



**PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA**

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION - FIRST MEETING

MONDAY, 25 MAY 2026





**IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA**

**Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament**

**FIRST SESSION - 1ST SITTING - FIRST MEETING**

**Monday, 25 May 2026**

*Parliament met at 10.00 a.m. at Kololo National Ceremonial Grounds, Kampala.*

*National Anthem*

*East African Community Anthem*

**PRAYERS**

*(The Chief Justice, Justice Dr Flavian Zeija, in the Chair.)*

**PROCLAMATION**

10.14

**THE CLERK TO PARLIAMENT:** Your Excellency the President, my Lord the Chief Justice, honourable members of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament, this is the proclamation by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda:

*“WHEREAS under Article 95(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, where a new Parliament is elected, the President is required, by proclamation, to appoint the place and a date not beyond seven days after the expiry of the term of Parliament for the First Sitting of the new Parliament;*

*AWARE that the election of Members of Parliament to the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament was concluded and in accordance with Section 78(1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, Cap. 177, the names and constituencies of elected candidates as Members of Parliament were published in the Gazette;*

*NOTING that under Article 77(3) of the Constitution, the term of Parliament is five years from the date of its first sitting after a general election;*

*FURTHER NOTING that the First Sitting of the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021, and, therefore, the term of the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament expired on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred upon the President by Article 95(1) of the Constitution, it is hereby proclaimed that the First Sitting of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament be held at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026 at 10:00 a.m.*

*This proclamation was given under the hand and public seal on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026 by His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda.”*

Your Lordship, I beg to submit.

**REMARKS BY HIS LORDSHIP THE CHIEF JUSTICE**

10.16

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE (Dr Flavian Zeija):** Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, honourable members of Parliament, I take this opportunity to congratulate you upon your election to this august House.

The journey to this point has undoubtedly required commitment, resilience and the confidence of the people of Uganda, and

we remain grateful to the Almighty God for enabling this achievement. It is now over four months since the conclusion of the general elections, through which you were entrusted with the responsibility of representing your constituents. While some of you return with prior parliamentary experience, many are here for the first time, but together, you now constitute the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament of the Republic of Uganda.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, I am here in my capacity as Chief Justice, to preside over the election of the Speaker of Parliament. This function is a constitutional duty entrusted to my office under Article 82(1) of the Constitution, which provides for the offices of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker. Clause 5 of the same Article further stipulates that, “*The Chief Justice or a judge designated by the Chief Justice shall preside over the elections of the Speaker and thereafter, the Speaker shall preside over the election of the Deputy Speaker.*” Your Excellency and honourable members, my role today is, therefore, strictly to oversee this process in accordance with the Constitution and the established Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

I am informed that all honourable members of this Parliament were furnished with copies of the parliamentary Rules of Procedure. I take it that you have read and internalised yourselves with the relevant rules governing the elections of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. However, for avoidance of doubt, I hereby request the Clerk to Parliament to read the Rules of Procedure applicable for the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker to refresh our understanding of the process to be followed. I thank you.

READING OF RULE 5 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE ON THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER AND THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

**THE DEPUTY CLERK, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (Ms Rose Ikiror Semakula):** Rule 5, the election of Speaker:

- (1) *“The Speaker shall be elected by the Members from among their number.*
- (2) *A person shall not be qualified to be elected Speaker if he or she is a Vice President, Prime Minister or a Minister.*
- (3) *A person who publicly campaigns or causes campaigns through his or her agent in a manner, which is in breach of rule 91, shall be subject to the Code of Conduct for Members.*
- (4) *No business shall be transacted in Parliament other than an election to the Office of the Speaker, at any time the Office of the Speaker is vacant.*
- (5) *The Chief Justice or a judge designated by the Chief Justice shall preside at an election of the Speaker.*
- (6) *Subject to subrule (11), the election of the Speaker shall be by secret ballot.*
- (7) *A person presiding at the election of the Speaker shall invite nominations from Members present.*
- (8) *A Member making a nomination shall move a motion that “(Name )... do take the Chair of this Parliament as the Speaker; and shall give a brief statement of the background and qualifications of the nominee.*
- (9) *Nomination of a Member for election to the Office of the Speaker shall be seconded.*
- (10) *A person nominated as a candidate for election to the Office of the Speaker shall give his or her consent to the nomination.*
- (11) *Where one person is nominated, he or she shall be declared elected and conducted to the Speaker’s Chair.*
- (12) *Where more than one person is nominated, the House shall proceed to elect a Speaker from the persons nominated.*

- (13) *When all the nominations have been received, the person presiding shall announce that the ballot will now be taken.*
- (14) *Voting shall be in the following manner-*
- (a) *the Clerk shall ascertain the number of Members present;*
- (b) *before voting commences, the person presiding shall cause to be produced one ballot paper and cause to be demonstrated the fact that the ballot box is empty;*
- (c) *the person presiding shall cause to be given to each Member present, a ballot paper;*
- (d) *a Member who wishes to vote shall proceed to a booth or an area designated within reasonable distance of the ballot box for the purpose of voting and shall, while in the booth or designated area, write the name of the candidate of his or her choice, fold the marked ballot paper, and drop it in the ballot box;*
- (e) *on the election of a Speaker, no vote may be cast or abstention recorded by proxy;*
- (f) *after all Members who wish to vote have voted, the person presiding shall, in full view of the Members present, cause the Clerk to empty the ballot box and immediately count the ballot papers contained in the ballot box;*
- (g) *at the completion of the counting, the person presiding shall announce the results of the voting specifying-*
- i) *the total number of ballot papers contained in the ballot box;*
- ii) *the total number of Members who have abstained from voting;*
- iii) *the total number of spoilt or blank ballot papers; and*
- iv) *the total number of votes obtained by each nominee;*
- (h) *where two or more persons are nominated for the Office of the Speaker, the person who receives the majority of the votes of all Members present and voting shall be declared Speaker;*
- (i) *where none of the persons nominated for the Office of Speaker receives the majority number of votes of all Members present and voting, a second election shall be held between the two persons who obtained the highest number of votes;*
- (j) *where at an election between two nominees, the nominees receive an equal number of votes, another election shall be held; and*
- (k) *where a second election has to be held under paragraph (i), and two or more nominees receive equal votes in the second position of the first election, there shall be an election to determine the nominee to stand in the second election, and the election shall be repeated where there are ties until one nominee can be identified.*
- (15) *The person elected Speaker shall be conducted to the Chair.*
- (16) *As soon as possible after the election of the Speaker, before assuming the duties of the Office of the Speaker, the person elected Speaker shall, in the manner prescribed by law, take and subscribe to the Oath of Speaker as specified in the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution as required by Article 82(10) of the Constitution.*
- (17) *In this rule, “person presiding” means the Chief Justice or a judge designated by the Chief Justice under subrule (5).*
- (18) *The Oath of Speaker or Deputy Speaker shall be administered by the President or a person authorised by the President... ”*

Thank you.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR  
THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** I now invite nominations from honourable members present in the House for the position of Speaker. A Member making a nomination will have five minutes to propose a candidate and provide a brief statement of their background and qualifications. A seconder will then have two minutes to second the nomination. Thank you.

10.26

**MAJ. (RTD) JESSICA ALUPO (NRM, Woman Representative, Katakwi):** Your Excellency, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda. Your Lordship, the Chief Justice, distinguished Members of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament in your respective capacities.

I stand here to move a motion for the election of Hon. Oboth Marksons Jacob, Member of Parliament for West Budama Central County, as Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament. I proceed to move this motion under Article 82 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Rule 5(8) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

Your Excellency, Your Lordship the Chief Justice,

*“WHEREAS Article 77 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda establishes the Parliament of Uganda, and*

*WHEREAS Article 82 of the Constitution provides that there shall be a Speaker of Parliament, and no business shall be transacted in Parliament other than an election to the office of Speaker at any time the Office of the Speaker is vacant.*

*AWARE that in accordance with Article 77(3) of the Constitution, the term of this Parliament commences today, the 25th day of May 2026.*

*NOTING that Article 82(2) of the Constitution and Rule 5(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament provide that the Speaker shall be*

*elected by Members of Parliament from among their numbers.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I beg to move that Hon. Oboth Marksons Jacob, Member of Parliament, West Budama Central County, do take the Chair of this Parliament as the Speaker.”*

I beg to move.

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** The Secunder.

10.29

**MR FRANK TUMWEBAZE (NRM, Kibale East County, Kamwenge):** Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda; Your Lordship the Chief Justice, and honourable colleagues.

I rise in accordance with Rule 5(9) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament to support the nomination of Hon. Oboth Marksons Jacob, Member of Parliament for West Budama Central County, for election as Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

Your Lordship and honourable colleagues, the person I have the pleasure of seconding for his nomination for election as Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Uganda is well known to me, having worked with him in the Ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> Parliaments and in Cabinet during the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

During my close interaction with Hon. Oboth Oboth as he is fondly known, I found him a capable leader who possesses qualities that make him suitable to lead this House as its Speaker.

Hon. Oboth Marksons Jacob is academically astute, impartial, knowledgeable in law, parliamentary procedures and processes, and is fair, firm, and a strong communicator, bold, decisive, goal-oriented, even-tempered, resilient, and emotionally intelligent. Those characteristics will enable him to easily command this august House. He will maintain order, facilitate debate, enforce Rules of Procedure, navigate governance issues, make firm, decisive, sound and rational decisions,

manage crisis that may arise and navigate complex political and diplomatic relations.

The personal traits that Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth possesses make him a breath of fresh air in the Office of the Speaker and will make him a successful Speaker. Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth is known for being a gentleman, calm and measured, an advocate of good standing, which reflects commitment to the rule of law, a capable leader, and a patriot, owing to his service in the Public Service of Uganda.

He is good at engaging. He is a political moderate. He is a modest person, having risen from a humble background. He is disciplined, composed and respectful in parliamentary engagement, patient and neutral.

Your Lordship and honourable colleagues, basing on the above rich competencies of Hon. Oboth Oboth, I hereby support the nomination of Hon. Oboth Oboth for election as Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament. Hon. Oboth Oboth will leverage his more than 15 years in Parliament to building the necessary administrative and governance structures to steer Parliament to greater horizons.

I, therefore, implore you, Members, to elect Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth as the Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Uganda.

I beg to submit, your Lordship.

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** I now call upon the nominated candidate to come and present his consent. (*Applause*)

10.32

**MAJ. (RTD) JESSICA ALUPO (NRM, Woman Representative, Katakwi):** Your Lordship the Chief Justice, I would like to make this statement in support of the nomination of Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth, Member of Parliament for West Budama Central County, for election as Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

Your Lordship the Chief Justice, in accordance with Rule 5(8) of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda, I have the singular

honour to nominate and present to you, for election as Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament, Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth, the Member of Parliament for West Budama Central County.

Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth, fondly called “Oboth Oboth”, was born on 13 April 1971 in Tororo District. Being an advocate of superior and subordinate courts in Uganda, Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth possesses a solid legal foundation that equips him with professional skills to preside over the parliamentary processes effectively.

Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth possesses various academic qualifications, including the following:

- a) Master of Laws (LLM) from the University of Minnesota Law School, USA (August 2006 to May 2007);
- b) Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice from Law Development Centre (2001 to 2002);
- c) Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda (1997 to 2001);
- d) Certificate in Project Planning and Management from the International Law Institute, Washington D.C. (October 2005);
- e) Two certificates in Procurement and International Property Enforcement from the International Development Law Organisation in Rome, Italy (2003);
- f) Certificate in Management from Uganda Management Institute, Uganda (1999);
- g) Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education from Tororo High School (1995 to 1997);
- h) He was at St Dennis Ssebugawo School -

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** Kindly, wind up your statement.

**MAJ. (RTD) ALUPO:** ... and acquired his Uganda Certificate of Education.

My Lord the Chief Justice, this varied background, coupled with vast legal expertise, gives Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth a deep understanding of constitutional governance, parliamentary procedure, rule of law,

legislative drafting, and conflict resolution, making him the best-suited Member to lead the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament as its Speaker.

Furthermore, Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth has had an illustrious and distinguished career, serving in various key positions in the political and the Public Service of Uganda, including:

- a) Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs from 2024 to date;
- ii) Minister of State for Defence and Veteran Affairs from 2001 to 2028;
- iii) Member of Parliament from 2011 to date;
- iv) The Chairperson, Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs from 2016 to 2021;
- v) The Chairperson, Committee on Rules, Discipline and Privileges in the Ninth Parliament; and
- vi) The Chairperson, Committee on Natural Resources in the Ninth Parliament.

Your Lordship the Chief Justice, he was the chairperson of an ad hoc committee investigating the energy sector in Uganda (2011 to 2013) and a member of the parliamentary Business Committee in the Ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> Parliaments, where he was also a Member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association from 2011 to 2021, and the national President, Parliamentarians for Global Action – Uganda.

Your Lordship the Chief Justice, he was the Acting Principal State Attorney/Head of Mbale Regional Office at the Attorney-General's Chambers, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, overseeing eastern and north-eastern Uganda, covering 24 districts of Iganga, Kaliro, Namutumba, Bugiri, Budaka, etc.

He was the Deputy Attorney-General of Tieng Adhola Cultural Institution in 2003 to 2010, and a part-time lecturer at the Islamic University in Uganda (in the Faculty of Law) from 2007 to 2010.

He was a board member in several civil society organisations between 1999 and 2010, and was a founding member and board chairperson,

Community Aid CAN Uganda, an NGO serving the people in eastern Uganda.

Your Lordship the Chief Justice and distinguished Members, Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth is a diligent leader who has immeasurably participated in shaping the destiny of Uganda and served Uganda with dedication and patriotism.

The past leadership positions held by Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth as cabinet minister, state minister, Member of Parliament, chairperson of committees and civil servant have significantly shaped Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth and prepared him for service as Speaker.

Honourable members, the person I present to you today for election as your Speaker in the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Uganda, Hon. Oboth Marksons Jacob, has been endorsed by the NRM Party, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda and other senior national leaders. Since the announcement of his candidature for the Office of Speaker, he has received support from Members of Parliament across the political divide and the general public. This endorsement reflects confidence in his ability to lead the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament effectively.

I, therefore, have the honour to nominate Hon. Oboth Marksons Jacob for election as the Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Uganda. I do this for God and my country. Thank you very much for your kind attention. *(Applause)*

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** I invite the nominated candidate to make a statement accepting the nomination. You have only one minute to do so. Let us adhere to the time. I do not have the privilege in Parliament to switch off the microphone, but I hope we stick to the time.

10.41

**MR JACOB MARKSONS OBOOTH (NRM, West Budama Central County, Tororo):** My Lord the Chief Justice and honourable members, it is with deep humility, a profound sense of honour, and unswerving resolve to uphold your trust that I accept this nomination to serve as Speaker of this august House.

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** Any other nomination? When you propose, continue to make the statement about your candidate.

10.42

**MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luweero):** Your Excellency the President, My Lord the Chief Justice, and honourable colleagues. My name is Kirumira Hassan, Member of Parliament representing Katikamu South. I stand to move a motion under Rule 5 of our Rules of Procedure that Hon. Mwiru Paul, MP, Jinja South Division East, takes the Chair of Parliament as the Speaker. I beg to submit.

My Lord, Hon. Mwiru Paul, I present before you is the best of our candidates for speakership of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament for the Republic of Uganda. Hon. Mwiru Paul is a lawyer holding a Bachelor of Laws from Makerere University, a Diploma in Legislative Drafting from the International Law Institute and a Diploma in Law from the Law Development Centre.

Hon. Mwiru Paul was a member of the legal and parliamentary affairs committee in the Ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> Parliaments of Uganda. He served as the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee in the Ninth Parliament.

Hon. Mwiru Paul served as the Deputy Spokesperson of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) and is now the focal person in the National Unity Platform (NUP) for Busoga West.

His candidature is premised on four pillars, but I will deal with the two, and the remaining two shall be dealt with by the seconder. First is the restoration of the rule of law in Parliament.

Hon. Mwiru Paul, our candidate for the position of speakership, will uphold accountability and the rule of law by ensuring budget discipline, stamping out wasteful expenditure, redirecting money for donations and corporate social responsibility to parliamentary committees where Members actually do the work of Parliament. This will be done through internal resource reallocation without increasing

the overall budget of Parliament. To ensure accountability to the public, he will ensure adoption of the public disclosure policy, where Parliament will periodically publish its output and attendant costs so that the public can appreciate and hold their leaders to account.

Secondly, equity and inclusivity. Hon. Paul Mwiru, I present before you, his candidature is premised on treating all Members of Parliament fairly and equally. He will ensure that there is equity and inclusivity in the welfare of the Members of Parliament and staff of the Parliament, and standardised benefits. I present before you, Hon. Paul Mwiru. For God and My Country. I submit.

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** Thank you so much. Let me have the seconder.

10.47

**MS SARAH LWANSASULA (NUP, Woman Representative, Jinja City):** Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, Your Lordship the Chief Justice, and honourable colleagues, my name is Sarah Lwansasula, City Woman Representative for the people of Jinja City.

In accordance with Rule 5(8), I associate with Hon. Kirumira and I second Hon. Mwiru Paul to be the Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

In addition to what the nominator has said, Hon. Mwiru will be responsive to the aspirations of Ugandans. This, he will do by ensuring that funding of Government programmes is increased to match the increased population growth. He will ensure that the talk about the tenfold growth strategy is matched with resource allocation.

Hon. Mwiru is competent, exemplary and accountable so he brings such leadership to the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament as a Speaker. Under his leadership, he will cause the reduction of funds to consumptive expenditure and invest more in capacity building of Members and staff. In addition, resources will be reallocated to parliamentary committees so that Members are adequately enabled to conduct oversight at committee level. Hon. Mwiru will cultivate a

habit of budget discipline to ensure that funds are spent only on what they have been budgeted for. All Members will be aware of what has been allocated to specific activities so that they can hold his leadership accountable.

Honourable members, Hon. Mwiru is a man of integrity, does what he says should be done. Therefore, I urge you all to see Hon. Mwiru Paul fit to be our Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament. I submit.

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** Let me have the nominated candidate step forward and state his consent to the nomination. Please state the consent and nothing else, according to the rules.

10.50

**MR PAUL MWIRU (NUP, Jinja South Division East, Jinja City):** Your Excellency the President, My Lord the Chief Justice, and honourable colleagues, I take the singular honour to accept the nomination for the Chair of the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda. I thank you.

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** Thank you. Is there any other nomination? Please nominate and continue to make the statement.

10.51

**MR PETER OKOT (DP, Tochi County, Omoro):** Your Excellency, the President, and My Lord, the Chief Justice. My name is Peter Okot, Member of Parliament for Tochi County in Omoro District. I rise under Rule 5 (8) of the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure to move that Hon. Norbert Mao, Member of Parliament for Laroo-Pece, do take the Chair of this Parliament as the Speaker.

My Lord, the Chief Justice, let me give a brief background and qualifications of Hon. Norbert Mao.

Hon. Norbert Mao was born in 1967 to a mother from Isingiro and a father from Gulu. He spent most of his formative years in Jinja and had most of his secondary education in the central region. That is why he is commonly referred to as “Uganda Made Simple.”

My Lord, Norbert Mao had a humble childhood in Lacor and Bwobo, where he benefited from the kindness of many, some of whom were total strangers. As a little boy, he herded goats, helped on the farm, and worked as a cobbler, bicycle repairer, and as an apprentice to a tinsmith.

His primary school then had no P.7 class, but on account of his natural brilliance, he went on to do his Primary Leaving Examination at Magwa Primary School, from where he moved on to Wairaka College for two years and then went to Namilyango College, where he sat for both his O and A-level examination before joining Makerere University.

His exceptional communication, interpersonal, and leadership skills were recognised early by his peers. While in primary school and even at secondary level, he participated in many debates and seminars where he excelled on account of the courage, clarity, and conviction with which he presented his case.

At Makerere University, he was elected President of the Student Guild at a time when coming from Northern Uganda carried a big stigma. He overcame that stigma and rallied students to champion a campaign against the World Bank-inspired policies, referred to as the Structural Adjustment Programme.

However, in reality, it required the Governments in the underdeveloped countries to drastically reduce spending on health, education, and livelihoods. The byword of those policies was cost-sharing.

The fierce disagreement with the Government led to a strike in which two students lost their lives and many were seriously injured when the police was deployed on campus on 10 December 1990. One of those who was seriously injured was our own late Speaker, Jacob Oulanyah. May his soul rest in peace.

Hon. Mao is ever a bridge-builder and peacemaker. Norbert Mao at just 23 years old at that time, reached out to State House and secured an appointment to meet President

Museveni, who received the student delegation led by Mao, to discuss how to balance other national priorities with the need to ensure access to higher education for students from poor families, the so-called needy students. That conversation laid the foundation for continued Government sponsorship of students in universities alongside private sponsorship.

Finally, my Lord, the Chief Justice, Hon. Norbert Mao has education, experience, skills, and connections locally and internationally to unite this House, to deal with the crisis of confidence facing the Members, leaders, and the institutions of Parliament.

Norbert Mao is a senior advocate of 32 years standing. He has an undergraduate law degree from Makerere University and a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Law Development Centre. He has an Associate Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Arts degree in Development Studies from Uganda Martyrs University. He has a Master's degree in Dispute Resolution and a Certificate in International Commercial Arbitration from Pepperdine University, USA. In addition, he was a 2003 World Fellow at Yale University, USA.

My Lord, the Chief Justice, Norbert Mao is the President General of the Democratic Party and until recently, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs in the Government of Uganda, having been appointed following a cooperation agreement between the National Resistance Movement and the Democratic Party. Norbert Mao believes in managing our differences through consensual democracy where we use points of agreement as footholds to find consensus in areas of disagreement.

The candidate I present to you will guarantee the privileges, immunities, and independence of the Members of Parliament. There is no better prerequisite for guaranteeing the freedom of debate that representation and oversight demands -

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** You should be winding up.

**MR PETER OKOT:** Most obliged - than having a presiding officer who does not have an overbearing or coercive influence on Members and is himself not under the overbearing or coercive influence of anybody.

Norbert Mao is a patriot and was a firebrand legislator in the Sixth and the Seventh Parliaments, now returned to Parliament after voluntarily leaving it 20 years ago. He left Parliament and went to serve as the district chairperson of Gulu District local government. That is why he is commonly referred to as "Mr Chairman."

He worked alongside others to support the peace process that silenced the guns in Northern Uganda and laid the foundation for post-conflict reconstruction. God has preserved him through many life-threatening situations in order to serve the country he loves for such a time as this.

As the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, he has been a champion of alternative dispute resolution, the protection of the intellectual property of the creatives, and a promoter of access to justice in collaboration with the Judiciary.

As the political head of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, he supported the completion of the new building housing many of the justice, law and order institutions, saving Government Shs 30 billion annually, in rent. Surely, he will quickly ensure the completion of the new parliamentary chambers so that we do not have to come to the Kololo Ceremonial Grounds every time we have a grand Sitting of Parliament.

My Lord, the Chief Justice, in conclusion, Hon. Mao, as the current Chairman of the Summit of the Inter-Party Organisation for dialogue, IPOD, understands what is at stake over the next five years and beyond.

At a deeper level, honourable members, Hon. Norbert Mao as a candidate for Speaker is not the issue. The issue is what is at stake as we elect the Speaker; what is at stake is bigger than any

candidate. The National Resistance Movement (NRM) has lived with Hon. Norbert Mao as the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, for four years.

Surely, colleagues, NRM can live with Hon. Norbert Mao for five years as the Speaker.

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** Can you wind up?

**MR PETER OKOT:** Let us rise above partisan alliances and embrace the gift of Hon. Norbert Mao to the NRM and Uganda. Do not ask why Hon. Mao, but ask why not Hon. Mao.

My Lord, the Chief Justice, I beg to move. Thank you very much.

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** Let me have the seconder. Please, you have two minutes. Do not use more than that.

11.02

**MR PATRICK OKELLO ONGUTI (DP, Aswa County, Gulu):** Much obliged. My Lord the Chief Justice, as per the Rule 5(9) of the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure, I, Patrick Okello Onguti, the Member of Parliament representing Aswa County in this 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament, rise on a motion to second Hon. Norbert Mao to take the Chair of this Parliament as the Speaker. I beg to move.

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** Thank you. The candidate, step forward to state your consent. Please note that as per the rules, you only state your consent to the nomination and nothing else.

11.04

**MR NOBERT MAO (DP, Laroo-Pece Division, Gulu City):** Much obliged, my Lord. Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, my Lord the Chief Justice, the honourable members of Parliament, in as few words as it takes, I, Norbert Mao, Member of Parliament for Laroo-Pece, hereby consent to my nomination to take the Chair as the Speaker. Thank you very much. May God bless you.

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** Any other nomination?

11.05

**MR GEOFFREY OCEN (UPC, Kioga North County, Amolatar):** Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, your Lordship the Chief Justice, Members of Parliament, I am here for two reasons. One, to close the nomination. Two, to move on a matter of procedure under Rule 17(1).

My Lord, the Office of the Speaker carries immense responsibilities. The 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament has been alleged to be the epicentre of corruption. Therefore, I move under Rule 17(1), causing for the suspension of Rule 5(3) and (10), to allow the nominated Members to present their credentials, such that we are able to assess whether they meet the requisite governance qualities that can restore public trust in the institution of Parliament, and to protect the gains so far achieved.

My Lord, it is of imperative necessity that you allow this proposal, and you suspend Rule 5(3) and (10), and grant the nominated candidates 15 minutes to address the House, such that we are able to make an informed decision.

My Lord, the right to be heard before a decision is made is constitutional. Even in the Bible, when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God first called them to defend themselves before he passed judgment onto them. Today, we are going to make a decision to elect the Speaker of Parliament. It would be good for us to hear from them and make an informed decision.

Your Lordship, my name is Geoffrey Ocen, Member of Parliament representing Kioga North County in Amolatar District. I beg to submit.

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** Let me, first of all, begin by overruling you. The sub rule (3) you talk about actually prohibits campaigning by the Members nominated. Secondly, Rule 10 only talks about consent. Can we then proceed?

In view of the fact that more than one Member has been nominated, I announce that the ballot will now be taken.

**MR GEOFFREY OCEN:** My Lord, I mentioned rule 5(3) and rule 5(10) –

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** I have already made a ruling. I will not go back to it. *(Interjections)* No more points of procedure. Can we please close the nominations and proceed to take the ballot?

Given that there is no other candidate, I have 370 Members present, who are eligible to participate in the election. In view of the fact that there is no other candidate, I close the nomination and proceed to announce that a ballot be taken in accordance with Rule 5(13).

This election will be conducted beyond reproach. Therefore, for the sake of clarity and transparency, I wish to point out the following:

1. Everything will be done in the open, strictly in accordance with the rules;
2. The Clerk will ascertain the number of honourable members present. He has already done so and told me that we have 370 Members present;
3. Each nominated candidate for the position of Speaker will designate an agent to come forward and witness the process of opening the ballot box to verify that the ballot box is empty;
4. Ballot papers equivalent to the Members present will be counted in the presence of the agent and put aside. When you, as the honourable member arrives, you will be given one ballot paper in the presence of the designated agent. You will then go to the designated place to vote for your candidate;
5. Suffice to mention is that the ballot papers are blank because nominations are conducted from here. However, I am confident that each one of you knows how to read and write. You will write the name of the honourable member you are voting for Speaker in the blank space provided on the ballot paper. Thereafter, fold the

marked ballot paper and insert it into the ballot box in full view of everyone; and

6. Voting will be by secret ballot and there is no voting by proxy.

Can I have the agents forward - I am not allowing matters of procedure - Can we have the agents of the nominated candidates forward.

That is the ballot box. As you can see, it is empty and confirmed by the candidates. Let me call upon the Clerk to Parliament to start calling the names for voting - we are going to use the register for all sworn-in Members but as at the time I was talking, the number I had received was 370, so that should not be a problem.

*(Members voted by secret ballot.)*

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** Read another one. They have to come in succession. I suggest that to save time, read in tens, they line up so that we do not spend time while they move.

*(Voting by secret ballot continued.)*

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** According to the list I have been following, I think the list is over. If there is any person whose name has not been read, step forward and be verified. Otherwise, I am going to close the voting.

Please, if you know your name was not read or you came late, step forward for verification, and then you will be allowed to vote. Otherwise, I am about to close the voting.

*(Voting by secret ballot continued.)*

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** I now close the voting. We can go into counting of the ballots cast.

The Clerk is going to open the ballot box and pour the ballots on the table, then he will announce each ballot one by one in the presence of the agents. Let us proceed.

*(Vote counting/tallying commenced.)*

1.33

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE (Dr Flavian Zeija):** Order in the House. The declaration of the Speaker by his Lordship the Chief Justice.

Under Rule 14(h) of the Rules of Procedure of this House, where two or more persons are nominated for the office of Speaker, the person who receives the majority of the votes of all Members present and voting shall be declared Speaker.

So, I will now proceed to read the total number of votes polled and those polled by each candidate.

The total number of ballot papers contained in the ballot box were 519.

Total number of members who have abstained from voting, I have zero.

Spoilt ballot papers were three.

Hon. Marksons Jacob Oboth polled 441 votes. *(Applause)*

Hon. Paul Mwiru polled 60 votes. *(Applause)*

Hon. Norbert Mao polled 15 votes. *(Applause)*

I, therefore, declare Hon. Marksons Jacob Oboth who has obtained the highest number of 441 votes cast as the Speaker-Elect of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF THE  
SPEAKER BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
THE PRESIDENT OF UGANDA IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 82(10)  
OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE  
SECOND SCHEDULE OF THE OATHS  
ACT (CHAPTER 19 OF THE LAWS OF  
UGANDA)

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE:** I call upon the duly elected member as Speaker of Parliament to step forward for administration of the oath.

*The oath was administered to Mr  
Jacob Marksons Oboth.*

HANDING OVER OF THE INSTRUMENTS OF POWER BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA TO THE RT HON. SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

*(The instruments of power were handed over to Mr Jacob Marksons Oboth.)*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE SPEAKER:** Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, also the Chairperson of the NRM Party and Commander in Chief of the UPDF, Gen. (Rtd) Yoweri Kaguta Museveni; Your Lordship the Chief Justice of the Republic of Uganda, Hon. Justice Dr Flavian Zeija; the Clerk to Parliament; honourable members of Parliament; all staff of Parliament; the media, all Ugandans near and far who are following these events, ladies and gentlemen.

I greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your Excellency and honourable colleagues, allow me to start by thanking God for this great day that the Lord has made. It is one of those great moments in our nation's history only made possible by the Almighty God. Let me share with you two verses from the Holy Book.

The first is from Isaiah 60:22, which says, "*When the time is right, I the Lord will make it happen*". The other is from the Book of Habakkuk 2:3, which says, "*For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it lingers, wait for it. It will certainly come and will not delay.*" I can testify before you all gathered here today that faithful and strategic patience has brought us this far.

And we cannot thank God enough.

I am, therefore, not standing before you today in this official Speaker's regalia accidentally, but because God has made it all possible.

For a boy who grew up in a rural village called Muwafu in Tororo District, who hustled to attain better education and today, right now, stands before you as the Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament, it could only be by divine grace. To God be the glory. *(Applause)*

I thank my National Resistance Movement (NRM) party Chairman, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, for the confidence and trust he showed in my abilities since 2011.

Honourable members, I thank you most sincerely for entrusting me today with the highest office of being your Speaker, a responsibility I receive with utmost humility and modesty.

God has spoken to Uganda through you all, through the National Chairperson of the NRM, through the NRM Central Executive Committee (CEC), through the NRM Parliamentary Caucus, and through this Parliament. To those who may not have voted for me, I will be your Speaker, too.

I thank my voters of West Budama Central County in Tororo District for sending me to the nation. I also thank the leadership and members of the Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU), a pressure group aligned to the NRM, for their support through this journey.

Honourable members, the Speaker's Chair is not a throne; it is a servant's post. My role now is to come before you to ensure that working together, the voices of the over 48 million Ugandans who send us here are heard, protected, and respected. We are aware of what has been going through; I pledge a corruption-free Parliament. *(Applause)*

Under my leadership, we will cultivate a culture of absolute integrity and zero tolerance to corruption, anchored in President Museveni's clarion call for a corruption-free Parliament in the next five years. *(Applause)* Accountability begins with us. In the next five years, we will hold the Executive and other Government bodies accountable, but we must start with ourselves. As they say, charity begins

at home, we cannot hide from accountability of Government resources, yet we expect it from other agencies and departments. That will not work.

Three, evidence-based and research-based debates

Under my leadership, the Floor of Parliament will not be a theatre for hearsay or grandstanding. Our debates must be grounded in hard facts, data, and sound research. We must be fair and objective to others as we play our oversight function.

Fourth, a people-centred Parliament

Under our leadership, every Bill, every Motion, and every decision must directly answer to the needs of the ordinary citizen.

Five, results-based appropriation

Under my leadership, budgeting will no longer be an exercise in financial engineering and distortion. It will be a service-oriented, results-driven endeavour to deliver services to our people.

Six, an open Parliament

During this term, let us appreciate that an objective and ethical media are not our enemies, but the public's eye and ear. We must maintain a transparent, decent, and open Parliament. When we close our doors to the media, a negative perception is generated. If we are clean and doing a good job, why hide? I will encourage a professional and robust relationship with the press at all times in order to bridge the gap between the House and our people.

Lastly on that pillar, proactive oversight

Under my leadership, Your Excellency, the oversight function should not be a post-mortem. We need not wait for public funds to be lost. Our committees should be facilitated to work; to monitor, intercept, and protect resources in real time in order to propel every

effort geared towards the Ten-Fold Growth strategy. *(Applause)*

Honourable members, I invite you to embrace these seven pillars to regain the public trust.

As I conclude, I appeal to our technical team led by my senior brother and fellow learned friend, Hon. Adolf Mwesige Kasaija, the Clerk to Parliament, for their support. I promise to treat each one of us with fairness, as we embark on working hard to harness the public trust, but know that we will require some rapid, highly visible, and structural changes to be made.

Your Excellency and honourable members, my final promise to you gathered here today, and all Ugandans out there, is that as I start this new responsibility as Speaker, I will remain the same Oboth Oboth, not changed by the grandeur or majesty of a powerful office of the Speaker.

Let us all serve the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda with humility, modesty, and dignity. Let us serve all Ugandans with respect and honour. I thank you.

God bless you all, and may God bless the Republic of Uganda. *(Applause)*

#### ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, we now wish to call for nominations for the Office of the Deputy Speaker.

1.54

**DR EUNICE OTUKO (UPC, Oyam County North, Oyam):** Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, my Lord the Chief Justice, the Rt Hon. Speaker, honourable members. My name is Dr Eunice Otuko Apio, Member of Parliament representing the great people of Oyam County North in Oyam District.

Mr Speaker, women do matter in the affairs of this country and at all levels of leadership. I, therefore, rise in accordance with Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda

to move that the capable Hon. Sarah Aguti, Woman Member of Parliament for Dokolo District, do take the Chair of this Parliament as Deputy Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Uganda.

Mr Speaker, Hon. Sarah Aguti is a committed legislator who has consistently demonstrated dedication to public service and parliamentary work. She holds a degree in Social Work and Social Administration in addition to a number of postgraduate certificates reflecting her continued commitment to leadership and professional development. She possesses the integrity, the temperament, and the ability required to serve this House diligently and fairly.

Mr Speaker, allow me to emphatically note that as we have today elected a male speaker, you, Rt Hon. Speaker, it is important that this House now holds the principle of gender parity in its leadership. Electing Hon. Sarah Aguti as Deputy Speaker would reinforce our commitment to inclusive representation and ensure that the leadership of Parliament reflects both men and women at the highest level.

Mr Speaker, Hon. Sarah affiliates with the Uganda People's Congress Party. Her candidature, therefore, speaks to the spirit of multiparty democracy and the importance of accommodating diverse political views and voices in the leadership of the House.

I, therefore, urge you, honourable members, to support this motion and elect Hon. Sarah Aguti as Deputy Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament. I also congratulate you, Mr Speaker, upon your election to lead us in the House. I beg to move. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Can we have the seconder? Two minutes.

1.57

**MR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak South County, Amuru):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, my name is Dr Gilbert Olanya, the Member of Parliament representing Kilak South in Amuru District.

Mr Speaker, allow me to congratulate you upon being elected the Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

Allow me to second the nomination of Hon. Sarah Aguti for the position of Deputy Speaker. Given the background of Hon. Sarah Aguti and aware that she represents the people of Dokolo District - Dokolo is fond of voting for very objective women. You may recall the late Hon. Cecilia Ogwal who represented Dokolo District. She was replaced by Hon. Sarah Aguti in whom I am confident.

Given the fact that Members of Parliament gave their mandate to the Speaker who is a man and since Ugandans believe in gender equality, I pray that the next Deputy Speaker shall be a lady by the name of Hon. Sarah Aguti.

Mr Speaker, you will recall that Hon. Sarah Aguti is one of the most objective Members of Parliament we have. She is very focused, very thorough and is not very luxurious. When given the mandate, she will never misappropriate the finances of the Parliament of Uganda. She will not go around buying expensive cars. She will not go around buying expensive clothes. Mr Speaker, I promise you that you will never see the Rolls Royce in Uganda again when Hon. Sarah Aguti is given the mandate. *(Laughter)*

Finally, Mr Speaker, since you gave me only two minutes and aware of what is currently going on in Parliament, I am very sure that when you are in the Chair and Hon. Sarah Aguti is your deputy, the issue of corruption shall never be heard of in the Parliament of Uganda again.

If you recall the money meant for committees and everything - I am telling you that in the last Parliament, we really suffered. When committees wanted to do their work, we were told that the money is finished. Therefore, as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (Local Government) in the last Parliament together with my committee, we did not enjoy our work at all. We did not know where all our monies were going. I am very confident that when you are there and Hon. Sarah Aguti is

here, the Parliament of Uganda shall really work.

Finally, to you, honourable members of Parliament, we need a Parliament which will be people-centred this time round, as stated by the Right Honourable Speaker. Let us vote for gender equality; let us vote for the betterment of the Parliament of Uganda.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, I congratulate you once again and I move that Hon. Sarah Aguti be voted the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda. I beg to move. *(Applause)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Just before I call for another nomination, if we are to play by the rules, under Rule 5 and the relevant sub rules (8) and (9): *“A Member making a nomination shall move a motion that “name”..... do take the Chair of Deputy Speaker..... and shall give a brief statement...”*

That brief statement is on the background and qualification of the nominee, but not to say what that person can be able to do. You speak about the person. That is the rule because going into what the person can do is actually offending other rules; that is campaigning.

Can I call for another nomination, if it is there?

As another one comes, let us have the person nominated to consent. You never know if the other people conspired against her and she is not willing to consent to the nomination. Is Hon. Sarah there? The rules that applied to the Speaker's election apply to the Deputy Speaker, specifically and generally.

2.03

**MS SARAH AGUTI (UPC, Woman Representative, Dokolo):** Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, My Lord the Chief Justice, Rt Hon. Speaker, honourable members and fellow Ugandans, I humbly accept my nomination for the position of the Deputy Speaker and I pledge fairness, integrity and commitment to the Constitution in the service of all Ugandans. I say all this for God and my country. *(Applause)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Next nomination.

2.04

**MR CHARLES TEBANDEKE (NUP, Bbaale County, Kayunga):** Mr Speaker, I take the honour to observe the protocol.

In reference to Article 82 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Rule 6 of our Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I hereby stand to move a motion to nominate Hon. Asinansi Nyakato, Woman Member of Parliament, Hoima City, for the position of Deputy Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Uganda 2026 to 2031. I beg to nominate.

Mr Speaker, allow me to give a brief statement to the nomination mentioned above. Hon. Asinansi Nyakato is pure, she is holy and absolutely white. It is from this equitable background that I rise with profound honour and a deep sense of duty to second the nomination of a colleague, a patriot, a nationalist and a proven servant to this House.

Hon. Asinansi Nyakato, the woman Member of Parliament, Hoima City is a person fit for the office of high dignity in this country, as Deputy Speaker of the Republic of Uganda.

Honourable members, an election defines institutions but leadership defines legacy. Today, this House has a chance to choose not just a unique presiding officer, but also a custodian of its dignity, defender of its independence and driver of its purpose. That personality is practically observed in the Member of Parliament I am nominating for Deputy Speakership.

Honourable members, allow me to present to you a case of Hon. Asinansi Nyakato whose record speaks louder than any other factor, as mentioned. Hon. Asinansi Nyakato is a competence forged in experience. She is not a stranger to this House. This is the second time of her service in Parliament, with resilience as exhibited by the people of Hoima who have elected her to the second term of service to this House.

Hon. Nyakato has a distinguished character. She is eloquent, resourceful, and of sound mind. Before she was elected as a Member of Parliament to hold this badge, she served as a policy analyst in this House. She has served as a Shadow Minister for Energy and Minerals Development as well as Shadow Minister for Agriculture.

The good Hon. Asinansi Nyakato stands as the atom of Parliament, its rules, commitment with committees and bottlenecks; not from theory or even service, but all considerations.

Hon. Asinansi Nyakato is a product of Kitara Secondary School and Mandela Secondary School from where she attained her Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) and Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE). She is a distinguished alumna of Ndejje University and the Uganda Management Institute (UMI) from where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Policy and Management, respectively.

Honourable members, the person I present before you has equally earned a Postgraduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management and a Masters' degree in Project Planning and Management from Kampala International University. She also obtained a Masters' degree in Public Policy and Governance from Uganda Management Institute and is now a candidate for a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) degree at the University of Cape Town. She is, therefore, not only learned but also fit for the purpose and committed to the disciplined thought that this House would possess.

Honourable members, as we focus on a vision of an independent Parliament, the doctrine of separation of powers is not a suggestion but rather a constitutional demand. Under Hon. Nyakato Asinansi's stewardship as a Deputy Speaker in this House, she will jealously guard its independence from the Executive and Judiciary dictatorship and interdiction or elsewhere.

Hon. Asinansi Nyakato will ensure that the different portfolios in Parliament are streamlined and work independently, free from overlap, interference and any paralysis that would affect the performance of this House and any other business. She believes in being not only a Member of this House, but also a committed servant of God and, therefore, fit for the purpose of streamlining the dignity and integrity of the House.

Mr Speaker, Parliament works for the people. Our constituents have asked us for so long, “What does this Parliament do for us?” Hon. Asinansi Nyakato is the answer to this simple question. Parliament must be people-centred. In the spirit of Article 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, she is committed and a defending candidate, fit for this purpose of serving the interests of Ugandans.

**THE SPEAKER:** Would you like to conclude?

**MR TEBANDEKE:** The Parliament that sits in dignity, debates and glorifies the electorates can save the taxpayers’ money.

As I wind up, the honourable Member of Parliament I am presenting before you for this higher office shares no blemish on her integrity and leads by example. She is a two-time Member of this House, where public trust in the institution of Parliament is declining. Hon. Asinansi Nyakato is the answer, to reclaim the glory of Parliament.

In conclusion, I have a clarion call to this House. Today, we are not electing the Vice-Speaker, but the Deputy Speaker, who will work interchangeably with the Speaker-elected. We are not electing the Whips for different parties, but rather the Speaker of the Members of Parliament in line with the interests of the people of Uganda.

To my colleagues in the National Resistance Movement (NRM), seek a Deputy Speaker who will protect the dignity of Government business while defending the integrity of this House. Hon. Nyakato Asinansi is a bridge. My brothers and sisters from the Opposition seek a presiding officer who will guarantee you the

right to speak, to dissent and be heard without fear of favour or any other interference. Hon. Nyakato Asinansi is the answer to this.

Honourable members, Hon. Nyakato Asinansi is not the candidate of a region or a party -

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable member, you have run out of time.

**MR TEBANDEKE:** A minute, Mr Speaker, and I wind up.

**THE SPEAKER:** You have used about five minutes instead of three.

**MR TEBANDEKE:** I, therefore, call upon each of you; Members of the Opposition, the NRM, the Independents and any representative Members of special interest groups, to vote consciously while considering the interest of the people you serve. This is why I front Hon. Nyakato Asinansi.

I second her nomination and talk about it in the name of the people, the interest of the people of Uganda, their voice and spirit of the Uganda I want. I do hereby recommend to you, honourable members, to vote for the candidate that I present before you as the voice of the people, the voice of God; *Vox populi, vox Dei*. Hon. Nyakato Asinansi is a fitting candidate for the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament as Deputy Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Seconder? I thought you said that he is seconding.

**MS AOL:** No, I am seconding.

**THE SPEAKER:** Who is the nominator?

**MS AOL:** That is the nominator.

**THE SPEAKER:** He said he was seconding and talking about the candidate. Hon. Betty, go ahead. I will take it that you are the seconder.

2.14

**MS BETTY AOL (FDC, Woman Representative, Gulu City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, Rt Hon. Speaker, our

Lordship the Chief Justice of Uganda and the Members of Parliament, I am here to second the candidature of Hon. Nyakato Asinansi for the position of Deputy Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Uganda.

I have been in Parliament for a long time, starting from the Eighth Parliament. This is my fifth term in Parliament. I would like to say that Hon. Asinansi was a policy analyst at one time and she worked very hard to analyse policy in education and gender.

Before concentrating on our Parliament, I went for benchmarking in Ghana. The people of Ghana are not suffering from corruption the way our people here are suffering because one of the Deputy Speakers is from the Opposition, and they all work for Ghana.

I want to also tell you that the candidature of Hon. Asinansi is to show us that, right from the Eighth Parliament in which I served, there is no time that we have had both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker male. One was always a woman. Here we talk very much about gender. I am an advocate of gender equality and women.

Therefore, a home without a woman is not a home. The 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament without a Deputy Speaker who is a woman, now that we have the Rt Hon. Speaker who is a man, is going to have a lot of problems. We talk a lot about equal opportunities. Where is the equal opportunity if we only see men? We also want the women to be there, all inclusive.

I am here to say that during Hon. Asinansi's second term, we need to nurture her. She should be the Deputy Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament. Who knows, maybe she will also be the Speaker of the 13<sup>th</sup> Parliament. Let us have Hon. Asinansi.

I want to say that Hon. Asinansi is from Hoima City. She is a princess of the Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom, born to Mr and Mrs Jovan Kamanda of Hoima City — people of humility and hard work. She is rooted -

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable member, your time is up.

**MS AOL:** - in her community, yet national in her outlook. She carries Hoima City on her back, but she carries Uganda in her heart.

I still have a lot to say about Hon. Asinansi Nyakato but because of time, I will stop here by appealing to all of us, Members of Parliament: if we consider equal opportunities, women, gender equality and gender parity as very important to us, let us vote for Hon. Asinansi Nyakato. I beg to second. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Can we have the Member nominated to consent to the nomination?

2.20

**MS ASINANSI NYAKATO (PFF, Woman Representative, Hoima City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and congratulations. Thank you, dear honourable members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, in the spirit of restoring sanity in the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament, I hereby accept my nomination for the position of Deputy Speaker for the 12th Parliament. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Can we have any other nomination?

2.21

**MS PHIONA NYAMUTORO (NRM, Woman Representative, Nebbi):** Mr Speaker, Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, and Your Lordship the Chief Justice, my name is Phiona Nyamutoro, the District Woman Representative for Nebbi.

Mr Speaker, I rise under Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda to move a motion that the Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, Member of Parliament representing Ruhinda North constituency on the NRM ticket, do take the Chair of this Parliament as Deputy Speaker. I beg to move.

Mr Speaker, I nominate the Rt Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, a candidate whose credentials speak for themselves: a man of all seasons who has stood the test of time with proven integrity as a generational leader, a known team player,

and result-oriented on a strong foundation of consultative leadership.

Mr Speaker, the Rt Hon. Thomas Tayebwa is a proud husband and father, not just to his family but to many who have experienced his warmth at heart, which is always worn on his sleeves. He holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), a Bachelors of Law, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences from Makerere University.

He also possesses a Certificate in Negotiation from Harvard Law School and a Professional Certificate in Parliamentary Affairs from the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies in London. He is currently pursuing a PhD from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.

Mr Speaker, the Rt Hon. Thomas Tayebwa served as a member of the University Council of Makerere University for 10 years, a position that cemented him as a mentor for many young charismatic leaders, such as myself, who proudly associate with him with utmost admiration, continued guidance and inspiration. He is also the President of the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and co-president of the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. He was elected to this position in February 2025.

The Rt Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, before joining Parliament in 2016, was and still is a successful businessman who has stayed true to himself.

Mr Speaker, for the past five years, the Rt Hon. Thomas Tayebwa has served as Deputy Speaker. He has shown that he believes in the parliamentary system of representative democracy, orderly conduct of business, and strict adherence to the Rules of Procedure. He has ensured a smooth working relationship between the Executive and the Legislature while conducting the business of the House.

He joined elective politics in 2015 and immediately distinguished himself as a

peacemaker in the 10th Parliament. As one of the political doyens, Hon. Thomas Tayebwa rode on the strength of the mind, negotiation skills and a proper understanding of the law to have things done. He was a member of the natural resources and the national economy committees of Parliament.

After the 2021 presidential elections, he was appointed Government Chief Whip, a position which he held until he was elected Deputy Speaker of the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament in March 2022.

Mr Speaker, the Rt Hon. Thomas Tayebwa is a Pan-Africanist who has used his position to champion the cause of Pan-Africanism on the global stage, especially the permanent seat for the African continent on the UN Security Council.

Hon. Thomas Tayebwa has been a champion for good governance, transparency, and accountability. His stance on affordable health care, political dialogue, free education for all, and clean energy precedes his reputation. He has been an influential voice for Uganda both at home and abroad and continues to advocate for improved livelihoods, the girl child, and women's issues with passion and a vision for working hard to protect national values, ensuring peace and stability, environmental protection, job creation, and improved service delivery for Ugandans.

Mr Speaker, I am beyond confident that Hon. Thomas Tayebwa presents the best candidacy for the position of Deputy Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament. I beg to move.

**THE SPEAKER:** Is he seconded? The candidate should be moving forward, in preparation to - Hon. Migadde, you have two minutes.

2.27

**MR ROBERT MIGADDE (NRM, Buvuma Islands County, Buvuma):** Your Excellency, the Rt Hon. Speaker and my Lord the Chief Justice, I am Robert Ndugwa Migadde, Member of Parliament for Buvuma Islands County. I move under Rule 6 of our Rules of

Procedure to second the Hon. Tayebwa, MP Ruhinda North County, for the position of the Deputy Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

I have known Hon. Tayebwa for over a quarter of a decade, right from university days where I was also a social affairs minister and chaired the Guild Council. He is a social man and an established member of the Parliamentary Golf team.

Mr Speaker, Hon. Tayebwa has already undergone all the necessary induction and training as Deputy Speaker, and he is ready to support you as Speaker of this Parliament. Of course, there are gender issues. I have a mother, a wife, and a daughter. I am also a proud member of Uganda Women's Parliamentary Association as a man. What I cannot qualify for is to vote and also to be voted.

As for gender issues, difficult times call for difficult decisions. Fortunately, the President is here; the chief hunter, and he knows where to deploy who. Mr Speaker, Hon. Tayebwa is an industrialist, employing very many women. There is an African saying that why look for the moon when the sun has not offended you. We have been with Hon. Tayebwa; I guess he has not offended us.

Mr Speaker, I beg to second the Hon. Tayebwa for the position of the Deputy Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. The candidate.

2.29

**MR THOMAS TAYEBWA (NRM, Ruhinda North County, Mitooma):** Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, the Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament, Your Lordship the Chief Justice, Members of Parliament, with high humility, I do hereby consent to my nomination to serve as Deputy Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament. *(Applause)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

Is that another nomination, or another candidate consenting?

2.30

**MR YUSUF KIRULUUTA (NUP, Kalungu County East, Kalungu):** It is a nomination, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Go ahead.

**MR KIRULUUTA:** Mr Speaker, first and foremost, allow me to congratulate you upon being elected as the Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

My name is Yusuf Kiruluuta Junior Nkerettanyi, standing here as a representative of the people of Kalungu County East. Before I nominate my candidate, Mr Speaker, allow me to first and foremost recognise and appreciate the President of the Republic of Uganda for his presence. Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, thank you for sacrificing yourself for the last 40 years to be the President of the Republic of Uganda. The President has not only sacrificed himself, but he has sacrificed the members of the first family to take on the leadership positions of this family, something that cannot be taken for granted.

Mr Speaker, there seems to be a talent for standing as a sacrifice for the people of Uganda from the first family. I hereby, as per Rule 6, sub rules (1), (2), (3), and (4), and Article 82 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, nominate my candidate. He is not a minister, he is not a prime minister, and neither is he a vice president. I go on to nominate my candidate, Hon. Godfrey Aine Kaguta, in a way of appreciating the first family for the tremendous work and sacrifice that they have given to this country.

Ms Speaker, by virtue of the fact that the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament has the biggest percentage of new Members, Hon. Aine Kaguta being from the Kaguta family stands out to lead us for the Deputy Speakership role by virtue of the fact that the new entrants of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament are many, and the fact that the population of the Republic of Uganda has more than 80 per cent below the age of 40 years. I think my candidate stands out at the age of 46 years to represent the biggest population of the Republic of Uganda. I beg to nominate.

**THE SPEAKER:** Is the nomination seconded? I take it that the nomination is not seconded. Are you coming to second the nomination?

**MS NAMEERE:** His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, the Chief Justice, the Rt Hon. Speaker, my name is Justine Nameere Nsubuga, representing the wonderful people of Masaka City, the agricultural city, *ekibuga kya Ssabasajja Kabaka*.

Mr Speaker, the presence of His Excellency the President in this place is a constitutional requirement under Article 95 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. It carries both fundamental symbolism and protocol significance. It will be an affront to the sovereignty and dignity of the Republic of Uganda for this august House to entertain sweeping statements on protocol without specifically acknowledging the presence of His Excellency the President.

Mr Speaker, with your leave, I evoke – (*Interjections*) – I am protected by the Speaker. He allowed me to give a point of procedure. I invoke Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament and humbly pray that you hold Hon. Charles Tebandeke, Member of Parliament, Bbaale County, National Unity Platform, out of order because when he was addressing this august House, he swept the President under the carpet and said: “All protocol observed.”

Also, Mr Speaker, in your maiden speech today, you outlined seven pillars upon which you intend to preside without compromise – (*Interjection*) - Members, I am protected. One of those pillars was strict adherence to the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

I, therefore, rely on rule 5(8) to implore the Speaker to uphold rule 5 as it stands. Since no amendments have been made, I have brought it to your attention that there has been no valid nomination of Hon. Nyakato. The Member that nominated her did not follow this rule. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** (*Members rose*) Honourable members, get back to your seats.

Please! Hon. Betty, you said you have delayed in this Parliament. Do you think it is your time to leave? (*Hon. Betty Aol rose*) No, you have “delayed” in this Parliament for 20 years; you know how we proceed. Please, resume your seat.

Hon. Justine Nameere was tickled by issues of protocol. However, as we speak, we are processing nominations for the position of Deputy Speaker.

Of course, as Members of Parliament, beginning tomorrow, you will be taken through orientation. So, we would assume that some of you – but not the honourable member for Bbaale County; he is a second-term Member of Parliament. He, probably, was very deliberate. Decorum is required of us. Decorum! Give to others what you desire to be given: honour and respect.

Can we close the nomination at this point if there are no more? The fourth nomination was not seconded. The Member just came to be known, that he has been sworn in. Congratulations, Member from Kalungu. (*Laughter*)

Now that there are more than one, we call for the ballot. I ask the Clerk to start the process.

Can we have the agents of Hon. Sarah Aguti, Hon. Asinansi Nyakato and Rt Hon. Thomas Tayebwa? Agents only. I think we can have one for each. I would like to know who is for Hon. Sarah Aguti, Hon. Nyakato and Hon. Tayebwa.

Are you two? Hon. Isaac, you leave the woman to - Thank you.

Clerk, can we first determine that the ballot boxes are empty. It has been confirmed by the three agents and, now, the voting can commence by calling out the names.

*(Members voted by secret ballot.)*

**MS NAMBOOZE:** Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of procedure. While the election for the Speaker was being called, the Chief Justice announced that we had 370 voters in the

House. However, when the tally was done, you scored 441 votes. Hon. Paul Mwiru scored 60 votes and Hon. Norbert Mao scored 15 votes, bringing the total number of votes to 516 and giving a difference of 146 votes, out of the number that was originally announced.

The people who will be reading the *Hansard*, Mr Speaker, will think that there was ballot stuffing during the election of the Speaker. I think there was a mistake made because other people were still being registered, on arrival, as the election was going on.

As we move to start the election of the Deputy Speaker, Mr Speaker, wouldn't it be procedurally okay for us to be informed of the true number of voters who are here present and for the record to be set straight on the issue of the number of people who actually participated in the election of the Speaker? Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** You raised a procedural matter on my own election. You sat on your right while the presiding officer was the Chief Justice. Now, I am presiding over the election of the Deputy Speaker. What I am being told is that the Chief Justice said that, at present – at that point of the beginning of the voting – there were 370 Members or something like that.

Members of Parliament kept on coming and the register is an open document there. They are the ones who registered. A total of 519 registered and, yes, that is not anything strange.

It is very difficult to determine other than using the register. I am sure that more Members could have come or we could have even lost some. So, can the voting go on?

*(Voting by secret ballot continued.)*

**THE SPEAKER:** The names have all been read. Just in case you came after your name was already read, please come up and we verify so that you can be given an opportunity to vote. Otherwise, we will be closing.

Okay, the polling has now been closed. I would like to direct the Clerk to open the box and the counting starts.

*(Vote tallying/counting commenced.)*

#### DECLARATION OF RESULTS

**THE SPEAKER:** Having duly counted the votes, I now proceed to announce the outcome of the vote for the position of Deputy Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament as follows:

Total number of ballot papers contained in the ballot box – 519

Total number of Members who have abstained from voting – nil

Invalid votes – 03

Votes polled by Hon. Sarah Aguti - 14

Votes polled by Hon. Asinansi Nyakato – 45

Votes polled by Hon. Thomas Tayebwa – 457  
*(Applause)*

In accordance with Rule 5(14)(h) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I declare Hon. Thomas Tayebwa as the Deputy Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament of the Republic of Uganda. Congratulations, Hon. Thomas Tayebwa.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO THE DEPUTY SPEAKER BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 82(10) OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE SECOND SCHEDULE OF THE OATHS ACT (CHAPTER 19 OF THE LAWS OF UGANDA)

**THE SPEAKER:** Can we have the Deputy Speaker-elect, Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, being conducted and taken for administration of oath by His Excellency the President in accordance with Article 82? Can we get Hon. Tayebwa? He is being dragged.

*(The oath was administered to Mr Thomas Tayebwa.)*

#### HANDING OVER OF THE INSTRUMENTS OF POWER BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA TO THE RT HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

*(The instruments of power were handed over to Mr Thomas Tayebwa.)*

REMARKS BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER  
OF PARLIAMENT

4.54

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Thomas Tayebwa):** Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, the Rt Hon. Speaker of Parliament, Your Lordship the Chief Justice, honourable colleagues, Members of Parliament, the Clerk and staff of Parliament, ladies and gentlemen.

Your Excellency and honourable members, I congratulate you and honourable colleagues on your election and thank the people of Uganda for the trust they have put in you to lead.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate my senior brother, the Rt Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth, on your election to the position of Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

Today, I stand before you with a heart full of gratitude, humility, and renewed resolve. I am deeply honoured by the trust and confidence you have once again placed in me by electing me to serve as the Deputy Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Uganda. I thank you and I thank you, honourable colleagues.

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to Your Excellency the President of Uganda for your enduring leadership, guidance and trust. You have often reminded us that leadership is about service to the people, not service to oneself. That principle remains our enduring call as legislators: to legislate, oversee, and represent the people of Uganda; with the people of Uganda always at the centre of whatever we do.

To the members of the Central Executive Committee and members of NRM caucus, thank you for your confidence. The journey started with you.

To my colleagues, all of you honourable members of Parliament, including those who do not belong to the NRM, thank you for this renewed mandate. I do not take your support for granted. You have given me a second chance.

And to my other beloved family of the Patriotic League of Uganda and our dear Chairman, Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, I will forever be indebted for you stood strongly by my side.

I am equally and humbly grateful to my constituents, the people of Ruhinda North, whose unwavering belief and support continue to inspire me to serve with dedication and humility. Without your support, I would not be here as the Deputy Speaker.

To my family, especially my dear wife, Anita Tayebwa, and our son Timothy Rubandamayonza, I want to thank you for the sacrifices you have made, for your love, and your steadfast support. Public service demands very much and your social support has been my anchor in whatever I do. You give me inspiration to work hard every day so that you can live in a better Uganda.

The scriptures remind us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, *“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you.”* Today I give thanks to God, to all of you honourable colleagues, to his Excellency who has trusted and nurtured me, and to my party the NRM, and our nation for the opportunity to serve once more.

As we begin this new chapter of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament, I pledge to work with the Rt Hon. Speaker and every Member of this House with fairness, humility, and commitment so that together we can strengthen Parliament, deepen democracy and advance the aspirations of our people.

As the Deputy Speaker, it is my duty to support the vision of my elder brother, Rt Hon. Jacob Oboth, the Speaker of Parliament. If I may tell you this, he has been my unofficial adviser. Now I am going to be his quiet adviser as the deputy. I cannot state my plans beyond what the Rt Hon. has stated. In me, I promise you that you have a deputy who will not only support but also advise you whenever necessary or called upon.

To my colleagues in the Opposition and all of you honourable members, if all of us have the

same mission to get our people out of poverty, you will find me in me a Deputy Speaker to work with. If our mission is to transform our country in a bipartisan manner, you will find me a Speaker you will easily work with.

Let us focus, as our President has advised us, on the issue of what. What is the problem of Uganda? Lifting our people out of poverty. How do we do it? By working together and supporting the Government in its appropriation proposals, legislative proposals, and then we hold them accountable through oversight.

I promise honourable colleagues that I know all the corners of the House. I know where we need to clean up. I know where we need to maintain the status quo and I will be sharing this information with my senior leader, the Rt Hon. Oboth, so that we can build a Parliament which we are all proud of. If you move out and say, "I am a member of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament," everyone should be able to say, "We appreciate the work you are doing."

May God bless you all, and may God bless Uganda. For God and my country.

**THE SPEAKER:** Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, I take this singular honour to invite you to address this Parliament.

5.02

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA (Gen.(Rtd) Yoweri Kaguta Museveni):** The Rt Hon. Speaker of Parliament, whom the Members have just elected, the Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker, who has similarly been just elected, His Lordship the Chief Justice, the honourable members of Parliament and all the invited guests.

First of all, I congratulate you, the Rt Hon. Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for being elected. Congratulations. (*Applause*)

I thank the Members of Parliament for carrying out their mandate peacefully and transparently. Thank you so much.

I was last in a court of law 70 years ago, in 1956 and the offence I had committed was the offence of *okoneesa*. I was looking after our cows and some boys were playing football. I joined them for just a few minutes and the cows went into somebody's garden. By the time I went there, they were really feeding on the millet of the man. I was taken to court.

Before I went to court, my father advised me to say, *omushango nagwekiriza* - plead guilty, so they will be lenient to you. That was the last time I was in court, 70 years ago.

I was very amused today when I heard the Chief Justice deciding the case, which was brought up by one of the Opposition people who wanted to campaign. I was listening carefully when the Chief Justice said, "We can't allow campaigning here. What you are talking about is campaigning." I thought that was very interesting. I was amused because I have not been to a court system.

Then the Speaker decided on the question of the numbers. There was another Member who asked whether the Members were 370 or 519. The Speaker also decided on it very wisely. I was just watching and enjoying.

However, I remain with one grievance, the way the Chief Justice blacklisted one of my votes. Somebody had written, "Oboth/Tayebwa." Hon. Tayebwa was not being voted on but it was clear that the man wanted to vote for Hon. Oboth Oboth and also Hon. Tayebwa. Why declare that vote invalid? That is how I have been losing votes.

If you check all these elections, you find that the spoilt votes are like half a million and they are all the National Resistance Movement (NRM) votes. Instead of my people marking in the box, they mark the picture of the person. Why do you say that is invalid when he has shown you what he wanted? Therefore, once the Chief Justice has decided, I have nowhere to appeal, so I am just mourning now. (*Laughter.*)

With the NRM people, the Banyankole have a proverb that, "*enduuru y'ebiyokurya, oteera*

*nkye.*” When alarming for food, you make a soft alarm because you want few people to come and join you. You do not want too many people to come and eat the food. However, when you alarm for war, you make a very loud one because you want many people to come and help you.

Sometimes, the NRM people do not understand the issue of broadening support. When I was sitting here listening to the results, Hon. Oboth Oboth polled 441 votes. The NRM Members in Parliament are about 370 or thereabout. You can see my strategy of making a big alarm for many people to come and join. Three hundred and seventy-two have been joined by others. That is how we got 441 for Hon. Oboth Oboth and 457 for Hon. Tayebwa. It is the NRM plus the Independents, plus some good Opposition people.

However, I must mourn the 15 votes, which my ally, Hon. Mao took away - (*Laughter*)- Those are also my votes because I am in an alliance with him. My son, Hon. Akena through the girl called Sarah took another 14 votes. Those are my allies taking away my votes. We shall sort it out with the allies.

I congratulate all of you, the leaders but this time, I will have to be very clear to everybody. I have been involved in fighting for Uganda’s future for the last 65 years. In 1960 when I was in middle school, I was already active. In all these years, we have evolved answers for our people, which help them. I started in the cattle corridor; the Nyabushozi area. There, the people have changed. They have gone from nomadism to settled agriculture. They have developed a dairy industry, which has given them a much better life.

However, they have a lot of things to do and I am still quarrelling with them. They need to go from free range to growing pasture and zero grazing because they will be much better, but they have moved all the same.

After that, in 1995, I moved to the rest of the country. In the 1996 Manifesto, we introduced the Four Acres Model. Each of the MPs should

get those two booklets. One booklet is called, “From *Obwiriza to Matafari*.” It talks about how we were able to help people move from grass-thatched houses to permanent buildings in the cattle corridor. The other booklet is titled, “Four sectors and seven activities.” This was in the manifesto of 1996, 30 years ago.

Immediately after, we introduced interest-free capital in the form of *Entandikwa*, being given out at the sub-county level. All these years, we have been introducing programmes for the poor people. Those who listen do very well. In this wonderful Parliament, there is my friend from Karamoja, who benefited from the Operation Wealth Creation. Let us see that man of Karamoja.

*(A video was played.)*

**GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI:** That is the testimony of somebody from Abim, more than 500 miles from here, who got planting materials and some money from two of those programmes. He first got seedlings from Operation Wealth Creation, and from the Parish Development Model (PDM), he got money for cassava and goats.

Where we are after 65 years of trying to move our people, I am in a position to be very rough with people who want the label of leadership but do not care about the people they lead.

In the past, I have been polite. I would talk and talk as if I were a preacher, like John the Baptist- “Please, please...” Now, as President of Uganda and Chairman of the National Resistance Movement (NRM), I will be very rough with people who want titles but betray the people they lead. Why? Because I have already laid a trap for all of those people.

I have put money into Government programmes by begging and begging all these big people - Parliament and others. We have got programmes on the ground. As I speak, in every parish, there is Shs 800 million in low-cost capital. That includes Shs 500 million new money, and Shs 300 million, which should have been returned in the third year. There is

now Shs 800 million per parish and per ward across Uganda.

Therefore, if you say you are a leader, minister, or Member of Parliament of the NRM – the Opposition, I cannot control them; they can do their own things - but for the NRM, I really demand that you go back to these parishes and ask where the Shs 800 million is. By now, it should have covered 800 families per parish. In the manifesto, we are going to increase the money. We are going to make it Shs 200 million per year instead of Shs 100 million.

Therefore, as of now, if all of you do your work - when you go back, call all those wonderful parish chiefs and demand data on what has been happening in each parish and each ward, because in the rural areas, it is the parishes; in the towns, it is the wards. Very soon we shall - if we start in this *kisanja* and add Shs 200 million per year, that will be an additional Shs 1 billion in five years. What will be brought back in five years will be Shs 600 million. By the end of this *kisanja*, you will be having more than Shs 2 billion in each parish.

I do not want to hear that there is poverty in any homestead that has not accessed this money if they have the land. I demand this. Anybody who is a minister, if I come to your area and I find that you have not done it, I will sack you. There is no need for - I am polite, I do not want to embarrass people. Ministers are mature people. You talk, thinking that they will act, but if people do not care about their own people, why should I care about them?

There is now capital in each parish - low-cost capital, which can get our people out of poverty. At the constituency level, you have the *Emyooga* Fund. I do not have the figures. When I come for the State-of-the-Nation Address, I will bring the figures. Where is that *Emyooga* money? What is it doing? Every Member of Parliament should take interest in that.

There are other funds like the Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women Enterprises (GROW) and money for the Ghetto people here in Kampala, Jinja and

other areas. This money must be used to deal with poverty and jobs. There is also money for infrastructure going to the districts. Some of the people were arrested in many of the districts because money for the roads was being diverted to do other things because of corruption.

Therefore, I want to inform everyone that all this time I have been monitoring. Normally, I do not want to embarrass mature people; I talk and act. I do not just talk. Put this money on the ground, struggle - it is not always easy, but fortunately, we have the money now, it is on the ground. Let us use it to get all our people out of poverty.

When I see people going to Dubai to look for jobs in a desert, when paradise is here, rain and everything is here - Why should people in the desert have more jobs than us?

For the NRM people, I have shown them how you can create jobs very easily and quickly through these PDM programmes. Show them Basangwa again, just briefly. You are quoting the Bible, which has been quoted many times. Let me also quote it.

*(A video was played.)*

**GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI:** You have there the testimony of your own people. Basangwa started in 2007, after listening to my message as if it was a new one, yet I had been sharing that message from 1995. But because many of the leaders do not care to amplify that message, people get diverted. *Kuguumala; babeera mu birala.*

The other day, one of my people was inviting me that there is something called "Arsenal". I said, "What is Arsenal?" They said that it is a European football club; that they have done I-do-not-know-what and I should go to celebrate. Celebrate for what? *(Laughter)* Please, do not divert me. I was a footballer myself. Nobody can tell me about football, but I gave it up in 1966. I am on Uganda, liberation, poverty and jobs.

I will be briefed about this Arsenal. *(Laughter)* Somebody was writing to me that I should go to celebrate Arsenal. Me, Yoweri Museveni? *(Laughter)* If I want to play football, I play my football. I do not celebrate. So, please – You can have your Arsenal and those things, but please, start with your own people. How can you be celebrating European clubs when your people do not have –

There is a *ka* girl; play the video of Apio.

*(A video was played.)*

**GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI:** To expedite the story of Apio, she got Shs 1 million of PDM. She had been married for 20 years and has grown up children who are teenagers who are about 18 years or thereabout, whom I saw. In all those years, she had never handled Shs 1 million in her life and when she got it, she did not even have her own land. She went and rented three acres of land from somebody, and grew maize. She harvested maize, sold it and got Shs 2.8 million.

From the Shs 2.8 million, she put some of it back in agriculture and bought those sheep which you see there. She is now a rich woman. When I went to campaign, she had 60 sheep. She got out of poverty because of the Shs 1 million.

Lastly, I will show you – regarding these stories, I do not know how you can live with people with such poverty and you are just there saying, “Arsenal”. Your own people are living in poverty but you are meandering around the world watching other people’s clubs.

Let us see the video of the girl of Rubirizi. I am really going to be - I will not tolerate this. Because I am polite and talk, I thought that people would pick this up but if you cannot pick this up, since God has kept me here for all this time, I will not tolerate this betrayal anymore. Hear the story of this woman; terrible stories - the one of Rubirizi.

*(A video was played.)*

**GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI:** To cut the long story short of that woman, when I visited her, she was 64 years old – as she said in Runyankole. However, in all those 64 years, she had never owned anything in her home. Put it back in Runyankole so that they can hear – the beginning; it is in Runyankole.

*(A video was played.)*

**GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI:** Now, that is the story. You hear that. You hear that, honourables, Right Honourables, Excellences and all. You hear that – “I am 64 years old but in all this time, I had never owned anything in my life.” Imagine! That is the story that she told me. There is also something she told me, which is not captured: because of poverty, the husband was in Kampala here. Tumusiime was there alone. However, with the PDM, the husband came back. *(Laughter)* I found the husband back there.

So, Rt Hon. Speaker, Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker, Your Excellency the Vice President, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, honourable – enough is enough. Every so-called leader must use the Government programmes to eradicate poverty and create jobs. Jobs are created by wealth. *Obugagga bwe buzaala emirimu. Lonyo* is the one producing *tic*. *Tic* comes from *lonyo*. You cannot have *tic* without *lonyo* – wealth.

I am now in a very bad mood because capital is there. In the past, my case was not very strong because people would say: how do we start? There is now capital. There is already Shs 800 million in each parish. Use it instead of Arsenal and – okay, you can have Arsenal but, please, solve that first, if you are a leader.

Finally, I was sitting here, watching you shaking hands, hugging – but these people, do they know that there is Ebola? For me, I will not touch any of you. Sorry. *Habari! Ssibakwatako nze*. Ebola! Fortunately, Ebola is not like Coronavirus. Coronavirus was very dangerous because it was spreading through breathing. Ebola does not spread through breathing, but through contact; greeting, hugging – why do you hug? There is danger. I don’t have a budget

for sickness. If I had been sick, how would I have done all these things in the last 65 years?

So, please, set an example. There is a big problem now in Congo. Everybody, stop this shaking of hands and all these until this Ebola first goes away.

However, thank you very much for supporting the NRM – at least support the NRM even if you don't do other things. The NRM has been able to move forward because of your support. However, in order to consolidate the support, let us solve all these problems. Let us get our people out of poverty and create jobs. We can create more jobs than the population here. I have given you that mathematics. You can create more than 100 million jobs by commercial agriculture alone, even before you go to manufacturing and so on.

During the address on the State-of-the-Nation, I will say more. For today, I congratulate everybody. I also congratulate the Opposition for bringing their candidates. *Apwoyo matek. Lubanga konywu.* Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for the wise counsel to this Parliament. We really appreciate you for taking time to come and perform your constitutional obligation under Article 82 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

Now, before we close, I ask the Leader of the Opposition to forward the names of those who can be appointed to the Appointments Committee. The NRM side has already forwarded their names. We are waiting for those from the Opposition so that we can constitute the Appointments Committee.

Your Excellency and My Lord the Chief Justice, we thank you for taking time off to be with us today to perform your constitutional obligations. We don't take your attendance for granted.

This House stands adjourned until the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2026, at 2.00 p.m., at the same venue, Kololo Ceremonial Grounds.

*The East African Community Anthem*

*The Uganda National Anthem*

*(The House rose at 5.41 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 04 June 2026, at Kololo National Ceremonial Grounds.)*