



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 23 JULY 2024



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FOURTH SESSION - 5TH SITTING - 1ST MEETING

Tuesday, 23 July 2024

Parliament met 2.08 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 back from recess. If we are to go by the attendance, it seems we have given you an opportunity to run back. I do not know whether it was hot down there, but I think most of you used it as an opportunity to interact with constituents and share views here and there. You need to plan for this because every time we finish the budgeting process, we give you time to go and interact with your constituents. Otherwise, it is usually a very hectic period.

Honourable colleagues, we start on a very sad note. I hope most of you already know that we lost Hon. Aleper Simon Peter, a member of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Central Executive Committee (CEC). He was the Vice President of the NRM for Karamoja Region. He was also a former Member of Parliament who represented the people of Moroto Municipality in this House.

He died this morning as he was coming to attend the NRM CEC that was supposed to approve

the parliamentary sectoral committee leaders. He died in an accident along the Mbale-Tirinyi Road, this morning. It is very sad.

I want to extend our condolences to the family, His Excellency, the President and Chairman of the NRM, members of the NRM CEC, the people of Karamoja and the country at large. Hon. Aleper has served this country diligently over a long time.

The burial arrangements will be communicated later today in the Central Executive Committee meeting. I was told this is one of the matters, which was discussed. They will communicate to the country about the burial arrangements.

In the same vein, our honourable colleague, Hon. Balmoyi Sharon Laker, the Woman Member of Parliament for Gulu District has this morning lost her husband, Mr Adyeri Norbert, at Mulago National Referral Hospital. I talked to her this morning and she was heartbroken. I would like to urge honourable colleagues who can, to reach out to her and console her; put her and the family in prayers. On behalf of the Parliament, I extend our condolences.

Again, this week - Honourable colleagues, I know most of you are Gen-Zs. Hon. Otingiw, Hon. Kwizera Wa-Gahungu and Hon. Omara – I know Hon. Omara does not qualify in that category – but this week, on a very sad note, we lost Mr Mathew Bukenya, the former Secretary, Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB). On your academic documents, most of you will see the signature of *Mzee* Mathew Bukenya. It is really sad.

Honourable colleagues, I request that we stand to observe a minute of silence in respect of our fallen colleagues.

(The House rose and observed a moment of silence.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, His Excellency, the President has returned two Bills, which we approved in this House for reconsideration. One of those two Bills is the one that we passed into The National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Act, 2024. As required, under our rules, I have to read to you the President's communication regarding this Bill. It is dated 16 July 2024 and addressed to the Rt Hon. Speaker, Anita Annet Among, and it reads:

“RE: Return of the National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Act, 2024

The National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Act, 2024 has been presented to me for assent. I have, however, noted the following issues that need reconsideration by Parliament.

1. *The Amendment Act establishes a department instead of a unit*

Section 4 of the amendment on re-establishment of Uganda National Commission for UNESCO provides that, “On the commencement of this Act, the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO shall be re-established as a department in the ministry responsible for education without corporate status.”

The implication of this section is that UNATCOM is established as a legal entity, but without corporate status. This is contrary to the public service practice where a ministry refers to a set of formal arrangements including the structure of (Ministries, Departments, Divisions and other operation units) all established administratively with Cabinet approval.

Therefore, it is the Cabinet that establishes such a structure and not Parliament. Cabinet already decided that UNATCOM be retained

as a unit in the Ministry of Education and Sports under Cabinet Extract CT (2028)128.

In addition, the ministry's structure is usually organised hierarchically with the ministry on top, the various functional departments below, several specialised functional divisions further below, and followed by many functional units and various functional sections respectively. It also means that UNATCOM would be the only department or unit out of all the departments in the ministry established by law.

In view of the above implications, the section should be deleted from the Act. The Ministry of Public Service should work on the structure for UNATCOM as a unit in the Ministry of Education and Sports as decided by Cabinet, and communicate the approved structure by Establishment Notice as is the practice.

2. *The Amendment Act contains the terminology of a “Commission” in the long title*

The long title to the Amendment Act 2024 reads: “An Act to amend the National Commission for UNESCO Act, 6 of 2014 to remove the corporate status of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO and make the ministry responsible for education, the secretariat for Uganda National Commission for UNESCO, in order to give effect to the Government Policy on Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure and for related purposes.

However, the long title in Section 5 of the Amendment Act on substitution of long title to Act 6 of 2014 reads thus:

“For the long title to Act 6 of 2014, herein after referred to as the “Principal Act,” there is substituted the following: “An Act to provide for the establishment and operation of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (UNATCOM):

- a) *To provide for the object of the Commission;*
- b) *To provide for the functions of the Commission; and*

c) *To provide for the Secretariat of the Commission and related matters.*"

The two are different and may subsequently cause legal confusion.

Under Section 14 of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Act, 2024 on substitution of heading of Part III of the Principal Act, it reads that: "For the heading of Part III of the Principal Act, there is substituted the following: "Part III - Administration of the Commission."

Under Section 15 of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Act, 2024 on Substitution of Section 13 of the Principal Act, reads that: "For section 13 of the Principal Act, there is substituted the following: "Administration of Act. The Commission shall be administered by the Ministry responsible for Education."

The continued use of the terminology "Commission" in Section 5, 14 and 15 of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Act, 2024 is in conflict with the Cabinet decision establishing UNATCOM as a Unit in the Ministry of Education and Sports. For consistency purposes, the two long titles should be reconciled to read the same and the term "Commission" should be removed from the Amendment Act, wherever it appears, to avoid misrepresentation and conflict.

3. *Title of the officer responsible for administration of the mainstreamed entity*

Section 16 of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Act, 2024 on substitution of Section 14 of the Principal Act reads thus: "For Section 14 of the Principal Act, there is substituted the following: "Officer responsible for administration of the Commission." It provides that the ministry responsible for education, in consultation with the ministry responsible for the public service, shall appoint or designate a public officer of the ministry, who shall be referred to as the Secretary General and who shall be responsible for the administration and the day-to-day operations of the Commission."

The implication of this section is that if their salary is higher than the salary to be pegged to the mainstreamed position in the Ministry of Education and Sports, the deployed officers will retain their higher salary. This is because their salary is protected by clause 1 of Article 158 of the Constitution, which provides thus: "Where any salary or allowance of the holder of any office is charged on the Consolidated Fund, it shall not be altered to his or her disadvantage after he or she has been appointed to that office." This has a huge financial obligation on the ministry's budget.

In view of the above, the staff should be retired on the abolition of office or be asked to apply to the Education Service Commission if they meet the requirements and if there are vacancies in the Ministry of Education and Sports structure.

Therefore, in accordance with Article 91(3) (b) of the 1995 Constitution, I hereby return the National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Act, 2024 to Parliament for review of the provisions above.

Yoweri Museveni, President

Copied to: H.E Vice President,

The Rt Hon. Prime Minister,

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports."

I refer the returned Act to the Committee on Education and Sports for further processing.

The second is also dated 16 July 2024, addressed to the Rt Hon. Speaker of Parliament of Uganda and it reads:

"Return of the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Act, 2024.

The Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Act, 2024 has been presented to me for assent. I have, however, noted the following issues that need reconsideration by Parliament:

1. *The long title to the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Act, 2024*

The long title of the Amendment Act is different from the one stated under Section 5 of the Higher Education Students (Amendment) Act, 2024. For instance, the former reads: “An Act to amend the Higher Education Students Financing Act, 2014 to mainstream the functions of the Higher Education Students Financing Board into the ministry responsible for education, in order to give effect to the Government Policy on Rationalisation of the Government Agencies and Public Expenditure and for related purposes.”

The above long title is different from the long title to the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Act, 2024 under Section 5, which states as follows: “For the long title to the Act 2 of 2014, in this Act referred to as the “Principal Act”, there is substituted the following: “An Act to establish a scheme to finance students to pursue higher education in Uganda; to establish a Fund to finance the scheme; and to provide for the management and administration of the scheme and the Fund, by the ministry responsible for education.”

For consistency, the two long titles to the Act should be reconciled to provide for the same.

2. *Transitioning of the current employees of the Higher Education Students Financing Board*

Section 43(6) on Savings provides thus: “The staff of the Higher Education Students Financing Board may be redeployed to serve in the Public Service subject to availability of positions.”

This is irregular because the Higher Education Students Financing Board staff were neither appointed by the Education Service Commission in accordance with Article 168(5) of the 1995 Constitution, nor appointed in the Public Service by the Public Service Commission under Article 166(1) of the 1995 Constitution. This means they are not eligible for redeployment in both the Education Service and the Public Service as proposed in the above section of the Act.

Therefore, Section 43(6) of the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Act, 2024 on Savings should be deleted because it is not applicable to Higher Education Students Financing Board staff. The staff should be retired and compensated on abolition of office. If they intend to join either the Education Service or the Public Service and they meet the requirements, they should go through the recruitment process.

In accordance with Article 91(3)(b) of the Constitution of Uganda, I hereby return the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Act, 2024 to Parliament for review of the clauses above.

Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
President.

Copied to: H.E Vice President,
Rt Hon. Prime Minister,
First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports.”

I refer this too, to the Committee on Education and Sports for processing.

Honourable members, as you are aware, Hon. Nyamutoro Phiona was appointed the Minister of State for Minerals. However, she has been representing Parliament in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I have received communication in which she has been replaced by Hon. Odoi Bernard, Youth Representative for Eastern Region. Hon. Odoi Bernard, I wish you the best of luck.

I want to thank you, honourable colleagues - the Gen Z’s are represented now, once again. (Laughter)

Honourable members, I have matters of national importance. Let me first give opportunity to the Leader of the Opposition, before I come to the Hon. Mwijukye.

2.28

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to join you in welcoming colleagues back from recess.

Mr Speaker, quick issues for me to thrash out; yesterday, some of our colleagues were arrested and are still in jail, together with other citizens. The mentioned colleagues are Hon. Hassan Kirumira from Katikamu South, Hon. Charles Tebandeke from Bbale County, Hon. Francis Zaake from Mityana Municipality and other citizens.

They are in Luzira as we speak, simply because they went to attend a regular press conference at their party's political headquarters, for avoidance of doubts, the National Unity Platform (NUP) headquarters.

Mr Speaker, it would be better for the Government to help us understand the seeming double standards there are because several other political entities keep operating, but for some, it does not get to happen to the extent that even Members of Parliament who are going to their party headquarters to attend a press conference, together with other people, get to be bundled up and roughed up, and they are in jail, apparently, for going to attend an unlawful assembly. It would be good if the Government helped us understand that matter.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, this Parliament, was approached by the Government to rationalise a couple of entities. It went through an entire process to do that. The reasoning by the Government was two-fold. One, that there is duplication of roles. There is an entity handling certain matters, and another entity doing the same work, so there is duplication.

The other reason given by the Government was that we needed to save taxpayers money. Parliament in many respects listened, because it made sense, logically, politically, and otherwise. And so, many entities were rationalised by this House.

Mr Speaker, you chaired some of those sessions.

What is baffling though is that we seem to make one step forward and then two steps backward. Recently we saw the Government coming up with a new unit -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just a minute, Hon. Ssenyonyi. Honourable colleagues, today I allowed free sitting, for colleagues who are standing. Hon. Muyingo, you can sit next to Hon. Basalirwa. *(Laughter)* It is free sitting. Continue, Hon. Ssenyonyi.

MR SSENYONYI: Mr Speaker, we have seen the Government recently, while we are in the process of rationalisation, creating a new unit, which they have called, "The State House Revenue Intelligence and Strategic Operations Unit" to fight corruption in Uganda Revenue Authority.

We ask: is this not duplication - because we have several anti-graft fighting entities. Why not empower them as opposed to creating a new entity? This might not be a creature of the statute as is the case with others, it is a fully-fledged unit that is meant to have operational funds and a structure. Why? The Government needs to help us understand because you came here and told us to rationalise entities and cut down on expenditure, but you are creating new entities to do work that, in our view, should be executed by the already existing entities, which we should be empowering.

If we think they are not doing good enough work, if we think some of the people therein are not competent or whatever the case might be, throw them out and replace them with those who are qualified.

Still on this issue, Mr Speaker, the person who was appointed to lead this unit, a one David Kalemera, is a convict of tax fraud. I ask: are we setting a thief to catch a thief?

I want to lay a copy of the judgement on the Table because these are not my words - when I say he is a convict of tax fraud - I want to lay, on the Table, a copy of the judgement by a court of law in Uganda. This is *Uganda Vs Kalemera David and Others*, in which Justice Gidudu convicted them of tax fraud. I am laying this on the Table. This is the person that has been appointed to fight corruption. He was convicted of corruption and tax fraud. It does not make sense at all *-(Interjection)* - people are saying I should -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Maybe the full citation.

MR SSENYONYI: That is alright. I just wanted to redeem Parliament time, but since you have allowed me -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just the case number.

MR SSENYONYI: “*REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, IN THE HIGH COURT OF UGANDA, ANTI-CORRUPTION COURT AT KOLOLO, CRIMINAL CASE NO. 7 OF 2018: Uganda Vs Kalemera David, Semanda Ian Paul and Kazibwe Ronald.*” Kalemera David is accused number one, Semanda Ian Paul is accused number two, and Kazibwe Ronald is accused number three. This is the judgment of a court that convicted these people.

Therefore, somebody who was convicted of corruption has now been appointed to fight corruption. It does not make sense, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just conclude.

MR SSENYONYI: These are the kinds of things that annoy the citizens of Uganda who do not think we are serious about the fight against corruption. Because when we appoint corrupt people, according to the court, to fight corruption, people get agitated.

Finally, and this one, I request that it be addressed by you, Mr Speaker – (*Hon. Macho rose*) - the rules are very clear -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, just a minute. Honourable colleagues, when I am chairing the House, never access the microphone without my permission – (*Applause*) - please. And why I am emphasising this is that the *Hansard* is complaining about people who speak into microphones, and they fail to get a record of who is on the Floor. Anything spoken from here must be on record. So, I request that we make it very easy for our record to look clean.

MR SSENYONYI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. For the other two issues, we are seeking for the

Government to clarify - but on this particular matter, the final one, I request you to do it yourself because as far as I am concerned, it should be clarified by your Office.

There seems to be double standards within this institution called the Parliament of Uganda. Last week, some citizens came to Parliament with placards protesting against one of our colleagues, Hon. Theodore Ssekikubo – (*Laughter*) - and he is present in the House.

On the first day, they were ushered into Parliament nicely with their placards. Then, they came the following day, they were still ushered in, and Mr Speaker, you received them on behalf of the Speaker. You asked that a few of them come to meet you; from the group that came to Parliament. And some of us were happy that this Parliament can be accessed decently by people who are saying, “We are peacefully protesting.”

Today, there are some young people who, as we have been witnessing, were coming to Parliament in similar fashion with placards, marching, saying they have concerns about corruption in Parliament and elsewhere, and they were coming similarly like those, to raise their concerns here in Parliament before us and before you, Mr Speaker.

However, many of them have been bundled up; they have been beaten up, and many are in jail. And so, I thought the same way you received those who were protesting, apparently, against one of our honourable colleagues, you would similarly receive these because they are saying they have concerns as citizens of this country – (*Applause*) - concerns about the Parliament of Uganda, concerns about many Government entities, and concerns about corruption.

I do not know why they were not accorded the same kind of treatment, the same kind of respect because they were not coming to fight. They did not have daggers, knives, or whatever the case might be; they had placards, similar to the other ones. So, I thought, Mr Speaker, you would help us understand. I do not know whether it was an order from your

office, maybe not, but at least I saw the other ones; you received them. For these, it has not happened. Why? Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I heard Hon. Ssekikubo say, “Aye”. *(Laughter)* Just allow me to first clarify that and put the record straight - and I was supposed to meet with Hon. Ssekikubo today, but my day became long; I have not called you, honourable, and I apologise, but I called you earlier saying that I need to meet you today.

What happened on 12 July 2024 when some people entered Parliament, for record purposes, is not something that had been sanctioned by the leadership of Parliament. The people who came and entered - I would say, it was a lapse because we had not guided Parliament security very well on how - listen to me - on the processes of receiving petitions in Parliament.

Now, when the same people - that day, the Speaker was not in nor was the Deputy Speaker and usually what happens is that security contacts whoever is in. If the Speaker is in, they will contact the Speaker and if it is the Deputy in, they will contact the Deputy.

The same people returned on Monday and I was contacted by security that there were people who had written and they have returned to bring their petition. I informed security that that is not how we operate and I told security to let them go outside Parliament and let in only three people to bring their petition.

I said, “I do not need cameras to receive a petition because our Rules of Procedure are very clear on how we process petitions.” They were complaining saying that I had not listened to them but they chose three people who brought a petition and it is in my office, and it is one of the reasons I wanted to meet Hon. Ssekikubo because I wanted to share it with him as I came here, to guide on how such a petition should be processed. We are sorry about the lapse that happened on the 12th, but our procedure for receiving petitions is clear.

Number two, on what Hon. Ssenyonyi is referring to, the institution of Parliament has

not received any formal notification from anyone who wants to bring a petition regarding the issue they are talking about in public. *(Applause)*

I will not move from my chair to start looking for people or soliciting petitions from the public when we are a formal institution that has formal structures. I request that if there is anyone - the address of Parliament is known - who wants to bring a petition to Parliament, let them write to the leadership of Parliament; we shall guide them on how to bring it and we shall receive it.

If you want to bring a petition to Parliament, but you write to the police and do not inform me and I also go read through the news and all that, it becomes difficult for me to arrange for you. Otherwise, Parliament is open to receiving any petition that would come. *(Applause)*

That is the reason our rules provide guidelines on how to process these petitions. So, we have not blocked anyone, my brother, Hon. Joel Ssenyonyi. Thank you.

Yes, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Ssenyonyi had brought issues. *(Laughter)*

2.42

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Rt Hon. Speaker and honourable colleagues, welcome back.

I will start by addressing the first question using Article 23 of our Constitution, those of you with a copy can go through it, on the Protection of personal liberty - and go to (4) (b): “...upon reasonable suspicion of his or her having committed or being about to commit a criminal offence under the laws of Uganda.” and I will address myself to this.

I want colleagues - *(Interjection)* - I will also read that one. Colleagues, the Government of Uganda is charged with the responsibility of taking care of the security of persons and their property and so, it is under that that some of our colleagues are under detention, it is because the law is clear.

They will go through the legal process and I believe that if they are innocent, they will be released.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Gilbert Olanya, the Prime Minister is reading the law for you. *(Laughter)*

MS NABBANJA: You read the law.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let her finish reading for you the law.

MS NABBANJA: These legal people think that we do not read - *(Laughter)* - Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Gilbert Olanya, what is the problem?

MR OLANYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda put it clearly that the role of security is to take care of the Government.

The Members of Parliament who were arrested were going to attend a press conference as usual. Every week, all parties have their presser; the National Unity Platform (NUP) as a political party invited its Members of Parliament and comrades to attend such a press conference. Right now, the Prime Minister is insinuating that those members of Parliament were intending to disorganise this country.

Mr Speaker, there is no evidence - if someone is moving to attend a press conference, what evidence do you have that the person wanted to disorganise the Government?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your point of order?

MR OLANYA: Mr Speaker, is the Rt Hon. Prime Minister in order to insinuate that all those who are going to attend press conferences are going with the intention of disorganising this Government when she does not know what they are going to talk about? Is she in order?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, honourable colleagues, if you were

seated in my chair, you would find that guiding on a point of order on matters of how people interpret situations becomes difficult; to her, they had the intention, but to you, they did not.

I think both of you are correct - *(Laughter)* - because each of you is entitled to your own opinion and interpretation. These are issues of opinion. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, conclude. Attorney-General, did you want to add on something?

2.46

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think you have ruled quite well - *(Laughter)* - and since they are both correct, the Judge where the matter is will be the final arbitrator. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, that is closed. We go to the Uganda Revenue Authority issue. Let us not reopen that one.

MS NABBANJA: That is where I am going, Mr Speaker. Everybody here is aware that the President has Executive powers to appoint; I repeat, Executive powers to appoint any person because I have seen him even appoint some members of the opposition - *(Interjections)* - yes! I believe this question is not for me. It will go to the appointing authority.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues - no, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, do not bother yourself.

MS NABBANJA: Secondly, honourable members, I would like to - *(Interjections)* - I need your protection, Mr Speaker.

Honourable members, I would like you to also appreciate that people change. Change is a factor of life and, so, people can change and be good. Secondly, if you want to catch somebody, send someone who is knowledgeable. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, honourable colleagues. *(Members rose)* Order, honourable colleagues. Order!

Honourable colleagues, what is very critical is that we have sectoral committees, which handle these matters. I would really want to leave it to the sectoral committee in charge of the sector, which will be looking at the impact of the creation of such an office – whether it has helped us to make more progress or whether it has not added any value, because in the end, we budget for it from here. Okay? So, let the sectoral committee interest itself in this matter.

Yes, Hon. Mwijukye.

MR MWIJUKYE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The procedural matter I am raising is in relation to the extraordinary deployment and presence of the army in Kampala City and the rest of the country. I am wondering whether we are at war.

While coming here, I met very many Mambas, manned by the army. My concern is, one, whether the police have been overwhelmed such that the army has taken over the mandate of the police or, two, whether somebody has declared a state of emergency.

Mr Speaker, as people's representatives, we need the Government to brief us on what is happening in the country so that we know. As I talk, the Mambas are all over, people are running away and we are surrounded. We would like to know why.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope that here, you are not surrounded; you are surrounded by honourable colleagues. *(Laughter)* – *(Mr Muwanga Kivumbi rose)* Is it on the same, Hon. Kivumbi?

2.52

MR MUHAMMAD MUWANGA KIVUMBI (NUP, Butambala County, Butambala): Mr Speaker, this august House is the House of representatives of the people. Our cardinal and fundamental role is to sniff out what concerns Ugandans and unflinchingly come to this House and debate those matters. In the whole of East Africa – not only in Uganda, but also

in neighbouring Kenya – young people are raising their voices; they are speaking boldly and acting so.

The reason they are speaking is because they feel that their issues do not feature on the agenda and Order Papers of the Houses of representatives. Therefore, for us to treat this matter and give it the weight it deserves, and give it justice, and create a temple where voices can be heard - because democracy has no meaning if those who have an opportunity to speak do not speak the concerns of those that have concerns.

My appeal to you, Mr Speaker, is that what is going on – and Parliament sits in these extraordinary circumstances, surrounded by forces that ordinarily go to war! Therefore, it requires this House to find space and adequate time, whether it hurts who, to come here and debate the concerns of those people, boldly.

Otherwise, for us to gloss over and laugh over them – one day, they will overwhelm those Mambas and forces and descend on our homes, our places of work or find us even on the streets and say, we no longer represent them. I appeal to you – and I think this is a special place for you because you and I, Mr Speaker, come from that kind of activism. We have been there; we know what it takes. We have been beaten together with you over the years. We deserve to be heard.

Therefore, I appeal to you to find adequate space and house this matter and find adequate time and we debate the – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I told you one thing – and, Hon. Kivumbi, you heard me properly. I will not go around soliciting all these views. If people are saying that they had a petition or a document, I have seen nothing.

The moment it comes, we shall find a way of managing it – and we usually allow all these issues. Also, in committees, you always go through all these issues. However, honourable colleagues, you are deviating me. I have an Order Paper, which I issued.

Matters of national importance – Hon. Bataringaya? (*Mr Ssekikubo rose*) Hon. Ssekikubo, I will give you time; do not mind.

(*Members rose*) Honourable colleagues, please – let me first guide you. Honourable colleagues, please, when the Speaker is speaking, you have to be seated.

Honourable colleagues, let me give – please, let me give you the simplest guidance. Number one, there are many people who want to speak in this House. So, if I do not pick you, it does not tantamount to not giving Members an opportunity to speak.

Number two, honourable colleagues, standing in front here and looking me in the face, with threatening eyes and warnings -(*Laughter*) - will not push me to give you – in fact, you are corrupt because you are trying to corrupt me into allowing you to speak. You do not want me to follow my instinct and fairness. (*Laughter*)

Number three, honourable colleagues – Hon. Nsereko! – I would like to make this appeal to you. (*Mr Nsereko rose*) I request you, Hajji: do not listen to them; listen to your Speaker. Just be seated. Please! Honourable colleagues, I just want to tell you this – (*Members rose*) Hon. Alioni, please!

If any Member of Parliament wants to remain standing, let them remain standing. I request you, honourable colleagues: please, stop exchanging with each other.

Hon. Bataringaya, raise your matter.

2.58

MR BASIL BATARINGAYA (NRM, Kashari North County, Mbarara): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance that concerns Katonga Bridge – (*Members rose*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ngompek, take your seat.

MR BATARINGAYA: Mr Speaker, Katonga Bridge is 80 kilometres on Kampala-Masaka

Road - (*Interjections*) - it is an international trade route –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Bataringaya, let me first guide Members. Honourable colleagues, tomorrow, the Business Committee of Parliament is sitting and one of the issues we are considering is the State-of-the-Nation Address, where you will find that for all these issues that we are raising, the President touched on them and we are going to have a debate for two days regarding them. It is a very good platform, other than coming piecemeal under procedure – and we are limited under procedure. Honourable colleagues, you will have all the time to debate these issues very soon. All of them are going to come up. I do not think it is helpful for us to start exchanging with one another.

Number two, honourable colleagues – please, listen. Hon. Balimwezo, please. Honourable colleagues, there is something which, when I sit down on my chair or go to my bed, pains me. What pains me is how colleagues have gone for each other – no, Hon. Alioni is my brother. (*Laughter*) It makes me worry how, colleagues, we have gone for each other at such a critical time. It brings to my mind an African saying that when brothers fight to death, strangers inherit their wealth.

You are fighting each other to death; others are going to inherit your presence here. This does not mean that we should not check each other, but the level of mistrust that has gone on between colleagues surprises me.

I remember that I have been going to constituencies of Opposition colleagues when I am NRM, but I ensure that I do not talk about a colleague. I can talk about my party because when it comes to issues of colleagues, we are all endangered species.

In all this we are doing, if the thinking is that some are going to come out clean and others dirty, I can tell you that we are all in trouble. If we are to sink, we shall sink together.

The State-of-the-Nation Address - and I have made a ruling on this, so, I do not want to proceed with it. The State-of-the-Nation Address, which we are going to give priority to very soon, covers all the issues that we are talking about.

Honourable colleagues, I request that we reduce the temperature in the House and first focus on this. Let us constitute the leadership of committees so that tomorrow, we finish our Business Committee meeting and then bring the State-of-the-Nation Address and debate all these issues, fully.

I had allowed Hon. Bataringaya – Hon. Derrick, I will give you an opportunity before we leave.

MR BATARINGAYA: I rise on a matter of national importance concerning Katonga Bridge. Katonga Bridge is on an international route, which serves western Uganda, northern Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Two years ago, this bridge was swept away and closed for more than six months. Temporary measures were taken to repair this bridge and traffic was channelled through the long Ssembabule Road, which was inconveniencing to the traders for those six months in terms of money and time –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you give your prayers?

MR BATARINGAYA: This bridge is under threat. These are my prayers;

1. Can the Minister of Works and Transport explain why the site has been abandoned and why there is no deliberate effort to fix the important trade route?
2. Can the works minister give us a date when this will be fixed?
3. Can the Minister of Works and Transport pre-emptively work on a shorter route to act as an alternative during the repairs and reconstruction of this bridge? I propose the Villa-Maria-Kalungu-Masaka Road.

I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Works and Transport?

3.06

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have heard the matter of national importance raised by Hon. Bataringaya. First of all, I want to correct the dates. The bridge was not washed away two years ago. It was washed away last year in May, so, it was not two years ago.

This is what we are doing: as you have rightly said, Hon. Bataringaya, when the safety of the bridge was compromised, we did the following:

1. Created a diversion for most of the heavy trucks to go through the longer route of Mpigi, Ssembabule, Masaka and then re-join Mbarara;
2. Put a temporary crossing for light vehicles including pedestrians; and
3. Put up a bailey bridge, which serves the crossing of all trucks, including heavy trucks. A bailey bridge is not a permanent structure. That bridge was compromised because of the change in the environment – meteorological changes; the change of behaviour of Katonga River. We had to study the meteorological behaviours of that river so that we can make a new structure, which is resilient and can stand the test of time. We could not rush into re-establishing more or less the same bridge, which had been compromised.

Therefore, what has been done is that a contractor has already been identified and given the contract to conduct the new design of that bridge. This was a design-and-build contract. The design was made, reviewed and passed. The construction of the bridge will start around October when everything else has been done.

The contractor is not only addressing Katonga Bridge, but will also address the challenges in

Kalandazi Swamp and Lwera Swamp, to ensure that, that section of the road network is restored to meet the challenges of the truck volumes on that road – *(Interjection)* – wait! I was told to answer on the Katonga issue. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, that is it about Katonga Bridge. The contractor is now setting up his camps and putting up the asphalt plant. Once he starts in October, work will go on without stopping.

Mr Speaker, I want us to understand that these are not simple structures to do. If we do a structure in a hurry, and it gives way in a few years, it will be this same House which will put us to task. This is a very sensitive structure and, so, it should be done with all the caution and the detail it deserves. Let us be patient. The bridge will be done.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Koluo.

3.10

MR JOSEPH KOLUO (Independent, Toroma County, Katakwi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am raising a matter of national concern regarding the heavy hailstorm that hit the villages of Omiro, Obobore and some parts of Amusia Sub-county in Toroma County. It was a very disastrous hailstorm, which killed over 200 animals and destroyed gardens of simsim, cassava, potatoes and so on.

Mr Speaker, I have a report from the district disaster preparedness and management committee, which I want to lay on the Table. This incident was reported clearly in *New Vision* of the 10th – you can see a pupil trying to lift a block of compacted ice – more than 20 kilogrammes. I wish there was a way I could play the videos. It was very disastrous.

My prayers are thus:

1. Relief items in terms of food, seedlings and non-food items like iron sheets, be accorded to the affected people;
2. The Ministry of Water and Environment allocates enough free seedlings to the

people so that they plant trees to avert climate change;

3. The silted valley dams along the area, especially Acuna Dam and Ongija Valley Dam, be desilted; and
4. Finally, Mr Speaker, these people used the Parish Development Model (PDM) money to buy the animals that were killed and the crops that were destroyed. *(Interjections)* Yes, they used the PDM money. Therefore, my request is that these people be compensated.

I lay this report on the Table.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister for disaster?

3.13

THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES) (Ms Lillian Aber): Mr Speaker, I do take note, but I will limit myself to addressing the first prayer, that is, a request for the relief food items and I guarantee to the honourable member that upon receiving the request that has been sent to office, when food is available, we will deliver to support the people of Toroma. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I have some items which I want to be sorted and then I am going to allow 30 minutes -

MR KOLUO: I lay on the Table the disaster report on heavy hailstorms in Toroma Sub County, Toroma Town Council and Amusia Sub County. I beg to lay. *(Applause)* I also beg to lay a copy of *New Vision* - *(Interjections)* - yes, that shows how the storms affected the area. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. *(Laughter)* Please, honourable member, take your seat. Honourable colleague, I know there are Members who have issues to do with the security situation today. I want to do two items

and then, after, I am going to allow 30 minutes to focus on that.

I am in charge of this House. I know what I am going to do. When I tell you that I am going to do that - I will request the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) and the Government Chief Whip. If there are Members who have brought issues to you - because sometimes they come to you - guide me so that those Members are given priority. For the Independent Members and the rest, I will just use my own volition by looking at the Members. For example, I know Hon. Nsereko, Hon. Alioni, Hon. Ssekikubo, Hon. Namugga, Hon. Nyeko and Hon. Macho have issues. So, I will give you a chance, honourable colleagues, to raise these issues.

Yes, Hon. Ephraim Biraaro.

3.17

MR EPHRAIM BIRAARO (NRM, Buhweju West County, Buhweju): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of urgent national concern, which is a serious threat to the economic welfare and food security in Uganda, starting from Buhweju District.

For the third year, Buhweju District has been infested with variegated grasshoppers which devour all green vegetation, but mainly cassava, bananas, coffee, tea and all the pastures.

The areas where I have personally witnessed this are the sub counties of Rubengye, Bihanga, Nyakishana, Burere, Nyakashaka, Nyakaziba, Kyahenda and Engaju. The district report, highlighting more details, is here with me and I am going to lay it on the Table after this -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prayers?

MR BIRAARO: Mr Speaker, my prayers are;

1. I ask the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to go on the ground, investigate and eliminate these insects;
2. I ask the Government to go to Buhweju and establish the origin of these insects to provide a lasting solution; and

3. Lastly, since people have lost all their crops, I ask the Government to provide urgent relief to the affected areas.

I beg to lay this report on the Table. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

3.18

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries will go to Buhweju and we shall handle those grasshoppers the same way we handled the locusts.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Aza?

3.19

MR TOM ALERO (NRM, West Moyo County, Moyo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance and the issue is about the abrupt suspension of the construction work for upgrading Koboko-Yumbe-Moyo Road.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of that road took place on 17 May 2024 and it was presided over by the Rt Hon. Prime Minister, who is present here.

Immediately after the ground-breaking ceremony, tractors, graders, bulldozers, caterpillars, wheel loaders and heavy-duty trucks were brought on the ground, and work commenced immediately. However, two weeks later, all this machinery was withdrawn from the site and, as I talk, no work is going on.

Secondly, about the Laropi-Moyo-Afoji-Jali Road, this Parliament passed a loan and got money from the African Development Bank -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, please, when we are on urgent matters, let us remain - you came to my office and said that the equipment has been taken away and you want it back so that they can work on the road.

MR ALERO: Our prayers are that the Prime Minister fast-tracks the issue of Yumbe-Moyo Road construction. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Works and Transport?

3.21

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Gen. Edward Katumba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to update the honourable member on what is happening on Koboko-Yumbe-Moyo Road.

It is true that the road construction was launched. After the official launch - this is a project, which is under World Bank.

The World Bank has a lot of demands in terms of social safeguards and for the social safeguards to be accepted, you must have a contractor on site, who is going to be tested by the World Bank as far as social safeguards are concerned.

That particular area is very sensitive – even more sensitive than other areas – because it is a refugee area. Therefore, the social safeguard demands by the World Bank are high. We have finished the social and environmental management plan and have sent it to the bank and are now waiting for the bank's approval. Before we get that approval, the bank cannot allow physical work to be done.

Regarding the equipment, the contractor is on site and is setting up camps; he has to get ball pits, asphalt plants and quarries. You cannot do all this until the World Bank has endorsed all these sites. Therefore, this is the process, which is going on.

The camps are being set up, the equipment is there in the camps, and once this is done and the World Bank gives us a nod, the contractor will be on site.

On the Moyo-Afoji Road, we finished the section of Atiak-Adjumani-Laropi. We did the design review and the consultant approved the design for the Laropi Bridge.

After that, we sent the documents, again, to African Development Bank, which is funding this project, for a no objection. Once that no objection comes in, then, we shall be able to put up bids and advertise for the works on that road.

The bridge at Laropi and Afoji-Moyo Road are in one contract. So, they will move together. I humbly submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, would you like to add something?

MS NABBANJA: I would like to direct him. *(Laughter)* Mr Speaker, I was on that road a few weeks ago. I had gone to represent the President at one of the funeral services in Yumbe.

The contractor is not doing forward maintenance. So, I request *-(Interjection)-* no, we agreed that you prevail over your contractor to do forward maintenance. The road is annoying. It has a lot of potholes.

Let the contractor do forward maintenance and I direct you to do that. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Bwanika?

3.24

DR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimaanya-Kabonera Division, Masaka City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance regarding the arrears for the coffee seedlings supplied by the nursery bed operators. Several nursery bed operators supplied coffee seedlings to the Government and they were distributed to farmers throughout the country. They supplied the seedlings in the seasons of 2021, 2022 and 2023.

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development required that they do validation and, according to the letter of the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Treasury (PS/ST) of the 18th of March, which was addressed to the Managing Director, Uganda Coffee Development Authority, the validation

was finished and there are total arrears of Shs 49 billion.

In this year's budget, we provided only Shs 2 billion for these nursery seed operators.

My prayers are as follows:

1. The Government should commit to paying the arrears for the coffee seedlings nursery bed operators as a priority; and
2. The Government should undertake to support these suppliers who are suffering from bank loans, with promissory notes, so that their situation is saved.

I so pray.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

3.26

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, what I remember is that we put Shs 20 billion, not Shs 2 billion. We shall go and check to find out, exactly, what figure is in our Budget.

Members, remember that we agreed to pay this in a phased manner. Therefore, in this financial year, I remember that we put Shs 20 billion. However, I will go and consult and find out. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, as you cross-check, also check for tea seedlings because the two were together. Next item.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS
TO SECTORAL COMMITTEES IN
ACCORDANCE WITH RULES 187 AND
188 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will start with the Government Chief Whip.

3.27

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obuga): Mr Speaker, I will be designating in two parts; one concluding on the

leadership of the sectoral committees and then designate membership for those who have not been designated.

Mr Speaker, pursuant to Rule 15(10)(c) and Rule 188 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I wish to propose the designation of the following Members as chairpersons and deputy chairpersons to various Sectoral Committees.

On the Committee on East African Community Affairs, I designate the Hon. Dr Nsaba Buturo as the chairperson. I also designate the Hon. Shartsi Musherure as the vice chairperson.

On the Committee on Education and Sports, I designate Hon. James Kubeketerya as the chairperson and Hon. Molly Asiimwe as the vice chairperson.

On the Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development, I designate Hon. Agnes Kunihira as the chairperson and Hon. Laura Kanushu as the vice chairperson.

On the Committee on Health, I designate Hon. Dr Joseph Ruyonga as the chairperson.

On the Committee on Information Communications Technology and National Guidance, I designate Hon. Tonny Ayoo as the chairperson and Hon. Iddi Isabirye as the vice chairperson.

On the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, I designate Hon. Stephen Baka Mugabi as the chairperson.

On the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, I designate Hon. Herbert Edmund Ariko as the chairperson.

On the Committee on Presidential Affairs, I designate Hon. Alex Byarugaba Bakunda as the chairperson, deputised by Hon. Flora Natumanya.

On the Committee on Public Service and Local Government, I designate Hon. Pius Wakabi as the vice chairperson.

Finally, on the Committee of Trade, Tourism and Industry, I designate Hon. Sylvia Nayebale as the chairperson. Mr Speaker, I beg to move, on the leadership of sectoral committees.

On the membership, pursuant to Rule 15(10) (c) and Rule 187 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I wish to propose the designation of the following Members to the various sectoral committees as follows:

1. Hon. Peter Lokii, Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs;
2. Hon. Dr Keefa Kiwanuka, Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development;
3. Hon. David Ochwa, Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development;
4. Hon. Jane Avur, Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development;
5. Hon. Janet Okori-Moe, Committee on Education and Sports;
6. Hon. Dr Charles Ayume, Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development;
7. Hon. Jennifer Muheesi, Committee on Presidential Affairs;
8. Hon. Sarah Najjuma, Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs;
9. Hon. Janepher Kyomuhendo, Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development;
10. Hon. Gideon Thembo, Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries;
11. Hon. Godfrey Onzima, Committee on East African Community Affairs;
12. Hon. John Twesigye, Committee on Education and Sports;
13. Hon. Isaac Modoi, Committee on Local Government and Public Service;
14. Hon. Flavia Kabahenda, Committee on East African Community Affairs;
15. Hon. Nathan Igeme, Committee on Environment and Natural Resources;
16. Hon. Aggrey Bagiire, Committee on Environment and Natural Resources;
17. Hon. Jesca Ababiku, Committee on Presidential Affairs;
18. Hon. Mwine Mpaka, Committee on

- Environment and Natural Resources;
19. Hon. Robinah Rwakoojo, Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries;
20. Hon. Basemera Kitembo, Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs;
21. Hon. Agnes Kirabo, Committee on Trade, Tourism and Industry;
22. Hon. Abdi Chemaswet, Committee on Public Service and Local Government;
23. Hon. Dr Emmanuel Otaala, Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries;
24. Hon. Christine Apolot, Committee on Environment and Natural Resources; and
25. Hon. Norah Bigirwa, Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Mr Speaker, I beg to propose for the approval of the House in terms of designation. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I now put the question that the sectoral committees be reconstituted as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: *(Hon. Ssekikubo and Hon. Nsereko rose_)* Hon. Ssekikubo did not get designated – *(Laughter)* – Hon. Ssekikubo, prepare and pass it over. I will ensure that the Government Chief Whip explains why for 25 years you have – Colleagues, in the visitors' gallery this afternoon, we have Executive Committee members of the Commonwealth Hansard Editors' Association-Africa Region who are here for a one-week-long meeting – *(Member rose_)* Oh, please, honourable - The Executive Committee members of the Commonwealth Hansard Editors' Association-Africa Region. They are in the visitors' gallery and they are here for a week-long meeting.

The Executive Committee comprises Editors of Hansard and these are:

- a) Mr Steven Katawa Banda, Editor of Hansard, Parliament of Malawi and President of the association;

- b) Ms Modester Sekeleza, Assistant Secretary of the association, also from the Parliament of Malawi;
- c) Mr Samuel Songa, Editor of Hansard, Parliament of Sierra Leone;
- d) Mr Adam Iddrisu, Editor of Hansard, Parliament of Ghana and
- e) Mr Moses Bwalatum, Editor of Hansard, Parliament of Uganda, the host.
- f) Thank you for attending this plenary. We hope you are enjoying your stay in Uganda. Next item.

LAYING OF PAPERS

I) THE LAW REVISION (PRINTING AND PUBLICATION OF THE 7TH REVISED EDITION OF THE PRINCIPAL LAWS OF UGANDA) INSTRUMENT, 2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before the Attorney-General comes, I will amend the list, which is provided for under item 4 to allow him to lay one instrument we did not capture, which is Instrument No. 49 of 2024.

3.37

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Mr Speaker, I authorised the Uganda Law Reform Commission to prepare the 7th Edition of the Laws of Uganda. The Law Revision Act, Section 3(3) requires the Attorney-General to lay before Parliament the statutory instrument authorising the printing and publication of the revised edition.

Further, Section 4(2) of the same Act requires the Attorney-General to lay before Parliament, for information, the statutory instrument appointing the date on which the revised edition is to come into force. As required by Section 4 of this Act, I appointed the first day of July 2024 as the date on which the revised edition should come into force. Consequently, the 7th Edition of the Laws of Uganda came into force on the first day of July 2024.

The laws of Uganda that were enforced as at 31 December 2023 have been included in the revised edition. All the laws have been allocated chapter numbers under which they

will be cited henceforth. The provisions of the law that was spent, declared unconstitutional, or repealed by other laws were removed and as a result, the numbering of sections has changed. Copies of the revised edition of the 7th edition are available with the Uganda Law Reform Commission.

Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Law Revision (Printing and Publication of the 7th Revised Edition of the Principal Laws of Uganda) Instrument No.10 of 2024. I beg to lay the Law Revision commencement of the 7th Edition Principal Laws Instrument No.49 of 2024.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Attorney-General. These are for information purposes. I, therefore, request the Clerk to put them in the library so that each one of us can easily access them.

II) PARLIAMENTARY PENSION SCHEME BI-ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, honourable Commissioner.

3.40

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Bi-Annual Report for the Parliamentary Pension Scheme for the period ended 31 December 2023.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. This is for information purposes. Let it be put in the library for easy access.

III) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 OF:

A) THE ROAD SECTOR SUPPORT PROJECT (RSSP-V) IMPLEMENTED BY UGANDA NATIONAL ROADS AUTHORITY (UNRA) PROJECT ID NO: P-UG-DBO-022 AND LOAN NO.2100150032194

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Commissioner -

MR SILWANY: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 of:

- a) The road sector support project implemented by Uganda National Roads Authority Project;
- b) Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Kapchorwa-Suam Road upgrading project loan under ADB; and
- c) Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Busega-Mpigi Road Project. This is the report of the Auditor-General. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The reports are referred to the Public Accounts (Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises) Committee (COSASE) for further processing. *(Laughter)*

IV) ASSESSMENT REPORT ON
COMPLIANCE OF 20 DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME BUDGET FRAMEWORK
PAPERS WITH GENDER AND EQUITY
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL
YEAR 2024/2025

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. Hon. Minister of State for Gender.

3.42

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (GENDER AND CULTURE) (Ms Peace Mutuuzo): Mr Speaker, pursuant to Section 9(1) and (6)(a) and (b), and 13(i)(e) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 Section 14 of the Equal Opportunities Commission Act, Cap 7 and Section 4.216 of the Treasury Instructions, 2007; the Commission assessed 20 National Programme Budget Framework Papers for compliance with gender and equity requirements for the Financial Year 2024/2025. Out of 20 programmes, 19 of them met the minimum requirements, while one programme, digital transformation did not submit –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, do not go into those details. Just lay as the rules do not provide for that.

MS MUTUZO: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the compliance report of the National Programmes Budget Framework Papers with Gender and Equity requirements.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. It is referred to the Committee on Equal Opportunity.

V) ASSESSMENT REPORT ON
COMPLIANCE OF MINISTERIAL
POLICY STATEMENTS WITH GENDER
AND EQUITY REQUIREMENTS FOR
FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister -

3.44

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (GENDER AND CULTURE) (Ms Peace Mutuuzo): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Compliance of the Ministerial Policy Statement with the Gender and Equity Requirements Report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is referred to the Committee on COSASE.

VI) THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT
AND DISPOSAL OF PUBLIC ASSETS
AUTHORITY ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR
2022/2023

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Government -

3.45

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Annual Performance Report of the Public Procurement and Disposal Authority for the Financial Year 2022/2023.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. It is referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development for further consideration and report back to the House.

VII) TAX EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024 (FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General -

3.45

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Tax Expenditure Report for the period July 2023 to June 2024, Financial Year 2023/2024.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. It is referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development for consideration and report back to the House.

VIII) TREASURY MEMORANDA ON:

A) THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) ON THE AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/2022

3.46

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Treasury Memoranda on the report of the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government) on the Auditor-General's report for the Financial Year 2021/2022.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. It is referred to the Auditor-General as per Rule 221 of our Rules of Procedure.

B) THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (COMMISSIONS, STATUTORY AUTHORITIES AND STATE ENTERPRISES) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/2022

3.46

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Treasury Memorandum Report of the Public Accounts Committee (Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises) for the Financial Year 2021/2022.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is referred to the Auditor-General as per Rule 221 of our Rules of Procedure.

C) THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (LOCAL GOVERNMENT) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/2022

THE SPEAKER: These are reports of Finance.

3.47

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): I beg to lay the Treasury Memorandum on the Report of the Public Accounts Committee (Local Government) for the Financial Year 2021/2022. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is referred to the Auditor-General. Thank you.

IX) SUPPLEMENTARY TREASURY MEMORANDUM ON THE REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/2021

3.48

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Supplementary Treasury Memorandum on the report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2021/2022. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Attorney-General. It is referred to the Auditor-General for further management.

Now, honourable colleagues, I promised that once we finish these items, I would give you time to raise some of the issues, which you wanted to raise. I will start with Hon. Jonathan Odur followed by Hon. Nsereko.

3.48

MR JONATHAN ODUR (UPC, Erute County South, Lira): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to start by thanking the Rt Hon. Prime Minister. When she cited the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and read for us the attendant laws, I was pleased and very happy.

I now invite your attention, Mr Speaker, to the National Objectives and Direct Principles of State Policy. I specifically would like to go to Principle XXVI – Accountability. They are short, so I would like to read them.

“XXVI. Accountability.

- (i) *All public offices shall be held in trust for the people.*
- (ii) *All persons placed in positions of leadership and responsibility shall, in their work, be answerable to the people.*
- (iii) *All lawful measures shall be taken to expose, combat and eradicate corruption and abuse or misuse of power by those holding political and other public offices.”*

This is the command of the Constitution that you, Mr Speaker, swore by in the Oath for the Office of the Speaker; all of us, Members of Parliament, swore by it.

I rarely thank the President, but I must thank him because recently, despite being the first citizen, he was driving around and people questioned him to provide answers by virtue of holding office as a political leader. Although his response was not satisfactory to me when he said, “In Kalerwe, you do not have power because you voted NUP”, at least he answered. That shows - if the President can humble himself, answer and be accountable, why are other holders of political offices in this country so adamant to the level that an attempt is made to curtail even the constitutional right of a Member of Parliament to express themselves? We have to fight and struggle to be heard on this Floor of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, the guidance I am seeking from you is that as political leaders of Parliament, that is, the Rt Hon. Speaker of Parliament, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, and the four commissioners of Parliament - before we go outside, there are questions that have been asked by virtue of the political offices that we hold. Ugandans want those answers and that is why people are marching to here to get the answers from Parliament because we, the

representatives, cannot give them the answers they want.

We are being accused, as Parliament, of being corrupt. I am an MP, but I am not corrupt. In fact - I do not know Luganda, but this one hurt me a lot. When I was moving around, I saw people pointing at me, calling me “*Oweekitiibwa*”. I thought it was something nice. Later, I was told, it means you are a thief. (*Laughter*) I am not! I am not!

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, honourable colleagues. Let us listen to *Oweekitiibwa* Hon. Jonathan.

MR ODUR: I am just concluding – (*Interjections*) – I will give space to you to give information later. Let me conclude on this serious matter.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Jonathan Odur, you are protected.

MR ODUR: All I am requesting is that as people who are holding office in the trust of the people, can we take the initiative to explain to the people of Uganda and answer the questions they ask of us before they take the drastic step of coming to the streets?

This is because of the situation that happened today – the inconvenience that I had to pass through as a Member of Parliament to come to do my constitutional duty in office was too much. We were being harassed. For some of us who left our Parliament IDs, it took time to be verified to come here. I do not want to go through that every day when I come to work here.

Therefore, I ask you, Mr Speaker, that when you retreat to your chambers, think through – and all the leaders – and provide answers. If you have been accused of A, please try to provide an answer. We do not want Ugandans to come - they are already saying that if they cannot access us here in this Parliament, they will go to our homes. I cannot take that for granted. I do not have a police officer. I do not have security. Many of you have security, but I

do not have. I move as I am here. Nobody has visited my home. I do not want to be accused of being part of the loot, part of the corruption. Each person accused should answer in line with the provisions of this Constitution.

Lastly, if it pleases you, Mr Speaker, we have been struggling to bring business on the Order Paper of this Parliament to discuss this matter. This is to the extent that colleagues are running away, yet you can use your discretion as a responsive leader to say, "I have seen you struggle, why must you raise signatures to come and discuss issues of corruption?" Why must people raise signatures? You can respond and say, "As a leader of this House, I have decided that this matter is so urgent that we can allow it to be discussed so that we do not go – I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Nsereko.

3.55

MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO (Independent, Kampala Central Division, Kampala): Mr Speaker, I would like to thank you for the opportunity. I would like to add something to what Hon. Odur has echoed.

He has addressed the issue of governance. However, we must address the real issue, which is that young people are grappling with unemployment. (*Interjections*) - I will speak to what my constituents are talking about.

Mr Speaker, we have 25 million people between the age of 17 and 64 years. Whenever you go back home, honourable colleagues, you will attest that nearly 30 per cent of your constituents are presenting you with CVs and asking you to help them find jobs. Parents are grappling with the issue of looking at their children with pain after graduating and being skilled, but with no access to opportunities. We can talk about the change of leaders, we can talk about a change of policies, but as long as we do not address the issue of access to opportunity, then we shall not have addressed the real issue.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, when the traders closed as a result of taxation, people laughed it off. The continuing pain of people losing their capital due to high taxation, due to high interest rates, due to lack of access to capital and factors of production, narrowing the gap for growth is just a recipe for poverty and as a result, we shall have increased crime and as a result of increased crime, we shall breed repeated demonstrations day in, day out.

Mr Speaker, finally, the gap between the rich and the poor continues to grow and for as long as it continues to grow, there is relevant discontent. Today we can lock up all the corrupt because if they are arraigned in the courts of law and proven that they are guilty, rightly so, the law must take its course. We, as Parliament, can do something because we have produced reports. The report from the Committee on Trade and Tourism produced something and it is the basis that the Government has used to apprehend some of the people. Someone cannot say that Parliament has completely done nothing. They are probably demanding for much more accountability, and rightly so.

Hon. Odur clearly said that after failing to access us here, people want to access us at our homes. I support that. The Member of Parliament you elected must be accountable to you. Go to his home and ask him why it is that this is the way I am being taxed rather than finding us in a group and saying that whatever you are debating, you are doing it collectively and accepting it collectively.

Probably we say, no to certain things, but we are not good enough to persuade some of you to agree with us. Therefore, if your constituent is discontented with what we are debating, I support them to come to your home and ask you, as their Member of Parliament, why they are unemployed, why they are highly taxed, why they are evicted and you have nothing to say, rather than coming to burn down an institution that they seek to occupy.

In any case, Mr Speaker, there is a cycle of election. If someone is discontented today, my best advice to our young colleagues - 16 months

is not far away. If your Member of Parliament has not performed, pick the nomination forms, contest against them and come and do better here. You can change what you want to change when you sit here, but for as long as you shun politics and leadership, you will never ask for accountability and get it. If you want to get it, take part.

To our young children, we might have disappointed you here and there, but you have an opportunity to also contest and come to this platform and debate your own way out. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, before I pick anyone else - I will ask the Government later to make some responses - I will also comment on issues to do with Parliament.

Honourable colleagues, you very well know that *Oweekitiibwa* is an important title in Buganda as a kingdom and it is very important to correct the record so that they do not meet *Oweekitiibwa* from Buganda and they run after him – (*Laughter*) – because Hon. Odur’s translation that he got might be different. If it pleases you, let me allow the Chairman of the Buganda Caucus - We have here *Oweekitiibwa* Kivumbi. (*Laughter*)

4.01

MR MUHAMMAD MUWANGA KIVUMBI (NUP, Butambala County, Butambala): Mr Speaker, actually I am an honourable member, I am not *Oweekitiibwa*. *Oweekitiibwa* in Buganda is a member of the Buganda *Lukiiko* and is so treasured within our cultural setting.

I may understand Hon. Odur, not being from here, to have insinuated otherwise. To insinuate, even on the street, that *Oweekitiibwa* equals a thief is really to undermine that title. After the *Katikkiro*, all ministers of the *Kabaka* are titled “*Oweekitiibwa*.” All members of the *Lukiiko* are called *Oweekitiibwa*.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, may I move that you expunge the submission of Mr Odur, where it refers to *Oweekitiibwa* as a thief, that is if he does not personally withdraw it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is what I wanted to go for; that the Jonathan Odur I know, once he gets such a clarification, he can easily clarify the record and the *Hansard* will capture it very well.

MR ODUR: Mr Speaker, I thank you so much. I started by putting it clearly and I am really sorry because I do not speak Luganda. I only felt what people relate to me. (*Laughter*) Having now understood that the title of *Oweekitiibwa* is a preserve for honourable distinguished servants of the *Kabaka* of Buganda and not people who sit in this Parliament -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: But what if, Hon. Jonathan, the person was giving you a very good title because you are doing well in your work? You are *Oweekitiibwa*. The one who translated gave you a wrong -

MR ODUR: Yes, and that is what I am coming to. Having now been well educated by the Chairman of the Buganda Caucus in Parliament that this title is a preserve of - First, I condemn anyone who will continue to translate for me that title the wrong way – (*Laughter*). Starting today and going forward, I withdraw and will only use it whenever I meet a distinguished member of the *Kabaka*’s government. I withdraw.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: And whenever you are called *Oweekitiibwa*, accept. It is an honour. (*Laughter*) Thank you.

Hon. Namugga - Honourable colleagues, I balance. We have gender, we have what - and it is not how many times you stand up. I am seeing you; I know Members.

4.04

MS GORRETH NAMUGGA (NUP, Mawogola County South, Ssembabule): Mr Speaker, I want to thank you for your patience because much as we wanted to handle this matter at the start, you guided us very well. I want to thank you for that wisdom.

Mr Speaker, I want to remind colleagues about the preamble of this Constitution: “*We, the people of Uganda, recalling our history*

which has been characterised by political and constitutional instability, and recalling all our struggles against the forces of tyranny, oppression and exploitation...” - I will not read everything. We agreed that this is the supreme law of the land – (*Interjections*) - You want me to read everything? You will submit later.

Mr Speaker, we all agree that this is the supreme law of this land and we all agree that Uganda operates under a multi-party-political system. As the National Unity Platform, on Monday, we were meant to have a press conference, but when we went to have the press conference, we found every kind of uniform of the defence forces of this country. There was UPDF, the Police - the only uniform I did not see was that of the Uganda Prisons Service.

Mr Speaker, yesterday our colleagues were arrested and I was mistreated. I agree with the submission of the Rt Hon. Prime Minister that the Police forces could have detected crime, but I thought the same force that you used to oppress us, the people of the Opposition, would have been the same force you would have used to keep peace in that place such that we could hold the press conference. You had all the forces; the Police and the army. You should have guided us very well and had us in-house such that we would hold the press conference.

Mr Speaker, the party wrote a letter requesting to utilise Kololo Ceremonial Grounds on 22 July 2024 as a venue to celebrate our four years and you denied us owing to the renovation works ongoing and we agreed.

We went to Kavule, the party headquarters that is well-known to all of you, colleagues. It is not our crime that as a party, we have not yet constructed party headquarters. However, we have a very big place where we could all fit. Therefore, Mr Speaker, if the National Unity Platform went ahead to have its press conference at its party’s headquarters, is it a crime? Is it a crime for us to hold meetings in that place?

Mr Speaker, as a leader of this House - and when our colleagues are in prison, I feel this

would be a matter of national importance to you as the Speaker. How can your Members be held in prison for no good reason and we are operating under a multi-party system? Mr Speaker, I request you to guide us. I do not know whether the Government wants to start giving directions on how the Opposition should move. “Hon. Namugga from home, you must move from this place to another place.” If that is the direction, please, write to us and formally inform us of how we should move. Guide on the direction.

Secondly, freedom of expression is a right and non-negotiable to this country – (*Interjections*) – yes, very true. Mr Speaker, for this House to sit today when our youth -the Gen Zs - that you like so much and that is your generation are being refused to match to this House to bring their petition -

Mr Speaker, people have been detained in several police stations. Are we proceeding very well? If we sit in this House when the law is being disbanded and we are acting out of the Constitution. Is it intentional on the side of the National Resistance Movement to oppress everyone? The Prime Minister should come out and explain to this country. Madam, why are you acting informally even under circumstances when you know the law? You were here misinterpreting the law in your favour, purely.

Mr Speaker, I want to thank you for directing very well. However, we cannot sit here and handle business- I am not directing, but it is human to think about the Opposition beyond. We are citizens of this country and we should be given equal time and space to express our rights in this country.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, if you check today you will notice that 80 per cent of the people who have spoken today are from the Opposition, so, I am giving you a chance. That is number one - No, on a platform that I am in charge of, you have space.

Number two, honourable colleagues, the problem is that while we sit here, the Leader of the Opposition raises issues, but before they are even answered or a minister is answering, you start “order” and you do not want to listen to an answer and then also repeat what your colleagues have raised and thus leading to repetition. Can I request the Attorney-General - so are they raising the same? If we are repeating ourselves - if you are saying that yesterday, they raided offices and colleagues are in prison - can't the Attorney-General first clarify and guide us on that? Then, if there are gaps, I will give you a chance. Sometimes when we listen, our issues are sorted.

Yes, the Attorney General- No, I am going to give you a chance – (*Members rose*)

4.10

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Mr Speaker, it has now become deliberate that – (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I just wanted to know if the Member has settled. If he feels he has been heard. Attorney-General-

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mine is to guide on the issue of the colleagues who have been arrested. This rule about not discussing matters, which are in court can be good even for the person whom you think you are defending.

I have sat here and listened to many versions of what transpired at the place where they were arrested. I have also heard different versions of what transpired in that place. Therefore, in an attempt to think that you are doing them a favour, you may do them a disservice.

When these matters are in court; when you stand here and say this person was doing this and that and have no idea of what this person has told the police he was doing. So, you may do them a disservice. Therefore, he is correct, they need to be handled in accordance with the Law, but let us also manage ourselves in that same orderly manner.

Mr Speaker, if a colleague has been arrested, there are two things that we need to ensure;

- (i) That the person has been detained in a place that is properly gazetted.
- (ii) This person is not held longer than the period that the Constitution allows. I cannot stand here and say I know why they were arrested, but the framers of the Constitution who were Members of Parliament at that time found it necessary to allow the police in the Constitution the mandate to arrest someone when they have a suspicion that this person was going to commit an offence.

Whereas the Opposition may look at everything with suspicion, you always need to sit back and ask, “What if they were right? What if they were wrong?” Therefore, let us allow the police the opportunity to do – (*Interjections*) – that is what I was requested to give. Yes.

When we speak like that, it is not good. If you want to share with me, you share with each other, with respect, and my view just like yours needs to be listened to.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssekikubo -

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: I allow the information.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are off. You no longer have any Floor to yield. (*Laughter*) Hon. Basalirwa - it is okay.

MR BASALIRWA: Mr Speaker, I want to thank you. Learned Attorney-General, I hear you on the explanation of the Constitution. The information I wanted to share with you, as our boss and head of the bar, is that the matters under discussion are matters that have been a subject of judicial attention and interpretation.

The issue of the powers of the police and the reason these are raised here is not for purposes of subjudice; it is for the bigger purpose of the

conduct of the police towards associational freedoms.

You know the “Muwanga Kivumbi case” has highlighted the extent of the powers of the police and the other - in fact, in the latest judgment, the lead judgment written by Justice Cheborion was very clear on the mandate of the police. What we are experiencing now is that the police are drifting away from the guidance of the Constitutional Court in the conduct of their affairs and I think that is where the problem is.

For example, the issue of meetings of political parties is outside the purview in terms of notification that an organ of the party can convene a meeting without necessarily notifying the police as opposed to a public meeting or a rally. The courts have been very clear on that.

On the issue of reasonable suspicion, the courts have also guided. In fact, reasonable suspicion cannot be done whimsically; that is the word the courts used. Therefore, the police cannot say, “We suspect that so and so will commit a crime.”

It is about judiciousness and reasonableness in the conduct of the police. That is the bigger concern where we find ourselves and where you need to guide especially on the powers of the police in light of the decisions of the Constitutional Court.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Attorney-General, before you respond, you could also pick Hon. Ssekikubo.

4.16

MR THEODORE SSEKIKUBO (NRM, Rwemiyaga County, Ssembabule): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Why we rise in arms against the statement of the Attorney-General -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have been peaceful.

MR SSEKIKUBO: Yes, Mr Speaker, thank you. Most obliged- is when the security forces of this country turn a matter that is purely political and try to punish it by using courts.

This is not the first time, honourable members. I have been here. We have had similar incidents in the past like “Walk to Work” and I wish the Attorney-General today and the Inspector General of Police, Mr Byakagaba, could take a leaf from the retired IGP Ochola.

There are instances where even if you suspect, you can keep these Members, and at a reasonable time, you set them free. As usual, they used to curtail the Opposition by holding them until late hours in the night when there was nobody to walk home with, they were taken to their homes - that was not the best, and we condemned it. But here, where the Attorney-General looks into the camera and says he is going to subject Members of Parliament under a punitive legal system, where they are arrested in their cars - Mr Speaker and Attorney-General, we witnessed a Member being arrested in the course of driving his car, his car is towed when he is inside, taken to the Central Police Station and at 8.00 p.m. he is arraigned in courts of law at night and remanded.

Mr Speaker - (*Interjections*)- it was at night. Mr Attorney-General, this is our country. We are lucky we are on the government side and with this, I am warning Members. But tomorrow you may not always be in Government. Would you wish to be treated in the same manner when you are organising? Why are you causing unnecessary fires? Why are you causing unnecessary hatred and friction in the country, on a simple matter?

Honourable Attorney-General, look at it this way. Today, we are in Government and, therefore, we speak a lot of law and a lot of English. But you know very well that these are the people who are helpless, then you are citing sub-judice, meaning that Members of Parliament should not speak, they should allow theirs to go to prison, and I think this is not fair. So, once you are meet your colleagues, be fair to us; be fair to Parliament.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Ssekikubo, let me allow Hon. Alioni and then, they will respond.

4.19

MR YORKE ALIONI ODRIA (NRM, Aringa South County, Yumbe): Mr Speaker, I want to thank you for the opportunity.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Adjust the microphone, Hon. Alioni.

MR ODRIA: Mr Speaker, first of all, I want to thank you for the opportunity. Secondly -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please, honourable colleagues. Hon. Ssekikubo, Hon. Alioni wants you to listen to him.

MR ODRIA: Ssekikubo – *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, no, please, please, please, honourable please, do not cause excitement here. Hon. Ssekikubo, you were heard in silence. Let us listen to Hon. Alioni. Please, let us not exchange. Hon. Alioni -

MR ODRIA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I also want to thank you for having recalled the House from recess. As you are very much aware, we have been in a struggle to look for signatures, to debate a matter of national importance in this Parliament.

I want to thank God that from zero we went up to 172. We are left with five. We pray to God that we get the five. Reason being, we voted for you, Mr Speaker and the Speaker to chair this House neutrally.

Mr Speaker, you have failed to defend this House. The President painted us clearly in Kololo during the State-of-the-Nation Address that “I used to hear, but I have now confirmed with evidence that there is corruption in the Parliament of Uganda and the Ministry of Finance.”

My first question is, you as the Chair, as the Speaker, what have you done to clean our image, which has been painted bad? In the streets we

are moving, they call us corrupt. In this same Parliament we stood, we requested you and the Speaker, the Rt Hon. Anita Among, that there is an “Exhibition of Parliament” going on, on issues of corruption. Give us space on the Order Paper to have this matter debated.

It is two months down the road. The world is aware that there is corruption in this Parliament. We want this matter to be debated. Why are you running away from that debate? You are meant to be neutral, and give space for all of us equally. Why are you making us suffer, running through this country looking for signatures to debate this matter of corruption in this Parliament? *(Applause)*

You need to come out clean. The Speaker, Rt Hon. Anita Among and you, have been painted as corrupt. Your name has been mentioned for being corrupt. We are also having a motion to have a matter debated on the Commissioners.

We have our evidence. We want to lay and have them defend themselves. You are all blocking us from that. What is this Parliament all about? Where are you taking this country? *(Applause)* Today, this country is under panic. Today they have deployed the army massively because of issues of corruption in this country.

Why don't you let Ugandans free from corruption? Why don't you allow us to debate the matter of corruption in this Parliament, here on this Floor? It is too much. We are not thieves. All these MPs have been painted. If we know we are clean like me, screen me.

We have evidence against them. We have evidence. *(Applause)*

We need this matter to be debated. You need to clean your name, Deputy Speaker yourself, Rt Hon. Anita Among needs to clean her name, the Commissioners need to clean their names, the ministers need to clean their names, and us MPs if you have anything against us in this Parliament, we need to clean our names.

Why don't you want this matter to be debated on this Floor? Mr Speaker, we need this matter addressed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR ODRIA: If not, we are ready to join the Ugandans because you are blocking us to debate. We were voted by our voters to come and debate. Why are you running away from debate, Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker? Why is Hon. Anita Among running away from debate? Why? We need a Parliament which is corruption-free.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Alioni. Honourable colleagues, the Hon. Alioni is raising very critical issues. (*Hon. Alioni rose*). I think honourable, you have been given your time, thank you. I Personally come from a culture where we say, a spirit that speaks does not kill.

So, Hon. Alioni speaking is not a problem. And Hon. Alioni, I feel for you, but I am very sure this same Parliament has supported you here by giving you space where you have collected signatures over time.

You have told us you have not yet gotten the signatures. I do not know how I will put on the Order Paper a motion, which is premature, and has not yet met the test, as you have confessed. So, I wish you well. I also think that before the public calls us corrupt, it is us, honourable members, who have been moving around saying our colleagues are corrupt. We put some of these things to the public. So, when Hon. Alioni gets the signatures with Hon. Ssekikubo, we shall welcome them and you will have our audience because you are a rightful honourable colleague in this House.

Two, there is clarification, which needs to be made. I will guide the Chairperson, Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs together with the Chairperson, Committee on Budget on Tuesday. I will give you space such that you inform Members because things continue moving around. What is important is what is in my heart. If you call me corrupt when I am not corrupt – No, I do not need to, because you have not tabled evidence of my being corrupt. So, I will request that you table.

Each one of us has been accused of corruption here. I know even some Members who are raising their voices highest, they have been accused of corruption, but no evidence was produced. That is why the President has been very clear - he waits for evidence. For those Members whom he has got evidence, that he considers credible, he has taken action. So, I request the Chairperson of the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs together with the Chairperson of the Committee on Budget to come on Tuesday and explain these issues, which have been perceived as if people sat, colluded and did whatever they wanted to do.

I think that clarification is very important. - No, they are not, especially on the issue of commissioners. So, I will do that.

Finally, Hon. Macho, and then the Attorney-General comes in. I also want to pick Hon. Kibalya, Hon. Kwizera, Hon. Muwuma and Honourable - Independent.

4.29

MR GEOFFREY MACHO (Independent, Busia Municipality, Busia): Mr Speaker, I seek your protection –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are still here, honourable colleagues. It is just 4.00 p.m.

MR MACHO: My brother, I will give you time. Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity you have availed to me. Over the weekend, I was in Busia and I was lucky to cross to Kenya. We had a function on the other side to promote cross-border cooperation. I was introduced by the title of honourable and in Swahili it is called *Mheshimiwa*. When I was introduced as *Mheshimiwa*, there are some Gen Z young boys who changed my title from *Mheshimiwato Mwiziwa miwa*, which means a cane thief. That was a very big embarrassment because the Parliament of Uganda is tainted with corruption.

I agree with you and all the speakers that it is high time we spoke about what has attacked our august House. Mr Speaker, whereas they are

speaking about the Speaker, Commissioners and you, we also have the writings on the wall speaking about the LOP of Shs 1.7 billion. Truly, I agree with you that almost everybody is talked about. Even Hon. Alioni, it is known one time they spoke about him. My mentor, Hon. Ssekikubo, I do not know where he is, but they call him land grabber.

Therefore, give us enough time so that we talk about this matter and we clean ourselves as leaders, so that we build confidence of the august House before our voters.

How will Hon. Ssekikubo look for signatures and when he comes to Busia they say he is a land grabber? How will Hon. Alioni come to talk to his people and they say he had a scandal with PAC? These are matters that we should speak about here publicly for Ugandans to know and gain confidence in the august House. People keep calling saying, Madam Speaker, Deputy Speaker and commissioners, you must resign. We should also call in Finance; there are issues there and other agencies of Government.

I, therefore, thank you for this opportunity. Mr Speaker, you are a wise man. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I think Parliament has been made the face of corruption and a picture has been painted. For example, “I do not have a job because Parliament is stealing money” because – Parliament’s budget is not even one per cent of the national budget. So, are people failing to get roads because of Parliament? Are people failing to get jobs because of Parliament? Are people failing to get into schools because of Parliament? Are we failing to get a pay raise because of Parliament?

We must sit and agree that some people will not stand on a moral high ground and as Parliament, we look like we are the face of corruption in the country and it cannot spare any of us. That is why I was very cautious on the issue of colleagues when I saw them going for each other the way they were doing.

The President said that he has opened the war on corruption. You have a duty, under the Constitution; we have accountability committees. What are we losing? Let us support the President and we show him that we are his ally on this and then, we shall not look bad so that it is not about the Executive, Parliament and all that. No, the President is very clear on corruption. Let all of us play our role. Attorney-General, first clarify the other issues.

4.34

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The issue before us of corruption is not partisan. It is a matter for all of us to address. So, let us not get into our political camps here because we are going to derail our fight against corruption. Let us not do that. I have seen in the past several Members of the Opposition carrying out their rallies and they were never arrested. Why yesterday? Let us hold police accountable, but let us also allow them to work.

Honourable colleagues, we are leaders. For someone to say here that people were presented in court at night and remanded, is wrong. No, because the court has working hours. (*Interjections*) The problem here –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us listen to the Attorney-General.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: If we do not listen to each other –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, let us listen.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: If the issue is that the person has evidence that a person was presented in court at night, outside court hours, we are here, bring it and we go and hold the courts to account. Let us hold everyone who is in a different space to account and play by the rules upon which they are playing.

So, let us work together and deal with this issue of corruption. Let us not take it as an issue of partisan politics. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, tomorrow, chairpersons, the whips, Prime Minister and LOP, we have a business committee meeting where we are going to discuss business rescheduling for this Session in the Conference Hall at 9.00 a.m. Be there so that we look at the urgent business and priority of business. I have been informed that it is at 9.00 a.m. - They are saying that in their communication, it is 10.00 a.m.; so, go back and refer to the communication that you have, it will give you a better picture. We are even going to add you to the group for follow-up.

We shall also have an induction for the new committee leadership. I found out that sometimes, we make mistakes and appoint people in leadership and just say, "Go and start working," which is not all helpful.

We shall have a full-day induction to go through, understand each other and see how best we can proceed. House is adjourned to tomorrow at 2.00 p.m.

(The House rose at 4.35 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday, 24 July 2024 at 2.00 p.m.)