



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION - FIRST MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 15 JULY 2026



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIRST SESSION - 10TH SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Wednesday, 15 July 2026

Parliament met at 2.07 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker, Mr Jacob Marksons Oboth, in the Chair.)

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I welcome you all today to this sitting. However, it is with profound sadness that I inform the House of the passing of Hon. Kosia Modabhu Ngirisi, former Member of Parliament for Northwest Tooro Constituency who served Uganda with distinction from 1962 to 1971.

Hon. Ngirisi belonged to the pioneering generation of leaders who served at the dawn of Uganda's Independence. As a Member of Uganda's First Parliament, he helped lay the legislative foundations upon which this institution stands today.

On behalf of Parliament and on my own behalf, I extend heartfelt condolences to his family, the people of Tooro and the entire nation. I request that we rise and observe a moment of silence.

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

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to congratulate Members who were recently designated to serve on the Parliamentary Commission, chairpersons, deputy chairpersons of committees and representatives of the Parliament to regional and international parliamentary bodies, including but not limited to the Pan African Parliament, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. Once again, I want to congratulate you. *(Applause)* I also want to comfort those who did not make it through that there is hope.

Honourable members, with the Parliamentary Commission, committees, and parliamentary representatives to the various parliamentary bodies in place, the 12th Parliament can now commence its work in earnest. I encourage all the Members entrusted with these responsibilities to discharge their duties with diligence, integrity and unwavering commitment to the people of Uganda.

My attention has been drawn to a matter regarding the annual reports of the Auditor-General to Parliament for the audit year ended 31st December 2025 and the outcome of the meeting between the Leader of the Opposition, the Government Chief Whip, the Chief Opposition Whip, the Attorney-General and Hon. Masaba Karim, which came out with a position that the six months for consideration of the report commences upon reinstatement and laying of the report, which position I agree with.

The report was laid by Commissioner Hon. Nakut Faith during yesterday's sitting and duly referred to the respective public accounts committees, which are required to report back within a period of six months starting yesterday, Tuesday, 14 July, 2026.

THE SPEAKER: Who has a point of procedure? Let Hon. Ssewungu come first.

MR SSEWUNGU: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for according me permission. I am happy to see you seated there. The prayers might have worked, though I was not your voter.

Mr Speaker, from your communication, I also congratulate the new Commission. I am lucky I joined Parliament with you, Mr Speaker. I pray that the Commission comes out with serious service. As we talk, Members are suffering with parking. It is a very serious issue.

Mr Speaker, when you go to the basement, areas which were meant for parking have been turned into stores. Therefore, I request the Commission to see how to create better parking for Members. Otherwise, areas that were meant specifically for parking have now been turned into storage.

Mr Speaker, I request you, as the head of the Commission - I remember you, and I used to sit inside here and raise issues that affected Members of Parliament. That is how the Commission served.

Mr Speaker, we are getting numerous calls about money for vehicles - "Did you get the money? Give me the difference," yet I have nothing in my account. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, with the new Parliament and the trust I have in you as the head of the Commission, kindly help us in this venture. Otherwise, Members are suffering with parking. I cannot direct Parliament and the Speaker, but we had a remedy of a national parking that would save us from these kinds of challenges. I pray.

THE SPEAKER: On the issue of parking, I direct the Clerk to make sure that every constituency represented in this Parliament has parking. *(Applause)* If any other items are being put where the parking is supposed to be, that is not on the resetting agenda. Let us go back to what the parking was meant for. The Clerk will, from here, do that.

I also saw on social media - and I want to confirm to Ugandans that Members of the 12th Parliament of Uganda have not received any money that is being reported in the media. *(Applause)* Yes, Hon. Silwany.

2.16

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am reacting to the Speaker's communication.

Mr Speaker, we are going to continue losing dignitaries in the country and this is going to happen because as the Bible says, all of us have to die at a given time.

Mr Speaker, I would like the Government to come up with a position as to who is entitled to official burial and who is entitled to be brought to Parliament. We have former Members of Parliament who die. We have judges. When people die, some are given official burial, others not. As a Parliament, the Government should tell us the clear position so that we move in a clear and clarified manner.

Mr Speaker, that is a matter that I wanted to raise. May the soul of the departed rest in eternal peace.

THE SPEAKER: As Parliament, we sent *mabugo* of Shs 10 million. I found that practice here. Any former Member of Parliament, whether First or 11th Parliament - the practice, which I think is good to maintain, is that we send *mabugo* of Shs 10 million.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, what do you have to say about the policy issues being raised by Hon. Silwany?

2.17

THE SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Dr C.W.C.B Kiyonga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This far, I would say the Government has been having what I would call an “ad hoc arrangement” whenever an honourable Member of Parliament dies and the President is aware. Actually, he has been ordering an official burial. In the meantime, a formal arrangement is being made which will be brought here for consideration for the future.

THE SPEAKER: (*Hon. Nalukoola rose*) Honourable member, is there any procedural matter on that?

MR NALUKOOLA: Yes, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Counsel. I thought you were going to refer to me as “My Lord”. I would be very happy. (*Laughter*) You said it because we are dressed nearly the same way.

MR NALUKOOLA: Mr Speaker, I mistakenly referred to you as “My Lord” but do not be offended because I may make the same mistake again. On the other side of the Judiciary, that is how we address the Chair.

I rise on a point of procedure in regard to your communication. For so long, I have been witnessing the Parliament of Uganda eulogising its fellow colleagues after their demise. When I joined Parliament last year, Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Kazoora was supposed to be eulogized, but something happened, and we never eulogised him. The same happened to Hon. Rainer Kafiire who died recently.

Mr Speaker, has that practice or culture died? Don't we have to eulogise some of these dignitaries when they die? I think some of them have done great work and their works are worth celebrating. Procedurally, I am seeking your indulgence, Mr Speaker, in that regard. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, we have taken note of the need to improve on that. Hon. Ethel, did you want to raise the same matter?

2.20

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Yes, Mr Speaker. It was the same matter which Hon. Silwany has raised, and we pray that we can have that policy as fast as possible because even in the 11th Parliament, we asked for it. Please, we await, sir.

MR SILWANY: Mr Speaker, what the Prime Minister is talking about is actually not what I asked because he is talking about current Members of Parliament. That is automatic. We are talking about people and other dignitaries who left Parliament. What is the procedure? What is the Government's position? That is what my question was about, not the current Members of Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Bahati, what is itching you? (*Laughter*)

2.21

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): In addition to what the Prime Minister has said, the Minister of Public Service has drafted a Bill to clarify all these issues that we are raising. Whether you are a former Member of Parliament, a former Prime Minister or a former President, all these issues will be captured in the Bill. The Bill is being processed through Cabinet and will come here for your input and eventual approval.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. For your information and for the record, Hon. Bahati is the acting Government Chief Whip. So, if you see him getting up more often, you should be able to understand that. Next. (*Hon. Acon rose*) What is the point of procedure on, Hon. Julius?

MR ACON: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The matter I would like to raise on your communication is in regard to committees. Most honourable members here were very disappointed. When we applied for a committee related to what we know, most of us ended up being thrown to committees which we do not even understand.

Is it procedurally right, Mr Speaker, to be taken in any field that you do not understand? You are either counting the number of stars or the moon, which has disappointed us. I bet everybody will support what I am raising. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I hope I got the accent right. *(Laughter)* But what the Member is raising is very pertinent. Government Chief Whip, you should be able to respond to that. I do not know whether you are overwhelmed by the number of professionals in this Parliament. By the way, the 12th Parliament has one of the greatest number of professionals -*(Applause)*- so it could be one of the problems. Government Chief Whip?

2.24

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, regarding the matter -*(Laughter)* - that the Member of Parliament has raised, the Whips were allocating Members to different committees and had different factors that they considered, including professionalism and balancing one or two other things.

However, as you know, the standing committees run for two and a half years, and sectoral committees run for one year. So, some of these things can be corrected as we go forward, honourable member. It is not too far; one year and two and a half years. Some of these things can be adjusted along the way. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, in the public gallery this afternoon we have the District Executive Committee from Kanungu District, which is represented by Hon. Patience Kinshaba, Hon. Baryomunsi and Hon. James Kaberuka. Are they here? You cannot fail to see the towering members of Kanungu. *(Laughter)* We have:

1. Mr Francis Byamukama - District Chairperson;
2. Mr Joshua Rukundo - Vice-Chairperson;
3. Mr Frank Byaruhanga - District Speaker;
4. Ms Comfort Kashemire - Deputy Speaker;

5. Mr Sam Birungi - Clerk to Council;
6. Mr Innocent Agaba - Secretary for Works;
7. Ms Elizabeth Orishaba - Secretary for Finance;
8. Mr Godfrey Sabiiti - Secretary for Social Services;
9. Dr Birungi Mutahunga - District Health Officer;
10. Mr Eric Mutumba - District Engineer; and
11. Mr Confidence Twinamatsiko - District Natural Resources Officer.

Make them feel welcome once again. *(Applause)* They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Welcome, people of Kanungu. Next? *(Hon. Ssenyonyi rose)* LOP, I did not know whether you were stretching or getting up. *(Laughter)*

2.27

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am following up on a matter that I raised yesterday. We were meant to get feedback. I raised the matter of Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi who was abducted and I used the word “abduction” in reference to the law; Article 23, because that is not what happened.

The learned Attorney-General clarified and agreed that Article 23 stipulates what an arrest should be, who conducts it, where the person is taken, access for the family and lawyers, and eventual production in court.

Today is day six and we do not know his whereabouts. The good doctor - oh, there are two doctors – the Second Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Government Business - promised that today he would give us a report of where Hon. Mohammed Muwanga Kivumbi is. I thought I should remind him to give us that feedback.

There is another name that I have been raising several times, Mr Speaker, even here, of a young man called Christopher Gody, also known as King Zale. The military picked him up on 21st April in Kamwokya. It is now three months. He has not been produced in court anywhere, if he did commit any offence. His

whereabouts are not known. We would like the Government to tell us where these people are, but also to follow the law. Really, that is our interest, and good enough, the Attorney-General did clarify what an arrest should be. If somebody is suspected to have committed an offence, produce them in court so that the right thing gets done. The Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Government Business promised us feedback.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Government Business. You are now the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business as long as you are - what is your response?

2.29

THE SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Dr Crispus Kiyonga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As the Leader of the Opposition has stated, I did undertake that today, given the opportunity, I would respond.

When I left here, I got in touch with our security chiefs, the heads of security agencies, and they have requested me to give them a little more time so that they can facilitate me with an appropriate report to give to Parliament. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. What is your undertaking about the second issue? Maybe I could request the Leader of the Opposition to give more information so that the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business takes the information and acts on it.

MR SSENKYONYI: Mr Speaker, the second name, as I mentioned, I have raised it. This is the third time, actually. The military abducted this person on 21st April from Kamwokya. It has been three months now. He ought to be accounted for. I have also repeatedly raised the name of Sam Mugumya. He also needs to be accounted for because that has not happened.

My concern with the response of the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business

is that he said the security chiefs have asked for more time to give some kind of response. I do not know why we want to give more time for continued violation of the law.

We agreed, and the learned Attorney-General read to us Article 23 specifically. I quoted it, and he was kind enough to actually bring the Constitution and read it. The Constitution stipulates how somebody, if they are to be arrested, must be arrested. They need to be taken to the police, and they do not spend more than 48 hours there. Either they are released on police bond, or they are produced in a court of law.

Today is day number six. His family does not even know where to visit him. That is stipulated under Article 23. His doctors, if he does need them, lawyers, if there is any criminal matter –

Why should we allow for more time to continue violating Article 23? I find that very problematic. I had expected the good doctor, Dr Kiyonga, to come here and tell us that he is in this place; he is being produced in court today.

Otherwise, even an hour longer is a continuous violation of the law. It is not right. Mr Speaker, the learned shadow Attorney-General, in a minute, would like to give information.

THE SPEAKER: The Attorney-General would only have the right of reply when - the shadow Attorney-General could only shadow the real Attorney-General. I think the matters are still at the level of the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business and Leader of the Opposition. Let us resolve it.

MR LUYIMBAZI: Mr Speaker, I was giving information to my leader, the Leader of the Opposition, regarding why they normally delay. As a legal practitioner, normally I represent those whose rights are being violated. They delay because, in most cases, those people who are held incommunicado are subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment. They are tortured, so they need time, in most cases, to recover. That is why they delay. That is the information I wanted to give you. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: The Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business, you have taken note. You know what to do. This is a very serious matter that the House needs to know about. I believe that you will - Will you be able to come back tomorrow? What is your new undertaking?

DR KIYONGA: Mr Speaker, as I said, for me to respond effectively to what Hon. Ssenyonyi has raised, I need the help of the security chiefs. I have asked them, and they have undertaken to prepare a comprehensive report for me to bring here.

THE SPEAKER: I think let us task the – Leader of the Opposition?

MR SSENYONYI: I just have a quick request, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I do not know the last time you had a quick one. A quick request, I mean. *(Laughter)*

MR SSENYONYI: Mr Speaker, many times I do have quick ones. Especially quick requests. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, yes, the report should come, hopefully soon, but can I request that the family of Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi, his lawyers, and doctors to have access to him today? What the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business is telling us is that there is confirmation that security chiefs are holding him. Wherever he is, via Article 23, can his family, lawyers, and doctors access him, in fulfillment of the law, as we wait for that report and all of that? This really is a command of the law, and I do not think it is a very tall order. I do not think it is a very difficult request that the family, lawyer, and doctor access him. That is my request; that it happens today, sir.

THE SPEAKER: This House advises that the two leaders: the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business, harmonise and make sure that the families access Hon. Kivumbi. *(Applause)*

Today, we have a few more items. Please, let us go to the main things. Procedure about what now, Hon. Paul Mwiru?

MR MWIRU: That is what I am going to raise.

THE SPEAKER: We are not proceeding. I think you should give us a procedure on why we are not proceeding. *(Laughter)*

MR MWIRU: Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I raised the matter of a one Amos Rwangomani whose wife applied to court for an order of writ of *habeas corpus*. It was granted by Justice Peter Kinobe. Government ignored the writ of *habeas corpus*. I raised it on the Floor to the effect that that order is inviolable and non-derogable, according to Article 44 of the Constitution.

The Minister of Internal Affairs made an undertaking on the Floor that he was going to respond to the reason as to why we are suspending a right which cannot be suspended, but he has not responded.

I am seeking your guidance, Mr Speaker, as to whether we are proceeding right without really addressing that matter. It is now becoming cumulative that whenever human rights matters are raised, we do not get conclusive answers on them. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The learned Attorney-General, please.

2.37

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Dr Sam Mayanja): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Actually, before I answer, I note that this is the first time I have addressed this House when you are in the Chair. The first time I did so, the Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker was in the Chair. I take the opportunity to congratulate you, Rt Hon. Speaker, on assuming that office. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, *habeas corpus* is a fundamental constitutional right. It is applied for in court and lies with the office or place holding that person. That office must be known and is compelled to produce that person in a competent court,

to show cause why the person should not be released.

I have not got it clearly whether that writ of *habeas corpus* was served on the competent authority which was holding that person. If it was served, it is upon that authority to produce that person in court and show cause why he should not be released. If he is not yet brought before court, then there is another offence – *(Interruption)*

MS ASINANSI NYAKATO: Thank you, Attorney-General, for giving way. The issue of human rights violation is very pertinent. We know very well that the former Lord Mayor, Hon. Erias Lukwago, has been in custody. Given his deteriorating health, the court directed that he be taken to Mulago for medical attention. The specialists at Mulago Hospital recommended his referral abroad to India, given that he had undergone a spinal disc procedure.

The Attorney-General is a human being like Hon. Lukwago. Today, it is Hon. Lukwago and tomorrow it is someone else. No one knows their fate. Given that the medical specialists at a national referral hospital made a medical referral and the Attorney-General is in the know but he is still here trying to say that this is an issue of justice, isn't it procedurally right for the – *(Interjections)*

THE SPEAKER: I think you were giving information and you have done that successfully. Let the Attorney-General respond.

MS ASINANSI: Mr Speaker, my prayer is one –

THE SPEAKER: Do you make prayers when you are giving information? Your prayers can be anticipated; you want the Attorney-General to respond to you.

DR MAYANJA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Actually, I was responding to the legal matter of the *habeas corpus* and giving the process of that right. I was saying that it was issued by the court and so, it lies with that body, which is illegally holding that person. It compels

the body to produce that person in court and show cause why they should not be released. If they have not gone through that process, then it should be engaged to ensure that it goes through. That is the legal position.

THE SPEAKER: Therefore, I guide that Hon. Paul Mwiru, who is a practicing lawyer, furnishes the Attorney-General with the details; one, whether there was effective service. Also, give the identity of the person who was served with the writ. *Habeas Corpus* is an order that says, "Bring the body of so and so."

That is sorted – honourable member for Kampala, we want to debate the State-of-the-Nation Address. After that, there will be a statement by the Attorney-General on human rights.

2.42

MS SHAMIM MALENDE (NUP, Woman Representative, Kampala): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. Mine is a reaction to your communication from which I seek guidance. You have rightly guided that since the committees and the Parliamentary Commission are duly constituted, Parliament of Uganda is ready to kick-start our work through the different committees to which we have been allocated.

However, I was in the 11th Parliament, and one of the biggest challenges that we faced, as Members of Parliament, was that we were designated to the standing and sectoral committees. Sometimes, there is a clash in the time we are supposed to appear before either the sectoral committee or the standing committee.

I seek guidance from this House whether there is a way the Clerk to Parliament or those responsible can come up with a programme whereby we can effectively represent our people through the different committees without missing any meeting in which we are supposed to appear.

THE SPEAKER: That matter was fully discussed in the Business Committee. Hon. Rose Obigah.

2.44

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have an urgent issue. You are aware that the whole country lost to the drought. However, right now we have a lot of rain in West Nile. This is the only time we can plant.

We had raised an issue of urgent importance that we would be grateful to receive seeds of maize, beans, soybeans, and sunflower. I beg because it is taking too long and our people may lose again. Is it possible for the people of West Nile to receive these seeds, well aware that West Nile is the second poorest after Karamoja?

THE SPEAKER: I would like to guide you, honourable members. We have matters of national importance. My office received requests from:

1. Hon. Annet Kirungi Pamela, District Woman Representative, Kabarole;
2. Hon. Sarah Aguti, District Woman Representative, Dokolo;
3. Hon. Shamim Malende, who has already finished – *(Laughter)*
4. Hon. Ronald Muhenda, MP Fort Portal Central;
5. Hon. Calvin John Okoya, MP Chua East;
6. Hon. Sheilah Draville Amaniyo, District Woman Representative, Mukono - I think she has two;
7. Hon. Patrick Ogwang Obura, MP Oyam South;
8. Dr Sylvia Tumuheirwe Alinaitwe, District Woman Representative, Rukiga;
9. Hon. Moses Lukanga Musanje, MP Njeru Municipality;
10. Hon. Judith Nagujja, District Woman Representative, Buvuma;
11. Hon. Lawrence Akugizibwe, MP Mwenge North;
12. Hon. Sserukenya, MP Makindye Division;
13. Hon. Ricky Richard Anywar, MP, Agago West; and
14. Hon. Godfrey Wanyoto, MP Budadiri West.

Other Members are giving me right here. These are about 15. We have one from Hon.

Ayagalachi Jamali from Bukooli County. Those are what I have received. We also have Hon. Adrine Katusiime, Woman Representative, Sheema District. These are 17 good matters of national importance. Can I guide? Pardon?

2.48

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Mr Speaker, some of us have not heard our names. We brought them to your office earlier today, while others were brought yesterday. The Deputy Speaker said that they would be presented later.

THE SPEAKER: You are giving further justification to the point I am about to make. *(Laughter)* Can you imagine that there are others who brought their matters much earlier? We appreciate all this. However, my guidance is that the ministers are here and the Prime Minister is here, who we have tomorrow as well.

Now, in order for us not to waste much time, yesterday, during the debate on the State-of-the-Nation Address, 27 Members were able to contribute. We would like to give a maiden opportunity to every Member of Parliament who wants to speak during this period. Others have spoken, but I want to guide.

The State-of-the-Nation Address is a trial sheet. If you want to debate, you can actually relate many things that are taking place in your constituency to this matter and give a plus or a minus, and call the Government to action where it is necessary. So, I expect us to go into this other aspect shortly and the Members I have read, and all the others who took their matters somewhere else - like in Wakiso - she took to Kireka - I do not sit in Kireka. *(Laughter)*

My office is here at Plot 16-18 Parliamentary Avenue and these are what I received. Therefore, tomorrow, do not bring new ones. Let us first resolve this when the Prime Minister is here and we dedicate about one hour. Today, let us go into these other matters where people have prepared to debate. This is the time you have to debate uninterrupted - three minutes. If we use the time well, we could get about 50

to 100 people speaking today. So, can I get the next item?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE
OPERATIONS OF THE UGANDA HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION (UHRC)

THE SPEAKER: Attorney-General?

2.50

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Dr Samuel Mayanja): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the Sixth Sitting of the First Meeting of the First Session of the 12th Parliament held on 7th July 2026, Hon. Ssewungu Joseph Gonzaga, Member of Parliament for Kalungu West, raised an issue regarding Chapter 4 of the Constitution (Bill of Rights).

He informed the House that the Uganda Human Rights Commission was not fully executing its mandate in relation to remedying human rights violations and protecting human rights. He expressed dissatisfaction with the Government in the context of the Government's response and indicated that there were reports in the press relating to investigations of the Uganda Human Rights Commission by the Inspector General of Government.

I was called upon to respond and I requested for time to prepare a response particularly regarding what was happening at the Human Rights Commission and what was being reported in the press. This is why I am making this statement, Mr Speaker.

Honourable members, the Uganda Human Rights Commission is established by Article 51 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. Article 52 of the Constitution provides for the functions of the commission, which include, among others, to investigate on its own initiative or on a complaint made by a person or group of persons against the violations of human rights.

The Uganda Human Rights Commission Act, Cap 26, further elaborates the functions of the commission and its governance structure. Now, I am going on the effective composition of that commission – *(Interruption)*

MR SILWANY: Mr Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, I have not been seeing you. However, what is the procedural issue? He is not talking about fish but human rights.

MR SILWANY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The procedural matter I am raising is that the Attorney-General is giving a statement which is either uploaded on the system or I need more orientation on uploading, because when we check the iPads, the documents are totally different.

THE SPEAKER: From the look of things, it seems like yours is – you have not picked your iPad? *(Laughter)* Attorney-General, please summarise this statement. You can follow from the screen.

MR SAMUEL MAYANJA: The statement is already there. I would like to highlight those areas which were pertinent and heavy enough for Hon. Ssewungu to bring to this honourable House and require a response. The most urgent were the press reports about the investigations.

On page three of the statement, I inform this House that there are no investigations being carried out by the Inspector General of Government about either the chairperson, any member of the Human Rights Commission, or any staff. So, there is no investigation taking place at the Human Rights Commission.

However, I need to draw your attention to Article 227 of the Constitution where the Inspector General of Government enjoys independence and is not subject to the directions or control of any person or authority and is only responsible to this Parliament. In light of that provision, if the Inspectorate General of Government (IGG) eventually carries out investigations in the Human Rights Commission - and as I have stated, no investigations are being carried out - then that report will come to this honourable Parliament.

Now, there have been reports that the chairperson has resigned. Mr Speaker, I wish

to inform the House that the Chairperson of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, Hon. Mariam Fauzat Wangadya, submitted a notice of resignation to the appointing authority, that is His Excellency the President of Uganda, on 6 July 2026.

I wish to highlight that a notice to resign does not amount to resignation but is merely intended to communicate the desire to resign and cannot be treated as a resignation.

I wish to add that Hon. Mariam Fauzat Wangadya remains the substantive chairperson of the Commission until she tenders a letter of resignation to the appointing authority and that resignation is accepted.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I want to affirm to this House that the Uganda Human Rights Commission's operations are not in any way distorted. The Commission continues to operate and perform its mandate in accordance with the law. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Ssewungu. Are you going to debate the notice of resignation or the resignation?

2.58

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu County West, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to thank the Attorney-General for being on point; when I raised this matter, he promised to report back, and he has done so.

Indeed, I thank the ministers of this term because their performance is good so far. When you hear Hon. Ssewungu thanking you, it is not a simple matter. They are even bringing matters raised by previous speakers.

However, it is interesting that the Attorney-General is contradicting himself. It is even within your own statement, and that is why we normally insist that you read your statement as you uploaded it on the system. Within your statement, you stated that the Inspector General Government (IGG) is investigating the Human Rights Commissioner, but you are stating again that she is not being investigated.

You have talked about tendering in a notice of resignation, but remember that these days, even in court, we use electronic methods and audio visuals.

However, my main interest is not about resignation. By the time I raised this matter, the Human Rights Commission Chairperson had not yet resigned. My interest is in Chapter Four of the Constitution, which is the core value of Uganda's Constitution. Specifically, Honourable Attorney-General, address yourself to Articles 52 and 53 of the Constitution.

Most of the work -

THE SPEAKER: I insist that you read what you are reading on record.

MR SSEWUNGU: No, he was trying to remind me how we used to work together before he became a minister. *(Laughter)* Mr Speaker, all the issues being raised by our Leader of the Opposition, which are being consumed by the public, are the duties of the Human Rights Commission. If we are looking for Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi, the members talked about, and so many others, under Article 52 of the Constitution, the Human Rights Commission has powers to look for all those people and investigate.

There is bickering in the Human Rights Commission. Others are talking about people suffering from AIDS, which is against the HIV Act. You cannot subject someone being employed by Government to torture because he is HIV positive -

THE SPEAKER: Thank you -

MR SSEWUNGU: As I conclude, I pray to the Attorney-General and the Leader of Government Business that you go back to the appointing authority and make this commission be what it is supposed to be.

Otherwise, it is shameful that people cannot address their issues to an office, which is also bickering within. They are going there for remedies, but there are no remedies within the institution. I beg to rest my issue. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Government takes note that Hon. Ssewungu and others are not satisfied with the performance of the Uganda Human Rights Commission. (*Hon. Oshabe rose*) Do you want to guide the Speaker? Okay.

2.59

MR PATRICK NSAMBA (NUP, Kassanda County North, Kassanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am seeking guidance from you. We are in a time where we are witnessing human rights abuses every day. When the chairperson of the commission went out to the media, that tells a very big story within the Human Rights Commission.

The Auditor-General's report that we are considering for the last financial year indicated that the Commission has over 1,000 cases that have been with them for over 20 years.

When I saw this matter on the Order Paper, I never thought that it was a matter to answer Hon. Ssewungu's matter of national importance. Isn't it right that this House gets time when a proper statement about matters of human rights and the Human Rights Commission are brought and debated here?

We have the representative of the army in this House. Although they are listening posts most of the time, they could also participate in the debate about human rights abuse. Mr Speaker, I need your guidance on that. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The issue of human rights is as critical as each one of us is. I would love to see, in this House, debate on the laws on human rights - (*Applause*) - and how we can balance the right of the person who is a victim, and we define who a victim is, and then also balance the rights of those who have been either apprehended or those who are aggrieved.

There is an issue of balancing rights. When do human rights start to be human rights? When you commit an offense and you are apprehended, human rights should be accorded the same constitutional protection that is enshrined in the Constitution. When that is not accorded, that is when you get to hear people

saying this one is abducted. I do not believe in that language because I was somewhere else.

Honourable Leader of Government Business, let us find time one day in this House, and we debate all matters pertaining to human rights. Uganda has made a lot of progress on these matters of human rights, and we should not lose them. We can dedicate a day that we can "speak our lungs out." If the heart is deceitful, we should not use it. We can speak using either our kidneys, because the kidneys filter.

This is so that we can be honest with one another and ask, what are human rights? Who should define it? Is there anything different from the law? If it is what is in the law, how do we balance criminality and human rights? Hon. Otto, what were you saying?

3.07

MR EDWARD OTTO (NRM, Agago County, Agago): Mr Speaker, I thank you. I believe your last statement spoke my mind as that was the procedural issue I was raising. I do acknowledge that there are many issues with respect to human rights, but this matter had previously been brought before Parliament and it was referred to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs.

I see the desire to debate this matter in the House. However, the procedural issue I interested in is: would it not be proper, given that this matter is now the first business before the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, that all the interested parties come here, we get a comprehensive report on what has been raised and even what had been referred, so that we can have a very good debate? That was the procedural guidance I was seeking, but I think you have guided that way. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Then, that debate will be - I think, yesterday, the 27th Human Rights report was referred to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and you are supposed to report back. When you bring back that report, we shall not crowd the Order Paper. Let everybody come here. Let it be known that Parliament set aside a day to debate human rights - because we are all human.

Shadow Attorney-General, you have a right of reply right now. Reply to the real Attorney-General. *(Laughter)*

3.08

THE SHADOW ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Elias Nalukoola): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In case I contradict your statement, kindly, forgive me. It is not intended -

THE SPEAKER: It will be intended because you have already intended. *(Laughter)*

MR NALUKOOLA: Mr Speaker, my humble proposal is that an ad hoc committee or one of our committees, such as the one in charge of human rights, be assigned the duty to investigate or probe into the affairs of Uganda Human Rights Commission.

Mr Speaker, to be sincere, there is bickering. There are disputes among the commissioners themselves. As Parliament, a democratic institution, we cannot sit down and look on. We must intervene. When we get the report from that committee – in case you allow the committee to be assigned – it will be the basis for our debate. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: *(Member rose)* Point of procedure? He has already left. We are speaking about the same thing and we need to move. We cannot over-emphasise the aspect of human rights. By the way, bickering between or among the commissioners - this is one of the agencies, probably, where you have heard that there is bickering.

However, there are so many bickering institutions. If we go on investigating, it will be like when you pass by a neighbour's home, and you hear they are quarrelling, and you stop by because you want to inquire. You will hear, again, another neighbour.

The point which has been made is that this is affecting the performance of the Uganda Human Rights Commission as an institution. We believe that the relevant committee is at liberty to invite the Uganda Human Rights

Commission team to come and answer a few of the issues. When they bring the report, we can go on. Please, can we go to the next?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE MALARIA SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

THE SPEAKER: Yes, honourable Minister of Health? This was a matter raised by Hon. Andrew. Listen attentively.

3.11

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Dr Chris Baryomunsi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is also my maiden speech when you are in the Chair. I also extend a word of congratulations to you. Hon. Ssewungu is reminding me to receive and appreciate the leaders of the Bakiga Community from Kanungu. *(Laughter)* I welcome my leaders from Kanungu; we had already welcomed them.

Mr Speaker, yesterday, 14 July 2026, Hon. Andrew Kaluya Kiiza, the Member of Parliament for Kigulu County South, raised a matter of national importance regarding the death of learners at Makerere College School, Mengo Senior Secondary School and Gayaza High School, which he attributed to a suspected new strain of malaria.

I undertook, in my initial response yesterday to this House, to come up with a comprehensive statement on the matter. That is why I am here. I think Hon. Namboozie of Mukono had also raised that matter on the list of issues of national importance yesterday.

On behalf of the Government of Uganda and the Ministry of Health, in particular, I extend our deepest condolences to the families, guardians, school communities and fellow learners of the four learners who have tragically lost their lives, and to the families affected by the other recent incidents at Naalya Secondary School, Ndejje Secondary School, Katakwi Secondary School and Kakiri Secondary School. No parent should send a child to school and receive news of this nature. So, we convey our condolences to the families.

This statement sets out: firstly, the factual position on the reported deaths; secondly, the technical explanation for why school-age children are presenting with severe malaria; thirdly, whether a new or more virulent parasite strain is responsible for these deaths; and fourthly, the measures the Government has already put in place and the commitments that I want to make before this Parliament.

Let me now speak to the factual position on the reported deaths. The statement is uploaded on the iPads. The Ministry of Health confirms that four learners have died in the Kampala Metropolitan Area following severe malaria: two at Makerere College School, one at Mengo Senior School and one at Gayaza High School.

For completeness and to avoid the conflation of unrelated incidents in public discourse, we also want to place on record that separate recent learner deaths also occurred in other schools but these deaths were not related to this surge in malaria and are not part of this malaria cluster. I have provided a table that indicates the number of deaths in the various schools.

In Makerere College School, the cause of death of the two learners was severe malaria. In Mengo Senior Secondary School, one child died due to severe malaria. In Gayaza High School, one learner also died due to severe malaria.

In Naalya Secondary School, we lost one learner due to suicide – this was not related to malaria. In Ndejje Secondary School, we lost one learner and the death was secondary to trauma. This was also not related to malaria. In Katakwi Secondary School, the student died due to a road traffic accident, and in Kakiri Secondary School, it was also due to a road traffic accident.

Honourable members, you will also note that the four malaria-related deaths are concentrated in the Kampala Metropolitan Area, a historically low transmission zone. I will speak to this later in terms of what it means. This geographic pattern is central to the ministry's technical assessment below and is not, on the current

evidence, indicative of a nationwide surge in malaria mortality among school-age children.

In other words, there is no nationwide surge in malaria infections, but these deaths occurring among our learners are largely in the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area (GKMA) because it is a low-transmission zone. The learners do not have the immunological competence to fight off malaria, as I will explain.

Mr Speaker, let me provide the technical explanation why the school-age children in urban areas have an elevated risk of malaria, and the question which is being posed is: is this a new or more dangerous strain of malaria or not?

Mr Speaker, I want to address this question directly and without ambiguity. This is because it is a question that has understandably alarmed parents and the public.

Uganda routinely conducts genomic surveillance of saturating malaria parasites through the National Malaria Control Division in collaboration with research partners. Genomic surveillance refers to the analysis of genetics of the parasite to see whether what is causing this outbreak or infection is different genetically from the other parasites. So, we usually carry out those assessments and analyses.

This surveillance has not detected any change in the virulence of the parasites currently circulating in the country. Virulence means the ability to cause disease in a more aggressive manner. The analysis we have done does not show that there is a change in the type of parasites causing these infections among our children.

Therefore, *Plasmodium falciparum*, which is the parasite that causes malaria, remains, as it has for decades, the dominant species in Uganda and accounts for approximately 97 per cent of infections, and it is well established as a species responsible for the most severe forms of the disease.

Therefore, what I am saying is that what has killed these learners is the same type of parasite which ordinarily causes malaria. It is not a new strain that has caused this.

On the basis of the current genomic and clinical surveillance data, the ministry's technical position is that there is no evidence of a new malaria strain driving these deaths. I am alluding to the fears because the issue being raised was that there is a new strain of malaria parasites. I am saying no; it is the ordinary parasite that is causing these deaths. So, the question then is, why then are school-age children dying?

Allow me to answer that. The explanation lies not in the parasite but rather in the immunological profile of the affected population. That is the ability of the body to defend itself against malaria. That was what I meant by immunological profile.

Uganda's sustained investment in malaria control over the past two decades and the measures taken include long-lasting insecticide-treated nets, and I hope all of you sleep under treated mosquito nets as Members of Parliament. If you do not, inform me as the Minister of Health. *(Laughter)*

The other measures are indoor residual spraying, which we have been using, and also improved case management. These measures, among others, have substantially reduced transmission in urban and highland areas, including the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area.

I am saying highland areas and Kampala because these are areas where transmission is usually low. They are not malaria-prone areas and in such places, you will find that the people do not have acquired immunity against infection because they are not exposed.

Now, for those who come from areas with a lot of malaria, you need to get the defence immune system in your body. However, if you are from an area like Kampala and highland areas, because there is no high frequency of

malaria, your body does not develop enough defence against it. When you get the attack, it becomes very severe. This is what is causing the problem in children. This is, on its own terms, a public health success. Success means the other interventions we have been providing.

However, it has produced a well-documented epidemiological paradox that children growing up in these low transmission areas are exposed to malaria parasites less frequently in early childhood, and therefore do not build up the same level of acquired immunity as children in high transmission rural areas. That was the explanation I have given.

The children who are in areas with a high density of malaria develop immunity early enough, but those from areas where malaria is not of high prevalence do not develop adequate defence systems in the body. Those areas include the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area and some highland areas like Kigezi and Bugisu. The children affected had low immunity because they were not exposed to malaria in their early ages.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, do you want to go to the Ministry of Health response? I know Hon. Kaluya is already nodding because you have used a lot of terminologies. That is the problem of making a PhD holder a Minister of Health. Can you go to pages three and four?

DR BYAROMUNSI: Allow me to paraphrase the statements without reading each one, and I will finish in a few minutes. I think I have provided the explanation that it is not a new strain but rather, it is because the children were not exposed to malaria in their early stages of life. Now when they get an attack, it becomes very severe. Allow me to read the next statement then I summarise the response.

THE SPEAKER: I know that you are - yes.

DR BYAROMUNSI: On page two.

THE SPEAKER: Build it up.

DR BYAROMUNSI: The practical consequence is that a school-age child in a low-transmission area who contracts malaria has little or no background immunity to slow the progression of the disease. Where a child with high acquired immunity might experience a mild, self-limiting illness, an immunologically naive child can progress from first symptoms to severe malaria, including cerebral malaria and severe anaemia within 24 hours and from severe malaria to death within a further two hours, if emergency treatment is not accessed at the time.

Therefore, there will be a difference between a child from a malaria-prone area and a child from an area where malaria is low when they get an attack. It becomes much more severe because they do not have a strong built-in defence system.

Mr Speaker, allow me to also add that there are factors or sources of information which attract mosquitoes to an individual. For instance, a pregnant woman attracts mosquitoes compared to one who is not pregnant. There is also - *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: You may have to explain.

DR BYAROMUNSI: Yes, I can.
There is also evidence -

THE SPEAKER: Is it about the size of the stomach like for Lt Gen. Okiding?

MR BYAROMUNSI: Mr Speaker, there is also evidence that if you consume alcohol, especially beer, you attract mosquitoes. *(Laughter)* Yes. If I sit with you and I am drinking juice and you are drinking beer and there are mosquitoes around, you will get more bites of mosquitoes compared to me, who is taking water or juice. This is science. Why? There are facts that mosquitoes get attracted to the amount of carbon-dioxide you exhale.

Secondly, when you have a raised body temperature, that also attracts mosquitoes.

Number three is sweating. People who drink beer in the bar sweat. That situation is for both pregnant women and those taking alcohol. Alcohol has some chemicals, particularly lactic and uric acid, and ammonia attracts mosquitoes. This is evidenced by research. You can read it; it is documented.

Mr Speaker, this is why whenever we have a campaign against malaria, we tend to focus on pregnant women and children. Children and pregnant women produce other biological substances called pheromones, which attract mosquitoes.

Mr Speaker, this information was factored in our communication so that the public understands.

Briefly, what has been our response as the Ministry of Health? Honourable members, I am not discouraging you from taking the bitter thing. I am saying, when you take it, be aware that mosquitoes are looking for you. Therefore, you take it from inside a room or use a mosquito repellent.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, could it be possible that mosquitoes are attracted to those who take alcohol because they cannot feel it? Or they do not mind and so they cannot be killed. *(Laughter)* Mosquitoes could be that wise. Otherwise, somebody taking alcohol is preoccupied with other things.

Honourable minister, please go on. You are making very good points.

DR BARYOMUNSI: No, it is because mosquitoes also want the alcohol. As you take it, you are releasing some products which attract them, so they share the bottle. *(Interruption)*

MR SSERUKENYA: Thank you, honourable minister. I agree with you 100 per cent on that challenge. However, I would like to request you to be clear about these four cases.

Mr Speaker, first of all, I would like to know if they were diagnosed in time. Secondly, how were they managed?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, we are going to give a few minutes for the minister to respond.

MR SSERUKENYA: Thank you so much.

DR BARYOMUNSI: I will answer those questions as I read the response of the ministry. I was coming to that.

Mr Speaker, I was saying that protecting school-age children requires action across six areas. These are:

1. Risk communication and community engagement;
2. Vector control in and around school environments;
3. Early diagnosis and treatment;
4. Emergency referral for severe cases;
5. Enhance school health workforce capacity; and
6. Functioning school-based surveillance system.

I would like to briefly report on the progress in these areas.

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Health, working with the Ministry of Education and Sports, has established a multi-sectoral task force structured around four pillars, namely:

- i) coordination and governance;
- ii) prevention and case management;
- iii) risk communication and community engagement; and
- iv) school-based surveillance.

A situation analysis has been completed to establish the burden of malaria, the total cases, severe cases and deaths among school-age children, providing the evidence base for this response.

Let me quickly go through some of the joint actions we have taken together with the Ministry of Education and Sports.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Alex Egoro, are you in? You are blocking the way. There is an

emergency. Sergeant-at-Arms, next time you do not need to bring me this thing. This is what local village Mcees do. *(Laughter)* Honourable minister, please proceed.

DR BARYOMUNSI: We are working with the Ministry of Education and Sports, and we have put in place several measures which include, among others: rapid malaria risk assessment, including a confidential inquiry commencing with the four affected schools. So, we are investigating, getting deeper into what could have been the problem.

We have also instituted key risk communication and prevention messages to schools. I have attached, to my statement, a guidance note we have given to all schools in Uganda regarding malaria; what it is, the do's and don'ts, and what the schools need to do. We developed it together with the Minister of Education and Sports.

Mr Speaker, we are reactivating the school health surveillance and reporting regarding malaria and other illnesses. We have also instituted the mandatory use of a termly assessment form as a standardised screening tool for learners and introduced the school health facility linkage form to formalise and speed up referral pathways.

We are now functionalising the sick bays and recruiting health workers, especially school nurses in all the schools, among others.

As part of the way forward, we shall complete the confidential inquiry which we are carrying out in the schools, starting with those where our learners died. We shall share the results.

Mr Speaker, I am going to issue a ministerial circular to all schools on malaria and other illnesses in schools.

We are starting on the recruitment and deployment of school nurses and health workers in all our schools in Uganda.

We are working on strengthening emergency referral systems within schools to link the

schools and the nearest health facilities so that in situations like these where children fall sick, they can be referred at the earliest opportunity to avoid some of these deaths like we have witnessed.

We are developing a cost plan, which we shall share, on how we can manage malaria and other health challenges in our school populations.

Mr Speaker, we are on top of the situation. I pledge to continuously update Parliament on all the actions we are undertaking.

Again, Mr Speaker, I convey our condolences to the families. Going forward, we shall strengthen the system so that our children do not die needlessly when we send them to school. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Peter Ogwang, the Minister of State for Education and Sports?

3.35

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Your Excellency, first of all, I would like to begin – *(Laughter)* –

THE SPEAKER: I refuse to be excited about that.

MR OGWANG: Mr Speaker, you know that in my sector, most times, I am privileged to address the Head of State. I want to sincerely apologise to you.

Mr Speaker, on my own behalf, allow me to congratulate you upon becoming the Speaker of the 12th Parliament. Congratulations!

In line with the presentation of the minister, allow me first to confirm and agree that this statement was a consultative process between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Sports. However, I have one area where the record should be corrected.

In Katakwi, where I come from, and in the constituency I represent, the alleged death of a child is not true, for the record.

Secondly, one driver of a school bus of Amuria High School indeed died when they were transporting our children for a school excursion to Entebbe Airport. That school is called St Paul's Comprehensive Secondary School in Ngariam County, Katakwi.

I want to thank the health team from Iganga and Jinja Regional Referral Hospital for attending to our children, some of whom, up to now, are still receiving treatment, but none has died. That is for the record. I thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon. Baryomunsi, your explanation would not attract a lot of debate, but I want to give a chance to four medical people. Before the medical person comes, let me get Hon. Kaluya. Please, if you are a traditionalist – *(Laughter)* – Hon. Kaluya, you are the one who raised the matter.

3.38

MR ANDREW KALUYA (NUP, Kigulu County South, Iganga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to also congratulate you upon your election as our Speaker for the 12th Parliament. Allow me to also congratulate you upon your appointment as a special envoy for somebody.

THE SPEAKER: For what?

MR KALUYA: For Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU).

THE SPEAKER: Okay. *(Laughter)* I don't know why people are having *nugu* about that. *(Laughter)*

MR KALUYA: Mr Speaker, I want to thank the honourable minister for a very wonderful and elaborative response over the matter that I raised as a matter of national importance concerning the death of some students who succumbed to malaria. It is very good that he has allayed our fears when we thought there was a new strain of malaria in the country. It gives us a lot of comfort, both as parents and as leaders, that we do not have to worry so much about what is going on. However, we just need to improve on how we combat malaria itself.

Mr Speaker, when I raised the matter, I had prayers, and I want to affirm that the honourable minister has ably answered all the prayers that I raised and I beg to thank him so much. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. On this note, I want to thank the Front Bench. If we continue this way, Uganda will be different. Hon. Khemis? Shadow Minister of Health? Please, traditional healers, do not speak now. *(Laughter)*

3.40

MR KHEMIS MUZAID (FDC, Arua Central Division, Arua City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The matter on malaria was raised yesterday. Malaria remains the cause of mortality within the population. Approximately 10 per cent of the sicknesses or checks that are done in outpatient departments consist of malaria, particularly in West Nile and zeroing it to Arua Central and Oli Health Centre that serves three countries, that is, South Sudan, Central Africa, Congo and even Uganda itself where we have got over 24,000 asylum seekers and where monthly, we have 25,000 patients that go for outpatient services there.

The malaria issue has become a burden on the little resources that we have in this nation. There must be an emergency supplementary financial budget to handle this issue because we have the issue of the Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) and injectables that have really been affected by the malaria issue.

My prayer is that the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should make sure that we have a supplementary budget that is to be used to address issues of malaria in these areas that have got cases. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, take note. The doctor from Kyankwanzi?

3.42

DR EDWARD KIKABI (NRM, Ntwetwe County, Kyankwanzi): Thank you so much for that wonderful memory, Mr Speaker. First and

foremost, I would like to credit my Government for the tremendous work well done in the fight against malaria. That has been great.

Secondly, I would like to credit my minister for the mouth-watering ministerial statement he has just read out. However, the following observations must be taken off, Mr Speaker. As an active practitioner, these are the case series we are coming across.

You come across a child or even an adult who has been managed with the first-line treatment and is not cured, has gone on to second-line and third-line treatments, but is not cured. That alone should speak a little louder to us as the Government now. We should not, in any way, hide our heads in the sand like the ostrich.

Rather, we should be a little more vigilant. Why? The Minister of Health knows that within our surveillance system, in genomics, we have already captured a mutation of Kelch 13 (K13), which is one of those genes that the malarial parasite uses to make sure that it dodges the killing power of the drugs we have today.

We agreed, as a nation, to shift to first-line treatment for malaria being the so-called ACTs; those are the Artemisinin-based combination treatments we use, but now that mutation of a gene has been picked within our population. What he is telling us is that these cases of death that he reported are coming from a low malaria endemic region, and therefore the immunity is not good enough.

However, we should not forget, as a nation, that when we were shifting from chloroquine and quinine to ACTs, it all started like this; cases of resistance here and there. We should therefore institute a team. Actually, first and foremost, a parliamentary statement should be as follows: us creating a situation whereby there is more financing for the genomic surveillance team.

More financing should also go to the following major laboratories that are helping us in this role: the one of Makerere University, Uganda Virus Research Institute, and the one he has talked about of the Malaria Control Division

that we have. When we increase funding, that will enable them to have a high rate of picking out those cases of resistance. That is number one.

Secondly, we should remember that each one of us - wherever we come from - are challenged in regard to the presence of those services at the different health facilities; we are finding situations. I will give you a case in point. When you look at Ntwetwe Health Centre IV and its budget, whatever comes up, comes in time. The Government provides it; bi-monthly supply of drugs and all these other test kits. But you know what is happening right there? Whatever they supply on the ground to work for 60 days is exhausted within 11 days. That tells you that we have to revisit our budget and put more emphasis on issues concerning stock, kits and drugs against malaria.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

DR KIKABI: Lastly, as I conclude, Mr Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, keep it short.

DR KIKABI: All right. As I conclude, we should also ensure that as we give these drugs or make them available on the ground, we should also ensure that in the facilities which we upgraded but do not have functional machinery within and also lack staffing numbers, we put the staff and the machinery there. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The medical doctors are giving us a lot of terminologies. Let me get some traditional healers. Hon. Angura -*(Laughter)*- then Hon. Naluyima and Hon. Opio. The Shadow Minister of Health should prepare. That should be the end, and then we go to the main debate.

3.46

MR FREDRICK ANGURA (NRM, Tororo South County, Tororo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Andrew Kaluya for raising this issue yesterday,

and also thank the honourable minister for ably responding to this very important issue.

I would like to thank the Government of Uganda. I say this with utmost good faith. On 19th and 20th June, last month, we had a very big health camp in my community, run by Caring Hands International Ministries, supported by over 73 medical personnel from across the country, and led by the team from Mulago.

Those people examined over 1,000 patients who responded, and when I went to close that camp, I was surprised by the report that I was given. They thought they were coming to attend to many malaria cases. They told me that, out of over 1,000 tests they ran, they did not detect any malaria cases. I want to thank Government for that.

However, what they told me, which should also be of interest to the minister and the whole medical fraternity, was that 47 per cent of the people they tested had non-communicable diseases. It means that as we are looking at malaria as one of the key killers as it has been known in the past, we are also facing other challenges that are now eating our community slowly but surely. The non-communicable diseases that they emphasised were diabetes and high blood pressure, among others.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I would like to request the minister here and all of us as Parliament. We have subcounties in our constituencies that do not have health centres III up to now. I request the honourable minister that, as you bring in your work plans, which we manage here in Parliament, let us bridge the gap in all subcounties in the country that do not have health centre III facilities to bring services closer to our people. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Does the minister want to respond immediately? *(Hon. Naluyima rose_)* The shadow minister will come, but let the minister answer a little bit. He will give you the clarification.

DR BARYOMUNSI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and honourable members for the interest you have in matters of health because they touch all of us and our constituents. I would like to make two comments.

As the Minister of Health, I pledge to provide you with as much information as possible about what we are doing to address the challenge of health care in this country. I request, Mr Speaker, that if the Order Paper for tomorrow permits, I update Members of Parliament on how far we have gone in containing the Ebola outbreak. I will work with the Clerk and your office, if the Order Paper allows.

Secondly, I know the honourable members have many questions to do with health, especially in our constituencies. I receive many Members of Parliament who inquire about health centres and many programmes. I request that I work with your office, Mr Speaker, to secure a day or two and organise a workshop for Members of Parliament. I will bring my technical team from the ministry – *(Applause)* - and then we will update you on what the ministry is doing to address the disease burden in this country.

The communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, neglected tropical illnesses – *(Interjection)* - just hold on; I will allow you. What the Uganda Cancer Institute and Uganda Heart Institute are doing, the plans we have to upgrade health centres III, and what plans we have. How are we planning to provide ambulances to constituencies that do not have them?

We cannot exhaust that debate now in a Sitting due to time constraints. So, I beg that I work with your office, give us time to organise a workshop and then we bring all the Ministry of Health technocrats to engage and give you the answers, so that as we start this term, you know what the Government is planning to address the health challenges in our constituencies. I will take the clarification.

3.52

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Mr Speaker, most of these incidents happened in the area I represent.

THE SPEAKER: Oh, you are the mother.

MS NALUYIMA: Yes, Mr Speaker. Thank you. First of all, I would like that we correct our data as Parliament. The school is Mwebaze High School in Kakiri, Wakiso District. To add on, you hinted on the matter of Naalya S.S in Bweyogerere; that had a suicidal death.

Since our honourable minister has asked for time, I only pray that when he organises that very workshop, he also addresses the matter of mental health in schools, because they are somehow leaving it out, yet it is affecting many of our children. *(Applause)*

Our children are overloaded; they are reading hard and doing a lot. So, the ministries of health and education have to work together to ensure we have those counselling services and that children are handled well. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, mental health is a serious concern. Honourable ministers of health and education, you will need to formulate - Honourable Minister of Education, do you have something? General Kavuma will come in then. There is a traditional healer here; we shall conclude with him. *(Laughter)*

MR PETER OGWANG: Mr Speaker, first of all I thank the MP of Wakiso. As a sector of education, we have been issuing circulars and communicating to almost all schools in the country. There is one big challenge which now goes to us, the parents, and this is where we need your indulgence.

Some of us are part and parcel of the problem affecting our children. A case in point is where you go for visitation with a helicopter; you particularly give your child a helicopter to go to school. I am speaking as a minister of the sector.

Secondly, because it is the birthday of your child, some of you go and splash money, throwing it around before other children. Friends, what happens to others who do not have access to this kind of money? You are the same person who denies that child the same money tomorrow, yet you have made that child get used to this money.

I would like to appeal to all of us. We are all stakeholders regarding matters of education, and it is our responsibility to get out and talk to our people and constituents to behave in line with the guidelines we have issued.

Mr Speaker, I will be able to lay on the Table the circular guidelines we have issued to all districts and schools across the country by the Ministry of Education and Sports, as we did in the last Parliament. I can issue it again so we can spread it out.

I welcome the initiative to get out and talk about mental health, but it is our responsibility as Members of Parliament. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Gen. Kavuma? Give the military precision to this matter. *(Laughter)*

3.55

GEN. SAMUEL KAVUMA (UPDF REPRESENTATIVE): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Let me, before I make my submission, join those who spoke before me to congratulate you on being the Speaker of the 12th Parliament. *(Applause)*

Two, on the matter - I am not a doctor, but a leader and parent, and I have life. Today, the House is debating malaria. I do not think it is only malaria that is killing Ugandans, but this was maybe special because it killed children. Malaria has been killing children, by the way, for a very long time. It is still, I think, the topmost killer disease in Uganda.

However, if you research even in the region, Uganda loses a lot of people because of a number of illnesses and problems. I have been

trying to do some research to find out why, in Uganda, Speakers, Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Generals all have cancer. Why? My research revealed two main issues.

First, Mr Speaker, 98 per cent of Ugandans do not attend regular medical checkups. That is a fact. We live on self-medication. When you get a headache, you go to the nearest pharmacist. The pharmacist prescribes some drugs, and you go home. When the pain reduces, you do not even finish the drug they gave you. That is why you see that every two kilometres there is a new pharmacy: pharmacies or drug stores make a lot of money off us.

For us who are here, if you reflect on what is in your bedroom, you find that all of us have mini pharmacies in our houses because of self-medication - *(Laughter)* - that is a problem for all of us.

Two, Mr Speaker, even the 2 per cent who regularly try to find out how they are by checking, they do not get the correct diagnosis. That is another huge problem. If you picked 10 people from this Parliament and sent them to the famous hospitals in Kampala – if you go to Mulago National Referral Hospital, they will test your blood samples and whatever and give you results. If you go to Nakasero Hospital and test for the same, you get different results. If you go to International Hospital Kampala (IHK), they will give you different results.

Where is the problem? When you get issues, they say it is mild pneumonia. They give you a sack of antibiotics. You finish them but the pain comes back. You go to another hospital; it is ulcers, so they give you another sack of antibiotics – *(Laughter)* – when you finish them, the pain comes back.

Mr Speaker, those who can afford go to our neighbour, Aga Khan University Hospital, which takes only 50 minutes from here. They will check you and find you have stage four cancer.

My question is: is it the machines? Where do we buy these? Is it the people that read

the outcome of the machines? Where is the problem?

Mr Speaker, we are leaders. As a House, we represent people. Please go back, mobilise and sensitise your people, those who elected you to come here. Let them go for regular and periodic medical check-ups.

The second prayer is that the Ministry of Education and Sports should look at the diagnosis issue. Where is the challenge? I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Traditional healer - honourable minister, note down because the Shadow Minister of Health is going to give a statement and you will wrap up the debate. What is the traditional healer doing? Hon. Linos.

4.01

MR LINOS NGOMPEK (NRM, Kibanda North County, Kiryandongo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mine is just a suggestion. Our boarding primary and secondary schools mainly have sick bays with a nurse. However, they do not have laboratory technologists. Most of the time, when the children are sick, the nurse just assumes.

I suggest that the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Health come up with a policy insisting that schools must recruit a lab technologist. They should also buy simple microscopes to at least carry out some tests. Diagnosis is the most important thing because it helps you to understand and know what disease a child is suffering from.

THE SPEAKER: You must take that recommendation from a traditional healer very seriously - (*Laughter*) - they have tried to do guesswork and seen more people dying.

Hon. Aisha Sekkindi, the Shadow Minister and the real Minister closes. I do not know who started the issue of shadow or what. (*Laughter*)

4.02

MS AISHA SEKKINDI (Independent, Woman Representative, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the previous speakers. First of all, I need to clarify that the prevalence is no longer 10 per cent. Those are statistics of 2019. It has actually increased. Many of these malaria cases occur in primary and secondary schools. As my colleague has mentioned, the problem is with the treatment methods. They give them Panadol only when they have a headache.

Finally, I would also like to add that, unfortunately, Blood Group O+ individuals are very prone to mosquito bites and malaria. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Shadow Minister of Health – two minutes. By the way, you are so generous with your time.

4.03

MS SHEILAH AMANIYO (NUP, Woman Representative, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am submitting on behalf of Dr Batua, who is away on official duty. I stand in for him as the Shadow Minister of Health.

Mr Speaker, while we appreciate the Minister's report, we must confront this malaria problem with grimness. Uganda remains trapped in a preventable crisis. The Minister of Health, Dr Baryomunsi, speaks of progress in Uganda. However, the Uganda Malaria Indicator Survey revealed a terrifying policy failure. The national prevalence has actually risen from 10 per cent to 13 per cent. In regions like Lango, Acholi and Karamoja, childhood infection rates are as high as 60 per cent. This is not progress. This is a national emergency.

As shadow ministers, we request and demand an immediate policy reversal from passive malaria control to an aggressive elimination agenda. First, we must stop distributing obsolete, standard pyrethroid-treated mosquito nets that mosquitoes are now laughing at. The Government must fully pivot to dual-insecticide next-generation nets, such as Chlorfenapyr-treated nets, which have been

proven by the World Health Organisation to slash transmission by 50 per cent.

Secondly, honourable minister, we request that you institutionalise a mandatory Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) in public facilities, specifically boarding schools, to protect our children where they are most vulnerable.

Finally, Mr Speaker, we cannot eradicate malaria on a beggar's budget. We demand a shift from total dependency on foreign donors to dedicated domestic health financing. We must equip our village health teams and end the chronic, fatal medicine stock-outs in our health centres. This is happening in all our areas of jurisdiction. We must stop managing malaria and start killing it.

I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. There is somebody who needs one minute about the vector. Hon. Ossiya, one minute. A lawyer speaking about the vector.

4.07

MR SOLOMON OSSIYA (NRM, Toroma County, Katakwi): Mr Speaker, I join my fellow Members in congratulating you on that honourable seat. I also thank my honourable brother for that great statement. We have been talking about the parasite, but I understand that we can also look at the flip side of the coin: the vector. I understand that there is a new vector in Uganda which would probably, in the future, cause more difficulty in terms of fighting malaria, especially relating to the malaria tool. It bites during the day, so bed nets will not work. It breeds during the dry season, so the incidence of malaria, which is normally low, will still be high.

These are some of the things that I would like to relate to my honourable minister, to look not just at the parasite site, but at the vector. I think it is called Fenastax, and the malaria-testing tools we are using right now will become obsolete. There is drug and insecticide resistance. Malaria is the single biggest killer

in Uganda. If Uganda does not look at this question in detail, honourable members, our population will be exposed to a lot of difficulty. That was the issue I wanted to raise to my honourable minister.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Health, what is the summation?

4.08

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Dr Chris Baryomunsi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have the capacity to give a technical response to the issues being raised, but I have a limitation on time. That is why I have requested that you provide us time to do a workshop and be able to delve into the details of what the honourable members are raising, including examining the policy on malaria, like my sister from Mukono is saying: is there policy failure or not? All those issues, we can interrogate them when we have time.

The good thing is that she is quoting reports from the Government and all that information. It is not true that the policy on malaria has failed per se, but we shall provide all those details, and also, with the previous Speaker, we did a lot of malaria research. We shall be able to share all those issues about vectors and many other transmission dynamics.

What I can say is that we are going to work with the Ministry of Education and Sports to strengthen the school health programme so that we address those issues of having laboratory technologies, the nurses, train them on how to diagnose, prescribe and manage all these cases, not only malaria but other challenges which affect our children.

The Minister of Education and Sports was reminding me that when the children are reporting for a new term, there is a form on their health which is supposed to be filled, but most parents ignore it. I think we shall keep reminding Ugandans that they should fill it so that the school managers know the health concerns of that learner, and they will be able to attend to that learner.

Finally, let me part with the response to the issues raised by Hon. Kavuma. The disease burden in Uganda is characterised by what we call communicable diseases. These are diseases which can be transmitted from one person to another, like malaria, HIV, diarrhea, Ebola, and all these, but also non-communicable diseases, and we see a rise in both communicable and most importantly, non-communicable diseases.

However, we also have the neglected tropical diseases - one minute, let me finish my point. We shall discuss with you the approaches and reforms we are instituting in the health sector to address this disease burden.

I can tell you that up to 70 per cent of the diseases which afflict Ugandans are preventable, and we are going to mount a huge response on disease prevention and health promotion in the country. Straight from the centre to our villages. We shall be giving you the strategies, but also strengthening clinical management of the diseases, including rehabilitation and palliative care. That is why you see us working day and night, visiting hospitals. We are going to do both formal and informal visits to our hospitals to assess what is happening on the ground and be able to come up with reforms and strategies to improve health care in this country. The assurance I am giving you is that we shall do everything possible. We need your support as Parliament to fix the health issues in this country because they affect all of us. Hon. Ssewungu is dying with the point.

THE SPEAKER: No, Hon. Ssewungu is a traditional healer. Please, let us go to another -

DR BARYOMUNSI: Maybe my response on malaria, what I did not talk about, is that we have a malaria vaccine which we are rolling out also among young people, including schools, and we shall discuss all these when we meet in the dialogue.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The people of Kanungu know what they brought to us. He is a well-informed man. In Kanungu, you say that the man is eating, but you see they are firing things at him here. Clerk, next item?

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF
PARLIAMENT TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE
TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA,
YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI, FOR THE
CLEAR AND PRECISE EXPOSITION OF
GOVERNMENT POLICY CONTAINED IN
THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
TO PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA ON 4TH
JUNE 2026

THE SPEAKER: This is how we are going to proceed. Uninterrupted for 3 minutes. I will begin with the following. Number one, Hon. Eng. Abigaba Cuthbert, Kibale County; Hon. Bruce Balaba Kabaasa, Hon. Rugumayo Edson and Hon. Ofwono Opondo, Older Persons.

On this side, you listen. We shall have Hon. Bisaso Abdul, Kassanda South, Hon. Kaluya Andrew, Kigulu County South, Iganga; Hon. Kuteesa Patrick, MP Kimaanya-Kaboneru and Hon. Auma Janet. You do not need to stand up unless I ask you to.

Please, debate issues now. No further guidance or interruption. Eng. Cuthbert is not there; the next person is Hon. Bruce Balaba. Is he there? This is a structured way of debating.

MR WAKOOLI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Wakooli, and I am seeking clarification from your communication -

THE SPEAKER: But how do you -

MR WAKOOLI: We actually do not know how you have arrived at the names, and I am wondering how we are going to - because you guided ably that this is not a matter of national importance and we thought that as your members, we are going to stand and pay tribute to the State of the Nation Address. I am seeking -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, now you are quarrelling - *(Laughter)* A person who quarrels is the one who does not ask permission to speak. When permission is given to them, they start debating.

So, there is a formality here. I would like to dispose of what I have here, then I will go back to those who may not have accessed the offices. The party whips have given names to the Speaker's office. So, Hon. Balaaba, three minutes uninterrupted.

4.17

MR BRUCE KABAASA (NRM, Rubanda County West, Rubanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to join the members who have spoken in the previous days thanking the President of Uganda for being clear in his statement to the country in the State of the Nation address.

The President said many things but emphasised what he called "the word". He indicated that, without resources, he mobilised the people in the cattle corridor to transition from pastoralism to settlements and, eventually, to what we now see as production and modernisation in that community.

I would like to relate this to what is happening in our country today. Unlike when the President was engaged in "the word," there is infrastructure today. At the time he gave "the word", there was no infrastructure for the civil service and the established structures to participate in mobilising the people of Uganda.

Today, we have a robust Local Government structure, with civil servants at the parish and sub-county levels and members of Parliament and councillors elected by the people of Uganda. The problem at hand is that the Government of Uganda has not established a legal framework that coordinates the work of members of Parliament, councillors and technical people.

As we speak now, there are roads, hospitals and health centres being opened across the country, but Members of Parliament are here spectating on these processes. The infrastructure of the "word" that the NRM has established, especially after the introduction of Universal Primary Education (UPE) is disjointed today. It becomes very difficult for the elected leaders and the local leaders to harmonise service delivery.

In addition to what the President spoke about, it is important today that the Government of Uganda, in implementing the President's address, establishes an organised structure in which members of Parliament, individually, without - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Next. Hon. Rugumayo, are you there? Hon. Ofwono Opondo? Or should I pronounce it well? Hon. Rugumayo Edson, the MP for Ntoroko County.

4.19

MR EDSON RUGUMAYO (NRM, Ntoroko County, Ntoroko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I would like to congratulate you, and all Members of Parliament, upon our inauguration into the 12th Parliament. I rise to applaud the President for his well-articulated and inspiring State of the Nation address.

The President delivered his message in his characteristic, very free and yet profound style. He fixed himself within the story, generously sharing his humble past with us.

In his address, what I picked as most important was his decisive call for all of us Ugandans to shift because he told us of how he was raised in a nomadic pastoralist family. But his passion to change his family's circumstances drove him and sparked the birth of what we now know as the NRM.

What I picked from his communication and his address was a clear call for all of us in the country to shift from our traditional systems of land use to the more modern and productive systems of land use, to abandon nomadism and free-range grazing, and now to the most productive zero-grazing and sedentary agriculture.

He also urged all of us, if possible, to move house to house or community to community, urging our members in the communities to wake up and adopt effective land use systems.

He also urged us to take advantage of the systems already in place by the Government, land tribunals and other programs that

the Government has put in place, like the Systematic Land Adjudication and Certification Programs, to make sure we solve the historical land injustices in the country.

However, I noted that whereas the President emphasized issues of rural transformation - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Ofwono Opondo -

4.23

MR OFWONO OPONDO (NRM, Older Persons Representative, Eastern): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I too congratulate you. I associate myself with the address of the President. As usual, he was educative - mobilising us.

In this country, some people think that the work of uplifting Uganda falls on other people's shoulders and not theirs, and I hope that the entire country and leadership will see that it is our joint effort that will lift the country.

The President mentioned key foundations of the country: peace, security and stability. Without it, nothing much can move. I hope we, the leaders, particularly the MPs, do appreciate the President and the institutions that the NRM has built over the last 40 years. That way, they are capable of lifting Uganda so that it does not slide back.

What we need now is more focus, pinpointing areas of weakness in the country, particularly the things that afflict the common person.

All of us Members of Parliament are members of our respective district councils. I want to rally behind the President and urge us to take an interest in our respective local governments, both at the inception of policy and budgeting, so that we strengthen leadership at that level.

Our work as members of Parliament at the top will be much easier because we shall find willing and capable allies to deliver the goods and services to the common person. Many of our problems, including election malpractices,

arise because many of our people are in a state of deep want – including our colleagues across the aisle. I can see Hon. Ssewungu looking at me sympathetically. I am above 60, by the laws of Uganda. So - *(Laughter) (Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: You see, when you listen to other people – even if you think you are not going to speak, be in the House and listen to how this State-of-the-Nation Address is being processed so that when you get to speak, you pick one or two.

Hon. Bisaso?

4.26

MR ABDUL BISASO (NRM, Kassanda County South, Kassanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker, I rise to express my sincere gratitude to His Excellency the President for his clear, comprehensive and inspiring State-of-the-Nation Address to this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, the address provided clear policy direction on this country's socio-economic transformation, security, infrastructure, industrialisation and wealth creation, especially the Parish Development Model (PDM), Emyooga and other government interventions.

Mr Speaker, as we appreciate the progress highlighted by the President, I respectfully wish to draw the attention of the Government to a few priority areas affecting the people of Kassanda South.

First, I appeal for increased rural electrification. Many communities in Kassanda are in total darkness and we know that power is very important and essential for value addition, small-scale industries, education and improved livelihoods.

Secondly, I request the Government to expand access to safe and clean water. Despite progress registered nationally, several villages in my constituency do not have water. Women and children move long distances to search for water, especially in Manyogaseka and other areas.

Mr Speaker, I wish to remind the Government as well of the urgent need to address the persistent land challenges between land owners and the *bibanja* holders.

On infrastructure, Mr Speaker, I respectfully remind the Ministry of Works and Transport to fulfil its commitment requiring Energo Construction Company Ltd to tarmac the roads within Kiganda Town Council. This is due to the fact that most of the materials being used in the construction of this road come from this area.

In the same way, Mr Speaker, I once again appeal to the Government for the installation of speed humps since many people have lost their lives on that main road.

As I conclude, I wish to convey my heartfelt appreciation to His Excellency the President because during that State-of-the-Nation Address, he recognised my contribution towards Emyooga, as the deputy national coordinator. I pray that this programme and many other wealth creation programmes continue.

I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kaluya? Oh, he has gone to the *luya*. (*Laughter*) Hon. “Kaluya” means “someone on the side.” Hon. Patrick Kuteesa?

4.29

MR PATRICK KUTEESA (NUP, Kimaanya-Kabonera Division, Masaka City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to congratulate you for having achieved that big office.

I did not attend the State-of-the-Nation Address, but reading from the newspapers, it revolved around agriculture, a docket in which I serve as the shadow minister.

Mr Speaker, you cannot talk about agriculture and fail to talk about hand hoes for our vulnerable villagers. It is a dissatisfaction to our voters, most especially those of Kimaanya-Kabonera whom I represent.

It should be noted that this Parliament has periodically allocated billions of shillings for the procurement of these hand hoes, a pledge that has for long been made by the Government and the President of the Republic of Uganda to our people.

Mr Speaker, agriculture is the key to providing employment opportunities to most of our people in this country. In December 2025, the 11th Parliament approved a supplementary budget of Shs 26.12 billion to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries for the purchase of seven million hand hoes for distribution to farmers.

Additionally, in February 2026, a budget proposal processed by the Parliament’s Budget Committee revealed an additional request of Shs 70 billion for the same purpose, but these hoes are not there. Honourable colleagues, where are the hoes?

I, therefore, pray that the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries briefs this House on the criteria used while selecting the beneficiaries of this initiative. Could we have an audit report on the procurement and procedures for the distribution of these hoes?

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Janet Auma, followed by Hon. Linda Irene. Hon. Janet Auma? There is a microphone there, but if you want to come here, there is no problem.

4.33

MS JANET AUMA (UPC, District Woman Representative, Amolatar): Mr Speaker, Members of Parliament, ladies and gentlemen. (*Laughter*)

THE SPEAKER: Order! Order!

MS JANET AUMA: Yeah. That was an interlude. I would like to congratulate you, Mr Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS JANET AUMA: ... for your leadership and for being in the Chair today. I rise on

the motion by the Prime Minister, seeking to convey appreciation to His Excellency, based on Article 101 of the Constitution. *(Applause)*

On pages two and three of the address, His Excellency the President calls upon the entire nation to embrace “no more sleep, no more corruption or diversion of public resources and no more complacency in leadership”. This is not merely a slogan; it is a national call to action, required by every leader.

I fully support this because Uganda’s transformation will be achieved not only through speeches but also through accountability, timely implementation, and effective service delivery. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, on pages 13 and 14 of the State of the Nation Address, the President outlined Government achievements in expanding the national road network and reminded district leaders that marram roads must always be maintained. I would like to raise my submission on this.

We have roads in various districts. It has become a matter of national importance because most of the roads that would connect businesses are not connecting the businesses, and we are lagging as Ugandans. Take an example: in Amolatar District, the Dokolo-Ochero-Namasale road was budgeted for in 2023, and the budget was passed. I do not know why it has not been implemented up to now.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Janet. There is no one minute more, but I must ask the Members to applaud you. *(Applause)*

You are going to be one of the greatest debaters of this House, I can see - *(Applause)* Hon. Linda?

4.37

MS IRENE LINDA (NRM, Woman Representative, Fort Portal City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also rise together with my colleagues to support the motion to appreciate His Excellency the President on the State of the Nation Address.

More especially, Mr Speaker, I would like to commend the President on the emphasis that he put on maintaining the national road network, both tarmac and marram. I would like to remind you that in the 11th Parliament we appropriated funds for the procurement of road units to the newly created districts and cities. Only 16 new districts have received the road units, while 10 cities have not received them to date.

We are having difficulty utilising the funds we receive because we do not have a road unit. We have to go and borrow from the mother district.

Mr Speaker, when the municipalities were elevated into cities, the town councils used to receive money for the road fund. Now, they were elevated into divisions, but the divisions are not getting any funds for roads. The Shs 1 billion that we are receiving is the only money we are sharing between the divisions; the case is for Fort Portal City. We have two divisions, North and Central. They do not receive money for the road fund.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, my prayer is that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should prioritise giving money to divisions just like the town councils so that they can maintain their roads.

Additionally, Mr Speaker, my city right now is struggling to procure a road unit to the extent that the Council has passed a resolution whereby administrative units, LCIs and IIs, are going to forfeit 25 and 30 per cent of their money to procure a road unit, meaning that the residents are going to suffer. This is the little money that was helping LCIs to run their offices. We have students who always run to LCIs to get recommendation letters. This means that the whole of this financial year, the LCIs of Fort Portal City will not receive any money.

My prayer is that Fort Portal City be given a special opportunity to receive money for the procurement of a road unit. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Gilbert Olanya, and then I will have one independent Member, Hon. Isingoma.

4.40

MR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak South County, Amuru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to congratulate you again for being the Speaker of the 12th Parliament. His Excellency the President delivered the State of the Nation Address, and what he delivered this year, he should have delivered 30 years ago. His Excellency dwelt seriously on fighting corruption, and he called it “*Kisanja*, No More Sleep.”

Mr Speaker, looking at the situation in Uganda as of now, in terms of corruption, one may think that the people of Uganda who claim that they are in the rightful positions are crazy. The level we have reached, you have seen of recent, where someone would store money in the house like piling books. Wherever we go to implement Government activities, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development normally claims that there is no money, yet those who think that they are well off and well positioned keep money in their houses.

Mr Speaker, I wish the President would have been more serious -

THE SPEAKER: Where did you want them to keep the money? *(Laughter)* Go ahead.

MR OLANYA: Mr Speaker, we have the prescribed financial intelligence that normally follows, and there are proper procedures of withdrawing money from the bank. Because of corruption, someone may connive and withdraw more than Shs 10 billion within one hour.

Mr Speaker, I am happy that this time the President has opened his eyes and has appointed a few quite serious ministers. I saw the Minister of Local Government, Hon. Balaam; I would like to applaud him for doing wonders by making sure that the Local Government accounts for the money given to them. I would like to appreciate him.

Mr Speaker, I am also happy that His Excellency appointed a few ministers who were involved in that same scandal. There is a saying in our language that “you send a thief to catch a thief” – *(Laughter)* I am happy that – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Okay. Maybe a thief has also cut you off.

Today is the 15th of July. Hon. Enos Twinamasiko, would you stand up? We recognise you; today is your birthday. Happy birthday. *(Applause)* Thank you. Next, we shall have Hon. Peter Obong Acuda.

Sorry? Oh, birthday boy, do you want to? That was an unexpected intervention from elsewhere.

4.43

MR ONESMUS TWINAMASIKO (NRM, Bugangaizi East County, Kakumiro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am Onesimus Twinamasiko, not Enos, and a Member of Parliament for Bugangaizi East County, Kakumiro.

Mr Speaker, I thank the Head of State for the State of the Nation Address that he ably delivered in this House. His Excellency mentioned the critical national roads that the Government embarked on for tarmacking. The roads were mentioned from the North to the South, West to the East, and the Central here.

However, there is a critical oil road that this Government omitted: the road from Nalweyo, Kisita, Mpasana, Nkooko, and Masode in Kyankwanzi, and then from Nkooko to Kakumiro.

Mr Speaker, this is a critical oil road because the oil pipeline route crosses this road three times. However, it was abandoned. The feasibility studies and systematic designs were made in 2017. The Uganda National Road Authority (UNRA) abandoned this road, yet it is very important for oil exploration.

Mr Speaker, this road shall be used by the oil partners whenever they monitor the oil

pipeline road. Therefore, I would like to call upon the Government of Uganda to prioritise this road because it is among the oil roads; the Nalweyo-Kisiita-Mpasana-Nkoko-Masode-Nkoko-Kakumiro road.

Mr Speaker, I have read the National Development Plan (NDP IV), and this road is mentioned in it; it is budgeted for the year 2029. Since it already has a feasibility study done and it was abandoned, I still have some little faith that in 2029, it will be worked on. Otherwise, it is a very critical road for oil exploration.

Mr Speaker, I call upon the Government of Uganda - We have the Prime Minister here, so I would like to implore her to note this matter. It should surely be discussed - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Peter Obong Acuda. Then I will go back to the other side: Hon. Otto, Hon. Ababiku, Hon. Nakut, and Hon. Akol.

4.47

MR PETER OBONG ACUDA (UPC, Maruzi County, Apac): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Acuda, go ahead.

MR PETER OBONG: Once again, thank you, Mr Speaker. Being my maiden speech, my name is Hon. Peter Obong Acuda, the gazetted Member of Parliament for Maruzi County in Apac District.

Mr Speaker, I also want to express my appreciation to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda for his State-of-the-Nation Address. There are areas that caught my ear and have touched my heart. These are: economic sovereignty, wealth creation and poverty eradication.

Mr Speaker, if you remember very well, the President, in his own initiative, gave a lot of money outside. I would like to cite examples of Emyooga and, recently, the Parish Development Module (PDM).

People have taken up the money and put it to use. Unfortunately, the Government, after giving out this money, did not follow up on the processes of accessing markets and the rest.

Mr Speaker, the areas of concern in my constituency are Maruzi County, Maruzi North County, and Oyam South. There is a central Government road that runs from the main junction of Rwekunya to the Apac main road from Corner Amii via Alworocen to Aber in Oyam.

Mr Speaker, this road has been submerged by water since 2023 to date. As I speak, no minister has ever stepped in to assess the situation of the road. This road affects access to services and service delivery centres.

Recently, we lost four people from one family. In fact, as I speak, the orphans have lost their mother and father, who drowned in the water because of a lack of access to medical services from Ibuje Health Centre III.

Mr Speaker, I would like to appeal to the President and the Minister of Works and Transport, who is appointed by the President, not only to sit in the office. People are praising Hon. Balaam for being a field minister. Let the Minister of Works and Transport also be a field minister and assess the situation of the central Government roads within the country and give feedback to the appointing authority so that Parliament can appropriate resources for these roads to be improved.

Mr Speaker, I want to thank you for the opportunity. I still commit to serving the interests of this Parliament and the interests of the country of Uganda as a Member of Parliament. May God bless you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Edward Makmot, Member for Agago County; the Canadian barrister.

4.50

MR EDWARD MAKMOT (NRM, Agago County, Agago): Mr Speaker, allow me to congratulate you once again for this

monumental achievement as the Speaker of the 12th Parliament.

Mr Speaker, allow me also to join the rest of my colleagues who have supported the motion presented by the Rt Hon. Prime Minister, thanking the President for the precise and inspirational State-of-the-Nation Address.

The President spoke about several things, and key to me is the issue of infrastructural development. On this note, I cannot leave out the issue of Moroto Road that we have spoken about over and over again.

I want to thank the Government for the road being at the design stage; NDP IV has it in place. However, I implore the Government to now actually go and probably get a loan to have this road built.

This is a security road that has been there since 1962, during the colonial era. This road cuts across more than ten districts: five in the Acholi Subregion and others in the Karamoja Subregion. It is a security road. It is a mineral road, and it is a tourism road that takes us to Kidepo National Park. However, for years, it has been ignored.

Mr Speaker, yes, we have made some progress, but we need to tarmac this road. At this time, when we, the Acholi Subregion, are experiencing poverty and famine, I think this could actually bring in some revenue by opening markets and other opportunities. As I said, it is a security road.

The other issue is cattle theft. We are restocking; we are talking about the Acholi war debt claim, but we fear that without this security road, we are going to have a problem with protecting the little that is being done as an affirmative action.

Mr Speaker, these are the things that I wanted to pick out. I want to, once again, thank the President for that precise and inspirational address to the nation. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Jesca Ababiku, the Commissioner, Parliament

of Uganda and the Woman Member of Parliament, Adjumani District.

4.51

MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I second the motion. One of the issues I picked interest in was his elaborate presentation on our performance in health, especially the reduction of the infant mortality rate, which has reduced from 128 deaths per year per 1,000 live births, and the life expectancy, which has increased from 43 years to 68 years.

Mr Speaker, if we check our age, His Excellency the President has done a lot for us to remain alive. He started the struggle a long time ago when he was still in the bush.

In 1984, he, along with others, orchestrated and developed the Ten-Point Programme. No.6 was about health. In 1999, the reviewed 10-Point Programme, which had grown to 15, now also included health as No.6.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, the struggle of this historical man to think about how long Ugandans can live deserves to be celebrated and emulated.

Secondly, under his leadership, he established laws, policies and programmes. Allow me to reflect on the decentralisation which came into effect in 1993 that increased access to healthcare. Many health institutions were established. However, right from the national level to the lower local government levels, we still have gaps.

I implore the Government to ensure that Madi sub-region gets a regional referral hospital. It is one of the regions that came into existence from the time of independence.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Samuel Opio Acuti, Kole North. I do not know what your name means, Acuti.

4.55

MR SAMUEL OPIO ACUTI (NRM, Kole North County, Kole): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to support the motion on the President's State-of-the-Nation Address. The State-of-the-Nation Address was not just a state of the nation, but a state of socio-economic transformation of our country.

It was also not just a speech by the President, but a lecture with evidence-based presentations on the enablers that can help drive our economy tenfold, right from Kole to Kampala. One of the enablers the President talked about was science, technology, and innovation.

The recent dry spell is a clear indication that we need to invest in innovations. We need seeds that will not only grow during the rain but also thrive during the dry season. Seeds that will be early maturing and can mature in 30 days instead of the traditional 90 days. These should be seeds that are high-yielding, producing three to five times the expected yield. We need to therefore put investments in innovation as a country.

Mr Speaker, innovation is a key driver for economies. When we do not innovate, we will have to import technologies that will disrupt our economies. When you look around now, we used to grow Christmas trees, but now we are using artificial Christmas trees. We used to plant natural flowers for our weddings; now we have artificial flowers. We used to even have papyrus mats made by our grandmothers; now we have plastic mats because innovations in material sciences have disrupted our economies and our local technologies.

We need to defend our local technologies and have local policies to strengthen them. As I speak right now, we are also under another threat of disruption. We are now coming into what we no longer call farm-based agriculture but lab-based agriculture, where you do not need a cow to produce milk. You do not need a bull to produce beef. You do not need a chicken to produce eggs.

All you need is just a few animal cells and plant cells, grown in a lab, matured in a lab, and you have millions of litres of milk and also tonnes of beef. That is a threat to our economy and it is disruptive technology. They are calling it climate-smart agriculture because you need less than 95 per cent of the land, less than 90 per cent of the water. Unfortunately, these are already in commercial stages; even in the supermarkets abroad, we already have such lab-grown foods.

I would like to appeal, therefore, that we strengthen science, technology, innovation in agriculture, support our traditional agricultural systems so that we can meet the global demand, so that we move away from some of these disruptive technologies that can disrupt our economies and affect – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Dr Patrick Isingoma, Independent, MP Hoima City East. The count is on; three minutes.

4.58

DR PATRICK MWESIGWA (Independent, Hoima East Division, Hoima City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Let me also join the rest of my colleagues to congratulate you upon your election to the office of Speaker.

I am rising on the matter of the presidential address. I noted that the President did not talk much about the AFCON projects. We have several AFCON projects going on in Hoima and especially in my constituency. Most of these involve the construction of roads, and some work is currently ongoing on the Hoima National Stadium.

Mr Speaker, both the leadership and the communities are largely uninformed about these projects. There are two key ministries which are involved: the Ministry of Works and Transport and the Ministry of Education and Sports. The ministers here have largely remained very silent regarding the progress of the projects, leading to a lot of ignorance by both the leadership and the population.

This is very counterproductive because we are the people on the ground and therefore should be aware of what is going on so that we get involved and are on board with these projects. I have discussed this with Hon. Peter Ogwang at some stage, but this is a man with whom you agree on one thing, and he does another. *(Laughter)* You see, that is the problem with this minister. Unfortunately, he came back in that docket.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. David Bahati, take note. *(Laughter)*

DR ISINGOMA: Minister Ogwang, you talk one thing -

MR OGWANG: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: It is a maiden speech; you will have a right to reply later on.

DR ISINGOMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for protecting me.

THE SPEAKER: Now that you thought he had gone -

DR ISINGOMA: No, he is there; I know him. I know Hon. Peter Ogwang, and most of the time we agree, but there are times when we disagree, and we move on very well. There is one time when I blamed him for bringing a lot of people from his constituency to work in the stadium, and they did not pay - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Peter Ogwang, the minister, I have known you for nearly 17 years, and I did not know that you were like that. *(Laughter)*

5.02

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)

(Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank my colleague for raising those very pertinent questions, but officially, I had been informed that tomorrow on the Order Paper, I will be able to give a statement to Parliament regarding AFCON 2027. I thought I

could reserve the right to really give an update to the country.

Also, with due respect to my colleague, it is always good to appreciate us when we serve the country on your behalf. I am extremely embarrassed. First, I respect the age of my colleague, to begin with. The reason I respect the age, as Mr Speaker has clearly said, is that I have been here for almost 16 years, working for Uganda.

To get back to the Hoima City project, where he said I brought people from my constituency, Mr Speaker, I was not the contractor. Let me go on record. The contractor for the city stadium was a Turkish firm, and I know you, and I know the genesis of how we got that contractor. Therefore, the right to assign work to people is a prerogative of the contractor, not Peter Ogwang.

I would also like to confirm: this is Uganda. I do not know whether there is any law which bars anyone from working in any part of Uganda. I think it is important, as Members of Parliament, with due respect, colleague, that we do take an oath and as such, let us be sincere. Even then, Mr Speaker, there is a Committee on Education and Sports and I am ready to go and submit if it is true.

I would also like to confirm that in the previous Parliament, the Shadow Minister and Members of Parliament visited the stadium, checked on the works, and for purposes of what is happening in Hoima and the rest of the country, I feel we are on the right course.

As far as sitting with him and agreeing on any matter, I do not remember any meeting, with due respect, that I have only met with you, honourable colleague, other than when we were commissioning the stadium. And even that - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Okay. Point noted.

MR PETER OGWANG: Mr Speaker, as I sum up -

THE SPEAKER: Point noted.

MR PETER OGWANG: I have taken the following observation – particularly from certain Members of Parliament. Every time we go to commission projects in that area for AFCON, they are absent, and I want to find out –

DR ISINGOMA: Do you inform them?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, are you not a doctor? What is the prognosis? Are you a medical doctor or a doctor of philosophy – *(Interjection)* – What is the philosophical analysis of you accessing the microphone before the Speaker allows you? We said if you access a microphone before you are allowed, that means you are uncouth, you are quarrelling, and it is not allowed in Parliament. To be uncouth or even to be referred to – Hon. Peter?

MR PETER OGWANG: Let me sum up, Mr Speaker, because –

THE SPEAKER: Just tell the House whether you are a man who does not keep his word because it is threatening my personal relationship with you. *(Laughter)*

MR PETER OGWANG: Mr Speaker, I yearn to be what I am, and I am actually one person who does not believe a life of being what I am not before this august House. I try to live a life of my history, and my history speaks for itself.

For that matter, I respectfully want to say, for the record, that I have never, in private, in public, or in any official capacity, had a meeting with a member of Hoima Western Division. Never. I want to say this because I am in the National Assembly of Uganda.

Secondly, it is important that he respects me as a Member of Parliament and a colleague. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: And you also respect him as a –

MR PETER OGWANG: As a Member, a colleague, and the area where I have projects in line with my duty. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Okay. Members, let us avoid personal attacks. I thought that you people went through orientation and induction. Let me have Hon. Angwech Colline? How can you have – Is it Collins or something?

5.07

MS COLLINE ANGWECH (UPC, Kioga County, Amolatar): Mr Speaker, it is Angwech Colline.

THE SPEAKER: Colline. Okay.

MR ANGWECH: Thank you so much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I listened very carefully as the President gave the State of the Nation Address, and when he spoke specifically about improving Uganda's economy through commercial agriculture and industrialisation, I picked interest in industrialisation.

I think if we must move the economy successfully, we have to look at these sectors based on the economic activity of an area, natural resources, and the comparative advantage of that area.

I want to speak to the fisheries sector, specifically on Lake Kyoga in Amolatar District. I hail from Amolatar District, and I must tell you, Amolatar needs a fisheries industrial park. If Amolatar people must progress and benefit from moving into the money economy, most of us who were born and lived in a landing site know that our lives revolve around fishing. We fish to send our children to school, to access medical care, and it is the biggest source of income for our young people.

Recently, the Government has been enforcing regulations on the lake, and some of these have left our people without their livelihoods. The Government of Uganda asked our people to acquire the right fishing equipment. We sold land, and our people sold their cattle to buy this fishing equipment. After buying the equipment,

the new enforcement has reduced the number of fishing boats per gazetted landing site to only 30 from hundreds of licensed fishing boats. We need these numbers increased. Most of our people have been left without jobs, but also to complement the Government's efforts in preserving the lake, we need an alternative activity that would employ our people –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Nakawede – *(Interjection)*– Nakweede. Okay. You will forgive my pronunciation. Hon. Nakweede Harriet, Woman MP of Kayunga, my neighbour in Mukono. The Floor is yours for three minutes.

5.11

MS HARRIET NAKWEEDE (NUP, Woman Representative, Kayunga): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, allow me to also take this opportunity to congratulate you upon assuming that office. I also want to join my colleagues in thanking the President for his address on the 4th of June. I want to draw your attention specifically to the first paragraph of the address, where the President thanked Ugandans and congratulated them for participating in the series of elections since the 15th of January 2026. He also thanked them for massively supporting NRM.

As you are aware, the 2026 elections were characterised by massive human rights violations as a result of the brutality from police, the army, and the unknown goons. As a result, many people died; for example, in my district, we lost about three people, and many people were injured, and they ended up admitted to hospitals. This did not only happen in Kayunga, but a case to note is Butambala District and so many other districts where people died.

The public expected the President to condemn this act. The mothers who lost their children, the wives who lost their husbands, the surviving victims, expected the President to condemn these acts and also, where possible, give an apology.

Mr Speaker, I want to give an example of my district. In my district, especially on tallying day, we had fabricated results, and as a result, we had very many cases right from the MP to the LCIII elections, where the people who did not win were declared winners. If you go to different Local Council III, LCV, and probably even here in Parliament, we have people who were declared winners when, in actual sense, they used fabricated results.

Mr Speaker, it is our noble duty as Members of this Parliament –

THE SPEAKER: The fabrication I have only heard about was in Kayunga. Are you one of those with fabricated results? *(Laughter)*

MS NAKWEEDE: I am saying we had very many cases where results were fabricated, and members were declared, and you might realise that we could even be having some of them in this House – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: I was just warning you that when you are near –

MS NAKWEEDE: Mr Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: I thought your minute is done.

5.14

MR IVAN KYEYUNE (NUP, Nakasongola County, Nakasongola): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I listened to the President's address. Actually, when he acknowledged the contribution coming from dairy and meat products.

The President says that the cattle corridor is contributing economically to the coffers of the Government. However, I would like to draw his attention to the fact that areas in the cattle corridor, especially in Nakasongola, would have contributed much better if his pledges were fulfilled.

The President has severally pledged to the people of Nakasongola, but we have not seen anything. If he fulfilled his pledge on

roadworks on the Nakasongola through Kalungi, Bamugolodde to Kikyusa Road, our farmers would transport their products easily to the markets.

The President has made a pledge on electricity for over 20 years. There are many subcounties in Nakasongola District where electricity has not fully circulated, yet the President claims that Agro-based value addition would make our farmers earn more from their products.

Whenever I watch his speech, he promises to help our farmers on irrigation. Right now, our farmers have terribly lost their crops due to the drought season, which has affected us very much. It is quite disappointing. We have Lake Kyoga that we could tap into for irrigation and give enough water to our cattle keepers. We have River Kafu and River Lugogo, but the Government has still not taken advantage of them. We would not be suffering with severe drought if the Government had helped our farmers with irrigation.

Finally, I have severally heard the President sharing testimonies of people who have benefited from the Parish Development Model (PDM), through the media. The Nation Media Group has always aired social news about poverty, epidemics and gender-based violence. NTV has contributed – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Peggy Joy Wako? Let us hear from a female elder. What a good mix. Please, assist the elder to access the microphone.

5.17

MS PEGGY WAAKO (NRM, Older Persons Representative, Female): Mr Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to make my maiden speech in this august House. I join my fellow Members to congratulate you for getting that chair.

I congratulate His Excellency, the President of Uganda upon delivering the State-of-the-Nation Address. I particularly appreciate the progress made in expanding Uganda's

road infrastructure, connecting regions and improving transport across the country. This is important to me, who traverses the whole country to meet older persons.

For many years, older persons, especially in rural Uganda, struggled to reach health centres because roads were impassable. Elderly patients suffering from chronic illnesses missed treatment because transport was difficult or unavailable. Many were carried on bicycles or stretchers over long distances.

Since the Government has invested in better roads linking communities and health facilities, many older persons can access hospitals and health centres more quickly and safely today. Ambulances can reach villages faster. Medicines can be delivered more easily to remote communities. These improvements save lives and reduce suffering.

Mr Speaker, I also wish to commend the Government for the improved availability of medicine in our health centres, as highlighted in the State-of-the-Nation Address. This has greatly improved the health of older persons.

Due to improved transport, children and relatives can visit their elderly parents more easily. Older persons can participate in places of worship, markets, community meetings and social gatherings, reducing loneliness and social isolation.

The improved transport network has also enabled older – *(Member timed out.)*

5.20

MS AGNES KHAINZA (NRM, Woman Representative, Bududa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I take the opportunity, this being my maiden speech, to congratulate you on assuming that “exorbitant” post. *(Laughter)*

I stand to appreciate and second the visionary speech of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, in the State-of-the-Nation Address. In his speech, he emphasised a lot. Out of the issues that were outlined, I have picked interest in one; that is commercial Agriculture.

Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues, have a second thought on Bududa District. It is vulnerable. Of all issues that have always been stated here, landslides are the original and mother issue. Remember the calamity of 2010 and how massive lives were lost in Bududa District. While I appreciate the speech and all the promises by His Excellency, this one remains a hiccup in my mind.

Remember that there are tarmac roads in all districts that you have always travelled to. The Bubulo-Bududa Circular Road appears in most of the budgets. When you read through the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Manifesto, it is well stated.

When His Excellency came to Bududa for campaigns, of all the requests that had been made, he promised us the road. However, it remains a challenge because the road does not appear anywhere. It is not talked about. All Members of Parliament (MPs) who come from there, not only me, stand to lose their posts because of this road. We do not have any tarmac road; it is the only road.

By the way, talking about commercial Agriculture, when you talk about an acre in Bududa, somebody will open eyes widely. What is an acre? This is because of land fragmentation, hence shortage of land. We do not practise that; it is instead intensive Agriculture where – *(Member timed out.)*

5.24

MR PROTAZIO BEGUMISA (NRM, Ndorwa County East, Kabale): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is my maiden speech. Allow me to congratulate you on attaining this high office. I also thank the President for the State-of-the-Nation Address. I picked several issues. One is on an attempt to eliminate poverty – the first Strategic Development Goal (SDG 1), the issue of getting everybody into the money economy and infrastructure.

In Ndorwa East County, we need affirmative action. For 20 years, we have missed all the good things offered by the NRM Government. For example, the people of Maziba Subcounty

were affected by the 1994 Rwandan war. We lost 36 people. Over 800 people lost their assets. They have never been compensated for over 30 years. I am sure that if they get this compensation, it will reduce poverty in their homestead.

Mr Speaker, we have a problem in parts of Buhara Subcounty. The network in areas of Rwantambara and Ntarabana are affected by Rwanda's strong telecom network. My people need a boost of their telecom network so that they can also communicate.

We have two dams in my constituency. They are all located in Maziba: the old Maziba Dam and Muvumbe Dam. However, the people of Kahondo, Kavu and Kigalama all live in darkness, yet we have two dams.

Can the old dam of Maziba be revamped? Can we be helped so that Muvumbe Dam gives power to the people who live nearby? People wonder how they produce power, yet they do not have it.

Mr Speaker, I have another problem in Kyanamira, in a place called Kabaraga. There is a risk of another "Kitezi" in my constituency. The landfill has reached its maximum carrying capacity. Anytime we get rains, everything could go down, and it could carry – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Emmanuel Biara Wepukhulu, Bulambuli County.

5.27

MR EMMANUEL WEPUKHULU (NRM, Bulambuli County, Bulambuli): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I see Members asking where the stick is. *(Laughter)* The Sergeant-at-Arms is doing me a bad job by holding the stick of the Bamasaba at her office.

However, I want to also inform the honourable Members of Parliament, especially the male ones, that we all have sticks. It is only mine that is visible; yours is not visible. *(Laughter)*

In my three minutes, I want to take this opportunity -

THE SPEAKER: Order. (*Hon. Ivan Kyeyune rose*) It is his maiden speech. There is no order; there is nothing.

MR WEPUKHULU: Please, let me maximise my three minutes.

THE SPEAKER: Do not use bad examples. (*Laughter*)

MR WEPUKHULU: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency the President upon giving a befitting State of the Nation Address. What he delivered on the 4th of June clearly makes me baptise him with a new name of a political *entandrophragma utile*, meaning the tallest species of a tree in the political arena.

First of all, I commend the Government for the deliberate steps it has taken in addressing the effects of climate change. The President rightly highlighted investment in environmental restoration, wetland protection, afforestation, disaster preparedness and climate-resilient infrastructure.

These interventions are consistent with Article 245 of the Constitution, which mandates the protection and preservation of the environment for present and future generations.

Mr Speaker, while these national efforts are commendable, I rise to seek clarification – (*Member timed out.*)

THE SPEAKER: No, your time is done. Hon. Derrick Orone, Member of Parliament for Gogonyo County, Pallisa.

5.30

MR DERRICK ORONE (NRM, Gogonyo County, Pallisa): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Allow me add my voice to congratulate you upon that seat.

Mr Speaker, thank you for granting me this opportunity to contribute to the debate on

the State of the Nation Address. Allow me to congratulate His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda for presenting a comprehensive roadmap of where our country stands and where it is headed. The address reminds us that leadership is not merely about identifying challenges, but providing direction and solutions.

Uganda today is fundamentally different from the Uganda of 1986. The economy has grown significantly, household poverty has reduced, life expectancy has improved, electricity generation has expanded, and Uganda has attained lower-middle-income status. These achievements deserve recognition because they reflect decades of deliberate policy and sustained investment.

The President's call for no more sleep should not be understood as a political slogan. It is a call to every leader to embrace accountability, reject corruption and ensure that the Government programmes reach the intended beneficiaries.

Whether it is the Parish Development Model, *Emyooga* or Operation Wealth Creation, infrastructure or agricultural modernisation, our duty is to ensure implementation, not merely appropriation.

As leaders, we must now shift our focus from debating intentions to measuring impact. Our people are asking for jobs, better health services, quality education, value addition and markets for their produce.

The legislative programme before us allows Parliament to strengthen these aspirations through timely consideration of the proposed Bills.

Mr Speaker, as I conclude, I pledge both as a Member of Parliament representing Gogonyo County and as the newly elected Publicity Secretary of the National Resistance Movement to continue communicating truthfully about the Government programmes while also listening to the genuine concerns of our people. Progress is meaningful only when every Ugandan feels its impact. Thank you so much. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: Dr Sylvia Alinaitwe, Woman Representative, Rukiga, followed by Hon. Muntu, who is not a General.

5.33

DR SYLVIA ALINAITWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Rukiga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to add my voice to those who have already spoken to appreciate our dear President for a very rich State of the Nation Address that we are discussing right now.

When you look at it, it gives detailed accountability on where we have come as a country, where we are right now, and where we are going.

The focus areas that he elaborated very well in the address touch all of us. We all believe that this is the way to go. I will limit my submission to commercial agriculture. It is what is very dear to us, the people of Rukiga. People of Rukiga, as you know, come from a very populated area and therefore face a problem of land scarcity.

In the State-of-the-Nation address, the President elaborated on commercial agriculture, especially coffee production. We embraced coffee production because it grows well with other crops.

There was a programme that was recently launched in Rukiga by State House local content about the national coffee programme, which came to us because we had already made some steps towards coffee production and was presided over by Vice President and a special guest, the Minister of State for Investment, Ms Amina.

During that launch, we pleaded with the team about the need for coffee seedlings and a hauling machine for one of the subcounties which grows a lot of coffee, and they promised to come to our rescue. Rains are coming; farmers have already dug their holes, and we are looking forward to receiving the seedlings. We know there could be some pressure - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Nakiyi Julius.

5.36

MR JULIUS NAKIYI (NRM, Budadiri County East, Sironko): I rise to support the motion. However, let me make the following submissions. One of the key pillars of the 10-fold growth strategy that has been advanced by the Government is digital transformation and financial inclusion.

However, this pillar is being defeated by high mobile money charges. I will be moving a formal motion later to urge the Government to see how we can review the mobile money charges which are prohibitive to the greatest population.

Why do you do I want the Government to review this? It is because our people have resorted to cash transactions because they fear mobile money charges, and the danger with that is that the Government is now spending a lot of money printing new notes to replace old notes because people are using cash so much.

I read the Central Bank report of 2025, which showed that the Government spent Shs 194 billion to print new notes. At the same time, what we earned from mobile money was Shs 173 billion, so we already made a loss, meaning if we had promoted e-payments, we would probably not be spending much on printing money.

Secondly, our President is talking about regional integration. However, we must align our tax policies with our neighbours. Uganda is taxing mobile money on three fronts. One, capital: whenever you withdraw, they take 0.5 per cent.

Two, they are taxing Withholding Tax, 15 per cent on commissions earned by telecom companies. Three, they are taxing 10 per cent on commissions earned by mobile money agents.

Our neighbours are only taxing two bases. They are taxing income earned by the telecom companies and the agents. My argument is that

we should do away with the third base, which is the 0.5 per cent, or we reduce it to half.

What is the implication of reducing by half? A study has been conducted by some Non-Government Organisation (NGO) and MTN, that once we reduce our mobile money charges, we are going to draw a big population into the formal sector and that will widen the tax base.

And when we widen the tax base, it means we shall earn more taxes. The study specifically says that we shall be earning Shs 80 billion more above the current earnings if we are to reduce our mobile money rate from 0.5 to 0.025 per cent.

Secondly, because of these cash businesses, our people are taking a lot of risk. In Mbale, people travel with big money to Kampala because they do not want to use e-payments.

These mobile money charges are affecting the local people more than the middle class because for us as middle-class people, we have alternative payment methods for - *(Member timed out-)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Vincent Freedom Kaheeru, then I have a list here. I called Hon. Andrew Kaluya; he had gone to answer a call or whatever. Then I will come back. Yes, Hon. Freedom Vincent-

5.39

MR VINCENT KAHEERU (NRM, Kyaka North County, Kyegegwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to add my voice to the ones of my colleagues to congratulate you upon your elevation to the high office of Speaker of this great Parliament.

I take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, Her Excellency the Vice President, Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, our ministers and all dear colleagues. Am I protected?

THE SPEAKER: You are protected with a lot of smiles.

MR KAHEERU: Thank you. I would like to add my voice to that of the colleagues to appreciate the great State-of-the-Nation Address that His Excellency gave us on the 4th of June, which to me, was a great road map for all of us to guide us in our work in the respective constituencies.

My constituency is Kyaka North in Kyegegwa District, and I am grateful to the people of Kyaka North for having seen me worthy to be their leader for this season.

What did I pick out from the State-of-the-Nation Address? Our president did emphasise the value of ensuring peace, stability, law and order, and the supportive infrastructure.

I would like all of us to take peace and stability as a key ingredient in our socio-economic transformation agenda. What worked for me was the four-acre model, and at our level, I would like to talk about the flexible four-acre model where we are at liberty to do more than four acres.

As leaders, we need to be exemplary to our constituents by practicing what we preach, and as a leader, I am already becoming a role model to my people through - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: You are done. You spent about two minutes saluting. Hon. Kaluya, then Hon. Sarah Aguti -

5.43

MR ANDREW KALUYA (NUP, Kigulu County South, Iganga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will come this way. I am the Shadow Minister for Education and Sports. Whereas I have the duty to respond to the State-of-the-Nation address, in relation to my constituency, I would rather have the response in relation to my docket, which is the Ministry of Education and Sports.

The President did mention science, technology, innovation, and skills development as very critical drivers of Uganda's socioeconomic transformation.

However, the State-of-the-Nation address gave limited attention to the practical measures required to build a strong science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) ecosystem capable of producing the skilled workforce needed to achieve Uganda's Vision 2040.

While the Government continues to promote STEM education, implementation remains constrained by significant structural and financial challenges across both secondary and tertiary institutions.

At the secondary school level, many schools continue to face inadequate science laboratories, poorly equipped workshops, insufficient ICT infrastructure, unreliable internet connectivity, shortage of modern teaching and learning materials as well as crowded classrooms.

These challenges are compounded by an inadequate number of qualified STEM teachers, limited opportunities for continuous professional development, and insufficient funding to effectively implement the competence-based curriculum. Consequently, many learners' complete secondary education without acquiring the practical, scientific and technological competencies required for higher education or the labour market.

At the tertiary level, Mr Speaker, universities and other higher institutions of learning continue to grapple with inadequate funding for research, innovation and the commercialisation of scientific discoveries. Many institutions rely heavily on donor-funded research projects, while locally generated innovations struggle to progress beyond the prototype stage due to limited access to research grants, incubation centres, venture capital and strong industry partnerships.

This weakens Uganda's capacity to transform research into commercially viable products, industries and jobs. Furthermore, there remains a mismatch between STEM training and labour market demands – (*Member timed out.*)

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Sarah Aguti, followed by Hon. Eugenia Nassolo and Hon. Kitanywa.

5.46

MS SARAH AGUTI (UPC, Woman Representative, Dokolo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I add my voice on what the President said about health issues in Uganda.

As I talk, we have a rising population in Uganda that is not matching the number and capacity of the hospitals and health centres that we have. Based on what the President presented during the State-of-the-Nation Address, I urge the President that during the next State-of-the-Nation Address, he should tell the nation how many hospitals he plans to add so as to cater for the increasing population.

Secondly, I would like to bring it to the attention of the Minister of Health that we have only one referral hospital in Lango subregion, which cannot accommodate all the referrals sent from the whole of Lango subregion.

Therefore, I request the Minister of Health to visit Lira Regional Referral Hospital and see how it is operating. Many people sleep on the floor because there are few beds and the bulk of the beds are given to those who have been operated upon.

Mr Speaker, it is my prayer that this is taken seriously because people go for treatment and end up sleeping on the floor.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Eugenia Nassolo?

5.48

MS EUGENIA NASSOLO (NUP, Rubaga Division South, Kampala): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to bring to the attention of this august House the need to improve the health sector of Rubaga South and the entire division, which requires our urgent intervention.

According to the 2024 national population and housing census, Rubaga is the only division in Kampala without a public referral hospital, yet it is home to 410,400 residents, making it a highly dense urban population.

Rubaga health facilities also provide services to many people from the neighbouring districts such as Wakiso, Mukono and all over the country. This has caused the overcrowding of the health facilities in the division.

Mr Speaker, Rubaga has a large low-income earning population facing multiple healthcare difficulties, with a complete lack of free specialised public health services provided in public referral hospitals. This forces the economically vulnerable families to pay high transport costs to get medical services from across the division's borders.

Mr Speaker, the Rubaga public referral hospital, if established, will also offer a solution to the problem of overcrowding in the surrounding public referral hospitals such as Mulago, Kawempe and Kiruddu.

I also stand before this august House to sound a loud alarm about the crisis of massive youth unemployment, which has become the single greatest threat to the socio-economic stability and security in Rubaga. According to the 2024 national population and housing census, in Rubaga Division, over 41,400 young Ugandans, aged between 18 and 30, are classified as not employed – (*Member timed out.*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kitanywa?

5.51

MR SOWEDI KITANYWA (NRM, Busongora County North, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to join the rest of my colleagues in thanking the President for his clear, concise, focused and inspiring national address on the 4th of June this year. In his address, the President aligned his message with National Development Plan IV, Vision 2040 and, of course, the NRM manifesto.

In listening to the President, one easily realises the direction this country is taking in ensuring socio-economic transformation. The President highlighted the issue of mindset change and gave the example of himself when he said they did not have anything, but “the word”. He said they moved from village to village, “preaching

the word” and that those who recently entered into the money economy.

Mr Speaker, this gives hope to Ugandans that even if we still have a percentage of our people who have not yet entered into the money economy, if they listen to the “preaching” of the President and that of their leaders, they will equally enter into the money economy.

In his usual way, the President used local words to try and explain what he meant. He told us “no more sleep,” and that if people are working, there are those who should not continue staggering while the others are moving. This gives us hope that once we work together with our local communities, we will be able to move.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, the President said that he was not going to sympathise with, and there would be no more politeness to those leaders who are not capable of moving the – (*Member timed out.*)

THE SPEAKER: Let us hear from Hon. Hassan Kirumira and then Hon. Geoffrey Ocen. You know the Member who has just sat down from Busongora County North wrote his name on the list of people on the left, and he is seated on the left. Hon. Hassan Kirumira, and then Hon. Ocen?

5.55

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luweero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. While I acknowledge that it is the duty of the Head of State to bring the country up to speed through the State of the Nation Address, I am a little reserved about speaking and appreciating him for going to Kololo and presenting the State of the Nation Address. It is his duty, and as a Member of Parliament, personally, I feel reserved to stand here and appreciate the President of the country for doing his duty and not sleeping on the job.

Mr Speaker, on page seven, he was very categorical that in the 1980s he rallied Ugandans and they responded positively. Our people of Luweero came on board during the bush war,

fought and took over the Government. The people of Luweero and specifically Katikamu County South that I represent, leave a lot for the Government to ponder.

While we are talking about industrialisation across the country, development, and the money economy, the people of Luweero where President Museveni and his colleagues fought, are in dire poverty. Our roads and hospitals are in a very poor state, and even some of the soldiers, the *mwananchi* that fought during the bush war, do not even have houses where to sleep.

Mr Speaker, I call upon the Government to come to Luweero, through where they went on their way to Government, and check on their colleagues they left behind. Some of them are part of our families. We can actually take you back to their homes because those people are still there waiting for the Government to come and rescue them out of their poverty.

Mr Speaker, for the President to go to Kololo and shade a very beautiful picture about a country, especially after forgetting the people he fought with coming to Government, I believe that is very unfair. On behalf of the people of Luweero, we want to say no to this kind of address.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ocen?

5.58

MR GEOFFREY OCEN (UPC, Kioga North County, Amolatar): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity, first of all, to congratulate you upon attaining that high office.

Secondly, in relation to the President's address, I want first of all to commend the President for his insight on issues of income generation and fighting poverty. His Excellency, the President, is on record as a President who has put in place many wealth creation initiatives to fight poverty and increase household income. You can name them: Parish Development Model (PDM), Youth Livelihood Programme, Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Project (UWEP), and *Bona Bagaggawale*. Still, we hope that

Ugandans will heed his message of hope and change.

However, despite the good insight, the President missed some key areas. First, when His Excellency the President went to Amolatar District, he acknowledged a debt of Namasale to Dokolo Road. This is a key link road; when Karuma Bridge was closed, most people passed through Namasale to Dokolo to access greater Lango. Right now, the road is in a dilapidated state. It was surveyed and put under pre-financing, but to-date, nothing has been done. We thought the President would say something about that debt.

Secondly, Amolatar District is the furthest district in Lango Subregion. From Namasale to Lira Regional Referral Hospital, the distance is 160 kilometres, and so to refer a patient from Namasale to Lira Referral Hospital is more or less a death sentence. We thought His Excellency the President would say something about upgrading Amolatar Health Centre IV to a general hospital.

Mr Speaker, the two hospitals in Lango Subregion are the product of the Uganda People's Congress (UPC) Administration. We want the NRM legacy hospital to be the upgraded Amolatar Health Centre IV. We beseech this august Assembly to support the people of Amolatar, being in the middle and a peninsular district *-(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. That is a good submission there. Hon. Vincent Opito?

6.01

MR VINCENT OPITO (UPC, Dokolo South County, Dokolo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I want to move straight to what the President of the Republic of Uganda mentioned on the 4th of June. There are two issues. One is just a point of emphasis that it is a concern of the subregion that Amolatar-Dokolo Road be tarmacked.

I stand here to appreciate the Government of Uganda that the historical site where Mwanga and Kabalega, the two powerful traditional

kings, were captured is in my constituency. That is in Kangai Subcounty. The site is under construction. I must appreciate the Government for doing that. However, a historical site without infrastructural development is not going to work out.

When this road is tarmacked, it is going to connect us to other parts of the world. I would also pray, if possible, we connect this road to Alebtong, and from Alebtong, we connect to Otuke. Our people of Otuke can use this road to access medical services from Abim. Those who are far from the Otuke centre go up to Abim General Hospital and Morulem Health Centre III to access medical services. It is a shortcut for us. I personally use that road when I am connecting from Dokolo to Kampala via Nakasongola.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, the Head of State mentioned an issue about development of health services. Dokolo Health Centre IV is a referral hospital to us, simply because all the health centre IIIs in the different subcounties refer to this health centre IV. However, the number of patients that are being attended to on daily basis is very high. Bearing in mind that Dokolo Town Council does not have a health centre III, all the residents within the town council move to the health centre IV as their initial facility seeking medical attention.

Kongai Subcounty is a new subcounty, and it does not have a Health Centre III, and yet it is a Government policy that all the sub-counties at least would have a Health Centre III. It is my prayer that if this is done, then we shall move forward.

Lastly but not least, Mr Speaker, Dokolo Health Centre IV does not have a maternity ward, and this is an alarming situation. They do not have a female ward, yet it is a referral hospital to us. I would pray, if possible, that the concerned ministry, the Ministry of Health, makes an intervention so that we leap forward.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Enid Origumisiriza, Woman Member of Parliament, Kabale District.

6.04

MS ENID ORIGUMISIRIZA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kabale): Thank you. I rise to thank and commend His Excellency, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for his inspiring State-of-the-Nation Address delivered on 4 June 2026.

On behalf of the people of Kabale District, I appreciate his leadership that has ensured peace, stability, social and economic progress in Uganda. We are grateful for the remarkable transformation registered.

Mr Speaker, I respectfully appeal to the Government to explain and provide a comprehensive plan for sustainable alternative livelihoods for the people of Kigezi Subregion whose incomes have been affected by the wetland restoration programme. While environmental conservation is necessary, interventions such as climate-smart agriculture and income-generating projects should be introduced to prevent increased household poverty and ensure inclusive development.

Mr Speaker, while I commend the success of the Parish Development Model, which is already improving production and livelihoods in Kigezi Subregion, I am equally concerned that many of our youths remain unemployed, idle and outside the money economy, exposing them to insecurity and moral decay.

Kigezi Subregion is richly endowed with tourism resources and significantly contributes to Uganda's tourism earnings. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to consider establishing a tourism and hospitality training institute in Kabale District, which is centrally located to equip the youth with skills needed to participate meaningfully in the region's growing tourism industry.

I thank you, and I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Wakooli? We are now coming towards the end, but it is not yet the end.

6.07

MR GODFREY WAKOOLI (NRM, Butiru County, Manafwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to support the motion paying tribute to His Excellency, the President, for his clear and comprehensive exposition of the State-of-the-Nation Address delivered to this House.

Mr Speaker, I think the State-of-the-Nation Address highlighted the progress this country has made in peace, security, infrastructure, economic transformation and service delivery under the leadership of the NRM Government. These achievements provide a strong foundation for Uganda's continued development.

Mr Speaker, as a representative of the people of Butiru County in Manafwa District, I want to sincerely appreciate the Government for its commitment to improving the livelihoods of our people. However, I plead with the Government to increase investment in the districts of Bugisu Subregion, especially in the sectors of roads, health and education. This is because where we come from – Mr Speaker, being our neighbour, you are aware that Bugisu Subregion is a mountainous area.

Whereas we appreciate the Shs 1 billion given to our region, Mr Speaker, with the nature of our area, this money is not sufficient. As Members of Parliament from Bugisu Subregion, we request that the Government gives us an affirmative programme so that we can work on the roads that connect our farmers to markets in order to benefit from the Government's agenda of transforming the economy.

Mr Speaker, I heard my colleague from Bududa District talking about the landslides. I want to ask the Government to prioritise measures aimed at addressing the recurring effects of landslides across the subregion. As Members of Parliament from Bugisu, we recommend that the Government should take on the urbanisation programme so our people who are taken to far places can be resettled within, and they can go back in the morning to work in their gardens up on the mountains. Perhaps, the Government can dictate and say, "you only go and grow coffee and trees" so

that our people who are facing hostilities in the alien districts where they are sent can be saved from this situation.

Mr Speaker, with these interventions, Bugisu will contribute fully to the socioeconomic development of this country. I beg to support. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Willy Ouma. Those are Independent Members, so listen to the independent voices.

6.10

MR WILLY OUMA (Independent, Namayingo South County, Namayingo):

Mr Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in expressing my sincere gratitude to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, for his clear, precise and visionary exposition of the Government policy contained in the State-of-the-Nation Address delivered to this august House on 4 June 2026.

The President addressed rightly and highlighted our national progress and underscored the Government's commitment to socio-economic transformation, wealth creation and infrastructure development.

However, Mr Speaker, as I commend the macro vision of the NRM Government, I am compelled by the constitutional duty to bring to the attention of this House and the line ministries the severe life-threatening gaps that my people in Namayingo South County and Namayingo District at large are currently facing.

Mr Speaker, the grand vision of the national transformation must be reflected in the lived realities of our rural communities. The critical gap in Namayingo South County is the safe water crisis.

Mr Speaker, while we talk of modernisation and socioeconomic reality, on the ground, in Namayingo South County, it is heartbreaking. A vast number of our people are still fetching and drinking contaminated running rainwater from open ponds. They share these stagnant

water sources with livestock during the rainy season. Now, during the dry season, all these ponds dry up, and our people walk over seven to 11 kilometres to access water from the lake, especially the people of Banda, Mutumba and Buhemba subcounties. This critical lack of clean water has triggered recurrent outbreaks of deadly waterborne diseases.

Mr Speaker, we are not just talking about statistics here; we are talking about preventable loss of human lives, particularly among the young people, women and the elderly.

The absence of a district hospital compounding this water crisis is a severe deficit in health care infrastructure. Namayingo South County - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Muhenda? Someone has written Hon. Eriasa” [Honourable member: “That must be Hon. Mukiibi Eriasa”]. Honourable member, what is your constituency?

6.13

MR RONALD MUHENDA (Independent, Fort Portal Central Division, Fort Portal City): Fort Portal Central Division, the Tourism City.

THE SPEAKER: Okay. Now you win. Let us go and tour.

MR MUHENDA: Thank you. I also want to join honorable members in thanking the President for passing on to us a blueprint of the socio-economic transformation that he has used all those years. He shared it with us, and I want to thank him for that.

Drawing from his personal experience, the President, in his teenage years, did not have much, but he showed us how he embarked on a journey of preaching the gospel of wealth-creation. I think he was communicating to us that we can also take on that journey, and I think that is what we are doing and is what he expects of us. We have to continue preaching the gospel that he did teach himself, of wealth-creation.

On that note, I want to remind this House that five years ago, we designated Fort Portal as a tourism city, but we never gave it funds. And as the honorable member lady who has been around has said, we need funds to develop that city. The success of that city is the success of the tourism sector. I am happy that the honorable minister is here; please look into that. You did not baptise us just a name, but we also want action.

Again, I want to thank the President and to encourage us the honorable members, to pick from what the President said. We are lucky enough that there is something to start with. He has given us the pillars of what to use in regard to socio-economic transformation. So the job is ours. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Christine Apolot.

6.15

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT (Independent, Woman Representative, Kumi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to appreciate His Excellency for the address that was made to this nation.

Everyone is aware of the President’s key message on wealth-creation. Recently, on behalf of the President, Her Excellency the Vice President launched coffee-growing in the Teso sub-region. Now there is a massive number of farmers interested in setting up coffee demonstration farms. Also, as the Teso Parliamentary Group, we resolved that as leaders, we should be at the forefront.

Mr Speaker, based on the fact that the President is interested in wealth creation and Teso is embracing coffee growing, I would like to implore the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to supply adequate coffee seedlings to the Teso sub-region when the rains take off.

Mr Speaker, we have Lake Bisina bordering Kumi and Katakwi districts. Yesterday, we were in a meeting concerning some planned irrigation for Karamoja and neighbouring areas. The plan is on. Lake Bisina can be for

fish farming. Lake Bisina water can be for irrigation. However, when the Government gave us the water project in Kumi, by then I was at the district; we were given information that Lake Bisina is having a problem with siltation. I also wish to challenge the Ministry to have this lake desilted, and related lakes so that this irrigation can benefit the entire country as we struggle to fight poverty.

The President, in his address, talked about skilling the youth, and he has made every effort to ensure that every sub-region gets a skilling hub. Mr Speaker, I would like to report that for the case of Kumi District, we have 14 sub-counties and four town councils, altogether 18 lower local governments.

The number of 20 children per district is not adequate. In my district, we now realise that it is one child per sub-county benefiting. I would like to really implore the team supporting the President to increase the numbers so that we can address the unemployment problem.

As I wind up, for us to realise the real wealth-creation, mindset change – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Eddie Kwizera, is he there? I saw the list. Hon. Emmanuel Ilukol, the man from the fishing area. They wrote here Ilukol.

6.19

MR EMMANUEL ONGIERTHO (Independent, Nebbi Municipality, Nebbi): Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, I also rise to thank the President for the State-of-the-Nation Address. Two areas from the address caught my attention, and my comments will be based on that.

Number one, I would also like to thank the Government for the income-generation initiatives, particularly aiming at improving household incomes. But every time such initiatives come up, I feel there is one group of people that is left out. In all our villages, we have village savings and loans associations. When those initiatives come up, they do not target them.

I am asking, if possible, particularly the ministry responsible for cooperatives, they can look at the possibility of working with these savings groups in the villages to support the individual households. That is one area.

The second is the area of human capital development and specifically for the health sector. Nebbi Municipality, where I come from, houses the hospital of Nebbi. That hospital has become a referral hospital for Zombo, Nebbi, Pakwach and Madi-Okollo districts, leaving the municipality with three divisions without any health facility. When you go to the district hospital, you find their focus is mainly on the people who have been referred there from distant places, leaving out the local population.

Mr Speaker, one thing that amazed me was: I discovered that some years back, 15 staff members were recruited to start one health centre III in one of the divisions. Unfortunately, because there was no construction, the health workers, some of whom were absorbed into the district, and five of them have remained unabsorbed. They are there; they continue to draw salaries from the Government, but after a certain period, they were stopped. Some of them are now thinking of taking the Government to court, which to me is unfair – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ronard Mutego. Then I will come this way to pick Hon. Brenda Namukuta, Kaliro member, Hon. Ruth Rujoki Mushabe and Hon. Moses Mayanja. We have about eight minutes to close. We shall not go up to six, so we might reduce to two minutes.

6.22

MR RONARD MUTEGO HANGUJJA (Independent, Bunyole East County, Butaleja): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I join Members in congratulating the President for his speech. What caught my eye in the entire speech was the issue of corruption. I wanted to guide as follows. If we are to achieve what we intend to achieve, we should handle corruption holistically. If we handle it disjointly, we shall not achieve much.

I will take the accounting side. There is a stewardship established by the Public Finance Management Act, and the biggest form of corruption that we have faced is inappropriate access to resources. The Act gives stewardship of access to resources in that you have somebody requisitioning, you have somebody authorising, and you have somebody approving.

If we are to handle corruption, let us handle the entire cycle. If an accounting officer is faced with pressure from somebody, let this person whistle-blow, and he will be protected. If we are to fight corruption, let us not isolate. Let us take the entire cycle of the people who can protect and provide accounting controls in accessing finances as per the Finance Act. That will go a long way in protecting and deterring further corruption in terms of access to resources. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. If we take that, we shall fight corruption in this country.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Buteleja, Bunyole East, Kaliro. We can now do two minutes; it is a dangerous time.

6.24

MS BRENDA NAMUKUTA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kaliro): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. First of all, I would like to congratulate you upon achieving that seat and I would like to thank my party members for trusting me to be their General Secretary of the NRM Caucus. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, I rise to support the motion thanking His Excellency, the President, for the State of the Nation Address for 2026. His Excellency, the President stated that the NRM philosophy was on building an independent, integrated and self-sustaining national economy. Independence has been on reducing external dependence. This is well articulated in the health sector by investors like Dei Pharmaceuticals and other related projects, which are producing previously imported drugs. This has reduced foreign dependence and saved foreign exchange.

Mr Speaker, in the health sector, I will zero in on Kaliro District. Much as we still have issues, for example, Nawaikoke Health Centre III has to be upgraded to Health Centre IV because it is a constituency and according to the Ministry of Health programme, health centre IIs are supposed to be upgraded to health centre IIIs and each constituency is entitled to have a health centre IV. However, Mr Speaker, as Kaliro, we advocate for a health centre IV in Nawaikoke.

On the same note, much as we still have high levels of unemployment, especially among the youth. We still have issues of infrastructure. For example, the road from Kaliro to Pallisa needs to be tarmacked, plus other roads. Much as we still have such issues, our country is not where we were; we need to appreciate and applaud His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, for where he has brought this country from. We believe that with the *Kisanja no more sleep* and no more corruption, we hope to achieve more development. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ruth Rujoki Mushabe, then Hon. Katusiime. Let me get the name, Katusiime Annet Mugisha – Water – *(Laughter)*

6.27

MS RUTH MUSHABE (NRM, Woman Representative, Kiruhura): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I too congratulate you upon taking leadership of this House. I am glad and privileged to give my maiden speech when the debate on the Floor of Parliament is to appreciate the President's State of the Nation Address of 4th June.

As my voter and as my President, I am super proud of him. There is so much to appreciate about the speech, but I will pick two:

The first is that from the historical examples he gave, the President's speech gives a pathway for our country from where we have come, to where we are, and to where we will be if we follow his guidance.

The second is the notion that we have to stop being polite to non-performance. This is what many people feel but are too polite to say - and politeness has led to complacency. Take an example of the infamous *kafuna*. I am sure many of you have them in your villages. These are modern-day Shylocks who take people's property when they fail to pay back. Government is promoting SACCOs, and I am convinced that if deliberate efforts are made, we can stop this bad vice. Or an example of littering. It happens right before our eyes: people throw rubbish as they walk and drive without care, and we watch, yet there are laws - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Katusiime Annet Mugisha - *(Interjections)* - no, actually, I said that because she is popularly known for having provided water to all the people of Bushenyi. She is a very hardworking woman MP. *(Laughter)*

6.30

MS ANNET KATUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Bushenyi): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I also want to join my colleagues to congratulate you. Allow me to join my colleagues and thank His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, for the State of the Nation Address.

His Excellency, the President, with his continued commitment to socio-economic transformation, is unmatched. His Excellency, the President, has consistently talked about the key critical enablers of wealth creation, which include roads, water and electricity, markets, services, hotels and related services, but in his State of the Nation Address, he emphasised and prioritised electricity.

If we are to create wealth and jobs, indeed we need electricity. He also articulated the progress the Government has made in power generation. A case in point - *(Member timed out.)* - I was saying that His Excellency, the President, articulated how the Government has moved from 60 megawatts in 1986 to 2,098 megawatts to date, and that the Government is aiming at 50,000 megawatts. The above

gives hope that more Ugandans will access electricity.

However, the Rural Electrification Agency left unfinished projects 10 years ago across the country, and these projects were inherited by Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited. The people in this country, most especially in my constituency, about seven sub-counties, are affected. People are frustrated, and they are threatening to vandalise the electric poles because year in, year out, they see those standing poles, but they are still in darkness.

Mr Speaker, we thank the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries because they constructed factories to process coffee and promote value addition. To date, those factories are not operating.

Mr Speaker, we would like to ask the line minister to come to this august House, explain comprehensively and give us timelines. When can these projects be connected to the national grid? If - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: That is a good point, among others. Government should respond. We are tired of seeing poles without electricity in some places. *(Applause.)*

Honourable colleagues, it was a test today. I think we have covered a few, but let me get the Government side to respond to some of these issues and make serious commitments. This is *Kisanja* no sleep. Hon. Bahati.

6.34

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CO-OPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the honourable colleagues for their contribution to the State of the Nation Address by His Excellency the President. In the debate, there are a few issues that came up, which we want to briefly respond to.

The first one was from Hon. Collin about industrialisation. This is related to other

questions that were asked about the dam. I would also like to clarify that the husband of Hon. Katusiime Mugisha is the Managing Director of National Water and Sewerage Corporation. Maybe that is why you referred to her as “water,” so that there is no confusion about people’s understanding of water. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, you are right.

MR BAHATI: Honourable colleagues, Uganda is now producing 2,000 megawatts. East Africa is producing 10,626 megawatts, compared to South Korea, which is now producing 159,000 megawatts. For us to industrialise, we need electricity.

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development has a plan to construct over 40,000 megawatts in the next 10 years. For the honourable colleagues who raised the issues about electricity, we want to confirm to you that Government has a big plan to produce electricity to be able to power the industrialisation agenda.

Mr Speaker, the other two issues were raised by Hon. Protazio Begumisa from Ndoorwa East and Hon. Enid Origumisiriza from Kabale District. The first one was to do with the wetlands. Rt Hon. Speaker, I know that you are also in this category; the wetlands of Kigezi, Bukedi, Teso and Busoga were given to the people of those regions by the then colonial governments. Some of them have titles.

What the Government has done, through His Excellency the President, is that in March this year, he directed the Prime Minister and the Attorney-General to do two things. First, to answer the question raised by Hon. Protazio, to compile a list of those people who were affected by the Rwanda war in 1994 and compensate them.

I am truly informed that the district, through the district chairman, Mr Denis Nzeirwe, has started compiling the list of those who are affected. The Prime Minister and Attorney-

General will receive this list and start the compensation through the normal budgeting process. That is work in progress.

The second issue is that the President told us in March that the meeting regarding the wetlands will be convened by him to talk about the alternative livelihood of the people of Kigezi, Busoga and Bukedi. That is a commitment that I can give at this time from Government. There is work being done to resolve these issues.

Mr Speaker, in the interest of time, there are two other issues -

THE SPEAKER: I think you should not clarify right now. Tomorrow, we shall do better than today. We shall cover more, and then you come with further answers.

For Members of Parliament who have made contributions, including their maiden speeches, Parliament will give you access to your own statements. Whether you want a video or text, you will assess and make a follow-up. You are free to apply to the Clerk in writing - *(Applause)* - remember the date when you spoke. You can attach your *Hansard* and write to the Government to make sure that they answer your issue comprehensively. *(Applause)*

MR BAHATI: Mr Speaker, there are just three ministers who wanted to make some quick interventions, with your permission. We can get the ministers for tourism, co-operatives and finally education.

The Speaker: Perfect.

6.39

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Ms Susan Nakawuki): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to also add my voice and appreciate the Members for today’s contributions towards the President’s address.

I will respond to two questions, one from the Kabale District Woman Representative about Government establishing a tourism and hospitality school in Kabale. I would like

to inform the Member that the Government already has the Uganda Hotel and Tourism Training College in Jinja. It still has a lot of capacity. I would implore you to have your team join. It is a Government school, and it awards diplomas, certificates and degrees.

When need arises, Government can always look into that. However, considering the limited resource envelope, it might not come soon. Nonetheless, we appreciate that Kabale contributes a lot towards the tourism sector.

Hon. Muhenda commented about Fort Portal being a tourism city. It is very true, and Government is putting special attention on Fort Portal. A lot of money is being invested in that region, especially when it comes to AFCON, and a lot more is going to be invested. Take heart; Government is working on it.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable minister, go ahead. Hon. Tom Aza, congratulations once again.

6.41

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CO-OPERATIVES (CO-OPERATIVES) (Mr Tom Aza): Thank you for the appreciation. Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank all the Members who contributed to the debate on the State-of-the-Nation Address by the President. I have a few issues here for clarification regarding co-operatives, especially from Hon. Ongiertho, Member of Parliament for Nebbi Municipality.

Honourable members, the issues related to the co-operative movement are about collective responsibility. Let us all go out and promote SACCOs. We have dairy co-operatives, especially for those from western Uganda. We have creatives such as musicians, comedians, co-operatives and artistes. My ministry recently gave them Shs 10 billion as a push-up. Let us go all out as leaders and promote the co-operative movement.

We have livestock and fisheries cooperatives - Hon. Okeyoh, there you are - consumers', housing, transport and industrial co-operatives, and multipurpose cooperatives, among others.

Let us all involve ourselves, go all out and embrace all Government developmental programmes. Our role is to mobilise, sensitise and educate our people down there. Let us all go out and lure, woo, entice, attract and convince them to embrace cooperatives.

That is my role. So, I am coming. We are starting our regional tours next week. Be ready. We are coming to all your regions to mobilise the people so that we can embrace cooperatives, the SACCOs.

Let us go ahead and encourage the people to take Youth Venture Capital Fund, Youth Livelihood Programme, Uganda Women Empowerment Programme, *Emyooga*, Parish Development Model.

Uganda now has over 40,000 registered cooperatives serving millions of members. Cooperatives are centres of job creation. It will drive our development agenda. Let us try to embrace it.

Mr Speaker, let us embrace some of the aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals. We have goal number one, which talks about ending poverty. The second goal talks about ending hunger through farmers and SACCO cooperatives. The eighth goal talks about promoting decent work and economic growth by creating member-owned cooperatives. The ninth goal talks about promoting industry and innovation through value addition.

Lastly, the 17th goal talks about strengthening partnerships by linking cooperatives to markets, finance and Government.

Once again, next week, I am coming for my regional tours to mobilise cooperatives. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Education and Sports, please do not take us into cooperative style. Do it the education style, not the cooperative style.

6.45

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)

(Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mine entirely is to seek your guidance. It goes in line with the submission given by the Shadow Minister of Education and Sports. His entire response to the Ministry of Education and Sports was specifically on STEM. One of the areas he cited was that the President, in his address, gave limited attention to practical resources required to build a strong science, technology, engineering, and mathematics ecosystem.

It is on record that President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has truly come out to support science, innovations, and technology in the country. He has gone ahead to even earmark resources specifically for research in most of our institutions of higher learning. Furthermore, he has even created a Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation. In this line, we appropriate money in this very Parliament to support the innovations in our country.

I respectfully welcome what my colleague said, but I want to say that the President is a champion of science. Even now, you know very well that the complaint has been that science teachers are paid more money than arts teachers. This has been an area where we have all been complaining and battling about.

Why did he take that strategic direction? It is because he values science as a way to go. He has always given the example of a pilot versus me, a social worker. How much does a pilot earn vis-à-vis the social worker?

Another issue that the Shadow Minister of Education and Sports talked about was the question of secondary school education. Many schools continue to have inadequate science laboratories. Mr Speaker, I want to give areas where we are making inroads and improvements.

One, we have a project in the Ministry of Education and Sports called Uganda Secondary School Expansion Programme (USEP). It

is a World Bank-Government of Uganda-funded project. We are already in the process of constructing 120 schools and renovating all traditional secondary schools across the country. I confirm that this work is ongoing. *(Applause)* Case studies: Butobere in Kabale, Nyakasura in Kabarole and Teso College Aloet. All these schools are meant to be renovated under that project.

Furthermore, we have got another programme in the ministry called U-Learn. U-Learn is also a World Bank-funded project that specifically targets to push secondary education into most subcounties without secondary schools. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, together with the World Bank, is finalising the agreement for this money. It will be implemented during this term of office.

Regarding the question of internet connectivity, my ministry does not work in silos. We work closely with the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance. I remember we had what we call the Uganda Digital Acceleration Project (UDAP) while I was a minister there. UDAP is a last-mile connection to major government facilities at a subcounty. The area of interest includes secondary schools, primary schools, health centres, and all other key infrastructure in the area. I am sure this Parliament approved the money for this project, and work is going on to connect the internet across the country.

For that matter, as far as the Education Sector is concerned, I welcome the views given to me by my colleague, the Shadow Minister of Education and Sports. We are on course.

I welcome Hon. Kaluya back to Parliament. I was with him in the Tenth Parliament in another colour. I am happy he has come back in a different colour. That is politics. I wish you all the best. Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Next item on the Order Paper?

MR OGWANG: Mr Speaker, with your permission, I want to confirm before the august House that I have officially handed over my

AFCON statement to the Clerk at Table. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Clerk, what item did you say it was?

ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER: The House is adjourned until tomorrow at 2.00 p.m.

(The House rose at 6.50 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 16 July 2026 at 2.00 p.m.)