



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 05 JUNE 2025



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIFTH SESSION - 1ST SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Thursday, 5 June 2025

Parliament met at 2.13 p.m. at Kololo National Ceremonial Grounds, Kampala.

Grounds to be the precincts of Parliament for the above-mentioned purpose.

PRAYERS

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

Given under my hand at Parliament House, Kampala on the 5th day of June 2025. Anita Annet Among (MP), Speaker of Parliament of Uganda.”

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

(The National Anthem.)

(The East African Community Anthem.)

THE SPEAKER: Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, accompanied by the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mama Janet Kataaha Museveni; Her Excellency, the Vice President, Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Alupo Epel; the Deputy Speaker of Parliament of Uganda; His Lordship the Deputy Chief Justice, Dr Flavian Zeija, who is also here to represent the Chief Justice; the honourable visiting Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Africa and their representatives. We have the;

PROCLAMATION

THE SPEAKER: “*WHEREAS, Article 101(1) of the Constitution of Uganda mandates His Excellency the President at the beginning of each Session of Parliament to deliver to Parliament an address on the State of the Nation;*

AWARE THAT, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda has, in accordance with Article 101(1), indicated to the Speaker of Parliament his intention to address Parliament on the State of the Nation on 5 June 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with Rule 18(1) of the Rules of Procedure, hereby proclaim that;

Parliament shall sit at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds on 5 June 2025 at 14.00 hours to receive the address of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda on the State of the Nation and the Kololo Ceremonial

1. Rt Hon. Alban Kingsford Sumana Bagbin, the Speaker of Parliament of Ghana and the Chairperson of the Conference of Speakers of African Union Legislatures (COSPAR). Kindly rise and wave to us.
2. Rt Hon. Vital Kamerhe, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Join me in welcoming our guests.
3. Rt Hon. Sinimbo Muha Lukas, Chairperson of the National Council of

- the Parliament of Namibia. You are most welcome.
4. Rt Hon. Joseph Ntakirutimana, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly. You are welcome.
 5. Rt Hon. Jeffah Amason Kingi, Speaker of the Senate of Kenya. You are welcome.
 6. Rt Hon. Parmena Awerial, Second Deputy Speaker of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly of South Sudan. You are welcome.
 7. The Rt Hon. Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business in Uganda, Hon. Robinah Nabbanja.
 8. Hon. Matthew Sahr Nyuma, Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business of the Parliament of Sierra Leone and Member of the Bureau of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, the European Union (OACPS-EU);
 1. All the Deputy Prime Ministers of Uganda;
 2. The Vice-Chairperson of the National Resistance Movement, Al-haji Moses Kigongo;
 3. All the members of the Central Executive Committee of the National Resistance Movement;
 4. The honourable Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Hon. Joel Ssenyonyi;
 5. Cabinet ministers and ministers of state;
 6. Your Excellencies, the Heads of Diplomatic Missions, High Commissioners, Ambassadors and Members of Diplomatic Corps;
 7. Honourable Members of Parliament of Uganda and Members of the East African Legislative Assembly;
 8. Hon. Andre Clifford, Member of Parliament of Seychelles and Member of the Bureau of OACPS-EU;
 9. The guest members from other legislatures;
 10. The Secretary-General of the National Resistance Movement, Hon. Richard Todwong;
 11. The distinguished former leaders, notably Rt Hon. Amama Mbabazi and others;
 12. The traditional, cultural, and religious leaders that are present here;
 13. The Permanent Secretaries;
 14. The heads of public agencies, corporations and parastatals;
 15. Distinguished guests;
 16. Ladies and Gentlemen;
- I welcome you to this inaugural sitting of the Fifth Session of the 11th Parliament of Uganda.
- Today marks the beginning of the final year of the 11th Parliament. I will state, without any fear of contradiction, that this Parliament has been the epitome of the people-centred legislature.
- I would like to commend His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, for his unwavering support to the Legislature and I also commend all of you, Members, for living up to your role and responsibility. Thank you very much.
- In a special way, I take this opportunity to appreciate all the Speakers and presiding officers of sister parliaments and legislatures in Africa who have honoured our invitation. Thank you so much for your solidarity and for loving Uganda. You are most welcome to Uganda, the Pearl of Africa.
- Honourable members, it is a command from the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda under Article 101(1) that the President shall, at the beginning of each Session of Parliament, deliver to Parliament an address on the state of the nation. Therefore, today, the House, and indeed the Nation, will receive the Presidential Address on the state of the nation.
- Unless circumstances dictate, this will be the final State-of-the-Nation Address that the 11th Parliament will receive from His Excellency, the President, especially considering that by this time next year, the 12th Parliament will be in session.
- Based on that, it is a historic opportunity for all patriots and the people of goodwill to reflect

on our collective achievements as a nation and take stock of the prevailing challenges and opportunities for the sustained growth of our beloved nation, Uganda.

Your Excellency and honourable members, during the previous Session, Parliament's performance was generally outstanding and was characterised by greater responsiveness, efficiency and effectiveness. To this end, the Parliament of Uganda held 75 Sittings, during which two oaths were administered to new Members of Parliament; that is, Hon. Grace Ngabirano and Hon. Elias Luyimbazi. Thirty-five Bills were passed, three petitions were concluded, 45 resolutions were passed, and 53 reports were adopted.

I take this opportunity to commend the Members of Parliament and all the entities that took the time and contributed to the passing of the following laws:

1. The Appropriation Bill, 2024;
2. The Higher Education Students Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
3. The National Commission for UNESCO (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
4. The National Information Technology Authority Uganda (Amendment Bill), 2024;
5. The Cotton Development (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
6. The Dairy Industry (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
7. The National Agricultural Advisory Services (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
8. The National Forestry and Tree Planting (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
9. The National Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2024; and
10. The National Coffee (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
11. The Uganda National Roads Authority (Repeal) Bill, 2024;
12. The Uganda Road Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
13. The Public Enterprise Reform and Divestiture (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
14. The Tier 4 Microfinance Institutions and Moneylenders (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
15. The Non-Performing Assets Recovery Trust (Repeal) Bill, 2024;
16. The Technical and Vocational Education and Training Bill, 2024;
17. The National Sports (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
18. The Occupational Safety and Health (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
19. The Employment (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
20. The Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2025
21. The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025;
22. The Public Service Pension Fund Bill, 2024;
23. The East African Community Mediation Agreement Bill, 2024;
24. The Sugar (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
25. The Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025;
26. The Excise Duty (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025;
27. The Tax Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025;
28. The Income Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025;
29. The External Trade (Amendment) Bill, 2025;
30. The Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2025;
31. The Hides and Skins Export Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2025;
32. The Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2025;
33. The Appropriation Bill, 2025;
34. The Political Parties and Organisations (Amendment) Bill, 2025;
35. The Uganda People's Defence Forces (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Your Excellency, the Parliament of Uganda recognises the importance of greater efficiency and effectiveness of the Public Service as a cornerstone of service delivery and an instrument of the realisation of our national development aspirations. To this end, among the Bills passed during the Fourth Session are those that seek to reform the pension management in both the Public Service and military, and those that seek to enhance the growth and development of the private sector.

Fellow Ugandans, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, on 9 January 2025, Parliament approved the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV) for the years 2025/2026 to 2029/2030. This plan is our national blueprint for transformation and sustainable development of our country.

The Budget Speech that we shall receive on 12 June 2025 is aligned to this National Development Plan. I take cognisance of the contribution of all stakeholders in the formulation and realisation of this plan.

Your Excellency, after my communication and if it does please you, I request that before you commence on your address to Parliament – and by extension to the nation - to symbolically unveil the NDP IV, a document that will be a precursor to the Budget Speech, which will be held on 12 June 2025.

In line with our vision of being a people-centred Parliament, during the Fourth Session, the Parliament of Uganda held its first-ever regional sitting at Kaunda Grounds in Gulu City, that is, Northern Uganda, from 28th to 30th August 2024. During this Sitting, issues specific to the region were deliberated upon, and a series of community outreach and civic engagement activities were conducted.

Your Excellency, we take this opportunity to thank you for gracing the opening of that historic Sitting which took place in Gulu City. The legislature will continue to place the common person at the centre of all its parliamentary processes and decisions. We are optimistic that in the near future, Parliament will hold another regional Sitting that will cover other regions of the country.

In a bid to foster Pan-Africanism and international collaboration with other legislatures and inter-parliamentary bodies, we continued to further inter-parliamentary diplomacy through active participation and membership in various inter-parliamentary bodies such as the East African Community Bureau of Speakers; the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the African Union Legislatures (COSPAR); the Inter-

Parliamentary Union (IPU); the Pan-African Parliament (PAP); the European Union, Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (EUACP group) and; the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), to mention but a few.

The impressive representation of our sister legislatures at this State-of-the-Nation address is a testimony to our good standing among the international community of nations. I take this opportunity to once again welcome our guest Speakers and presiding officers and thank them for travelling from far and wide to witness this historic occasion. Join me in welcoming our guests. You are most welcome. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency and honourable members, I take this opportunity to thank you for your role in enabling the remarkable output registered by the legislature during the Fourth Session.

I will reiterate my appreciation for the consistent support of His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

The 11th Parliament draws inspiration from your effective and impactful leadership as a key enabler of societal transformation. We undertake that the Fifth Session that you open today will remain steadfast in effectively executing its mandate in furtherance of the National Vision 2040, which aims to transform Uganda into a modern and prosperous nation within 30 years.

As you may be aware, that Article 83(a) of the 1995 Constitution, permits Members of Parliament to leave and join political parties or political organisations of their choice within 12 months before the end of the term of Parliament to participate in activities or programmes of political parties or political organisations relating to the general election.

To this end, I am in receipt of notification by the following Members opting to join respective political parties:

1. Hon. Twaha Kagabo, MP Bukoto South; from the National Unity Platform to the National Resistance Movement.
2. Hon. Akol Anthony, MP Kilak North; from the Forum for Democratic Change to the National Resistance Movement.
3. Hon. Ojara Mapenduzi Martin, MP Bardege-Layibi; from the Independent (Opposition-leaning) to the National Resistance Movement.
4. Hon. Ongiertho Emmanuel, MP Jonam County; from the Forum for Democratic Change to the National Resistance Movement.
5. Hon. Mpuuga Mathias, MP Nyendo-Mukungwe Division; from the National Unity Platform to the Democratic Front.
6. Dr Abed Bwanika, MP Kimaanya-Kabonera Division; from the National Unity Platform to the Democratic Front.
7. Hon. Kakembo Michael MP, Entebbe Municipality; from the National Unity Platform to the Democratic Front.
8. Hon. Kakande Juliet Nakabuye, City Women MP, Masaka; from the National Unity Platform to the Democratic Front.

We wish the Members well in the exercise of their freedom of association as prescribed in Article 29 of the Constitution of Uganda, which we swore to uphold.

Despite the remarkable strides that we have made, the Fourth Session was not without any challenges. We regrettably lost two sitting Members of Parliament: Hon. Sarah Mateke, Woman Member of Parliament of Kisoro, and Hon. Muhammed Ssegirinya, MP Kawempe North. We will continue to pray for the eternal repose of their souls.

Pursuant to Article 94(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, and Rule 26(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament

of Uganda, the legislature will continue to prioritise Government Business. We look forward with optimism to the Government's legislative agenda for the Fifth Session, and other plans that may be contained in today's presidential State-of-the-Nation Address.

I say all this for God and my country. (*Applause*)

Your Excellency, as I had earlier stated in my communication, I take this singular honour and privilege to invite you to unveil the National Development Plan IV. Your Excellency, you will be joined by the Deputy Speaker and I, and the finance ministers to perform this ceremony. (*Applause*)

(Whereupon, the H.E. the President unveiled the NDP IV.)

INVITATION BY THE RT HON. SPEAKER
TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
TO DELIVER TO PARLIAMENT AN
ADDRESS ON THE STATE OF THE
NATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH
ARTICLE 101(1) OF THE CONSTITUTION

THE SPEAKER: Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, it is your mandate under Article 101(1) of the Constitution, at the beginning of each Session of Parliament to deliver to Parliament your address on the State of the Nation.

Honourable members, as we welcome the President to deliver his address on the State of the Nation, we draw your attention to Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure, which provides in sub-rule(4)(a), that: "*The President, while occupying the Chair of State, may make a presidential statement which shall be heard in silence and not followed by any comment or question.*"

I now take the singular honour and privilege to invite you, Your Excellency, to address the august House – and the nation by extension. You are most welcome, Mr President.

2.49

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA (Gen.(Rtd) Yoweri Museveni):

Her Excellency the Vice President, the Rt Hon. Speaker of Parliament, His Lordship the Chief Justice, Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker of Parliament, His Lordship the Deputy Chief Justice, the Rt Hon. Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Ministers, honourable ministers, honourable Members of Parliament, heads of the diplomatic missions, cultural and religious leaders, the *wananchi*, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

In fulfilment of the constitutional requirement under Article 101(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, I am here to deliver the State-of-the-Nation Address, 2025.

Fellow countrymen, countrywomen, and especially the *bazzukulu; abantu abo*, I applaud you all for positively utilising the peace and tranquillity prevailing across the country, and the improved physical infrastructure to improve your personal lives, families and communities.

Since the last State of the Nation Address, a number of people have unfortunately departed from this earth. They include:

1. His Holiness, the late Pope Francis;
2. The late Hon. Maj. Gen. Kazoora, former Member of Parliament of Kashari;
3. The late Hon. Sarah Mateke Nyirabashitsi, the former Minister of State for Defence;
4. The late Hon. Muhammad Ssegirinya, the former Member of Parliament for Kawempe North;
5. The late Hon. Dr Yeko Kissa, the former Member of Parliament for Kween County;
6. The late Hon. Margaret Baba-Diri, the former Woman Member of Parliament for Koboko District;
7. The late Hon. Margaret Komuhangi, the former Woman Member of Parliament for Nakasongola District;
8. The late Hon. Ignatius Besisira, the former Member of Parliament for Buyaga County East;
9. The late Hon. Frank Nabwiso, the former Member of Parliament for Kagoma County,

and many other Ugandans who have succumbed to accidents, illnesses, etc.

I request that we rise up and observe a moment of silence in memory of those that have passed on.

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

GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI: In the Gospel according to Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus talked about two kinds of builders: the wise builder who built his house on the rock, and the foolish builder who built his house on sand. When the rain, floods, and wind came upon both houses, that of the foolish man was swept away because its foundation was weak, while that one of the wise man remained standing because its foundation was firm and strong.

The National Resistance Movement (NRM) can be likened to the wise man in Jesus' parable because we have been able to establish the necessary foundation to catapult Uganda to modernity, based on the four principles ideology. The principles are: patriotism – love Uganda; Pan-Africanism – love Africa; socio-economic transformation; and democracy. The aim of this ideology is to promote the mass line, i.e., guaranteeing the social uplift of all segments of the society, and not just the few elites.

The mass line programmes such as the Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE), the mass immunisation campaigns, the wealth creation funds, for example, the Parish Development Module (PDM), Operation Wealth Creation of the army – where the army was involved and *Emyooga*, etc., have led to significant improvements in the quality of life in Uganda. Life expectancy in Uganda is now 63 years, compared to 45 years in 1986. This means that Ugandans are now living longer.

In 1986, Uganda's population was only 14 million. The National Population Housing Census conducted last year showed that Uganda's population is now 46 million people.

The literacy rate has also improved from 43 per cent in 1986 to 80 per cent now.

In 1986, more than 90 per cent of the population was trapped in subsistence farming, i.e., working only for food with no surplus to take to the market to get money. There has been a significant reduction in the percentage of households in subsistence agriculture. They are now at 33 per cent – and you hear that at the beginning, they were 90 per cent.

These few illustrations show that implementing the mass line programmes is the most effective way of triggering socio-economic transformation.

Therefore, in line with the mass line philosophy of the NRM, we must prioritise the following:

1. Peace and security of persons and their property in all parts of the country.
2. Accelerating industrialisation with focus on building factories which use locally available materials as inputs.
3. Export-promotion and import-substitution by boosting the domestic manufacturing capacity.
4. Strengthening the private sector.
5. Increasing market access for our exports, both in the regional markets such as the East African Community, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), among others, and international markets.
6. Skilling our youth through the zonal industrial hubs. The youth will continue to acquire skills in tailoring, carpentry, metal fabrication, welding, shoemaking, weaving, hairdressing, knitting, and baking. We shall also add plumbing and motor mechanics. The training is free of charge, and no prior educational qualifications are required, as you all know.

7. Increasing revenue collection by the Uganda Revenue Authority without hurting businesses.

8. Expenditure rationalisation by restructuring the Government. I thank Parliament here. As you heard, the Speaker was listing those Bills which you passed, which enabled this rationalisation to take place.

9. Fighting corruption.

10. Ensuring that the remaining 33 per cent of the homesteads still practised subsistence agriculture – join the money economy.

The general security situation in the country is calm. However, the traditional and non-traditional threats to national security continue to manifest in the form of terrorism, negative political activism, general and cross-border crime, as well as health and environmental risks.

The national borders are secure, save for the spill-over effects resulting from the conflicts in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Sudan and Somalia. These include an influx of refugees and asylum seekers, illegal immigrants, and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

The capacity of the national security agencies, i.e., Uganda Police Force, the Internal Security Organisation supported by the army, the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF), has been enhanced in order to combat crimes and guarantee the safety of all Ugandans. You saw how they stopped this young person who blew herself up the other day. She wanted to go where people were, but it was foiled. She was intercepted, and she decided to blow herself up.

The security situation in Karamoja Subregion has significantly improved, despite pockets of criminality in the form of livestock thefts and some incursions by the Pokot and Turkana from Kenya. Deployments to stop cattle thefts by some of the Karamojong in the neighbouring

subregions of Sebei, Teso, Lango, and Acholi have been maintained.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the joint Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) – FARDC is the Congolese army, and Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) operations against Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) are ongoing with significant achievements. Since November 2024, 223 abductees have been rescued from captivity, with some firearms and bombs captured, including improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

The Government continues to modernise and professionalise Uganda's security forces by improving their welfare and strengthening the cooperation between the civilian population and the security forces. The UPDF Construction Brigade has rehabilitated schools in rural communities. Together with the National Enterprise Corporation (NEC), it has been involved in the rehabilitation of major infrastructure, such as Entebbe International Airport.

It is paramount to jealously guard Uganda's political and economic stability. All attempts to destabilise Uganda by internal and external actors have been thwarted and defeated. We welcome mutual and non-parasitic collaboration with everybody. Uganda's priorities and interests are very clear. Therefore, our allies must respect and uphold them in all their dealings with us. The patriotic leadership in charge of the country's affairs cannot deviate from its historical mission of defending and transforming Uganda and Africa on account of threats by some of our allies who misunderstand our goals and methods of work.

For instance, we are soon finalising the construction of the 1,443 kilometres East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) from Buliisa on Lake Albert to Tanga, in Tanzania. This East African Crude Pipeline will take our crude oil to the international market through the sister country of Tanzania.

The construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) which I launched last year is soon starting and we have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Alpha BMP Investment Group of the United Arab Emirates to start the construction of the oil refinery in Hoima. Many other projects in roads, energy, ICT, schools, hospitals and agriculture have continued to be implemented despite the World Bank and the United States of America (USA) suspending new financing to Uganda.

Our economy remains strong and resilient. It was recently ranked seventh by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) among the fastest-growing economies in the world. The size of the economy is projected at Shs 224.9 trillion, equivalent to \$60 billion, by the end of June 2025. In 1986, the economy was only Shs 42 billion (or \$3.9 billion). This means that in dollar terms, the size of the economy has expanded nearly 15 times since the National Resistance Movement Government took power in January 1986.

The economy grew by 6.7 per cent in the first quarter of this financial year, compared to 5.6 per cent recorded in the same period last year. This is on top of the growth of 6.1 per cent in the Financial Year 2023/2024. Economic growth is projected at 6.3 per cent this financial year, and further projected to grow to 7 per cent in the Financial Year 2025/2026. It is projected to grow faster when commercial production of oil and gas starts next year.

In purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, our economy is projected to be \$171.6 billion, by the end of this financial year in June 2025, and next financial year is equivalent to about \$65.7 billion using the Atlas method. This will be equivalent to \$187 billion in PPP terms. This growth will translate into higher household incomes from \$1,259 income per capita, by the end of this financial year, to \$1,330 as income per capita next financial year.

In the past four years, our growth has been broad-based, inclusive, and pro-poor. The latest National Housing Survey Report that was released recently by the Uganda Bureau

of Statistics (UBOS) shows that the share of Ugandans living below the national poverty line has fallen to 16 per cent, from 20 per cent four years ago, surpassing the 2025 national target of 18.5 per cent. With the continued implementation of the Parish Development Model (PDM), we are on track to completely wipe out poverty in the near future.

The same UBOS report revealed that income inequality has also declined significantly over the last four years. The Gini Coefficient Formula, a statistical measure used to determine the extent of income inequality within a population has reduced to 38 per cent from 41 per cent in 2020. In the 12 months to March 2025, export receipts from merchandise trade increased by 26 per cent to \$ 9.3 billion. The Ugandan Shilling is the most stable currency in the whole of Africa. During the past 12 months, it has appreciated by 6.1 per cent. Inflation is under control. It is projected at 3.6 per cent in the Financial Year 2024/2025, and Uganda has experienced Africa's second-lowest inflation rate in the past decade.

Foreign direct investment inflows are projected at \$3.8 billion, while tourism and remittance receipts from Ugandans abroad are projected at \$1.5 billion and \$1.4 billion, respectively.

During the next five years, it is projected that Uganda's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is going to more than double to \$ 1.58 billion in 2030, in exchange rate terms, and \$2.96 billion, in purchasing power parity terms. These achievements are not by accident. They are on account of deliberate and focused government interventions.

Cumulatively, over the last 10 years, the Government has injected Shs 8 trillion in strategic wealth creation initiatives, which have boosted economic performance.

These initiatives include:

1. Capitalisation of the Uganda Development Bank (Shs 1.45 trillion) to provide affordable capital to manufacturers and small businesses;

2. Parish Development Model (Shs 3.4 trillion) by the end of this financial year for the poor rural families;

3. *Emyooga* – Shs 553 billion;
4. Youth Livelihood Programme – Shs 207 billion;
5. Small Business Recovery Fund – Shs 100 billion;
6. Agricultural Credit Facility – Shs 495 billion;
7. Youth Venture Capital Fund – Shs 12.5 billion;
8. Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme – Shs 168 billion;
9. INVITE Project – Shs 800 billion;
10. The GROW Project – Shs 824 billion; and
11. Uganda Development Corporation – Shs 1.2 trillion, among others.

Merchandise goods exports grew by 26 per cent, to \$9.3 billion, in the year ending March 2025. The top exports include gold (\$3.7 billion), coffee (\$1.8 billion), cocoa (\$410 million), industrial products such as cement (\$335 million), metal products such as steel (\$230 million), sugar (\$190 million), and fish (\$177 million).

The export value of milk and milk products increased 10 times, from \$28 million in 2015 to \$285 million in 2024. The total export earnings of goods and services reached \$11.81 billion by March 2025.

The prices of consumer goods and services have remained low, averaging 3.4 per cent in the past 12 months to April 2025. This is good for savers and investors to be able to plan their investments and plan with certainty.

The low inflation was due to a stable exchange rate, a good crop harvest, and the decreasing global prices of liquid fuels. The prices of diesel, petrol, and kerosene reduced by 4.2 per cent, 2.5 per cent, and 1.7 per cent, respectively, on average, for the year ending April 2025.

The increased domestic capacity in sugar production has led to a reduction in the consumer prices of sugar by 10.8 per cent in

April, from what it was the same month a year ago.

Ffe Abaganda, tugamba nti, “Akatali kabbe...” - Temumanyi Luganda? “Akatali kabbe amagumba olya osuula mu mulyango.” Bano Abaganda ba kika ki, banange? (Laughter)

The prices of beef have increased by 10 per cent in part due to the increased export of beef to the Middle East, which has increased demand. This is good for the cattle keepers. The problem we still have is disease outbreaks in some parts of the country, as well as cattle thefts.

The Government has recently vaccinated livestock in most parts of the country, but in some places, there is laxity in the implementation of the quarantine. District leaders should always ensure that quarantine, especially against Foot and Mouth Disease, is strictly adhered to.

As a result of the strong foundation that the NRM government has built over the years, foreign direct investment (FDI) was \$3.5 billion for 12 months up to March 2024. This was mainly in mining, transport, manufacturing, finance, etc. The single largest source of FDI was the Netherlands, 55 per cent; followed by France, 20 per cent; Kenya, 6 per cent; Tanzania, 5 per cent; the UK, 4 per cent; and others, 10 per cent.

In 1986, the Government collected only Shs 5 billion in revenue because private businesses and manufacturing had collapsed. When the NRM took power, we embarked on the rehabilitation of the economy and adopted policies of liberalisation and reformation of the public institutions.

As a result, the revenue collection capacity has improved. Revenue collection is projected at Shs 31.9 trillion this financial year ending June 2025, equivalent to 14.3 per cent of the total economic output of GDP. This is still less than the desired level to finance our development plans. The Government plans to collect Shs 37.2 trillion in domestic revenue next financial year 2025/2026.

In order to boost revenue collection, the Government will implement the following steps:

1. Enhancing efforts to fight corruption at the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) through regular audits, whistleblowers and leveraging digital platforms to minimise human interaction;
2. Minimising tax evasion using the Electronic Fiscal Receipts and Invoicing Solutions (EFRIS), Digital Tax System (DTS) and intrusive scanners to improve real-time monitoring of taxable transactions, ensure accurate declaration of revenues and curb under-invoicing;
3. Combating smuggling at border points through extended surveillance using advanced technologies like drones and tracking systems with increased patrols in high-risk areas;
4. Adopting specific tax duties to address under-declaration of value goods, particularly in manufacturing and imports of high-value goods;
5. Supporting local governments, including municipalities, to increase revenue collection; and
6. Recruitment and training of more tax officers at the Uganda Revenue Authority and other revenue collection institutions.

Our economy is now more diversified and more sophisticated. In 1986, the economy depended only on the three C's, which are coffee, cotton and copper, and the three T's, which are tobacco, tea and tourism.

According to a study conducted by the Harvard Economic Growth Lab, in the last 10 years, Uganda added 20 new products to its export basket and has an opportunity to harness the production of 50 new complex products. Some of these new products include ICT equipment, serums and vaccines, medicines, new pneumatic tires, batteries, gas turbines,

electronic integrated circuits, transmission operators for radio, telephone, and television sets, measuring instruments for physical and chemical analysis, among others. These new products have contributed to the continued diversification of our exports.

Manufacturing is the answer to the challenge of unemployment. Uganda has got the raw materials and the human resources that can support factories specialising in the manufacture of automobiles, electronics, steel, textiles, furniture, food products, pharmaceuticals, aluminium products, etc.

Some of the new products, which are manufactured here and are contributing to our export earnings, include:

- i. An electronics manufacturing plant in Namanve Industrial Park producing 120,000 hair dryers and 60,000 refrigeration parts per year;
- ii. Pharmaceutical companies producing four million single HIV pills and two million other medicines per year;
- iii. Dairy farms, which produce 5.3 billion litres of milk and processing plants such as Royal Milk Enterprises, Jesa Farm, Brookside Dairy, Amos Dairies, Lakeside Dairies, GBK Dairy, Pearl Dairy, etcetera, which process about 800 million litres of milk and 365 million tons of cheese per year;
- iv. Cut flowers worth \$120 million being exported to Europe and other countries, per year;
- v. Two thousand tons of avocados and 4,000 tons of bananas being exported to countries like South Sudan, Kuwait, Thailand, and South Korea, per year; and
- vi. Electronics, pharmaceuticals, and solar energy products worth \$60 million being exported to the regional international markets, per year.

Therefore, with the roads and electricity we have now, and with the emphasis on skilled

development and the entrepreneurial spirit of Ugandans, the country can increase the share of manufacturing goods in total economic output to the levels of South Korea, Thailand, or Malaysia. In Uganda's case, this is currently valued at \$8 billion. It was only \$237 million in 1986.

The return on investment in Uganda is high. It averages 14 per cent per year and can be higher in some sectors compared to an average of only 5.2 per cent in Europe in 2022. This is very important for you to understand that when you invest here, you make profits more easily than when you invest in Europe. In Europe, it is 5.2 per cent; here, it is more than 14 per cent. If you invest in Uganda, you get back your initial investment capital in about five to seven years, and the rest is profit, which our laws allow you to repatriate without restrictions.

The Government has put in place a strategy to increase the size of the economy to \$500 billion by 2040 or earlier. My people talk of 2040, but I want it earlier. This strategy identifies four anchor sectors. These are:

1. Agro-industrialisation;
2. Tourism development;
3. Mineral development, including oil and gas; and
4. Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI), that is; taking advantage of the knowledge economy by prioritising investment in research development,

Agriculture production and agro-industrialisation

The Government has invested in irrigation to boost agricultural production. This is because the provision of water for irrigation reduces the likelihood of crop failure on account of water scarcity.

Although Uganda's irrigation area has increased from 22,000 hectares to 23,000 hectares, the country, however, has an irrigation potential of three million hectares. We have three million hectares that can be irrigated – I hear we have only irrigated 23,000 hectares of the three million.

To achieve this goal, the Government is accelerating the construction of solar-powered irrigation schemes; medium-scale irrigation schemes, earth dams, communal and individual valley tanks, and large-scale irrigation schemes across the country.

The construction works for 92 solar-powered irrigation schemes have been completed, adding an irrigation area of 900 acres. These are in the districts of Apac, Buhweju, Buikwe, Bukomansimbi, Buliisa, Bushenyi, Butambala, Buvuma, Gomba, Hoima, Isingiro, Kakumiro, etc.

The new solar-powered irrigation schemes have benefitted 110,000 farmers and production yield from 120 schemes has increased to 3,600 tons per season. The major crop enterprises in these irrigation schemes include green pepper, onions, Irish potatoes, watermelons, tomatoes, apples, cabbages, pineapples, coffee, eggplants, vanilla, grapes, mangoes, and pumpkins.

The construction works are also ongoing for 22 solar-powered irrigation demonstration sites in the districts of Kabarole, Kyenjojo, Kole, Gulu, Napak, Abim, etc.

In Nakaseke District, the construction works for the Kirema Phase 1, a medium-scale irrigation scheme, have been completed; thus adding a total of 124 hectares and benefitting 50 farmers engaged in coffee growing, passion fruits, maize, and bananas.

The construction works for the Wadelai Irrigation Scheme, 1,000 hectares in Pakwach District, stands at 93.5 per cent. The construction works for the Namaitso medium-scale Irrigation Scheme in Bududa District stands at 70 per cent. Kawumu Irrigation Scheme, which is in Luwero District, is at 90 per cent, among others.

A mega irrigation scheme, Nyimur, covering 3,300 hectares, has been constructed in Lamwo District. Do you know where Lamwo is? You people, you do not know where Lamwo is? Lamwo is far away, on the South Sudan border.

Other construction works include the Acomai Irrigation Scheme in Bukedea District, covering 1,480 hectares, and targeting 1,600 households; Atari Irrigation Scheme in Kween/Bulambuli districts, covering 680 hectares, targeting 2,667 households; and Namatala Irrigation Scheme in the Budaka, Mbale, and Butaleja districts, covering 3,450 hectares, targets 4,923 households.

The current production of milk stands at 5.4 billion litres at the end of 2024, compared to 2.5 billion litres in the Financial Year 2017/2018.

We have also identified and secured foreign markets through government-to-government interventions, e.g. Algeria and Nigeria. These countries are now buying our powdered milk. This has resulted into an increase in the value of milk and milk products, as already pointed out, from \$28.7 million in the Financial Year 2014/2015 to \$285 million in the 2024 year.

A new processing factory, Benni Foods, has been commissioned and is currently operational with an installed capacity of 10,000 litres of milk per day.

The total value of fish catches from all the water bodies has steadily increased since the Government deployed armed forces to assist in fisheries enforcement. Currently, we are producing 658,000 metric tonnes of fish annually. The availability of raw material fish sustained operations of 12 fish processing factories; you know that debate.

The fisheries unit has been able to stop overfishing or reduce it, although they have also been accused – once in a while – of being sinners, but we can audit their work by looking at the 12 factories that are now processing fish. Many of these had closed. I will meet the fisheries people soon; I will meet the traditional fishing communities, but this is one of the facts. Are the factories operating or not? Had they closed or not? When we meet, we shall discuss this. According to this one here, 12 factories are now operating, processing 658,000 metric tonnes.

The performance has also been a result of the Government's focus on the gazetting of fish breeding grounds (*ebyondo ne ebyama*) where the fish produces young ones, but some people have invaded those breeding grounds; enforcement of fisheries laws and regulations, provision of quality fingerlings and fish feed, and providing an enabling environment for the private sector to invest in aquaculture.

The value of fish and fish products exported increased from \$148 million to \$152 million in the Financial Year 2023/2024.

The volume of coffee produced has increased from 7.8 million 60-kilogramme bags, in 2022/2023, to 8.2 million bags, in the Financial Year 2023/2024. The performance in the coffee subsector is attributed to the Government's strategic interventions, including the generation and distribution of improved coffee variety seedlings, supporting increased use of water for irrigation, and promoting the use of fertilisers among the farmers.

The value of coffee exports has steadily increased from \$845 million, in the Financial Year 2022/2023, to \$1.1 billion, in the Financial Year 2023/2024. The Government has provided the research institution with funding of Shs 30 billion in the Financial Year 2025/2026, geared toward the development of improved coffee production, multiplication and disease-, pest- and climate-resilient varieties.

The volume of maize increased from 3.4 million metric tonnes in 2018 to 5 million metric tonnes in 2024. Subsequently, the value of maize exports increased from \$63 million, in the Financial Year 2018, to \$195 million, in the Financial Year 2023/2024. The performance is attributed to the increased adoption of improved maize varieties by farmers, increased value addition by the private sector, and increased vigilance by the Government in the control of pests and diseases.

Next financial year, the Government will prioritise the following support for agro-industrialisation:

1. Appropriate agro-processing and value addition technologies;

2. High-quality agricultural inputs;
3. Construction of key water storage and irrigation infrastructure;
4. Enforcement of standards and market access;
5. Establishing appropriate post-harvest handling and storage facilities and infrastructure;
6. Disease, pest, and vector control;
7. Supporting vertical and horizontal value addition for the production of high-value, multi-input products, such as nutritional foods, baby foods that use several products like milk, eggs, maize, vegetables, fruits, etc.

We must add value to all these products, which we are producing now. If there are too many eggs, where would you put them? The internal market may not be enough, and the regional market may not be enough, either. The answer is to produce baby foods, nutritional foods, so that we can export to the international markets;

8. Extension services;
9. Investment in fertiliser production; and
10. Certification and regulation of agricultural inputs and provision of appropriate finance for the various components of the agricultural value chain, among others.

The Government has introduced a large-scale commercial farmers' interest-free credit facility of Shs 175 billion. The money is accessed through government-owned commercial banks. These are: Post Bank, Housing Finance Bank, and Pride Bank Limited. This enables large-scale farmers to access mechanisation to boost agriculture-based exports.

The Parish Development model

The Parish Development Model is now in its third year of implementation. By the end of this financial year in June 2025, Shs 3.3 trillion will have been provided to the Parish Development Model.

The Government is currently providing Shs 100 million for each parish per annum. During my upcountry trips, I have interacted with some of the beneficiaries of the PDM funds who have

used them to start enterprises in food crops, farming, goat keeping, piggery, beekeeping, etcetera.

In Kisoro, some of the PDM beneficiaries earned between Shs 16 to 20 million from onions over two years using the initial seed capital of just Shs 1 million.

Tourism

Tourism receipts were valued at \$1.4 billion in the calendar year 2024. This is a significant recovery from \$5.62 million in 2020, when we had the COVID-19 shutdown. The good performance is attributed to the sustainable peace and security, increased competitiveness of Uganda's tourism industry through marketing, and the Government's investment in strategic tourism infrastructure.

To support tourism, the Government has provided adequate security to the tourism sites, improved physical infrastructure, and supported the tourist companies with tax relief. The Government is strengthening economic and commercial diplomacy through our embassies or missions abroad to promote tourism, in addition to mobilising foreign direct investment and enabling penetration into export markets.

Uganda's proactive support for meetings, innovations, conferences, and exhibitions, and our participation in global tourism expos, resulted in hosting 267,000 tourists in wildlife-protected areas. The Government has maintained 1,200 kilometres of trail tracks and roads in the national parks.

An important aspect in tourism promotion is the adherence to the international standards in terms of grading of accommodation facilities such as hotels and restaurants, hygiene and sanitation facilities, access to cheap and stable communication facilities and the Internet.

In this regard, the Government is upgrading the Internet gateways to reduce Internet costs and increase the speed of Internet connections. The priority areas for tourism development next financial year and in the medium-term include:

1. Branding and marketing of Uganda as a tourism and investment destination;
2. Infrastructure development and construction of sanitation infrastructure in tourism sites;
3. Construction of refreshment centres and highway road signage and sanitary facilities;
4. Improving tourism security; and
5. Hospitality standards and training.

Minerals

On the side of minerals, Uganda has got several mineral resources in almost all parts of the country. These include oil and gas reserves, beryl, chromite, lead, lithium, silver, zinc, kyanite, feldspar and diatomite, manganese, diamonds, uranium, iron ore, vermiculite, limestone and marble, gold, graphite, aluminium, clay rich in rare earth elements, phosphates and iron ore in Muko from which we can make high-quality steel and sand.

From these resources, Uganda has the opportunity to industrialise quickly with the acquisition of technology and specialised skills development, which is tailored to industrialisation.

Until recently, when we started refining gold, our minerals were being exported in raw form. We were exporting raw materials – Africans from other countries who are here, this is the disease of Africa, exporting raw materials – “*matière première*” – “*française*”, very bad; “*matière première*”.

This means we were donating all the benefits, such as jobs and money, to other countries. I do not have time to give – if you take iron ore; at one time, if you exported a ton of iron ore, they would give you \$47. At that time, the one who processed the iron ore into a ton of steel would earn \$900.

You get \$47, but the foreigner who is cleverer than you, gets \$900, and all the jobs are available for his children when your children have no jobs. The Government has stopped – I have completely banned the export of unprocessed minerals. Some of the people wanted to kill me. I said, “You kill me, but I will not-”

In Tororo, where we have got large deposits of limestone, and Kabale, where we have got iron ore, the Government has facilitated the use of these minerals for making cement and steel, respectively.

In Kabale, we have put in place the infrastructure for mining the iron ore from which domestic steel manufacturers have started making high-quality steel.

There are now 10 gold refineries in the country producing gold, which is refined to 99.9 per cent purity. There are gold mining activities in Busia by a Chinese company called Wagagai, and the Government embarked on the registration of artisanal miners in Buhweju, Busia, Mubende, Kassanda and Karamoja. Registration will be expanded to cover all artisanal mining areas in the country.

In Moyo, there are gold reserves and huge limestone deposits, apparently, which are raw material for cement production in Madi-Manzora.

We currently have three cement manufacturing plants, namely Tororo, Hima, and Simba Cement, a high-quality tin smelting plant in Mbarara with an annual capacity of 1,600 tons. A number of cement factories are coming up in Karamoja.

The Government is also facilitating the establishment of a modern mineral laboratory in Entebbe, which is in the final stages of accreditation to international standards.

This financial year, the Government started the capitalisation of the Uganda National Mining Company. This company will take an equity stake of up to 15 per cent in all medium-scale and large-scale strategic mining operations in the country.

This is to ensure that as we attract foreign direct investment capital, the country benefits directly, in addition to monitoring what is happening in the sector. The company will be capitalised to a tune of Shs 500 billion over five years.

Oil and gas

With regard to oil and gas production, the Government is investing in the requisite infrastructure for commercial production.

Kabalega International Airport is near completion, and 700 kilometres of tarmac roads have been constructed in the Albertine area.

The civil works for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) are scheduled for completion next financial year, both in Uganda and Tanzania.

The Ugandan National Oil Company commenced the petroleum bulk trading business in August 2024. The objective is to ensure the security of fuel supply, reduction in the petroleum pump prices, and ensure the quality of petroleum products on the market.

Since the Government started implementing this initiative, Uganda has experienced some reduction in fuel pump prices. We rejected the old mistake of a whole country like Uganda buying petroleum products from middlemen in Kenya. Can you imagine? Your people were buying petroleum for the Republic of Uganda, a member of the United Nations, from middlemen. Can you imagine? You cannot believe what happens in Africa. I did not believe it. And you know, in these ministries, there are people called commissioners. Have you heard of them? Commissioner of ignorance or what? *(Laughter)*

When I came to know of it, I said, "This would not happen. Why not buy from refiners? Don't you know where the refineries are or the bulk suppliers?" You can't believe it. Africa is really a continent of wonders; a whole country buying petroleum from middlemen! I did not know of this, and I was sitting there, "President, President." *(Laughter)*

In the minerals sector, the Government's investment next financial year will prioritise the following:

1. Establishing the quantities of the remaining mineral reserves;
2. Strengthening the minerals tracking system to improve transparency and meet the international rules of origin;
3. Adequate capitalisation of the Uganda National Mining Company;
4. Establishing the governance framework and the fiscal rule for the mining sector;
5. Expediting the finalisation of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline;
6. Prioritisation of the construction of the oil refinery and refined products pipeline; and
7. Commencing the construction of the Kabalega Industrial Park to attract petrochemical industries, among others.

Science, Technology, and Innovation

I would like to commend the Ugandan scientists for nurturing our nascent knowledge economy. Our scientists have been active in developing automobiles, vehicles – you show them the vehicles. You show these honourables and all these powerful people, *Emotoka zaffe banange ziri ludda wa? Muziteekeko.*

(Whereupon a video clip was played.)

GEN. (RTD) MUSEVENI: *Temulina motoka zaffe? Mulina bakulu bokka? Abakulu tubamanyi. Ah! Bannange, Kiira mugirabye? Kiira, our visitors – freeze it there – Kabagirabire ddala – laba bano – (Laughter)- bagiteekako ne bagijjako! Freeze it there.*

Now, those buses are electric buses manufactured by your children here; from zero to the whole thing. They are called “Kiira”. “Kiira” is our name for the Nile. The Nile – other people call it the Nile but we call it “Kiira”. Even the South Sudanese use the same name. That is why His Excellency, Salva Kiir’s name means Nile. His name means Nile. These people are making the buses, the smaller cars, and all other vehicles. Thank you. You can now show the big people. *Obalabye ab’ebitiibwa?*

So, I want to commend the Ugandan scientists for nurturing our nascent knowledge economy. Our scientists have been active in

developing automobiles, vaccines, electronics, therapeutics, diagnostics, and other healthcare tools. The innovations include:

1. The Kiira vehicle plant in Jinja, which has an annual capacity of 2,500 vehicles and an employment potential of 12,000 direct and indirect workers. There are 39 buses operating on our roads from Kiira; and 30 buses are under production. The plant has secured a market in West Africa to supply about 3,700 electric buses;
2. Dei Biopharma Manufacturing Facility in Matugga. Can you show us that one there? That one is a clever Ugandan who is heavily supported by the Government, but he has also attracted some support from other places. The Dei Biopharma Manufacturing Facility in Matugga has filed more than 100 patents in the United States, including a cancer treatment technology based on the gene therapy; a highly potent gene therapy technology for red blood cell generation by the bone marrow, an mRNA vaccine that treats brain degenerative tissue disease, an anti-malaria vaccine, a vaccine for HIV, a one-month insulin shot; a type 1 diabetes vaccine, a universal foot and mouth disease vaccine, and a biological molecule for penicillin. All these patents are there. You can check them with your people. Magoola, I do not know whether – is Magoola here? If he is here, he can stand up and you see him;
3. Developing the vaccines for the Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever and the Rift Valley virus;
4. Accreditation of the Alfasan Vaccine manufacturing facility to produce anti-tick vaccines for the second phase of clinical trials;
5. Professor Ogwang’s clinical trials of his natural therapeutics. He is also establishing an internationally certified production facility in Soroti Industrial Park;

6. The PCR kit developed by scientists at Makerere University to conduct more than two million tests at 50 per cent of the cost of imported alternatives. This has saved the country \$37 million in imports per year;
 7. Gulu University developed highly effective rapid test kits for crop diseases – for cassava and sweet potatoes;
 8. The engineering development and innovation centres in Rwebiteete, Kiruhura District and Namanve are enhancing capacity for industrial technology, metallurgy, electrical and electronics, civil engineering, automotive technology, agricultural mechanisation, and construction machinery.
 9. The Presidential Initiative on the Banana Industrial Development (PIBID) plant in Bushenyi – can you show us that one? *Bushenyi banange!* If you don't want to die from a heart attack, you eat our bananas. They have got potassium for your heart muscles.
- The Presidential Initiative on Banana Industrial Development plant in Bushenyi has significantly increased commercial production capacity to 140 metric tonnes of fresh Matooke – “Matooke” is bananas – per day. The plant has sales orders from the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Italy.
- Over the last 17 years, the NRM Government has prioritised infrastructure development, especially the roads, railways and electricity. We now have a solid foundation to support industrial development. All parts of the country are interconnected using tarmac and good murram roads. This means that whatever is produced in the country can easily reach the markets. It also means that the cost and time of moving goods has reduced significantly, facilitating both investments and trade.
- The stock of tarmac roads is now 6,199 kilometres, compared to only 1,900 kilometres when the NRM took power in 1986. Of these
- 1,900 kilometres, only 114 kilometres were in fair condition, while the rest, totalling 1,786 kilometres, were in poor condition. The roads to commence construction to tarmac standard next financial year include:
 1. 23.6km., Yumbe-Ure Road and bridge. Are my people from Yumbe happy? *Awadifo. (Applause)*
 2. 69.3km., Katine-Ochero Road – *apwoyo, apwoyo, apwoyo* – and 2.9 kilometres of town roads in Kaberamaido and Kalaki towns.
 3. 105km. of Kyenjojo-Kihura-Bwizi-Rwamwanja-Kahunge and Mpara-Bwizi. *Mwebale muno.*
 4. 56.3km., Iganga-Bulopa-Kamuli-Jinja. *Mwebale ino.*
 5. 127km Mbulamuti-Kamuli-Bukungu – at long last.
 6. 10km., Jinja City roads.
 7. 115km., Kitgum-Kidepo. *Apwoyo, apwoyo! (Applause)*
 8. 88km, Ishasa-Katunguru Road. *Mwebale munonga.*
 9. 65.3km, Luku-Kalangala-Mulabana Road. Do the bassesse have their own language? *Bogera Luganda? Kale bagenderawo.*
 10. 10.67 kilometres on the seven town roads in Kalangala.
 11. 72km, Nabumali-Butaleja-Namutumba.
 12. 73km, Karenga-Kapedo-Kaabong.
 13. 69.6km, Kotido-Kaabong Road. *Alakara noi noi.*
 14. 25km, Bubulo-Bududa Circular Road. *Akaguto ako banange. Aba Masaaba.*
 15. 21km, Mbale-Nkokonjeru Road.
 16. 46.4km, Kabwohe-Nyakambu-Bwizibwera and Nyakambu-Nsiika Road. *Abany-abuhweju, at last.*

The Government is repairing the 78.9km road from Nebbi to Arua and I am also negotiating for more money to tarmac other roads, namely:

Kabujogyera-Kitagwenda-Kamwenge Road – *abatagwenda bangye mutebwo amastiko;*

Muhaanga-Rwamuchuuchu-Kisiizi-Rubaare Road with a branch to Nyakisheenye and another one to Kebisooni – *Abahooro, Abakiga tindabasa kubebwa;* Lyantonde-Lumbugu-Rakai – *abakooki baffe eyomunda eyo;*

Ssembabule-Mateete-Mbiriizi with a branch to Kibinge-Kyabakuza;

Myanzi-Kasanda-Kiboga – *abantu bange abe Kassanda akalulu mukatereze*;

Kikagate Kitwe-Mirama Hill – Mama was about to kill me on this one here. Kati mponye;

Kabiingo-Rugaaga-Magabi-Rakai;

Luweero-Butalangwa-Ngoma-Bulyamusenyi-Masindi; Kayunga-Bbale-Galiraya. I am going to get additional money for these roads because we have been talking about them for a long time.

These will be in addition to the completion of the following roads: 92km Muyembe-Nakapiripirit and 25 kilometres of service roads; 21km Kira-Matugga Road and improvement of five junctions, 26 kilometres of Tororo-Busia Road and Mayuge and Busia Town Roads, 6.6 kilometres of Kawuku-Bwerenga Road, the 100-kilometre Apac-Lira-Puranga road – these are already being worked on. They are going to be finished – and 1.6 kilometres to Namugonde-Bugiri fuel tank reservoir.

The roads for maintenance or reconstruction include –

1. Kampala-Jinja Highway – 72 kilometres;
2. Busunju-Kiboga-Hoima – 145 kilometres;
3. Mityana-Mubende Road – 86 kilometres; and Mubende-Kyenjojo Road, 95 kilometres;
4. Mityana Town roads – 14 kilometres – *ab'eMityana mutereze akalulu banange. Buno obuli eyo tebulina kyebukola, butabula. Muleta obusajjasajja* –
5. Alwii-Nebbi Road – 33 kilometres – this is in West Nile - Pakwach and Nebbi Town roads;
6. Olwiyo-Pakwach Road – 62 kilometres;
7. Matugga-Semuto-Kapeeka – 41 kilometres – (*Applause*) *Waliyo akasajja eyo e'Nakaseke. Abantu bange, mutereze ebighambo ehyo, obusajja obwo bugende bukole ebirala.*

8. Tororo-Mbale-Soroti. This is a long one.
9. Soroti-Dokolo-Lira-Kamdini Road – 189 kilometres. These are ongoing already.
10. Karuma-Olwiyo – 43 kilometres;
11. Masaka-Kyotera-Mutukula Road – 89 kilometres;
12. Nyendo-Villa Maria Road – 11 kilometres;
13. Access Roads – 7 kilometres and rehabilitation of 166 kilometres equivalent of national roads that have reached their service life. What they call “service life” is *zikadiye*.

The strategic bridges to be prioritised – there is a road in Mpigi, Kasanje – *aka'town akalala bakayita batya?* Kisubi. *Waliwo aka town eyo munda akalala;* Nakawuka. *Elyo sirilabye wano. Tulina okuriteekako nalyo. Naye abantu batereze obululu banange.* The strategic bridges - so I will have to add that road. I thought we had started on it.

The strategic bridges to be prioritised in the next financial year include the Sezibwa Bridge along Kalagi-Kayunga Road, Katonga Bridge, Lwera Swamp, and Kalandazi Swamp.

Electricity

In 1986, the whole country had only one hydropower plant; Nalubaale, formerly called Owen Falls Dam, built by the British in 1954, and commissioned by our late auntie, Queen Elizabeth, with the maximum capacity of 150 megawatts of hydroelectricity. There are now four large hydropower plants at Nalubaale, Kiira, Isimba and Karuma, with a combined generation capacity of 1,163 megawatts.

Other sources such as Kigwabya and XsaboKonge Solar Power in Mubende have added another 888 megawatts. This brings the total installed electricity generation capacity to 2,052 megawatts.

However, given the growing electricity demand arising from the new manufacturers, this is very inadequate and the available capacity will run out in about five years from now. When people talk of surplus, there is no surplus. It will very soon be overtaken.

In the past, delayed investment in new electricity generation capacity led to power blackouts – Do you remember? And it affected productivity in the industrial services sector. To stop this from happening again, the Government will commence investment in new hydropower plants at Ayago in Nwoya District, 840 megawatts; Kiba in Oyam District, 400 megawatts; and Oriang in Nwoya, 382 megawatts. In addition, work is ongoing for the 8,400 megawatts nuclear power plant in Buyende District. All these investments, when completed, will bring Uganda's electricity generation capacity to 12,074 megawatts. However, we are aiming at 52,000 megawatts.

Human capital

The Government continues – Do not mind the long speech; you are the ones who invited me. (*Laughter*) - to focus on attaining a good standard of health for Ugandans and those living in Uganda. The prevention strategy remains the most powerful tool for fighting diseases. Therefore, I urge all Ugandans to adopt healthy lifestyles by exercising, maintaining personal hygiene, eating nutritious foods, sleeping under a treated mosquito net, refraining from dangerous practices like smoking, sexual promiscuity, etc.

While the Government is investing in improving the health infrastructure across the country, it is the responsibility of every individual to ensure that they live in a clean and safe environment to avoid falling sick. Government has invested in a number of health infrastructure projects. These include infrastructure development for the Uganda Cancer Institute and regional cancer centres, the Uganda Heart Institute, intensive care units and imaging centres for referral hospitals.

Construction of new maternity wards and staff houses in the health centres II that are being upgraded to health centres III, is currently ongoing. This has significantly increased the health facilities in all districts across the country. For example, when I visited Yumbe District recently, I found out that Yumbe alone has 26 health centres III. This means that our people,

especially children and expectant mothers, no longer have to travel long distances when they get sick or when they are going to give birth. This also supports immunisation, which helps to raise healthy children, and supports the detection of dangerous disease outbreaks before they spread.

The Government has supported the establishment of a pharmaceutical industrial park at Namanve that is producing surgical gloves and examination gloves, disposable syringes, human drugs like magnesium sulphate and paracetamol.

Next financial year, the Government will support the construction of specialised centres of excellence for cancer and cardiovascular treatment, among others.

Education

The Government has introduced reforms in the education sector, which are aimed at re-orienting the curriculum towards a competency-based approach. This involves equipping learners with practical skills and competencies that are required in the private sector. This will help to reduce unemployment among school graduates.

Government continued to implement the Universal Primary Education programme, reaching 8.8 million learners across 12,433 Government-aided primary schools at a sum of Shs 184 billion. The Government, through the School Facility Grant, constructed 413 new classrooms for primary schools and renovated 181 classrooms.

Government procured and distributed 334 sets of mini-laboratory equipment to 334 primary Government schools to enhance practical science learning and foster early scientific curiosity among young learners.

A total of 593 teachers were recruited to facilitate operationalisation of the newly grant-aided secondary schools in sub-counties. The Government has successfully completed the construction of an additional 50 seed secondary

schools under the Uganda Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfers (UgIFT) programme, bringing the cumulative total to 161 seed schools, out of the 259 planned. The majority of the remaining schools are progressing well and are on schedule for completion by June, 2025.

The total number of Government-aided primary schools in the country is now 12,550. People normally talk of parishes which do not have Government-aided primary schools. But how many parishes are there in Uganda? It is because some of the parishes have got more than one primary school. Otherwise, 12,000 could have covered every parish because remember, the villages are 72,000 and they are normally about five or 10 villages in a parish. The primary schools, supported by the Government, are now quite many but some of the parishes may have more than one.

The total number of Government-aided secondary schools is 1,416. The technical and vocational schools are 189 and Government degree-awarding universities are 12. That is the infrastructure of education in the country now.

Clean water and sanitation

The proper management of our water and environmental resources is a major contributing factor to public health, agricultural productivity and climate change adaptation. The National Population and Housing Census Report of 2024 showed that at least eight in 10 households now have access to improved water sources, that is, piped water, protected springs, etc.

In 1986, only 10 per cent – that is one out of 10 households – had access to a clean and safe water source. Today, 81.1 per cent of the households in Uganda are in the radius of one kilometre from a safe water source. This is on account of the Government's prioritisation of the construction of piped water systems in both rural and urban areas.

Government has constructed a number of solar-powered piped water systems in the districts of Agago, Alebtong, Kayunga, Mityana, Pader,

etc. There are ongoing construction works in other districts like Buhweju – for Bisya water supply system; Kasese – for Nyamugasani gravity flow scheme; Ala-Ora water supply system to serve the districts of Terego, Madi-Okollo and Nebbi, among others.

Additionally, through the District Water and Sanitation Conditional Grant, the local governments have been able to boost access to improved water sources across the country. The local governments have constructed a total of 2,564 taps, serving 452,000 persons; drilled 709 deep boreholes, serving 212,000 persons and 128 protected springs, serving 43,000 persons. They have also constructed 109 rainwater harvesting tanks, serving 654 persons and 79 production wells.

A total of 1,333 boreholes and 28 piped water systems have been rehabilitated across the country, thus restoring service to 417,000 persons.

Regional integration

The political balkanisation of Africa created small states, many of which have small populations. Uganda, with 46 million people, is one of the bigger states. The solution to this problem is regional integration. The whole of Africa has got a very high population of 1.4 billion people but this population is broken up into small units. Small populations mean small markets. The problem is compounded by a low purchasing power because of low incomes. So you have got small populations with low incomes. How will they support business?

There are also problems in the regional market such as lack of roads and lack of communication to enable us to fully exploit the regional market. That is why, for instance, Uganda has undertaken the construction of the Mpondwe to Beni highway to ease connectivity between Congo and Uganda. If we mobilise the whole of Africa to remove all trade barriers, we shall no longer worry about being shut out of markets in Europe or the USA. In the Budget speech, I will speak more about this issue of integration. I think for now, let me finish so that people can survive and go home.

Mass ID registration

Government, through NIRA, has started the mass registration exercise of all Ugandans. This important exercise involves replacing the national identity cards that have expired and fresh registration. The IDs will be used to identify voters in the forthcoming elections to prevent fraud. Therefore, I urge you all to embrace the registration exercise.

Conclusion

As I conclude – so you see, patience pays; you have really survived – I wish to reiterate that the NRM is aiming at making Uganda a 500-billion-dollar economy in the near future. We have identified four key areas to drive this rapid growth.

First is agro-industrialisation. We must add value to the abundant agricultural raw materials that we, the wealth-creators, are producing: coffee, dairy products, beef, fish, fruits and vegetables, cocoa, cereals, poultry, piggery, cotton, tea, etc. These value chains have a combined untapped value addition potential of \$20 billion.

Second is tourism and travel. We have a strategy to increase tourist inflows fivefold by doubling the average spent and average stay-time per tourist. Our tourism value chain has \$50 billion potential.

Third is mineral beneficiation and manufacturing, including oil and gas. We are finalising the quantification of our mineral deposits. We must add value to our mineral deposits. We must add value to gold, iron ore, phosphates, limestone, tin, copper and cobalt, lithium, uranium, etcetera. The confirmed value addition potential for our minerals is \$25 billion. We have also finalised plans and signed the first contract to build East Africa's largest petro-chemical industry around our oil and gas reserves.

The fourth area is science, technology and innovation, including ICT and digital transformation.

What I have said in this long speech is that Uganda is now unstoppable in terms of economic growth and socio-economic transformation.

Our security apparatus is also robust. All this is in spite of the mistakes of the careerists that infiltrated the civilian echelons of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) and even within the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) to some extent. These are normally after personal enrichment and power. They hardly bother with the salvation policies of Uganda or Africa.

During the Budget speech, I will talk about two issues: corruption and the East African Federation. In spite of these mistakes and the external meddling, as you have seen, Uganda is unstoppable. Why? It is on account of our correct position on philosophy, ideology and strategy and the fear of God.

Therefore, the malalignment notwithstanding, Uganda is moving forward. It is now irreversibly a middle-income country with a GDP per capita of \$1,263, as already pointed out. It is number seven among the fastest-growing countries in the world. The source is the International Monetary Fund (IMF). When you hear a cow talking, then what are you asking? *Bwowlira ng'ente eyogera, odamu otya?* The IMF has said Uganda is number seven in the world. The IMF is number seven and this is before oil. With oil, we shall be the first in the world. It is growing at 6.3 per cent per annum. It is projected to be seven per cent next year; 2025/2026, and will grow in double digits after oil. "*Akahangyiirwe Rwaasha, tikanguurwa munobi*". This is the other language. You know the other language. "*Akahangyiirwe Rwaasha, tikanguurwa munobi*", meaning "What God has created cannot be destroyed by haters."

In recent times, one of my happiest days was 6 May 2025, when we held the NRM village assemblies (*barazas*) in the 72,000 villages of Uganda to audit and rectify the NRM membership registers. "*Haa olunaku olwo banange*". It was so beautiful, peaceful, transparent, and free of fraud. You remember

the 6th of May? *“Oba mulina pictures awo, simanyi”. Obufananyi webuli? Bwebubaawo nabwo mubutekeko.”*

After that exercise, we identified that the members who were on the register were 18.5 million NRM members, above the age of 18 years, and we elected the 30 NRM leaders per village. I was present at Rwakitura village meeting, but I did not vote in my Rwakitura village. Why? A leader should not take sides in the structures below him or her. He or she should let the people elect the ones they prefer. Whether you like them or not, let the people elect, because you are not the one electing; it is them. He or she should let the people elect the ones they prefer and work with them as long as they are NRM. *“Nze sifaayo gwemunsidikidde. Kyentunulako kye kyambalo kyayambadde”.*

When you send me a person, I look at the way he or she is dressed. If she has a bad dress, then I am not happy. You remember the other dresses?

Subsequently, however, I started hearing stories that some of our leaders were taking sides in the election of the structures above the village. We are studying this information and I will give my guidance in the coming weeks.

The NRM members should stay calm. Whatever mistakes happened, happened here in Uganda. They did not happen in Iceland. They did not happen far away; they are here. We shall unearth them. They did not happen in any other country where we have no authority. Get the facts and give them to the NRM administrative secretaries at the district or the NRM Secretariat in Kampala in writing with illustrations of the information.

The first economic growth factor I talked about in the economy is on account of four factors. These are the correct philosophical, ideological, and strategic positions of the NRM, as already pointed out, that is number one.

Number two, the NRA/UPDF that liberated the country and has ensured peace ever since.

Number three, the wealth creators in the four sectors of agriculture, manufacturing, services, and ICT.

And number four, the responsible political actors in the NRM and other groups that have contributed to harmony.

These are the four that have enabled us to come up.

Number one, our correct stand on philosophy, ideology, and strategy. I do not have time to elaborate on that but we have talked about it before. Number two, the armed forces; UPDF/ NRA for liberating the country and maintaining peace. Number three, the wealth creators; the farmers, the manufacturers, the owners of the services, the ICT. This is why we are strong; because of the wealth they create. And number four, the political actors who are positive and support this.

Therefore, the careerists who always think of themselves should check themselves. They should not spoil the efforts of the patriots. Here, I do not have to talk about the negative Opposition elements that work for foreign interests and the parasitic local interests. Those have failed to block our progress. It is the internal mistakes that must be corrected.

Finally, I want to reaffirm the commitment of the NRM Government to ensuring that Uganda remains stable and transforms into a modern, prosperous country. I wish all Ugandans a peaceful election season.

In the coming Session of Parliament, the Government will present to you, for consideration the following Bills: They are here. Let me see. *“Biliwano, kambisome”*. Kaguta paid my school fees. *(Laughter)*

The Bills are:

1. The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development – the Building Substances Bill, 2022;
2. Information and Communication Bill, 2023;
3. The Magistrates’ Courts Bill, 2025;

4. The Worker's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
5. Amendment Bill for the Universities and other Tertiary Institutions Act, 2001;
6. Amendment of the Education Act, 2008;
7. The Curriculum, Assessment and Admissions Bill, 2026;
8. Uganda Intelligence Services Policy Framework, 2024;
9. Principles for drafting the Unclaimed Financial Assets Bill, 2025;
10. Annual Macroeconomic and Fiscal Performance Report for Financial Year 2024/2025;
11. Annual Budget Performance Report for Financial Year 2024/2025;
12. The National Budget Framework Paper for Financial Year 2026/2027 to 2030/2031;
13. Public Procurement and Disposal (Amendment) Bill, 2025;
14. Principles for the amendment of the Motor Vehicle Insurance (Third Party Risks) Act, 1989;
15. Development of the National Agricultural Financing Policy;
16. Semi-Annual Budget Performance Report;
17. Half-year Macroeconomic and Fiscal Performance Report;
18. Ministerial Policy Statements for Financial Year 2026/2027 for Vote 008, Vote 130 and other statutory Votes under the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;
19. Development of the National Insurance Policy, 2025;
20. Budget Speech 2026/2027;
21. Principles for the amendment of the Tier 4 Microfinance Institutions and Money Lenders (Amendment) Act, 2016; and
22. Principles for the amendment of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

I would like to congratulate Parliament and the Speaker on the Bills which you passed and handled. *(Applause)*

As I said in my speech in Luwero, some of these Bills helped with the stability of the country, like the UPDF Bill. *Mwebale kugiyitako banange. (Applause)* That one was –

One of the Members – Sometimes, I watch our wonderful UBC. When they are not showing football, they also give some news – When they have football, they forget about us. I saw one of the young people – the young man is a legislator – saying that in a company, you have got internal procedures where you can exercise administrative discipline but if it is a crime, it must go to court. Of course, it is correct but UPDF is not a business company – To find a Member of Parliament thinking that UPDF is a business company is really a disaster.

Therefore, I would like to thank Parliament and the Speaker for saving us from that big problem. There is no way UPDF soldiers can go to the Magistrate's Court once they have made mistakes in the barracks initially; it is not possible. I do not think it happens in other armies.

We need some capacity building for Members of Parliament to know what happens in the world. You cannot say UPDF is like a company; it is not a company. It is a very powerful pillar of the State and it must be handled in a special way.

I congratulate the Speaker, the ministers of the frontbench, the NRM caucus – *banange*, NRM caucus *ebeewo* – *(Applause)* – and other allied friends who are friendly. *Boona mbeebaza*; I thank all of them.

I, therefore, have the pleasure to declare the Fifth Session of the 11th Parliament open. I salute all of you. May God bless you. *(Applause)* Signed, Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda. *Katonda ababeere. (Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Your Excellency, for the clear and concise exposition of Government policy in your address to the nation, and for fulfilling your constitutional obligation under Article 101(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

Your Excellency and honourable members, kindly allow me to take this opportunity to recognise the presence of the former Speakers and presiding officers of the Parliament of

Uganda. We have Rt Hon. Francis Butagira (1980 to 1985); we have His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the Chairman of the National Resistance Council (1989 and 1996); Rt Hon. Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi (2001 to 2011); Rt Hon. Al Hajji Moses Kigongo, the Vice-Chairperson of the National Resistance Council (1986 to 1996).

We appreciate them for their contribution to strengthening the foundation on which the Legislature stands today. May the good Lord bless all of you. We are where we are because of you and we will also leave it for the next people who will come in.

We take cognisance of the Government's legislative agenda for the Fifth Session and we pledge our utmost commitment to the 11th Parliament to prioritise Government business and expeditiously and exhaustively consider all Government business before any other business.

Honourable members, pursuant to Rule 26(1) of the Rules of Procedure, we will allot time, at a later date, for an exhaustive debate on the President's address on the state of the nation.

Honourable members, His Excellency the President will be back on Thursday, 12 June 2025, to deliver the Budget Speech. I invite all of you kindly to be here to receive the Budget.

We would like to thank all the ambassadors who are here. We are very grateful that you are here and that you honoured our invitation. I, therefore, ask Members to please be here to receive the Budget. Remember, one of your roles is appropriation. You did appropriate and you will be here to receive the Budget.

I would like to, once again, thank His Excellency the President and all the dignitaries who have made it here.

In a special way, I would also like to thank *Mama Janet Kataaha Museveni* for accompanying the President for this State-of-the-Nation address.

May the good Lord bless all of you and I wish you success during this elective season.

The House is adjourned to Thursday, 12 June, 2025 at 2.00 p.m.

(The East African Community Anthem.)

(The National Anthem.)

(The House rose at 4.51 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 12 June 2025, at 2.00 p.m.)