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FOURTH SESSION - 28TH SITTING - 1ST MEETING

Thursday, 17 October 2024

Parliament met at 1.59 p.m. in the Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: I welcome you, Members, and I thank you for coming for this afternoon sitting. I have been watching and reading the issue of mpox in the media and I think the Minister of Health needs to come out and issue a statement on Mpox that is getting rampant, and also give guidelines on how this can be handled.

We will not have a lockdown; so, we will need that from the minister and I am also happy the minister for tourism is here - I mean the minister of those monkeys - responsible for the monkeys - *(Laughter)* The minister responsible for the monkeys is also in the House. We will need a statement from the Minister of Health together with the minister for tourism. Thank you.

Hon. Tom - but as leaders, you also need to make sure that your people in your areas get to know this information; that mpox is outside there so, they should be careful. They can only understand if you, leaders, speak to them.

2.03

MR TOM AZA (NRM, West Moyo County, Moyo): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. As I talk, there are two cases in my area - that is the Madi Subregion - and my worry is that because of the porous borders, we get issues from across the border that is from South Sudan as well as the refugees who are moving up and down. Therefore, your communication is timely. Otherwise, that area - the whole of West Nile is going to be affected if serious information is not passed to the people who are concerned. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Of course, with the festive season approaching, this threat is real because people will be moving from one place to the other. Yes, Kassanda -

2.04

MR PATRICK OSHABE (NUP, Kassanda County North, Kassanda): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for that communication and request to the minister to come through and give clear guidelines. I have been interacting with my community and I have found cases in Kassanda and I had no answer, as a Member of Parliament.

The families are there with conditions of mpox and - *(Interjection)* - What are you saying? Yes, the conditions are there within our communities. Therefore, the earlier we get communication, first of all, on how to handle and protect ourselves, the better. The Ministry of Health should really come out clearly and help.

It is in Kamuli Subcounty in Kassanda where I found about three families with the same condition. I did not know how it was transmitted or how to even help the community. Therefore, I think you are very right, Madam Speaker, on that.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kivumbi then Hon. Atkins - Are you on procedure?

MR IDDI ISABIRYE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You had guided that the Ministry of Health needs to come here and give a statement. Wouldn't it be procedurally right to wait for the Ministry of Health to be here before these issues can be raised, because this is a very serious issue?

THE SPEAKER: It is good for us to understand from Members what is happening in their areas. For instance, I did not expect it to be in Kassanda. You get it? So, let us allow Members to -

2.06

MR MUHAMMAD KIVUMBI MUWANGA (NUP, Butambala County, Butambala): Madam Speaker, because we have cut forests around Kampala and Lake Victoria, today when you go to Kira, especially in my neighbourhood and in my own home, monkeys have moved in because. They are now on the trees in people's compounds and they are -

THE SPEAKER: So they are in the compound with the children?

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: With the children, and as you know, when you have left some bananas or some food outside, they come and steal the food. My neighbours and I have called Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to come and - *(Interruption)*

THE SPEAKER: There is information.

MS KAAYA: My honourable colleague, one time here, I presented on the issue of the monkeys. When the forests were cut, the water bodies dried up and now they came to us and they live with us. You find them -

THE SPEAKER: No, you chased them away from where they lived.

MS KAAYA: People are not allowed to kill them; it is against UWA regulations. The ministry for agriculture is the only entity that is supposed to import that drug that kills monkeys and all those that are related to that family. So, we would also like to know how far the ministry has gone with the purchase of the drug.

THE SPEAKER: To kill the monkeys?

MS KAAYA: Yes, they are the only ones supposed to do it. The monkeys are sharing water bodies and wells and in Kiboga, there are even villages where people have given up growing any food because you cannot harvest. We have mangoes and fruit trees that we call monkey fruits. You cannot harvest anything. That is the information I wanted to give my colleague.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes -

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: That is a big issue. We would like UWA and the ministry for agriculture - Actually, I mobilised because of all these attempts - One officer came and said, install alarm bells. The neighbours tried to install alarm bells so that the monkeys - but they do not go away. Therefore, it is very urgent with this kind of disease that these urban centres find a way of dealing with monkeys.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, there is a procedural matter here. Is it on the communication? Yes.

MR ENOS ASIIMWE: Madam Speaker, you guided well. I am now confused and I seek guidance, because we started with monkeypox and now we are discussing monkeys in our compounds. I am really confused.

THE SPEAKER: But it is monkeys.

MR ENOS ASIIMWE: At this point, I want somebody to help us understand how monkeys relate to monkeypox because we have honestly

had monkeys for ages in our compounds, but we have never had the disease. That is why I am confused. We started with the disease and now we are discussing monkeys.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Enos, we are talking about the zoonotic diseases which are brought by those animals. One of them is monkeypox brought by the monkeys. You know, Hon. Enos only knows about cows.

Honourable members, if it is a matter of national importance, let us wait for Prime Minister's time. This is only on the communication and monkeys.

2.11

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. Since I represent an urban place, Wakiso is one of the areas that is really affected. We are mainly affected by travellers. The last time I checked with the health officers of the district, we had eight cases. The latest one, in Kira, was from a traveller from Kenya.

Therefore, as we await the statement, Madam Speaker, we request, at this hour, that the Ministry of Health gets in touch with us the leaders and all concerned. Let it ensure that it gives some key basic guidelines so that the community is in position to respond. When the subcounty chairpersons and town council mayors call us, we should be in a state to advise them to call the nearest health officers.

Even as leaders, right from the local government, we should be in position to know what it takes in order to help the communities as we handle monkeypox. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Order? She has finished. *(Laughter)* Honourable members, we are going to have a statement from the minister on how we can avert monkeypox. Let us hear from the minister.

2.12

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Mr Martin Mugarra): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am the minister keeping these monkeys on behalf of all of us, the Ugandans, but they are ours.

Well, there are some Members who have raised the issue of monkeys disturbing them and we have assisted them. We have what we call vermin officers, at most of the local governments. If the problem is big, we will deploy wildlife officers for you to have these monkeys removed and relocated to some other areas.

It is important for this House to note that these monkeys you talk about have been part of our society. They do not migrate from anywhere else. There is no monkey from Jinja to Kampala. The ones in Wakiso, probably before the forests were cut, were part of that ecosystem.

THE SPEAKER: Why did you cut the forest?

MR MUGARRA: No, it is not us. It is the people who cut the forests so that they can settle there.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, just for the information of this House, for the last one year, as Uganda Wildlife Authority - and Uganda Wildlife Authority is in charge of wildlife in the protected areas and outside in your homes, there is no evidence whatsoever that any of these primates have passed on any zoonotic diseases to our communities. The monkeypox you talk about has actually been imported from other countries.

I would like to allay the fears of most of you that we are still okay. We will still come and see how to resolve the issue of the wildlife. If you feel you are uncomfortable with it, please Hon. Kivumbi, give us the information. I have my officers on site and we will relocate them to safer places. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, if the monkeypox is not from our monkeys here, should we just leave it like that? We want to know how to handle the people who are affected. What is the Ministry of Health saying? Do you get it? It becomes dangerous for the monkeys here that are used to playing around with us. Yes, Hon. Mwijukye –

2.15

MR FRANCIS MWIJUKYE (FDC, Buhweju County, Buhweju): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. From the submission of the honourable Member of Parliament from Lyantonde, and from what I have seen in my community, it is clear that we need sensitisation because most of us do not know much about monkeypox. The people supposed to sensitise the public and educate them on what to do –

THE SPEAKER: Are the ones who do not know.

MR MWIJUKYE: We do not know much about monkeypox. We need to be helped to understand, from the ministry, because then, you would know that if there is sneezing, that is COVID-19. Yes, we knew because there was a lot of sensitisation.

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

MR MWIJUKYE: The information has been limited. It is very important to have a lot of sensitisation for the communities, beginning with the leaders, so that we are able to help our people. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Mwijukye is correct because when you hear Hon. Enos talking, it is like he has never heard about Mpox, yet he is one of the people who is supposed to sensitise people on monkeypox.

You need to create awareness among people on what is happening, and the Mpox that has come in. It may not be from the monkeys within but from other areas. Yes, Hon. David –

2.17

MR DAVID SSERUKENYA (NUP, Makindye-Ssabagabo Municipality, Wakiso): Thank you, Madam Speaker. My family is already a victim; my daughter is already sick, and it is a challenge. That is why I brought this matter to your office.

Madam Speaker, we need to know the causative agent – (*Laughter*) - we need to know how we contract this disease. We need the information -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, listen. This is a very serious matter. If you have one person who already has a victim in the House, he is a contact. We need to understand how the sickness spreads. Are we safe?

MR SSERUKENYA: Madam Speaker, in 2022, I brought the matter about monkeys in my constituency here, and I was given a minister. We talked but no one came to pick these monkeys. They are eating with the people. It is really a challenge. If we do not know how we contract this disease or spread it, then we are in danger.

I humbly request the Ministry of Health to come up with a statement and issue guidelines so that they can guide the schools because students are sitting exams and they cannot send them back home. Just as they managed to contain red eye disease, they can also contain this when they are at school. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Stephen –

2.18

MR STEPHEN KANGWAGYE (Independent, Bukanga County, Isingiro): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do not know whether I got the minister very well because, for him, it seems that monkeys are not the real cause of Mpox. He said that the disease was imported to us. Isn't it prudent for us to understand what the real cause is? If it is not the monkeys, what could be the other causes of that disease because as you have heard, our brother is already a victim? He has some people who are affected in his compound.

THE SPEAKER: And he is eating with the monkeys.

MR KANGWAGYE: Madam Speaker, I would like to know from the minister so that he can be on the record that apart from the monkeys, there are still other causes of that disease. This is so that we can understand exactly how best we can protect people as that disease should not be seen on monkeys alone. Are there other causes of that disease? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Can I hear from a doctor?

2.20

DR ABRAHAM ISAMAT (NRM, Kaping County, Ngora): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am a veterinary doctor by training. Monkeypox is a zoonotic disease and it can be transmitted from animals to humans and also from humans back to animals.

The causative agent is the monkeypox virus. This virus is present in all body fluids. If the infected animal sheds the virus on any surface, the transmission can be possible through contact. If you touch a contaminated surface, you get the virus but you can still get the infection if there is any infected human being next to you.

Since our honourable colleague has declared that he has a victim, the best is for him to vacate. Yes, because he is a potential source of the infection. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, listen to the doctor.

DR ISAMAT: If it is transported from DR Congo, it is very possible that someone who got contaminated from there brought it to Uganda but not necessarily animals within Uganda transmitting it.

So far, there have been some reports from either the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities or from the Ministry of Agriculture indicating that we already have animals that are infected.

Therefore, transmission can be possible if someone has come from DR Congo and has gotten in contact with a person who is already here and that person also gets in contact with the monkeys here in Uganda. They can be infected. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, we even get more scared now. Yes, Hon. Isaac.

2.22

MR ISAAC OTIMGIW (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. You are right, and as a country, we need to be cautious. Districts like Nebbi, which are neighbouring Congo have not seen any form of mobilisation or a form of health checks around our borders.

The Ministry of Health has not mobilised any form of inspection or health checks along our borders like what happened during COVID-19. So, you are right to say that and it is prudent that the ministry starts carrying out some checks of people because there is a lot of free movement, especially with the East African free border trade.

On top of that, we understand that monkeys are the ones causing this but we should not send a wrong signal for people to start killing our monkeys, which are promoting tourism. We have to send a clear message so that people do not start attacking monkeys because it is still a crime in our country to attack and kill wildlife without clear information.

THE SPEAKER: Let us get a statement from the minister on Tuesday to that effect. Yes -

2.24

MR MEDARD LUBEGA-SSEGGONA (NUP, Busiro East County, Wakiso): Madam Speaker, with your permission -

THE SPEAKER: You must be affected.

MR LUBEGA-SSEGGONA: Actually, infected. Now -

THE SPEAKER: He is not infected; he is affected in his area.

MR LUBEGA SSEGGONA: Sorry, I did not see properly, maybe. Madam Speaker, border control is within the realm of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Health or public health is the Ministry of Health. I felt for my brother when they were talking about his monkeys and he was disclaiming.

When someone disclaims that his monkeys are not responsible, you cannot ask him to prove because you cannot prove a negative. We need the Minister of Health to tell us the causes, and I appreciate the veterinary doctor.

I now withdraw my thoughts. You know, when he began speaking, I said, “These are the people who eat their patients”. But from his explanation, his information was very useful. Maybe these are not the patients they eat when they fail to treat them. We need a concerted effort from the three ministries concerned.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Government, next week on Tuesday, we expect a statement. Honourable President of the Uganda People’s Congress (UPC).

2.25

MR JIMMY AKENA (UPC, Lira East Division, Lira City): Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Akena Jimmy James had something to say. When the President is speaking, you do not disturb.

MR AKENA: Madam Speaker, I have a matter of national importance which has caused me a lot of pain in recent times and this is to do with the motorsports fraternity. We have been preparing for the Africa Championship in motocross but we are not going to participate. Team Uganda has been aiming for the top step of the podium.

We have done a lot of preparations and it is not the first time that Team Uganda has competed. We currently have a champion in the category of MX2, a previous champion in the 85cc category and I had the privilege of carrying the Uganda flag in the masters’ category of those over 50 years.

It was a great honour to carry the national flag in this competition and I did not come back empty-handed. I was able to secure, on behalf of Team Uganda - (*Interjection*) - no, I got a silver medal.

THE SPEAKER: Congratulations.

MR AKENA: This was in 2022 and I also raised 34 points for Team Uganda, which put us within the ranking. The team is due to set off to Morocco and I want to thank the ministry for the support which they have given us in part for this preparation.

However, I also have to express my disappointment in that, much as we had been promised a lot of money initially as a federation, which was then cut, to this date, we have not received a single shilling from the Government.

Therefore, it leaves the team in jeopardy. We do not know whether the team is going to participate or what is happening. We have packed the motorcycles that had been transported to the airport. We have been able to pay a deposit, but we do not have any idea as to what is happening.

I feel this competition opens a door for many of the young riders because they have been trying to break through and each time we are improving and each generation I have seen have taken it further and further.

Therefore, it would be a great disappointment after all the preparations; we brought in international trainers, we have been working with the team, people have been able to buy the latest machinery and are ready to go, what is holding us back is the Government funding which was passed by this House.

I want to thank the House for supporting motorsports and sports in general. However, along the way, we are yet to receive – (*Interjection*) For this financial year, we have not got even Shs 1. The first quarter is through; we received nothing. For the second quarter, the release is on, but we do not know whether

we are going to receive anything. We are just hearing rumours –

THE SPEAKER: When are you supposed to be in Morocco?

MR AKENA: The competition in Morocco is between the 25th and 27th of October. Therefore, the bikes are supposed to go ahead and the mechanics and other teams are also supposed to go and reassemble the bikes and, then, the team is supposed to be there by the 21st. We are expected to be in Morocco to start the preparations for the competition.

THE SPEAKER: Let me first see the bikers up there. Please, stand and we see you – the young bikers. *(Applause)* Thank you for coming.

MR AKENA: There was some information from Hon. Acon.

THE SPEAKER: Information from Hon. Acon?

(Whereupon Mr Kasaija entered the Chamber.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, I am happy that you have come in time. *(Laughter)*

MR ACON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to appreciate the President of UPC.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to see a president of a party rising to support sports. Sports is one of the things that when you support, you live longer because your health – you will have a lot of flexibility; your muscles will be happy. *(Laughter)*

One thing, which I wanted to raise, Madam Speaker, is -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, when the Olympian is speaking, you keep quiet. He is the only Olympian here.

MR ACON: Madam Speaker, one of the things that I would encourage this country on is that we need a field where we, the spectators, can have the opportunity to go and watch when they are training or competing, because it is this kind of thing which would motivate our children.

Sports are one of the things that is highly paying in the entire world. When you do sports, your life actually becomes easier; you live longer and you are self-employed.

I see the minister for finance and I think we should make sure that our team, which is being supported by the President of UPC, is really supported to represent our country. I congratulate them upon this wonderful thing. I have not come across our country raising our flag through motorsports. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister for finance, in Financial Year 2023/2024 that we are in, we passed the budget for sports. In that budget, there was an amount for motorsports, where Hon. Jimmy Akena is the president of motorsports. He is supposed to take his team to Morocco for a competition on the 21st.

Hon. Jimmy Akena also competed and brought for us silver, as a country. He has just laid it on the Table. Up there are your great grandchildren; the *bazzukulu*, who are doing this sport – those bikers.

Now, the issue is that these people are supposed to go to Morocco. In the first quarter, they did not get a penny. We are now in the second quarter. I am happy that the minister for sports is in the House and the minister for finance is also in the House. So, can we hear from the minister of sports?

2.34

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): First of all, Madam Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Hon. Jimmy Akena and the Uganda Motorsports Federation for the good work that they are doing in terms of flying our flag high, in various parts of the world. We need to clap for them. *(Applause)*

Secondly, if you look at motorsports within the country – I have been participating in some of them – it is one of the biggest sports, which is able to mobilise local business tourism within an area, where they go, to a tune of almost Shs 6 billion. I have witnessed it in Masaka, Jinja and Iganga. The impact is enormous because people come in big numbers and they also mobilise other companies to come on board.

From the side of the Ministry of Education and Sports, I would like to say that it is true that the budget was approved by this House. However, the challenge, which I am facing as the minister responsible for sports, is on the release of these funds. This is because, at the end of the day – I can state without fear of contradiction that for this quarter, I have been given Shs 2 billion to give to 51 federations. How do you expect me to operate?

So, sometimes our hands are entirely tied. It is an area where it is not my problem, but the problem of – *(Interjection)* - not a bad government. *(Laughter)* It is the problem of the finance ministry not accepting to release money as per what is approved.

THE SPEAKER: How can you say “bad government” when you have not even tried to be near the Government? *(Laughter)*

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, of course I understand where my father here comes from but my appeal to him and the technical team in the finance ministry –

THE SPEAKER: There is no father in this House.

MR OGWANG: Okay, honourable minister, Kasaija. My appeal to him and the ministry for finance in general is that they need to support the sports industry to grow. For instance, these people put a lot in terms of preparations for these competitions.

I have a federation, which was meant to participate in the World Cup. I have another one, which was meant to participate in a dance sport. However, at the end of the day, I have

no money to facilitate them – and I want the country to know this. As the Ministry of Education and Sports, we give what we have been given and what was planned for.

So, to our president, Hon. James Akena, I want to say that the matter is good; we welcome it. I am happy that the minister responsible for finance is here. How I wish he could be able to give me that money and I pass it to you. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

MR KABERUKA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We get concerned, especially when the ministers transfer the battle in the Cabinet to the Floor of the Parliament - *(Interjection)*

Madam Speaker, the President is a constitutional minister for finance – *(Interruption)*

THE SPEAKER: There is a point of order.

MS NAMUGGA: Madam Speaker, we are speaking about a very important issue; sports that bring in money to the country and employ our youth. Is my colleague, Hon. Kaberuka, in order to come and insinuate that the ministers are exchanging battles here? This is a very serious matter and we should not bring circus here. No! We are not in comedy. This is not the national theatre.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, it is only sports that bring everybody together, irrespective of politics, religion and whatever. *(Mr Kaberuka rose_)* Just a minute.

MR KABERUKA: Madam Speaker, how I wish -

THE SPEAKER: Please, sit. Honourable member, just a minute. For me, I only want action. We have a few days to go. Can we hear from the minister? Honourable minister, for us we want the money. We allocated you the money; it was budgeted for. James, you will speak, do not worry. Honourable minister, just make good what you are supposed to do.

THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Matia Kasaija):

Madam Speaker, money will come. *(Laughter)* I have two things that I have come here to clarify. As you know, you instructed me on the issue of funds for Akii Bua –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister -

MR MATIA KASAIJA: Yes, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Let us first finish; those children want to go away. Let us agree. How much money was supposed to be given to you people?

MR AKENA: Madam Speaker, motorsports was allocated Shs 3 billion which was reduced to Shs 2.4 billion in the revision for the year.

THE SPEAKER: For the year. So, in a quarter you expected Shs 400 million?

MR AKENA: About Shs 600 million.

THE SPEAKER: About 600 million?

MR AKENA: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: Only Shs 600 million?

MR MATIA KASAIJA: Now, since I am informed that this item was budgeted for, all we need is just cash and I promise this House that this money will be released. *(Applause)* The procedures normally take –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, the team is supposed to leave. Can I make sure that you will follow up the process and the money is released?

MR MATIA KASAIJA: Most obliged, Madam Speaker. When I return to the office - *(Hon. Kaberuka rose)*

THE SPEAKER: The moment he goes back to the office, he is going to make a follow-up and have that money released. *(Applause)*

Honourable members, first wait. I have a reason why I invited the honourable minister here. Honourable minister, go back to the Floor. The second issue?

MR MATIA KASAIJA: The second issue is about funds for beginning the construction of Akii Bua Stadium. The good news here -

THE SPEAKER: Maybe, I could give you a background. There was an issue raised by Hon. Tonny Ayoo this morning when you had a meeting. Hon. Tonny Ayoo had also come to my office and intimated that they had invited them to State House to witness the signing of the contract between the contractor and the Government of Uganda. That is for Akii Bua Stadium.

When we were budgeting in this financial year, we gave Akii Bua Stadium Shs 100 billion, and remember it even came in a corrigendum. To his surprise, they stopped at the gate. They did a COVID-19 test and some people came all the way from Lira to witness the signing but they did not witness it.

The question they are asking is, what could have happened? Has the contract been cancelled? Where is the money? Minister for sports, tell us.

2.44

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)

(Mr Peter Ogwang): Madam Speaker, first of all, I would like to begin by thanking Hon. Tonny Ayoo and the entire august House for following up on the Akii Bua Stadium construction project.

It is true, I did invite colleagues for this ceremony of signing the contract for the construction of Akii Bua Olympic Stadium in line with the budget which was approved here, of Shs 100 billion. As the National Council of Sports, we undertook the due process of the procurement for securing the contract.

However, I was guided at the last minute - I got a call from the Minister of Finance, Planning

and Economic Development requesting me to allow them to conclude on the financing model of this project because they were looking at a process whereby we have Shs 100 billion in the budget. Next financial year, we are going to have another Shs 100 billion and that was meant to be the two financial years.

However, according to us as the entity, we wanted the stadium to be constructed within 20 months. So, within 20 months, if you look at the financing model, it would not be possible and that was the question the finance ministry raised to me. The money which was available would not be able to allow the completion of the stadium.

For that matter, I heeded the advice of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and allowed them to have negotiations with the contractor in terms of financing the completion of this project within 20 months. They have promised to get back to me within a week so that we come back in terms of signing the contract.

I want to first confirm that what finance ministry is doing is to seek for an additional way of getting resources so that when we begin the construction work, we have a smooth flow for the total completion of the project. That is the information I have and I really want to thank honourable minister Kasaija, and his technical people who are handling this with the contractor.

I am waiting and after they have finished with the financing arrangement, we shall get back to sign the contract which had already been cleared by the Solicitor-General and the Attorney-General. I thank you. For the transport refund, I bore the cost, as the entity, to transport back the people I had invited. I thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

MR MATIA KASAIJA: Madam Speaker, what my colleague has said is the truth. Let me say it the way I want it to be heard; the budget for Aki Bua Stadium is Shs 100 billion and

there was a condition that this Shs 100 billion would be released as soon as the contract is signed by the National Council of Sports with the contractor. We are waiting - I am waiting for that contract, and I will release the money straightaway. *(Laughter)* *(Hon. Kaberuka rose)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members - *(Hon. Tonny Ayoo rose_)* Hon. Tonny, first wait. Let Hon. Akena first conclude his issue.

2.49

MR JIMMY AKENA (UPC, Lira East Division, Lira City): Madam Speaker, thank you for this opportunity and I am glad to hear that the honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development does not see the release for motorsports as a problem. However, I need clarification on whether you are going to do both quarters or one quarter because we are in the second quarter.

THE SPEAKER: Let us get what we can get for now.

MR AKENA: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity. The fraternity of motorsports have asked me to pass on an official jersey with your name on it, as part of our appreciation. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR AKENA: I also have one for the State Minister of Education and Sports and the senior minister. I will rely on the Minister of State to convey our appreciation to the senior minister.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR AKENA: This is an official jersey. People are saying, I am in yellow. No, this is an official jersey. *(Laughter)* I will proudly wear it as I take the Ugandan flag in the Masters category, which are the riders over 50 years, in Morocco. I hope I will be able to return with another medal, on behalf of Uganda.

THE SPEAKER: This time, gold.

MR AKENA: I will do my level best and thank you, Madam Speaker. I also thank the minister. This time, I hope Akii Bua Stadium will get off the ground because earlier when we had the Chinese grant, the matter got stuck between the finance and education ministries, and we lost the grant.

Therefore, I am asking the finance ministry to please not do lip service but let us be serious about conveying the money, getting the stadium built and then we will also have a wonderful AFCON as it comes to Uganda. Once again, thank you very much, Madam Speaker. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, by the time Hon. Kasaija comes with his statement, he has already researched. *(Hon. Kaberuka rose.)* Listen. I told Hon. Kasaija to come with a response to Hon. Tonny Ayoo's issue and he is saying they have the money ready. They are waiting for the signing of the agreement.

Therefore, he is right because we budgeted for that money and it is there. He is saying, "I am waiting for you people to come". Yes, Hon. Tonny?

2.51

MR TONNY AYO O (NRM, Kwania County, Kwania): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have got a concern and I am scared because from the presentation of the minister, Hon. Peter Ogwang, you would have hoped that the finance ministry is reconsidering the financing model but the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is saying he is waiting for the signing of the contract, then he releases the money.

Madam Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: You see, that is what takes you back to what Hon. Jonathan Odur asked at one time. How was the contractor procured? I remember what Hon. Jonathan Odur asked. How much money are we paying for the construction? These are things we need to know.

MR TONNY AYO O: Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development presented a contract document to the Solicitor-General –

THE SPEAKER: Of how much?

MR TONNY AYO O: Of \$127.9 million – *(Interjections)* - Yes. The Solicitor-General looked through the contract document, cleared it and said, "Please go ahead; sign the contract. The Government is going to commit to the contract to pay".

When the Minister of Education and Sports and National Council of Sports invited the President and everybody was ready to sign the contract, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development's Permanent Secretary/Secretary to Treasury called off the contract.

We expected the Minister of Finance to have a clearer position on this, but you can see it is still not clear, yet they are the ones who allowed the Solicitor-General to clear the contract. Can we know from the minister where the problem is exactly?

This is because by this, you realise the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is playing a game and they are not going to allow the Minister of Education and Sports to sign the contract since they have called it off because of the financing model. Which financing model are you talking about?

2.54

MR JONATHAN ODUR (UPC, Erute County South, Lira): Madam Speaker, thank you very much. Before I address this issue, I was in the constituency and people asked me about some of the promises made by the NRM government. I was made to apologise to some members of NRM; I want to apologise here.

You see, I had been telling my people that the NRM does not honour its promises. So, when the Government said they were going to close Karuma, people called me and said, "Are they going to close it?" I said, "No, they never

honour their promises.” *(Laughter)* Eventually, when they closed Karuma, they asked me, “So, do you still maintain the position?” I said, “They now seem to be serious. They are beginning to honour their promises, now that they have closed it.” *(Laughter)* That is the same position I thought about Akii Bua.

The records of this House should show that the honourable Minister of State, Hon. Peter Ogwang, presented a contractor way back in Lango and said, “This is the contractor identified and ready to proceed.” I am now surprised to hear that actually, we do not have a contractor.

By simple definition, a contractor is somebody you have contracted to do work. In the absence of a contract between the two parties, you cannot purport to say you have a contractor at hand. It means you are still undertaking processes to identify the person to execute the work. If that is the position, then the Government should be clear and say, “We have not yet reached the contracting stage; we do not have a contractor.”

Also, the financing model we were told was that this stadium would be constructed under a Public-Private Partnership; that the potential financier would come, bring the resources, execute in a model and then the financing would be gotten later.

With the information from Hon. Tonny Ayoo, \$129 million or \$130 million is over Shs 500 billion. It can only mean that if the stadium will be constructed by December, the month that is being proposed, then the Shs 100 billion is probably not even going to lay the foundation. Where will the Shs 400 billion come from?

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development could be right. If you do not sort out where you are going to get the total amount of money, we are likely to end up with construction that will take 20 or more years because the money is not available. Address us on where the entire budget will come from, so that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development can clarify.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, this is a very serious issue. I request the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to come with your team tomorrow at midday - tomorrow is Friday - we meet over this and sort it out, once and for all. We will also have a team from Lango and people from the Ministry of Education and Sports, and resolve this issue.

Honourable members, in the public gallery, we have students and teachers from Jinja Central School in Jinja South Division, Jinja District. They are represented by Hon. Manjeri Kyebakutika and Hon. Dr Batuwa. You are welcome. *(Applause)*

We also have students and teachers from Toroma Primary School in Katakwi. They are represented by Hon. Koluo and the Vice President, Her Excellency Jessica Alupo Rose Epel. You are most welcome. Hon. Koluo, do you want to greet your people?

2.59

MR JOSEPH KOLUO (Independent, Toroma County, Katakwi): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for making this Parliament a people’s Parliament. Imagine children from the rural area of Toroma coming here. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR KOLUO: Madam Speaker, briefly about this school; it is located in Toroma Town Council and it is where I sat for my Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE)- *(Applause)*- and scored seven aggregates during the time of insurgency, in the early 80s.

This school, Toroma Primary School, has a total population of 1,836 pupils and they have only 14 teachers, of which three are paid by parents. I kindly request that if there is an opportunity, the Ministry of Education and Sports - my brother Hon. Ogwang is here. Please, this school needs fencing because it is within the town council. *(Laughter)*

Secondly, the girls’ dormitory, honourable minister – Lastly - *(Interjections)* - my brothers, listen to me.

Lastly, this school is in a hard-to-reach area. I want to implore the Government to please try to find a strategy for helping these teachers. Some of them have ended up becoming *boda boda* riders to earn a livelihood while others have even failed to take their children to school.

Honourable minister, please -

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ogwang - *(Laughter)*

3.01

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)

(Mr Peter Ogwang): First, on behalf of the people of Katakwi District and the Ministry of Education and Sports, I begin by thanking Hon. Joseph Koluo, Member of Parliament for Toroma County and the entire management of Toroma Primary School for coming to visit the Parliament of Uganda. I congratulate you for coming.

I have heard the request from the Member of Parliament for Toroma County but I want to say the following: this school is a Universal Primary Education (UPE) school. As a Government and in line with the UPE policy, we do not look at dormitories and fencing. Are we clear there, honourable colleague?

However, regarding the question of teachers, we first of all understand that it is one which we normally follow up with the responsible ministry in charge of the release of monies to recruit additional teachers which is not only Toroma but all over the country.

We need it and I implore - we will follow it up to ensure that once we are given this additional money, we will be able to provide teachers equivalent to the pupils' ratio in this school. In a nutshell, I want to say that the question of teachers riding *boda bodas* - *(Interjection)* - teachers becoming *boda bodas* -

I appeal to our teachers, if there are some who are leaving their profession for this specific subject matter of being a *boda boda* rider, it is important that you remain a teacher because all

of us here are products of teachers. Thank you. I congratulate Toroma for coming to visit the Parliament. Congratulations, Hon. Koluo.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Next -

LAYING OF PAPERS

- A) THE MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS (DECLARATION OF PROTECTED HERITAGE RESOURCES AND HERITAGE RESOURCES OF SIGNIFICANT VALUE TO UGANDA) REGULATIONS, 2024.

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to Section 95(2) and (3) of the Museums and Monuments Act, 2023 which we have just passed, I invite the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities to table the regulations so that the law that we passed comes into force.

We thank you because we have passed so many laws and people have not brought regulations. Thank you.

3.04

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (TOURISM) (Mr Martin Mugarra):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to lay the Statutory Instrument No. 69 of 2024 entitled, "The Museums and Monuments (Declaration of Protected Heritage Resources and Heritage Resources of Significant Value to Uganda) Regulations, 2024." I wish to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to Section 95(4) of the same Act, the Committee on Trade, Tourism and Industry should scrutinise these regulations and get back within two weeks and a month. If there is no response from the committee then it takes effect.

- B) REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF:
- C) I) UGANDA DEVELOPMENT BANK LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to Article 163(5) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, and Rule 181(3) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I invite a Commissioner emeritus to lay the report on the Table.

3.05

MR FRANCIS MWIJUKYE (FDC, Buhweju County, Buhweju): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to lay a report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements of Uganda Development Bank Limited for the year ended 31 December 2023. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. This is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE)) under Rule 181(4). Yes-

II) HOUSING FINANCE BANK LIMITED
POOL HOUSES COLLECTION ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023.

THE SPEAKER: Commissioner -

3.06

MR FRANCIS MWIJUKYE (FDC, Buhweju County, Buhweju): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to lay a report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements of Housing Finance Bank Limited Pool Houses Collection Account for the year ended 30 June 2023. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. It is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE)) and it should report back within six months from today.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (COMMISSIONS, STATUTORY AUTHORITIES AND STATE ENTERPRISES (COSASE)) ON THE REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 FOR THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES: KAMPALA CAPITAL CITY AUTHORITY (KCCA), NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NEMA), UGANDA NATIONAL ROADS AUTHORITY (UNRA), UGANDA BUREAU OF STATISTICS (UBOS), UGANDA AIDS COMMISSION, UGANDA PROPERTY HOLDINGS LIMITED (UPHL), ELECTRICITY REGULATORY AUTHORITY (ERA), UGANDA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (UHRC), LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE COMMISSION (LGFC), FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITY (FIA), NATIONAL ENTERPRISES CORPORATION (NEC), NATIONAL CHILDREN'S AUTHORITY (NCA), AND THE CAPITAL MARKETS AUTHORITY (CMA)

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

MR KATUSABE: Madam Speaker, I appreciate you for prioritising the Ugandans. I do not know who could have served my telephone number but I get a lot of distress calls from parents crying on the phone talking about their sons and daughters populating Arab prisons.

We have the Prime Minister and the Minister of Internal Affairs. We cannot continue - these are people that we represent; not only coming from Kasese but all over the country, please. And they follow these proceedings.

Madam Speaker, my procedural issue is that wouldn't it be procedurally right for us, tonight, to get a commitment from the Government that we have a clear plan to go out and rescue our fellow citizens? I do not think that our inaction is just because one of those is not our son,

daughter or cousin. I do not want to believe that because we have a leadership of this House that upholds Ugandans, number one - the ministers are here. We did not come here to just talk but to also make an impact.

That is the reason I raised it yesterday, and I am very sorry, I have to raise it today again because when I retire from here again, sometime in the evening, I am going to get - and say, "What did the Government say?" These are people whose names I do not know but they are already known, including the countries where they are.

As people's representatives, I think we have to prioritise this item. Much appreciated, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the procedural matter came from nowhere, but it has content. I hope the Government has got what he has said. *(Laughter)* Honourable members, this can be best answered by the minister in charge of youth and children affairs.

We are talking about youths who have gone out to work in the Arab countries. Some of them are distressed either because of work or whichever and our numbers have been given out to most of them. At the end of the day, we get calls; somebody is either very sick, in prison or has a lot of problems. He is asking what the Government is doing about this. In which country?

MR KATUSABE: Appreciated, Madam Speaker. I refer the Prime Minister to our national newspapers, specifically *Bukedde* and *Daily Monitor* newspaper.

THE SPEAKER: From which country have they been calling you?

MR KATUSABE: They are five, Madam Speaker, as far as I saw. They could be more than those, but those that I was able to pick –

THE SPEAKER: Which ones are those?

MR KATUSABE: Number one, Jordan; two, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi and UAE. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MR ENOS ASIMWE: Thank you, Madam Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: Let us get the issue out –

MR ENOS ASIMWE: Yes, but Madam Speaker, Rule 72 of our Rules of Procedure, talks about the content of a speech. A speech of a member must have reference to the subject matter under discussion. I am wondering whether we are discussing things to do with Saudi Arabia, Iran or Iraq. Please, guide!

3.13

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (YOUTH AND CHILDREN AFFAIRS) (Mr Baalam Barugahara): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Atkins. What he has raised is quite important. The calls do not only go to him but even the Speaker. What we are doing, as Government now - my colleague, Hon. Esther Anyakun, travelled to Saudi Arabia. We are trying to negotiate with the countries where these people are, with the support of IOM, to ensure that those who can be pardoned and can return home, we return them home.

THE SPEAKER: You meant ILO?

MR BARUGAHARA: IOM; International Organisation for Migration. IOM, not ILO. Very good, clap for yourselves. *(Laughter)* That is it.

Hon. Atkins, we shall handle that, and I believe that it will be addressed.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable member –

MR KIBALYA: Madam Speaker, in the same spirit, and before the minister takes his seat, the other day, there was an issue through your office that was raised, that we have an issue in Poland and some of our colleagues are in Poland. Since you have said that your colleague has gone to Saudi Arabia, what is the programme for this country that is under war?

MR ONZIMA: Madam Speaker, also related to that, this issue of immigrant workers getting problems in the Arab countries has appeared on this Floor of Parliament several times. We said that these people go there through companies. These companies must establish contacts in those countries where these people work such that when there is a problem, the companies should be able to help and also coordinate with their relatives.

Therefore, I want to know whether this was done because that was what we resolved here in this House.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, honourable –

MR KIBALYA: Madam Speaker, the country is Lebanon, not Poland.

3.15

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Gen. David Muhoozi): Madam Speaker, I would like to augment my colleague. This matter is not just for gender. It also involves the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. I would rather we have a more in-house discussion on how to improve labour export and then we report back to the House.

THE SPEAKER: It is a multi-sectoral approach; let them discuss and see how best it can be handled.

Honourable members, pursuant to Rule 181(4) and (5) of the Rules of Procedure, the Chairperson, PAC (COSASE) is here, and so, I will ask him to stand up and read the report. Chairperson, can you stand up and read the report?

3.16

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (COSASE) (Mr Medard Lubega-Sseggona): Thank you, Madam Speaker. You remind me of the others in the Bible who went to see an elephant, and they all saw from their perspectives. To allay your fears, I am already up. *(Laughter)*

Madam Speaker, you did guide me to present a summary of those many reports. I have the minutes in respect of the entities concerned. I also have a copy of my summary. I beg to lay the minutes.

THE SPEAKER: Please lay.

MR LUBEGA SSEGGONA: I had an argument with my committee clerk, Madam Speaker. He had decided to give you something called yellow, and we fought because I thought you deserved better. So, permit me to give you one in a better colour.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR LUBEGA SSEGGONA: Madam Speaker, first, I thank my colleagues in the committee together with my technical staff who assisted so much in processing these reports. I was actually advised by Hon. Nathan Itungo that I should ask them to stand up and he wants to be recognised. I would invite him to stand up for your recognition together with the entire team.

THE SPEAKER: PAC (COSASE)?

MR LUBEGA SSEGGONA: That is the wonderful team that I have worked with. *(Applause)* Madam Speaker, again considering that this executive summary itself is long enough, permit me to go straight to observations and recommendations, since colleagues already have the reports, except for matters that I would think need emphasis.

On page 3, the committee did observe and we are talking about general observations, that it is only Parliament with the mandate under the law to appropriate funds. Any deviations from the approved budgets can only be sanctioned by Parliament through established procedures. This is a matter we are repeating; I do not know how many times now.

The committee, therefore, strongly believes that questions of the inadequacy of funds do not arise except where there is a mischarge, virement, or reallocation involved and where

there is an insufficient release of funds from the Treasury.

We recommend as follows:

- i) The accounting officers should always stick to the approved work plans and adhere to the budget execution/implementation guidelines and laws. All deviations must and can only be allowed by Parliament;
- ii) Upon variation of the budget, the accounting officers must adjust their activities to fit within the adjusted budgets; and
- iii) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should ensure adequate and timely release of funds to entities to ensure proper execution of the budget.

With respect to revenue performance, Non-Tax Revenue (NTR), the committee observed that failure to budget for NTR leads to unexpected collections and distorts the proper planning for the national revenue for public services. The absence of NTR budget implies that there is no basis upon which the performance of management can be assessed, it also depicts inadequate planning.

We recommend, therefore, that:

- i) The accounting officers should ensure that NTR estimates are always included in the entities' annual budgets. All various sources of revenue are identified and realistically budgeted; and
- ii) The Ministry of Finance, in consultation with the respective entities, should set realistic target estimates considering the revenue collection potential of every entity.

With regard to variances in approved budgets against the release of funds, the committee observes that the under-release of approved budgets affects service delivery to the intended communities and distorts budgetary planning. It is also a distortion of appropriation processes.

The government seems to be in the habit of presenting unrealistic budgets, which it cannot fund, thereby tempting Parliament to pass the same in the hope that it is implementable. This needs no emphasis in light of yesterday's presentation on treasury operations by the Public Accounts Committee (Central Government.)

We recommend that:

- i) The government should always present realistic budgets, which are implementable to avoid distortions during execution; and
- ii) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should always avail resources as appropriated by Parliament; and
- iii) Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) should prioritise activities in accordance with the available resources/cash flows, in cases of shortfalls.

Underutilisation of warrants

The committee observes that:

- i) Whereas the accounting officers mostly attributed underutilisation of warrants to, among others, protracted procurement and recruitment processes in addition to the late release of funds and budgeting for staff, out of position, these are administrative processes that ought to have been factored in entity plans and budgets;
- ii) Some of the budget distortions can be avoided through proper planning and timely release of funds; and
- iii) Failure to fully utilise warrants leads to underperformance and inability to achieve the overall objectives of the entities.

We recommend that:

- i) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should only issue realistic cash limits that can be fully

financed to avoid budget implementation distortions. This should be done in a timely manner and in consultation with the entities; and

- ii) Accounting officers should always ensure timely and adequate initiation of procurement and recruitment processes since they are crucial in budget absorption – *(Interruption)*

MR OTIMGIW: I apologise to my colleague. Thank you for the report. Madam Speaker, on the Order Paper, the report mentioned a number of entities, from Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) to the Uganda Bureau of Statistic (UBOS). I am failing to understand what our colleague is presenting. Is this a cross-cutting summary for all of them?

THE SPEAKER: The general observations?

MR LUBEGA SSEGGONA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Indeed, it is my duty to make you understand – *(Laughter)* - at the beginning, I mentioned that these are the general observations and that we would come to the specifics.

On delivery of services from implemented activities, the committee observes that some of the approved outputs and activities were fully quantified and the requisite resources availed to them for execution and therefore, could not be affected by funding.

However, it is the delayed release that affected specific activities in terms of time, acceptable quality, quantity, cost and functionality.

In addition, the peculiarity of some entities such as the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA), Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), which deal with very detailed costing for engineering and related work, made it difficult to align their activities to the Programme Budgeting System (PBS), calling for upgrading of the PBS to match the activities.

The recommendations are:

- i) Accounting officers should stick to the planned activities as per the approved work plans in order to achieve the expected output. The emphasis here is that we approve the budget based on the work plans presented to Parliament. A distortion of the work plans distorts the budget and takes away our power of appropriation;
- ii) The accounting officers should adjust their work plans in the subsequent financial year to accommodate activities that were not implemented due to the non-release of funds; and
- iii) The PBS should be realigned to suit the peculiarity of institutions that partially conform to the structure of conventional governmental institutions.

Management of the Government salary payroll

The committee observed that:

- i) Failure by entities to maintain updated and accurate staff records puts employees at risk of losing out on their benefits in case of exit from the service;
- ii) The inability of entities to absorb all their wage bill, locked up resources that would have been used to deliver services elsewhere;
- iii) The tendency to consume more funds than the approved wage budget without approval is irregular and goes against the Public Finance Management Act, 2015; and
- iv) The continuous understaffing had left several staff establishments unfilled, thereby denying services of these office holders to the would-be beneficiaries.

Recommendations

- i) Accounting officers should budget for wages in a realistic manner, in consideration of the existing staff needs;

- ii) Accounting officers should ensure that all their staff payrolls are updated periodically to ensure an accurate database of employees and establish tracking mechanisms to update the same. This requires migration from the manual to a digital system; and
- iii) The Ministry of Finance should avail adequate wage budget to facilitate recruitment of staff as per the entities' staff establishment.
- ii) Always submit comprehensive annual wage estimates and recruitment plans to the Ministry of Public Service to aid appropriate planning for the entities by the ministry at a centralised level.

On unsupported budget outputs, the committee noted that several entities lacked individual costed output budgets during the period under review. These include the Electricity Regulatory Authority, Local Government Finance Commission, and Kampala Capital City Authority, among others.

On non-enrolment on the Integrated Personnel and Payroll System and Human Capital Management system (IPPS/HCM), the committee notes that a number of rigidities were found in the system and that hindered full enrolment such as limited information fields. The few information fields provided on the system limit the amount of individual data that can be captured.

Under the Local Government Finance Commission alone, a total of five outputs, costing Shs 2.788 billion, did not have a costing plan on the programme-based system (PBS).

However, the entities informed the committee that they were working to reconcile with the public service system to be successfully enrolled on the IPPS.

The justification given was that there was a challenge in the programme-based budgeting system that could not allow for individual costing of outputs.

We observe that the failure to enrol on the IPPS/HCM amounted to noncompliance on the side of the entities. It also signified inadequate effort by the Ministry of Public Service to have all agencies of Government enrolled on the system. Adequate training of entities' staff seems to be lacking.

However, the committee established that the Accountant-General had upgraded and updated the system to support individual activity/output costing, although, at the time of the audit, they could not print, a shortcoming which was later rectified. Currently, the system is updated to ensure that even printing of entity-specific information is possible.

Non-enrolment on the IPPS and HCM systems implied that staff data and payroll are not integrated and centralised in the system. This made tracking of the payments to staff across the Government difficult and it presents an opportunity for inclusion of ghosts on the payroll.

The committee, therefore, observes that the excuse of the system failure to generate individual costing for individual output/items should not arise in the face of an upgraded and updated system.

We recommend, therefore, that entities:

- i) Should liaise with the Ministry of Public Service to pursue enrolment on the IPPS/HCM; and

We recommend that, going forward, each accounting officer should ensure that individual costing for items and outputs are readily generated and available to audit, as they are required.

Accumulation of domestic arrears/long-standing payables

Madam Speaker, this is a matter of emphasis arising from yesterday's presentation by the Committee on Public Accounts (Central

Government). The committee observed that in some entities such as Uganda Human Rights Commission, there was no evidence to the effect that domestic arrears were budgeted for in the period under review.

Secondly, the continued accumulation of domestic arrears poses a risk of litigation and nugatory expenditure.

We recommend, therefore, that:

- (i) Accounting officers should ensure that verified domestic arrears are budgeted for;
- (ii) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should avail adequate funds towards the settlement of domestic arrears;
- (iii) The accounting officers should immediately settle domestic arrears since they take the first call on the budget;
- (iv) The management of entities should put in place strong internal controls to prevent future accumulation of arrears; and
- (v) The accounting officer should always adhere to policy and technical guidance to facilitate accurate reporting.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my MP, Hon. Naluyima, for giving me a glass of water. *(Laughter)*

Unimplemented procurements

The committee observes that, for example, UBOS had many activities falling behind schedule, attributed to delayed funding. The continued reprioritisation or rollover of activities in the subsequent financial year results in clogging of the work plan and may potentially lead to the recurrence of delayed implementation, hence delayed service delivery.

The committee recommends that accounting officers should ensure that the procurements are followed through and implemented in the subsequent financial year as promised, so as not to derail the overall intended objective.

On the change of accounting system, the committee observes that the accounting policy of treatment for non-current assets only commenced in the Financial Year 2022/2023 and, therefore, made it difficult for the accounting officers to have comparative figures for the year before.

The committee further observes that there was insufficient preparation and training before implementation/immigration to the new accounting system, and recommends as follows:

- i. The Accountant-General undertakes sufficient training to accounting officers on the new accounting system and any subsequent changes;
- ii. Going forward, all entities should commence implementation of the new accounting policy; and
- iii. All entities should ensure that Government assets are revalued and stated in the financial statements at their correct values, which should be depreciated over their useful life in accordance with the accounting system.

Specific obligations

Kampala Capital City Authority

The failure to operationalise the 2019 Outdoor Advertising Ordinance

We observe as follows:

- (i) In the absence of an enabling law, the authority is constrained to enforce the tax payment from outdoor advertisements, as it would contravene Article 151 of the Constitution;
- (ii) The failure to develop and approve regulations on outdoor advertising rates had led to the loss of revenue that would have been collected and used to deliver services to the citizens;

- (iii) The Attorney-General has been slow in fast-tracking the finalisation of the advertisement ordinance;
- (iv) The unique status of Kampala as a district and a city, whose operations extend to the metropolitan areas, poses a challenge of who approves the regulations amongst the Attorney-General, the Minister for Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs, and the Minister of Local Government.

We recommend that the Attorney-General should expeditiously handle the approval process of the Outdoor Advertisement Ordinance to facilitate revenue collection from outdoor adverts.

Collection of property rates

- i. The committee observes that the delay in collecting the assessed property rates denies the authority potential revenue that could be used to implement critical planned activities;
- ii. The growth of property rate arrears is partly attributed to the regular property revaluations, which may be unrealistic; and
- iii. The property rates tax and rental tax had a lot in common and present a potential double taxation scenario to the citizens.

Recommendation

We recommend as follows:

- (i) KCCA management should develop an effective system and timely invoicing and debt recovery;
- (ii) KCCA should conduct realistic property rate re-evaluations to minimise resistance and defaults arising from discontent among the property owners;
- (iii) The Attorney-General should reconsider merging both the property rates and the

rental tax to avoid scenarios of double taxation; and

- (iv) The authority should consider other revenue collection incentives, such as waiving interests and penalties, to motivate and enable property owners to settle their outstanding arrears.

Parish Development Model (PDM)

Madam Speaker, the committee observes, on page 18, that KCCA’s supervision is mainly on policy issues. Warrants are issued directly to the constituted SACCOs, which receive the funds in their groups, thereby minimising supervision on the side of the authority.

Secondly, the absence of an enabling legal and policy framework affects the efficiency of execution of the PDM concept.

Recommendations

- i. Management should provide adequate technical guidance and support to SACCOs benefiting from PDM funding to prepare adequately to facilitate disbursements and implementation of activities;
- ii. The accounting officer should follow up the matter in court and, once it is resolved, the SACCOs should be funded; and
- iii. The Government should expeditiously, and in any case not more than six months from the time of adoption of this report, table a legislation and policy to govern the management and accountability for PDM funds and provide for related matters.

Utilisation of Parish Revolving Funds (PRF)

- i. The committee observes that the delay in the disbursement of funds to SACCOs has a ripple effect of subsequent delay by the SACCOs in disbursing the funds to the different enterprise groups; and
- ii. The delayed conveyance of funds to the beneficiaries and households denies

citizens timely access to funds and may affect the achievement of the program objectives.

Recommendation

We recommend, therefore, that:

- i. The management of PDM funds should be placed clearly in the KCCA organogram for efficient management;
- ii. KCCA conducts timely and adequate sensitisation with a view of ensuring that all funds disbursed to the SACCOS are utilised as planned; and
- iii. Offenders who abuse funds should be brought to book in a timely manner.

Functionality of the Ward Development Committees (WDC)

Madam Speaker, we observe that the failure to fund the Ward Development Committees ultimately leads to failure to mobilise the community, identify development priorities and monitor resource utilisation, thus undermining the attainment of the intended PDM objectives.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the management of KCCA should ensure that the WDC is funded as soon as possible to enable the mobilisation of the community, identification of development priorities, and monitoring of resource utilisation.

Misclassification of Salary Payments

Madam Speaker, the committee observed that misclassification of funds misstates wage expenditure in the financial statements and creates arrears on wages. It also implies poor budget discipline.

The committee further noted that there was no retirement/ manpower planning for the replacement of the retiring and other exiting staff, as the retiring staff are not immediately replaced.

The committee recommends as follows:

- i. That management should engage the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and ensure that going forward, the authorities are allowed to reallocate these funds to the appropriate salary codes; and
- ii. The authorities should also liaise with the Ministry of Public Service and the Public Service Commission to ensure that the temporary staff are recruited by Financial Year 2025/2026 on a permanent basis to minimise misallocations.

Court Awards and Compensation

Madam Speaker, we observed that the failure to adequately budget for and or provide for legal costs may result in the accumulation of arrears leading to litigation and attendant costs, that is, garnishees, fines, and penalties.

The committee further recognised that the Authority listed Contingent Liability on page 59 of the Financial Statements.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that:

- i. Management should develop measures geared towards ensuring that continued escalation of the court awards against the Authority is curtailed;
- ii. Going forward, management should integrate court awards/ litigation costs in the Authority's budget as guided by the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury(PS/ST) in his letter dated 27 August 2021, regarding the payment of the decretal amount in civil suit No. 353 of 2018: St. Balikuddembe Market Stores and lock-up Shops versus Kampala Capital City Authority; and
- iii. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) should be adequately supervised to ensure that money is not wantonly spent.

Delayed settlement of Court awards and Compensation

The committee observed that the delays in compensation affected parties' results in further accumulation of interest and deny the timely delivery of services.

The committee recommends that KCCA Management should ensure prompt settlement of court awards and compensations. This is subject to adequate releases.

Management of the Landfill at Kiteezi

Madam Speaker, permit me to emphasise this because of the importance of this matter; to re-give a small background as presented here.

Kampala Capital City Authority, through the Directorate of Public Health and Environment Directorate (PH&ED) is mandated to facilitate and provide support for ensuring the health and productivity of citizens, and a clean, habitable and sustainable community for the city. The Directorate guides the Authority in efficiently managing public health and the environment.

In a bid to fulfil this mandate, in 1996 the Authority established and operationalised the Kiteezi Landfill as a facility that handles waste from Kampala and its neighbouring municipalities of Nansana, Kiira, and Kasangati town councils. The Auditor-General inspected the landfill on 5 December 2023 and observed the following:

- i. The landfill was overfilled with waste, rendering it hazardous to public health within the surrounding community;
- ii. The Auditor-General established that some of the equipment/structures such as the weighbridge and water treatment plant, were non-functional, and there was no buffer zone at the landfill to protect the neighbouring communities;
- iii. The garbage collectors did not have protective gear such as hand gloves and masks, which posed a health risk to them

as depicted in the picture that we present in the report; and

- iv. The Auditor-General noted further that the landfill in its current form, is both an environmental and health risk to the community around and portrays the Authority in bad light.

The Accounting Officer explained to the Auditor-General that Kiteezi Landfill was almost at 100 per cent capacity and KCCA purchased land (135 acres) for a new waste treatment facility in 2016 and the plan was to establish a modern waste-to-energy facility plant at the new site when funding is availed.

In the meantime, the capacity of Kiteezi was being expanded to accommodate an additional four acres and the Authority has built a leachate drainage around the landfill, which was originally blocked by the local community through encroachment.

In addition, the maintenance of the equipment and structure at the landfill is inadequate because of low funding. However, KCCA has a prospective investor willing to fast-track the resolution of the problem. A feasibility study to inform sustainable city waste management was ready by 2015.

Non-renewal of the operating license of Kiteezi Landfill by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)

Madam Speaker, the committee was informed that Kiteezi Landfill had been in operation since 1996, and by 2013, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) declined to renew the landfill's operating license full design capacity. The landfill use was continued since there was no alternative waste disposal plan. This decision prevented a would-be citywide public health crisis arising from unmanaged waste accumulation in the city. As such, since 2013, Kiteezi has been operating in crisis mode. The committee shall revert to this.

Unimplemented decommissioning of Kiteezi Landfill

The committee further established that KCCA worked with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank, which provided technical support to the Kampala Solid Waste Management by way of a Public-Private Partnership (PPP), to commence the Kiteezi Landfill-decommissioning journey in 2014.

As part of the implementation of this plan, KCCA acquired 135 acres of land in Ddundu, Mukono, to establish a new landfill, thereby decommissioning Kiteezi. However, the plan was never implemented due to stiff opposition from the area residents.

The above forced continued operation of Kiteezi, despite its adjusted inability to accommodate more garbage due to no alternative site and lack of budget provision for a new site, thereby stretching the site further.

Information was obtained from KCCA Lord Mayor, which indicated that the processes of decommissioning Kiteezi Dumpsite were commenced with a study conducted by MS Queensland and Leeds Consulting Engineers in association with Air Water Earth (AWE) and a report thereof was published in October 2021, wherein they raised a red flag regarding the impending catastrophe at Kiteezi.

They recommended the immediate decommissioning of Kiteezi and provided an elaborate mechanism and procedures for execution of the same, advising that the dumpsite should be closed within two years of the release of the report, that is by October 2023, to avert the calamity.

I have been advised that the dumpsite in Luo is called *Odur*.

Lack of budgetary support to decommission – *(Interjection)* - of course, he cannot argue because he is my son and I know more Luo than him. Do you want to correct your –

THE SPEAKER: What is called Odur? - Just clarify.

MR LUBEGA SSEGGONA: In Lango it is called Odur

MR ODUR: Just a clarification –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Odur, what is it called?

MR ODUR: Madam Speaker, that is not Odur. Odur is a person. The word is “*wi odur*”

THE SPEAKER: “Wi odur”? *(Laughter)*

MR LUBEGA SSEGGONA: I have been corrected. I was reading it *ejusdem generis*.

THE SPEAKER: It seems he still wants to correct you further -

MR LUBEGA SSEGGONA: No, my son can correct me if I am wrong.

MR ODUR: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In wider Luo, a dumping site is called “*wi oburu*”. “*Buru*” are the ashes left after cooking but with the way he is pronouncing that name, I would like him to be sensitive to the people from other tribes.

THE SPEAKER: Actually, when you pronounce his name be sensitive to my language.

MR ODUR: Exactly, because you may understand him differently.

THE SPEAKER: I will understand it differently. *(Laughter)*

MR LUBEGA SSEGGONA: I agree that there are possibilities of being misinformed by “*wi odur*” and “*oduru*”. The temptation to read them *ejusdem generis* is the same as understanding “*Owekitibwa*” the criminal way and the dignified way. *(Laughter)*

Lack of budgetary support to decommission the Kiteezi landfill

missing and or unaccounted for. In addition, a number of houses/homesteads and other properties had been covered and or destroyed in the catastrophe.

Investment in modern waste management facility

Management informed the committee that the Authority had failed to attract investment in the field of waste management due to the conditions set by the investors. It was revealed that in 2016, the country hosted over 175 potential investors in waste management/ recycling and waste to energy. However, a number of them demanded sovereign guarantees in order to invest in waste management, including waste-to-energy projects, among others. The request was not granted by the Government.

In the absence of prospective investors, the Authority had resorted to decomposing and burning the waste and capping part of the landfill to turn it into a greenbelt. This was done with less tangible success, as the garbage remained visibly dangerous.

From the foregoing, Madam Speaker, the committee is strongly persuaded that:

- (i) Kiteezi Landfill had long become both an environmental and health risk/disaster waiting to occur, which the Authority and Government were fully aware of.
- (ii) It is apparent that no immediate action was taken by the entity, as recommended by its Director for Public Health and Environment, which eventually saw the facility become a death trap as it turned out to be. Prudence would have required the Authority to immediately halt the activities at Kiteezi, having obtained expert guidance from its own expert. At this point, the Executive Director and her Deputy, who received the memo, kept it to themselves.

There is no evidence that it was brought to the attention of the Authority or Government. This was a serious lapse. Such inaction on the part

of the Authority is inconsistent with any other hypothesis other than gross negligence on the part of the Executive Director, who, a year earlier, had stated the same to have exceeded its design capacity.

Indeed, it is no wonder that on the 10th day of August 2024, a total of 20 out of 39 acres of waste at the landfill gave way, spilling beyond its buffer zone into the surrounding neighbourhood, destroying lives, property, and infrastructure.

- (iii) The Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury (PS/ST), upon receipt of the cry from the Executive Director, kept quiet.
- (iv) The Minister of Kampala and Metropolitan Affairs who was copied in the same letter, took no action, not even a visit to the facility to ascertain its state. She never raised the matter in Cabinet and never followed up with the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development – (*Interjections*)- if colleagues have read, we had an interface with the Minister. I hope it offers an opportunity for people to comprehend - not even a visit to the facility to ascertain its state. She never raised the matter in Cabinet and never followed up with the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Clearly, this was gross neglect of duty by the honourable minister.

An alternative would have been arranged, like the current arrangement of depositing the garbage in other places and the acquisition of alternative places, the Minister and PS/ST cannot escape liability for what befell the country.

- (v) It has become a practice by civil servants excluding the political leadership in both financial and administrative matters. Why, for example, would the technical staff handle this matter without involving the Prime Minister, the finance minister, and the Lord Mayor of Kampala?

- (vi) Whereas the Accounting Officer explained that a prospective investor was found, no concrete steps were taken to seal the discussion to a logical conclusion. Indeed, there was no public search for potential investors or partners in the sector which would have averted what had turned out to be a human catastrophe in addition to other economic advantages the site would have generated.

Lack of transparency in the search for prospective investors punctuated with disregard for Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets (PPDA) rules, but seeking to get investors behind closed doors, slowed down the process. The minister informed the committee that whenever she sent potential investors to the technical team, they would never get back to her. Indeed, the whole process was flawed, opaque, and irregularly executed to great imperfection.

- (vii) As stated above, for a long period, the Government has been reluctant to respond to KCCA's pleas for resources to establish a modern plant and equipment leading to over-utilisation of the Kiteezi Landfill beyond its design capacity. This is made worse by the non-responsiveness of the PS/ST to the Authorities' appeal requesting budgetary support for solid waste management interventions in Kampala, vide a letter dated 20 June 2023.

This non-responsiveness was an affront to the efforts of the Authority to implement the Presidential Executive Order No. 2 of 2023, dated 9 April 2023, where he directed that all urban Authorities' waste be properly disposed of and is inexcusable.

A review of the entity's ministerial policy statement for the financial years 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, and 2022/2023 showed that requests for adequate funds to address the problem of waste management in Kiteezi and Kampala in general had not been honoured, hence leaving the issue as recurring unfunded priority.

By continuously ignoring calls to allocate adequate funds to facilitate a sustainable response to waste management, KCCA was rendered unable to implement a sustainable response to waste management strategy for the city and the metropolitan area.

Land at Ddundu-Mokono

In the absence of funds for the development of a modern waste management facility at the site in Kiteezi, the authority would probably - and, under normal circumstances be left with the option to utilise its 135 acres of the landfill at Ddundu for dumping waste as a temporary remedial intervention.

The committee visited the said land and interfaced with the area residents. They informed the committee that they have petitioned the court over any threat of waste dumping activity on Ddundu land, citing fears that the place will most likely become like Kiteezi in the future. A copy of the Notice of Motion, Miscellaneous Application No. 01 of 2023 under Article 50 of the Constitution is attached.

It is not clear why, since December 2023, when the amended notice was filed, it has not been determined. The summary of the claim is that it is an enforcement of the right to a safe and healthy environment.

Related to the above, the events at Kiteezi leading to the loss of lives and property was a direct proximate negligence to the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) Executive Director, Minister for Kampala Capital City Authority and Metropolitan Affairs and Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

The committee observes that:

- i. In the absence of any viable alternative to Kiteezi, the authority resorted to compressing the garbage to decrease its looming pile in the face of failed decommissioning;

THE SPEAKER: Your Member put you on procedure. Yes?

MR MUGEMA: Thank you, honourable chairperson, for giving way. Madam Speaker, I am worried.

THE SPEAKER: You are what?

MR MUGEMA: I am a bit worried. My chairperson is giving a very good report, but we have entered 13 minutes into the Prime Minister's Time and there is no sign that the Prime Minister is coming, yet we have pertinent issues. The Government Chief Whip could update us on whether the Prime Minister is on the way as we proceed.

THE SPEAKER: Let the chairperson finish his report.

MR MUGEMA: He had also accepted. Madam Speaker, we have pertinent issues in the constituencies.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the Prime Minister went to represent the President at the burial of the late Bishop. As we wait for her, let us first continue with the report. He is going to summarise.

MR LUBEGA SSEGGONA: Madam Speaker, I thought I would sanitise because the minister for monkeys-

MR KIBALYA: As the senior colleague comes in, it is good that the Prime Minister has gone to represent the President. However, we had her deputy here, but she also left us. At least, she should have been here as we wait for the other – (*Interjection*) - she has gone for prayer?

MR LUBEGA SSEGGONA: Madam Speaker, Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) should send out calls for investment in waste management, including but not limited to composting infrastructure and modern incineration/waste recycling facilities at its two sites, namely; Kiteezi and Ddundu, in addition to any other modern waste management undertaking.

We recommend that the accounting officer should follow-up with relevant stakeholders and have the statutory instrument finalised, to guide the protection of wetlands.

Inadequate mechanisms to track compliance with wetland resource permits

We observe that denial of funds to the entity prevents it from executing its functions. It renders the entity redundant in terms of ability to function. These relevant organs established under the law have not been fully operationalised.

The failure to continually measure, evaluate and track compliance with issued permits, undermines the authority's ability to put in place remedial measures for non-compliant users.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that the accounting officer should regularly evaluate compliance with provisions of the permits granted in the wetlands.

The committee further recommends that the Ministry for Finance, Planning, and Economic Development should provide all the required funding to establish the relevant organs and the work be fully executed as envisaged.

Failure to enforce annual environmental audits for issued permits

We observed that the failure to monitor and develop activities around the wetlands, as envisaged, puts the resources to the risk of irreparable destruction and waste.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the accounting officer should undertake risk profiling, and identify the riskiest and impactful areas for annual compliance audits and scale up as resources become available.

The committee further reiterates its earlier recommendations in the general observations and recommendations. With respect to continued utilisation of wetlands without valid user permits, we observe that failure to revoke user permits on wetlands with expired permits, defeats the purpose of the issuance of the same user permits.

The Committee further observes that continued utilisation of wetlands without permits, could lead to accelerated destruction of wetlands without any legal resources.

The Committee further observed that there is a risk of continued loss of revenue by the entity from the renewal of these permits, where applicable.

We recommend

1. NEMA management should put in place tracking measures to discontinue use and development of wetlands beyond the permit duration.
2. NEMA management should perform routine field inspections and annual environmental audits.
3. The Government should provide all required funds to ensure the entity executes these core functions.

Status of court obligations

We observe that the existing backlog of court cases is partly attributed to the failure by NEMA to keep the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs updated, for timely execution. The committee recommends that the accounting officer should ensure that the Ministry for Justice and Constitutional Affairs is furnished with information regarding court cases that the entity is a party to on a timely basis.

Administration of the National Environment Fund

Madam Speaker, we observed that without regulations, the administration of the fund is constrained and can affect the performance of the same. The essence of the estimates,

We observed that the inadequate fleet has led to a delay or inability to implement all planned activities, thus affecting efficiency and effectiveness of sustainable environment and natural resources protection.

Honourable colleagues, NEMA is one entity that requires to be in the field 24/7. It has only 55 per cent of its fleet.

We recommended that the accounting officer should liaise with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and have funds released as appropriated to enable the procurement of vehicles, especially for field operations.

Issues relating to evictions “encroachers” in wetlands

During the sitting of 19 June 2024, Madam Speaker referred the matter of evictions at Lubigi Wetland and neighbouring areas being encroached upon to the committee. This followed public outcry over what appeared to be high-handed conduct during these evictions.

The committee had several meetings with the executive director of NEMA and management. In addition, a selected team of the former Lubigi residents/evictees, who were evicted in the operations, were met. The committee further received a team of scouts under the Uganda Scouts Association. The following issues were brought to our attention.

Uganda Scouts Association

The summary of this complaint, Madam Speaker, related to a dispute over ownership of land at Kaazi. There was also a complaint that a developer had actually encroached on the wetland. We had a meeting with the executive director of NEMA, who informed us of the efforts taken;

- (i) By stopping the construction in what was considered a wetland.
- (ii) Observed that the complaints related to ownership, which was outside the purview of our operations and jurisdiction.

We recommended that:

1. The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources should urgently take up the matter and report to the House in accordance with the rules, because that one is not an accountability issue.
2. The sectoral Committee on Environment and Natural Resources should interest itself in all permits granted by NEMA and examine their legality with a view to recommending revocation of those granted illegally.
3. The court should expedite the hearing and conclusion of the civil suit in relation to the Uganda Scouts Association land in Busabala to determine and settle the dispute relating to that land.

Evictions in the Lubigi area

The committee was informed that NEMA had carried out evictions in the areas of Nansana, Ganda, Naakauwadde and parts of Rubaga Division. The residents complained that a number of houses and other property were demolished and or destroyed, people were violently evicted by a team of enforcement officers in the company of Uganda police and the Uganda People’s Defence Forces officers and that they received no notices from NEMA, while others stated that they were actually not in wetlands as there was no demarcation to show the boundaries.

Many of them claimed that they had possessed their plots of land - some *bibanja* – before the coming into force of the 1995 Constitution and others for decades without any protest from NEMA. Others said they relied on purchase agreements witnessed and approved by area local council officials, while others questioned why NEMA took no action as they allegedly encroached on wetlands.

The accounting officer responded that NEMA carried out evictions in accordance with the law, after serving statutory notices, and that people had encroached on wetlands and needed to be restrained.

On the question of human rights violations, he stated that he was not aware and that he relied on enforcement provided by Uganda Police Force and Uganda People's Defence Forces, over which authority has no command.

On whether NEMA carried out the marking of boundaries, the accounting officer informed the committee that some boundary marking was done, but not entirely, due to lack of resources. Further, he said that in some places, people had removed some boundary marks, yet the authority does not have sufficient means to do regular surveillance, monitoring and supervision.

The law

Chapter 15 of the 1995 Constitution (as amended) relates to land and environment, where in Article 237(2) provides, and I quote:

*“(2) Notwithstanding clause 1 of this Article-
(b) The Government or a Local Government as determined by Parliament, by law, shall hold in trust for the people and protect natural lakes, rivers, wetlands, forest reserves, game reserves national parks and any land to be reserved for ecological and touristic purposes for the common good of the citizens.”*

Under Article 245, Parliament was required to, by law, provide for means intended-

- (a) To protect and preserve the environment from abuse, pollution and degradation;
- (b) To manage the environment for sustainable development; and
- (c) To promote environmental awareness.

Pursuant to Article 245, the National Environment Act, No. 5 of 2019 was enacted, replacing the National Environment Act, Cap. 181. The old act defined “wetland” under section 2 to mean “areas permanently or seasonally flooded by water, where plants and animals have become adapted and gazetted as such”. This definition was maintained by the new Act No. 5 of 2019.

For a place to be defined and classified as a wetland, therefore, it is key that the same is gazetted with its boundaries defined by demarcation.

The accounting officer informed the committee that NEMA has a digital map which shows the coordinates that persons affected by evictions were within the area identified as a wetland within the meaning of the law. The committee was availed with copies of the alleged notices, which, by any standard, fell short of the required tenets. For example, the notice would be addressed to one name, there is no evidence of service and no involvement of the local councils to identify the addressee, etc. Copies are attached to the report.

Madam Speaker, the committee observes that:

- i. Where demarcations are digital and not marked on ground, and impossible to determine with certainty where the wetland stops - especially where degradation has taken place over a period - the alleged “encroacher” would be justified to plead innocence.
- ii. Where the signs of a wetland by way of flooding, nature of vegetation or any other identifying feature are visible, the encroacher would be charged within the four corners of the law.
- iii. It is inexcusable to argue as a defence, the negligence of NEMA in failing to stop the encroachment - pleading as a defence - if it is wrong, it is wrong. The omission to enforce cannot justify it.
- iv. The failure by NEMA to carry out demarcations of the wetland, the failure to do regular monitoring, environmental awareness and establishment of relevant committees at the local government level as envisaged under the National Environment Act was a fundamental failure that should not find mercy in any country's tolerance cabin.

3.6.12 Management of Road Toll Facilities Along Kampala-Entebbe Expressway. We observed as follows:

- a) Failure to procure, install, and maintain lighting and independent traffic monitoring system.
One, there was failure to procure, install, and properly maintain lighting and an independent traffic monitoring system.
- b) There was a breach of contract obligation on the part of the operator or contractor and poor contract management by UNRA.
- c) Three, a big part of the expressway was not well lit which poses a risk to the road users discourages traffic and in the long run affects toll collections.
- d) Without an independent traffic monitoring system UNRA can therefore not independently verify that the revenue collections by the operator are accurate and complete. Hence a risk of under-declaration of revenue by the service provider.
- e) We strongly believe that the continuous vandalism and theft of equipment that supports lighting and other interventions implies that UNRA did not seriously consider or integrate implementing the mindset change program of the National Development Plan, NDP III in communities where the projects are implemented to reap dividends of community ownership and project property.

The committee recommends that:

- i) Management should follow up with the Operator to ensure that required deliverables stipulated in the contract are provided or else management considers terminating the contract for fundamental breach of contract.

UNRA should embrace and implement mindset programme to facilitate communities to own

projects and infrastructure in their respective communities.

1.1.13 Failure to provide Road safety facilities

- i. UNRA should embrace and implement mindset change programs to facilitate communities to own projects and infrastructure in the respective communities.
- ii. Failure to provide road safety facilities, we observe that there is a risk of accidents in case road users encounter crossing animals on the road. This can also lead to criminal intruders accessing the expressway.

Recommendations

- i. UNRA institutes measures to recover damages arising out of a breach of contract by the contractor.
- ii. Institute security measures to ensure that road safety facilities are not vandalised again. This can be done by encouraging whistle-blowers who should be remunerated and also name and shame companies that eventually buy stolen road items.
- iii. Explore the use of the internal security organisation structures and the punitive measures taken against perpetrators.

The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)

Madam Speaker, by way of a disclaimer, we want to state that the issues of the census were not part of our report. They did not come to our interrogation, maybe in future, so they are not contained in here.

We observed on staff drawing more than one salary that the staff were deployed and validated in other Government agencies while at the same time under employment of UBOS. The Bureau had taken the appropriate steps to exercise disciplinary control over the affected

The company was consistently paying rent until 2021 when it started struggling to pay rent. By 30 June 2023, the outstanding rent was KShs 73,763,485, which is equivalent to Shs 1.9 billion.

The clients claim that when Uganda passed a law limiting the age of cars imported into Uganda to 15 years, cars that did not meet the condition got stuck in its port and the Kenya Port and revenue authorities continued to levy demurrage on them.

The vehicles were eventually auctioned by the Uganda Revenue Authority without considering the costs incurred by Unifreight. They claim that this left them indebted and unable to pay rent, and their licence was suspended by the Kenya Ports Authority.

In October 2022, the company issued a demand note and a termination notice. However, the client sought the indulgence of H.E. the President, who wrote to the honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Development, directing him to order Uganda Property Holdings Limited to waive off the outstanding rent, stop eviction and work out compensation for Unifreight Cargo Handling Limited. The committee was not availed with a copy of the letter from the President.

The directive was communicated to UPHL by management by the Permanent Secretary/ Secretary to the Treasury. In the same letter, PS/ ST directed UPHL to seek legal advice from the Solicitor-General about the directive. UPHL wrote to the Solicitor-General who has to date not issued an opinion. The Solicitor-General wrote to the Uganda Revenue Authority, seeking clarification on the storage fees and the vehicle auction. The amount outstanding is currently Shs 2.8 billion.

Committee observations

1. UPHL performance on revenue collection is affected by delayed payment and clearance of rent by its clients;

- i) The necessary restrictions on expenditure on collections that fall within the financial year are not explicit;
- ii) The activities that were not fully executed included recruitment, opening regional offices and development of an asset register for one of the cooperatives.
- iii) Despite the key role played by development partners in financing critical activities, relying upon them to cost the service study for the parameters to be set for licensing, the Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL) by NORAD is not sustainable and has far-reaching consequences.

Recommendations

- i. Management of ERA recommendation should come up with explicit restrictions on expenditure on collection that fall within the financial year.
- ii. All unimplemented activities such as recruitment and development of asset register be rolled over and prioritised in the subsequent financial year.
- iii. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should ensure that ERA has an adequate budget to implement critical activities with less reliance on development partners.

Madam Speaker, on the accounts of the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), we observe that:

- i) UHRC's performance on the tribunal files of 17.3 per cent of the total caseload partially heard, while none was concluded, was poor. This resulted in the accumulation of case backlog whenever new cases were brought before the tribunal with older cases yet to be concluded.
- ii) The sporadic funding for the tribunal sessions has affected the pace at which the commission resolves cases. Tribunal

hearings are solely funded by the Justice, Law and Order Sector and not the Government of Uganda.

We therefore recommend that:

- i. The Management should put in place strategic measures to expeditiously handle caseloads to a logical conclusion;
- ii. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should provide adequate funding to the commission in addition to strengthening the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism that was put in place;
- iii. The Government should prioritise funding for tribunal hearings since it is core to the provision of justice as a requirement under the Constitution;
- iv. The commission should adopt a method of first in, first out to avoid hearing cases haphazardly.

On the account of the Local Government Finance Commission, the committee observes that:

- i. Article 176 of the Constitution provides for the system of local government based on the district as a unit under which there shall be such local governments and administrative units as Parliament may by law, provide. The said system was envisaged to buttress devolution, where governance and financial autonomy would be decentralised to districts;
- ii. The Local Government Finance Commission is mandated to support the Government in ensuring that fiscal decentralisation is implemented in line with the constitutional objectives. As such, the Constitution and Local Government Finance Commission Act, 2003 are very clear on its funding;
- iii. The budget processing for the commission does not comply with Articles 155(2) and

lacked exclusive control of some of the FIA interventions due to shared responsibility and this made it difficult for the agency to maximise its outputs.

The delay to release of funds to the Financial Intelligence Authority by Ministry of Finance and Economic Development affected staff recruitment and other planned activities leading to low absorption of the wage allocation.

The committee recommends for close collaborations and adherence to timelines in the execution of the activities by the Financial Intelligence Authority and its stakeholders.

The ministry of finance should release funds to the authority in a timely manner.

Non-implementation of activities

The committee makes an observation that there was a worrying trend of bank and telecommunication money transaction frauds in the country in the absence of an integrated robust system to detect and deter fraudulent transactions.

The committee further concurred with the Auditor-General that the non-implementation of planned activities impedes attainment of the expected planned outputs and service delivery, for example, non-implementation of the administrative sanctions to non-compliant accountable persons in the country despite receiving funding.

Recommendations

1. The Government should set up a robust integrated and multi-year pragmatic intervention to minimise bank and mobile money fraud at all levels.
2. The authority should issue clear financial guidelines to the entire financial sector, regardless of the level of risk.

On continued country presence on the Financial Action Task Force grey list, we observe that the country has since collaborated, through this Parliament, in enacting the relevant

that management maintains its improved performance, which is commendable.

On the return on assets, we observe that the agricultural value chain is long, involving many processes and this culminated into pricing each kilogramme of posho at Shs 4,000. Income made from the use of the subsidiary's assets has decreased for the year under review, as compared to the previous year. There were no strong feasible mechanisms in place to increase income generation from the use of assets.

We recommend that management institutes mechanisms to increase income generation from the use of its assets.

On liquidity assets, the committee observes and agrees with the Auditor-General's opinion that such a high current ratio implies that the company is not efficiently using its current assets or its short-term financing facilities. We observe that the outlook of the income statement revealed that the entity invested Shs 4.7 billion to produce Shs 520 million.

Management should ensure that in a bid to have adequate cash for paying suppliers, the company should not hold working capital idle. It should consider investing in short-term investments to allow adequate cash flows.

Debt ratio analysis –(*Interjections*)– for my colleague who says “in conclusion,” I know I have read for long and he has listened for long; he could have lost track. I have been concluding on every point that I have been reading. (*Laughter*) I am only resting; I am not tired. Do not worry - I have no association with the monkeys. (*Laughter*)

Madam Speaker, the committee here observes that with a debt ratio of 50 per cent, the company does not have enough funds to meet its current debt obligations and may find it hard to pay a return on Government investments and its future loans.

The committee recommends that management should ensure that the entity settles its payables to avoid any further judicial risks associated with litigation.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much, honourable chairperson, for keeping our original Committee on (Commissions, Statutory Authorities, and State Enterprises) (COSASE) alive. I feel proud of COSASE when I hear that you were able to recover the land title; that was our spirit - Congratulations.

The issues that are being raised by different entities are self-explanatory. All you can add is to wait for a treasury memorandum on what action the Government has taken and what has been raised as per the law. I know some people would like to raise issues of Kiteezi, but we cannot discuss it because they are in court. Why the report was-

MR SSEGGONA: Allow me, Madam Speaker to lay the same.

THE SPEAKER: Please lay. Why it was reported is because it is for the previous financial year. Therefore, you have to adopt this report, it is a good one. Hon. Isaac?

5.49

MR ISAAC OTIMGIW (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. As you mentioned Madam Speaker, the presenter has been very elaborate on this report. For two and a half hours, he was spot on all matters. I feel there is nothing much to add. We should move a Motion, adopt this report and wait for the treasury memorandum.

THE SPEAKER: Is it seconded? (*Members rose.*) Seconded by Hon. Jane, Hon. Frank, Hon. Xavier, Hon. Phyllis, Hon. Ethel, Shadow Attorney-General, he has been here listening. You cannot understand issues of COSASE-also seconded by local government, *Hajjat*, Hon. Helen, Hon. Koluo, Gen. David, David I hope you are fine, Hon. Ssolo, *Mukatuliiki* and the whole House.

Honourable members, you can only understand the issues about MDAs or Statutory Authorities, if you have had a chat with them.

5.50

MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak): Madam Speaker, looking at the last report the chairperson read on Capital Markets Authority, they have pointed out very critical issues. However, they have not put a recommendation about the negligence of the management and leadership of the Capital Markets Authority.

To develop this country, it is not the loans we need, it is our patient capital-

THE SPEAKER: What you are saying is in the main report.

MS NAKUT: How about what the chairperson read?

THE SPEAKER: This is a summary.

MS NAKUT: Most obliged, Madam Speaker. The motion can now go on-

MS KATALI Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to rectify something - when he started with the "Uganda Bureau of Statistics", he said "Uganda National Bureau of Statistics", but it is "Uganda Bureau of Statistics."

THE SPEAKER: UBOS. Yes, corrected.

5.52

MR XAVIER KYOOMA (NRM, Ibanda County North, Ibanda): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to second the Motion with amendments. I thank the chairperson for the elaborate report. My concern is on the recommendations, and I will pick a general area. When you go to the implementation of outputs, for almost all the MDIs-

THE SPEAKER: MDAs

MR KYOOMA: MDAs, thank you. The agencies. Thank you find that some part of the warranted funds have been received. However, when it comes to implementation, none of the outputs are fully implemented. By proportion, what is not implemented is more than the funds that were not received.

In this case for future reasons, we need to be extra careful and make recommendations for refund of those funds which were received for unimplemented activities. The Auditor-General's report is always clear that despite receiving funds, activities were not implemented, and funds were not returned to the Consolidated Fund.

Lastly, when you look at the report for Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA), at some point, it is stated that the Auditor-General- this is not for the committee, it is my observation, that the outputs were not quantified. Slightly after that, the Auditor-General report says that activities were fully quantified but partially implemented.

The reader will be confused because you have already said all the seven output activities were not quantified, meaning that individual activities do not have costs. When you move down, you say "for all activities for the seven outputs which were quantified were not fully implemented" those that were partially or not implemented at all.

The reader will get lost if we say "They did not quantify". If they did not quantify, then you do not have what to audit because these single activities do not have costs. That is my observation. Thank you, chairperson, for the report and I would like to it second with those amendments. Thank you.

5.55

MR HENRY KIBALYA (NRM, Bugabula County South, Kamuli): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I second the Motion and join you the honourable colleagues in thanking the chairperson. My concern, through your office, is when the Treasury memorandum comes, there are some pertinent issues that the chairperson raised.

Whoever has visited the revenue offices the letter claimed to have been written by the President- the waiver, people's vehicles are rotting from there. Therefore, my request is when will the treasury memorandum come?

THE SPEAKER: The law says within six months

MR KIBALYA: Madam Speaker, within six months - even those who received double salaries will have changed their jobs from Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)-

THE SPEAKER: It says “within” - it can even come tomorrow. Yes, Hajjat?

MR KIBALYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker

5.56

MS AISHA KABANDA (NUP, Woman Representative, Butambala): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to beg that we amend and add -

THE SPEAKER: Are you seconding the motion with amendments?

MS AISHA KABANDA: Yes, I am seconding the motion with amendments and I join colleagues in thanking the chairperson and the team for a wonderful report.

We spent Shs 2.4 billion on hiring equipment for the landfill. Would it not be prudent for us, the Government, to consider procuring equipment rather than spending all this money for hiring for a single day and yet these are annual consumables?

So, I recommend that the Government consider procuring its equipment for the landfill rather than annual hiring. Also the issue of the-
(Interruption)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. There is a procedural issue.

PROF. MUSHMEMZA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The motion was well moved. That we had done a very good job and that there was not much to add - and I was one of the seconders.

However, what I read from the honourable colleagues is that they are actually debating. So, the point of procedure -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I now put the question that the report of the Public Accounts Committee - that is, Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises on the report of Auditor-General on the Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2023, for the following entities: Kampala City Council Authority, the National Environment Management Authority, Uganda National Roads Authority, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Uganda AIDS Commission, Uganda Property Holdings Limited, Electricity Regulatory Authority, Uganda Human Rights Commission, Local Government Finance Commission, Financial Intelligence Authority, National Enterprise Corporation, National Children’s Authority and Capital Markets Authority be adopted by this august House with amendments.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the law allows the accountability committees to bring the reports to the House within six months. Failure to do that, the remaining that are not brought to the House are automatically adopted - that is according to the motion that was brought in this House by Hon. Nathan Nandala Mafabi, the then Chairperson of PAC(Central)

I now put the question that the report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements for the Financial Year 2022/2023 for all public corporations, state enterprises and commissions which the Public Accounts Committee - that is, COSASE has not reported upon to the House, be adopted by this House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: I am only adopting COSASE, I knew you were scared of yours but we are waiting for your feedback on Tuesday and then we shall adopt yours also.

Honourable members, I would like to thank you and the committee. Leader of the Opposition, do you have something to say?

6.00

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI (NUP, Butambala County, Butambala): Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my young brother, the Hon. Medard Ssegona Lubega - he knows he is my younger brother, for all intents and purposes for the good work he has done and the entire membership of the COSASE for the good work they have done.

In adopting the rest of the report, it is a good way to proceed as Hon. Nandala set a precedent. However, we may seek exceptions, and we may ask - going forward, for where we feel we need to do a more exhaustive investigation of a given sector.

For instance, the report is already adopted but when we were adopting the report-

THE SPEAKER: Like we have adopted Posta - but we have gone ahead to get out of the veil.

MR KIVUMBI: Like when we were adopting the report on the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, we thought - and Parliament took the motion that because of the Shs 14 trillion you saw in the consolidated accounts, the committee of public accounts is going to spend a little time between now and December to do a one by one for once thorough investigation on every project that comprises of the Shs 14 trillion to be able to inform Parliament -

THE SPEAKER: Of Uganda Revenue Authority?

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: No, Shs 14 trillion of the money that is undispatched and is not performing. We need to come to terms and ask, "What are these projects? Where are they? What comprises them? Why have they failed? And we need to bring a report.

So, in those exceptional circumstances, we will always beg for your indulgence to create that window so that that kind of work can be done. But generally, where - because even if PAC wanted or COSASE you do not have the time to do all the reports. You have 513 -

THE SPEAKER: No, we will always have exceptional cases. We may adopt the report as it is but give more time for that particular report to be looked at by either another committee or by the same committee because they always say a second opinion is always very important.

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: Like we are recommended to investigate all the lands of universities because they are in danger. For example, Makerere.

THE SPEAKER: Not only universities, but all schools, starting with Nakasero

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: All schools, but we are zeroing in on - the Speaker then in chair referred that work to the Committee of Education.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Education, I am starting with Nakasero Primary School.

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: So, we wanted to investigate all schools. So the Speaker then ruled that the Committee on Education should undertake that job to give Parliament a report.

So, we will always beg for your indulgence in exceptional circumstances and we thank you for your understanding. But also we will beg you to adequately fund these committees (*Applause*). There is a question of funding. Parliament made a policy-

THE SPEAKER: Let us discuss that when we are discussing the PAC account because they are the same people who have removed the funds. You know very well I do not give the money. We give and they give us what they can give. I cannot give what I do not have. I give you what they give us. So, just know that if I had, I would give you. I can only give what I have.

Therefore, when we are debating on Tuesday, that is when we shall raise that because it is absurd for a committee like PAC (Central) that has embassies to have the same money, the same little amount that the Committee of

Appointment gets – I have given you a good example. No, I had to give you my committee.

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for your understanding and support always.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Government – (*Hon. Kaberuka rose*)- Hon. James, let him first finish then he comes –(*Laughter*)

6.05

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I am also tired. Can you designate?

MR OBUA: Madam Speaker, I am here on two fronts. One is to confirm that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, as required by law, will be left with no option but to ensure that the Treasury Memorandum is provided in response to the committee report.

Secondly, with your guidance, Madam Speaker, myself, and the Democratic Whip, I consulted with you with a view of designating two Members from the side of NRM and one from the side of DP to a Sectoral Committee and one to a Standing Committee. May I with your permission, proceed?

Madam Speaker, pursuant to Rule 15(10) (C) and Rule 187 of the Rules of Procedure, I beg to move that Hon. Dr Atim Agnes Apea be designated to the Sectoral Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Additionally, pursuant to Rule 15(10)(C), Rule 158, and Rule 160 of the Rules of Procedure, I beg to move that Hon. Florence Andiru Nebanda be designated to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government).

THE SPEAKER: Yes, thank you. Yes -

6.08

MR PETER OKOT (DP, Tochi County, Omoro): Madam Speaker, as per rule 188 (5) I hereby re-designate Hon. Fred Kayondo,

Member of Parliament for Mukono South, from the Committee on Physical Infrastructure to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. I beg to re-designate. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the committees that have been read be reconstituted as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, we had an issue in the House that was not resolved; the issue of the Kiswahili Council Bill. The issue was whether it belonged to gender or education. We sent them to harmonise. Can they give us the harmonised position in one minute? I see gender is there -

6.09

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)

(Mr Peter Ogwang): Madam Speaker, first of all, I thank you and the august House, for having raised this when the Bill was being presented. I consulted within my ministry and the position of the Ministry of Education and Sports is as follows:

1. Education has a central role in the promotion of languages, whereby Kiswahili is one of them;
2. The Ministry of Education and Sports requests that this Bill be withdrawn by the ministry responsible for gender, despite having gone through Cabinet, then we will work within the Government to see how this matter can be brought back to the House.

Therefore, as the ministry responsible for education, that is our position. I thank you, Madam Speaker. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Education. Gender - Can you withdraw your –

6.10

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (DISABILITY AFFAIRS) (Ms Hellen Asamo): Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister of State for Education and Sports, but I have been taken unaware because I was not part of the discussion. So, I beg that I take the report to the respective minister so that next week, I will deliver the message and it will be withdrawn officially. Thank you.

We are one government, so there is nothing to refuse. I am going to say, because –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable –

MS ASAMO: Madam Speaker, the minister said they harmonised. So, mine is to carry the message back and then direct the minister that it should be withdrawn. And then, we go back to the Cabinet with it. That is something that we shall do. But I cannot commit myself.

THE SPEAKER: Government Chief Whip –

6.11

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obuga): Madam Speaker, as the custodian of the Rules of Procedure, the hands of even the Government Chief Whip appear tied by rule 140. In the circumstances, I would request that you give us time as the Government to harmonise in Cabinet on Monday, then by Tuesday, we can give a definite position because even if we are moving for withdrawal, the sponsor of the Bill is the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. As per rule 140, it is only a Member in charge of the Bill and that is the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

I pray you give us time up to Monday so that we reconcile in the Cabinet then we can give you the position of the Government on Tuesday; whether it is gender proceeding or education as recommended by Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: We are giving you up to Tuesday. If you do not come to withdraw your Bill or you do not come with a harmonised

position, then we shall take over your powers, as a House. Yes –

6.12

MR JAMES KABERUKA (NRM, Kinkizi County West, Kanungu): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for finally allowing me to say something. The accountability committees have done good work. My worry is –

THE SPEAKER: Maybe before you continue, the ruling I gave yesterday still stands for even these accountability committees. The Sectoral Committees should pick what is mentioned in their entities, especially with the Budget Framework Paper. They should be able to analyse the issues in terms of output –

MR KABERUKA: Madam Speaker, critical issues were raised - and I thank you for that guidance, especially that the Sectoral Committees can pick them and then follow them up.

However, the Treasury Memorandum that is going to be presented, for example, on the issue of arrears which are encroaching on people's investments, domestic arrears are killing this economy. How can the Government expedite the actions of such issues that are affecting the people of Uganda, day in and day out?

Can we also interrogate those Treasury Memorandums that have been presented before and see how they have been fulfilled? Madam Speaker, through you, we also want a session, at least where we can have a discussion on the Treasury Memorandum about how they have been effectively implemented by the Government. Otherwise, they can present them and they continue as a ritual. It is becoming a ritual for them to be presented as Treasury Memorandum.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. James, do you know what they call the accounting cycle? We only complete the accounting cycle when the treasury memorandum is brought back and we refer it to the Auditor-General to check whether what they found out is not corrected up to now. Then they send it back to the accountability committees.

I am now giving you information; free education. I believe that you belong to one of the accountability committees, you should be able to check; “Where are the treasury memoranda for what we passed? What was done? How has it been rectified?” If it has not been rectified, it will reappear in the next audit report. Now, this is for accountants.

The House is now adjourned to Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.

(The House rose at 6.16 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 22 October, 2024)