess of 10 per cent of the original budget requires the approval of Parliament.

The committee analysed the audited financial statements of the UPF –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Wanyama, if you are to read word-for-word, you will not even cover a quarter, there is a debate Members of Parliament are waiting for. They will go back and read this report because they are going to debate on Tuesday. Just summarise the observations and recommendations

MR JUDAS WANYAMA: Let me try to summarise. The query was on diversion of funds. The accounting officers for: UPF, UPS, and MoDVA diverted Shs 34 billion, Shs 39.6 billion and Shs 210 billion respectively from budgeted items to pay for items that were not authorised, without seeking the authority of the minister.

The accounting officers of the UPF and MoDVA attributed the diversion of Shs 34 billion and Shs 210 billion respectively to the unavoidable need to pay domestic arrears that had not been budgeted for, while the accounting officer of the UPS attributed the diversion of Shs 39.6 billion to the urgent need to pay for food.

Committee Observations

The three entities applied a combined Shs 283.74 billion to items that Parliament had not appropriated, without evidence of the minister's authorisation, contrary to Section 27 of the PFM Act

Recommendations

The committee recommends that:

i) Pursuant to Sections 75(2) and 77(1)(m) of the PFMA, Cap. 177, the PS/ST should hold the accounting officers of the Uganda Police Force, Uganda Prison Services and MoDVA personally liable for contravening Section 21 of the PFMA, Cap.771:
ii) The accounting officers should always seek and obtain the authorisation required under Section 21 of the PFMA, Cap. 171 before any funds are reallocated; and
iii) The minister responsible for finance should report to Parliament on the action taken within three months of the adoption of this report.

6.0 Failure to utilise the availed warrants

Section 16(1) of the PFMA, Cap. 171, the Auditor-General reported that, of the warrants of Shs 1.2 trillion, Shs 383 billion, Shs 51.4 billion and Shs 4.593 trillion availed to the Uganda Police Force, Uganda Prison Services, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs respectively, Shs 63.3778 billion, Shs 0.l60 billion and Shs 0.689 billion were not utilised by the UPF, UPS and MIA respectively, while the MoDVA utilised all the funds availed.

The accounting officer of the UPF attributed the failure to utilise Shs 63.377 billion to bounced payments arising from errors in the account details of suppliers.

The accounting officer of the Uganda Prison Services attributed the unutilised Shs 0.l6 billion to the failure to purchase food and ICT supplies and to renovate buildings.

Committee observations

i) The failure by the accounting officer of the UPF to pay pensioners their terminal benefits contravened Regulation 30 of the Pensions Regulations made under the Pensions Act, Cap. 286. Bounced payments arising from incorrect account details are within the control of the entity to resolve, and the explanations given by the accounting officers point to administrative inefficiencies, which hinder service delivery.

ii) The accounting officer of the Ministry of Internal Affairs did not explain why Shs 0.689 billion of the warrants was not utilised. Further, whereas Section 16(5) of the PFMA, Cap. 171 requires the minister responsible for finance to report to Parliament on the reasons for the non-utilisation of funds upon the expiry of an appropriation.

The committee recommends that:

i) The PS/ST should institute administrative sanctions against the accounting officers of the UPF, UPS and MIA for failing to utilise the availed warrants, contrary to Section 16(1) of the PFMA; and
ii) The minister responsible for finance should explain to Parliament why the ministry has not complied with the requirement under Section 16(5) of the PFMA, Cap. 171;

a) The Accounting Officers of the UPS should correct the account details of suppliers, pensioners and salary earners and ensure that all pensioners whose payments bounced are paid their terminal benefit within the current financial year.

7.0 Partial and non-implementation of funded activities

Section 43(3) of the PFMA, Cap. 171:

The Auditor-General reported that UPS had activities worth Shs 2.2 billion that were not implemented at all, while the MoDVA had activities worth Shs 80.8l billion that could not be assessed for lack of performance targets and key performance indicators.

The accounting officer of the UPS explained that the Shs 5.01 billion was meant for construction works for staff and prisoners' wards, which had not been completed by the end of the financial year although all the required materials been procured. He further explained that the Shs 2.2 billion meant for the activities that were not implemented was applied to other activities that had neither been planned for nor approved by Parliament.

The accounting officer of the UPF attributed the partial implementation of activities to bounced payments arising from errors in the account details of suppliers.

Committee observations

i) The partial or non-implementation of funded activities is a high-risk area for fraud, affects service delivery and negates the purpose of budgeting;
ii) All four entities implemented activities following the work plans submitted at the Ministerial Policy Statement stage, and none revised its work plan after the appropriation and the supplementary budgets;
iii) Without revised work plans with clearly stated indicators, the Auditor-General and the committee cannot readily assess performance.

The committee recommends that:

i) Pursuant to Section 78(1)(a) of the PFMA, the minister responsible for finance should institute an inquiry into the suspected loss of funds on partially implemented and unimplemented activities within six months;

ii) The accounting officers should strictly adhere to implementation of the work plan; and
iii) The accounting officers should revise their work plans, with clear performance targets and indicators, whenever the appropriation or supplementary budgets change the resources available, and submit the revised work plans to the Secretary to the Treasury.

8.0 Domestic arrears

8.1 Unpaid Long-standing Domestic Arrears

The Government has, over the years, accumulated domestic arrears to the tune of Shs 8.4 trillion. The Auditor-General reported that the Uganda Police Force (UPF), Uganda Prison Services (UPS), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs (MoDVA) had accumulated domestic arrears amounting to Shs I12.9 billion, Shs 164.2 billion, Shs 6.3 billion and Shs 464.6 billion, respectively.

The Accounting Officers attributed the accumulation of domestic arrears to the failure by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) to provide adequate budget ceilings for arrears in their respective budgets. In the financial year under review, only Shs 21.18 billion, Shs 1O.35 billion, Shs 1.37 billion and Shs 5.41 billion were provided for the clearance of arrears at the UPF, UPS, MIA and MoDVA, respectively.

Committee Observations

The provisions made for the clearance of arrears during the year, a combined Shs 38.3l billion, amount to about 5 per cent of the combined stock of Shs 748Bn owed by the four entities. At this rate, the arrears will take many years to clear, during which suppliers remain unpaid, and the Government is exposed to interest, penalties and litigation.

The Committee recommends that:

i) Parliament should amend the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), Cap 171 to treat domestic arrears that remain unpaid beyond one financial year as domestic debt, payable within a mandatory period;
ii) The minister responsible for finance should fast-track the settlement of verified outstanding domestic arrears by setting annual clearance targets and report to Parliament twice a year on the status of implementation, in accordance with section 17 of the PFMA, Cap 171; and
iii) The Budget Committee, before considering the budgets of entities should ensure that there is proof that each entity has budgeted for its domestic arrears and did not incur new arrears in the preceding financial year.

8.2 Accumulation of New Domestic Arrears

Section 20(2) of the PFMA, Cap 171 provides that a Vote shall not take any credit from any company or body unless it has no unpaid domestic arrears from a debt in a previous financial year and it has the capacity to pay for the expenditure from the approved estimates as appropriated by Parliament for the financial year.

The Auditor-General reported that, during the year under review, the UPF, UPS, MIA and MoDVA committed the Government to new obligations amounting to Shs 27.19 billion, Shs 82.43 billion, Shs 0.050 billion and Shs 144.8 billion respectively, which remained unpaid at the end of the year.

Committee Observations

Despite having unpaid domestic arrears from the previous year of Shs 112.9 billion, Shs 164.2 billion, Shs 6.3 billion and Shs 464.6 billion, respectively, the Accounting Officers of the UPF, UPS, MIA and MoDVA committed the Government to new unpaid obligations of Shs 254.47 billion.

The committee recommends that:

i) Pursuant to Sections 76(2) and 77(1)(m) of the PFMA, Cap 171, the PS/ST should enforce sanctions against the Accounting

Officers of the UPF, UPS, MIA and MoDVA for committing the Government in excess of the approved budgets; and

ii) The Auditor-General should submit to Parliament a verified stock of domestic arrears by 31 December 2026.

9.0 Non-Tax Revenue (NTR)

9.1 Unrealistic Budgeting for Non-Tax Revenue

The UPF collected Shs 63.44 billion against a budget of Shs 80.1 billion. The UPS collected Shs 45.46 billion against a budget of Shs 36 billion. The MIA collected Shs 1.8 billion against a budget of Shs 1.9 billion, and the MoDVA collected Shs l.9 billion against a budget of Shs 1.2 billion.

Observations

The UPF collected 79 per cent of its budget, while the UPS and MoDVA collected l25 per cent and l60 per cent of their budgets, respectively. In each case, the targets were not based on a reliable assessment of the revenue potential of the entity. Failure to meet budgeted NTR targets undermines the budgeting process and affects the figures reported in the accounts

9.2 Uncollected Arrears of Non-Tax Revenue

During its scrutiny of the audited financial statements, the Committee observed that there were arrears of NTR that the entities had failed to collect in previous years, which are reported in the Memorandum Statement of Arrears of Revenue.

The ccommittee found that the UPF, UPS and MoDVA had arrears of revenue of Shs 49.228 billion, Shs 2.2 billion and Shs 1.340 billion, respectively.

Observations

The Government risks losing these revenues unless prudent measures are put in place to enforce collection.

Recommendations

The Committee recommends that:

i) The PS/ST should always ensure that Accounting Officers set realistic NTR targets, based on an assessment of all revenue sources, historical collections and the activities planned for the year;
ii) The Accounting Officers of the UPF, UPS and MoDVA should develop an effective mechanism for recovering the outstanding NTR arrears;
iii) The Auditor-General should undertake a special audit of the maize supplies by the UPS.

10.0 Skyrocketing Contingent Liabilities

The Accountant-General's Reporting Guidelines, 2024 require contingent liabilities to be disclosed in the Memorandum Statement of Contingent Liabilities.

The committee scrutinised the Memorandum Statements of Contingent Liabilities of the UPF and MoDVA and observed that Shs 163.5 billion and Shs 108.45 billion, respectively, were reported as contingent liabilities. A review of the schedule of contingent liabilities presented worrying figures of cases against UPF: Uganda Cooperative Union civil suit 815 of 2020 for Shs 11.35 billion, and DTB sued UPF in the Commercial Division for Shs 15 billion. Kireka Estates sued UPF for Shs 50 billion, and Springwood Capital Partner sued UPF in Civil Suit No. 703 of 2020 for $6,350,000.

The accounting officer of the UPF attributed the contingent liabilities to suits against the Force arising from cases of human rights abuse, while the Accounting Officer of the MoDVA attributed them to unverified utility bills.

The Committee recommends that:

i) The Auditor-General should carry out a special audit of the stock and associated risks of all contingent liabilities across the Government and report to Parliament

within six months of the adoption of this report;
ii) Officers of the UPF and the UPPDF who commit human rights abuses should be held personally liable for their actions; and
iii) The Accounting Officer of the MoDVA should verify the utility bills, recognise the valid ones as payables and follow the criteria for recognising contingent liabilities.

11.0 Management of Funds on Expiry of Appropriation

The committee established that some entities do not return unspent funds to the Consolidated Fund at the end of the financial year. Instead, they retain the funds by opening letters of credit, while others transfer the funds to holding accounts or frontload them to implementing agencies.

The committee noted that the UPF had about Shs 19 billion in such funds at the close of the year. At the MoDVA, the books of account showed that Shs 4 billion was held on the holding accounts of the UPDF Engineering Brigade. However, while appearing before the committee, the Accounting Officer informed the meeting that the actual amount was about Shs 28 billion. It was further submitted that about Shs 40 billion had been frontloaded to the National Enterprise Corporation

Committee observations

i) Retaining unspent funds on holding accounts, frontloading them to agencies or tying them up in letters of credit at the close of the financial year circumvents Section 16 of the PFMA, Cap 171;
ii) The difference between the Shs 4 billion shown in the books of the MoDVA and the Shs 28 billion disclosed by the Accounting Officer on the holding accounts of the UPDF Engineering Brigade shows that the financial statements do not fully disclose the funds held outside the Treasury; and
iii) The transfer of development funds at the close of the year is largely a result of weak procurement planning.

The committee recommends as follows:

i) The Accounting Officers of the UPF and MoDVA should return to the Consolidated Fund all unspent balances held on holding accounts, frontloaded to agencies or retained without valid commitments, in accordance with Section 16(2) of the PFMA;
ii) The Auditor-General should verify the funds held on the holding accounts of the UPDF Engineering Brigade and the funds frontloaded;
iii) The PS/ST should ensure that letters of credit opened at the close of the financial gear relate to valid contracts; and
iv) The Accounting Officers should initiate procurements early in the financial year, in line with their procurement plans.

12.0 Procurement Violations

12.1 Failure to Comply with Procurement Planning and Reporting

Recommendations

The committee recommends as follows:

i) The minister responsible for finance should take disciplinary measures against the PS/ST and the Executive Director of the PPDA for failure to enforce the requirements under Section 60 of the PPDA Act, Cap 205, on the submission, approval and display of the annual procurement plans of the entities, and report to Parliament within three months of the adoption of this report; and
ii) The PS/ST should hold the accounting officers of the UPF, UPS, MIA, and MoDVA liable for contravening Section 60 of the PPDA Act, Cap 205.

12.2 Non-Compliance with the Reservation Scheme

Committee Observations

None of the Accounting Officers provided evidence to support their explanations. The

reservation is a statutory social-policy requirement under Sections 53 and 63 of the PPDA Act.

Recommendations

The Committee recommends that the Accounting Officers of the UPS, MIA and MoDVA should ensure strict compliance with Section 63 of the PPDA Act, Cap 205 and Paragraph 2 of PPDA Guideline No. 11 of 2024.

12.3 Procurement Irregularities in the Evaluation Process

Recommendations

The Committee recommends that:

i) The Accounting Officers of the UPF and MoDVA should ensure strict adherence to the PPDA (Evaluation) Regulations, 2023; and
ii) The Inspector-General of Government should investigate the Accounting Officer of MoDVA and the evaluation committee that omitted the requirement for a bid security, with a view to prosecution, within three months of the adoption of this report.

12.4 Low Bidder Participation

The Auditor-General analysed bidder participation and noted that only one bidder was invited and awarded contracts for nine procurements worth Shs 149 billion at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, while the Ministry of Defence was awarded contracts worth Shs 24.5 billion for the supply of meals ready to eat and ranger boots to one company without competitive bidding.

Recommendations

The committee recommends as follows:

i) The PS/ST should hold the accounting officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Defence liable for contravening sections 49 and 54 of the PPDA Act;
ii) The PPDA should conduct a procurement audit of the nine procurements worth Shs 149.69 million at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and of the contracts worth Shs 24.5 billion for meals ready to eat and ranger boots at the Ministry of Defence;
iii) The accounting officer of the Ministry of Defence should track the expiry dates of all framework contracts in the quarterly reviews of the procurement plan required under section 67 of the Act and initiate replacement procurements in good time before the existing contracts expire; and
iv) The Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Internal Affairs should always invite at least the minimum number of bidders described in regulation 21 and 23 2(a) and document the reasons for any departure, which should be approved by the contracts committee.

Query 13: System Inefficiency in the EGP System.

The Auditor-General noted that the system had several challenges, such as insufficient oversight support, lack of support for electronic submission, duplication of entries, reporting challenges and gaps in procurement planning, which resulted in entities procuring manually outside the EGP system contrary to both statutory and policy requirements.

Committee observations

Government invested heavily in the system to achieve transparency, accountability, efficiency and competition in public procurement, and where the system does not function as intended, value for money from that investment is not realised. Procurement outside the platform bypasses its transparent safeguards, contrary to section 57 of the PFMA Act.

Recommendations

The Committee recommends as follows:

i) MOFPED should fast-track the re-engineering of the EGP system within

three months of the adoption of this report; and

ii) The PPDA should conduct a compliance audit of all transactions conducted outside the EGP system.

Query number 14: Management of Government Land.

The Auditor-General reported that the Uganda Police Force had encumbrances and disputes in two pieces of land in Naguru and Kabalagala measuring 0.987 hectares and that no significant progress had been made to resolve them.

During the inspection of the police stations in the year under review, the Auditor-General further noted encroachment at three locations, namely Nateete 8.7 acres, Mukono 7.4 acres and Nabingoola Police Station in Mubende 2.471 acres.

Committee observations:

Delays in resolving the disputes over police land, coupled with the lack of ownership records, may result in the loss of public land.

Encroachment on and disputed ownership of police land in several locations also exposed the Uganda Police Force to litigation, delays in infrastructure development, and additional costs for legal processes or compensation. The absence of registered titles for 107 pieces of land and the lack of information on the size of 48 of them points to weak controls over the land assets of the Uganda Prisons Service.

Recommendations

The committee recommends as follows:

i) The PS/ST should reprimand the accounting officers of the Uganda Prisons Service for failing to register and title the land of the service contrary to paragraph 16.31 of Treasury Instructions;

ii) The accounting officer of the Uganda Prisons Service should, within 60 days of the adoption of this report, update the asset register with verified acreage of all 48 parcels of land whose size was omitted using the GIS mapping systems of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development; and

iii) The accounting officers of the Uganda Police Force and Uganda Prisons Service in liaison with the Uganda Land Commission, should expedite the survey and titling of all untitled land. The accounting officer of the Uganda Prisons Service should conclude agreements with the kingdom on whose land its facilities stand.

Issues specific to the entities

I finished the cross-cutting issues. One is the Uganda Police Force - these are very few; I will finish very quickly.

15.1, Inaccurate Asset Acquisition and Service Date Records. Committee observations:

Inaccurate asset records undermined the reliability of financial information, depreciation and asset management decisions.

Recommendations:

The committee recommends that the accounting officer should complete the asset validation exercise and correct all erroneous records and institute periodic reviews and reconciliation of the asset register with the supporting acquisition documents in accordance with the PFMA, Cap 171 and the PFM Regulations, 2016.

15.2 Logistical Shortfalls in Anti-Stock Theft Unit operations The Auditor-General reported significant shortfalls in the operational fleet of the Anti-Stock Theft Unit. Of the 248 mobile assets required, only 168 are available, of which 115 are running and 53 are grounded, leaving a gap of 80 (32 percent).

Committee observations

Armoured personnel carriers are the most affected category, with only seven of the 35 required available, three running and four grounded.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that the accounting officer should prioritise repair and rehabilitate the grounded anti-theft stock unit vehicles and prepare a costed plan separate from the cost of repairs for the acquisition of the critical missing logistics, with priority given to high-risk regions.

15.3 Inadequate Firefighting Equipment

The Auditor-General reported that of the 104 fire trucks, only 71 were operational, while 33 had either broken down or were pending disposal.

Committee observations

The fleet of fire trucks was expanded without providing maintenance for the specialised equipment, which is a planning and budgeting failure and not only a shortage of resources. Inadequate maintenance and availability of firefighting equipment compromise emergency response.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that the accounting officer should establish a funded preventive maintenance program for specialised firefighting equipment.

16.0 Vote 145: Uganda Prisons Service

16.1 Growth in the Prisons Population and Persistent Congestion

The Auditor-General reported that the prison population increased from 61,614 inmates in financial year 2020-2021 to 79,153 in financial year 2024-2025, a rise of 28.5 percent against a modest increase in holding capacity from 19,986 to 22,419 or 12 percent, over the same period.

The congestion rate worsened from 208 percent in the financial year 2020/21 to 253 percent in financial year 2024/2025, which means that prisons held about three and a half times their intended capacity.

The committee recommends follows:

i) MOFPED should provide sufficient development budget to the Uganda Prisons Service to bridge the widening capacity deficit. The judiciary should mainstream alternative dispute resolution to reduce the prisons congestion rate of 253 percent.
ii) The Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs, together with the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, should provide policy guidance on the matter to Parliament and the sectors involved.

16.2 Low Cotton Production on Prison Farms.

Recommendations

The committee recommends as follows;

i) The accounting officer should consider modern irrigation systems to counter unreliable rainfall and mechanise farm operations.
ii) The Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs should take interest in the matter and offer policy guidance to the House and the entity.

Vote 009: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Award of contracts above the confirmed available funds.

The committee recommends that the accounting officer should ensure that, in future, all contract awards are strictly aligned with the available budget and the PPDA regulations to prevent over commitment of funds.

Vote 004: Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs

18.1 UPDF National Referral Hospital

The Auditor-General noted that on 6 October 2017, the Ministry of Defence signed a contract with an international engineering company for the construction of the UPDF National Referral Hospital at lower Mbuya at a contract price of Shs 106.3 billion.

The initial completion date of the project was 30 July 2020. However, the contract underwent

numerous extensions, with the completion date set at 30 July 2025. The Auditor-General inspected the hospital on 7 November 2025 and observed that various suppliers had been awarded contracts totalling Shs 54.16 billion to supply, fit and commission the hospital.

However, by the time of the audit, the following were observed.

a) Medical equipment.
b) Civil works at the hospital.

The Auditor-General further observed that the construction of the helicopter pad had been abandoned. The hospital experiences heavy flooding during the rainy seasons and some building structures have no water channels, which is likely to damage them. Sections of the hospital, such as the outpatient department block A, the nursery ward for newborn babies and the recovery rooms, did not have medical gases such as oxygen, medical air, etcetera.

Committee observations

Eight years after the contract was signed, the hospital is still not fully commissioned with 241 items of equipment undelivered and 308 rejected as non-compliant. Equipment worth Shs 1.96 billion ordered in 2020 had become outdated before use, which points to poor coordination between the procurement of equipment and the progress of the civil works.

Recommendations

i) The Auditor-General should conduct a forensic audit of the construction and equipping of the UPDF National Referral Hospital at Mbuya.
ii) The Accounting Officer should enforce the contract terms against suppliers who have not delivered or replaced the rejected equipment, including the recovery of liquidated damages where applicable.
iii) The Accounting Officer should present to Parliament within 90 days the adoption of this report, a requested plan and timeline for the completion and full commissioning of the hospital, including the helicopter pad, the drainage works, and the supply of medical gases.

18.2 Construction works by the UPDF Engineering Brigade

The Auditor-General observed that the UPDF Engineering Brigade under the ministry has continued to implement projects of ministries, departments, and agencies under the Presidential Directive of July 2021. Since inception, the Brigade has signed up to undertake 394 projects, of which 216, which is 54.8 per cent, were completed and 178, 45 per cent were ongoing.

The Auditor-General requested documents relating to the brigade such as signed contracts, Memorandum of Understanding, bills of quantities, approved designs, cash books and bank statements.

A total of Shs 1.4 billion was transferred to the ministry for the construction of hospital wards and staff houses in four district local governments namely: Busia, Butambala, Kamwenge, and Kanungu. However, these projects had not commenced.

The ministry also received a partial payment of Shs 2.2 billion to construct health infrastructure such as outpatient departments, theatres, and maternity wards and to carry out - renovations in seven local governments. However, there were no signed MoUs.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chairperson, conclude and go to the recommendations.

MR JUDAS WANYAMA: I am concluding. Committee recommendations:

i) Government should review the directive requiring MDAs to give construction works to the UPDF Engineering Brigade so that the brigade competes for works with other providers under the PPDA Act, Cap 205 and is assigned only the works it has the capacity to deliver.
ii) The PS/ST should ensure that no MDA transfers funds to the Ministry for Defence and Veteran Affairs for any project without a signed MoU specifying the scope, cost and timelines of the works.

iii) The Auditor-General should conduct a forensic audit of all projects undertaken by the Brigade on behalf of MDAs, including the funds held on its holding accounts.
iv) The Accounting Officer should within 30 days of the adoption of this report submit to the Auditor-General all the documents relating to the projects implemented by the Brigade, including MoUs, bills of quantities, cash books and bank statements.
v) Accounting Officer should submit to Parliament the report of the Board of Inquiry once it is concluded.

In conclusion, the committee has examined the reports of the Auditor-General on the Uganda Police Force, the Uganda Prison Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2025. The issues raised, including the diversion of funds, accumulation of domestic arrears, the retention of funds beyond the close of the financial year, and the disregard of procurement laws, recur across the four entities.

The committee urges the House to adopt the recommendations in this report and urges accounting officers in the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and the PS/ST to implement them.
I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Wanyama. The report is referred to Tuesday for debate.

MR NSAMBA: Mr Speaker, allow me to lay the minutes for that particular report before the House and allow me to lay the report for the items that have been presented. Thank you very much, Hon. Wanyama. May God bless you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Chairperson. Next item.

MR NSAMBA: The next item, Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you have become a clerk? *-(Laughter)-* Committee chairperson, you cannot be both chairperson and clerk.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) ON THE REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL FOR THE AUDIT YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2025 COVERING THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTION AND THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Committee chairperson, this report is shorter; let us do it in 15 minutes. Thank you.

4.40

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) (Mr Patrick Nsamba): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Allow me to lay the minutes of the report on Vote 133, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

Allow me to lay the report for Vote 133, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Vote 007, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

Mr Speaker, given the time you have provided me, I am not going to go through the beginning things like the introduction and methodology. Allow me to begin from page 2 and present the budget performance for the two ministries. It was reported by the Auditor-General that the two ministries were given Shs 175 billion and Shs 186 billion, respectively, and they received Shs 164 billion and Shs 82 billion, respectively.

The committee observed that the budget for the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs was revised upwards during the financial year by Shs 37 billion relating to compensation of third parties and the development budget for the construction of the JLOS House.

The committee recommends that the Accounting Officer for the Ministry for Justice should prepare realistic initial estimates in order to minimise revisions, and the PS/ST should issue warrants in accordance with the budgets appropriated by Parliament.

The key cross-cutting issues that we raised in the two ministries were failure to utilise the availed warrants.

Mr Speaker, the Auditor-General found out that the revised budget of Shs 86 billion to ODPP and Shs 175 billion for Ministry for Justice, only Shs 82 billion and Shs 164 billion, respectively, were warranted. The shortfalls of Shs 3.4 billion and Shs 10.6 billion affected asset maintenance and ICT equipment of the offices.

The committee recommends that the PS/ST should:

i) Issue cash warrants in accordance with the budgets appropriated by Parliament and seek Parliamentary approval for any adjustments.
ii) The PS/ST should provide entities with realistic cash flow plans to minimise the disruption of planned activities and the accumulation of arrears.

We go to partially implemented activities

The Auditor-General further reported that activities worth Shs 25 billion at ODPP and Shs 86 billion at the Ministry of Justice were partially implemented even though they received all the funds.

Mr Speaker, in the interest of time, I will go to recommendations.

i) The Accounting Officer of ODPP and the Ministry for Justice should always ensure that all funded work activities are implemented.
ii) The Accounting Officer should revise the work plans whenever the funds released or the cost of planned outputs change and justify the reason to the Secretary to the Treasury.
iii) The Accounting Officer of ODPP should set realistic targets for case prosecution, disaggregated by stage, namely case preparation, court proceedings and case conclusion; and
iv) The Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs should ensure that activities are implemented as planned.
v) Unauthorised Expenditures

The Auditor-General reported that the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP) spent Shs 0.9 billion on construction of offices in Katakwi and Yumbe districts, activities that were not approved in the work plan. The committee further established from the audited financial statements that the ministry diverted another Shs 40.7 billion from budgeted items to items that had not been authorised.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that:

i) Pursuant to Sections 76(2) and 77(1)(m) of the PFMA, Cap. 171, the PS/ST should hold the accounting officers of the ODPP and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs liable for diverting Shs 0.9 billion and Shs 40.7 billion respectively to items that were not authorised, contrary to Section 21 of the PFMA, Cap. 171;
ii) The accounting officers should, in future, seek and obtain the authorisation required under Section 21 of the PFMA, Cap. 171 before any funds are reallocated, and revise the work plans accordingly; and
iii) The Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs should ensure that arrears of court awards and compensation are budgeted for under domestic arrears, rather than on the budget line for court awards and compensation.

Procurement Violations

Honourable members, Section 4 of the PPDA (Electronic Government Procurement) Guidelines, 2020 requires procurement and disposal processes to be carried out on the e-GP system, and requires entities to upload their approved procurement and disposal plans onto it.

Procurements outside the e-GP System

The Auditor-General reported that the ODPP conducted six procurements worth Shs 897 million outside the e-GP system, the largest being the construction at Yumbe at Shs 457

million, and disposed of items worth Shs 111 million without uploading its disposal plan.

The committee recommends that:

i) the PPDA should conduct a procurement audit of all transactions of the ODPP, with particular attention to the construction at Yumbe and the disposal of items;
ii) the Accounting Officer of the ODPP should always obtain written authorisation from the PPDA before conducting any procurement outside the e-GP system;
iii) The Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, pending the re-engineering of the e-GP system, should maintain an itemised procurement plan with costs, methods and timelines, to guide and monitor procurement activities; and
iv) The PPDA should conduct a system audit of the e-GP system to establish its suitability for handling government procurements effectively.

Ignoring the reservation schemes

The Auditor-General observed that the ODPP and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs did not indicate the procurements reserved for registered associations, as required by the guideline. As a result, no contracts were awarded to the registered associations.

Honourable members, you will forgive me. I am trying to pick out a few things to be in time.

Recommendation

The Accounting Officers of the ODPP and Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs should always ensure that at least 15 per cent of the annual procurement plan budget is reserved for registered associations of women, youth and persons with disabilities.

Payroll and Human Resource Irregularities

The Auditor-General reported that the ODPP did not spend Shs 0.83 billion meant for promotions and the regularisation of appointments, and Shs 0.115 billion for the pension and gratuity of deceased staff whose documentation was incomplete. Only 600 of the 1,704 approved positions were filled, and most of its 149 field stations were manned by a single prosecutor.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that:

The Accounting Officer of the ODPP should:

i) Conclude the promotion of Assistant DPPs and the regularisation of the pending appointments within the current financial year.
ii) The Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, in liaison with the Public Service Commission, should conclude the recruitment of the vacant Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner and State Attorney positions within the current financial year; and
iii) The Ministries of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Public Service, in consultation with the ODPP, should develop a phased and funded plan for filling the critical vacancies within the ministry.

Unrealistic Budgeting of Non-Tax Revenue

The ODPP collected Shs 1.61 billion in Non-Tax Revenue against a budget of Shs 60 million, mainly from court fines and fees, while the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs collected Shs 375 million of its budget.

The committee observed that setting unrealistic targets undermines prudent budgeting, since the resources expected from non-tax revenue are not reflected in the budget presented to Parliament.

The committee recommends that the accounting officers of the ODPP and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, in consultation with the PS/ST, should set realistic Non-Tax Revenue targets based on assessment of all revenue sources.

Issues Specific to the Entities

Wasteful Expenditure

Mr Speaker, during the committee meetings, the Auditor-General reported on wasteful expenditure on procurement of PROCAMIS. During the committee meetings with the ODPP, it was indicated that the entity has spent about Shs 43 billion on PROCAMIS since 2017. Unfortunately, the system is not working and cannot support the efficiency that was projected.

The committee recommends that the accounting officer should:

i) Invoke the liability provisions of the contract and recover from M/S Graphics Systems the value of the undelivered outputs;
ii) Put in place an off-site data recovery arrangement for the PROCAMIS database at the National Data Centre; and
iii) The Solicitor-General should review all running ICT maintenance contracts at the ODPP to ensure that payment milestones are tied to the certification of specific deliverables.

Excess Expenditure on the Procurement of Vehicles

The ODPP planned to procure 40 motor vehicles at Shs 6.85 billion, but only 32 vehicles were procured.

Observations

i) The cost of the vehicles varied from Shs 175 million per vehicle to Shs 1.476 billion for five vehicles and Shs 525 million for a station wagon, which is above the variation threshold of 15 per cent to 25 per cent. The entity, therefore, spent Shs 324 million more on the station wagon, which would have cost Shs 201 million, an excess of Shs 94 million.
ii) The vehicles were procured under letters of credit which Bank of Uganda charged the entity Shs 60 million; and
iii) Whereas the entity disclosed to have spent Shs 6.85 billion on procuring 32 vehicles, a review of their contract documents revealed that they spent Shs 6.052 billion.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the IGG should investigate the accounting officer of ODPP, with the intention to recover Shs 858 million, comprising Shs 780 million unaccounted for and Shs 60 million in letters of credit.

System Inefficiencies on PROCAMIS – I think I have mentioned that.

Poor Asset Management

The committee observed that the Auditor-General reported that the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions had no procedures for monitoring the use of its non-current assets and kept no records of usage, downtime, or maintenance.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that the Accounting Officer should:

i) Update and implement the asset-management policy, with clear procedures for monitoring the utilisation of non-current assets;
ii) Prepare annual maintenance plans and budgets for all non-current assets; and keep a complete maintenance history for each asset.

Dispensation of Justice with a Limited Number of Prosecutors

The Auditor-General reported that out of 40,501 new cases, only 23,184 cases were committed for trial to the High Court. The Accounting Officer attributed this to understaffing. Of the filled positions, only 399 are prosecutors deployed in 149 field stations.

Committee observations

During its meeting, the committee noted a discrepancy in prosecutor recruitment.

Whereas the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions indicated that it had a total of 450 prosecutors, it had recruited more than 550 in previous years. The Accounting Officer failed to account for the 100 prosecutors.

The committee recommends that the Accounting Officer fast-track prosecutor recruitment to reduce case backlogs.

Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

Mr Speaker, there are high contingent liabilities of Shs 3.492 trillion. This is a big issue.

Recommendations

i) We recommend that the Attorney-General, in coordination with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, develop a litigation-management strategy that prioritises the defence and early settlement of high-value claims, along with a framework for monitoring fiscal risks arising from litigation;

ii) The Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs should submit to Parliament an analysis of contingent liabilities by originating ministry, department, or agency, and by the nature of the claim.

Inability of the Administrator-General to process claims

Mr Speaker, the Auditor-General reported that the total funds available for 308 estates of deceased persons and 31 trust causes amounted to Shs 4.07 billion. However, only Shs 1.43 billion was paid to the estate's beneficiaries during the Financial Year 2024/2025, leaving a balance of Shs 2.65 billion as at 30 June 2025.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Conclude, Chairperson.

MR NSAMBA: Mr Speaker, the recommendation is that the Accounting Officer should strategise and resolve the issue of unidentified beneficiaries.

Certificate of No Objection (CONO) Backlogs

This is the last one under the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Mr Speaker. The Auditor-General revealed that the Administrator-General received 4,972 applications for processing Certificates of No Objection during the financial year. Of the 4,972 applications received by the Administrator-General, only 3,773 were processed.

Mr Speaker, the committee recommends that the Accounting Officer should fast-track the recruitment of State Attorneys and strengthen alternative dispute-resolution mechanisms to address family-related conflicts before they escalate into litigation.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the time accorded to the committee to make these presentations. It is not easy to do this within the time provided. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, chairperson.

In such reports, I especially focus on the chairperson highlighting areas of financial loss and areas for improvement. Those are the issues on which we always debate. You have done a wonderful job, chairperson. The committee is doing very well. So, continue using that method. *(Applause)*
Clerk, let the reports be captured verbatim in the record so that, in future, anyone who wants to see how Parliament was debating can easily follow up.

I now put the responsible ministers on notice that we shall debate these reports on Tuesday. I hope the ministers will be here in case there are issues to which they would want to respond.

Yes, chairperson?

MR NSAMBA: Mr Speaker, when you say, "Let them be captured verbatim," do they capture what I have read or what is in the report?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me make it very simple: the report as submitted to the Clerk by the chairperson is captured. Of course, the Clerk already knows. That is for clarification.

We shall have the debate on Tuesday. Let us go to item three.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE EDUCATION, SPORTS AND SKILLS SUB-PROGRAMME FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

(Debate continued_)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clerk, remember that we are debating them jointly, so read item 3(II) as well.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE HEALTH SECTOR

(Debate continued_)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I will start with Hon. Gyaviira, followed by Hon. Muzaid Khemis. Two minutes each.

5.12

MR GYAVIIRA LUBOWA (NUP, Nyendo-Mukungwe Division, Masaka City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join my colleagues in thanking the ministers for those elaborate reports on the education and health sectors.

Mr Speaker, on education, I was impressed by the entire report, except for one area that was not emphasised, honourable minister: school dropouts, especially in primary schools.

Mr Speaker, we have free Universal Primary Education, but the dropout rate is deeply worrying. It stands at around 60 to 65 per cent by the time pupils admitted in Primary One complete Primary Seven. The Government should put its foot down to solve the problem of school dropouts, especially in primary schools.

On health, I thank the minister once again. However, I also request that the minister reconsiders financing and emphasise funding for regional referral hospitals. These regional referral hospitals were meant to ease pressure on the national referral hospital. It is embarrassing, Mr Speaker, to find patients being referred from these regional referral hospitals to small clinics around them.

Mr Speaker, take the case of Masaka Regional Referral Hospital, which serves nine districts and one city; it has all these issues. I beg your indulgence, Mr Speaker, as I read some of the critical issues affecting this facility.

One of them is staffing. Out of the 1,217 staff establishment, only 267 staff – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Khemis?

5.16

MR MUZAID KHEMIS (FDC, Arua Central Division, Arua City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the two ministers. I think the President made a good decision to give them the position, and I appreciate my brother there. Our current curriculum is skill-based. Regarding the nice report given by the Minister of Education and Sports that we went through, I want to put a particular request, basically for the West Nile region, to have a national diploma training institution because that is one of the key areas in the report that I see. After all, the curriculum is more skill-based. If you have a national diploma-offering institution in West Nile, then it will cover that, so honourable minister, I appeal to that.

Two, is the issue of Grade III: putting Primary Teachers Colleges (PTCs) off is causing a lot of problems. I appeal that if unity makes PTCs become department heads, where we have continuity of producing Grade IIIs to handle basic education issues, it should be a priority. Under infrastructure, particularly Arua Secondary School, a government-aided school that has an enrolment of around 1,300. This school has got only 10 stalls of toilet. It has got around – (*Member timed out*.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Angwech Collin, and Hon. Ayagalachi.

5.18

MR COLLINE ANGWECH (UPC, Kioga County, Amolatar): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I take this opportunity to thank our honourable ministers, the Minister of Education and Sports and the Minister of Health. I re-echo the issue of areas of this country that have been heavily affected by floods. I did this last month to the Minister of Health, and I still want to re-echo this with the Minister of Education and Sports, the Minister of Health, and other ministers in this House to inform you that these areas are not being captured in our implementation plans or in our statements.

Most of our subcounties in Amolatar are cut off from access to public services like health and education. I come from Acii Subcounty, an entire parish with eight villages; over 3,000 people cannot access education. We have children who have abandoned education because they fear crossing these flooded roads on canoes.

Last year in December, we lost nine people who were crossing on these very dangerous canoes coming to this side of the district, including a pregnant mother expecting twins. How can we expect our children to still continue crossing with these canoes? How do we expect elderly parents, pregnant mothers and patients to use these canoes to access health services, to access education?

My prayer to you, honourable ministers, the Prime Minister visited Amolatar, saw first-hand the suffering of our people. Can we please have mercy on the people of Uganda who are surrounded by flooded areas?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ayagalachi, followed by Hon. Alobo Joan.

5.20

MR JAMALI AYAGALACHI (NUP, Bukooli County North, Bugiri): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank the two ministers, but first of all, honourable Minister of Health, I have a challenge in my constituency regarding mama kits. When I talk about mother kits, our sisters in this House know the pain of a mother who is going to give birth to a kid without a mama kit. So far, I have given out 2,000 mama kits in my constituency, and on Sunday, I gave out 500.

Honourable minister, kindly, it is too much. Hon. Ogwang, 30 per cent of the kids in my constituency are the ones who join secondary schools from P7. The rest, the performance is low, not because they do not attend school; it is because of the teachers. For example, in Buduma Primary School, they have 600 pupils with four teachers. They cannot perform. Therefore, kindly help my primary schools have enough teachers.

Also, the problem of seed schools: I have seven subcounties, honourable minister, and only one seed school; it is painful. These people are the ones who pay taxes. Kindly, let us have value for taxes now so that our people can maybe have this seed school so that they can – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Joan Alobo and Hon. Okot Peter.

5.22

MS JOAN ALOBO (FDC, Woman Representative, Soroti City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mine is on the issue of health. I raise the issue of Soroti Regional Referral Hospital. The hospital has been on record for so long, and I request the Minister of Health to kindly treat Soroti Regional Referral Hospital as a priority. Soroti is in a bind as to whether the renovation or the construction is to remain in the old space or move to a new location. I feel this is a bargaining tactic that is trying to delay the whole process, because the excuse is that there is no space in the current location.

I want to assure all of us that there is space in the current location. When you look at the Women Neonatal Hospital in Mulago, the space is not big, but it has accommodated a lot of other departments. When you look at IHK,

it is small, but it has accommodated many departments within a hospital. I request the honourable minister to come up and meet us as Members of Parliament from Teso to see how we can solve this issue because when we keep saying we need a teaching hospital, we have examples of teaching hospitals that have not coped.

Take the teaching hospital in Lira; it is struggling. Even Mbarara, Ishaka, Bushenyi, and KIU teaching hospitals are struggling. There is no way we can say we have a new hospital in Soroti in the name of favouring Soroti University so as to have a teaching hospital. I request that the renovation as per the directive of the President, should be done within Soroti Regional Referral Hospital. I also – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Okot Peter? Colleagues, I know time might be short because this is a helicopter view of the whole country's status in terms of education and all that. If you have specific questions that need specific answers in terms of service delivery, take advantage of the Prime Minister and write, because the Prime Minister will forward it to the implementing agencies, and they will give you clear answers concerning the facilities you are talking about.

He will write to health and to finance, so here the debate might limit you. Otherwise, you remember State of the Nation; we gave you a chance to raise these issues. Now, you are repeating them.

Hon. Okot Peter? Hon. Lokoru has a procedural matter.

MR STEPHENSON LOKORU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise under Rule 20 of our Rules of Procedure, where the House is supposed to sit from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., but I have seen that each time you blink, five Members run away; you blink, two Members go away' maybe you stop blinking for now. Is it in order for the Members of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline to sleep on their job? They are breaching Rule 181 of our Rules of Procedure. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, this is an issue of indiscipline for those going out. I am here; if you decide to go - when you see me reading from this list, I am rewarding people who were here till late yesterday. I told them to register their names.

People were here till late waiting for this debate. Therefore, it would be unfair for me to pick people who just came in today and leave those who left late. For those who are uncomfortable that I am just reading from a list, this is not a list of people who are lovely to me or will take me out tomorrow. It is a list of people who are so committed.

Therefore, I want to use it as a tactic: when I see that you are consistent, you will easily catch my eye. If I see you regularly- getting to know all your names- I have the list here; I started with the Opposition side, moving to the Independents, then to NRM.

Yesterday, we got 28 NRM Members who spoke against five from the Opposition and a few from the Independents, so I am trying to strike a balance as a tactic. Therefore, if you want to be my good friend, remain around. However, if you have an issue, like yesterday, Maj. Alanyo told me- I have honourable colleagues who come or send me a chit saying they have an emergency, I need to see a doctor, or to pick up my kid. It is understandable, and I take note.

Then some attend on Zoom. Honourable colleagues say, I was on Zoom, and I did not register. It is very difficult for me to leave someone who is here and pick the one on Zoom. Outside there, when our pictures showed the House overflowing, with all of you complaining that you have nowhere to sit, what did I tell you? I said, just give it a few weeks. You will level yourselves out. It sends the wrong message.

Therefore, if I am to pick you on Zoom, there must be a reason why you are on Zoom. If you have a serious reason, alert me early that you will attend on Zoom. Let us continue with the list, and the original hard copy of the list is kept in the safe custody of Hon. Angura. If you

doubt, talk to Hon. Angura, you will see what they wrote. Hon. Okot Peter, we are moving very well, and you will be followed by Hon. Geoffrey Okello.

5.29

MR PETER OKOT (DP, Tochi County, Omoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the ministers for education and health. To the Minister of Health, I thank the ministry under the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers Programme (UgIFT) Phase I; we had several health facilities upgraded from health centres II to health centres III.

However, honourable minister, if you move to all these upgraded structures, you will find that they were sub-standardly constructed.

Secondly, in all of them, there are no areas specifically prepared for drug stores. Yet you know very well that these non-consumables are required to be kept in a certain condition. Therefore, in the next UgIFT II, it is important that these are taken into consideration.

We have the Gulu Regional Referral Hospital, and I would imagine that in most of the regional referral hospitals, we should consider providing staff for translations because in these major hospitals, not all the health staff are native to the area, and patients normally face challenges when they go for treatment.

Thirdly, sign language interpreters are also necessary in some of these big facilities.

To the education ministry, as many honourable colleagues have mentioned, there is huge gap in the transition from primary (PLE), but four years after when they are sitting for Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE), you find that nearly 50 per cent have dropped out. That means that the introduction of vocational and technical facilities - *(Member timed out.)*

5.31

MR GEOFFREY OKELLO (DP, Nwoya East County, Nwoya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me thank the two ministers for the status reports. The Government invested a lot of money in Anaka General Hospital in my district. I rise to let the minister know that it has structural problems. For instance, the Government was supposed to employ 11 specialists in this hospital, but there is only one specialist.

The executive consultant has worked for eight years in an acting capacity. The ministry put in an emergency and accident unit. This hospital serves the highway to Arua via Murchison Falls National Park. This unit is well-equipped but has no specialist, so it is not functional. The second thing is about access. My district has 16 health units, but they are all scattered. We have one subcounty called Lungulu, which is 127 kilometres across, and it has one health unit.

Secondly, the main X-ray machine for the hospital has been broken since 2022. When it was examined, it was found that it needed repair, but the suppliers then - *(Member timed out.)*

5.33

MR ROBERT SSEWAGUDDE (Independent, PWD Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. All of these Members are under my constituency. I bring my concern to the Minister for Education, Hon. Peter Ogwang; I want to thank him for yesterday's report. It was really good. However, I want to inform you that we have a big challenge concerning our children with disabilities when it comes to education. Many fail exams, especially PLE, and I have two concerns:

One, the education ministry, never employs special needs teachers in those schools. There are not enough special needs teachers. Hon. Peter Ogwang, in your home district, Katakwi, there is a school called Katakwi Primary School. It has a special needs unit without qualified special needs teachers. I am imagining that if your home district has no special needs teachers, what is happening to the rest of the districts in Uganda? *(Applause)*

Secondly, there are many mistakes in the education sector. The few special needs teachers that we have are transferred to other schools, and new people are brought on board without qualifications.

Mr Speaker, my humble appeal is for:

1. Recruitment of qualified special needs teachers in schools; and
2. Stopping these uncalled-for transfers of our special needs teachers.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Ssewaggudde. After him, I will have Hon. Kitiyo Patrick followed by Hon. Ninsiima Evelyn.

5.36

MR PATRICK KITIYO (Independent, Kapchorwa Municipality, Kapchorwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The people of Sebei Sub-region have requested me to thank the Government and the Minister of Health for giving them an early Christmas gift of a referral hospital. I thought it was important to bring it to the attention of the House.

Secondly, Kapchorwa Technical Institute, Tuban in Chelebei Cell, Tongwo ward, Kapchorwa Municipality was formed in 1986 to offer certificate courses in various disciplines. It is the only tertiary institution we have in the whole sub-region after Kapchorwa Primary Teachers' College was closed.

We request that the Government, through the Ministry of Education and Sports, upgrades Kapchorwa Technical Institute into a polytechnic college to offer diploma courses.

The people further request the Government through the ministry for education to urgently consider establishing a public university called Sebei University at either Kere Agricultural Institute or at the former Kapchorwa Primary Teachers' College, since we have structures that were left out by the closure.

Finally, there is a school that was founded in 1998 called St. Mary's SS located in Chaber Cell, Kaptoret ward, West Division in Kapchorwa Municipality. I request the minister for education – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Switch on and complete that so that it can go on the record.

MR KITIYO: To code the school for the purpose of having a center number.

5.38

MS EVELYN NINSIIMA (NRM, Woman Representative, Rubanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is a fact that for a country to develop, the health and education capabilities must be enhanced. The ministries of Education and Health have done that. Thank you very much.

However, in Rubanda District, every single year, 84.7 per cent of the pupils are enrolled in primary school but only 20 per cent complete primary seven. In secondary schools, only 14.7 per cent of the students enrol.

Rubanda District has no technical and vocational institute. My request is, one, that the Government gives Rubanda a technical vocational institute. If not, at least fund the private institutes that we have; Rubanda Vocational Technical Institute and Hamugwa Technical Institute.

Secondly, I appreciate the Minister of Health because Rubanda's regional hospital is being constructed. The increase in cancer patients is still so high. My request is for Kigezi to have a cancer centre. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Apolot Christine, followed by Hon. Ongiertho -

5.39

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT (Independent, Woman Representative, Kumi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. His Excellency the President made three pledges to the people of Kumi District; to have three memorial institutions – O.G.A Kabwele and a technical school in Ogooma.

I would like to report to this House that two memorial secondary schools have been constructed but each of them has only 13 teachers. I, therefore, appeal to the minister to consider O.G.A Memorial Secondary School and Kabwele Memorial Secondary School

so that they have an additional number of qualified teachers.

Ogooma Sub-County has been on that pledge. The President pledged three; two have been done. When will Ogooma have the Memorial Technical School?

Under health, I have 14 sub-counties and four town councils. There are health facilities at the level of Health Centres II in the newly created sub-counties. I appeal to the ministry of Health to upgrade the Health Centres II in the newly constructed sub-counties to Health Centres III, since the policy is that every sub-county should have a Health Centre III.

To the Minister for Education and Sports, once again, I have six sub-counties without Seed secondary schools. May I appeal to your office and this Parliament to secure some allocation so that these sub-counties like Akures, Kadami, Kanapa, Tisai and Mukongoro, without Seed secondary schools, can support education across – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ongiertho Emmanuel followed by Hon. Acom Esther - Hon. Acom Esther is an independent Member of Parliament.

5.42

MR EMMANUEL ONGIERTHO (Independent, Nebbi Municipality, Nebbi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. I thank the ministers and specifically, my minister for education, Hon. Peter Ogwang. He is overloaded. He has so much to do and yet he is not being helped much. Thank you for what you are doing.

Mr Speaker, I have the following issues. When I talk about education, I mention that people are seeing me also as the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Education and Sports. Honourable minister, I have said that you are doing so much. However, we also still have several petitions to deal with, coming from the universities. That shows that our universities still have issues. They have been coming even here.

We keep hearing about courses that are not accredited. That means that we still have issues to deal with in these higher institutions of learning. Unfortunately, the National Council for Higher Education does not seem to be helping much. Honourable minister, take note of that.

Secondly, we still need serious training of teachers. When we talk about competency-based education, it means that we need training, which will help the teachers to identify the competencies of many of our children so that they can help them to develop clear pathways for themselves. You know these refresher trainings, which do not give them time to learn how to look at the competence – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, after these statements, I am going to refer them to the relevant committees for further handling because they will help you when you are handling the Budget Framework Paper or Ministerial Policy Statements. However, as an elder, I am going to add you two minutes, especially given that the elders from around Jonam are very deadly if you do not comply.

MR ONGIERTHO: Thank you very much. I was talking about the competency-based education. I think that is already taken.

Then, we know that the ministry, for quite some time, has been talking about Early Childhood Education. I remember that at some point, it was like every Government-aided primary school was supposed to have an Early Childhood Centre attached to it. We are praying that it is actualised so that our children have a good way to pass from one stage to the other.

Then, the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) department still has a number of issues. We passed an Act, but unfortunately a lot of the operational guidelines have not yet been developed.

Honourable minister, we need to speed up that so that we have a smooth running of our TVET section. As we speak, honourable

minister, the students who are admitted to pursue skills development at higher level is still a bit small because they are admitting 50 per year for the Government sponsorship, yet we are looking at TVET as being the in thing for us now. Therefore, if that number can be increased, that would be fine.

Finally, Minister of Health, thank you so much. Nebbi Municipality has Nebbi Hospital, a hospital that serves Pakwach, Zombo, Nebbi itself and part of Madi-Okollo. We have - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ongiertho just shifted from Jonam to Nebbi Municipality. When I visited, I was given a story of how he ambushed people. But a very popular gentleman there, doing a great job. I know Jonam will add on later once I give him an opportunity.

So, I am still on the Independents. Yes, Hon. Achom Esther?

5.47

MS ESTHER ACOM (Independent, Woman Representative, Serere): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank both ministers for their comprehensive reports. I wish to remind the minister that His Excellency the President laid a foundation stone for the Serere Surgical Ward in October 2017. But up to date, the structure is still at the wall-plate. We, therefore, request additional financial support to complete the ward because the facility is overwhelmed.

Additionally, I wish to request the minister to urgently consider upgrading Serere Health Centre IV into a district hospital and also upgrade Pingire Health Centre III into a Health Centre IV because it serves a county.

We have Health Centre IIs still in Serere that is: Kamusala, Kateta-moru, Omagoro in Kyere and Akoboi in Olio. Kindly upgrade them also to Health Centre IIIs. Also, Ocaapa and Kidetok town councils do not have any health facility. Kindly establish Health Centre IIIs in those Sub-counties.

Mr Speaker, I raised these concerns in my maiden speech, but I was not given a clear response. May I request the minister to give me a clear response on when these priorities will be addressed. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Mutego Ronard, followed by Hon. Alenyo.

5.49

MR RONARD MUTEGO (Independent, Bunyole East County, Butaleja): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to also extend my thanks to the ministers for their statements but I will start with the Minister of Health.

In my constituency, I have Kachonga Sub-county, which has no health facility at all. And these people have since acquired two acres of land, I request the minister to consider these people and construct a Health Centre III.

Then in my constituency, Bunyole East, is missing an ambulance.

To my brother, the Minister of Education and Sports, I am seeking guidance, Mr Speaker. I have two schools, Hasasha Secondary School, which has an enrolment of 1,700 students with nine teachers on the payroll. Then St. Mary's which has 1,300 students with 13 teachers.

We have been stop-gapping using the Parents Teachers Association (PTA), which you are scrapping. So, I request guidance on how we should handle this shortage of teachers if we cannot use PTA funds to stop-gap this problem. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Alenyo from Jonam?

5.50

MR MARSHALL ALENYO (Independent, Jonam County, Pakwach): Mr Speaker. I would like to thank you for announcing yesterday the death of our brother, Geoffrey Onegi-Obel. The burial is on Saturday.

I would like to pick from where Hon. Emmanuel Ongiertho stopped. Nebbi Hospital

serves Jonam, Nebbi and also Zombo. So, the Minister of Health together with the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should help Nebbi Hospital. It has a water bill of Shs 1 billion.

We need the Minister of Health and the Minister of Finance to harmonise a policy of paying bills. Water is life. They are about to disconnect that water.

Secondly, honourable minister, most of the x-ray machines in this country were supplied by Philips but we were informed, it might be wrong, that now we have left Philips and have gone to Siemens. Once these x-ray machines break, Siemens will not repair them. you need to give people information on the backlog.

I will not talk about the hospital for Pakwach. That was a matter the Jonam brought before the President and I will bring it here. The Jonam still need a hospital.

To education, thank you, my friend. Just three issues. When there was an eclipse in Uganda, the epi-centre was Owiny Primary School in Pokwero. There were supposed to be investments made, including tarmacking roads when the whole world was focusing on Owiny Primary School. What happened?

Secondly, majority of the head teachers in Pakwach are serving but they are not confirmed. 24 per cent of our teachers are not confirmed. Please make sure that those head teachers in Jonam are confirmed. We do not have SEED schools. Three sub-counties - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The eclipse has taken over. (Laughter). Thank you. Hon. Angura, Hon. Aseera Stephen, Hon. Miriam.

5.52

MR FREDRICK ANGURA (NRM, Tororo South County, Tororo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will move straight to health. I would like to appreciate the minister for the report but also appreciate the ministry.

The Village Health Teams (VHTs) have done a good job. Malaria within my community has started coming down. When we appropriated resources for ambulances in this House, the first batch of ambulances was harmoniously agreed upon by all of us that they would go to those constituencies that were identified.

The rest of the constituencies were for the second batch. Let us be sincere to ourselves and the rest who did not receive and support us with ambulances. I have one ambulance which is serving the community but it is on a referral daily to Kampala, Mbale, and the cost of maintaining it is high.

Honourable minister, my community has provided land for expansion and construction of Health Centre IIIs in the Sub-counties that do not have.

Let us fast-track this in, Morukatipe Sub-county, Apokor Town Council, Kwapa Sub-county and Kayoro II up grade III. Land is available and cognizant of the fact that we are from the border. We do East Africa. So, let us have these facilities moving on such that we can support the community.

On education, I would like to thank the minister once again for the good work. However, as it has been raised by colleagues here, Asinge Secondary School has 1,946 students but with only 26 teachers. The ceiling is 58. Let us get a solution to support that.

Then in the Sub-counties of Morukatipe, Osukuru Town - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, chits are coming in. Let them continue coming. I will read them after the session. *(Laughter)* I welcome them. I have a file here. After I have exhausted this, I will read and then get back to you. Hon. Aseera Stephen?

5.55

MR STEPHEN ASEERA (NRM, Buhaguzi East County, Kikuube): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Once again, I am Aseera Stephen,

Member of Parliament representing the people of Buhaguzi East, Kikuube District. I want to add my voice to thank both senior ministers, minister of Health and Education and Sports. I will start with health. Kikuube is a unique district. We have health centre IIIs that do lack wards.

We only admit expectant mothers, and the accommodation that provided to them are very small rooms. I would request that we look into that matter. Also, to add on that, we are operating on 35 per cent of the staffing. Therefore, the gap is too high. It does not enable our people to exercise their rights and be able to get on to the demands that the people want in terms of service delivery.

Honourable minister, I also want to request, and we have always requested, that our health centre IV at Kikube that has to be elevated to a district hospital because Kikube, given the population influx as a result of oil and gas, we really need a district hospital to handle that. So, that we can also reduce on the congestion that is with our Hoima Regional Referral Hospital.

To the education sector, Kikube is one of the districts that earmarked to benefit from Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID). USMID, amongst many, is looking at infrastructure development, and we are looking at upgrading our schools and health centres.

I want to thank Hon. Balaam Barugahara who is ongoing with the issue to do with corruption. We appreciate but in Kikube we are left, with our seven heads of department interdicted. One of the policies that USMID has given to us is to make sure that we fill in the gaps for all the technical staff. Therefore, we are bound to lose this USMID if we do not get on to that. I want to request that we up the game…

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Miriam, Hon. Stella Maris.

5.58

MS MIRIAM MUKHAYE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mbale): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also want to appreciate the ministers for the statements that they made on education and health. In 2024, the president was in Elgon sub-region, and he pledged to give Bugisu Mbale University. I want to ask the minister to fast track that and ensure that pledge is fulfilled for the people of Bugisu.

In your statement, Honourable minister of Education and Sports, you say student loans were disbursed to 5481 beneficiaries and the Government allocated 4,000 merit-based admission slots across public universities. I have an issue: we have children who are coming from very poor families, and do not access Government merit.

Children who get twenty, nineteen, eighteen are from very well-to-do schools and families, and they are the ones who are getting support of the Government. I think the Government has to re-design how they support the children who are from poor families, performing well and yet cannot even afford tuition for even one semester.

It is a challenge that we should look at as the Government and see how we can help children who are struggling out there. They cannot score a twenty because they do not have the facilities that can help them to get those marks.

Finally, Honourable minister of Health, Mbale needs a district hospital. It is on a highway. We have a big catchment area. I request you to support Mbale District so that we get a district hospital. We have only one Health Centre IV, which is Busiu Health Center IV, and yet we have three constituencies. Bungokho North is hard to reach. We need a theatre and doctors there to help our people in case women are struggling and are not able to be supported while they are delivering.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Stella Maris. Hon. Odiama Simon Peter.

6.00

MS STELLAMARIS NANKWANGA (Independent, Woman Representative, Bugweri): Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to thank the Minister for Health and Education for

the statements they have just made. I will start with the Minister of Health.

First, I want to acknowledge the ministers for their efforts in the management of the public health emergencies. I also want to recognise the country's response to the 2026 Ebola outbreak.

Mr Speaker, these efforts have demonstrated the importance of investing in our health system and strengthening the capacity in order to respond to these public health threats. As we appreciate the efforts that are being made, we have to look at the national achievements that are being made as well, so that they are translated into safe, accessible and quality health care for all the people in the country, regardless of where they stay.

I come from Bugweri District and we have Busesa Health Centre IV serving as the main hospital since we do not have a general hospital. This facility serves a population of 210,000 patients. Monthly, we are serving around 2,200. Then we have around 145 deliveries per month but when you look at the maternity ward, it is very small.

Then when you look at the staffing, there is also a huge gap. We are at 45 per cent compared to the approved staffing structure. Then also, when you look at the national medical stock credit line, we are at Shs 45 million per cycle and given the population is high, that is insufficient.

My prayer to the Minister of Health is that you consider increasing or reallocating at least Shs 60 million per cycle. To the Minister of Education and Sports, in Bugweri we have a problem of high school dropouts and also teenage pregnancies, whereby most of the pupils end at the primary level and they do not proceed to the secondary level.

I beg Mr Speaker and the responsible ministries for the Government to come up with programmes that will help to fight teenage pregnancies in Busoga, not only in Bugweri but also in Uganda at large. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Adum Simon Peter. Hon. Chandia Bernade and Hon. Obigah Rose.

6.03

MR SIMON ADUM (NRM, Chua West County, Kitgum): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will start from where my sister has ended. This is for Ministry of health, my brother. Most of this child murder is also in Kitgum, and it is due to rampant school dropout of about 4.9 per cent, especially for the girls. This takes me back to Kitgum Referral Hospital, where we have started Intensive Unit, for the premature babies (NICU).

If you look at all these mothers, they are young mothers. Therefore, I appeal to the Minister of Education and Sports to start a campaign, for example, a go-back-to-school or stay-in-school campaign. Just so that we can actually mitigate this kind of premature babies. Otherwise, in that intensive unit, my Minister of Health, we are lacking respiratory support and incubators, and we are losing three children per day.

This unit is serving people from across the whole of East Acholi, including South Sudan and refugees. That intensive unit was planned for only ten babies. Right now, we are serving about forty-five. I request the Ministry of Health to go, check, and help.

Getting back to the Ministry of Education and Sports on the issue of the Parent–Teacher Association (PTA). In Kitgum, some local leaders have come out with their directive, but it is affecting us so badly, so we request your intervention.

About PTA still, I remember when I was in high school, we bought a truck, a school truck, using PTA collection. I am begging for the means of education, at least to buy a truck for all the government-aided schools, including Kitgum High School, and I am very grateful to my Minister of Health. My submission is for upgrading Kitgum General Hospital to a referral – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Chandia, followed by Hon. Obigah.

6.05

MS BENADETTE CHANDIA (NRM, Woman Representative, Moyo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will begin with the report on education. Thank you, minister, for your report. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that most of the schools, at least the ones I visited in Moyo, have not yet received their capitation grant. This hinders the running of the schools.

We also need to look into the infrastructure of the schools. In terms of hygiene and health, I will draw your attention to Goopi Primary School, where the girls do not have basic sanitary services. For that, we need to teach our children hygiene right from the start, and then they will grow up that way.

When it comes to health, the cost of referral is high, and it is painful. It comes back to us, the Members of Parliament, yet we cannot afford it. Imagine a young girl from Moyo - I am actually handling one who is in Mulago right now with a spine issue, but from a very vulnerable family. When they come for referral at the national level, the cost is unbelievable. How do we ensure that our citizens - we lose a number of them because they cannot afford basic costs. My prayer is that we look into that cost to save our young generation. I thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Rose Obigah, followed by Hon. Akiiki Florence.

6.07

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am the Chairperson of the Mental Health Forum in Parliament. It depends on where you start counting from; either side, the fourth or third person from you has a mental challenge. It is as bad as that. We kindly request the Ministry of Health to take it as a serious issue –*(Interruption)* - *Mr* Speaker, some protection.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, the third one from my side here, one, two, three, so Hon. Rose Obigah is – *(Laughter)* - Honourable member, just go on with your -

MS OBIGAH: Mr Speaker, thank you, but it is becoming more than the word serious. Butabika Hospital that seems to be the only national referral hospital does not have a reception shed. I kindly beg the Ministry of Health to help me with that and make an allocation so that we observe dignity.

The first suicide prevention summit in the whole of Africa has just taken place in Uganda, the first of its kind. We proudly hosted that, but we will need to delve so much into mental health, Mr Speaker. Through you, honourable minister, I would like to thank you for your indulgence.

In Terego, which has a population of over 400,000, roughly half of it are refugees, yet we have only one health centre IV. I am kindly begging you to upgrade Obofia Health Centre II, which has a lot of land, and Cilio, Wandi, and Uriama Health Centre III into health centres IV so that we are able to serve that big population.

To my lovely brother, our Minister of Education and Sports, you saw the embarrassment we had when Alianda Primary School went viral. You see how that community school has been suffering. I beg you, the next time you are taking new schools, kindly consider Alianda, Obofia, Bapa, Widi, Terego Primary, Noa, and other 15 plus. If you can give me only five to start with, I will be grateful.

Otherwise, thank you so much, honourable Minister of Health and honourable Minister of – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Florence Akiiki, followed by Hon. Laura Kanushu.

6.09

DR FLORENCE ASIIMWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Masindi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and the two ministers for the detailed reports.

Mr Speaker, listening to my colleagues about their concerns on health and education brings me back to the issue of corruption. How are we going to fund it? Every Member of Parliament here needs a school and a health centre. The question is, how are we going to fund them?

I thank the Government of Uganda for the immunisation programme that made a number of children survive. As a result, we have a number of children in schools, but the question is, how do we cater for these children? Therefore, Members, we need to fight corruption.

According to the IGG report, we lose Shs 10 trillion per year due to corruption. Imagine Shs 10 trillion: how many hospitals; how many health centres; and how many schools would we build?

The other day I visited Kamurasi Demonstration Primary School; I almost cried. The situation is really bad, but it is we who are swindling most of the money; we Ugandans. Therefore, the IGG should try to recover our money so that we have these schools and health centres.

I thank the Government for Masindi General Hospital, which has been brought about by AFCON – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Laura?

6.10

MS LAURA KANUSHU (NRM, PWD Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also want to thank both ministers for the very good reports. My first issue goes to the Ministry of Health. In 2018 and 2022, under the Global Disability Summit commitment, Uganda committed that 40 per cent of the Ministry of Health workshops would be reactivated to manufacture assistive devices. By assistive devices, I mean wheelchairs, crutches, white canes, sunscreens, et cetera.

Mr Speaker, seven years down the road, those workshops have not been reactivated and it has become the duty of Members of Parliament to buy wheelchairs, crutches, et cetera for persons with disabilities. Most colleagues here have come to us asking if we have them, but we also do not have. We are also looking for them.

A crutch, a wheelchair, and a white cane is the life of a disabled person. Today if you take away my crutch, you will never see me here and I will never do my job. Even if you give me PDM, I will not access it because I will be immobile.

I would like to also ask the Ministry of Health whether we should not be thinking about moving that budget from Ministry of Health to another ministry that is more in touch with persons with disabilities? In my understanding, 90 per cent of the consumers of wheelchairs, crutches, and assistive devices are persons with disabilities and not sick persons. So, I keep asking myself why that budget goes to health. Disabled people are not sick; we are just disabled.

Lastly, to the Minister of Education and Sports, it is high time that we considered Special Needs Education as a science subject – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Eric Dramviku, then Hon. Stephen Kisa.

6.14

MR ERIC DRAMVIKU (NRM, Terego West County, Terego): Best felicitations to you, Mr Speaker. I join the rest of the colleagues in thanking the two honourable ministers. Going straight to the situations in Terego pertaining health and education, Terego District holds refugees to a large extent, to a high magnitude.

Previously, the partners under the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) were the ones recruiting staff for health and education in the refugee-hosting districts. Due to circumstances beyond their control, they have totally scaled down. Now, our classrooms and health centres have very many people, but the staff that are supposed to take care of these patients and learners is so few.

I pray for any expeditious recruitment of teachers and health staff in refugee-hosting districts because we cannot now compete favourably with the rest of the country. That is one.

Two, honourable Minister of Health, in Terego District we have an upcoming situation of leprosy in Aripea Health Centre III and Oninia. The previous cases, we thought, would end there, but we see new cases of leprosy. However, we do not have laboratory equipment for continuing to detect this. So, if it is not really helped, there is a risk that leprosy will continue to spread in that constituency.

The health centre that is taking care of this is a private one. I pray that since there is no laboratory equipment, kindly come to the rescue of the people of Terego so that this case of leprosy is put to rest.

I am not technical, but people are continuing to die of the disease - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kisa Stephen, then Hon. Kiyimba Emmanuel.

6.16

MR STEPHEN KISA (NRM, Luuka South County, Luuka): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the two ministers for the statements, and I will go straight to the Minister of Education and Sports. I would like to thank you, Hon. Ogwang and the Government, for approving Iganga University to be established in Busoga Subregion. That was a very good move, and we are very grateful as a region.

The only issue I wish to ask of you, is for an update on the instrument that is supposed to come to this House, called the University Charter, so that there is full operationalisation of this university in the region.

Number two, Minister of Education and Sports, I would like to thank you so much for the provision of agricultural inputs and seedlings to Karamoja schools, about 309, to support the school-feeding programme.

Mr Speaker, most pupils are dropping out of school because of no feeding. Busoga is a victim of this. We usually begin with big numbers in primary one, and by the time we reach primary seven, the numbers have reduced, as a result of lack of food in these schools. In Busoga Subregion, most of the pupils in primary schools invade sugarcane plantations to get something to chew during this period.

I wanted to request the ministry that this should not be a preserve of Karamoja region alone. I beg that the Ministry of Education and Sports, since they are not allowing parents to contribute towards school feeding, we extend and roll out the aspect of giving a - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kiyimba Emmanuel, followed by Hon. Kyinyamatama.

6.18

MR EMMANUEL KIYIMBA (NRM, Bukoto County Mid-West, Lwengo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to thank our honourable ministers for the statement they read here. I would like to start with health. I wish to thank the Government for the good work they have done. They have provided and distributed mosquito nets to the districts of Uganda.

However, the challenge is that the rainy season has started, and as such, we expect Anopheles mosquitoes to multiply, and spread malaria. These mosquito nets, which they sent to district headquarters, have not yet been distributed to the people of Uganda. So, I would like to request the minister to direct the district officials to start giving out those mosquito nets so that our people are not affected by malaria.

Number two, Mr Speaker, when I came to Parliament, I raised an issue of Lwengo. Lwengo is one of the most populated areas in Greater Masaka. We have over 300,000 people in Lwengo. However, we have a challenge of lacking a district hospital. I already talked to the minister, and informed him about our hospital because we were promised that Lwengo Health Centre IV is going to be elevated to a district

hospital. I request him, since he is here, to - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The minister has captured it. Hon. Kiyimba has a special place in my heart, colleagues. From LC3 Councillor to MP; from a subcounty councillor to an MP is an inspiration to many, and you can see how he is doing very well. *(Applause)* No, Anna Maria. Anna Maria was mentoring me in the 10th Parliament. Hon. Kyinyamatama, followed by Hon. Kapyagon Brian and Hon. Edopu Peter.

6.21

MS SUUBI KYINYAMATAMA (NRM, Woman Representative, Rakai): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I would like to appreciate the ministers of health and education respectively, for the amazing job and service to this country.

Honourable Minister of Education and Sports, we have no ambulance in Rakai District. Rakai serves over 350,000 people. It has 19 subcounties. We do not have an ambulance. I bought one last time, but it is now old. So, we need your help. We need an ambulance.

We also have no staff quarters. I request that at least we get accommodation for only emergency critical staff. For example, those who work in the theatre, laboratory and maternity wards. Failure to do that, we have delayed services at Rakai District Hospital.

We have a big problem with our maternity ward. It is so congested. Mothers who deliver get admitted on the floor. Our prayer is that this is one district hospital without health centre IVs. The congestion is too much. We pray that it is expanded. We also need health centre IVs because we have two counties, Kooki and Buyamba, but we do not have health centre IVs. So, the congestion is too much. We all run to our district hospital.

We do not have a neonatal intensive unit for the premature babies. You can imagine what happens there. We still improvise our old ways of just putting them in heavy blankets. Our prayer is that we construct one.

We do not have an isolation ward, meaning that our patients with TB and malaria mix with all the other patients. We request that we construct an isolation ward for the people of Rakai District - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kapyagon Brian, Hon. Edopu Peter.

6.22

MR BRIAN KAPYAGON (Independent, Kongasis County, Bukwo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to equally thank the two ministries of health and education.

Mr Speaker, Bukwo District was among 18 districts that were granted district hospitals. But the Ministry of Health visited Bukwo and found out that it could not meet the requirements of becoming a district hospital. It lacked the following: a theatre, a blood bank, we did not have surgeons, and we had fewer staff.

As a result, they downgraded Bukwo General Hospital to a health centre IV. Since then, some efforts were made to reconstruct the hospital and recruit more staff. As I speak, we now have the theatre, the surgeons, and a good number of staff. Last year, when the president visited the area, he promised that Bukwo Health Centre IV would be reinstated as a general hospital.

Bukwo is located in Sebei Subregion, and it is far away from Kapchorwa, around 75 kilometres. We have a big population of 120,000. Many patients are referred to Mbale, then Kapchorwa. Sometimes some of them cross to Kenya.

I request the honourable minister, whom I am quite impressed with for doing a commendable job. We shall be with him at the border point and I thought that we would assess this hospital so that you can re-gazette it – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Edopu Peter, followed by Hon. Mujuni.

6.24

MR PETER EDOPU (NRM, Dakabela County, Soroti): Mr Speaker, thank you very much for this time. I want to thank the two ministers for their being responsible to Parliament, and I think they are the most active in Parliament so far.

I want to raise some issues on education and health regarding Soroti District. Soroti District is the oldest district in Teso and it gave birth to all the districts that we have. There are 11 of them but as I talk now, it does not have a district hospital. It has only five health centre IIIs and seven health centre IIs. It has only one health centre IV, which is Tiriri Health Centre IV. It is along the Great North Road and it serves three districts: Soroti, Amuria, and Kalaki. On a daily it receives about 300 outpatients but it lacks staff and has only 46 out of the approved 133. It has only one table in the operating theatre, which is a problem. The maternity ward only has 10 beds, but on a daily basis they get about 30. So, some of the patients actually sleep under the beds of other patients. The situation is not good.

My request is to the President who promised to elevate it into a district hospital. That is my prayer to the Minister of Health, please help us.

Secondly, we have health centre III, if they can be upgraded to health centre IVs. We have one in Dakabela, and also in Gweri, Kamuda, Asuret and Tubur Town Council. The rest of the sub-counties do not have.

On the issue of education, we in Dakabela County, only have one seed school and two community secondary schools.

My prayer to the Minister of Education and Sports, and I have spoken to him about it, is if they could provide some infrastructure development for these two community schools which were started by the parents and they are old schools. They even go up to HSC. So, we need some affirmative action to help these schools because they serve a very big population in Dakabela; that is Katine Secondary School and Tubur Secondary School. I thank you.

6.28

MR ASENSIO MUJUNI (NRM, Isingiro County South, Isingiro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I raise my issue concerning health. I have seven sub-counties and 29 parishes, but I want to report to you that on the 29 parishes, I only have 10 parishes with health centres II and on seven sub-counties, I only have three sub-counties with health centres III. They always say that every parish has to have a health centre II and every sub-county has to have a health centre III but it is so unfortunate that I do not have any. Actually, I do not have any health centre IV in my constituency.

Mr Speaker, I am requesting for the Ministry of Health if they can help us, at least if they can give us the ambulance so that we can transport our people to the nearby health centre IV because I see that we are not getting anything in Isingiro South.

On education, I want to report to you that I have only one seed school and two government-aided secondary schools but I want to report to Minister of Education and Sports that we have schools that have put more effort, which are community schools, and if they can be given grants. For example, there is a school called Rwensinga Secondary School, St. John's Secondary School and Katojo Secondary School. If they can be given grants and aided by the Government, it will be of help and our people will get better services. Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

6.30

MR PETER OBONG (UPC, Maruzi County, Apac): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I thank the two ministers, but my biggest concern goes to the Minister of Health. I thank you for upgrading Akokoro Health Centre III to Health Centre IV but as I speak, there are facilities that are supposed to be accompanied by the upgrade and one is the mortuary. I recently donated a fridge for the mortuary, but as I speak, the fridge is still on the veranda. There is nowhere to put it. I pray that you consider that.

And also, as Health Centre IV, the staffing has not yet been approved on the sense that the

wage bill that is meant to cater for the staff of the Health Centre IV is not yet approved by either Minister of Public Service or Minister of Health. I want you also to put that into consideration.

There is also Health Centre II of Wansolo. Wansolo has been a Health Centre II, but as I speak, it has been cut off by water. So, the women that could have gotten maternity services from the Health Centre III of Apoi are suffering because of the water that has carved the place.

And one big challenge that happened of recent, is that the UPDF that patrols the Fisheries Protection Unit destroyed all the boats that these people used to cross to access the maternity services from the Health Centre III. I wish that Health Centre II, Wansolo, could be upgraded to Health Centre III to serve the already disadvantaged community and the same applies to Alworoceng Health Centre II. It has also been submerged; the road has been cut off by water. The same services that could have been obtained from Health Centre III, they are not getting it. I - *(Member timed out.)*

6.32

MR STEPHENSON LOKORU (NRM, Chekwii East County, Nakapiripirit): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. Allow me join other colleagues in thanking the two ministers who presented. The issue I am raising is twofold and it touches health and education.

Government has supported Karamoja with infrastructure in education and health sector, the schools are there, and the health facilities are also there. However, the issue I want to raise here, is about teacher absenteeism, abscondment, and, of course most teachers are recruited, they access the payroll and then they get lost and leave Karamoja. All this is attributed to one issue;

We have poor performance in schools in terms of education. If you want to see the performance of schools in Karamoja, you do not need to go to the first page of the paper. You go to the last pages, then you can access any Karamoja school. This is because of inadequate accommodation for teachers. Most teachers are sharing houses; other head teachers have even gone to improvise classrooms for teachers and they partition using plywood. I have evidence, of four teachers couples, that by coincidence got married because they were sharing one roof but partitioned with a weak plywood and this is really so bad.

My request to the Minister of Education is that as we plan for school infrastructure, we need to look into the issue of having adequate accommodation for teachers.

I also represent a community, which is marginalised; those are the Kadam people. Those people in the previous two decade - *(Member timed out.)*

6.34

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I also appreciate the ministers for the statements they brought. Allow me to speak to the matter of the technical education in this country.

Mr Speaker, I am a product of Kyambogo, and with the kind of vocational skills we got then, I am able to do masonry work, surveying and many things if at all I leave this Parliament today. My Diploma in Architectural Engineering then was real, and much as I have a Master's degree today, the skills I got from that technical education would speak so much to matters of employability. We are requesting you to please revive matters of vocational and technical education, such that the market gets worthy skills.

Allow me to also speak to the Minister of Health. We request for a law on consumer protection, to be brought here as a Bill, to provide for a Consumer Protection Act. Why? I have a colleague here who had an operation that went bad. Today, she is suffering and has no way of seeking compensation. She even had to go to Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi to get better treatment.

We are praying that the Ministry of Health looks into matters of consumer protection again, so that if a doctor or health worker is held liable, like the case I have mentioned, the patients should be well compensated. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, on the issue of the consumer protection law, in the 11th Parliament, the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry - because a committee can originate a law - had worked on it, and Hon. Mwine Mpaka was going to table it. The Minister of Trade said, "No, we are bringing it".

However, we were cautious because Article 93 limits you on having a charge on the Consolidated Fund because you must have a body that is going to supervise the law. The minister ended up not bringing anything.

Government Chief Whip, kindly link up with the Minister of Trade to find out what happened. We passed the competitions law, but if you have it without the consumer protection law, it is not all that helpful. We need the consumer protection law. Government Chief Whip, liaise with the minister for trade and ask them what happened because they had said they were ready. Members of the committee and colleagues who were in the 11th Parliament can remember this.

Hon. Sawula? *[Hon. Janet Auma: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Janet Auma -]* No, I called Hon. Hakim Sawula and that is not close to Auma in any way -*(Laughter)*- though I have you on the list. Okay, take up Hon. Sawula's slot since you are on the list. You have the Floor, since you are very steady.

6.37

MS JANET AUMA (UPC, Woman Representative, Amolatar): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the honourable Minister of Education and the Minister of Health. I would like to bring to the attention of the House that education is not merely a social service, but rather a foundation of national productivity, household independence and the future of our children.

Are we measuring education performance by the money spent on the buildings or any other thing? The Minister of Education made an abstract of 2025, where secondary education net enrollment was 12 per cent out of 20 per cent in Lango. What are the specific interventions that the Government is implementing to close these gaps?

Mr Speaker, I am concerned about the issue of Amolatar District. The Government policy says each parish must have a primary school. We have Ocora Parish which has already been cut off by floods, and children are unable to go to school. There are no health facilities in that area. I urge the Government to consider Ocora and any other subcounties that do not have seed schools like Opali, Abeja, Nalubwoyo, Namasale and Acii.

I urge the Government to review the staffing scale for teachers' recruitment. More teachers should be recruited in schools, and their welfare must be maintained. We are all products of teachers – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Benjamin Cadet, Hon. Mapenduzi, followed by Hon. Makmot.

6.39

MR BENJAMIN CADET (NRM, Bunyaruguru County, Rubirizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the ministers of health and education for the elaborate reports. As I speak for Rubirizi, we are a coffee-producing district, and we earn over Shs 95 billion for the country every year. We also have fishing, and we earn over Shs 2 billion for the country.

We have Queen Elizabeth National Park, and part of Bunyaruguru or Rubirizi earns over Shs 43,730,000,000 for the country. Out of that money that the country earns, we, as Rubirizi, do not have a district hospital. This means we are sacrificing a lot for the rest of Uganda to get hospitals, yet we do not have. Can we have that equitable share of a hospital?

We do not have an ambulance. Actually, I would like to request for two ambulances;

one for Katunguru Subcounty that is basically on water and earns the country Shs 2 billion every year, so that they can get a motorboat ambulance and then the hospital. We have tourists and there is nowhere to take them in case of an emergency. That limits tourism.

On education, we need a technical school. When you look at equity still, I have a subcounty called Kichwamba. It has 14,000 voters. Ntungamo Municipality has 14,000 voters but has 15 secondary schools. Kichwamba Subcounty, with the same number of voters, has only one. I also need a second secondary school – *(Member timed out.)*

6.41

MR MARTIN OJARA (NRM, Bardege-Layibi Division, Gulu City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I join my colleagues in thanking the two ministers. I will start with the education sector. The minister indicated that there are a number of schools that they plan to provide infrastructural support to. I would like to know more.

There are two particular schools that I have repeatedly brought to the attention of the ministry. One is Gulu Army Secondary School, a school with a population of 2,300 students, but they do not have enough classrooms. The other one is Gulu Senior Secondary School with a population of 3,035 students. They also do not have enough classrooms. I would like to know from you, honourable minister, whether these schools are among those that you plan to support.

On the health sector, Mr Speaker, the Acholi Parliamentary Group members recently visited the Gulu Cancer Institute. We would like to thank the ministry for doing their best, but I think the institute needs a lot more support.

For example, we discovered that the facility is overwhelmed with patients who come from all over the region. We found a number of them sleeping on the floor. For example, the post-operative room has no beds. That is a big challenge and we hope you will take note of that and intervene quickly.

Finally, in the last financial year there was a plan to upgrade Oyitino Health Centre II to a health centre III. Unfortunately, we have not heard from the ministry. We do not know what could have happened. I would like to know from you, honourable minister, to please tell us whether you intend to pursue that plan – *(Member timed out.)*

6.43

MR MAKMOT OTTO (NRM, Agago County, Agago): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to thank the two ministers for the report. I want to say that capitalism is real in the area of education.

Agago, in the Acholi Sub-region, once well known for education, is now at the tail end. The government must provide an enabling environment.

We also need some form of affirmative action in the post-war situation to help the people there. Otherwise, the results we see are not good. They are contrary to what we knew before.

Other than that, Mr Speaker, I also studied the issue of polytechnics versus technical schools. I realised that there are several technical schools, but polytechnics admit students at a lower level and give them skills. I also realised that the majority of our youth in my area have not even reached Senior Four.

I do not know, but I spoke to a commissioner about this, and I thought Government had a plan. We need to look into it. We have many technical schools, but polytechnics would probably absorb many of these youths who are facing challenges.

On education, there is Gen. Lokech Stadium in Agago. We hosted the President there. It was supposed to be upgraded but nothing has been done since then. There are also schools in areas such as Laperebong, Lokole, and Ajali Sub-counties. I think Agago is the widest district in the entire Acholi Sub-region - *(Member timed out.)*

6.46

DR RUDE MONDAY (NRM, Bukonzo County East, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the ministers for their informative presentations.

To start with education, honourable minister, Munkunyu, Kitabu and Kyarumba Sub-counties in Bukonzo County East have no secondary schools, yet each has more than 50,000 people. We request that they be considered for Seed secondary schools. Some schools are also ageing, such as Saad Memorial Secondary School, Mutanywana Secondary School and St Theresa Girls Secondary School, Nsenyi, which require rehabilitation.

On health, Mr Speaker, we must appreciate the health workers who continue to work under stressful conditions to provide and care for our health. Even as we discuss their low numbers, we must appreciate the hard work they do daily.

On that note, I request that the ministry consider increasing the wage allocations for district, regional referral and national referral hospitals. The Committee on Health is preparing two reports; one on national referral hospitals and another on regional referral hospitals, which we visited. There are acute shortages of manpower, facilities and infrastructure.

In Lira, patients are being treated in the open. In Soroti and Mbale, the situations are alarming. We need a holistic examination of the infrastructure and the designs themselves. We should build for today and tomorrow. We put up a facility today but before it is completed, it is already full and we need more space.

6.48

MR ONESIMUS TWINAMASIKO (NRM, Bugangaizi County East, Kakumiro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank Minister Chris Baryomunsi, who is locally known as E*kitooma* in Kanungu, for a very good statement. I also thank Hon. Peter Ogwang, who is very active here on the Floor, save for the Government Chief Whip. (*Laughter*)

Mr Speaker, whereas Government of Uganda is highly credited with making progress in constructing more Seed secondary schools, the story is different for primary education. The Government has taken a long time to establish new primary schools in this country. Many parishes in our districts lack primary schools. This is negatively affecting learners in lower primary education.

While the increase in the capitation grant for Universal Primary Education (UPE) schools benefits millions of learners, millions of others are dropping out because of the distance. In some parishes, schools are far away. Young children cannot afford to walk five or 10 kilometres every day to schools in neighbouring parishes. I pray that Government of Uganda considers constructing new primary schools in parishes that lack these facilities.

On the health sector, when I raised a matter here concerning the construction of the - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, we have a lady here who is one of the great faces of education in Kigezi. Most of these Members of Parliament from Kigezi, especially the stubborn ones such as Hon. Katabaazi, Hon. Bruce Kabaasa and Hon. Eliab Naturinda, were taught by someone they call aunt. She is in this House.

Aunt Enid is a teacher. Let us give her an opportunity. She usually does not give us a hard time. *(Applause)*

6.50

MS ENID ORIGUMISIRIZA (NRM, District Woman Representative, Kabale): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity and the kind words. In Kabale, I am commonly known as Aunt Enid, but here in Parliament, I am Enid Origumisiriza, the District Woman Representative for Kabale.

I thank our ministers for Health and Education and Sports. I want to highlight the urgent need for an alternative power supply at Maziba

Health Centre IV and Rubaya Health Centre IV in Kabale District.

Unreliable electricity compromises blood-transfusion services, sometimes forcing mothers to be referred for operations even when the facilities are available. This puts lives at risk.

I therefore request Government to provide adequate solar systems or standby generators to ensure a reliable power supply, safe blood storage and timely emergency caesarean operations. That was on health.

On education, I thank the Minister of Education and Sports. Yes, Government has built schools, but dropout - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, honourable member. Hon. Fred Ruhindi - There is a demand that we add one minute for Aunt Enid.

MS ORIGUMISIRIZA: School dropout remains a major issue and it often affects girls. Minister of Education and Sports, I request that Government considers providing sanitary pads to our girls, especially the most vulnerable in government schools, to protect their dignity and help them remain in school with confidence. Thank you.

6.53

MR FREDRICK RUHINDI (NRM, Nakawa Division East, Kampala): Mr Speaker, first of all, I appreciate our two colleagues, the ministers, for the good work. Like Oliver Twist, we want some more.

Allow me to start with a personal testimony. On Monday, 22 June 1987, at 10.00 a.m. – about 40 years ago – I stopped drinking and smoking – *(Applause)* – Why do I say this? Our young people out there are getting finished, to say the least. I mention this because we have only one rehabilitation unit for alcohol and drug disorders at Butabika Hospital. I would appreciate if every referral hospital had a similar unit – *(Applause)*

Secondly, a few days ago, I had a patient coming from upcountry to check for cancer. Apparently, mammography machines, which test cancer, are very limited in this country, and this is a period when cancers are skyrocketing all over the country. I googled and found out that a mammography machine is about $ 100,000. That is about Shs 400 million.

Colleagues, cancers are on the rise, and early detection is the answer because it may save a life. So, why can't we have these facilities provided across the country? Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I am struggling with how we are debating. Even today I had a meeting with my Clerks. We are going back to the State-of-the-Nation Address, where we allowed you to tell us what is happening in your constituencies. We want you to be national and not limiting yourselves to your constituencies.

Hon. Ruhindi has given a very good example *(Applause)*. His constituency has challenges but he has debated on national issues. Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA), give us also a national approach.

6.56

MS LINDA AUMA (NRM, Woman Representative, Lira): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join my colleagues in appreciating the two ministers who gave us an elaborate report on education and health. I will start with a national one about school feeding.

Most of our public schools have a lot of land that is being grabbed. I urge the Ministry of Education and Sports address the issue of school feeding and reduce expenditure, by engaging the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to provide tractors to those schools, seeds and seedlings so that the schools produce their own food to feed our children.

Two, Lira District is rural. We had only one A-Level school, Amac Complex, without a laboratory or a library, and during the quota

system, most of the students who benefit are from the city because we are not producing students that qualify for the university quota system.

I request the Minister of Education and Sports to help – Wiodyek Subcounty already has a land title for a seed school.

On health, the President, during his last tour, promised to give Lira a District hospital, that is, upgrading Ogur Health Centre IV. The people are waiting because Lira Referral Hospital is too congested.

In Lango, we have one district hospital, that is, Apac. Most of the Lango community comes to Lira Referral, and that is why it is congested. If you gave us a district hospital in Ogur, it will help part of Kole, Pader, Otuke and Alebtong because… (*Member timed out*.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Colleagues, from 7.15 p.m. to 11. 00 p.m. tonight, I am chairing two meetings. The first is the Bureau of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Parliamentary Assembly. I was supposed to be in Brussels but I decided to join my colleagues via Zoom.

The second will be the European Union Africa, Caribbean, Pacific Parliamentary Assembly Joint Bureau because we are preparing for the Joint Parliamentary Assembly in November, where we will be handling issues to do with trade and our partnership with the European Union (EU).

I am chairing one and then co-chairing with the President of the EU Parliament on the other side. So, I am adjourning the House until tomorrow at 2.00 p.m., and we shall be receiving responses from ministers. The responses we are getting are only on a national and global picture, not specific to constituencies but honourable ministers, if you are uncomfortable, I can give another date.

7.00

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Dr Chris Baryomunsi): While I have ministers of state but they have not been here to capture the issues. Tomorrow I am going to be in Bukwo handling health issues which are a bit urgent. I beg that you move me to Tuesday, and I will be able to give comprehensive responses.

I have captured all the issues but I will also get an extract of the *Hansard,* which I will give my team because there are many requests for upgrades, establishing health centres. I assure Members that this has been very good information for the Ministry of Health.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Education and Sports, will you be able to come tomorrow? You are bringing another statement tomorrow, so we are with you.

7.01

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As my colleague has said, I will be available to give responses but I kindly request that you give me ample time because on Education, every Member here has an issue and I have tasked my technical people-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, I do not want to get another statement out of what you will be submitting; I need you to get a global picture. Most of these issues are budgetary in nature. When we are handling the BFP, MPS, and the budget, that is when they are going to be captured.

And after, I will refer these statements to the relevant committees so that they can follow up on what the colleagues are asking. Therefore, your response will be brief and specific.

MR PETER OGWANG: Most obliged, Mr Speaker. I will do that.

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

(The House rose at 7.03 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 22 October 2026 at 2.00 p.m.)