



# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

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## IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

### Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

#### FOURTH SESSION - 21ST SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Thursday, 26 September 2024

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

#### PRAYERS

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

*The House was called to order.*

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, I welcome you to today's sitting. We were delayed in a meeting with the fishing community; you know that one can never be easy.

The way fishing is hard is the same way resolving the issues is, but what I discovered in that meeting was that the main point of contention for now is the conflict between those fishing silverfish and those fishing the Nile perch; and the different fishing methods.

Anyhow, we have made progress. We have tried, as Members - because it is an issue we could not conclude at once - but we hope that with what we have agreed upon and the meeting we shall have in two weeks, we shall have registered progress because it is mainly about bringing people on board.

I received a petition from the Association of Uganda Tea Growers, through Hon. Mbwatekamwa. I will vary the Order Paper to receive it now. Yes, Hon. Mbwatekamwa.

2.21

**MR MBWATEKAMWA GAFFA (NRM, Igara County West, Bushenyi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am here to present a petition, on behalf of the Uganda tea farmers, to the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, praying for Government intervention to deliver tea farmers out of a crisis.

I will straight away go to the prayers because everything is embedded in here and I am going to lay the petition on the Table. Among the prayers that our farmers are presenting are:

#### Fertiliser intervention

The Government is requested to subsidise fertilizers for tea out growers by 75 per cent in the first session, followed by 50 per cent in the second session and 25 per cent in the third session for a self-sustaining fertilizer financing mechanism.

#### Product quality regulation for value enhancement

Parliament is requested to direct the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) to develop an enforceable tea green leaf standard. This is the most impactful, practical, and affordable tea industry Government intervention implementable in a short-term period.

Mr Speaker, the Government has been insisting that to get a tea policy, it should go under the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and

Fisheries but as tea farmers, we know that UNBS can handle it better since it manages things to do with quality.

Value chain financing with strategies to reach farmers

We request the Parliament to direct the Microfinance Support Centre to put aside at least Shs 31.5 billion for financing tea out growers' operations, excluding fertilizer financing. This will reduce farmers' reliance on processing factories to provide financing for primary production.

Green leaf market access and assurance interventions

The Government is requested to rejuvenate interventions aimed at clearing the country's aggregate shortage in processing capacities as earlier evaluated.

Product diversification

The Government is requested to support investments in product diversification and the marketing of new tea products. The most globally over-supplied tea segment is CTC Black tea. The production of - we are requesting the Government to help us to start venturing into Orthodox tea or even green tea.

Cottage tea processing

The farmers are requesting that the minimum quantity of green tea to justify a single-line processing line can be helped by the Government's support for cottage tea processing units to supplement big factories. Cottage units will make new isolated tea growing areas to enter into tea processing with modest investments.

We are also praying for grants to recover abandoned tea gardens. On this, the Government is requested to provide a pruning grant of about Shs 5 billion to support the pruning of 30 per cent of tea out-growers' gardens. Pruning is a normal agronomic exercise for a tea plant every three years.

Now that the farmers have no income to conduct pruning, this intervention will help in recovering abandoned tea gardens.

We are also praying for business financing intervention. The tea value chain demands primary processing within 24 hours. The Government interventions for tea farmers amidst the struggling factories will be a futility.

Many tea factories have their properties threatened by bank loans with a few explicitly heading for business foreclosure. An aggregate of at least Shs 126 billion was earmarked as working capital to be availed to these factories.

Mr Speaker, we are also praying for interventions to reduce the cost of doing business. A tea processing factory's cost of production and sales directly - (*Interjection*) - yes, impacts on green leaf pricing. Interventions approved by the Cabinet to reduce factory costs will directly improve the tea farming business in this industry.

With those prayers, we pray for the Government's intervention and pray that you allow me to table this petition entitled "Uganda Tea Farmers Petition to the Rt Hon. Speaker of Parliament of the Republic of Uganda. I beg to submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Mbwatekamwa. This is an issue that affects the tea growers across the whole country. I am going to refer - because from the information I have, it has been the Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives handling issues of tea.

I am going to refer this to the Committee on Trade and Tourism. In case they need support from the committee of agriculture, they can always go there but I am referring it to the Committee on Trade and Tourism as per Rule 30 and it is to be processed within 45 days. Thank you.

Colleagues, I will handle matters of national importance after the two items, which have been pending over time. Next item.

MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS FINANCING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024, AS RETURNED BY H.E THE PRESIDENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 91(3) (B) OF THE CONSTITUTION AND RULE 143 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I call the minister, let me allow Hon. Agnes Kunihira.

**MS KUNIHIRA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Several times, some of my colleagues and I have risen here, on the issue of the Employment (Amendment) Bill. That law was passed by Parliament, but up to today we have not heard whether it was signed or returned; we have not gotten any communication.

I would like to seek your indulgence to allow us assume under, the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, that the Bill is now a law.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I have to first cross-check. It might be in one of those documents still pending in office and so, I cannot start assuming. We shall give you feedback on Tuesday. Thank you. Yes, honourable minister.

2.30

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY) (Dr Joyce Moriku):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill on the High Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024, as returned by the President, be reconsidered. I beg to move.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** This is a returned Bill, so we need to reconsider.

**DR MORIKU:** I beg to move, Mr Speaker, that the Bill be reconsidered.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Our *Hansard* will make all these corrections. Thank you, honourable minister. Is the motion seconded? Okay, it is seconded by Hon. Nambeshe, Hon. Muzaale, Hon. Amos - majority of the House. While the minority is seated, majority is standing. Thank you.

Honourable minister, this was straightforward. I think let us have the chairperson present the report. Isn't it? Or you had something to say? Okay. Thank you. Yes, chairperson.

2.32

**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SPORTS (Mr James Kubeketerya):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to present the report of the sectoral Committee on Education and Sports on the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024, as returned by the President.

Mr Speaker, I have the minutes to lay on the Table, and here is the report.

Introduction

The Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024, was Tabled for first reading on 4 April 2024 and it was referred to the Committee on Education and Sports by the Rt Hon. Speaker, in accordance with Rule 129(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

On Wednesday 17 April 2024, Parliament considered and passed the Bill. Subsequently, the Clerk to Parliament transmitted a presentation copy of the Bill to H.E., the President for assent.

However, the President, in accordance with Article 91(3)(b) of the Constitution, returned the Bill to Parliament with a request for Parliament to reconsider some provisions therein.

On Tuesday, 23 July 2024, in accordance with Rule 143(1) and (2) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the Rt Hon. Speaker read the request of the President to the House and referred the Bill, to the Committee on Education and Sports for reconsideration.

The President's letter addressed to the Speaker, dated 16 July 2024, requested for the reconsideration of the Bill on the following grounds:

The long title to the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024

His Excellency, the President noted that the longer title - The Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024, returned to Parliament, was different from the longer title, stated under Section 5, clause 5 of the Bill. The long title to the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024, reads as follows:

*“An Act to amend the Higher Education Students Financing Act, 2014, to mainstream the functions of the Higher Education Students Financing Board into the Ministry responsible for education in order to give effect to the government policy on rationalisation of government agencies and public expenditure and for related purposes.”*

The long title in clause 5 of the Bill of a subsection of the long title to Act 2 of 2014 (Principal Act) reads - for the long title Act 2 of 2014, in this Act referred to as the Principal Act, there is substituted by the following:

*“An Act to establish a scheme to finance students to pursue higher education in Uganda, and to establish a fund to finance the scheme and provide for management and administration of the scheme and a fund by the Ministry responsible for education.”*

His Excellency, the President proposes that in order to ensure consistence, the two long titles of the Act should be reconciled to provide for the same.

Transitioning of the current employees of the Higher Education Financing Board.

Section 45(6) of the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024, clause 42(6) of the returned Bill, provides thus: *“The staff of the Higher Education Students Financing Board may be redeployed to serve in the public service subject to availability of positions.”*

His Excellency the President noted that the provision is irregular because the High Students Financing Board staff were neither appointed in the Education Service Commission in accordance with Article 168(5) of the 1995 Constitution nor appointed in the Public Service by the Public Service Commission under Article 166(1) –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, procedure, Hon. Mpuuga.

**MR MPUUGA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Since we are enacting a law, wouldn't it be prudent that the chairperson corrects the section he has read as 45(6) instead of 43(6)? This is so because those who will read the *Hansard* might get us wrong. He read it as 45. We need to have the record corrected.

**MR KUBEKETERYA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Section 43(6) of the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024 clause 42(6) of the returned Bill provides that the staff – I think that I had read that and moved on to the other paragraphs.

His Excellency, the President noted that the provisions are irregular because the Higher Education Students Financing Board staff – I had also read that one and went on to the Constitution are appointed in the public service by the Public Service Commission, under Article 166(1) of the 1995 Constitution.

This means they are not eligible for redeployment in both the Education Service and the Public Service as proposed in the above section of the Act.

The President, therefore, proposes that Section 43(6) of the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Act, 2024 be deleted because it is not applicable to the Higher Education Students Financing Board staff. He further proposed that the staff should be retired and compensated upon abolition of the office. Where the staff intend to join either education service or public service, and they meet the requirements, they should go through the recruitment process.

## 2.0 Role of a Committee in consideration of a Bill returned by the President

Article 91(2) of the Constitution imposes an obligation on Parliament to ensure that a Bill passed by Parliament is, as soon as possible, presented to the President for assent.

Clause (3) of Article 91 provides that the President shall, within 30 days after a Bill is presented to him or her –

- (a) assent to the Bill;
- (b) return the Bill to Parliament with a request that the Bill or a particular provision of it is reconsidered by Parliament; or
- (c) notify the Speaker in writing that he or she refuses to assent to the Bill.

His Excellency, the President returned to Parliament the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024 under Article 91(3)(b) of the Constitution, with a request that some provisions be reconsidered by Parliament.

Clause (4) of Article 91 of the Constitution provides that where a Bill has been returned to Parliament under clause (3)(b) of Article 91, as is the case with the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024, Parliament is required to reconsider the Bill and if passed again, it is presented for a second time to the President for assent.

Rule 143 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament provides for the procedure for the reconsideration of Bills returned by the President. Rule 143 –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Committee chairperson, which Clerk wrote all that? This is because by the time we assigned you, we knew, otherwise we would not have. We used the rules to assign this to you.

**MR KUBEKETERYA:** Let me go to the methodology, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Go to the considerations.

**MR KUBEKETERYA:** Consideration of matters returned by the President

The committee has examined the provisions returned for reconsideration by His Excellency the President and hereby reports.

### 4.1 Long title to the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024

His Excellency the President proposes that the long title to the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024 should be reconciled with the long title under clause 5 of the Bill on substitution of the long title to Act 2 of 2014 so that they both read the same.

The long title to the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024 reads as follows: *“An Act to amend the Higher Education Students Financing Act, 2014 to mainstream the functions of the Higher Education Students Financing Board into the ministry responsible for education in order to give effect to the Government policy on Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure; and for related purposes.”*

On the other hand, clause 5 of the returned Bill reads as follows: “5. Substitution of long title to Act 2 of 2014

For the long title to Act 2 of 2014, in this Act referred to as the “principal Act”, there is substituted the following –

*“An Act to establish a scheme to finance students to pursue higher education in Uganda: to establish a fund to finance the scheme, and to provide for the management and administration of the scheme and the fund by the ministry responsible for education.”*

Committee observations

The committee observed that the two long titles referred to in the President’s letter are distinct from each other because they serve different purposes in legislation.

According to Section 3 of the Parliament Act, Cap. 1, every Act of Parliament must bear a long title describing the leading provisions of the Act. So, the longer title, the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024, describes the leading provisions of the amendment Act while clause 5 of the Bill seeks to replace the long title to the Higher Education Students Financing Act, Cap. 248 (the Principal Act).

The amendments in the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024 necessitated the amendment of the long title of the Higher Education Students Financing Act, Cap. 248 (Principal Act) as reflected in clause 5 of the Bill.

#### Recommendation

The committee recommends that since the two long titles serve different purposes in legislation, they should be maintained as provided in the returned Bill.

#### 4.2 Transitioning of the current employees of the Higher Education Students Financing Board (HESFEB)

His Excellency, the President recommends the deletion of clause 43(6) of the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which is indicated as (clause 42(2) of the returned Bill), which provides for the redeployment of staff of the Higher Education Students Financing Board in the public service, subject to availability of positions.

The President noted that the provision is irregular since HESFB staff were neither appointed by the Education Service Commission in accordance with Article 168(5) of the 1995 Constitution nor appointed by the Public Service Commission under Article 166(1) of the Constitution. The President proposes that those staff should be retired and compensated upon abolition of office.

#### Committee observations

The committee observes that public officers are appointed in accordance with Article 172 of the Constitution.

Article 172(1)(a) of the Constitution provides that -

*“The President may, acting in accordance with the advice of the Public Service Commission, Education Service Commission or Health Service Commission, as the case may be, appoint persons to hold or act in any office in the public service of Uganda of the rank of Head of Department or above, other than those referred to in Article 200 of this Constitution, including confirmation of appointments, the exercise of disciplinary control over such persons and their removal from office.”*

Article 172(1)(b) provides thus:

*“The Public Service Commission, the Education Service Commission or the Health Service Commission, as the case may be, may appoint persons to hold or act in any office in the public service of Uganda other than those referred to in paragraph (a) of this clause and in Article 200 of this Constitution, including the confirmation of their appointments and the exercise of disciplinary control over such persons and their removal from office.”*

Article 175(a) of the Constitution also defines “public officer” to mean “any person holding or acting in an office in the public.”

Article 175(b), the Constitution defines “public service” to mean “service in any civil capacity of Government, the emoluments for which are payable directly from the Consolidated Fund or directly out of monies provided by Parliament.”

The implication of the above provision is that a public officer under the Public Service Commission and Education Service Commission must have been appointed by either of the Commissions.



The Committee further observes that according to Section 14(2) of the Higher Education Students Financing Act, Cap. 248, the officers and staff of the Higher Education Students Financing Board are appointed by the Board on such terms and conditions as the Board determines.

The committee further observes that as noted by His Excellency, the President, the staff of the Higher Education Students' Financing Board are not public officers envisaged under Article 172 of the Constitution.

The other observation is that the power to appoint under, Section 24 of the Interpretation Act, Cap. 2, includes the power to re-appoint. Therefore, the staff of the Higher Education Students' Financing Board are not eligible for redeployment in the education service and public service because they were not deployed under either service.

Lastly, the Higher Education Students' Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024, clause 42(4), provides for payment of terminal benefits to the staff that shall retire pursuant to the amendment of the Higher Education Students' Financing Act, Cap. 248.

The committee recommends that clause 42(6) of the returned Higher Education Students' Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024 be deleted since the staff of the Higher Education Students' Financing Board are not public officers envisaged in section 42(6) of the amendment Bill.

In conclusion, the committee recommends that the House reconsiders the Higher Education Students' Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024 as returned by His Excellency the President, subject to the proposed amendments. I beg to report.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, committee chairperson. Honourable colleagues, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have a team of councillors from Bihanga Sub county in Buhweju District. They are represented in Parliament by Hon. Biraaro Ephraim and Hon.

Katwesigye Oliver Koyekyanga. They have come to observe proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them – *(Applause)* - I request you to stand up. Thank you.

Also, in the public gallery this afternoon, are students and teachers from Seeta Junior School. They are represented in Parliament by Hon. Kiwanuka Abdallah and Hon. Nabukeera Hanifa Hussein. They have also come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please, join me in welcoming you. Kindly stand up. *(Applause)*

Once again, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have a group of boys and girls from Prime View Soccer Academy located in Tororo Municipality, Tororo District. They are represented by Hon. Ofwono Yeri Apollo and Hon. Sarah Opendi Achieng. They have come to observe proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them. Kindly stand up. *(Applause)*

Finally, in the public gallery this afternoon, are students and teachers of Busaana Secondary School located in Kayunga District. They are represented by Hon. Lugoloobi Amos and Hon. Nantaba Idah Erios. They have come to observe proceedings of this House. Please, join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)*

Honourable colleagues, we are going to open the debate. Attorney-General, you have heard the recommendations of the committee, especially with regard to the issue of the two long titles. If you could first guide on the strong reasoning behind that recommendation to His Excellency the President -

2.54

**THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. We agree with the position of the committee on the issue of the amendment. There is a long title for this amendment and a long title for the Act. Once this amendment is complete, the long title for this amendment will become spent but the one for the original Act will remain in place.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Is that clear?

**MR NIWAGABA:** Can you then state it categorically that the President's position was ill-advised and the committee is right? *(Laughter)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleague, that is not how we work here.

**MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The issue is what would happen if one is not there. It is a drafting issue not a legal one. It is perfectly fine.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. The issues are very straightforward. Do we need to debate this? Are there issues for debate? Yes, Hon. Ababiku.

2.56

**MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. In my understanding, the issues are for harmonisation based on the existing laws and consistency. Therefore, I propose that we go to committee stage. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay, let us listen to Hon. Mpuuga.

2.56

**MR MATHIAS MPUUGA (NUP, Nyendo-Mukungwe Division, Masaka City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committee chairperson for the report. My curiosity has been aroused by the amendment in which the President asserted the facts that these officers should be given a stipend and exit.

We never set the ground rules from the beginning of rationalisation and without them, do not be shocked if this House in the coming month will be dealing with unpaid retired public officers.

Will the Attorney-General advise if they have internal ground rules that before an entity is absolved, whoever exits moves with their package such that we do not deal with backlog a year or five years after?

2.57

**THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE (Mr Muruuli Mukasa):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague, Hon. Mpuuga, for raising that issue. However, what is clear is that all those people whose services are going to be terminated are going away with their package. A provision has been made exactly for that. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, I now put the question that the motion for reconsideration of "The Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024" be adopted.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Motion adopted.*

THE HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS  
FINANCING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024,  
AS RETURNED BY H.E. THE PRESIDENT

BILLS  
COMMITTEE STAGE

THE HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS  
FINANCING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

Clause 43

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Yes, committee chairperson.

2.59

**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SPORTS (Mr James Kubeketerya):** Mr Chairman, the committee has one proposed amendment to The Higher Education Students Financing National Bill, 2024, as returned by His Excellency, the President. It is in Clause 42. According to the committee -

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** The President returned clause 43.

**MR KUBEKETERYA:** He returned two: the long title and - for the long title -

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable chairperson, you have been called to procedure – they have told you it is clause 43. Tell us if there is an amendment, give the justification and we move on. For the other clauses, we shall call them later. If you agree with the President - can you read from the report? Don't you have that part? In your report, you had put clause 42, but it was clause 43. The President returned clause 43, not clause 42.

**MR KUBEKETERYA:** Mr Chairman, according to the proposed amendment about the long title, the committee has no amendment. It goes by the first long title.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable committee chairperson, cross over to me; you come this side.

**MR KUBEKETERYA:** Thank you, Mr Chairman, for your guidance. Clause 43 is amended by deleting sub clause (6). The justification is that the staff of the Higher Education Students Financing Board are not eligible for redeployment in the education service or public service because they were not recruited by the education service or public service. I beg to report.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you. Any – Hon. Bwanika?

**DR BWANIKA:** Mr Chairman, from the report, we have clause 42 -

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** We corrected that. The President returned clause 43. That was a clerical error.

**DR BWANIKA:** The committee chairperson must go on the record that it is clause 43.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Yes, Hon. Nsamba.

**MR OSHABE:** Mr Chairman, I am uncomfortable with the statement itself, that “these people are not eligible for redeployment”. I find it very unfair. These people have been working for this institution. Now, they have no jobs -

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable member, have you read the reasoning? Are you a member of the committee?

**MR OSHABE:** I am not a member of the committee, Mr Chairman. Those members remember me; I was a member the other time.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** So, have you read the reasoning, honourable colleague?

**MR OSHABE:** Yes, I have read, but -

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** What was the reasoning?

**MR OSHABE:** I want to, first, hear – Mr Chairman, you pick my reasoning and compare it with the reasoning there.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** No, let us move on. You have just entered; I was watching closely.

**MR OSHABE:** I have not just entered, Mr Chairman, but it looks like you do not want to pick my -

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable colleagues, I put the question that clause 43 be amended as proposed

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Clause 43, as amended, agreed to.*

*The Title, agreed to.*

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, honourable minister.

3.04

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku):** Mr Chairman, I beg to move that the House do resume and the Committee of the whole House reports thereto.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:**  
Honourable colleagues, I put the question that that the House do resume and the Committee of the whole House reports thereto.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*(The House resumed, the Deputy Speaker presiding.)*

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE HOUSE

3.05

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku):** Mr Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of the whole House has reconsidered the Bill entitled “The Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024”, as returned by the President and passed it.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, I think we did that with amendments.

**DR MORIKU:** Should I repeat it? Mr Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of the whole House has reconsidered the Bill entitled “The Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024”, as returned by the President, and passed it with amendments.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE  
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE HOUSE

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, honourable minister.

3.06

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the report from the Committee of the whole House be adopted.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, I put the question that the report of the Committee of the whole House be adopted.

*(Question put, and agreed to.)*

*Report adopted.*

BILLS  
THIRD READING

THE HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS  
FINANCING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

3.07

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill entitled “The Higher Education Student Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024” as returned by His Excellency the President, be read the third time and do pass.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, I put the question that “The Higher Education Student Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024” be read the third time and do pass.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, “THE  
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS  
FINANCING (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2024”

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Chairperson and honourable minister, congratulations. I would like to thank you, honourable colleagues, for re-considering this Bill, and the stakeholders who supported us in ensuring that we work on it expeditiously.

I now direct the Clerk to expeditiously transmit the Bill to His Excellency, the President for assent pursuant to Rule 143(8) of our Rules of Procedure. Next item.

MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF  
THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
UNESCO (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024 AS  
RETURNED BY H.E THE PRESIDENT  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 91(3)  
(b) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND RULE 143  
OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, honourable minister.

3.09

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill entitled, “The National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Bill, 2024” as returned by His Excellency, the President, be reconsidered.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is the motion seconded? Yes, it is seconded by Hon. Bahati, Hon. Aza, Minister of State for Local Government, workers’ representative, Kwania representative, Hon. Mutembuli, Hon. Lillian Aber, Hon. Okot, Dr Anthony Okullo, Hon. Mamawi – by many Members. Thank you. Honourable chairperson?

3.10

**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SPORTS (Mr James Kubeketerya):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to report on “The National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Bill, 2024” as returned by the President.

I am not going to give a long introduction. I will just move straight to committee observations. Maybe, we need to report that when this Bill was returned, the committee still interfaced with the Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Public Service, the honourable Attorney-General and the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO.

Consideration of matters returned by His Excellency the President

The committee has examined the provisions returned for reconsideration by His Excellency the President and hereby reports as follows:

4.1 The Amendment Act establishes a Department instead of a Unit

His Excellency the President noted that Clause 4 of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Act, 2024, which re-establishes the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (UNATCOM) as a department in the ministry responsible for education without corporate status should be deleted because it is contrary to the public service practice.

According to the President, it is the role of the Cabinet and not Parliament to establish a department in a ministry.

During the consideration of the above issue, the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Public Service informed the committee that they were agreeable to establishing the structure of UNATCOM as a unit in the Ministry of Education and Sports.

The committee was further informed by the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO that the Commission:

1. Serves as a liaison agency between UNESCO and the ministries, departments, bodies, institutions and national experts on the organisation’s field of competence;
2. It is inter-ministerial and multidisciplinary, as it serves 13 ministries with their departments and over 15 agencies associated with the ministries. The Commission covers five programs in the sectors and disciplines of education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, communication and information; and
3. The Secretariat of the Islamic Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ICESCO), established in 1979 by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) as a specialised agency

whose objectives are to strengthen and promote cooperation among the member states in the fields of education, science, culture, and communication.

The Attorney-General guided that Article 171 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda provides that subject to the provisions of the Constitution and any other law, the President may, after consultation with the appropriate service commission, establish offices in the public service of the Government of Uganda. In accordance with Article 171 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, the general practice is that offices in the Public Service, including units or departments of Government, are established administratively in consultation with the relevant service commissions and with the approval of the Cabinet.

That the establishment of the public offices by law is an exception to the general rule and does not apply to the establishment of the unit to be responsible for UNESCO matters in Uganda.

The Attorney-General further guided that the proposal of the President should be adopted to delete clause 4. The Act shall be administered by the Ministry of Education and Sports, as requested by the President.

The Attorney-General further stated that the Ministry of Public Service shall provide a structure for the Ministry of Education and Sports, setting out a unit to be responsible for UNESCO matters. In establishing the unit, the Ministry of Public Service shall take into consideration the different thematic areas of UNESCO.

#### Committee observations

The committee observed as follows:

1. Although the President's letter indicated that the Cabinet decided to retain the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO as a department in the Ministry of Education and Sports, the proposal to re-establish the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO as a department

in the Ministry of Education and Sports was also a decision of Cabinet, as reflected in the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Bill, 2024 that was approved by Cabinet before presentation to Parliament; and

2. Departments in ministries are generally established administratively with the approval of the Cabinet, as noted by His Excellency the President.

#### Committee recommendation

The committee recommends that clause 4, which seeks to establish UNATCOM as a department in the ministry responsible for education and sports, should be deleted to ensure that the administrative structure of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO is established administratively.

4.2. The Amendment Act continues with the terminology of "Commission" in the long title

Under the above issue, H.E. the President raised two issues namely:

1. That the long title to the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Bill, 2024 is different from the long title proposed under clause 5 of the Bill; and
2. That the continued use of the terminology "Commission" under clauses 5, 14 and 15 conflicts with the Cabinet decision establishing the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO as a unit in the Ministry of Education and Sports.

#### 4.2.1 The long titles

His Excellency, the President proposes that the long title to the Uganda Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Bill, 2024 should be reconciled with the long title under clause 5 of the Bill on substitution of the long title Act 6 of 2014, Cap. 28 so that they both read the same.

The long title to the Amendment, 2024 reads thus: "*An Act to amend the National Commission for*

*UNESCO, Act 6, 2014 to remove the Corporate status of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO and make the ministry responsible for education the Secretariat for the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO in order to give effect to the Government Policy of Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure and for related purposes.”*

The long title in clause 5 of the Amendment Act on substitution of long title to Act 6 of 2014, Cap. 28 of the Principal Act reads: *“For the long title to Act 6 of 2014, hereinafter referred to as the Principal Act, there is substituted the following –*

*An Act to provide for the establishment and operation of the Ugandan National Commission for UNESCO (UNATCOM); to provide for the object of the Commission; to provide for the functions of the Commission; to provide for the Secretariat of the Commission; and for related matters.”*

#### Committee observations

The committee observed that the two long titles referred to in the President’s letter are distinct from each other because they serve different purposes in legislation. According to Section 3 of the Acts of Parliament Act, Cap 1, every Act of Parliament must bear a long title.

Mr Speaker, this is similar to the other one of the Higher Education Financing Board.

#### Recommendation

The committee recommends that since the two long titles serve different purposes in legislation, they should be maintained.

#### Use of the terminology “Commission”

His Excellency, the President, also expressed concern on the use of the terminology “Commission” in the amendment Bill. The President referred to clause 14 of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Bill, 2024 on the substitution of the heading of part III of the Principal Act,

which reads: *“For the heading of part III of the Principal Act, there is substituted the following - “Part III Administration of Commission.”*

He also made reference to Clause 15 of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Bill, 2024 on substitution of clause 13 of the Principal Act, which reads:

*“For section 13 of the Principal Act, there is substituted the following - Administration of the Act. The Commission shall be administered by the ministry responsible for education.”*

Here, His Excellency the President noted that the continued use of the terminology “Commission” in clauses 5, 14, and 15 of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Bill, 2024 is in conflict with the Cabinet decision establishing UNATCOM as a unit in the Ministry of Education and Sports, and therefore, recommended the deletion of the “Commission” from the Amendment Bill wherever it appears.

Mr Speaker, can I go to the committee observations?

The committee observed as follows:

- a) The Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Bill, 2024 does not seek to remove the establishment of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO, but rather to remove its corporate status, repeal the Board of UNATCOM and transfer its administration to the ministry responsible for education.

Section 2(1) of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO Act, Cap 28 (formerly section 3 (1) of Act 6 of 2014) establishes the Commission and the provision was never proposed to be amended. The effect of the amendment is that the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO loses its corporate status, repeals the Board and simply retains the name;

- b) The Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Public Service were in agreement that the term “UNATCOM” is maintained. Section 1 of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO Act, Cap 28 defines ‘UNATCOM’ to mean the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO;
- c) The term “Commission” is an international standard nomenclature or global term used for any structure established for the purpose of cooperating with UNESCO. The Charter for the National Commissions for UNESCO, which is the governing instrument for all bodies of the Member States of UNESCO, has the term, “National Commission” enshrined in its title; and
- d) The architecture of the National Commission for UNESCO, 2022 lists all member states of UNESCO and the names of their respective bodies responsible for UNESCO and all the listed member states in the document have adopted the use of the terminology of “Commission”, regardless of how they were established.

On the comparative analysis of several member states, the established bodies responsible for UNESCO within the line ministry still use the terminology of “Commission”. Such member states include Guinea, Liberia, Namibia, Mauritania, and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which established the LAO National Commission for UNESCO organisation structure of the Department of International Cooperation in the Ministry of Education and Sport. So, those are just examples of the countries that use the terminology.

#### Recommendation

The committee recommends that the terminology “Commission” be maintained in the Amendment Bill, since it is the globally adopted name of bodies established to handle UNESCO matters. Clauses 5, 14 and 15 should thus maintain the use of the term, “Commission.”

#### Staff of the Commission

The title of the officer responsible for the administration of the mainstream entity

Mr Speaker, His Excellency the President expressed concern about clause 14 of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Bill, 2024 on substitution of clause 14 of the Principal Act.

Clause 16 provides for the appointment or designation of an officer responsible for the administration of the Commission by the ministry responsible for education, in consultation with the ministry for public service.

According to His Excellency the President, in reference to Article 158(1) of the Constitution, clause 16 carries a huge financial obligation on the ministry responsible for education, education’s budget, if the officer’s salary is higher than the salary to be paid to the mainstream position in the Ministry of Education and Sports.

His Excellency the President proposes that the staff should be retired on the abolition of office or be tasked to reapply to the Education Service Commission if they meet the requirements and if there are vacancies in the Ministry of Education and Sports structure.

#### Committee observation

The committee observed that since the functions of the Commission are proposed to be mainstreamed in the ministry responsible for education, all administrative matters connected thereto should be left to the ministry, including the appointment of an officer responsible for the administration of the Commission in the department of the ministry responsible for education.

#### Committee recommendation

The committee recommends that owing to the proposal to have a commission administered by the ministry responsible for education, clause 6 of the Bill be deleted.



Then on the matter of other staff of the commission, His Excellency the President proposed that the staff of the commission should be retired or to be tasked to apply to the Education Service Commission, if they meet requirements and if there are vacancies in the Ministry of Education and Sports.

The Attorney-General submitted that since the employees of the Commission fall under the Education Service and not the public service - Section 31(5) of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO, (Amendment) Act 2024, be amended to provide that the staff of the Commission serving immediately before the commencement of the Act may be eligible to redeployment to serve in the Education Service and not the Public Service.

#### Committee observation

The committee observes that public officers are appointed in accordance with Article 172 of the Constitution.

The committee, therefore, observes that staff of the Commission are appointed by the Education Service Commission and according to Articles 172 and 75(a) and (b) of the Constitution. They are public officers who are eligible for redeployment to serve in the Public Service.

#### Recommendation

The committee recommends that Clause 31(5) of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Act, 2024 should be maintained because the staff of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO are eligible for redeployment to serve in the public service.

#### Conclusion

The committee recommends that the House reconsiders the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Bill 2024, returned by the President, subject to the proposed amendment. I beg to report, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Chairperson. Anyone with issues for debate? Yes, Hon. Jonathan -

3.29

**MR JONATHAN ODUR (UPC, Erute County South, Lira):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. At the beginning of the consideration of these RAPEX Bills, I asked whether Parliament should actually go deeper into proposing how a department is constituted. When I listened to the arguments that have been put forward here - I want to ask the Attorney-General, what if we had repealed the law?

The Cabinet and President sit and establish a department. Wouldn't it have been a better way to handle it? That we repeal and then since the President says the departments are made, they go and decide who is going to head and who is going to do what? The way it is now, it is like we are intermeddling, if that is the argument that I heard very well. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Surely, Attorney-General

3.30

**THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The honourable member has a valid argument. However, as we stated before, there were certain things we did not want to lose; certain structural issues like the functions of these entities. Whereas they were in the law you would probably be going back to the start.

You already have UNESCO as a stand-alone entity. You want to bring it back to the ministry, but you do not want to lose its function. So, you want to just send it to the ministry with a set of functions. That could have worked. It could have been an easier way but this one may be a quicker way in order to achieve your result.

However, like you said, and like the President is saying, certain things like who will be heading the unit, what will they call them, then you create a secretary-general when in your departments you have commissioners and assistant commissioners; it creates difficulty. That is what he was trying to say here.

I think, Mr Speaker, that is exactly what he is saying. That, leave it to that point where we have the general structure, and the general purpose of this unit, but let us deal with the administrative aspects of it.

While I am here, on the Floor, I just want to comment on something that we will find in many of these RAPEX Bills. We have public service with a small “p”. Now that public service with a small “p” includes - and if you look at Article 257 of the Constitution, it includes Education Service Commission, Public Service Commission, Health Service Commission, Judicial Service Commission, the Army, Police, and all of those. Those from the public service, which is the small “p”.

Now, when we are dealing with these RAPEX Bills and when you are here saying that that person was employed by the Education Service Commission, that person cannot necessarily be deployable in the Public Service Commission with a capital “P”, or in the Health Service Commission, or in the Judicial Service Commission. This is because that person needs to go through that commission for purposes of recruitment under Article 172.

So, when you hear us insisting that “no” the service needs to be terminated and the person applies to the relevant service, that is the issue. We have that disparity. When we talk about public service, there is a tendency for us to think that it is everywhere in Government.

We have a public service which is “P”, which is a part of the public service, but then you cannot move from the public service with a capital “P” to the health service commission. You need to be recruited by the Health Service Commission. So, that is why we are saying “no”, let the service be terminated and then the person can reapply to whichever service in the public service. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Niwagaba -

3.33

**MR WILFRED NIWAGABA (Independent, Ndorwa County East, Kabale):** Thank you

very much. I agree with your interpretation. However, most of these particular RAPEX Bills were not even housed under those service commissions, like this particular one, UNESCO, the one that we just passed; higher education. I believe most of these particular bodies had their own independent terms and conditions of service for their employees.

Now, the bigger question is: on termination of their services, are their payments going to be governed by the public service or in respect of their individual independent organisations where they worked? Are monies already allocated to those organisations, which we are actually winding up even before the employees have been compensated?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Attorney-General? No, He is still here and he will come back.

**MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA:** No! The terminal benefits are paid according to the terms of service as they are now. So, if a person had terms of service in an entity that had a board and had created a salary and etcetera for that person, the terminal benefits are paid as per that service.

I thank Parliament really for this because we have done meticulous planning for this because of the insistence of Parliament. If you remember when we started this RAPEX, Parliament was insisting on interrogating the certificates of financial implications. It was always insistent on knowing, have you provided for the terminal benefits?

I think we have gone through the different committees to show that that has been provided for. In fact, even in the budget that was handled here, there was a specific conversation about that very same issue coming from there. So, yes, the Public Service Commission has done meticulous planning for that, and every entity we have got the monies in the Certificates of Financial Implications.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Nsamba Oshabe -

**MR NSAMBA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Attorney-General, I hear you on termination. I will use the word livelihoods of these people. Would it be not best if, in the planning process, we thought about transition instead of termination? When Rural Electrification Agency (REA) was – was it rationalised or abolished, because it was taken to the ministry. The staff of that agency transited to that ministry - *(Interjection)* - I am not saying all.

Somebody may choose not to go, but the Government should be thinking about ensuring that this person has a job tomorrow. This is because whether you recruited me using a “big P”, or a “small P”, I am a Ugandan whose livelihood you must mind about. This business of coming here to say, now this one, we recruited them with – this one is big, this one is small, education service, or so. Government must be thinking about these people.

When you come up with a law to say that I am not eligible for redeployment, it is as if you have told those that are going to recruit again that they should not take me in. That is why I was arguing about the other one. It may not look true, but this is my thinking, that tomorrow, those people you have said are not eligible for redeployment are not going to be given jobs in those ministries.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Nsamba, from your understanding of the law – because there are perceptions, opinions, but here we are dealing with the law –

**MR NSAMBA:** Mr Speaker, I am not a lawyer.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, I am just asking from your understanding of the law –

**MR NSAMBA:** Mr Speaker, I am not coming from the background of the law. I am coming from the background of a moralist; a person who is thinking about these people, because it is going to happen.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** So, how do we legislate here?

**MR NSAMBA:** This is what I was thinking: instead of us thinking about – because we are going to meet the same challenges. Instead of us thinking about termination, we could be thinking about transition. How do these people – because the ministries need the functions and the work they have been doing. They have the experience. Now, the ministry is going to recruit completely new people. Why don't we just think about transition so that these people who have been doing this function from point A, go do the same function in another point B? That was my issue.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I would like to come on board with you. I shared with one of the people who are affected. Where he was, I think he was earning about Shs 17 million. If you say transition to the ministry, he will earn Shs 2.6 million. Therefore, some people are benefiting – if they are to go to the structure of the ministry, some people are benefiting while others –

In fact, my biggest concern is that we are going to lose most of the experts to international bodies and international agencies. We spent a lot training these people, they have gotten a lot of experience, now when merging and all that came, they are running away, they are being taken. I do not know what we can do to address this quickly so that we do not lose the expertise.

**MR NSAMBA:** Mr Speaker, I have a colleague and we were with him in this Parliament. He lost the parliamentary seat and he was always on the door of the presidency here to be recruited as an RDC. This gentleman was given a job of assistant RDC and he is happy to do that job. I do not know how much they earn, but from the top there, earning as a Member of Parliament and somebody agrees to work as assistant RDC, that is how bad the situation can be.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That one wants political power, to help him mobilise and come back. *(Laughter)*

**MR NSAMBA:** Maybe it is livelihood, Mr Speaker. I am sure, if we take the route of

transition, let those that choose to go, go, but those that choose to stay, doing their work, should be protected. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Lubega Sseggonna –

3.41

**MR MEDARD LUBEGA SSEGGONA (NUP, Busiro County East, Wakiso):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Today, I have the pain of agreeing with the Attorney-General in a number of respects. I have the pain of agreeing with Hon. Kiryowa Kiwanuka.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You always submit from a painful point of view. *(Laughter)*

**MR LUBEGA SSEGGONA:** First, from the moral perspective of Hon. Nsamba, the moment we agreed to rationalise, you can only do so in accordance with the law, not morality.

I agree with the Attorney-General, that if people are recruited by different commissions or agencies under specific laws, they cannot simply transit into the mainstream public service. First, it will be illegal because the mainstream public service has never recruited them and it has got specific procedures and qualifications that are put in place.

Number two, for the colleagues who have been earning more from these agencies, and then they are condemned to earn the Shs 2 million in the mainstream public service: to begin with, again, it is illegal. And those are the same people who will be taking us to court.

The question of redeployment; you are redeployed if you were deployed in the first place. If you have never been deployed in the mainstream public service, you cannot be redeployed in the same. You can only be recruited in accordance with the procedures put in place and in accordance with the terms and conditions.

What do we learn from this? Two things: first before we learn, my concern is those people that have been bundled out of office before.

They were recruited in the mainstream public service. For example, in the former Ministry of Science and Technology, we have people that Hon. Muruli Mukasa failed to absorb in the mainstream public service after simply walking in and closing their offices.

Those same people you have been talking about were trained over the years and are still walking on the streets. I think that is what is irregular. This time, I want to thank Government with our insistence, that they had to do a meticulous job as the Attorney-General conceded.

What do we learn from this? In the first place, to advise ourselves properly; addressing our minds to the law before we take certain actions - We are the ones that created these agencies and some of us were resisting. We were saying that we would not have the money.

If we take the route of Hon. Nsamba, of transition, we lose the whole essence. Why we went for rationalisation is because we want to maintain a lean Government. We want to cut costs. Therefore, if you say, just get all of them to walk into the ministry, then you are not rationalising, and you will lose the entire essence.

Morally, I agree with him. The person who was recruited as Deputy RDC and accepted –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Assistant RDC.

**MR LUBEGA SSEGGONA:** Assistant RDC, not even Deputy. That is if some of those titles exist under the law anyway. Those people were recruited. They did not transit. They went, put their CVs before the big employer and said, “I am ready for anything”. So, they were recruited and not redeployed.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Fox Odoi –

3.45

**MR FOX ODOI-OYWELowo (NRM, West Budama North East County, Tororo):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. A few minutes ago when we were discussing

the Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the Attorney-General counselled this House and in my understanding in the following terms; that there are matters that they consider macro and there are matters they consider micro.

The matters that fall in the realm of macro matters is legislation, for example, which should be our forte and our focus. And micro matters, the formation of departments, recruitment and deployment of people into those departments, retiring civil servants, terminal benefits of civil servants. We would be straying into the realm of micromanagement, an area that is not our constitutional mandate. It is from that background that I get terribly scared when I listen to the submissions of the Hon. Nsamba because matters of morality are very complicated.

Mr Speaker, I hasten to add that if we walk here on a daily basis and legislate only informed by one consideration, morals, we shall make mistakes. We shall perhaps be attempting to create a theocracy and we shall crash. I think the Attorney-General has made a very compelling case. I beg to move that we progress.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let's end with the Workers Representative.

3.48

**MR CHARLES BAKKABULINDI (NRM, Workers' Representative):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have been listening to the arguments since the debate on the Rationalisation of Agencies and Public Expenditure (RAPEX) Bill started. Hon. Mpuuga raised a pertinent question but there is a way my colleague, the Honourable Minister of Public Service answered it. Yes, you have decided to terminate but you cannot be forced on.

There are two categories of people; those who are going to be moved from big salaries to small ones automatically. We shall lose them; they will go for green pastures. But there are those who are saying that we cannot refuse your termination, but how do I go?

Termination must be calculated according to the existing law. Are we prepared - and this is what I wanted to get from the Minister of Public Service, that; as we move with all these amendments, are these people put on the streets first to keep checking for their packages or they are going with their package once and for all? And once that is done to the workers, I will not comment much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Ethel, you want answers again from the Minister for Public Service?

**MS NALUYIMA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Being a member of the Public Service and Local Government Committee, as we were considering the ministerial statement for Public Service for this running financial year, the Minister of Public Service at his presentation showed us a number of gaps and the problem the ministry is facing; that much as the different Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) are rationalising, there is a very big funding gap.

When we presented our report, and from the ministry's presentation, they indicated that by then, Shs 74.034 billion was required to fully ensure that all compensation matters are catered for.

However, they only indicated to us that Shs 1 billion was available but it was only for the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, but the rest were not.

Mr Speaker, whereas our report recommended that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should avail all the over Shs 72 billion that was pending, could we first get that information from Finance? Because during consideration of the budget, that money was still not catered for. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Minister for Public Service-

3.51

**THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE (Mr Wilson Muruli Mukasa):** Mr Speaker,

I am really impressed by the concerns of the members over that issue of severance. I would like to once again reiterate what I said here on the Floor when the question was raised; that the money now that is required to terminate or send off our servants and colleagues is available. *(Applause)*

We have put in place a roadmap for this exercise, especially for the Bills that have been assented to and even including this one which is going to be passed here and will very quickly be assented to.

As soon as that is done, these people are going to get their money. If the money was not there, I would also like to reiterate what the Attorney-General said, we would not have a certificate of financial implications for the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has agreed.

You realise, that between when we were considering these Bills in those committees up to now, there has been a lot of discussion. I can assure you that nobody will be condemned to walking on the streets. *(Interjection)* Let me just clarify, you know, I am an old man.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, Honourable, that is not how we work. You ask from your seat. Do not walk over and face him, he has to hear you. Please.

**MR MURULI MUKASA:** Mr Speaker -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yesterday, we were debating a statement for the elderly and they asked to be protected.

**MR MURULI MUKASA:** Thank you very much. I am an elderly man and my train of thinking needs not to be distracted. Let me clarify. I can assure you that there should be no worry. This money is available and people are not going to walk away on the streets waiting and knocking at the gates to get their terminal benefits.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I now put the question that the motion for

reconsideration of the National Commission for UNESCO Amendment Bill, 2024 be adopted.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, chairperson?

BILLS  
COMMITTEE STAGE

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
UNESCO (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

3.54

**MR JAMES KUBEKETERYA (NRM, Bunya East County, Mayuge):** Mr Chairperson, the proposed amendments to the National Commission for Uganda National Commission for UNESCO Amendment Bill, 2024 as returned by His Excellency the President Clause 4, which talks of re-establishment of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO.

We propose that this Clause 4 be deleted. Justification, the establishment of the department or departments in ministries is generally handled administratively with the approval of the Cabinet and not through an Act of Parliament.

Therefore, the modalities of where within the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ugandan National Commission for UNESCO will be placed, shall be handled administratively. I beg to move.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Colleagues, I put the question that clause 4 be deleted.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Clause 4, deleted.*

Clause 16

Committee chairperson, clause 6 is consequential.

**MR KUBEKETERYA:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. Clause 16: substitution of section 14 of the principal Act

Clause 16 is substituted for the following-

*“Repeal of section 13 of the principal Act  
Section 13 of the principal Act is repealed.”*

Justification

1. Mr Chairman, having transferred Uganda National Commission for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to the ministry of responsible education, the employees of Uganda National Commission for UNESCO, including the secretary-general, will be redeployed administratively.
2. Renumbering “section 14” as “section 13” is intended to conform to the numbering of the revised Uganda National Commission for UNESCO Act, Cap 28.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Attorney-General?

**MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA:** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. There are two other issues which were addressed in the President’s letter: the use of the word “commission”; and the issue of the employees, which the committee did not consider. I beg that we consider the same.

He had a general comment on the use of the word “commission” in clauses 5, 14 and 15 -

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** I think that if we handle clause 16, we can come back and handle those others.

**MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA:** Most obliged.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I put the question that section 16 be repealed as proposed.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Clause 16, agreed to.*

Clause 6

**MR KUBEKETERYA:** Clause 6: Amendment of section 2 of the principal Act

Clause 6 is substituted for the following -

*“Amendment of section 1 of the principal Act  
Section 1 of the principal Act is amended by repealing the definition of the words “Board”, “Chairperson” and the “Secretary-General”.”*

Justification

1. It is a consequential amendment arising from the repeal of the Board the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO and the Office of the Secretary-General.
2. The renumbering of “section 2” to “section 1” is intended to conform to the revised Uganda National Commission for UNESCO Act, Cap 28, which took effect on 1 July 2024, after the revision of all the laws of Uganda.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Sorry, Mr Chairman. I will first take you back because, you see, under clause 16, we have repealed section 13 of the principal Act, but we have not deleted clause 16 of this Bill.

I had looked at it from an angle of being consequential, but I need to put the question for that, so that it is also deleted from the Bill. I put the question for repealing section 13 of the Principal Act. I am now putting the question that clause 16 of the Bill be deleted.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Clause 16, deleted.*

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Now, this cleans it up. We have repealed section 13 of the principal Act and deleted clause 16 of the Bill so that they do not conflict. Thank you.

Committee chairperson, you may repeat clause 6.

**MR KUBEKETERYA:** Mr Chairman, we said that clause 6 is substituted for the following:

*“Amendment of section 1 of the principal Act  
Section 1 of the principal Act is amended by  
repealing the definition of the words “Board”,  
“Chairperson” and “Secretary-General”.”*

Justification

1. It is a consequential amendment arising from the repeal of the Board of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO and the Office of the Secretary-General.
2. The renumbering of “section 2” to “section 1” is intended to conform to the revised Uganda National Commission for UNESCO Act, Cap 28, which took effect on 1 July 2024, after the revision of all the laws of Uganda.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I put the question that clause 6 be substituted as proposed.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*(Clause 6, as amended, agreed to.)*

The Title

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Attorney-General, don't you think we can handle that issue of the word “commission” when we are handling the title or you feel we should handle it on its own?

**MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA:** Mr Chairman, His Excellency the President, when he returned the Bill, had an issue with the continued use of the word “commission”. The committee, in its report, said the use of the word “commission” should be maintained, to which we may not have an objection. However, we pray that, then, the word “commission” be defined in the law to mean “a unit or such department

unit or such other structure in the Ministry of Education and Sports known as Ugandan National Commission for UNESCO”.

His issue was that you keep using the word “commission” and the committee has found that “commission” is an internationally used word for all these agencies and, therefore, we would like to have an amendment to the definition of “commission” to address that.

Lastly, the President also raised an issue in respect to section 31(5), which the committee proposed should be maintained. However, I am proposing that an amendment be made to address the issue that we are addressing – yes, it is consequential.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable colleagues, the Attorney-General is saying that we amend clause 1, which is interpretation clause. I think that will not be in conflict with Rule 143 (5) of our Rules of Procedure. That is the best place where we can find the interpretation. We can address the concern of the President with regard to interpretation. So, the Attorney-General's definition – the one he has put on record...

Honourable colleagues, are we okay with the Attorney-General's definition that he has put on record?

**MR KUBEKETERYA:** Mr Chairman, we have no objection because they will have defined it and we have no problem with that.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable colleagues, I put the question that clause 1 be amended, as proposed.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.*

Clause 31

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Attorney-General, is it in clause 31?



**MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA:** Mr Chairperson, for clause 31(5), it currently reads that:

“The staff of the Commission serving immediately before the commencement of this Act may be redeployed to serve in the Public Service, subject to availability of position.”

I am proposing that this be amended to read:

“The staff of the Commission serving immediately before the commencement of this Act would be retired on abolition of the office and may apply to serve in the Public Service, subject to availability of position.”

I beg to submit.

**THE CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Jonathan Odur?

**MR ODUR:** Mr Chairperson, I get a contradiction from the earlier guidance that the Attorney-General gave to us. I think what the President wanted to deal with was to give the staff an entitlement as a right to transition. So, by adding the word “may” again, you are taking us back to the same problem.

Let the termination be done and whoever wants to apply, if a job is available, will do so. So, the last part of your amendment is not going to cure anything.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Attorney-General, are you okay with that?

**MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA:** Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson. The clause would then read:

“The staff of the Commission shall, immediately before the commencement of this Act, be retired on abolition of office.”

I beg to submit; I agree. Thank you very much, honourable colleague.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I put the question that clause 31 be amended, as proposed.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Clause 31, as amended, agreed to.*

The Title

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** I put the question that the long title stands part of the Bill.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*The Title, agreed to.*

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable minister?

4.10

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku):** Mr Chairperson, I beg to move that the House do resume and the Committee of the whole House reports thereto.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable colleagues, I put the question that the House do resume and the Committee of the whole House reports thereto.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*(The House resumed, the Deputy Speaker presiding.)*

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

4.11

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku):** Mr Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of the whole House has reconsidered the Bill entitled “The Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Bill, 2024”, as returned by His Excellency the President and passed it with amendments.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE  
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE HOUSE

4.11

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the report from the Committee of the whole House be adopted.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, I put the question that the report of the Committee of the whole House be adopted.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Report adopted.*

BILLS  
THIRD READING

THE UGANDA NATIONAL COMMISSION  
FOR UNESCO (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

4.12

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill entitled “The Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Bill, 2024”, as returned by His Excellency the President be read the third time and do pass.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, I put the question that the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Bill, 2024 be read the third time and do pass.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, “THE  
UGANDA NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
UNESCO (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2024”

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, honourable members and the chairperson, congratulations. Thank you so much for passing these two critical Bills.

*(Applause)* I direct the Clerk to extract the Bill and transmit it to the President for assent.

Honourable Attorney-General, I have not checked my records, but Hon. Agnes Kunihira raised a question here on the Employment Bill which was sent a long time ago to the President. I have not checked whether you have already sent it back to our office.

**MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA:** Mr Speaker, please indulge me. I need to check on its status and revert back to the House. I cannot say off the cuff.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have students and teachers from Buropa Secondary School located in Bugabula County South, Kamuli District. They are represented in Parliament by Hon. Henry Maurice Kibalya and Rt Hon. Rebecca Kadaga Alitwala. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)* Thank you.

Attorney-General, yesterday, I requested you to lay on the Table a confirmation that our law students are going to be admitted to the Law Development Centre. Kindly, if you can do that, you can just read what is in the letter and then lay it on the Table.

4.14

**THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Yesterday, I did report that the Law Development Centre had commenced the process of admitting the intake of 1,643 students who were left out. I beg to lay the notice and the communication sent out by the Director LDC, which reads:

*“25<sup>th</sup> September 2024*

*Dear students, parents, guardians and sponsors,*

*RE: STATEMENT ON THE ADMISSION OF PENDING 1,643 APPLICANTS TO THE POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN LEGAL PRACTICE, ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025*

*Following our engagement with the Government through the Attorney-General and other stakeholders, the Government has since released funds to cater for the 1,643 applicants that had not received admission letters for the Academic Year 2024/2025.*

*The Admissions Board has admitted all the above applicants for the second intake commencing on 6 January 2025.*

*All applicants will receive notifications regarding their admissions via emails provided to LDC at the time of the application by 5.00 p.m., Thursday, 26 September 2024.*

*For any inquiries, please contact our admissions office on admissions@ldc.ac.ug.*

*Dr Pamela Tibihikirra-Kalyegira,  
Director LDC.”*

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

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Attorney-General, that is one group sorted. We now have medical interns.

The other day when I said that I am not always on social media, I want to clarify; I have handlers who do that but again they pick out for me a few things that are critical, especially those that require my attention, and they ensure that I get them.

When Manchester United (Man U) wins, I go there to see how its players are celebrating. *(Laughter)* I go there to look for Man U players and how the fans are - I read a little.

Sincerely speaking, social media is usually toxic and I control what I consume. It should not be a case for me to say that they extracted some stuff for me and I had to pick up my phone and check.

Those saying that, “You are lying; you are always on social media; you post and you do what-” Yes, I control what I see. I can even see someone’s - there are people whose posts I do not open; I can decide to do that.

Yesterday, many medical interns were saying that because most of you are lawyers, you have rushed to handle the issues of lawyers. Is there any progress for the medical interns?

4.17

**THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka):** Mr Speaker, I know a lot about the law and very little about the medical interns but from my sitting in the Cabinet, I know that this matter is being addressed.

The biggest challenge that the Ministry of Health was facing was the instructor, whereas for lawyers, you can have one instructor instructing a hundred students. Nonetheless, I can tell you that that matter is being handled and we are going to come back here to the House with some good news.

I must also say that I also consume a bit of social media and last night, as I was consuming some social media, I found an obscure Team 20- something had dealt with Manchester United and they had failed to think, while Arsenal on the other side was doing 5-1. Thank you. *(Laughter)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Some of you are denied opportunities to speak and you go complaining. You do not know the cause but it is such an issue - Thank you.

I will again check with the Prime Minister because we need to get a quick response to the issue of interns. The Prime Minister had promised that she would handle it. I am going to follow-up with her to ensure that they report on it next week.

Honourable colleagues, I am looking at our Order Paper. You know, this is the time for accountability reports. We would want to sort out accountability because timelines are on our case.

Now, I have Dr Bwanika’s issue but I was informed much earlier this morning that it is being handled by the Deputy Attorney-General and he is not here yet. We wanted to handle it together with item number five.

That is what we shall begin with on Tuesday so that we have it sorted. Let us handle item number eight. I want us to have a short debate; the Minister of Public Service and the Minister of Local Government are here. Let me start with the Member from Soroti.

**MR EKUDO:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Parliament is a House of laws and we respect them. At this time, although I do not see the Prime Minister, this is her time -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is that what brought you today? *(Laughter)*

**MR EKUDO:** No. If you want me to say something, I can say it because-

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No. I will allow you, honourable colleagues - and I am about to change strategy; to put matters of national importance last because I have seen many of us come, raise our matters and run away. The following day, you repeat the issues that we sorted.

If it can help to retain you here, I will handle matters of national importance later because the ministers also sometimes come, address matters of national importance and go away. Let us all wait. Yes, Hon. Ethel?

4.21

**MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso):** Thank you. Mine is slightly related but the main issue is that if we take some time without having the Prime Minister and she is not sending someone over the matter we have promised - now from last week to this week about the Kiteezi update - Could we please know what the response to that is?

Assuming the Prime Minister is not here herself, she normally sends or even gives us that update through one of the ministers. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Prime Minister sent her apologies. She is still in New York; she is representing the country at the

United Nations (UN) General Assembly. She is speaking a lot of English there - *(Laughter)* - you should watch and- she is doing a very good job in New York.

She talked and explained to me this morning because the other day they had a meeting which was chaired by the Rt Hon. Rebecca Kadaga on the same issue and that of Kiteezi.

On Monday in the Cabinet, it is going to be addressed then she comes next week with a full update. They did not want to handle it piecemeal. She is returning tomorrow and we shall ensure that they respond.

The Prime Minister can delegate, but once she consults with me and I allow her, then she has no case; blame me and not the Prime Minister. Leader of the Opposition, please defend me. *(Laughter)*

4.22

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi):** Mr Speaker, you have not given me instructions as a Counsel to defend you so I will not defend you.

I suggest to the Government again that the work of this House should not stall. The Prime Minister has about three deputies; the first, second and third Deputy Prime Minister. We were here yesterday and the Minister of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance sat in for the Prime Minister.

I recall a couple of months back, the Prime Minister wrote to your office, the leadership of this House, indicating that always in her absence, the Rt Hon. Rukia Nakadama, will act as the Prime Minister. I do not know whether that has changed.

My point is that we should not be stalling because the Leader of the Government Business is not present. According to our rules -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now you have become a hostile Counsel, yet I called you to defend - *(Laughter)*

**MR SSENKYONYI:** It is because you have not paid consideration. As the rules dictate, the government business takes precedence but now we are having a stalling of that. I do not know what your guidance is going to be so that there is no repeat of this situation.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, we usually dedicate Thursdays to Members' issues and that is what the rules also demand but we try to be flexible.

That is why you see - like this motion for Hon. Nsaba Buturo, I ensure that indeed we handle it today because it is a very critical motion, the petition and all that. The Prime Minister talked to me and she asked me what to do.

I said to her that, since you have been following up on some of these issues extensively and I know that on some, as we have talked about, the meetings are not yet conclusive, please, come next week and handle them.

I will take the blame today. Maybe I guided her wrongly. There is a point of procedure from Hon. Nambooze.

**MS BETTY NAMBOOZE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. We indeed have more than one person deputising; first, second and third Prime Minister.

However, the point of procedure I am raising is whether it would not be procedurally okay for this House to be addressed on what has been trending, mostly on social media. There is a video by the Rt Hon. Third Deputy Prime Minister, Rebecca Kadaga, alleging that people tried to assassinate her twice.

Wouldn't it be procedurally okay, Mr Speaker, that this House is briefed about such a grave allegation? Maybe that is one of the reasons why she is not here. I saw the video myself, Mr Speaker, the Rt Hon. Kadaga herself was alleging that people had tried to assassinate her twice.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Now, honourable colleagues, the Rt Hon. Kadaga

is a member of this House. If she feels this matter should be reported to this House or to be discussed in this House, she would raise it here. Okay? Please –Hon. Nabukenya.

4.27

**MS BRENDA NABUKENYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Luweero):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wanted to get clarification or from the Attorney-General. Last year when the President met the Directorate of Public Prosecutions, he promised that in a short time, you would be tabling the Witness Protection Bill. I think it is a year now, and we have not seen it here in Parliament.

I want to know exactly because most of the organisations, even the prosecutors, want to see a law in place. Attorney-General, can you please inform this Parliament when the Government is going to table the Witness Protection Bill? Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Attorney-General -

4.28

**THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Member for the question.

The Witness Protection Bill has been drafted. The cost implication of the Bill was a bit prohibitive, and we are waiting to get guidance on how to proceed with it. That is the challenge. The cost implication for the Witness Protection Bill was really huge. That is where we are. We shall come back to the House and report on that.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 8.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE  
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON THE  
FUNCTIONALITY OF DISTRICT SERVICE  
COMMISSIONS AND CITY SERVICE  
COMMISSIONS AND PERSONNEL  
MANAGEMENT IN SELECTED LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT DISTRICTS ACROSS  
NORTHERN, EASTERN AND WESTERN  
REGION

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The debate begins now. Hon. Ababiku, Hon. Onzima, Toci, Hon. Opio, Hon. Katusabe, Hon. Olanya, Hon. Nakimwero; have I mentioned it well? Yes. Hon. Bwanika, Hon. Santa. Thank you. Those are enough for this. We go to other items.

4.29

**MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani):** Thank you so much Mr Speaker. My concern is on the non-functionality of some of these commissions in our districts as presented in the report.

Mr Speaker, the non-functionality affects service delivery because human resource availability is very key. Therefore, I will recommend that, the Ministry of Local Government ensures that all district local governments have functional district service commissions.

Two, Mr Speaker, there was an issue of corruption where employment of people is dependent on choice of individuals, especially leaders. Mr Speaker, I feel, investigations should be done because if people are not recruited on merit and placements are done on favour, that means that the outcome of the services offered are not going to be qualitative. Therefore, those districts mentioned, I feel more investigation be done and decisions be taken based on evidence so that we do not encourage such acts.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, I want to comment on issues where politicians have been mentioned. Often, allegations are made that elected leaders bring their own supporters to positions. At

times, if this is not put with clear evidence, you find that we elected leaders are lumped together. Therefore, I feel where there is no specific mention of the particular leaders that be deleted and evidence-based information be considered. Thank you so much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Onzima – No, I wrote the list and we are done. Those who stood up, I noted, and we stopped there.

4.31

**MR GODFREY ONZIMA (NRM, Aringa North County, Yumbe):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to make comments on three areas concerning this report.

The issue of non-functionality of these public service commissions are issues that- there are three issues that affect them, among which is political influence.

When you look at some of these people who are appointed on the district service commissions, some of them are relatives or agents of some politicians, particularly LCV chairpersons. You will find that when some people are nominated as the Public Service Commission members, these nominees, if they are not formerly supporters of LCV chairpersons, many of them are rejected. Sometimes they cannot pass through. This leads to failure to constitute the district service commission. Sometimes when they fail to constitute the district service commission, they cannot go ahead to organise interviews.

There are very many other - because, Mr Speaker, Sir, for a district service commission to function, the composition must be complete. If it is not complete, it may not function. In that case, they cannot organise interviews.

Mr Speaker, sometime back we had recommended that maybe, Ministry of Public Service should look at a way of recruitment of district service commission. It should not be maybe a direct appointment by the district leadership because this is subjected to influence.

Then the second issue is that of facilitation. Many times we talk about corruption but, Mr Speaker, facilitation of district service commission members varies from one district to another. There are cases where you find that the allowance of a district service commission member can be like Shs 20,000. Some of them come very far away from the district centre. Even sometimes the facilitation cannot be enough to facilitate their transport.

Now in this kind of situation, we would think, if the payment could be uniform and paid from the centre, in my opinion this could solve the issue of facilitation.

Then the element of nepotism - this is my last point, Mr Speaker. When you look at most of these districts, the issue of nepotism is very high. In some cases, there can even be wage bill to recruit people, but because there may be no money, I mean, people feel they should recruit their own relatives, sometimes they wait for people who are still in institutions and yet, the wage bill is returned. This affects service delivery. Therefore, for me, I think we need to engage and sensitize the district service commission people such that the issue of nepotism can be- Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to end here.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Kiboga?

4.35

**MS CHRISTINE KAAYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Kiboga):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I belong to the climate change committee and the natural resources committee.

Mr Speaker, the issue of the district service commissions; it is provided for that in case the service commissions are not duly constituted, then they can use the services of the neighbouring local government to help them approve and fulfil some of the activities. From the report, it was brought out that - I do not know whether districts fear borrowing or it is expensive to hire or use the services of the neighbouring districts. Remember, most of the districts were broken off from the mother districts.

Mr Speaker, it is important that officers from the national level are advised on which district commissions are fully constituted, such that some districts that are still struggling to fulfil their commissions go ahead to borrow the services.

There is an issue of lack of grievous mechanisms. For example, when the commission takes long to approve or when they do not approve certain names that have been submitted, you find that candidates call Members of Parliament, Resident District Commissioners (RDCs) and wherever saying that they have been denied.

The public needs to know where exactly to report such cases, other than the court, because they have nobody to report to. So, the grievous mechanisms at the local governments or national level concerning the constitution and composition, and also executing duties of the commissioner are concerned. I thank you, those are some of the issues I saw.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Dr Opio?

4.37

**DR SAMUEL OPIO (Independent, Kole North County, Kole):** Thank you, Speaker. I also add my voice to the issue of the functionality of the District Service Commission. There is failure to function because they do not exist, but there are also issues of failure to function where they exist. I will give an example with my district, the issue of acting position. The district engineer is acting, the District Health Officer (DHO) is acting, the head of procurement is acting, the head of internal audit is acting, and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is acting and some of them have acted for more than eight years.

I always say when you have acted for more than eight years, you are not acting, you are just reacting and not serving the people. It is time public service comes out very strongly because our guidelines provide that you can only act for six months with an extension for another six months. There must be clear directives from the Ministry of Public Service to make these district service commissions functional.

Lastly, is the issue of transfer of service. Within one district service commission, currently, it is not feasible or possible to transfer. You can transfer Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs), but you cannot transfer a head of a department from one district to another. It is high time we revised that and provide so that they can be transferable. Otherwise, we will continue having challenges in service delivery in this country. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Kaberuka?

4.39

**MR JAMES KABERUKA (NRM, Kinkizi County West, Kanungu):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I happen to have roots in local government because I started as a leader at the parish level, district level, and now at Parliament. Mr Speaker –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What next?  
(*Laughter*)

**MR KABERUKA:** We are going to see what is next. We need to be honest when we are talking about the performances of the District Service Commission. We have a lot of enablers that have been deliberately removed by the Central Government to always make local governments a stepping stone to make sure they get a blame game.

One of them, Mr Speaker, an honourable Member has said that some commissioners are paid Shs 20,000, which cannot enable them commute from home to work. That means that the Decentralisation Policy was weakened by the Central Government deliberately to make sure we always get whom to blame for performance.

At first, they removed the DHOs and CAOs and centralised them because they failed to empower local governments. May I request the Minister of Public Service – the Minister of Local Government is here - why is it that local governments are not being given commensurate resources to make them operational?

For example, when we talk about these chairpersons choosing the campaigners, what is the picture at the national level? We need to know that once they are empowered, they can leave out some issues that would be trivial. The problem is that local governments do not have money to make them sit. Can we have a deliberate commitment by the Central Government to make sure that district service commissions, land commissions, and most of these commissions are not working because they do not have commensurate resources?

Now that you have removed the little local revenue from local governments and put them at the centre, they get them in the ensuing year. That has made it even more difficult for them to operate. When we are blaming these commissions, we need to be fair, because you cannot operate without resources. Mr Speaker, my request is that the Central Government – they are craving for merging and resources, they want to merge local governments.

The reason they are incapacitating them is because they want to merge. Tomorrow, we are going to see that they want to merge Parliament. I beg that we get commitment from the Central Government - (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Peter Okot?

4.42

**MR PETER OKOT (DP, Tochi County, Omoro):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Because of the fear of the unknown, most of the district service chairpersons tend to rely on instruction from the appointing authority, who in most cases, and is the case, is the district chairperson. You find that service deliveries at the district levels are questionable because of the acting position.

Nobody would concentrate well aware that his position is not sure of. Wage may be there, but for a district service to sit, the chairperson of the district must call the shot. I would advise that since that is a challenge, the appointment of the district service chairperson should come from the ministry, but be proposed locally. Appointment should be done by the centre as



opposed to – because the names are proposed by the district, which in most cases is the district chairman, much as he is approved by the council.

The names are sent to the ministry and approved at that point. But still, the power of appointing them remains at the centre so that needs to be reviewed.

Secondly, of all the commission chairperson and the members, it is only the chairperson who is full-time and is the only one remunerated. The rest only come in when they are required and as stated, when they come, the money they spend on transport alone is more than what they are paid as allowance.

That automatically brings in the element of corruption when they get an opportunity to ensure that something comes to them because they are not earning enough. That also needs to be looked into so that we address some of these issues of corruption within the District Commission. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Santa Alum?

4.45

**MS SANTA ALUM (UPC, Woman Representative, Oyam):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me thank the committee. I have two issues. One, the report made mention of the lack of independence of the commission. If we are to see an independent commission and less corrupt, let us deal with the issue of money. If they are not well facilitated in this country, what do we expect? Even in Parliament, we are independent because we are well facilitated, Mr Speaker.

Number two, I would like to talk about the issue – (*Interjections*) – Mr Speaker, protect me from Hon. Okupa Elijah.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am protecting you from people who are not independent. (*Laughter*)

**MS ALUM:** Yes. At least, the Constitution says so and we swore by it that we are

supposed to remain independent as we transact our business as Members of Parliament. If you have forgotten, the Constitution is there for you.

Secondly, the report made mention of lack of training/induction. The Minister of Public Service is here; Honourable minister, these people are appointed, they remain in offices playing a very important role for recruitment of officers in various districts but they are not inducted.

Where is the problem? Some of the mess that they find themselves in, is probably arising from non-induction. Most of these people are retired civil servants from many and various disciplines and if they are not inducted, what do we expect?

Finally, we are talking about corruption, nepotism. Tribalism in local government is serious. I remember in one local government – that I do not want to mention – one of the officers was recruited from another region but was completely rejected because he was not coming from that locality. All this goes back to the induction that we are missing. I beg to submit.

4.47

**MR ATKINS KATUSABE (FDC, Bukonzo County West, Kasese):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. There are two concepts in management; “effectiveness” and “efficiency.” “Effectiveness” is doing the right thing and “efficiency” is doing the right thing right.

I have heard one of us saying that the leadership of the district service commission should be re-transferred to the centre. It cannot be because it is the same Parliament in its own wisdom that felt it prudent and important for the service commissions to be based and originated from the districts, that is a no-go zone.

Mr Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to the membership or the constitution of these committees of commissions.

Yes, they are district-based but we also have to recognise that we have different communities

in terms of constituencies. If the chairperson comes from constituency A, it is possible that the membership of their particular committee is going to have a lot of-literally 99 or 100 per cent of members coming from his community.

I think it is up to this Parliament to ensure that we take interest in the composition or the constitution - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay, conclude.

**MR KATUSABE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Our Constitution is crystal clear on membership of entities, the how to reflect or factor in the element of gender. There are a lot of commissions in this country but there is no membership in terms of gender reflected, no woman. I do not want to stop at female members, I want to go a step further to add the members from the disability community.

As a matter of fact, this Parliament should add the element or segment of at least two female members on the committee and at least one from the disability community. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister – *(Members rose)* No, Honourable colleagues. When we were starting, I asked those who wanted to submit to stand up but you did not. There are no things of one minute – Did I mention Dr Bwanika? If I mentioned Hon. Olanya, I should allow Dr Bwanika to cancel him out. Hon. Olanya, the Leader of the Opposition, has intervened for his people. Honourable minister, wait a bit.

4.51

**MR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak South County, Amuru):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am happy that the Minister in charge of Public Service is here; the role of district service commission is being bogged down by the ministry. For the last three years, the ministry halted recruitment of staff in all local governments.

When the ministry stops recruitment, district service commissions become redundant. The roles of the district service commission are to advertise, recruit and conduct interviews.

However, when the ministry stops them from recruiting, it means we are rendering their services redundant. Therefore, the minister should clarify on recruitment.

We have districts that have very few substantive heads of departments. For example, Omoro District Local Government has only three substantive heads. The rest are acting. We normally interact with all the district local governments; the problem is from the ministry.

Two, we need to empower local governments because they are incapacitated in facilitating the sittings of the district service commissions and even those of the local councils. The law says that the local councils should be paid from the locally raised revenue. We have some local governments without local revenue. They cannot facilitate the council sittings. Honourable minister, we need to be very serious on the local government if we are to succeed. If not – *(Member timed out.)*

4.53

**DR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimaanya-Kabonera Division, Masaka City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to comment on two recommendations that were made by the committee. In order to cure corruption within the district service commission, the answer is in the e-recruitment system.

The Public Service must expedite on this because it will promote transparency. And it is in e-recruitment system where we can find trust. Without that, the way we are working now, corruption will increase knowing that these people are almost not paid.

Lastly, they made another very important recommendation that there should be monthly remuneration to all the district service commission members.

When we look at what is provided for now, between Shs 18 and Shs 24 million facilitation to a district service commission, it does not provide for remuneration of these very important people who recruit others who are going to benefit. I want to submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Ismail and then the honourable minister will close.

4.55

**MR ISMAIL LOMWAR (NRM, Kotido Municipality, Kotido):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on the same point on the functionality of the district service commission. Honourable colleagues, we cannot blame the functions of a district service commission on the appointment authority. The people who confirm the appointment is the Public Service Commission. When you go through the process, the Chairman LC V appoints, it is approved by the council and confirmed by the Public Service Commission. The chairman nominates, the council approves and then, the Public Service Commission confirms. The onus is on them to either reject or accept it.

Therefore, all the failures of the service commissions are from the Centre. I validly support the point of Hon. Olanya, that on the ban of recruitment, where will the service commission get activities to carry on? I beg to submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable minister for local government? There were not many issues. Use three minutes.

4.56

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Ms Victoria Businge):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the honourable members for raising these pertinent issues.

Number one, there is a hidden corrupt person who is not easily identified with pinning evidence: the chairperson LC V. For us to pin people, we must have evidence. People are not coming out openly. Even some of the members of the district service commissions bribe, because they know they will get money from candidates.

We raised the same point in the Cabinet for these people to be interviewed or else we set regional service commissions and implement e-recruitment. So, we are in the struggle. It will soon come from the Cabinet to us.

Secondly, we are not just silent. When we get reports, we act.

Mr Speaker, this is my second time saying I cancelled 322 positions that were illegally recruited by the leadership of Ntoroko, which had only three members. The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) signed and put a levy: if you want this job, Shs 5 million, Shs 3 million and so on. Bring for us those cases and we shall investigate and act. *(Applause)*

It is the same with Kagadi and Kitagwenda, where the human resource officers had convinced all the teachers to join the Parish Development Model (PDM) to become Parish Chiefs so that they could steal Shs 100 million. So, once you report and there is evidence, we can administer the medicine.

I would like to confirm that it is true that the chairpersons have a big arm. Busia District spent over two years without a service commission, because he had picked corrupt people, which the councillors rejected and he refused to pick any other. Tell us where the problem is, and we shall join hands.

We need to improve and design a very strict law that pins the district and city service commissions. For example, in Fort Portal, they are lamenting. There are people who do not have qualifications. I wrote to the Inspector General of Government (IGG) in 2022 and appealed to the Prime Minister but, to date, nothing has been done.

One of them sent me a message: "You started very actively, what happened?" What happened? I did my work. The State House Anti-Corruption Unit - Brig Gen. Isoke gave charge sheets, but the matter is still in the Anti-Corruption Court and those people are rejoicing. Some are coming up to contest. *(Laughter)*

So, what should we do to the Arms of Government that intentionally delay to solve problems that are straightforward? We need - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable minister. I now put the question that the report of the Committee on Public Service and Local Government on the functionality of the District Service Commissions, City Service Commissions and personnel management in selected local government districts across the northern, eastern and western regions be adopted.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Report adopted.*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, we need an action-taken report, as per rule 220, within three months. You will be updating us. Next item?

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION  
OF PARLIAMENT URGING THE  
GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE, PROTECT  
AND PRESERVE TRADITIONAL SEEDS  
IN UGANDA

**MR LUBEGA SSEGGONA:** Mr Speaker, thank you. I do not know why my brother, the Clerk, insisted yet you had allowed me. I am concerned – and I apologise if I sound like taking you back.

The minister told us that there is a need to make a law, and we are leaving that statement hanging without the minister telling us what their ministry is doing, yet she knows we cannot bring that law as private Members.

We have equipped her, one, to have the technical knowledge and, two, with the mandate to bring the law.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable minister, go and bring the law. *(Laughter)*

**MS VICTORIA BUSINGE:** Most obliged, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** She has already identified the need; she will address it. Item No. 9?

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION  
OF PARLIAMENT URGING THE  
GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE, PROTECT  
AND PRESERVE TRADITIONAL SEEDS  
IN UGANDA

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Nsaba-Buturo?

5.02

**DR JAMES NSABA-BUTURO (NRM, Bufumbira County East, Kisoro):** Mr Speaker, I move this motion under Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda. The motion is for a resolution of Parliament urging the Government to promote, protect and preserve traditional or indigenous seeds in Uganda.

Mr Speaker, *“WHEREAS Objective XIV of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda states that the State shall endeavour to fulfil the fundamental rights of all Ugandans with regards to social justice and economic development;*

*AND WHEREAS Objective XXII provides that the State shall, through mass education and other appropriate interventions, take necessary steps to encourage people to grow and store adequate food, establish national food reserves for food security and encourage and promote proper nutrition to build a healthy State;*

*AWARE THAT farmers who traditionally derive their livelihood from planting traditional seeds, which are considered to be more affordable, accessible, taste better and are better adapted to local conditions, are facing challenges owing to factors that include rapid population growth, low yields and deliberately-designed propaganda, which is orchestrated by local and international promoters of non-traditional seed varieties;*

*NOTING THAT farmers in Uganda are, not by choice, resorting to planting non-traditional seeds despite their known grave limitations such as expensiveness, unaffordability as well as inaccessibility;*

*ADVOCATING that the Government must ensure that traditional seeds are protected, promoted and preserved and are of quality with a view to defend the independence and sovereignty of Uganda as a nation, popularise nutrition and ensure food security;*

*ACKNOWLEDGING that the two primary goals of non-traditional seeds are designed to replace and lead to the extinction of traditional seeds as well as turn African farmers and people into a huge market for non-traditional seeds and pesticides;*

*CONCERNED that non-traditional/non-indigenous seeds which are promoted by multinational seed corporations are planted once unlike traditional seeds which are preserved and can be planted for as many countless seasons as possible thus enabling farmers to sell, consume and keep some of their seeds;*

*FURTHER CONCERNED that reliance on traditional/ non-indigenous seeds will inevitably lead to Uganda becoming fully, painfully and humiliatingly dependent on multinational seed corporations which have patented their seeds so that local farmers' recourse is to buy the same seeds every planting season;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by this House that Government:*

1. *Promotes, protects and preserves traditional/indigenous seeds for purposes of, among other things, defending our food systems, independence, and survival;*
2. *Improves, through public funding, research, and financial support to farmers, the quality of traditional/ indigenous seeds;*
3. *Encourages farmers, through awareness campaigns and educational programs to appreciate and embrace benefits of traditional/indigenous seeds;*
4. *Implements policies to protect traditional seeds so that they are not replaced by non-traditional/non-indigenous seeds;*
5. *Ensures availability of quality traditional/indigenous seeds to farming communities;*
6. *Encourages citizens to establish traditional/indigenous seed banks;*
7. *Establishes seed banks and other preservation methods to maintain genetic diversity of traditional/indigenous seeds;*
8. *Provides education, resources and other incentives to farmers who grow and maintain traditional/indigenous seed varieties;*
9. *Stands up to local and international promoters of non-traditional/non-indigenous seeds whose primary goals are to attain universal control of the seed sector by themselves, create a huge market for their seeds and pesticides as well as cause extinction of traditional/indigenous seeds;*
10. *Check activities of Eurocentric local research scientists, some of whom are hobnobbing with seed corporations to promote the latter's market for their seeds and herbicides; and*
11. *Designates a department in the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to promote, preserve and protect traditional/indigenous seeds."*

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Dr Buturo. Is the motion seconded? It is seconded by Hon. Nambooze - she has said by the whole House - by Hon. Nakimwero, Hon. Paparu, Hon. Ismail, Hon. Alyek, Hon. Aogon, Hon. Katabaazi. Honourable colleagues, today is Hon. Katabaazi's 15<sup>th</sup> marriage anniversary so, I would like to congratulate him. *(Applause)* Hon. Cherukut, Hon. Tonny Ayoo, Hon. Okiror. Thank you.

I also have to consider the seconders; Dr Emmanuel Otaala, Hon. Olanya Gilbert, Hon. Chemaswet and Hon. Wanda Richard. Thank you.

Honourable, would you like to use five minutes to justify your motion?

**DR NSABA-BUTURO:** Mr Speaker, seed is life. It is the most vital input in food production and farmers' seeds are the lifeblood of Uganda's food sovereignty.

For centuries, small-scale Ugandan farmers have been the backbone of the nation's agricultural success. Traditional seeds have long played a crucial role in food security, nutrition and incomes of smallholder farmers in Uganda. Their inherent advantages include heightened resilience to adverse environmental conditions and remarkable medicinal and nutritional properties.

These seeds are core to production and reproduction, which if taken together guarantee both sovereignty and sustainability. Mr Speaker, this eminent and crucial role played by traditional or indigenous seeds is under threat from multinational seed corporations which are behind the ongoing drive to take over worldwide control of the seed sector.

These corporations do not want anyone else to have ownership of the seeds. Their propaganda runs that it is in the interest of local farmers that such ownership would address Uganda's ills which they say are related to hunger, overpopulation, poverty and climate change.

Mr Speaker, the blunt truth, though, is that these seed corporations have one main goal in mind, namely; to attain for themselves global corporate control of the seed sector as well as achieve increased production and sale of their synthetic fertilisers and pesticides.

By dominating the seed, fertilisers and herbicides sector, these seed corporations will have a huge market which will qualify them to sell their seeds, fertilisers and pesticides as monopolists worldwide.

Mr Speaker, once multinational seed corporations have achieved this monopoly control of the seed sector, fertilisers and pesticides, they then will turn our farmers into a huge market as well as make them dependent people who will be subjected to excruciating humiliation, exploitation, oppression, suppression as well as domination to a degree that neither colonialism nor slave trade ever achieved.

Successful dispossession of all farmers' traditional seeds would irreparably, irredeemably, permanently and humiliatingly condemn us to food insecurity and loss of, among other things; seed sovereignty.

Monopoly control of seeds by multinational seed corporations would lead to price increases which would go way beyond the ability of most of our farmers and such control or dominant levels of seed concentration into the hands of these corporations would inevitably, at some point, threaten political stability of our nations.

Seed sovereignty should be our legacy as Africans.

Uganda is facing a dangerous challenge, namely; a deliberately well-designed extinction plan of traditional seeds. This further poses a multifaceted problem that has profound implications for our agricultural biodiversity, agricultural resilience and cultural heritage.

The demise of traditional seeds would overlook critical advantages which our farmers already have, such as; the fact that traditionally our local farmers plant, harvest, eat, save, exchange and sell their produce independent of external interventions.

Mr Speaker, traditional seeds, once preserved can be planted the following season without a farmer having to go and buy seeds from elsewhere. Exclusive reliance on seeds which are supplied by multinational seed corporations would end this self-reliance of our farmers.

It would also lead to a dependency syndrome by the latter since seeds which are owned

by multinational seed corporations must be purchased expensively every planting season.

To avoid such dependency and other negative outcomes like loss of food security, sovereignty and dignity by our farmers, the Government must ensure that traditional seeds are preserved, promoted and protected.

Mr Speaker, our impeccable call for the protection, promotion and preservation of traditional seeds is premised on several factors:

1. The primary goal of multinational seed corporations, which are bidding to control the seed sector worldwide, is to replace traditional seeds with their version of seeds.
2. These seed corporations' main goal is to become sole global suppliers of seed for planting.
3. Their aim is to become monopolists and turn our farmers into one big market for their seeds.
4. Without our concerted efforts to conserve and promote the use of traditional seeds, Uganda risks losing the rich diversity of our seeds and also invaluable genetic resources, which are essential for sustainable agriculture and the preservation of its agricultural heritage.
5. In order, Mr Speaker, to achieve seed hegemony, multinational seed corporations are planning to transition African farmers away from traditional seeds to patented seeds, fossil fuel-based fertilisers and other inputs which the latter do control.

To achieve this, they are seeking to institute legal and financial penalties throughout Africa against African farmers who fail to adopt their patent-protected seeds. They are also using tactics such as intimidation, bribery of our officials, and propaganda in order to gain legitimacy in our part of the world. *(Applause)*

Finally, Mr Speaker, Sir, one would not be in his or her right mind to sanction the demise of our own seeds in favour of non-traditional or non-indigenous seeds over which we have no control. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Dr Otaala?

5.18

**DR EMMANUEL OTAALA (NRM, West Budama County South, Tororo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to second the motion moved by my honourable colleague, Hon. Nsaba-Buturo, urging the Government to promote, protect and preserve traditional or indigenous seeds in Uganda.

Mr Speaker, let me begin by saying that by not preserving our indigenous or traditional seeds, we are facing an imminent security threat as a country, our independence is being eroded and this will render our country susceptible to persistent famine, and even starvation of our people. Just imagine a situation where, as a country, we are unable to produce food for our own consumption and have to depend on foreign seeds, patented seeds, for our planting.

I would like to begin by saying the obvious that these patented seeds are generally more expensive. They require special care, including the use of herbicides and fertilisers. Most importantly, there is propaganda that non-traditional seeds are more productive. I want to challenge us to pay keen interest to this matter in that when we subject non-traditional seeds to the same conditions as our indigenous seeds, their productivity is rather minimal and disappointing.

Mr Speaker, imagine long ago, when our people used to harvest and select good varieties of seeds for planting in the next season, that is not anymore with the current trend, where we are planting non-traditional seeds. These non-traditional seeds have terminated genes, which means that at every season, you have to buy from the outlets and the plant. Their products cannot be replanted.

This, therefore, means our farmers, especially the rural farmers who cannot afford the cost of these seeds, will, most of the time, miss out on the planting season as they are looking for money to buy the seeds. Ultimately, with the current trend of climate change, you find that our farmers get money late, and by the time they are planting, they are planting off-season, and so you find that there is famine.

Finally, Mr Speaker, in a number of countries where non-traditional seeds have been adopted, you find that most of the time now they are facing famine. A typical case is Zimbabwe, where most of the farmers who were given farms started planting non-traditional seeds because that is – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Gilbert Olanya?

5.21

**MR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak South County, Amuru):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. This motion is very crucial for the betterment of our people. Our parents used to preserve seeds for the next season and currently, that traditional way of preserving seeds has disappeared. We used to preserve seeds like maize, simsim, peanuts, among others. Currently, whenever people want to plant, they are conditioned to go and buy from certain suppliers.

This motion shall protect our people. The Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) seeds are taking control of the market in our country. If you are not careful, Mr Speaker, in two or three years to come, Uganda shall not be doing well -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, Hon. Olanya, when we are here on record, we have to be clear. Are GMO seeds allowed in Uganda? Are they being sold and planted in Uganda?

**MR OLANYA:** Mr Speaker, we have not allowed GMOs officially in this country but the truth of the matter is that those seeds are there. That is why the other time we discussed that the Government should be strict in controlling what enters into the country. The truth of the

matter, on the market, our traditional seeds are now being replaced by GMO seeds, which is very dangerous for our people.

Finally, Mr Speaker –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, I get concerned because you see, in the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament, where they brought this GMO Bill, we worked very closely with Hon. Nsaba-Buturo to fail that Bill because we knew its dangers.

What we have are improved seeds but not GMO seeds because they require – we have some GMO products in terms of what we eat from the supermarkets like biscuits, medicine, etcetera. However, for the seeds, we have improved seeds and not GMO seeds because of the science required around it. Maybe Dr Bwanika, our technical person - we have a technical person here.

**DR BWANIKA:** Mr Speaker, there is a difference between hybrid and Genetically Modified Organisms. I hear many times people confuse the GMOs. We do not have GMOs on our markets; officially, they are not there. Even the seeds we get from Namulonge, which have been distributed to us by the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), are improved. They are hybrid; they are not genetically modified. So, there is a difference between a hybrid and the Genetically Modified Organism (GMOs).

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable -

**MR OLANYA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I wind up - *(Hon. Nsamba rose\_)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, listen, listen, Hon. Nsamba. I usually give you time, but these days you only stand up on procedure because you know it corners me into giving you, so now I am not allowing you. Hon. Olanya - No, today you started with that.

**MR OLANYA:** Mr Speaker, as I wind up, for that matter we can replace with the improved



seeds but we need to understand more about that. Looking at the improved seeds, currently, they require our farmers to apply so many chemicals for the seeds to perform well. Farmers need to apply fertilisers and others.

Yet, our traditional seeds used to perform very well without the application of fertilisers therefore it is quite paramount to preserve the traditional seeds rather than the improved ones. Mr Speaker, I highly second this motion and I pray that my colleagues give time to our honourable member so that we enact this into law.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, on. Okiror Bosco and Hon. Bwanika-

5.26

**MR BOSCO OKIROR (NRM, Usuk County, Katakwi):** Mr Speaker -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, I called Hon. Bwanika to give information, he was not submitting substantively, as in a specific topic.

**MR OKIROR:** Mr Speaker, from the onset I want to clearly put it that I rise to support the motion. Over a period of time, we have moved away from where our starting point was. When I was growing up, there were seeds like the ground nuts seeds which we used to have, which could transition from one season to the second and third.

Even the storage methods, I remember my grandmother in Usuk would pick certain maize cones and hang them in the kitchen where they smoke; that was a preservation method. You would be able to replant. I know Hon. Bwanika is creating a distinction that a hybrid and GMOs are something different.

I will undertake a certain fight, but I do not think there is a difference there. There is a way these people are passing through this hybrid process. If we have the indigenous which you could replant, why can't we replant the hybrid? That is a fundamental question which we have got to resolve. If we can replant the indigenes, why can't we replant the hybrid? I think we need to move carefully.

Another thing, Mr Speaker, which is very clear, I like the submission for the motion. The issue of patenting is very expensive. If the seeds are given to us and these seeds are patented.

In the legal sense, patenting means for you to utilise those seeds, you have got to acquire the user rights. When somebody wakes up and those are the seeds which are in our community, and somebody says, these are patented seeds you can no longer plant. We get locked down as a country.

All it does really stifles us. I thank the mover of the motion that this is very fundamental. Even the Government under Objective 22 has an obligation to protect and have a healthy state. Members, this is something we should not stay at a level of emotion but legislation needs to come in for us to re-boost and have our indigenous crops take centre stage. I beg to submit. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. These are the questions the President asked when he was returning the GMO Bill. He said, what are you doing about our indigenous seeds? Before you say- Hon. Bwanika then Hon. Nakimwero -

**DR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimaanya-Kabonera Division, Masaka City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is true that we are under the threat of GMOs. We are under a serious threat by the GMO syndicates internationally. There is no question we must preserve our indigenous seeds.

However, we have not moved as a country. I can give an example; we import Boer and Savannah goats from South Africa. Those are indigenous goats of South Africa. South Africa invested in selection. What we are calling indigenous seeds, we must invest in study and selection. They also have the traits for improvement, but we need to invest in those studies.

It is not only saying that we preserve, no. You invest and select what is the best. When you look, for instance, at the local chicken, there are chickens that lay eggs every day and can continue laying for months, like these ones, which are improved. However, the Government

must support the researchers so that they can select. If we do not do that, the threats which are in the justification by Hon. Nsaba-Buturo will come near to us very soon.

These GMO seeds cannot definitely be replanted. The hybrid seeds, you may replant but they are not going to give you the same productivity like the one you had originally. As you replant, you lose the traits. What we need to do as a country, this is a very important motion that we must give attention and priority.

If we do not, we are going to be enslaved by the manufacturers, those who have invested in these seeds. These are multinationals; they are billionaires who have invested. The nation must move faster on this so that we select and preserve our indigenous seeds for the future and for now. I submit, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Christine then Hon. Nabukenya -

5.32

**MS CHRISTINE KAAYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Kiboga):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Currently, under our policy provision, we have the Agricultural Seeds and Plant Statute of 1994, and in the offing, there is a plan to bring the Plant Varieties Protection Bill and the Bio-safety Regulations. The justice ministry is also proposing an amendment to the Seed Act 1994.

The Agricultural Seed and Plant Statute provides for promotion, regulation, control of breeding, multiplication, marketing, coordination, importation, and quality assurance. However, they do not provide for the protection and promotion of traditional seed varieties and practices. That is why I thank my colleague for bringing this proposal to the Table.

Mr Speaker, seed is food and it defines our culture. If we are not careful -us being the Pearl of Africa, part of our definition is the seed we have. So, if we deal away with our indigenous seed, then we are losing our identity as well. We have climate change issues at hand. When people look at the effects of climate change,

they forget that it also affects seed directly and indirectly.

First of all, the performance of seed is affected, but also when the soils are affected, then the quality of seed is also affected. As climate change activists, we are saying one of the adaptive mechanisms to the effect of climate change on seed is to use indigenous seed.

In most cases, they have stood drought, flooding, strong winds, and so it is adaptive that we promote the use of indigenous seed. The way we preserve the seed and then the way our people are sensitised on seed management is still very weak. Currently, our farmers do not separate for example grain from seed. They just look at a luxuriant maize - (*Interjection*) - then they choose that to be the seed for the next season. Not every grain is seed. Therefore, it is very important that the sensitisation to our farmers on how to preserve is shared.

Mr Speaker, granaries for food and seed should be improved at this moment when climate change has affected us. Demonstrations on how to effectively use this seed should be given to our people. The reason we are battling with hybrids, improved varieties, indigenous seeds is because the performance of the hybrids for a season looks very luxuriant and people seem to think that they will perform better.

However, when you go to sustainability of the performance of seed, the improved ones are very difficult to sustain. They call on regular reviews. You cannot use the same seed for different seasons. And then they have patent, and based on our weak monitoring of the quality, in most cases we allow such seed to come in and then it adulterates our indigenous seed.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Nabukenya -

5.36

**MS BRENDA NABUKENYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Luweero):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the mover of the motion and also second it. This is a very

important motion and I think the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries should pick all the discussion and see how to improve. For example, when we were young, we had so many types of beans in our community. You could see the creeping ones, but today you cannot find them.

That poses the question: What are we going to do in 50 years to come? The improved seeds cannot last for long. The original varieties can last longer, even for more than 50 years.

If we want to have seed quality assurance, we must go back to the original seeds. We need to have seed banks. There is one place in Uganda called Kiziba. It is a community seed bank. They keep the original variety of seeds, and also those that are improved. They make sure they keep them, they sell them, and also use some to replant. We need to borrow this because the organisation for biodiversity has been supporting this.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries should make sure that we improve and also keep our original varieties. The original varieties will not give a big yield, but the improved ones give bigger yields. The commercial farmers and also those in business prefer to go for the improved ones and leave out the original varieties. However, that causes a problem because that means people will prefer the improved ones, then the original ones are going to become totally extinct.

I must assure you that the nutrition content in those original varieties is better than those that are improved because usually we are looking at quantity, not quality. Therefore, it is very important.

We also need to go legal and patent our products because people come here and get our original products, they make new and improved varieties and they patent them as theirs. Actually, this is not limited to seeds. It also applies to animals. We have animals that can withstand the situation, however hard it is – ticks, the new medicines that are very strong, that are not maybe adulterated – but you find that our local breeds can actually live on even

in such conditions. Now, with wanting much bigger yields, you find that our local animals are not considered good. We need to patent and own what belongs to us – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Member for Lyantonde –

5.40

**MS PAULINE KEMIREMBE (NRM, Woman Representative, Lyantonde):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the mover of this motion. These days, we are used to being given seeds to take to our farmers. Now they are all out crying that they need seeds. Not that they do not know how to store these seeds, but they cannot be replanted. The so-called improved seeds - Most of the plants like the maize, to some extent, you have to spray. This is because the new improved seeds are prone to pests.

Due to poor storage, our people are used to the old kind of storage and because they store them the way they used to, you find that these seeds are prone to aflatoxins due to the storage. I want us to also interest ourselves in this. We are talking about these seeds, but I always use Masaka Road, and there are some sponges along the road. I use those local sponges, but you cannot use them for a week. Yet, with our indigenous seeds, you would have those sponges for some time. I see everything is really deteriorating.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Even the sponges are gone?

**MS KEMIREMBE:** Everything is gone. *(Laughter)* I think something needs to be done by this House. Otherwise, we will not have our indigenous seeds in the future. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

5.41

**MR MOSES OGWAL (NRM, Dokolo North County, Dokolo):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I rise to support the motion but with some caution and improvement. There are words which were used but have not been included. At least the word of the description of what should be done should include

improvement. The seeds need to be improved, honourable colleagues.

Our local seeds which we have may be good, but they can do better if they are improved. We need to allocate a lot of resources – *(Interruption)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please go on, honourable.

**MR MOSES OGWAL:** The improvement should be done to support productivity to improve. I will give you clear examples. The maize we have, let alone this other one, the major hybrids, but if you look at Longe 5; Longe 5 is almost indigenous and it will give you better yields compared to others. If you look at coffee: I am sure the coffee which you have, which is doing very well, was improved.

This brings me to the issue, patenting is not wrong. Patenting actually makes the value of your products go higher. I want to mention that the highest part of the value chain in agriculture are seeds. That is the highest part where you get more money. If we had patented, say, our coffee, the ones we are having, we would get more money from selling even the seeds.

Therefore, we need to think of patenting. We need to think of improving the local seeds which we have. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Etuka, Hon. Lilian and Hon. Isamat –

5.43

**MR ISAAC ETUKA (NRM, Upper Madi County, Madi-Okollo):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. The issue of indigenous seeds is a very serious matter and I would like to tell the mover of this motion.

When we look at the current seeds which are now given to us, we are very soon leading to food colonisation. From the time we received the seeds from NAADS 1, NAADS 2, NAADS 3 in the West Nile region, you find that the indigenous cassava stalks have disappeared. And now it has caused a lot of food insecurity in the area.

Just as our colleagues have said, when I looked at the improved seeds – in fact, they are very close to the GMOs because none of those – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let us give them at least two minutes so that we get as many – okay? We are ending at 6.00 p.m. and now I am seeing - please conclude, honourable.

**MR ETUKA:** Mr Speaker, as I conclude, it is evident that these improved seeds and even, as a colleague said, the improved animal species have good- *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Sorry, I think we need an improved microphone. *(Laughter)* The indigenous one has - Hon. Lilian Paparu -

5.45

**MS LILIAN PAPARU OBIALE (NRM, Woman Representative, Arua):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Information Communications Technology Information - please check.

**MS PAPARU:** I would like to thank the mover of this motion and to agree that we need to take a stand on restoring our indigenous seeds.

Mr Speaker, the improved seeds which we have now are actually increasing the level of poverty in our communities because you cannot store them for long. When you harvest maize, within four, three or five months, there are already insects. So, you cannot keep them. The cassava varieties we used to have in West Nile, you could keep cassava for five years in the field, and it would be okay. Now, within one and a half years, the cassava is getting rotten.

Some people have now ignored the storage facilities they had because you cannot keep beans, groundnuts for long. Mr Speaker, these improved seeds and right now, I think are the causes of diseases like cancer, which is affecting all ages, and at times I wonder, whether it is the type of food that we are eating.

In the West Nile, we used to grow a lot of tobacco, and we were using fertiliser herbicides. Our soil fertility is now very low. In this Bill, let us look at restoring our land fertility and start growing indigenous seeds, we can have better yields. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Dr Isamat.

5.46

**DR ABRAHAM ISAMAT (NRM, Kapir County, Ngora):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I would like to appreciate Dr Abed Bwanika. He was actually my lecturer and I want to agree with him 100 percent. *(Laughter)*

The issue we are handling at hand is very serious. We are talking about the seeds but we are aware as scientists that it has also moved to animals and probably in the near future, it will even move to human beings.

In order to ensure continuity of these seeds, it is well known that there is a seed bank just like animals have a semen bank and probably in humans, we shall also have a human bank.

As a veterinary doctor who has been in the field for over 20 years. I want to agree with Dr Abed Bwanika, who was my lecturer. When we look at the improved livestock, it is now very clear that survivability depends on a number of factors in those animals. If we get tempted to introduce exotic animals here in Uganda, most of them will die. The reason is that the climatic conditions and other factors do not favour it.

Therefore, I want to agree with the mover of the motion that preserving our indigenous seeds, is the best way to go. If we run away from them, honestly, we are going to have a disastrous in our country - *(Member timed out.)*

5.49

**MS BRENDA NAMUKUTA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kaliro):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the mover of the motion. In my own opinion, we should not take this lightly because most of the seeds, or most of the products of these seeds, are what we feed on.

Mr Speaker, the challenge we have is that they are very expensive. And if you are to follow the seasons in villages, some farmers give up because the seeds are very expensive and this is leading to high levels of hunger especially in times of planting season. Like in this second season, very many people have not replanted because they do not have money.

This debate was long overdue because these seeds have already affected our soils. We need to encourage our farmers or improve our granaries, like one of the colleagues said. If there is no proper way of storing this food, people will still cry of hunger. In my district, it is always tough during the planting season.

The unfortunate bit of it is the competition between the indigenous products and the improved seeds. When you put products on market these other products sell in market; Honourable colleagues, if you go to the market, you will look at what looks better than the other.

Indigenous seeds are better, but there is a lot of competition anyway. It is also a problem for us members. Sometimes you give us seeds, but sometimes you do not. It was worse this year. We request that - now that the farmers are crying to us. I request that every season you improvise for us so that we support our farmers. Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Now, Honourable colleagues, I was listening attentively. I want to give an example of my area. There is this banana, in our area we call it *Kawanda*. I do not even know the name, but our locals call it fear. So, we should fear it.

The thing is tasteless; we thought that it had come for food security but now we only use it for waragi, but also the waragi from it does not taste good – that one is sugarcane, and what is better?

**MR NIRINGIYIMANA:** Once that plant is put in your banana plantation, there is a way it weakens the indigenous plants, and at the end of the day, the plants have already become

weaker while the other one has colonised the whole plantation. When you look at the yields again, you find that after like two years, it completely goes down, and then you come to square one.

Therefore, for these improved plants and the seeds, their agenda is to make sure that we become dependent on their technology. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I was talking about *Kawanda*. It can produce something the size of Dr Baryomunsi. Just one bunch of it. I saw a very big thing, the size of Hon. Kabanda; are those not performing well? The one performing well produces Baryomunsi's size.

**MR KABANDA:** Mr Speaker, I am just seeking clarification from you, when I was outside, they said Hon. Kabanda is tasteless. Did you mean *Kawanda* or *Kabanda*? (*Laughter*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, we talked of the size, not the taste. Okay? (*Laughter*) I had allowed Hon. Melsa and the Members for Nakasongola and Bunyaruguru.

5.56

**MS MELSA AVAKO (NRM, Woman Representative, Yumbe):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this golden opportunity. I join my colleagues to thank the mover of this motion because it directly touches our lives.

Mr Speaker, some of us have lived long to witness and even affirm how our predecessors preserved the indigenous seeds. I vividly remember that we would collect the bumper harvests from the garden and, after preservations, the best seeds would be selected to wait for the next season. These would be replanted and we would still get bumper harvests.

The local farmers, who never went to school but sustained their life on agriculture, would avert the challenge of soil fertility by crop rotation. If an indigenous seed did not do well in a particular soil and season, they would change so that the soil fertility was maintained.

Mr Speaker, to add on that, our local farmers still need a lot to adapt to the modern farming systems due to many factors. Like my colleagues have mentioned, it is even very expensive to acquire the improved – (*Member timed out.*)

Thank you. Hon. Zawedde? Honourable colleagues, I am trying to see if we can get time for others.

5.57

**MS VICTORIOUS ZAWEDDE (Independent, Woman Representative, Nakasongola):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to second the mover of the motion, and I appreciate him. Our traditional seeds are really good because they are resistant to the different harsh climatic conditions, compared to the exotic ones.

More so, Mr Speaker, our traditional seeds are good in a way that they are durable. They can easily be kept for a long period, compared to the exotic ones. The exotic ones are always affected by pests, and our farmers are not good at buying pesticides to maintain the plants.

So, I am supporting the motion by encouraging our farmers and calling upon stakeholders at all levels to, please, encourage the use of our traditional seeds so that we can preserve, protect and safeguard the environment. I beg to submit. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us have Hon. Kesande and Hon. Kibaaju.

5.58

**MS GRACE KESANDE (NRM, Woman Representative, Rubirizi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also join my colleagues to thank the mover and support the motion. Our indigenous seeds last longer. They are nutritious and tasty. For example, when you consider our local hens, they give us nutritious and tasty eggs, compared to the non-indigenous hens. That is why I support the issue of coming up with national food reserves in order to ensure the continuity of our local seeds.

Mr Speaker, in Genesis 41:48, Joseph was able to guide and command all Egyptians to collect food that helped them to go through seven years without famine.

So, Mr Speaker, I really support the motion. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. As you can see, the people of Rubirizi sent “Pastor” Grace Kesande Bataringaya. *(Laughter)* Thank you. Hon. Kibaaju?

6.00

**MS NAOME KIBAAJU (NRM, Sheema County North, Sheema):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I, first of all, thank Hon. Buturo for bringing this debate to the Floor of this House. I know he has been passionate about it and corresponding with us, even on WhatsApp.

Mr Speaker, I am also a small farmer in my own right. What I have observed is our becoming very excited about new things without giving them due consideration. For instance, I have seen people jumping onto this Hass Avocado plants everywhere. This country has indigenous avocado plants, which are sweet, tastier and better, and in different sizes and shapes. Every household has a plant or so. However, people have now moved to Hass Avocado plants, because we have been told that we shall reap more – get more funds from those of avocados.

We stand to lose our original avocados in this country. Once we lose them, we shall lose them forever. Many people have given us advice - and I thank the honourable member who explained the difference between the indigenous and the genetically-modified organisms (GMOs). Many people think the new plants are GMOs. I think the message we should take home is that these are two different things, and they should be treated as such.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mamawi?

6.02

**MR JAMES MAMAWI (NRM, Adjumani East County, Adjumani):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I second the motion, I thank the

committee for bringing this out, but there are areas, which we must also understand. I expect my senior colleague, Hon. Abed Bwanika, to talk about it. There is a reason for the need to improve the breeds of either animals or crops.

You cannot get a new crop when you do not have a parent stock. The parent stocks, which we are talking about, are the local breeds. You cannot produce new crops when you do not have those local breeds. Therefore, we are saying that, yes, we can preserve our local breeds – which we totally agree with – but, still, there is need to improve their breeds, which we call the high-yielding ones.

Mr Speaker, you gave a very good example. You just go to Luweero here. If you are in Luweero, you can ask the ones who are selling bananas: “I need *bogoya* Buganda.” *(Laughter)* Then, they will give you the local one. When you go and just buy, you will buy something, which is new – they call it “NAADS” –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is that Adjumani language? We have an official language here. What did you say?

**MR MAMAWI:** Mr Speaker, what I am saying is that as we discuss this, we must not attribute the debate to other agronomic practices, which can be applied selectively.

We have areas where even if you do not apply fertilisers, other crops can do well. Therefore, that should not be an issue as far as GMOs and local breeds are concerned. We have crops, which are still at the - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us have Hon. Ilukol and then Hon. Rwebyambu and Hon. Noah.

6.04

**MR PHILIPHS LOKWANG (NRM, Napore West County, Karenga):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I support the motion for the maintenance and protection of our local breeds. I am very happy that Karamoja is one of the areas that has been dictated on by climate to stop some of these extensions, but it has also affected human beings.

When you see the nature of our children, some of them have become – My madam is shorter. I am also short, but the child is - I do not know. *(Laughter)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** So, honourable member, are you an affected human being? *(Laughter)*

**MR PHILIPHS LOKWANG:** I am just talking about the nature of the food we are eating. Even if you look around us here, there are original people and others who are modified. *(Laughter)* You know food is a time bomb for a country. If a country like Uganda does not protect its food, we are finished.

I, therefore, stand strong to say, let the Government come in full force such that it helps us. For us in Karamoja, we sometimes get these things, but what helps us is that when you bring improved animals like cows, they do not live for long. They all die. Because they are trying to eradicate the local breeds that we have, we are in constant hunger – we call it *akoro* in our language. *(Laughter)*

Every time you want to plant these crops, the season comes but dries up. Even these cows we are getting –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I hope many people in Karenga are not affected. Hon. Rwebyambu?

6.06

**MS MARGARET AYEBARE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mbarara):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also join my colleagues to support the motion and also contribute to the discussion.

While most of us here have some of these products, you go to the market and ask for the local bananas, compared to “Kawanda”, as the Rt Hon. Speaker mentioned earlier.

I want Members to pick a leaf from His Excellency the President of this country. Most of us have seen him on his farm looking after his indigenous cows. Why do you think he has

kept them? Amidst having exotic breeds and a lot of milk that we get from those cows, he has kept his local breed.

For the sustainability and identity of this country, we need to keep our indigenous seeds and animals. Thank you. *(Hon. Chelangat rose\_)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I picked all the people who stood on this side. My brother, Hon. Chelangat, we cannot go back. Hon. Mutebi?

6.08

**MR NOAH MUTEBI (NRM, Nakasongola County, Nakasongola):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I stand to also support the motion. If this country goes ahead to depend on multinational seed corporations, we are going to become dependents, as a country.

When you become dependents as a country, this means that those with seeds which become food will become our bosses. At the end of the day, this country will get into a situation where they will say, “To give you food, give us your resources”. Uganda has a lot of natural resources and you never know, people might be targeting them.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, biodiversity had come up to support farmers and they constructed seed banks in a number of districts. Farmers who were organised started bringing those cereals to the banks.

I want to cite an example. In Nakasongola, there is a seed bank which was opened by Gen. Salim Saleh and the farmers who organised brought their seeds there. However, when we had an exhibition in Nakasongola, they sold the seeds. They remained with a few to plant the next season. Indeed, they planted but the season was bad. As I talk, they have little.

I implore the Government to get interested and support those organised groups with their seed banks so that we begin with those ones. I beg to submit. Thank you.



**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Tonny Ayoo and Hon. Alyek? Hon. Tonny Ayoo has been buying original breeds from Ankole. *(Laughter)*

6.10

**MR TONNY AYO O (NRM, Kwanja County, Kwanja):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I am an original human being. I would like to start by thanking Hon. Dr Buturo for formally bringing this issue on the Table of Parliament and giving us the opportunity to take a decision on it.

I want to start with a saying that “If you do not know where you are going, you should never make a mistake of forgetting where you have come from”. Mr Speaker, we do not understand the agenda of the Monsanto and the rest in controlling food through seeds.

On promotion, protection and preservation, let us now urge the Government to ensure that these indigenous seeds are selected, multiplied, banked and where possible, the Government should patent them on behalf of the citizens and we have control over them.

When you want to talk of improvements, go and pick our original and indigenous seeds from our bank. Depending on whatever you want to do with them, you can improve them, but you know you can always run back to it.

Mr Speaker, God gave us these plants, seeds and animals, and they have almost been like medicine to us. However, with improvements, we are losing some of the components in them. Therefore, can we formally have a law or policy that will guide how the Government will call people to identify plants or animals with a good breed and how they look at them? Either, the Government buys – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Alyek, then Hon. Cherukut and Hon. Kabanda.

6.12

**MS JUDITH ALYEK (NRM, Woman Representative, Kole):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Dr Buturo for bringing this on the Floor of Parliament.

I am wondering whether we can still go back to the original seeds. I think we are going to start from where we are right now, going backwards because we want to preserve the seeds, but we do not have the original seeds anymore – *(Interjections)* - Are they there?

The maize that we used to hang in the grass thatched houses may be preserved by smoke. If we can still go back, there then we shall be talking sense on the Floor of this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I want to ask Hon. Dr Abed Bwanika a question; whether it is about playing with English. This is because we have improved seeds, hybrid and genetically modified. Are the hybrids not genetically modified? I know that GMOs are living organisms that are generated from the laboratory and mixed with other genes of some plants. That is when they become genetically modified.

However, when we look at hybrids, we take two different parent seeds, crossbreed them and they become improved seeds. I think I understood you there; I do not know – *(Interjection)* - yes. We have to understand this very well.

We used to have cassava that could last - like what one of our colleagues brought forward – for more than five years. We now have very many species of cassava – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Cherukut? Hon. Bwanika will respond to you later because you did not go through me; you said that you want to ask Hon. Bwanika. If it was through me, I would give him space but since it was not through me -

**MS ALYEK:** Much obliged, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** After here, please, answer the question.

**MS ALYEK:** We shall interact more with Dr Abed Bwanika; we are all scientists. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

6.14

**MS EMMA CHERUKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Kween):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the mover of this motion and I would like to bring my discussion out from the perspective of the general level of all the farmers across the country.

Most of our farmers are still living below the poverty line, which means that the exotic breeds that have been introduced into this country have come in to kill the poor and the peasants in the local districts. They cannot afford the seed and have no penny to buy. It is the reason I stand firmly to support the mover of this motion that the indigenous seeds and animals should be retained.

When you look at the improved varieties around, many times you may realise that the inputs that are added are always impacting negatively on our lives. People have suffered from cancer, to mention but a few. It is my firm stand that the indigenous breeds be retained.

For example, when we look at these exotic things - let me talk about chicken; the local and exotic. When you go to the market and the two are cooked, you will realise the difference and you will appreciate that when – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Kabanda? Let us first have a procedural matter from Hon. Isingoma-Mwesigwa.

**MR ISINGOMA-MWESIGWA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As the honourable member was speaking here, I was observing our rules - rule 82 - and I was wondering under which dress code she falls. I beg to be guided whether the honourable member is -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable member, the dress code of ladies is one of those which are very difficult to - the rule says:

*“(b) For female Members;*

1. *a suit;*
2. *dress or dress with jacket;*
3. *blouse and skirt or blouse and skirt with*

*jacket;*

4. *decent traditional wear; or*
5. *military attire for Members of the Armed Forces.”*

Honourable member, what is missing is a jacket. We can accommodate for today but she has taken note. Thank you. Hon. Kabanda?

6.18

**MR DAVID KABANDA (NRM, Kasambya County, Mubende):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I also thank Hon. Nsaba-Buturo for coming up with this idea of protecting our indigenous seeds.

However, I implore this Parliament to understand that these people are very clever. They began with the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and when you defeated them, they now went into improved seeds. What they have done is only to change the word from GMOs to improved seeds but these are the same seeds.

Mr Speaker, we may be here trying very hard to protect our indigenous seeds but we should also protect our soils because what these people are doing is to bring these herbicides on the market.

I have consulted Hon. Abed Bwanika and he said that the more you use these herbicides, the more the soils get affected. Even if you protect the indigenous seeds and you do not protect the soils, you are still going to plant them and they will not germinate.

These people are very clever; you may want to protect the seeds when the soils are not protected and you are doing nothing. Therefore, I ask Parliament that as you protect the seeds, we should also protect the soil because what is on the market, as we speak - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Byakatonda, Hon. Aogon and Hon. Katabaazi.

6.20

**MR ABDULHU BYAKATONDA (Independent, Workers' Representative):**

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am quite familiar with the subject at hand and before I submit, let me dispel the myth that comes with two understandings; Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and biotechnology.

In biotechnology, we manipulate the genes just slightly to increase yield, shortening the time and increasing resistance. GMOs, as known in European countries, are called Franken foods in that they are distorting the creation of God. They have been accused of causing cancer, leading to sterility and contamination of the environment and they have not dispelled this.

To bring the point back home, in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, there was one theorist called Malthus who came up with the Malthusian theory on food. He said that the population was growing spontaneously whereas food was growing arithmetically so that it would reach a time when the population could not support itself and the result would be death. His fellow technocrats advised him that, that was not possible because there would be technology.

I support Hon. Nsaba-Buturo because this is actually what we call our heritage and the danger is when we lose independence on food. Right from the creation, God punished the people to conform by removing food.

That is why we came up with theories on conditioning. I urge us, as we do this, to strengthen our research. For example, when we strengthen the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), which is currently underfunded and understaffed, we can have sufficient food - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Aogon?

6.22

**MR SILAS AOGON (Independent, Kumi Municipality, Kumi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. If we do not protect our soils from these Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and

the so-called biotechnology seeds, one day the soil that we have in Uganda will be favourable only for construction and not agriculture. Therefore, it is very pertinent. This is a hearty matter that we must take seriously.

Secondly, these days we lose the market because we cannot preserve whatever we have got when we have a bumper harvest; within six months, everything is gone. The prices are low; you cannot wait until the prices are up.

This is a matter which is not only of Ugandans but East Africa and Africa as a continent. I front to this House that we must ban the importation, promotion, multiplication and everything to do with GMOs.

If we do that, we are safe and if we do not, we are doomed. One day, God will raise a point of procedure and a point of order on us for not preserving His will. *(Laughter)*

The indigenous food is the will of God and we must preserve it. This House needs to pass a policy and law that preserves the indigenous seeds. Come to Kumi and taste the chicken that we roast and then compare it to yours from this end in Namawojjolo and tell me the difference. *(Laughter)*

Go and get fish from the fish pond and compare it to the one of Lake Victoria and you see the difference. Mr Speaker, you will come back and agree with me and say, let us second the motion. This motion is for seconding and everybody must support it. I beg to move.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Katabaazi -

6.24

**MR FRANCIS KATABAAZI (NUP, Kalungu East County, Kalungu):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like, first of all, to join my colleagues in thanking the mover and the technical people who have guided us through this.

Hon. Nsaba-Buturo, if you were to be a seed, you would be an indigenous one. The point I

want to raise is the contradiction we are having between hybrid and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). Whenever you see what has been produced not being able to reproduce - I think most of you have tasted the oranges that do not have seeds in them. That means you can never get a copy of that orange again.

The other bit is mathematical because food is one of our necessities. We have three basic necessities: food, shelter and clothing. Food is one of the ways - if you have food, that is the first step to being wealthy or to at least attaining minimum wealth. Today, when you buy maize seeds, let us say at Shs 20,000 or Shs 10,000 a kilo, when you are to sell, you will sell a kilo at Shs 500.

Mathematically and economically, the farmers would be suffering. You need to sell 40 kilos in order to claim the money you used for just one kilo of seeds. These GMOs – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Nabukeera then Hon. Nambooze.

6.26

**MS HANIFA NABUKEERA (NUP, Woman Representative, Mukono):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I support the motion and I do not want to divert. I reemphasise that we need storage systems and preservations of our traditional seeds. That one I agree.

At the same time, we also have to preserve our soils because originally, the soils that we had before are not the soils that we have of late. That is why we have resorted to bringing in fertilisers such that we can have our crops or plants at the standard that we want.

That one also comes out as economy; the economy as it is. People want faster things. What I mean is, you plant and because you want your plants to grow in about three months, you will opt for fertilisers yet some of the fertilisers that are in our country here are not of standard to the soils, or that can bring the quality of the food that we want to get out of it.

I still support that we should preserve the traditional seeds and see that we get better output from our seeds. I thank you.

6.28

**MS BETTY NAMBOOZE (NUP, Mukono Municipality, Mukono):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I thank the mover of this motion and the seconders.

Mr Speaker, what we are handling here is bigger than any of us can imagine right now, because it is an international trend, which, in my opinion, seeks to enslave Africa forever.

Food security, Mr Speaker, and the insecurity that comes with buying seeds every season is, in my opinion, worse than slave trade. The GMOs and their sisters; the improved seeds, are meant to enslave our people to be regular buyers of seeds every season.

When they talk about the issue of improvement, I want to ask where the word “improvement” comes from. What is improvement when you have a seed that you grow in one season and you cannot use it to replant? What is improvement in that? What is improvement in producing crops that are tasteless and therefore fetch very little for the farmers? What improvement is there when you are growing seeds that are prone to pests and you have to spray constantly using expensive chemicals? What improvement is there when you are planting seeds that need fertilisers every other day, Mr Speaker?

The improvement that they are talking about has just been planted into our people’s heads. There is nothing like improvement in these seeds – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Isingoma, Hon. Okupa –

6.30

**DR PATRICK ISINGOMA-MWESIGWA (Independent, Hoima East Division, Hoima City):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I think I need protection from the PLU man in the names of Kabanda. You know, now they do not have much work - *(Laughter)* - so they are only gossiping around.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I want to thank my colleague, elder Buturo, for a very good resolution presented. It is better late than never; this should have come yesterday. It is a very important motion and we all think that this can take us far in terms of addressing this problem.

However, Mr Speaker, my concern is, I did not hear much on the means of mitigating the problem being faced by our traditional seeds. There are many factors which militate against the survival of our traditional seeds. If we see where we have come from and where we are going, it really means that we need to rise to the occasion. We need to run where we have been walking to ensure that we protect our traditional seeds. I would be happier to see the measures which we are going to put in place to ensure that our seeds are safe so that we can keep them on a sustainable basis other than the – *(Member timed out.)*

6.32

**MR ELIJAH OKUPA (Independent, Kasilo County, Serere):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I only want to propose an amendment to the motion because the motion has limited us to crops. I want to move that we amend the motion to include the indigenous animal species and bird species. *(Applause)* If it is okay, like Members have applauded, then let it be.

We want have it all encompassing because, Mr Speaker, you have seen how His Excellency is promoting the Ankole cow. We have just found the cow going to South Africa. If we had patented it, we would be regulating how to control - The indigenous cows in Karamoja and Teso have very tasty meat. How do we preserve this? The chicken from Teso, Lango, Kanungu, Kasese, Sebei, West Nile, all this – That is why I am proposing, Mr Speaker, that we amend the motion to bring that all on board. Failure to do that, other people will take advantage of us. You will find, tomorrow, South Africa patenting the Ankole cow yet it originated from here.

Mr Speaker, I move that the motion is amended, if the mover of the motion agrees and Members

that we amended to include those. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Okupa, when I am putting a question, I will capture all of them under that. Hon. Ebwalu, then Aol and Aguti.

6.34

**MR JONATHAN EBWALU (Independent, Soroti West Division, Soroti City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is a very important motion. However, what we are doing here is, we are collecting views from Members of Parliament and simply urging the Government to either accept it or not.

My humble view is that may it please you, and the House, that this motion is referred to a relevant committee of Parliament so that we invite various stakeholders for a hearing in that committee. Let the committee then come up with a comprehensive report to this Parliament.

Secondly, I would like to request Hon. Nsaba Buturo to go and come back with a substantive Bill so that we make it into law because we are simply urging the Government to either implement or not. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleague, that is not how we process motions. It would be out of the procedure. Number one, motions are processed here. Number two, the reason for urging is because it has a financial implication. Therefore, we are limited by Article 93 of the Constitution but we want to hear from the Government. This is because on several occasions, we have had motions where we urge the Government and it has come in and taken action.

Let us be cautious to remain within the limits of the law. Let me allow Members, with the little time we have, to debate. Hon. Betty Aol –

6.35

**MS BETTY AOL (FDC, Woman Representative, Gulu City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I second this motion in totality. Thank you, Hon. Nsaba-Buturo, for this motion. One

thing is, it is not good to be dependent all the time. These improved seeds that we buy have made us to be very dependent. Year in, year out, you have to wait and that is why, if we talk about seeds, our farmers put pressure on us.

When we also come here, we put pressure on the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. However, if we were preserving our seeds the way our people used to do, we would not be suffering like this.

Secondly, for the soil, at least our forefathers and our grandparents would say, this season is for cereals and next season is for legumes. We know that legumes would fix nitrogen into the soil so that at least the fertility of the soil is not depleted, it is continuous. Now because of these improved and genetically modified - we continue using the same field for maize because we apply chemicals or fertilisers. We used to use cow dung for fertilisers not – (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Aguti –

6.37

**MS SARAH AGUTI (UPC, Woman Representative, Dokolo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the mover of this motion. This one touches the hearts of our farmers. They have been suffering from the improved seeds, for example, they buy improved seeds at a very high price and when it comes to the time of selling, the prices are always reduced. For example, farmers buy sunflower seeds and maize seeds very expensively and some maize seeds are imported.

Sometimes, when people who do business try to export, they are told that our product is of low quality, yet it is improved seeds. I support this motion that we should go back to our traditional seeds so that we maintain our prices and protect our farmers. I beg to submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable members for Soroti, Kwania, Mukono, Lira, Amolatar, Namayingo, Kasese, Youth and we conclude with – Hon. Chemonges has been

here. No, we left that side and we have already finished.

6.39

**MR TOM EKUDO (FDC, Gweri County, Soroti):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Maybe to correct this, I am not for Soroti, but I am for Gweri in Soroti District.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, honourable colleagues, I usually call the district. When you are one, I call a constituency but I know your names.

**MR EKUDO:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. On the Floor of Parliament, we have been receiving reports from very many districts about famine. It is these improved seeds that have caused us to have famine in our districts.

When you look at my district, there are improved mangoes - a mango that as big as my head. You wonder, what is this? When you try to cut it, much as it has been sprayed, you find insects inside it. You then ask yourself, what is the problem?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is your head big?

**MR EKUDO:** No, I am giving an example. I did not want to use somebody here as an example. When you get that mango, you even fear to eat it. Sometimes, when I get a very big mango, I just leave it. When you go to avocado, you find a very abnormal avocado, and you ask yourself, what is this? I support the motion 100 per cent and it has even been delayed.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Kenny Auma –

6.41

**MS KENNY AUMA (UPC, Woman Representative, Kwania):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I support the motion –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Kyooma, kindly go and sit at the side of NRM. It is not free sitting.

**MS KENNY AUMA:** I appreciate the mover of the motion. Mr Speaker, agriculture is the backbone of this country. Over 80 per cent of our people are farmers. When we were growing up, we used to have yellow maize seeds. I remember them so well. Although I do not support NRM, I remember them. The maize seed was very sweet and nutritious. I do not mean the NRM, but the real seed, that I used to know when I was growing up.

When we talk of the improved seeds, I am a farmer. The improved seeds that we have, for example, Longe 10 and triple 7 that are mostly planted in Lango Sub region –(Interjection)- and triple A also. (Laughter) The seeds that we have are very expensive. Like the one I have mentioned, only one kilogramme of maize seed costs Shs 20,000. How do you expect a local farmer in my district to buy such maize?

Assuming a farmer has 20 acres of land, that is roughly - (Member timed out.)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Grania. Honourable colleagues, I said that in this debate, I am not having procedure. I just want to conclude.

6.43

**MS HOPE NAKAZIBWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mubende):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join the Members to appreciate the mover of this motion, Hon. Nsaba Buturo, because it was long overdue.

The main concern is about cheating the farmers back home. Some of the so-called hybrid seeds that we have are not even hybrid in any way. They only colour the seeds and sell to the farmers very expensively yet, when it comes to selling, the produce that comes out is very cheap.

Back in the day, we would use the same seeds or produce, sort the seeds and replant as many times as we could. What we are calling improvement, as of now, is what Dr Otaala, one of the seconders, mentioned; that they put a terminator gene that can allow the seeds to be viable for only one season.

I believe that with science, anything is possible. Government had better come out to regulate this and if we want to improve or make them hybrid, we should put in a trait of viability over long periods. I submit, thank you.

6.45

**MR FRED KAYONDO (DP, Mukono County South, Mukono):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. One person in the Bible called Esau sold his birth right to Jacob because of food. We have very many rights here as Ugandans and whoever is agitating for us to become slaves with our food security wants our rights. I hear people talking about improvement; that is changing names. Anything to do with hybrid is genetically modifying the seed and there is nothing like a hybrid, an improved crop and many others.

Mr Speaker, I agree with the Member who talked about not stopping at seeds. We, who come from the lake, the Nile Perch we used to eat - the whole village would know that this family ate fish but it is no longer there. (Laughter) It no longer smells and we miss it. Today, you can take Nile Perch and your neighbour cannot even realise it. We have lost everything.

Finally, preserving indigenous seeds requires discipline. Indigenous seeds thrive in indigenous soils and they do better with indigenous pests. If you do away with any of the two and bring in the improved seeds, you are going to have improved or mutated pests which cannot allow the indigenous seeds to survive because they will not be resistant to them. Therefore - (Member timed out.)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable member, I can see that today you did not eat fish. (Laughter)

6.47

**MS AGNES KIRABO (NRM, Youth Representative, Central):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also rise to support the motion. I know that most of us here have spoken about the benefits of preserving, promoting and protecting not only our indigenous seeds but also animals.

However, besides protecting the farmers' rights and our indigenous seeds that hold medicinal value, which benefits our health and also decreases reliance on external seed source, there is a point that we have all not talked about. I noticed that protecting and preserving our indigenous seeds fosters intergenerational knowledge transfer. There is a lot I have learnt from our seniors, like -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Not Hon. Isingoma at least. (*Laughter*)

**MS KIRABO:** Very many seniors have spoken. I want us to protect these seeds and animals so that even the future generation benefits from them. Thank you.

6.49

**MS LINDA AUMA (Independent, Woman Representative, Lira):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join my colleagues in supporting the motion. As they spoke, I was trying to think and diagnose where the problem is. We have a problem because we over-advocated for commercial agriculture whereby we have moved from thinking about our health to getting money. These companies promoting their varieties of seeds are using that strategy of high yields. They are using it as bait for our people to embrace these Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) with a mission for our people to get more money. However, it is becoming complicated.

Last year, in my area, farmers came to me saying that they could not afford the maize seeds in Lira because they were selling 10 kilograms at Shs 200,000. They brought their money that I should go to the Container Village to buy for them seeds when going back home.

I went to their gardens and tried to calculate. For an acre, you would get Shs 500,000 but you have bought the seeds at Shs 200,000. What about labour and other things? This is making our people poorer.

This Parliament should resolve how to get back to our indigenous seeds. These people from the west - (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. As Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, scale up this matter and ensure it is given serious attention at the committee level.

**MS AUMA:** Thank you very much.

6.51

**MS MARGARET MAKHOHA (Independent, Woman Representative, Namayingo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity. I also want to take this chance to appreciate the mover of the motion and the seconders.

Uganda is known for practicing agriculture. When you want to preserve humanity, you have to think about food security. Today, as we speak, different districts are suffering from famine in our country simply because we have been reluctant and not looked at how we can secure our people with food.

When you want someone to die a poor person, take away food because every penny they get, they will be using it to buy food. I think it is a high time that we took a stand to preserve our original seeds so as to preserve humanity.

The first time I saw *matooke* with seeds inside - the so-called National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS); the ones you were describing as the huge - it was very tasteless. You wonder. Even when you give it to your chicken or pigs, they also cannot enjoy because the thing has no food nutrients.

We are what we are because of the nutrients in these foods. Therefore, when we play around with food security and nutritious foods, we shall be endangering our people.

I also support the mover that we should strictly preserve our indigenous seeds and animals so that we can have a healthy population. Thank you.

6.53

**MS AGNES ATIM (NRM, Woman Representative, Amolatar):** Thank you, Mr



Speaker. I agree with my colleagues that the importance of indigenous seeds cannot be underestimated. I just have two issues and my sister had already hinted to that.

Honourable colleagues, I would like to interest you in the National Seed Policy of 2018, which was passed by this House. The motivation in that policy is basically profits, competition, incomes and wealth creation. I have scanned through and I do not see much. It is very limited - if it is there - on the promotion of these indigenous seeds. If we are dealing with people - Unfortunately, I do not see my honourable colleagues from the agriculture ministry and neither do I see the technical team. We seem to be talking to ourselves, which is okay. I hope they can take note.

I fear that the benefits that our indigenous seeds bring to play, like the biodiversity and continuity of the species, which thrived in our ecosystem then - I am sure they can still thrive now. However, we forgot that knowledge. I thank my youth MP, that for some of us who have lived around, it was rare to find Uganda having famine, except in 1980 - I remember the yellow *posho*. Since then - growing up - there was no famine. However, these days, even in my district, we buried some old people - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Atkins?

6.55

**MR ATKINS KATUSABE (FDC, Bukonzo County West, Kasese):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also join in supporting the motion, but my only predicament is the science. There is a lot of science, but I do not hear the science coming from all of us who are here. All I am getting is feedback on geography, history and Social Studies (SST) - *(Interjections)* - Let me give you the science.

Mr Speaker, some colleagues' submissions border on fearmongering and exaggerations because even when we try to demonise the corporations - look at your medicines in terms of vaccines. It is the scientists - that we demonise in this House - who went to the

laboratories. They are the very reason why we exist.

I would like to tell everybody here that if the improvement, especially in science, was extracted from what we are submitting, you would literally call upon darkness in this room because even what you are putting on, there is some improvement. That is the reason why you are not putting on bark cloth.

Mr Speaker, I would rather - I am somebody who believes entirely in evidence, facts, information, science and data. I do not believe anybody that comes up here and they are not going to make any citation of an international journal. Even when you talk about an international journal, I am interested in who the authors of the paper are - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

6.57

**MR BERNARD ODOI (NRM, Youth Representative, Eastern):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join honourable colleagues in supporting the motion brought by a very senior colleague. Uganda, for over a century, has been known as the food basket of East Africa or the Great Lakes Region. Most of our farmers would be assured that they would plant, harvest, sell some and use some at home.

The emergence of aflatoxins in our exports can be attributed to the issue of the biotech - this kind of seeds that the farmers are having. All along, there was nothing like aflatoxin. Uganda was harvesting and exporting food until the issue of biotech in the seedlings that we are now planting.

Therefore, I join colleagues to demand for the preservation of our original seeds so that we protect our country for the future. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us have the LOP and, then, the Leader of Government Business.

6.58

**MR JONATHAN ODUR (UPC, Erute County South, Lira):** Mr Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity. I fully associate myself with the motion and I think this is one of the motions that you have rightfully given justice to, by allowing many Members of Parliament to submit on. *(Applause)*

Having followed the debate and submissions of some experts here, I would like to invite the attention of the Government, especially the National Security Council, to take this matter as something they can discuss, because this is now a security threat to the sovereignty of a country like Uganda. *(Applause)*

Nowadays, wars are fought in different ways. The traditional ways of attacking have subsided a bit. People are using technology, food and etcetera to bring countries down. Therefore, this is a subject matter that they can discuss and plan ahead of time.

I had the opportunity, before I came to Parliament, to visit one of the countries in Europe. I found out that they had kept each and every variety of our traditional seeds, from the black beans – each and every variety - and it is a huge farm. Their plan is that after 40, 50, 60 years - after wiping – we shall be buying from them very expensively. For most of you who have travelled, you realise that if you look for our traditional food in their stores, they are costing 10 times the amount of the other ones.

This is an international commercial syndicate. You can clearly see that at some point, we are going to be enslaved and we shall be buying from them very expensively.

Therefore, since the Government has the capacity – Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), I think, through the veterans, and Uganda Prison Services have farms all over. One way they can easily produce these is to dedicate some acreage and start producing and multiplying our traditional seeds so that at some point, it can be rolled out. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Government?

7.01

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati)** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Government believes that all of us have a moral duty to protect, preserve and promote our traditional seeds and animals because of strategic reasons. I will mention two, among others, because of time.

The first one is that our population is growing. For example, in Uganda, by 2050, we shall be 100 million. In 2050, in Africa, we shall be 2.5 billion, from 1.2 billion. What will the population then be feeding on? Will it be safe food? Will it guarantee their health?

Mr Speaker, we believe in science, but science without ethics can be dangerous to the human race. We need to calm down the fears of Rev. Malthus, who, in 1978, published a theory that the population was growing geometrically while the food supply was at arithmetic sequence.

The second point, Mr Speaker, is that the climate is changing. There is a lot of evidence – in fact, abundant evidence – that traditional seeds and animals can have a higher propensity to survive than the modified seeds and animals. *(Applause)*

We have heard the motion of Hon. Nsaba-Buturo and on behalf of the Government, I would like to say that we support the motion. *(Applause)*

As a way forward and to answer a number of questions that continue to linger in people's minds – "Is "modified" the same as "improved"?" Do we have a seed bank? Do we have a policy on the things that we are importing?

Mr Speaker, I mentioned that as we speak, we are importing wheat worth Shs 600 billion. Is this wheat that we are importing organic or genetically-modified? Africa alone is importing basic food; wheat and maize worth \$50 billion. Is this food organic or not?

To answer those questions, Cabinet directed the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to review all the policies that we have in place and make sure that we come up with a revised policy that answers these issues that we are talking about - a seed bank, issues to do with definition of improved seedlings and GMOs.

Above all, Mr Speaker, you know that in the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament, I have stood with you and Hon. Nsaba-Buturo so, I stand here with a lot of encouragement to you, Members, that the issues that you have raised will form part of the valuable input as we develop the policy moving forward. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I now put the question that the motion for a resolution of Parliament urging Government to promote, protect and preserve traditional seeds in Uganda be adopted with amendments.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Motion adopted.*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, I would like to thank you. Please, honourable minister, as per rule 220, let us have an action-taken report in three months.

Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, take up these issues during budgeting because these are some of the issues we should start looking at and ensuring that resolutions of Parliament are implemented.

I would like to thank you, honourable colleagues, for coming and for staying here; those of you who have stayed much longer. When we were handling item No. 3, which was reconsidering the returned Bill for Higher Education Students Financing, we had 186 Members both online and physical. When we were handling item No. 4 - the Bill for UNESCO, we had 192 Members both online and physical. You can see that you have been resilient; you are still here. So, I would like to thank you.

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

*(The House rose at 7.06 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 1 October 2024 at 2.00 p.m.)*