

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION - SECOND MEETING

TUESDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2026



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIRST SESSION - 4TH SITTING - SECOND MEETING

Tuesday, 6 October 2026

Parliament met at 2.16 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I welcome you to today's sitting. Some former ministers and former members of Parliament approached me seeking clarification and help on when one ceases to be a politically exposed person. They complained that some who have been out of office for up to 10 years are still considered politically exposed persons when they go to conduct transactions, including at banks here, yet they left office long ago.

I request that the Attorney-General provide us with clarification on that matter tomorrow. It is a very serious issue. When you want to do something, they say, "No, we cannot sign with you; you are politically exposed." But in ten years, I am out of office; what am I exposed to? I am struggling on my own. So, I hope the Attorney-General can guide me on this matter.

They especially requested that the Central Bank communicate to all banks so that they are allowed to trade as free citizens. We need the Attorney-General to guide us on when one ceases to be considered a politically exposed person. All of us are going that route; one day, we shall leave here. So, we must sort the matter out.

Honourable colleagues, I also saw the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development informing the country that the Government has embarked on a strategy to widen the tax base. We need to support the Government and the Uganda Revenue Authority in this drive to raise the much-needed revenue for service delivery, while also supporting businesses with tax compliance.

I, therefore, request the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to prepare a statement on this tax base expansion strategy so that this House can debate it. Usually, they bring tax bills, and we focus on them. We become tax masters, yet out there, when people complain, they say, "No, we are implementing the law. This is what Parliament passed."

We, therefore, need to be apprised as early as possible because tax Bills usually come in at the beginning of April, I think, as per the Public Finance Management Act. That is when they are brought in, but we usually do not have enough time to discuss them as a House. We end up only focusing on reports.

Government Chief Whip, on this, the minister will have an opportunity to mobilise the House to be ambassadors for his strategy wherever we are, explaining it to the community. So, I

request the minister - once he is ready and has had time to prepare - we shall accord him space on the Order Paper.

Yesterday, honourable colleagues, I attended the passing out ceremony of Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) from Mitooma District. These community health workers are critical to Uganda's health system, as they help bridge the gap between remote grassroots communities and formal healthcare facilities through sensitisation and by providing people with information on accessing health services.

They are equipped with tools such as blood pressure machines, thermometers and glucometers, among others. This enables them to measure blood pressure, blood sugar levels and body temperature, among other basic health checks and identify people who may need further medical attention.

As of today, the Ministry of Health has enrolled 9,112 community health extension workers in 70 districts. I have seen how good this programme is. Therefore, honourable minister, I would like to call upon you to see how best we can roll it out in the whole country. For us here, it would be to support you in the budgeting process so that primary healthcare is given that very critical attention.

However, these same people complain that they have not received their allowances. Honourable minister, the Director General of Health Services said that you have already written to the Finance Ministry for a supplementary budget and all that.

I would like to call upon you, honourable colleagues, to support this programme wherever it is, and to make sure we give the ministry enough support so that it is rolled out in the whole country. It is a very critical programme. I do not want to come and be talking about Mitooma when the rest of the country is not benefiting.

Honourable colleagues, the 28th Uganda National Prayer Breakfast will take place on Thursday, 8 October 2026, at State House, Entebbe. The National Prayer Breakfast brings together national and international guests from all faiths, all branches of Government, the business community, and the diplomatic corps to fellowship, pray, and commit our nation to God.

Given the diverse nature of the event, different sectors will be represented. One hundred and twenty Members of Parliament who are holy have been invited to represent the unholy and other Members. *(Laughter)* I would like to ask for that list and look through. Of course, that thing of being holy is from me, so I want to look at the list and see whether people like Hon. Ofwono Opondo are there. *(Laughter)* Yes, 120 Members have been chosen.

If you know you are extremely holy and your prayers can easily reach God, you will link up with Hon. Edakasi and Hon. Bahati, if you have not received your invitation card. They are God's representatives here, chosen to work on the list. People like Hon. John Musila - *[Hon. Musila: "I am not holy"]* Oh, yes. *(Laughter)* Hon. Musila has turned down the invitation because he does not qualify. We will pray for you when we reach there so that you become holy.

Invitation cards for invited Members have been placed in their respective pigeonholes. Key information about this event is that His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, will be the chief guest. The chief host is the Rt Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth, Speaker of Parliament, and the keynote speaker is His Excellency Eduard Heger, former Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic.

The theme is, "Wake up, work hard, build Uganda," anchored in Proverbs 20:13. Testifiers are Rt Rev. Bishop Nathan Ahimbisibwe, Bishop of South Ankole Diocese, and Mr Gaster Lule, proprietor of Ntake Bread.

Prior to this event, a number of activities will take place, including the Women's Forum, which is tomorrow, 7 October 2026, at Speke Resort Hotel, Munyonyo, starting at 9.00

a.m. The Business Forum is also tomorrow 7 October, and it will be at Parliament of Uganda, Conference Hall, starting at 8.00 a.m.

We said the business community should come and enter Parliament because usually people think Parliament is for certain people, so we want them to come. The Keynote Speaker for the Business Forum is Mr Emmanuel Katongole, the Chairman of Quality Chemicals Industries.

Next is the African Youth Leadership Forum from 7 to 9 October 2026. Hon. Edakasi briefed me today that around 120 youth leaders from across the continent have already reported to the Imperial Resort, and we also chose a few 'holy' Members of Parliament to mentor them. If you are not among the chosen, you should question your holiness, and I am not among the chosen 120. I do not know, and yet I am a very holy man. I do not know the criteria. Maybe Leader of the Opposition-

Honourable colleagues, I have received a petition from concerned citizens of Uganda who are aggrieved by the manner in which football in Uganda is managed. The petition came through Hon. Kiwanuka Suleiman, MP, Nakifuma County. They are aggrieved by how football in Uganda is managed.

In accordance with Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure, I have referred this petition to the Minister of Education and Sports for consideration. The House will be informed of the action taken in accordance with our Rules of Procedure. I did not consider it for the Order Paper because I felt these issues need to be addressed administratively. Just coming and debating without any administrative conclusions and action would not be that helpful. If we are not satisfied, I can always create space on the Order Paper or through the committee, and then we can go ahead and look through the issues.

Colleagues, matters of national importance-

2.29

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On the National Prayer Breakfast, you have informed us that a number of holy colleagues have been invited. Some people reached out to me. I do not know why they think I am holy, but I hope that we can widen it so that the sinners can attend as well, because the sinners need to go and repent of their many sins.

Mr Speaker, as you know, we all fall in the category of sinners. The Bible says, "*For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."* So, it will be important that wherever we are, whether at the State House or in our houses and so on, we pray for ourselves and we pray for this country, and hopefully we can act on those prayers; sometimes we pray, and it stops there. The Bible says, "After you have prayed, go and sin no more." But may God help all of us.

Mr Speaker, you have talked about the community health extension workers. Just before we went into recess, I raised that matter here because they have been reaching out, and I am sure they have reached out to several other colleagues because they have gone for months without their facilitation. First of all, it is a niggardly facilitation. It is a small facilitation, but they have gone for donkey's years without getting that facilitation.

The Minister of State for Health, Dr Charles Ayume, was here, and on behalf of the ministry, he conceded that yes, these people have not been paid for some time, and he promised us that he was going to follow up to see that that facilitation gets paid; the entire arrears. We do not know if there is a latest update from the ministry because these people play a pivotal health service provision role at that level.

First of all, there should even be a discussion about enhancing that small facilitation, to improve it, but even before we have that discussion, what is due to them should get to them as soon as it possibly can. Hopefully, that gets to happen, and we get an update.

Finally, Mr Speaker, the Ugandan shilling has fallen to record low levels, trading at over Shs 4,000 against the US dollar. It is a record low, and as we know, Uganda is a net importer; net importer because we import a lot more than we export. Our imports are a lot higher than our exports.

Now, of course, the situation has been exacerbated by that demand for the dollar because, for business persons to import, they have to use the US dollar to purchase whatever they do purchase from China, and from wherever else anyway. Mr Speaker, some people are hoarding the dollar because of the situation as it is today. So, we are wondering whether the Central Bank will try to smooth liquidity because that is its key cardinal role as the Bank of Uganda.

I am reminded, Mr Speaker, on 28 April this year, it was a Tuesday, the Bank of Uganda Governor appeared before the joint committee that was processing the Sovereignty Bill and this was his remark; I want to quote him verbatim: *"We are going to have a substantial depreciation of the Uganda currency because of our balance of payments, which are to be greatly destabilised by the Sovereignty Bill.*" That was the Governor of the Bank of Uganda, on the 28th of April this very year.

Of course, Parliament went ahead and did what it did by passing that Bill against the advice of many critical voices, including the Bank of Uganda Governor. I hope the chickens are not coming home to roost but again, it is important that the Government tells us what they are doing about this situation because it is biting and biting hard.

Related to that, Mr Speaker, fuel prices are skyrocketing, and it has become tumultuous. It ranges between Shs 6,800 and Shs 7,000 per litre of petrol or diesel, and it fluctuates depending on the part of the country you are in at a particular time. I am told at night it is even more problematic.

Mr Speaker, of course, there are external and internal factors, and the external ones, people can talk about the Iran conflict which has disrupted oil supply, part of the oil infrastructure in that part of the world has been destroyed, and so on and so forth. But the Government has been telling us that, "*We are in charge."*

The Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) is the sole importer of bulk petroleum products, and we were told that it was going to stabilise the prices of these petroleum products. Of course, because of the liberalised economy, retail prices are determined by oil marketing companies. That is why there could be a difference but where it becomes problematic, it needs to be attended to, and so it should not get to those levels.

Mr Speaker, the Government has a duty; it is duty-bound to ensure that the final pump price is not greatly affected, and consequently it is affecting Ugandans. Everything has gone up, and you know when fuel prices go up - food prices, when people go to purchase clothes, school fees - everything becomes an issue because they will tether it to fuel prices. We need to address this matter.

Kenya is going to its elections next year. Are we ready? I am saying this because in 2007, we had a real crisis because of the Kenyan elections and then the post-election situation there. Is the Government ready, in the unfortunate event of a situation in Kenya where the Gen Zs rise up and say that we are unhappy about the election process and are demanding better? It will affect us because that is a route that we use. What is the Government doing about this situation?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, LOP. We are going to pray for Kenya. That is why we are praying even on Thursday, so that we can have a peaceful election. These are critical issues for which honourable members have come to office and booked space to raise: Hon. Karim Masaba, Hon. Cohen, Hon. Kateshumbwa, Hon. Namara, had come to my office about and booked space to raise these same issues.

I will request the ministers of finance and energy to come tomorrow - because this is an

issue which does not require us to wait much - and bring brief statements. They should be as brief as possible. I have been informed that the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development will be standing in for the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation tomorrow on the item that we have on the Order Paper. So, I request that they bring the statement.

(Hon. Lydia Wanyoto rose_) Hon. Wanyoto, is it related to this?

2.37

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE (Ms Lydia Wanyoto): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me be the first to welcome you and my colleagues back from recess. We had an opportunity to be in our constituencies, and I think we are back more refreshed to serve our people.

On the same note, Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the House and the Government for their contributions. Many of my colleagues from Elgon Subregion have been raising issues on the fights between the Uganda Wildlife Authority and communities there, and conservation.

Given the weather forecast talking about El Niño, we want to appreciate that Elgon and Mbale have been put in the national limelight. On the 27th of September, we hosted World Tourism Day at Mbale Secondary School. The hosts were Hon. Karim Masaba here, Hon. Umar Nangoli, and I. I would like to thank the ministers and honourable colleagues who came. If we do not do this next time, you may not come. Thank you so much.

The Government has been addressing the issues we have been raising on conservation, bad weather, floods, and mudslides in the Elgon Subregion. I am happy to report that all these matters have been addressed through the Prime Minister, and we shall be having a meeting, as Elgon Subregion, on the 20th of October.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues, for the support you have given us, and we hope that as the rains come, we shall be able to support our communities and save them from the perennial mudslides and losses we make. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation from the Rwenzori Guild Coalition which is composed of guild presidents, speakers and other student leaders from universities and tertiary institutions across the Rwenzori Subregion. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)* Thank you.

Hon. Kateshubwa and Hon. Masaba, if it is related to this same issue, let me first allow our elder, Hon. Fredrick Ruhindi. *(Hon. Baryomunsi rose_)* Honourable minister, I would like to give you an opportunity, but other issues might come up.

2.40

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND DISCIPLINE (Mr Fredrick Ruhindi): Mr Speaker, I rise under Rule 227(2) of the Rules of Procedure to seek leave of this House for an extension of time to enable the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline to complete its review of the Rules of Procedure, and report back to the House.

Rule 227(1) requires every committee to report to the House within 45 working days. Rule 227(2) provides that where a committee is unable to complete the matter referred to it within that period, it may seek an extension of time from the House. On 4 August 2026, this House directed the committee, under Rule 181(1)(c) to review the Rules of Procedure and report back within 45 working days. That period expires today, 6 October 2026.

We have made progress. The committee has invited and received proposals from Members of Parliament, chairpersons of committees, the Clerk to Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition, the Government Chief Whip, party whips, the office of the Auditor-General and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, among others. The committee has held meetings with a number of

these stakeholders to discuss these proposals, and consultations are still ongoing.

We have some outstanding work. We are concluding consultations with the remaining stakeholders. We are soon to undertake a rule-by-rule review of the rules, in light of the proposals received, and we shall then prepare the committee report and table it before this House.

The reasons for the delay, Mr Speaker, are that the rules contain over 230 rules, in addition to appendices and schedules. A comprehensive review could not be concluded within 45 working days. Two is the need for wide consultation. The rules affect every Member of this House; so, wide consultation is still needed. I know we have received many proposals from you but like Oliver Twist, we want some more in order to have an effective exercise.

Some stakeholders requested more time to submit their views, and the committee granted it. Stakeholders were initially slow to submit their proposals, and the committee had to extend the deadline for submissions.

In line with administrative guidance from the Clerk to Parliament, standing committees sit only on Mondays and Tuesdays to avoid clashes with the sectoral committees. This has reduced the time available for the committee's work. Of course, the House went on recess for three weeks. Although the committee was later permitted to sit during the recess, by then, it had already lost a number of sittings.

Mr Speaker, the committee, therefore, requests this House to grant it an extension of time of 30 working days from today to 18 November 2026 to enable it to complete the review and report back to the House. I beg to request.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline. Honourable colleagues, I put the question that we grant the extension of time, as requested, for 30 days.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chairperson, you have your 30 days; please ensure that you finish within that time. I have allowed Hon. Kateshumbwa, Hon. Masaba, and then I conclude with the others.

2.44

MR DICKSONS KATESHUMBWA (NRM, Sheema Municipality, Sheema): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am reacting to your communication on the issue of the Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs). In 2003, the Financial Action Task Force came up with a definition which has been subsequently revised over the years, the latest revision being in 2012 regarding PEPs.

Mr Speaker, you are right because while that definition includes Members of Parliament and senior politicians, I think the banking sector is taking the definition a bit too far. If I have been a Member of Parliament representing youths, finished my term, and I am no longer holding an office –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: But Hon. Kateshumbwa, aren't you debating in anticipation because I have requested the Attorney-General to bring guidance tomorrow and then we can debate it.

MR KATESHUMBWA: You are right, Mr Speaker. I was just giving a reaction. The prayer was not for immediate action, but I am reacting in support of your guidance that the Attorney-General should come here and not disadvantage some of our senior or junior politicians who have left this House. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Masaba, are you reacting to my communication?

2.46

MR KARIM MASABA (Independent, Industrial Division, Mbale City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to react to the communication and request that, because you have asked the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to come and

report tomorrow. There are things that I had put under my matters of national importance and I request that I raise them so that the minister can capture them tomorrow. Thank you very much.

The Leader of the Opposition (LOP) clearly laid out the situation of the dollar and what is happening. When I raised the matter of national importance, I had received calls from some of the traders who are my colleagues.

As most of you know, every time the dollar rises, prices increase. The Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) computes taxes based on CIF (cost, insurance, and freight) and the value of the import. URA always determines and comes up with a monthly rate that is used to convert the value into Ugandan shillings.

Many are worried because some of their goods have arrived, while others are still in transit. One of their prayers was that the Government, URA and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should hold on to the previous rate. Let them not revise it because the traders are worried. They purchased these goods at a lower rate.

The other issue I want the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to address is that the Governor of the Bank of Uganda said that our reserves have increased to about US$6.5 billion, which is quite good. However, they have decided not to touch the reserves. Instead, they have increased the cash reserve requirement for commercial banks.

Maybe the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development can explain why, because we would expect, in such a situation, that these reserves would be used to stabilise the shilling so that many of our traders do not lose out. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Amanya, you seem to be boiling over the same issue. You came to my office over the same issue.

2.48

MR COHEN AMANYA (NRM, Igara County West, Bushenyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On this issue, I can say that I am one of the affected persons.

Mr Speaker, as the minister goes back to come up with a statement tomorrow, maybe they need to liaise with both entities, URA and the Central Bank. URA, for us traders, will, to a certain extent, put it into effect next month when we declare what has been brought into this country. They will use the rate of Shs 4,000 because, right now, the dollar is at Shs 4,000.

The information I wanted to share with my colleague is that, as of yesterday, we were told the rate was temporary. However, as of today, it has not changed, and it is still going up.

So, as we are here, fuel prices will be affected, factors of production will be affected, and everyone will be affected. Therefore, I beseech the minister to look into this issue so that Ugandans do not suffer because of the high rate at which the dollar is going. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I had allowed the Woman Member of Parliament for Rukiga.

2.49

MS SYLVIA ALINAITWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Rukiga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to respond to your submission on community health extension workers and your call to roll it out to all districts -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Speaker does not submit; he communicates. So, for you, you submit.

MS ALINAITWE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Much obliged. I am indeed happy to hear that we are going to roll out this programme to all districts. Rukiga is one of those districts that are not yet covered.

For your information, this district has no hospital, community hospital, or referral hospital. It has very hilly terrain, with roads that are so poor and difficult to travel on. Indeed, the people are suffering. They have no nearby services, especially in urgent situations.

I stand on that background to humbly request that, when the next programme or set of districts is considered, Rukiga should be given special attention. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chairperson of the Committee on Health, I know you wanted to comment on the same.

2.51

DR MONDAY RUDE (NRM, Bukonzo County East, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is a different matter, but one of national importance.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Matters of national importance are registered with my office so I can review them, and then I call you.

DR MONDAY: Okay. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, colleagues, the Speaker last week gave very clear guidance on matters of national importance. Many of you submitted your matters, but they do not qualify as matters of national importance.

So, if I do not call you, know that I reviewed your matter and did not find it urgent. It was important, but not urgent. Thank you. So, you wait; I will guide you. Hon. Kwizera?

2.52

MR EDDIE KWIZERA (Independent, Bukimbiri County, Kisoro): Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Wait, today you have changed your seating position?

MR KWIZERA: Mr Speaker, I thank you for the effective communication you have made. However, I wish to remind honourable members that the Government implements programmes through written policies.

When you talk about revenue and taxation, we have long demanded that the Government put in place a comprehensive tax policy to guide revenue mobilisation.

So, would it be advisable, Mr Speaker, that the Government be directed, as we go for these programmes, to establish a strategic revenue mobilisation policy? I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, it is part of the requirements as we handle the Tax Bills. You know, the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Ochai, has already demanded it. I think that would be comprehensive enough. What informs the new tax proposals you have brought as a government? I think that is extremely critical.

However, for now, the one I raised was what the minister communicated. I said, "No, this would be really good if it is shared on the Floor and all honourable members are mobilised on the strategy for widening the revenue base."

Honourable minister, you wanted to comment on Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs)?

2.54

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Dr Chris Baryomunsi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I thank the Leader of the Opposition. He raised the issue of community health extension workers, and my sister, the Woman Representative of Rukiga, has also added her voice.

However, I want to start by thanking you, because you were in Mitooma just yesterday to commission the trained CHEWs.

Yes, the community health extension workers programme is relatively new, and we train two people per parish in our communities. It is an ongoing programme. As you said, we have covered 70 districts so far, and we will cover the rest of the country.

I think the concern that you raised was the issue of payment. Yes, some have outstanding arrears. They are paid Shs 150,000 per month. Indeed, when you spoke to the Permanent Secretary and the Director General of Health Services, we said that we were engaging with the Minister of Finance, Planning and

Economic Development. We shall get the resources and pay them.

Some of them were being paid by partners, but they are transitioning from partners to Government. So, we are in discussions with the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. We shall be able to clear the arrears and also pay them monthly.

Maybe what I could also pledge is that I can prepare an information paper for Parliament to describe and explain what the community health extension workers do so that we - *(Interjection)*- just one minute, then I will allow you. We need to know which districts have been covered so far, what these CHEWs do and how they relate to village health teams, so that, as honourable members of Parliament, we can support the programme. Perhaps next week, I could come with a paper -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sure, and then you will handle Hon. Ssewungu at that time.

DR BARYOMUNSI: I will absolutely answer Hon. Ssewungu.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Matters of national importance, Hon. Ali? You switched off honourable; kindly go on record.

DR BARYOMUNSI: Rukiga District is on the radar of the Ministry of Health, and we shall address the concerns. We shall reach there with CHEWs and other programmes. I know the challenges in Rukiga and other areas, and we take note of her concerns.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ali?

2.57

MR ALI KASIRYE (NUP, Makindye Division East, Kampala): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My subject is about the leadership vacuum in the villages where the Local Council (LC) elections were nullified in my constituency and across the country. I rise on a matter of national importance. In my constituency, Makindye East, in the villages of Ggaba Trading Centre, Kabalagala, Namuwongo, Kisugu and Go Down Zone, as well as many other villages across the country, LC elections were declared null and void.

I pray that you direct the Ministry of Local Government and the Electoral Commission to present to this House, within two weeks, a statement, because there is a leadership vacuum which has led to increased insecurity. This is a matter of leadership: there is no mobilisation for the Parish Development Model or national cleaning, so we need attention. This is important and urgent. The Government Chief Whip is here – Mr Speaker, Allah has heard my prayers; so far, two applications in the ongoing petition in court have been decided in my favour. I am still the right -*(Applause)*

Secondly, I wrote to the Minister of Health on 9 September 2026, regarding Ggaba Landing Site, which is in my constituency - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, you want the issue of the cancelled LC I elections as well as those which were postponed in your constituency and across the country to be addressed by the Electoral Commission. Government, when are we having LC I elections in the affected villages?

2.59

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the Member of Parliament who has raised this because it is not only your district or constituency; this is a general problem around the country. Even in our constituencies and districts, we have a similar problem, but I know this is being handled. After handling the other team, they are coming to handle the LCIs.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Which is the other team? We do not know who the other team is.

MS NAKADAMA: We have petitions of Members of Parliament and LC V Chairpersons -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the Electoral Commission is not managing the election petitions. Its role is to conduct elections. The best thing to do would be to inform the Electoral Commission, and they will tell you when they are ready to do this.

MS NAKADAMA: He is coming to give information, but I also inquired about the matter, and they told me that they are compiling a list of all the villages with petitions to come and - because it is affecting most of the districts. That problem is there. He can give more information. They also told me that, as soon as they finish, they are going to send the feedback to our constituencies.

DR BARYOMUNSI: I am giving information to buttress and support what she has raised. This matter was raised here last week, and the Deputy Attorney-General responded that his office has already completed the process of putting together the petitions from LC 1 offices, and they are being looked at. Once that process is concluded, then by-elections will be held, including in his constituency where there are those vacant posts. The honourable member should be comforted by that response.

Secondly, he raised the issue of the request he made. Yes, he made a request for a boat ambulance because, in part of his constituency, people travel by water. I acknowledge receipt of his letter, which came in September, and we have it on record. Resources permitting, we shall provide ambulances both on road and water. I will keep you updated when resources become available. We are all aware that boat ambulances are a little more expensive than the road ambulances, but definitely we are committed to ensuring that we serve all the people of Uganda, whether they are on islands or on the mainland.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable ministers I request that you, when you receive such a letter, always respond to Members, and we share in our community WhatsApp groups that, "I raised your issue, it reached the minister, and he has responded in writing" - then we get mileage for a month. It is tough out there. Procedure, Hon. Mwiru?

MR MWIRU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The issue raised by Hon. Nganda Mulyanyama affects administrative units in our areas. Now that the LCs' terms have expired, there is a vacuum. I am wondering whether it is not procedurally right for the Government to issue an instrument to empower the former LCs, for instance, to act as we wait for the elections. This is because, as has been raised, in some areas the elections were already cancelled, and elections are pending. Whereas in others where there are people who were elected, they can continue in office, but where they were cancelled - I am wondering whether that vacuum would not be cured by an administrative instrument.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a proposal which the Government can look at. Discuss it in Cabinet, see its legal efficacy and then report back to this House next week. Hon. Dr Eunice?

3.03

DR EUNICE OTUKO (UPC, Oyam County North, Oyam): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We have a situation in Oyam County North. On two occasions, on 14 September 2026 and six or seven months ago, on 13 March this year, we had two terrible hailstorms that completely destroyed farmlands belonging to about 1,222 households and razed several buildings. Most notably, we lost the rooftops of two classroom blocks at Ototong Primary School. The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) submitted a communication to the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), but we have not received any feedback.

I pray that the OPM, through the ministry of disaster preparedness, provides three things: One, roofing materials and any other building materials, if you can afford it. Two, food aid for the affected households, and finally, an appeal for seeds so they can replant.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NAKADAMA: Mr Speaker, sorry for our people who are suffering in Oyam North constituency. However, if you will allow, we currently have a programme in the ministry; we are scheduled to come to that area to support our people, especially those who do not have food to eat.

Regarding the school where you said the roof collapsed, I think we will come with materials to have the school re-roofed. For now, you can still come and visit us in the ministry so we can give you the proper programme. Thank you.

3.06

MR ALFRED EDAKASI (NRM, Kaberamaido County, Kaberamaido): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The people of Teso are going through a difficult time due to famine. We have had persistent drought, and people lost crops during the first season. The recent harvest has also been lost. Even people who planted in August have also lost crops because of the intermittent rains. We see that famine has already started, with the elderly, the young, and People with Disabilities being the most affected.

My prayer is that the Government intervenes, in the short term, by providing foodstuffs, especially to those who are critically affected.

Secondly, that the Government provides our people with seeds for planting, to take advantage of the coming rains. If possible, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development can offer a tax waiver to the people importing grain. As I speak, people in Teso are getting food from as far as Ethiopia. I think other traders are bringing food from Tanzania. If there were either a subsidy or tax relief, it would enable more food to come in, in addition to what we have locally. Also, those exporting grain should be exempt from paying tax.

The Government should consider whatever is applicable, either long or short term - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: On matters of national importance, we handle short term first and long term later.

MS NAKADAMA: Mr Speaker, we discussed the issue regarding Teso yesterday in the Cabinet meeting. We got directives from His Excellency the President to handle those people urgently. Tomorrow or the day after, a team will be dispatched to that area to find out who exactly is supposed to receive food.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, when you are doing this, call Members of Parliament (MPs) from Teso. I request that you hold a meeting with the MPs tomorrow.

MS NAKADAMA: Yes, we are still preparing to meet with people from the Teso region because we cannot do it without you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, what I am saying is that before you go to the community, involve the Members of Parliament here.

MS NAKADAMA: That is what I was saying: we are planning to meet with them before we go to the ground to assess the situation.

3.09

MR BYENJURU TUKAHIRWA (NRM, Kajara County, Ntungamo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance. In Kajara County, three secondary schools have been destroyed. A boys' dormitory burned down on 25 September at Kemishego Secondary School. The students lost all their property, including books, yet they are about to sit their exams.

Again, a few days ago there was a storm – it is here in my submission - Kagamba Secondary School and St Paul's Kabonero School lost staff rooms and classrooms. The roofs were all blown away. Nine villages have also lost plantations.

My prayer is that although these schools are under foundation bodies, they are in dire need of roofing materials and renovations. Residents

in the nine villages of Kasyoro, Kiirera, Mahwa and Kagamba need food materials. I request the Office of the Prime Minister to come to their rescue.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the minister in charge of disaster preparedness here? No, this is for the Prime Minister, because you have iron sheets and food. In the Ministry of Education and Sports, the emergency fund is not doing as well as yours.

3.10

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Sorry for what happened to our children. I request the honourable member to write to the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) so we can start from there and handle it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ogwang, do you have some iron sheets so that you move quicker than the Office of the Prime Minister?

MR PETER OGWANG: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am not contradicting the position of my boss but only urge the House that the demand and the problem is big. Before, we used to have money in the ministry under emergency. I am happy that Hon. Ssewungu has been on the committee with me for a long time.

When a school is de-roofed, we appreciate that we give iron sheets, but the challenge remains with roofing and other works. That is where the real problem is.

Therefore, I appeal to Parliament to prioritise emergency funding, which used to be under my docket in the ministry, to support these critical needs so we can move together as Government. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a matter which you can first exhaust at Cabinet level; then we support you here. Honourable colleagues, we have had problems when the same ministers reported that we tampered with the budget. These are things which we used to handle before. You remember the Appropriation Bill was returned. Therefore, we request that it be exhausted at the Cabinet level, and you will be assured of our support here.

However, during the Budget Framework Paper (BFP), the committee can note that so it becomes one of the recommendations we would give to the finance minister.

3.15

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Dr Chris Baryomunsi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Those who predict the weather say that we are going to get El Niño, so there will be similar damage happening in our communities. However, the point I want to add is that it is okay for Members of Parliament to raise this with us ministers, but it also becomes important for us as Members of Parliament to work with the local governments. There are disaster management committees at the district.

When a hailstorm or damage occurs in the community, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) usually convenes a meeting, dispatches technical staff to take photographs, and compiles a report. Therefore, when we raise issues, we should supplement our report with one from the district, backed by photographs and videos. This makes it easier for the Office of the Prime Minister or our ministries to take action. That does not mean that we should not raise it here, but it is to support the work of the CAO.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, this usually comes after delays by the OPM. Otherwise, districts usually wait about four to five months, as the OPM is also looking for money. I used to sit on that committee when I was a Government Chief Whip, so I know the challenges they have.

However, the guidance given by the honourable minister, is very important. Hon. Ivan Kyeyune, followed by Hon. Sheila.

3.16

MR IVAN KYEYUNE (NUP, Nakasongola County, Nakasongola): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On Friday, I spent the entire day at Kisenyi Lake View Senior Secondary School, in Kalungi Sub-county, Nakasongola Constituency.

The community of over 740 students lacks access to clean water. Of the 740 students, only 40 receive lunch at school. This whole term, they have not had computer studies because the power lines were vandalised. I am here to request that the Government addresses power vandalism and urgently install a clean water source for the students.

Additionally, Kakoge Sub-County, Katugo Town Council and Wabinyonyi Sub-County do not have electricity. We therefore request the ministry to come up with a programme to provide electricity in those areas. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Tomorrow the Minister for Energy and Mineral Development should respond to this issue of frequent vandalism of power lines and power outages. And there is a national issue in Lyantonde; the same issue has persisted for several months without electricity because the power lines were being vandalised. Hon. Sheilah?

3.17

MS SHEILAH AMANIYO (NUP, Woman Representative, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: *[Hon. Musila rose_]* Hon. Musila, I will call you. "Musila" is not related to "Sheilah". I think you are up to something. *[Hon. Ivan Kyeyune rose_]* – Honourable member, first, never access a microphone without the permission of the Speaker. That is a standard rule. Secondly, you registered one issue with my office, and I have only directed you regarding the issue you registered with my office. So, I will give you space another time.

MS AMANIYO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have a matter on Wi-Fi resellers in Uganda who operate in urban areas like Wakiso, Mukono and other neighbouring urban centres. This group has roughly over 1,000 business operators.

Originally, the Uganda Communications Commission had launched an enforcement drive, but they later stopped it. Currently, police are arresting all Wi-Fi resellers, yet these people actually only buy bulk Wi-Fi from Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

My prayer is that the Minister of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and National Guidance provides a comprehensive report, but also halts the crackdown on these resellers because they are doing it illegally; there is no legal mandate under which they are operating. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, honourable minister?

3.20

THE MINISTER OF ICT AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE (Ms Kasule Lumumba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would also like to thank the Member for the issue she has raised. The persons who are doing this are doing it illegally because they are supposed to be licensed by UCC under Section 22 of the UCC Act, Cap 103. They connected themselves illegally to the fibre and are selling without informing the owners of the services they are using.

So, the telecom service providers, mostly MTN and Airtel, communicated this matter to the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC). It is, therefore, the UCC, police and the service providers that are cracking down on these illegal operators. Let them follow the law.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That conclusion is a firm one - please, let them follow the law. Hon. Akugizibwe Ronald followed by Hon. Nyeko Johnson.

3.21

MR RONALD AKUGIZIBWE (NRM, Buruli County, Masindi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In June and July, the Education Service Commission recruited teachers in 43 seed schools. These teachers were appointed and given appointment letters by the Ministry of Education and Sports. They were the pioneer staff in these schools.

Unfortunately, the districts do not have the wage. So, the ministry has failed to post them in the respective schools. For example, in Masindi, we have two seed schools, which need a wage of Shs 1.4 billion but the district only has Shs 500 million.

The teachers who were volunteering left because they were not given the jobs. Those who were given the jobs were not posted there either.

Mr Speaker, unless we do something, this is going to be a case of up to maybe the second term of next year when we pass the next budget. I want to request the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Ministry of Public Service to provide wages to the Ministry of Education and Sports through the respective local governments. Otherwise, our children are not studying. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable member, you should ask the minister for Education why there is no wage; then he will say, "You know, public service – what - how it is coordinating." Minister for Education, this is your responsibility. You posted people without wage; the volunteers went away.

3.23

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS(SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, the matter the colleague has mentioned, is true. I want to confirm that the 43 seed schools were provided with money in the Financial Year 2025/2026. I also want to confirm that the recruitment spilled over to Financial Year 2026/2027.

At the end of the financial year, money was swept back to the Consolidated Fund. That is where I begin the response from. My ministry has formally communicated to all local governments - as my colleague has said - that in his local government there is already some money, but not enough. We would like to first confirm what they have, in terms of the wage. Then, we will follow up on the matter between the Ministry for finance, Ministry of Public Service and us, to harmonise on what is actual and what is not available for us to formally have all these teachers deployed in those respective 43 secondary schools.

However, in the meantime, we have recruited and already started posting the deputy head teachers and head teachers to all those schools. So, we are following up on this matter with the responsible ministries of finance and public service. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, how long will this take? Because I do not know what the headmaster and deputy will be doing.

MR OGWANG: Mr Speaker, we intend to have a meeting next week. So, allow me two weeks to report back to the House on the findings. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Well, I hope this is why we are allowed the 3 per cent supplementary budget, which we approved retrospectively. This is an emergency, and I hope the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development will handle it. Let us hear from Hon. Dr Nyeko Johnson, Hon. Musila John and Hon. Dr Rude.

3.24

DR JOHNSON NYEKO (NRM, Lamwo County, Lamwo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I request to raise a matter of national importance regarding insecurity created at the Lamwo Border with South Sudan and cattle raiding, which has become very intense. May I go ahead? *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope honourable colleagues understand how rich men behave. *(Laughter)* Please go ahead.

DR NYEKO: Mr Speaker, for a long time, Lamwo Border, right from Ngomoromo, Bungatira, Agoro, Madi-Opei, has been experiencing constant cattle raiding from South Sudan with a lot of deaths and losses. Last week, we had up to 40 armed raiders who entered my district with machine guns. If cattle raiders now have machine guns, it is beyond our capacity in the district.

I raised this matter on the Floor of Parliament for immediate Government intervention because the situation has now made the villagers rush to churches, creating a new kind of displacement.

I beg the Government of Uganda to request the Sudanese Government to meet and have a lasting solution. I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Huda Oleru. The Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs has been handling this issue.

3.27

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (Veteran Affairs) (Ms Huda Oleru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to appreciate my colleague for raising this matter. Indeed, it is true. In recent times, we have had some raids from our neighbours from South Sudan disturbing our people near the border, especially in Lamwo.

In South Sudan, we have basically two groups that are cattle raiders. We have the Langi of South Sudan, and the Sheretena. They are the people who normally disturb our people. On 24 September 2026, three armed warriors raided eight heads of cattle belonging to Mr Opoka. But this time, our forces acted immediately, and these animals were rescued.

Also on the 23rd, they attempted again. The two raiders also attempted to grab the cattle from the young boys who were grazing. However, the villagers intervened immediately, and one of them was killed.

Now, our forces are alert; they are vigilant, and they are coordinating with the *"wanainchi*" to see that the cattle raiders do not disturb them.

Mr Speaker, our President has already directed that the border demarcation between South Sudan and Uganda be worked on immediately, so that this challenge that our people are facing is handled conclusively. The Rt Hon. Prime Minister has been directed to do that. We are hopeful we are going to get the everlasting solution for our people. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Musira John, followed by Hon. Dr Rude. Honourable colleagues, I have allowed very many questions today - I had many issues pending, but there is an item we are going to do half of - and another item we are going to do in half. So, I am borrowing time from the other side. Otherwise, I do not go beyond five issues. Okay? That is why I am allowing so many questions today.

3.30

MR JOHN MUSILA (NRM, Bubulo East County, Namusindwa): Respect to you, Mr Speaker. I wish to raise a matter concerning Lubega Institute of Nursing and Medical Sciences, found in Iganga Municipality, which has caused pandemonium and defrauded students and parents. Over 300 students are in trouble, many of them, of course, finalists in their final year and semester.

A case in point, Mr Speaker, on 1st October, just last week, the school called parents. However, they started a meeting from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; that is when the director, the owner of the school, came around and dismissed those whom he purportedly thought had defrauded the school.

Mr Speaker, I wish to lay this voucher on the Table: these children have been scammed by this school through its accounts system, the agent within the school, and Stanbic Bank. Students pay within the school through their agent, the school agent, then accounts clear them, and the bank also notes the same.

Lubega Institute instead made off about 300 students - Mr Speaker, imagine, some of them come from as far as Hoima, Moroto, Gulu, and by 8:00 p.m., they were put on the road to go. I want to plead with the ministries concerned, especially the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Sports, to go deep and investigate this school, because we have put our children of Uganda, over 300, under such a situation, and of course their future is at stake. I plead, Mr Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister for education?

3.32

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SPORTS AND EDUCATION (Sports) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. First, let me appreciate the honourable colleague for raising this concern. How I wish the matter had formally come to us at the ministry; we would have provided an answer with investigations. We are aware of this institute. It is not a new one; it has been in existence for some time.

Secondly, the person behind this institute, if I am to be factual, is the 1st Deputy Prime Minister of the Busoga Kingdom. So, he is a person of high repute, respectable. I hope it is not business competition, but these are matters which I am going to investigate and report back to the august House. I thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. That is why, honourable colleagues, we have to be cautious of the language we use here. When you use a language like 'scammed', it is conclusive. We should use language that leaves room for investigation and, you know, because this is a platform where we raise issues, the authorities go ahead and investigate.

Therefore, minister for education, please, just do the needful. I do not know how long; how much time you need to report back, because I can see Hon. Musira is not happy.

MR OGWANG: Mr Speaker, my colleague, Hon. Musira, is somehow agitated, but on this one I pray you give me a week. I will be able to report back. Even tomorrow, I can be able to get facts and get back to the House, if need be. However, let me be honest: let me have a week, and then I will be able to report back. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, thank you. Yes, Hon. Dr Rude.

3.34

DR MONDAY RUDE (NRM, Bukonzo County East): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. I stand to raise a matter of humanitarian concern that is slowly attracting silence, yet it is a matter of national importance. This concerns the 11 pupils who are still missing at a school that was attacked by suspected Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels in Kasese District.

Mr Speaker, on 16 June 2023, Mpondwe-Lubiriha Secondary School in Kasese District was attacked. During that attack, 48 Students lost their lives, including 17 of them who were burnt to ashes. However, the majority of these affected students were from my constituency of Bukonzo County East.

The Government undertook analysis including DNA matching with the ones for those who were burnt beyond recognition but DNA of parents of 11 students did not match during that analysis and their pupils are still missing.

They continue to ask, "Where are our pupils?" like any other parent can be concerned. Silence has set in; it is now more than three years. Just two days ago, the parents of those 11 missing pupils came to my home and asked, "You are part of the Government; is there still hope for our children? When will the grieving end?"

Mr Speaker, my prayers are that the Government, through the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF), continues to intensify the search for the missing students. Number two, that the Government documents - because these 11 are just from my constituency alone; possibly there could be others - the pupils who are missing and the information that is known

about those who are missing be provided to the people. The silence from the Government side is not helping.

Lastly, that the Government provides psychological and financial support to the families of the affected. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Huda?

3.37

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (VETERAN AFFAIRS) (Ms Huda Oleru): Mr Speaker, the honourable colleague has put three clear and precise prayers to the Government. I have taken note. Just give me a week; we will give answers to all the prayers you have put here. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, these are responses you might not need to bring here. They are needed more in the community. I request that whatever you conclude on, engage the Member of Parliament, go and meet the families, and handle it at the community level. However, when it fails, you can come back here but handle it from the community. *(Applause)*

MS HUDA: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for that guidance. Honourable colleague, please let us meet tomorrow and see how to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kapyagon Brian and Hon. Lydia Mirembe are the final ones.

3.38

MR BRIAN KAPYAGON (Independent, Kongasis County, Bukwo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance. I am from Sebei Sub-region and mainly Bukwo District. We share a border with Kenya within a radius of 5 km, and we share a border with these people across the Suam Border, Kanyarkwat and Kapnandi.

Our boda-boda riders, many of whom are registered in Kenya because they buy cheaper motorcycles in a town called Kitale - Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) is in the process of impounding them and charging them a fee of Shs 200,000. Sincerely, these are the boda-bodas that transport our people within the border point.

Mr Speaker, our boda-boda riders are in need and sincerely find it cheaper to buy motorbikes from Kenya to come to Uganda – the boda-bodas come with Kenyan number plates and

URA is now impounding them. We thought that we would request the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Minister of East African Community Affairs to intervene and maybe allow the East African Trade Protocol that permits us to work within a radius of 30 kilometres and permit perhaps these motorbikes to operate within the border points.

Otherwise, last week they went in hundreds, and there were confrontations between URA officials and the boda boda riders' community. I beg to submit and request that they look into this matter so that we can have these people settled, so that we do not have unrest between the boda boda riders and URA officials. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Government Chief Whip, just arrange a meeting between URA and Hon. Brian Kapyagon because this seems to be very complicated. Yes, Hon. Lydia Mirembe?

3.40

MS LYDIA MIREMBE (Independent, Woman Representative, Butambala): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to bring to the attention of this House that Butambala District is also among the districts that were heavily affected by the storm disaster, leaving so many schools, about seven of them, heavily affected.

Many of them were de-roofed, some were brought down completely, and many learners sustained serious injuries.

The storm also damaged some homes and heavily affected many gardens across the

district. I, therefore, call upon the Government, especially the minister in charge of relief and disaster preparedness, to come to our rescue. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Right Honourable.

MS NAKADAMA: Mr Speaker, I think, as I said before, that we need the District Disaster Management Committee Report at our ministry so that we can start from there to go and help those people, especially with the roofing and other things that we can touch on. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ssewungu, you had a procedural matter for which I said you wait a bit.

MR SSEWUNGU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My procedural matter is whether I can be allowed to table a certain ornament and gift that was offered. Some three weeks back, I was one of the guests at the Brothers of Christian Instruction (BCI), Kisubi.

They celebrated 100 years of existence since they were established in Uganda by getting land from the Kabaka of Buganda at Kisubi up to Lake Victoria. They praised the Ministry of Education and Sports. The Vice President was the Chief Guest, but they still remember me as a shadow minister for education, yet I am for defence now.

I was asked by the Vice President and the Archbishop of Kampala to bring this beautiful award to the Ministry of Education and Sports for having given some good service to BCI. I know many of our Members here including Members who studied through Brothers of Christian Instruction and their children going through - to amplify the usefulness of this Catholic organisation, I am seeking your indulgence for Hon. Ogwang to receive this beautiful gift from the Brothers. I had not seen him and I wanted to give it to Hon. Chris Baryomunsi to deliver it, but now the chance is not his because the minister is available.

This is the award that was given and I got the privilege of carrying it forward. I am an Old boy (OB) of the same institution from St Savio Junior School to Mugwanya Preparatory School and many others, up to failing to become a priest. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, if permitted, in good faith, we need to praise these Brothers and continue supporting them. They even have a university and their institutions are doing very well.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Ssewungu.

MR SSEWUNGU: I beg to lay and Hon. Peter Ogwang, my friend, kindly take this -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not allowed you because, according to the rules, I do not have such a space, but I am going to use my general authority because it is rare for Hon. Ssewungu to convey good news to the Ministry of Education and Sports and bring it packaged in yellow. *(Laughter)* No, it had red, but he threw it away; he just left the yellow component alone. *(Laughter)* So, please, Hon. Ssewungu, I really want to allow you on this because you rarely bring such a good but now you are covering with red again, which is also okay.

MR SSEWUNGU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The inscriptions read: *"Hundred years of Brothers of Christian Instruction. An appreciation award presented to the Minister of Education and Sports in appreciation of your valuable contribution to the Brothers of Christian Instructions (BCI), 5 September 2026…"* Thank you. This was Brother -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Peter Ogwang?

MR SSEWUNGU: Kindly receive this beautiful – I know pictures are being taken ahead of -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you will take the pictures outside or in the corridor. Sergeant-at-Arms, please help him. I allow you to meet

in the no-man's-land in front of Hon. Martin Muzaale. *(Laughter)* Hand it over. Thank you.

Honourable colleagues, the rules do not allow this, but we must be flexible sometimes.

3.46

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, allow me, in a special way, to appreciate my colleague, Hon. Ssewungu for the award which he received on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Sports.

We entirely acknowledge and appreciate the role the Catholic Church is playing in our country's education sector, right from pre-primary, primary, secondary and university. Specifically, we know the role the brothers have played since the Christian Missionary Society came to Uganda.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, as a ministry, we are so honoured and much appreciate this award. On behalf of the ministry, I will definitely deliver this to the acting Minister of Education and Sports. Thank you so much. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Next item?

LAYING OF PAPERS

I. THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION REPORT ON THE 2025/2026 GENERAL ELECTIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Before that, let us have a point of Procedure from Hon. Tebandeke.

MR TEBANDEKE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries is becoming so stubborn for me to shadow. Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want to resign?

MR TEBANDEKE: No, because in my statement I am putting a conditional clause. In July, the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries came here and committed to lay the regulations to give effect to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, not exceeding two months. This is October, Mr Speaker.

I always see my colleague, the minister moving around with UPDF, even implementing the illegal regulations, which have not yet been laid here and are contrary to the specific section upon which I asked him to bring the regulations.

Mr Speaker, I am seeking your indulgence if it is procedurally right to act vice versa. I lay the regulations then he will lay the alternatives. The community is asking how comes the number of fishermen is being restricted per fishing boat, and the number of fishing boats is being restricted per landing site? These are the provisions of Section 120(5) of the Fisheries – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. You have gone way beyond the procedural point that you had delivered very well. You are now debating.

Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, when are we having these regulations? When you commit on the Floor - you might force Hon. Tebandeke to resign as the shadow Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

3.49

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (Animal Industry) (Lt Col (Rtd) Bright Rwamirama): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable colleagues, the regulations are almost complete. They should be here in a week's time.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Tebandeke just hold on, okay? Thank you. Yes, Government Chief Whip on behalf of the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, please lay the Electoral Commission report.

3.50

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Ruth Aceng): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Electoral Commission Report on the 2025/2026 General Elections. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. This report is for information purposes, so the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs can use it. Also, ensure that we get a soft copy version of the report, which will be uploaded on our Members' iPads to easily refer to. Otherwise, the hard copy should go to the library. Next?

II. ADDITIONAL TREATIES, PROTOCOLS AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BY THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE PERIOD 2021/2025

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Minister of Foreign Affairs - point of Procedure, Hon. Naluyima?

MS NALUYIMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Under our Rules of Procedure, Rule 41(1), the minister is required to present to this House a treaty or protocol 90 working days after this treaty, protocol, or international agreement has been concluded or signed.

Mr Speaker, are we proceeding well if the minister decides to present to us treaties and/or protocols that were ratified in 2021 and other earlier days, not obeying this rule of 90 days?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We should have waited for the minister. Maybe he can explain and request a waiver, you know? Honourable minister - let us first listen to the minister.

3.52

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr Adonia Ayebare): Mr Speaker, I take note of honourable member›s concerns, but I ask for a waiver and beg to lay on the Table these treaties.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, this is your maiden speech, so we shall not interrupt you. You are protected, but you know how to behave next time.

MR AYEBARE: Thank you. I have the honour to submit the treaties, protocols, and agreements ratified by the Government of Uganda in accordance with Rule 41(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of Uganda.

Article 123 (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995, as amended, empowers the President, acting on behalf of the State, to conclude treaties, conventions, agreements, and other agreements with foreign states and international organisations.

Section 2 of the Ratification of Treaties Act, Cap 190, provides for the ratification of treaties by either the Cabinet or Parliament. Section 4 provides that where treaties are ratified by the Cabinet, they shall be laid before Parliament as soon as possible.

Mr Speaker, you may recall that at the 12th Sitting of the First Meeting of the First Session of the 12th Parliament held on 4 August 2026, Hon. Haruna Kyeyune Kasolo, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Regional Affairs) laid before this august House 17 treaties, protocols and agreements, which were ratified or acceded to by the Government during the period 2021/2025.

Mr Speaker, in fulfilment of our constitutional mandate under Article 123 of the Constitution, and the Ratification of Treaties Act, Cap 190, I rise to present before this House the additional treaties and agreements ratified by Uganda during the same period 2021/2025, which had not been laid.

In 2021, Uganda ratified the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963. The convention codifies the framework for consular relations, protecting Ugandan citizens abroad and strengthening diplomatic practice.

Mr Speaker, this convention reflects Uganda's determination to strengthen international cooperation, legal and institutional frameworks for the protection of our citizens abroad.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you do not have to go into the details; just read each.

MR AYEBARE: Second, is the International Labour Organisation Violence and Harassment Convention 2019, Convention Number 190. I beg to lay. The next one is the Revised African Maritime Transport Charter. I beg to lay.

It is followed by the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge. I beg to lay.

As I conclude, allow me to state that Uganda's ratification or accession to international and regional treaties reflects Uganda's determination to uphold constitutionalism, strengthen democratic accountability and advance our national interests through responsible participation in the international system. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, Honourable Minister, we would like to open a new chapter with you. You have started well, and we would like to maintain it. Just two quick things.

One, rule 41(2) requires that you submit a report every two years on the implementation of any agreement or treaty. So, please, every two years, just give us an update on the implementation.

Number two, rule 41(3) requires that for any agreement or treaty, where, as a country, we are required to submit periodic reports to the organisations or partners, the draft of that periodic report should be brought here before it is submitted. This is intended to help us to see the impact of the treaty, and we know whether you're telling the international community the truth about the implementation as people's representatives.

This has not been the practice of the ministers who have been in charge of Foreign Affairs. We request you- that we are going to be our very good allies, but please always ensure the rules are followed.

MR AYEBARE: I promise to follow the rules, and we will maintain this good working relationship. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The treaties, protocols, and international agreements, which have been laid on the Table, are referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which should process and report back within 45 days. However, we shall look through the issue of time in case time is not enough. The committee will be updating us. Next item.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF SELECTED SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION PROJECTS UNDER THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION PORTFOLIO

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Mapenduzi, colleagues, the Government Chief Whip and our office are coordinated. The minister responsible is not around. So, we will receive the report, and then we shall have the debate tomorrow. We will read through it today; then tomorrow the minister or his representative will be here, and we shall debate and conclude on it. Use 15 minutes. Just give us the highlights, then we shall read; the full report shall be captured on the Hansard.

3.58

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS (Mr Martin Ojara): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for allowing the Committee on Presidential Affairs to present the report on the assessment of the performance of selected science, technology and innovation projects under the science, technology and innovation portfolio. Permit me, as I embark on that, to please lay on the Table the minutes of all the engagements, the meetings and other related documents. I beg to lay.

Mr Speaker, in the interest of time, I will request members to go to page eight, where the introduction is.

Pursuant to Article 90 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995 and Rule 197 (e) and (f) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the

Committee on Presidential Affairs undertook an on-the-spot assessment of selected projects under the science, technology and innovation portfolio to ascertain their implementation status, performance, utilisation of public resources and contribution towards Uganda's industrialisation, import substitution, value addition, employment creation, and transition towards a knowledge-based economy.

The field assessment covered the following projects:

1. Dei BioPharma in Matugga, Wakiso District;
2. Engineering Development and Innovation Centre at Rwebitete, Kiruhura District;
3. Banana Industrial Research and Development Centre, commonly known as the *Tooke* Project, in Bushenyi;
4. Africa Coffee Park under Inspire Africa in Ntungamo; and
5. Nyakihanga Fruit Factory implemented under the Uganda Industrial Research Institute, also located in Ntungamo.

Mr Speaker, in the interest of time, page nine covers the mandate of the committee, objectives of the assessment and methodology. I request that you permit us to move to page 10, where the findings and observations of the committee are found.

Under 5.1, that is Dei BioPharma in Matugga

The committee visited Dei BioPharma in Matugga to assess progress in the development of the domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity. The project forms part of Uganda's broader pathogen economy agenda. The STI Secretariat identifies Dei-Bio-Tech and Pharma as one of its pathogen economy pathfinder projects aimed at developing pharmaceutical manufacturing capability, including platforms for advanced pharmaceutical products. The committee appreciates the strategic importance of developing domestic pharmaceutical production capacity, particularly in reducing dependence on imported medicines and strengthening national health security.

Committee Findings and Observations

We have provided details on the physical infrastructure as number one.

a. Physical Infrastructure

The committee observed that Dei BioPharma has made substantial investment in physical infrastructure at its 150-acre complex at Matugga, Wakiso District. The facility comprises specialised manufacturing and research infrastructure, including the YKTM-GLP biotech laboratories, generic production facilities, injectables, vaccines, nutraceuticals, oncology, penicillin, and the other details I have provided.

The committee notes that the substantial physical infrastructure and specialised pharmaceutical production capacity have been established at Dei BioPharma. However, given the significant public resources invested in the project, the committee emphasises the need to expedite the completion and commissioning of the remaining infrastructure and ensure that the facilities are fully operationalised for sustained commercial production.

Ultimately, the value of this investment should be demonstrated through the actual production of essential medicines and vaccines, increased access to locally manufactured pharmaceutical products, import substitution, job creation and measurable value for money to the Ugandan taxpayer.

b. Machinery and equipment

On machinery, we have provided details, Mr Speaker, as you guided. Let me take you to page 12 on production.

The committee was informed that, in Financial Year 2024/25, the company was producing and distributing six generic medicines on the Ugandan market. The committee further learned that the manufacturing lines for generic oral, solid and liquid medicines had been operationalised and that the company had obtained approvals from the National Drug

Authority for the manufacture of a range of essential medicines.

The committee was further informed that the medicines currently being manufactured include paracetamol, tramadol, metformin, doxycycline and metronidazole among other generic medicines. It was also reported that the NDA had authorised the facility to manufacture specific finished pharmaceutical products including non-beta-lactam human tablets and hard gelatin capsules.

The committee further learned that Dei BioPharma was developing additional production capacity for antibiotics, injectables, nutraceuticals, oncology medicines, biological products and vaccines, including mRNA-based products. However, some of the specialised production facilities were still at various stages of completion, validation, and operationalisation and therefore had not yet transitioned to full commercial production.

The committee appreciates that DEI-BioPharma has transitioned from infrastructure development to the commercial production of selected generic medicines. However, the current level and range of production remain below the envisaged capacity of the overall investment.

Mr Speaker, on the same page under D is regulatory approvals. Members can read through. Permit me to take you to page 13, number E on Government investment.

The committee was informed that the Government had cumulatively invested approximately Shs 723.4 billion in DEI-BioPharma Limited. The support comprised an initial allocation of Shs 70 billion in Financial Year 2023/2024, a further Shs 75 billion in December 2023 and Shs 578.4 billion in the Financial Year 2024/2025, provided through a supplementary budget to support the development and commercialisation of the pharmaceutical manufacturing facility. The project needs an additional US$ 434 million to fully operationalise the facility.

The committee was further informed that Government of Uganda has a shareholding of 9.4 per cent in DEI-BioPharma and that, upon additional funding, these Government shares are expected to increase based on the Government Chief Valuer's report. However, proof of the said shareholding by Government was not provided. The committee was also informed that the facility's annual returns, according to their feasibility report, are projected to be US$ 10 billion by the 10th year, subject to the time of completion of the facility.

The committee observes that the development of the pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity of DEI-BioPharma has the potential to reduce Uganda's dependence on imported pharmaceutical products, create high-skill employment and improve the country's capacity to participate in the regional pharmaceutical market. However, substantial public investment in this company, being a privately operated venture, must be accompanied by clearly measurable national benefits and proper accountability for public resources.

f) Under employment, Mr Speaker, we have indicated the details. Members can run through, but it is important to say that the committee was informed that the project has already created over 1,000 direct employment opportunities. The rest of the details Members can look through.

g) On technology and skill transfer on page 14

The committee observed that the project contributes to technology and skills transfer through the training and practical exposure of Ugandan scientists, pharmacists, engineers and technicians to modern pharmaceutical and biotechnology manufacturing processes. The rest of the details we have provided.

The committee, however, notes the need for DEI-BioPharma to strengthen structured training, internship and knowledge transfer partnerships with Ugandan universities and research institutions to increase sustainable local technical capacity.

Mr Speaker, on 5.12, we have provided the challenges faced by DEI-BioPharma:

a. inadequate and unreliable electricity supply;
b. We have provided the details;
c. inadequate water supply; and
d. financing gap for completion of the investment.

On page 15, Mr Speaker, are recommendations

The committee recommends that:

i) The Government through UEDCL and UETCL should prioritise adequate and reliable supply of 100 megawatts of electricity to DEI-BioPharma to enable full operationalisation of the installed pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity;
ii) Government, through the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, provides US$ 434 million required to complete and fully operationalise DEI-BioPharma manufacturing facility;
iii) Government should ensure that clear documentation specifying government's shares in DEI-BioPharma, the expected returns, deliverables and performance targets commensurate with the public resources invested are executed with the enterprise;
iv) Government should facilitate regulatory compliance and market access for DEI-BioPharma products without compromising applicable pharmaceutical quality and safety standards; and
v) And finally, Government, through National Water and Sewerage Corporation, should urgently supply the establishment with an adequate and reliable water supply system together with appropriate water treatment and storage infrastructure to meet the current and projected requirements of DEI-BioPharma.

On 5.2, Mr Speaker, is the Engineering Development and Innovation Centre (EDiC), in Rwabitete, Kiruhura District

The Engineering Development and Innovation Centre is Uganda's flagship national engineering platform established to bridge the critical gap between scientific innovation and industrial production. Operating under the Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat, Office of the President, (EDiC) provides the engineering capability required to design, develop, manufacture, assure the quality of, and commercialise locally engineered technologies.

The centre represents one of Uganda's most significant strategic investments in Uganda's industrial future and is a cornerstone of the national STI ideology supporting the Ten-Fold growth strategy and Vision 2040. Mr Speaker, we have provided details about this facility.

On page 17, we provide committee findings and observations.

The committee observes that the smart manufacturing centre is delivering tangible results in support of Uganda's industrialisation and agricultural transformation agenda. The centre has designed and manufactured machine components, moulding systems, agricultural machinery and industrial equipment, thereby demonstrating growing local capacity to substitute imported engineering products and support domestic manufacturing.

The committee observes that the investment in advanced engineering infrastructure presents a significant opportunity for Uganda to reduce reliance on imported machinery, spare parts and engineering services.

The committee observes the following:

a. Technology Innovation Enterprise Accelerator.

We have provided the details. I will request you to permit me to take you to page 19 on reverse engineering.

The committee observed that EDiC possesses significant potential to support Uganda's industrialisation agenda through reverse

engineering, redesign and local manufacture of machinery, equipment and components that are currently imported.

In particular, the committee noted that EDiC has the technical capacity to reverse engineer and manufacture hospital beds and related medical equipment used in public health facilities. Hospital beds are relatively standard engineering products whose structural frames, adjustable mechanisms, wheels, side rails and other components can be studied, redesigned and fabricated locally to meet the required specifications and standards.

The committee further observed that developing this capacity would reduce the Government's dependence on imported hospital furniture and equipment, lower procurement and replacement costs, shorten delivery periods, and improve access to spare parts and maintenance services.

Local production would also provide an opportunity for Ugandan engineers, technicians and young graduates to acquire practical manufacturing skills while creating demand for locally produced steel, components and other industrial inputs.

The committee, therefore, considers reverse engineering as an important pathway through which EDiC can move beyond prototype development into commercial-scale production of equipment required by government ministries, departments and agencies. Besides hospital beds, the centre could progressively reverse engineer other equipment used in health facilities, agriculture, education and industry, provided that the products comply with applicable safety, quality and technical standards.

On page 20, Mr Speaker, we look at the challenges faced by EDiC. We have outlined the challenges, and permit me to take you through the recommendations.

The committee recommends the following:

i) Government establishes measurable annual targets for products manufactured, innovations commercialised …

…Committee recommendations

The committee recommends the following:

i) Government establishes measurable annual targets for products manufactured, innovations commercialised, engineers trained, revenue generated and imports substituted by EDiC investment;
ii) Government supports EDiC to establish a structured reverse engineering and local manufacturing programme, beginning with priority products that the Government currently procures in large quantities, such as hospital beds, medical furniture, electricity meters, and teaching and learning aids for schools;
iii) The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation; Uganda National Bureau of Standards and other relevant institutions should work with EDiC to develop specifications, certify locally manufactured products and facilitate their procurement by public institutions;
iv) Public universities, technical institutions, local manufacturers and innovators should be given structured access to the EDiC centre;
v) An adequate maintenance and replacement framework should be established for the specialised machinery; and
vi) EDiC should prioritise production of machinery and components required by Uganda's agricultural, education, manufacturing, health and infrastructure sectors.

5.3 Banana Industrial Research and Development Centre

The committee visited the Banana Industrial Research and Development Centre (BIRDC), commonly known as the Tooke Project, to assess progress in banana value addition and commercialisation. The Presidential Initiative on Banana Industrial Development (PIBID) was established by the Government of Uganda in 2005 to translate banana research generated at Makerere University into practical innovation and tangible socio-economic benefit.

The Presidential Initiative on Banana Industrial Development is identified by the STI Secretariat as a pathfinder initiative focused on developing high-value products from banana raw materials, including flour and other products derived from different parts of the banana plant.

Mr Speaker, again, we have provided more details on that as background information to the project. Permit me to take you to Page 22 on committee findings and observations.

Committee Findings and Observations

Mr Speaker, the committee observed that although the Tooke Project was appropriated Shs 36.74 billion for the Financial Year 2025/2026, only Shs 13.695 billion – which is 37.28 per cent – had been released by the end of Quarter Three. The outstanding Shs 23.045 billion was only released in Quarter Four, thereby constraining absorption and timely implementation of planned activities.

The committee observed that the Tooke Project has outstanding verified arrears of Shs 1.601 billion, arising from Financial Year 2018/2019 and Financial Year 2019/2020. Although part of the verified arrears was cleared in Financial Year 2021/2022, the outstanding balance remains unpaid, exposing the entity to possible accumulation of interest and additional financial obligation. We have provided other details that Members can look through, Mr Speaker.

In the interest of time, permit me to take you to Page 23, which looks at challenges. Again, we have outlined the challenges; I request that I take you to Page 24 to look at the recommendations.

5.3.3. Committee Recommendations

The committee recommends that:

i) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development ensures timely and full release of approved funds to the Tooke Project to avoid disruption of production, procurement and implementation of planned activities;
ii) The Ministry of Finance provides the outstanding Shs 1.6 billion to clear verified arrears and prevent further accumulation of financial obligations;
iii) The Solicitor-General's office prioritises and expedites clearance of the Tooke Project contracts, particularly those relating to warehouse expansion, automation and production equipment;
iv) The project should establish measurable targets for capacity utilisation, sales, export and revenue;
v) Government should provide the required financing to complete automation, expand drying and steam-generation capacity, and increase warehousing and cold storage infrastructure;
vi) Government should prioritise provision of a dedicated and reliable power supply of at least 12 megawatts to enable BIRDC to operate its machinery simultaneously and achieve full production capacity; and
vii) The project should strengthen contractual linkages with banana farmers to ensure a reliable raw material supply and improved farmer incomes.

5.4 Africa Coffee Park (Inspire Africa), Ntungamo District

Mr Speaker, the committee visited the Inspire Africa Coffee facility in Ntungamo to assess Government's investment in coffee value addition.

To increase the value of Uganda's coffee exports, mitigate the effects of global coffee market volatility, enhance household incomes and create employment, Inspire Africa Group, with support from the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Office of the President, is implementing an initiative to accelerate coffee value addition and coffee tourism.

The initiative targets increasing the value of Uganda's coffee exports to $5 billion within five years. As part of this strategy, the Inspire Africa Group has established Africa's

first integrated coffee processing hub, the Africa Coffee Park, to drive the production and commercialisation of high-value coffee products. We have provided the rest of the details that Members can look through, in the interest of time, including what they are currently producing.

Committee Findings and Observations

Mr Speaker, again, we have provided those details. In the interest of time, I will request Members to look through those details that we have provided. Permit me, therefore, Mr Speaker, to take you to Page 29, which looks at challenges faced by Inspire Africa Coffee, and we have provided details.

a) Inadequate and unreliable electricity supply;
b) Incomplete civil works and support infrastructure;
c) Working capital constraints;
d) Inadequate water supply;
e) Dependence on import equipment and foreign technical expertise; and
f) Delays in customs clearance.

Recommendations

a) Government should table before Parliament the contractual and financial framework governing its relationship with Inspire Africa Coffee/Coffee Investment Consortium Uganda;

b) Government should develop appropriate fiscal, trade and procurement measures to support locally produced value-added coffee products, particularly instant coffee and soluble coffee, which face strong competition from established imported brands. Such measures should promote domestic production, improve market access for Ugandan manufacturers, reduce import dependence and strengthen the country's balance of payments, while maintaining Uganda's regional and international trade obligations;

c) Government should dedicate a share of economic diplomacy resources administered through Uganda's Missions abroad to the promotion of Ugandan coffee. Embassies and diplomatic Missions should actively market premium Ugandan value-added coffee through exhibitions, trade missions, diplomatic engagements and official gifting, thereby strengthening brand visibility and opening new international markets;

d) Government should provide additional tax exemptions on critical raw materials, machinery, equipment, marketing materials and packaging inputs required by the Africa Coffee Park. This will reduce production costs, minimise delays in importation and support timely operationalisation of the facility;

e) UEDCL urgently completes and operationalises the dedicated power substation of 34 Megawatts to provide stable and adequate electricity to the park;

f) National Water and Sewerage Corporation prioritises and expedites construction of the required water infrastructure to provide the park with reliable, high-pressure water supply. This is necessary to meet the factory's substantial water requirements and ensure uninterrupted processing, cleaning and other industrial operations;

g) Inspire Africa Group, with Government support, should accelerate the establishment of domestic, regional and international distribution channels ahead of full-scale production. Product and packaging development should also be aligned with consumer preferences to enhance market penetration and competitiveness.

h) A robust farmer mobilisation, aggregation and supply-chain system should be developed to guarantee a consistent supply of quality green coffee beans to the park. This should include stronger linkages with smallholder farmers, cooperatives and coffee-growing communities.

i) Government should front-load adequate capital of $250 million to Inspire Africa Group to support procurement of coffee beans, production inputs and development of the broader coffee value-chain ecosystem. This will enable the park to maintain continuous production and secure sufficient raw materials. In addition, adequate financing should be provided to support market development, export and distribution in international markets.

j) Government should prioritise completion of infrastructure required for production, storage, inventory management, logistics and supply-chain operations to enable the park to achieve full commercial capacity.

k) The park should recruit additional specialised technical personnel and continuously train existing staff in advanced coffee processing, equipment operation, quality assurance and production standards to ensure efficient and sustainable operation of the facility.

5.5 Nyakihanga Fruit Factory Under Uganda Industrial Research Institute

The committee visited Nyakihanga Fruit Factory to assess the performance of the Government investment in fruit processing and agricultural value addition. The Nyakihanga Fruit Processing Factory is located in Nyamukana Town Council, Ntungamo District, and was established with support from the Uganda Industrial Research Institute to promote value addition to locally produced fruits, particularly pineapples.

The facility was commissioned in January 2020 and was intended to provide a reliable market for pineapple farmers in Ntungamo, Rwampara, Sheema and surrounding areas, while reducing post-harvest losses and increasing household incomes. Management of the facility was entrusted to the Nyakihanga Fruits and Vegetables Growers Cooperative Society.

The factory was established as part of UIRI's wider mandate to translate research and technology into productive enterprises through value addition, technology transfer, SME support and agro-processing.

Mr Speaker, according to UIRI's submission to the committee, a fruit-processing line worth $108,340 (approximately Shs 360 million) and a cold room worth Shs 120.67 million were procured in 2016 for the factory. Installation, test runs and setup were done between 2017 and 2019, followed by the official launch in 2020. Independent production commenced in 2021 after UNBS's quality audit.

The committee notes that farmers in the area were mobilised and encouraged to plant fruits, particularly pineapples, to supply the factory for juice and concentrate. However, the factory has never been fully operational.

Committee Findings

The committee was informed that the factory's last production was in September 2024. The machinery supplied by UIRI has never performed as intended, significantly constraining production and disappointing fruit farmers who were being mobilised to supply the factory. Farmers lacked the anticipated market for the pineapple fruits they had been encouraged to grow.

Furthermore, local council offices occupy part of the factory premises. The committee was further informed that the First Lady provided Shs 70 million and two trucks to support the factory's operations, but the committee found no evidence of the trucks.

The committee also noted that in May 2025, UIRI signed a memorandum of understanding to renew co-operation with the factory's management, but activities have not resumed as expected.

The committee observed the following:

Mr Speaker, we have provided the details. You can look through them. In the interest

of time, permit me to take you through the recommendations on Page 34.

Committee Recommendations

(a) UIRI should urgently undertake a review, repair or replacement of all defective and non-functional machinery to establish a reliable processing line capable of supporting continuous commercial production at Nyakihanga Fruit Factory.
(b) The local council that is occupying the factory premises should identify alternative premises and restore the entire building to a state fit for its intended industrial purpose.
(c) Government should provide adequate working capital to enable the factory to procure fruits from farmers, packaging materials and other essential production inputs once the factory is fully operational.
(d) Management should develop a clear production and raw-material procurement plan to ensure regular factory operations and provide farmers with a profitable and reliable market for their fruits.
(e) Government should urgently prioritise the full rehabilitation and operationalisation of Nyakihanga Fruit Processing Factory to prevent further deterioration of public assets and ensure that the investment delivers the intended benefits of agro-industrialisation, employment creation, reduced post-harvest losses and improved farmer incomes in Ntungamo and the neighbouring districts.

Mr Speaker, very briefly, permit me to take you through the cross-cutting observations.

Following the assessment of the five projects, the committee made the following cross-cutting findings and observations:

6.1 Significant public investment in STI

The committee appreciates Government's deliberate investment in science, technology, engineering, manufacturing and agricultural value addition. These investments have the potential to increase Uganda's productive capacity, generate skilled employment, promote exports and reduce dependence on imported products and technologies.

6.2 Need to move from infrastructure to commercial sustainability

The committee observes that the establishment of factories, laboratories and engineering centres and the acquisition of sophisticated machinery, should not be treated as an end in itself. Performance must increasingly be assessed based on production, commercialisation, sales, exports, revenue generation, employment, technology transfer and contribution to national development. Government financing should, therefore, be accompanied by realistic sustainability and exit strategies.

6.3 Need for clear performance indicators

A common framework is needed to measure the performance of publicly funded STI projects. Government should be able to demonstrate, for every investment:
(a) the amount appropriated and released;
(b) the amount spent;
(c) the percentage of physical implementation;
(d) production capacity;
(e) capacity utilisation;
(f) the number of jobs created;
(g) technologies or products developed;
(h) patents and intellectual property generated;
(i) revenue generated;
(j) imports substituted;
(k) export earnings generated;
(l) private investment attracted; and
(m) the expected return on public investment.

6.4 Accountability for public investment in private enterprises

The committee observes that Government increasingly supports innovation-driven private enterprises because of their strategic potential. While such partnerships may be necessary to accelerate industrialisation, public funds must be protected through transparent agreements that clearly specify ownership, obligations, expected returns, performance targets, and mechanisms for recovery or protection of Government's investment.

6.5 Market access

The committee observes that successful innovation cannot be measured by product development alone. Commercialisation requires access to domestic, regional and international markets. Government should, therefore, complement investments in production with standards certification, branding, market intelligence, distribution, export promotion, and appropriate procurement opportunities.

General Challenges

1. Insufficient and unpredictable financing
2. Specialised human capital constraints
3. Maintenance and asset sustainability

7.4 Procurement systems not suited to innovation.

The committee notes that conventional public procurement processes are not always suited to the specialised and rapidly evolving requirements of research, engineering and innovation. Specialised machinery, reagents, specific services and prototype components often have limited suppliers, long lead times, and changing technical specifications.

Applying conventional procurement timelines to such items can significantly delay technology, development and commercialisation cycles.

7.5 Weak uptake for locally developed products

7.6 Standards, certification and market readiness.

General recommendations

The committee makes the following general recommendations:

1. Government strengthens accountability of public funds invested in privately-owned or privately-managed commercial enterprises.
2. Government financing of STI projects should be based on achievement of clearly agreed performance milestones, rather than merely continuation of historical funding arrangements.
3. The Government-supported STI projects should incorporate clearly measurable local content requirements, giving priority to the employment and training of Ugandan scientists, engineers, pharmacists, technicians, researchers and other skilled professionals.
4. Government should further support innovators to translate research outputs and prototypes into commercially viable products capable of generating revenue and contributing to national economic development.
5. Government strengthens the coordination between science, technology and innovation institutions, universities, research organisations, technical institutions and the private sector, and gives them access to the specialised facilities for collaboration and learning purposes where feasible.
6. Every STI project receiving Government grants should have a clearly defined sustainability and exit strategy to avoid indefinite Government funding of commercially-oriented projects.

Conclusion

The committee appreciates the commitment of His Excellency the President to transforming Uganda from a predominantly raw material-based economy into a knowledge-driven, industrial and value-adding economy through strategic investment in science, technology and innovation.

The projects that the committee visited demonstrate Uganda's significant potential in pharmaceutical manufacturing, engineering and machinery production, banana value addition, coffee processing and fruit processing.

However, the success of these investments must ultimately be measured by their tangible contribution to the lives of Ugandans, particularly through job-creation, increased household income, import substitution, export growth, technology transfer and sustainable economic development.

The committee calls upon Government to strengthen the monitoring, accountability, commercialisation and sustainability of STI projects to ensure that public investment translates into viable enterprises, increased production, and meaningful socio-economic benefits for Ugandans. I beg to report. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Colleagues, you can again read through tonight. We shall have the debate on this report tomorrow. I thank you once again, Chairperson, and your committee.
Next item?

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE AUSTRALIA-UGANDA PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON THE WORKING VISIT TO THE PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA AND PARTICIPATION IN THE 24TH AFRICA DOWN UNDER MINING CONFERENCE IN PERTH, AUSTRALIA, FROM 2ND TO 10TH SEPTEMBER 2026

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Freedom Kwiyucwiny, representing Hon. Ofwono Opondo, leader of the delegation. Let us strictly use 15 minutes. The full report will be captured on the *Hansard.* Procedure?

MS NAKUT: Mr Speaker, this report was presented to the House last week. We were only left with debating it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, good guidance. I hope that is how she was going to guide me.

4.39
MS GRACE KWIYUCWINY (NRM, Ora County, Zombo): Mr Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity. This report was laid on the Floor of the House, and if Members did not read, I will read the recommendations –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Members are supposed to read. Thank you, debate starts now. Starting with Hon. Faith Nakut. Three minutes.

4.40
MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak): I read the report, and I commend the delegates who represented us in Australia. They did a good job. Their recommendations are good. For instance, on the policy of our Ugandan children inheriting immovable property from their parents. They recommend that the policy be fast-tracked, and I agree with them.

Also, on the issue of repatriating the cultural content that Uganda has in Australia; it is an excellent job. I was intrigued by their findings on Australia's mineral development; I was happy with that finding, and I propose that we also demand that the ministry responsible for minerals in Uganda submits a statement here on the mining sector.

I remember one time the minister responsible for trade said that we had 52 minerals that could support the development of our country for 400 years, and we have been reading in the media that we have this amount of gold, this amount of marble; it can support Uganda.

Now, in this kind of situation where we have to raise more resources to finance our budget – We are relying on oil, and we have had a discussion on that. A Member was here saying that getting loans, expecting that the money from oil would finance it, and yet we have other 52 minerals.

I request that we demand the ministry responsible for minerals to bring a statement on the sector so that we debate fully on how Uganda can benefit from the mineral development.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, do you want that to be an amendment of the resolutions or not?

MS NAKUT: Mr Speaker, it is a learning from the committee report, and I think that we put it as part of the amendment so that apart from the learning, we also get to know what we have, so that we do not rely on the media reports. If Australia has reached where it is because of mineral development, what is stopping

Uganda? Then we will be able to advise better.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. This is part of the recommendations being proposed. I will put a question on all at once. Hon. Okeyoh?

4.43

MR PETER OKEYOH (NRM, Bukooli Islands County, Namayingo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the delegation that went to Australia for the good report. How I wish this would remain a culture that when we move out, we come and give accountability to this House and country, and that it is a learning and benchmarking experience. I also want to echo what my colleague has stated on minerals.

The entire district of Namayingo sits on minerals and Bukooli Islands sits on gold but the benefit that Namayingo draws from these gold resources and the country is lacking. Actually, the areas that have gold and other rare earth minerals, like Busoga, benefit very little. We passed the revenue sharing and royalties, but it is not seen on the ground.

I would like to support the honourable colleague who stated that the recommendation is emphasised, and the minister in charge of minerals brings an elaborate report indicating how much the districts with these minerals can benefit. It can also help to reduce pressure on our locally generated revenue. I think it is a good learning experience.

I pray that the minister in charge of minerals comes up with an elaborate report highlighting the revenue generated from gold, especially from Namayingo. It would help us to grow our economies locally.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Concluding with Hon. Naomi Kabasharira.

4.45

MS NAOME KABASHARIRA (NRM, Rushenyi County, Ntungamo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank honourable colleagues who went for benchmarking in Australia. What is more important is what was echoed by the two honourable colleagues on the minerals. What triggered my mind when it was mentioned is: how can Uganda, besides the oil we are still waiting for, have such a big resource given by God in the soil, but we cannot even process one or two minerals to get a processed product?

We talk of iron ore and many others. I thank the President, because at one time he said they should not take away the raw materials, otherwise, people could benefit by taking the raw materials, and we buy the finished products at a very high cost.

Can we emphasise that in this report we put this resolution – and I hope the resolutions will not just be kept like how it has been before, because the resolutions are laid by Parliament, and that is the end. Can we resolve that the minister comes out – not only to follow Namayingo, as Hon. Okeyoh said, but the whole of Uganda – to know how we are standing as far as these minerals are concerned?

When can we expect benefits from these minerals? They are all over my constituency, but are taken by Rwanda; they come and take tin. Now that we have these people roaming around with licences – They even disturb our community because they do not want us to know, because our community is green; they come and do whatever they want, including destroying their plantations, yet we do not get anything. For how long should we wait to get something?

We have ministers, with a full ministry. Why can't that ministry, with educated people, be tasked by Parliament to get two or three minerals being processed for us to get money and products out of it?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me conclude with you, Hon. Drito. I hope the rest have heard me properly.

4.48

MR MARTIN DRITO (NRM, Upper Madi County, Madi-Okollo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Uganda sits on a very huge potential of minerals. When you look at gold ore reserves

alone, we have about 31 million metric tons of gold ore reserves. In refined terms, it comes to about 310,000 metric tons of gold, with a market potential of about $13 trillion.

However, the concessions for gold in Uganda are totally deregulated in the sense that most of the concessions in Uganda are given to people who do not have the potential to develop these mines. And because of that, few of these mines are being exploited, negatively impacting our revenue vis-à-vis the potential of our income from mineral resources.

Uganda did a very large geophysical mapping of this country, but none of these records is available to the public. Therefore, in my opinion, if we are going to gain from these minerals, this report should include the fact that the names of people who have been given concessions are put in the open, and we make sure that the mines that are not being exploited are removed from them and handed over to those who have the potential to exploit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, if you have read the report, I really did not want us to limit it to minerals as if we had sent our members to a minerals conference. This is a deliberate effort by the leadership of Parliament to strengthen parliamentary diplomacy.

This morning, I met the new ambassador of Korea to Uganda. Tomorrow morning, I am meeting with the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, and I have other ambassadors lined up. In all this, we want Parliament to be felt. I think it was around two weeks ago, Hon. Robinah, when we met members of the European Parliament who had come here with some MPs. We want our Parliament to be felt internationally, because we have partners all over.

When you go and interact, it helps you to gauge how the Executive is doing diplomatic relations with other countries you are visiting. Like in the report here, you could see the ambassador was strongly appreciated by the Speaker, by the Governor, and the community; then they emphasised the strong relationship between our two countries. However, we again found that the embassy has 10 staff, yet it is accredited to nine countries. The Speaker of Australia is interested in visiting Uganda.

Therefore, we hope to bring in more international guests. I thank you, honourable colleagues, for this good work.

I put the question that the Report of the Australia-Uganda Parliamentary group on the working visit to the Parliament of Australia, Canberra, and participation in the 24th Africa Down Under Mining Conference in Perth, Australia, 2nd-10th September 2026, be adopted with proposed amendments.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next item?

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT URGING GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP AND ENACT A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE NATIONAL SMALLHOLDER FARMERS TRANSFORMATION AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

4.53

MS ASHA MAFABI (NRM, Woman Representative, Sironko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Motion for Resolution of Parliament urging Government to develop and enact a Legal Framework for the National Smallholder Farmers Transformation and Climate Resilience Programme, moved under Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure.

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, under Objective XI of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy, mandates the State to stipulate agricultural, industrial, technological and scientific development by adopting appropriate policies and enacting relevant legislation;

AND WHEREAS Article 245 of the Constitution mandates Parliament to enact laws intended to protect and preserve the environment from abuse, pollution and degradation;

NOTING THAT agriculture remains the backbone of Uganda's economy, employing approximately 65 to 70 per cent of the labour force, contributing significantly to national food security, household incomes, exports and socio-economic transformation;

NOTING FURTHER THAT smallholder farmers comprise approximately 89 per cent of Uganda's farmers, who account for a greater proportion of the country's food production, making their transformation critical to national food security, poverty eradication, as well as employment and wealth creation;

AWARE THAT Government has undertaken deliberate measures and investments to modernise agriculture, improve household incomes and promote rural development through programmes and initiatives such as the Parish Development Model, Operation Wealth Creation, Emyooga and the Agriculture Cluster Development Project;

FURTHER AWARE THAT that Government rolled out the Smallholder Farmers Transformation and Climate Resilience Programme, designed to improve the productivity, incomes and development of smallholder farmers while helping them adapt to climate change;

CONCERNED THAT notwithstanding these commendable interventions, the country's agricultural sector especially the smallholder farming system continues to face persistent challenges, including inadequate irrigation infrastructure, limited access to affordable financing, insufficient value addition, post-harvest losses, poor storage infrastructure, climate change effects and limited access to the market;

FURTHER CONCERNED THAT persistent challenges facing smallholder farmers continue to undermine the productivity, profitability and competitiveness of smallholder agriculture across the country;

CONVINCED THAT a comprehensive legal framework on National Smallholder Farmers Transformation and Climate Resilience would facilitate an ecosystem to organise, empower, finance and modernise smallholder farmers through capacity building, registration, collective production and irrigation, agro-processing, agricultural financing, value addition and collective markets;

COGNISANT THAT in the absence of a comprehensive legal framework, the implementation of agricultural transformation initiatives remains largely programme-based resulting in fragmented institutional coordination, which affects long-term planning, financing, accountability and sustainability in the agricultural sector;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that Government expedites the development and introduction before Parliament of the legal framework for the "National Smallholder Farmers Transformation and Climate Resilience Programme."

I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? It is seconded by Hon. Kajwengye, Hon. Mugenyi, Hon. Okeyoh, Member of Parliament for Mukono, Member of Parliament for Wakiso, Hon. Marshall, Hon. Biara, Hon. Brian, Hon. Chemonges, Hon. Annet Mugisha – Many of you honourable colleagues. Oh, even the Government Chief Whip. No, the Government Chief Whip has her own vote, honourable minister. She has said, "Even me, mention my name". Meaning you have a very big task.

Honourable colleague, would you just use two minutes to justify the motion?

MS MAFABI: Thank you, Mr Speaker and thank you members of Parliament for supporting the motion. I am convinced that the issue of smallholder farmers integrated with

climate resilience is a discussion of patriotism and national security.

As the saying goes, "Whoever feeds you controls you." If we implement this programme successfully, I believe Uganda will be able to feed the whole of East and Central Africa.

I believe that if this programme is supported, 89 per cent of the farmers who are the majority of Uganda's population will go out of poverty.

Additionally, we shall be able to establish small-scale cottage industries in the various sub-counties, constituencies and districts, thereby translating to job-creation for the youths of Uganda.

I also believe that this motion is interconnected to waste-management. So, it is an all-encompassing motion. Thank you so much. I appreciate the time and thank you for listening.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Seconders. Hon. Kajwengye?

5.00

MR WILSON KAJWENGYE (NRM, Nyabushozi County, Kiruhura): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to second the motion. I am fully aware that agriculture contributes the biggest percentage of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but the majority of these people who are contributing to our GDP are actually smallholder farmers, not large-scale farmers. Yet I know it is the intention of Government to transform agriculture into large-scale or commercial agriculture.

However, the available interventions, for example, financing, favours large-scale farmers, not small-scale farmers and yet small-scale farmers are the biggest percentage in this industry.

Secondly, we have the Parish Development Model (PDM) but PDM is just part of it. If you want to go for just Shs 1 million – which we welcome, or for example, Shs 100 or Shs 30 million or so – for smallholder farmers, financing is not tailored towards small-scale agriculture.

Thirdly, irrigation. Mr Speaker, you realise that weather patterns have changed and we no longer depend so much on rain. So, we need to develop capacity to irrigate our crops. Unfortunately, the available technologies for irrigation are all for large-scale farmers. So, a smallholder farmer remains uncatered for in this.

Value-addition. Under this, we address what you can call small-scale cottage industry. It would be very important that the Government intervenes in developing small-scale cottage industry technologies.

Support to smallholder farmers. Certainly, I am aware that the dream is to transform agriculture into commercial agriculture, but due to our land tenure system, we still have small landholders, and small landholders are the biggest percentage of farmers. So, our interventions, both in financing, technology interventions, and policy, need to be catered towards that. And that is the reason I support this motion. I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Lowila? Honourable minister, I still have seconders.

5.03

MS LOWILA OKETAYOT (NRM, Woman Representative, Pader): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank my sweet daughter, Hon. Mafabi, for moving this motion and I rise to second it.

As she indicated in the main motion – And we are all aware that quite a number of interventions and programmes have been put in place in the past, and she highlighted some of them to try and transform smallholder farmers into commercial farmers and try and modernise agriculture. But if we ask ourselves: Are we getting there? The answer is we are very far from there. So, what are we not doing right?

Mr Speaker, there is a lot of talk about the importance of agriculture; it is the backbone of our economy. So, we really need to be deliberate. How much effort, how much

resources, what percentage of our national budget are we putting under this very important sector?

We have talked of value addition. This requires heavy investment. If we are to promote commercial agriculture, we have to really consider the issue of agro-processing, value addition as a very important strategy. What is being raised in the motion will really help us to push this because it will help the farmers to get better prices; it will help us to increase on the export volumes.

Talking about climate change, we all hear issues that Members raise on this Floor of Parliament. We even see what is happening in the countryside, everywhere; the disasters that are there. Climate change is real. Therefore, what are the deliberate strategies going to put in place to mitigate this? Because if we do not take this seriously, we are really destined for doom. We need to come up with some of these strategies so that we mitigate climate change. I know there is a programme that is being implemented now – the Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, honourable colleagues, the question that we have – These are critical issues, which everyone of us appreciates. But to address them, the question is: Do you need a legal framework? That is the question that should come to mind. Do we need to enact a law? You get it? So, that is a question for you to answer because that is what she would want us to have – A legal framework. When you are talking of a legal framework, so we can look at the boundaries of the legal frameworks you would want us to go into. Let me finish with the seconders. The next one is Hon. Amaniyo. Then Hon. Kahima Moses. I am having seconders here.

5.06

MS SHEILAH AMANIYO (NUP, Woman Representative, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just wait honourable member. You see honourable members, you attached seconders to the motion. So, they are given first priority before anyone else.

MS AMANIYO: Thank you, Mr Speaker, and thank you, Hon. Nabulo, for raising this important motion that affects all of us. It speaks to all our districts in Uganda, seeing that we represent farmers who are the biggest contributors to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

I strongly support this motion, Mr Speaker and honourable members because the farmer service centres that she talked about in the motion are going to improve access to agricultural machinery. Instead of each farmer going and buying individual machinery and heavy equipment, which is expensive, they can as well get it at a centre that is going to be set up in different sub-counties, constituencies or parishes. These farmer service centres are further going to improve market access and reduce exploitation by the middlemen.

Honourable members, you know that for a very long time, middlemen are the ones who have been benefitting from farming as opposed to the actual farmers who do the farming. So, this motion is going to give advantage to the actual farmers, and do away with the middlemen who have been exploiting them. It is also –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Amaniyo, as a seconder, I just want to move with you. Okay? Do you need a legal framework for this? This is the question we are trying to answer because when you look at how the honourable member is concluding, it is that we urge the Government to expedite the development and introduction, before Parliament, of the legal framework. So, do you need a legal framework? You, as a seconder, that is what I would want to get from you. I will also give you a chance before we open up the debate generally. Hon. Amaniyo?

MS AMANIYO: Do we need a legal framework? Yes, we do, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Is Hon. Kahima Moses here? So just let me call Hon. Asha, then the minister, and then we open up the debate to the rest.

5.09

MS ASHA MAFABI (NRM, Woman Representative, Sironko): Thank you, once again, Mr Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House that indeed we need a legal framework. Call it a policy, call it a Bill, whatever the case may be. We need the Government to deliberately get involved in this activity.

We have a similar concept of cooperatives, but we want to reintroduce the concept. The words I used were, "This is a patriotic drive." It is truly embarrassing for us Uganda, a country with the most arable land, to have people dying of hunger. If we were to organise our farmers, we would increase our food security. But above all, His Excellency is constantly telling us about commercial farming. We shall not be able to achieve it unless we approach it as a legal action so that we can be able to actively mobilise our Members to support through their various constituencies.

On the same note, actually this idea comes from the concept that His Excellency, during his earlier years in leadership, prioritised security. A lot of money was put into security. And right now, Uganda is the number one exporter of peace in Africa. I would want us to also champion this smallholder farmer empowerment programme so that, again, we become the number one exporter of food in the whole of Africa. Therefore, a legal framework is absolutely important so that we can be deliberate and intentional about our action in this field. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister?

5.11

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (ANIMAL INDUSTRY) (Lt Col (Rtd) Bright Rwamirama): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I oppose the motion. Mr Speaker and colleagues, the Government recognises the importance of smallholder farmers, and need to transform them from subsistence to commercial farmers through sustainable climate-resilient practices. The Government has put in place structural programmes through which intervention in agriculture will be implemented using a whole-of-government approach. We stopped working in silos on transformation; we work on a programme approach.

The primary policy intervention for smallholder farmers is the Parish Development Model (PDM), which is also currently the largest agricultural intervention in the country. As you are aware, under this arrangement, farmers are empowered to own and run their own parish-based production circles where they operate a sustainable revolving fund. The Ministry of Agriculture supports them continuously on enterprise selection and ensuring the availability of quality and affordable seed and breeding stock on the market for the farmers to procure.

The fund is a grant from the Government to the parish circle. Parish Development Model (PDM) aims to address one of the biggest constraints, that is, access to agricultural finance - *(Interruption.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order. Honourable minister, take your seat as we get a point of order.

MS NALUYIMA: Mr Speaker, you have just inquired of all of us whether, as per the motion, we need legislation or we need a policy in place. You asked several people. You also called on the minister, expecting that he could talk in that line. Now, is he in order to only inform us of PDM, yet he is not giving a way forward on how the PDM is speaking to that legislation? So, is the minister in order instead of informing us more of that line of legislation as per the matter, because already PDM farmers are also having the same problem?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, Hon. Nabulo raises very critical issues which would help small-scale holder

farmers, and indeed, we know they need help. She says that they can only be helped if we develop a legal framework.

I wanted to propose, Hon. Asha, that when we are extracting a resolution, all these other details which you have given are not captured. In case your motion carries the day, the resolution will say that Parliament resolves to urge the Government to expedite the introduction of a legal framework for the National Smallholder Farmer's Transformation and Climate Resilience Programme. Now, that is what we extract; we do not extract all these other - because Parliament works by resolutions.

The minister is saying, "No, I oppose it." I expect the minister to say, no, I oppose because we are already addressing these issues this way but now he is putting more meat. The challenge that we have, Honourable minister, is that you seem to have a statement or something detailed. If you had shared it with Members, it would have made it very easy.

You can trust the interventions you are making, and you would want Members to be satisfied that, because of interventions A, B, C, D, even if we still have gaps in financing and all that, we believe we are doing well, and we do not need a law because you have said you do not agree. Honourable minister, you do not need to go so much into detail. Let us see a way of balancing this out because Hon. Asha is raising critical issues.

LT COL (RTD) RWAMIRAMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The concerns are taken note of. The Government, as I mentioned, is using the programme approach and different Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) have the responsibility to perform.

You must be also aware that the Parish Development Model is run on a cooperative model and a law exists that governs the cooperatives. We are making all the interventions to make sure that the climate shocks are taken care of through different programmes of the Government. Irrigation and research for resilient varieties of crop and stocking materials. Having a separate legal framework will not help the situation but will compromise and make it very difficult to implement the transformation of the small-holder farmer. Mr Speaker, I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, let me start with Hon. Martin Muzaale followed by Hon. Ngabirano. Is there a procedural matter? Yes, procedure first. Hon. Martin -

MR WABUSANI: Mr Speaker, I rise on a procedural issue under Rule 44. When the question comes in, especially when we are asking ministers - I have been here for some time and I have been listening and watching different ministers giving us statements.

When you look at Hon. Baryomunsi, for example, every time he comes in when there is an issue, he sometimes gives you an ultimatum and says, let me consult. Sometimes he gives positive responses to the Members and these positive responses that he gives, in many cases, give comfort and a way forward.

Mr Speaker, I do not know whether it is procedurally right that the motion comes in, in favour of helping the ministry. However, the first opening statement is saying, I oppose the motion. Even when you have given the guidance, what is coming out from the minister?

Is he really going to help and ensure that all we are discussing is going to help the motion? Because it is his docket. I do not know whether it is procedurally right to continue and whether the ministry will adopt and therefore take the positive precedence to us, as the House, when on the first day and intervention, he is saying, I oppose, without even giving us the way forward. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, now you are tying my hands. Procedure is rule 80, and you became very specific. Rule 44 is a question to the minister so let the minister answer you. Honourable minister, answer because Rule 44 is not procedure; it is questions to ministers.

LT COL (RTD) RWAMIRAMA: Mr Speaker, there is already a transformation policy and the programme for transformation is PDM. I have guided and informed the House on matters they are aware of. We are approaching the PDM programme on programme approach. Agriculture is involved in production and marketing.

We have the Ministry of Works and Transport dealing with infrastructure and Ministry of Finance dealing with finance. As such, we do not see the necessity for a new law, and you are aware that the SACCOS are formed under cooperative law, managed by the Ministry of Trade.

It is not that I am against the farmers because it is the Government policy to transform the smallholder and graduate them into commercial farmers. I am not against transformation, but I am saying that the intervention being sought is not necessary at the time. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Colleagues, I remember that we were running sector-based budgeting, isn't it? Then the Government came and said, "No, it is not easy to trace all the money wherever it is. So, we need programme-based budgeting where we shall be seeing money for the sector wherever it is." We had water for production under Ministry of Agriculture and roads under - They said that programme-based budgeting is the best. However, the honourable colleague here is saying, "No, we need a law on programme-based budgeting because this is not helping the small-scale farmers". Hon. Martin t I come to Hon. Nakut.

5.23

MR MARTIN MUZAALE (NRM, Buzaaya County, Kamuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me begin by appreciating the Honourable Member for bringing this motion that is actually tickling us. I would like to pronounce myself that of course, I will support the minister's position because the motion is first of all cross-cutting to many other agencies.

Mr Speaker, when it comes to irrigation, we shall find it in Ministry of Water. Ministry of Water is championing a programme to give out irrigation systems to small-scale holders. The unfortunate part of it is the co-funding, which we have discussed here time and again, that our farmers are not able to do their part on the co-funding as it is expensive. The other interventions needed from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries are seeds and fertilisers.

Mr Speaker, as we speak, the budgeting cycle has just started. What we need is to support all these agencies, wherever they are, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, to come up with a programme of giving out seeds and fertilisers, as they have been doing.

On the side of water, we also need to increase their budget so that they can give out free irrigation systems. In so doing, Mr Speaker, we shall have solved the problem. Otherwise, if we go ahead to enact a law, it will be very difficult because the irrigation system is under the Ministry of Water and Environment, the seeds are under the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, and many other things. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Nakut and then Hon. Ngabirano.

5.24

MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak): Mr Speaker, the topic being discussed is very sensitive to a majority of people in Uganda. Almost everybody is participating in agriculture and it is one way in which Ugandans contribute to our GDP.

The sector being discussed is very good and touches the core of our economy. However, there is a challenge in how the motion was drafted. Unfortunately, the rules prohibit me from proposing that we amend the title of the motion; rule 60 prohibits a material alteration to a motion. Otherwise, I would propose that we amend the title, leave the rest and see how smallholder farmers can be supported better.

Mr Speaker, you remember we were inducted and it was a very good induction. In that induction meeting, we had a team from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development giving us the ten-fold strategy. In that strategy, there is investment in agriculture but with a reduction. They were saying that it is a strategy of the Government to reduce the contribution of agriculture to GDP and increase the contribution of industrialisation and manufacturing to GDP, as copied from other countries that have developed faster.

It was a good strategy and we all agreed that, that is the strategy to support. To put a law specifically for smallholder farming is like arm twisting the Executive yet we already know that there is a strategy.

I would propose that we stay this motion since we cannot amend the title, so that another motion is developed to urge the Government to specifically support smallholder farmers to cope with the climate shocks that are happening now. I submit, Mr Speaker.

5.27

MR CHARLES NGABIRANO (Independent, Rwampara East County, Rwampara): Thank you, Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, go ahead.

MR NGABIRANO: Mr Speaker, you had given me a chance. I support the motion in one aspect that in the body, it has the facts of what is happening to our farmers.

We know that smallholder farmers form the majority of the farming families in Uganda, and the smallholder farmers are small in everything. They are small regarding land, they are small regarding money, they are small regarding inputs, they are even small in thinking and in everything – *(Interjections)* – Yes, I talk about this because, Mr Speaker, I come from a typical smallholder farming society where we are almost landless.

Mr Speaker, my view would be that at this stage, we need to get from the minister the implementation strategies we have in terms of the Government's Programme-Based Strategy that can help us address issues with our smallholder farmers.

For example, whereas the minister is talking about the Parish Development Model (PDM), I have already evaluated PDM in my area. PDM is not creating a big impact so far because when Shs 1 million is given to one person, the person first buys a mattress. Nobody is putting the money into production. Others who are receiving Shs 1 million do not receive it; they are actually receiving Shs 700,000 or 800,000 because the money is swindled. There are very few people who have received Shs 1 million as Shs 1 million.

Mr Speaker, when the good law of NAADS was eliminated, there was no substitute. We do not know the position of the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC); it is in limbo. The impact was created by inputs. In my constituency; Rwampara East County, I gave out a lot of coffee seedlings. If we had not given out that coffee, people would be dying of poverty today.

Therefore, from what we are looking at and what we know; climate change effects, land holding, loss of fertility, food insecurity, high poverty levels, and redundancy of the young people because they do not want to dig; all the young boys and girls are in towns. Nobody is in the village even to cultivate. The families are going hungry or eating one meal. We should now ask the minister, in view of this and in view of the programme-based strategy, what can we do jointly as the Government? Maybe in a think-tank, the minister can give us a way forward and we move forward rather than -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, do you support the motion?

MR NGABIRANO: The motion is requesting what is not a big problem.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: In short, you are not supporting the motion. Hon. Ababiku and Hon. Omodi. Point of procedure from Hon. Cohen.

MR AMANYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Cohen Amanya, Member of Parliament for Igara West. I move under rule 63 on amendment to the motions. When you look at that rule, it provides for an amendment. My colleague had submitted that the amendment shall not be permitted where it substantially alters the principle of the question proposed.

However, Mr Speaker, that is under rule 63 (4). When you look at rule 63(11), it creates an amendment to delete any of the words. I would suggest to my colleague that instead of us having the regulatory authority or the framework, we look at the support. Let us delete the word because the resolution is what we are looking at.

We all agree that we need to tackle this issue objectively. The whole question is whether, after passing a resolution, we can pass a resolution to enact a law or a regulation. My colleague would remove that and then put the support so that the ministry can support. We move under rule 63 (11). Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Colleagues, all this is in the opinion of the Speaker. This is a motion that has no financial implication, and therefore, it did not need one to get a Certificate of Financial Implications because usually, we protect motions that do have a financial implication because, in considering the grant of the Certificate of Financial Implications, the Treasury has to comb through a lot of projections, laws, and all that. This is a motion urging.

I would leave it to the mover to see whether it is acceptable to her because this is her motion. The moment we make that amendment, it would fundamentally change, but make it better for implementation.

Leader of the Opposition, did you want to - I can tap into the wisdom of colleagues with whom we have been here. I know that if we allow that, it would fundamentally change, but for the better. Would the Member be agreeable?

5.33

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Mr Speaker, that is what I was going to hint on. The mover is here. She is even seated where the Vice President normally sits. The seconders are here on both sides of the House. The senior counsel has guided us on how we can better this motion.

It is generally a good motion; we want to see how we empower the smallholder farmers. The Government is worried that if it becomes law, tomorrow we are going to be harassing them to implement that law. We can have a win-win situation by improving the motion. The mover and the seconder are here, they can tell us whether they are amenable to that adjustment so that the whole House buys into it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Government Chief Whip?

5.34

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Ruth Aceng): Mr Speaker, allow me to thank the mover for the motion and its intention, which is extremely good and we all appreciate it.

However, allow me to say this. The Parish Development Model Policy captures support for the smallholder farmers very extensively. Perhaps, we need to have more copies of the policy distributed to Members so that we can read and then get back to what the Member wanted us to do. In addition, let me mention some laws that are in place in the Ministry of Agriculture that we could actually tap into to support the smallholder farmers.

We have the NAADS Act, Agriculture Extension Policy, Seeds and Plant Act, the Plant Protection and Health Act, Agricultural Chemicals Act, the Climate Change Act, the National Environment Act, Uganda National Meteorological Authority Act, the Water Act, the Land Act, Warehouse Receipt Systems Act, and the Uganda National Farmers Federation Act. All those are in place. I am sure that if we look into these laws, even what we are intending here is already captured. But again,

my emphasis is that the policy on PDM needs to be understood by all Members. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I understand what Hon. Asha is talking about, and all of us understand it. Right now, it is we, the MPs, who are being harassed to provide seedlings in the constituencies. I have just come from my constituency and people are asking me for coffee seedlings, for fertilisers they have delivered for tea, for coffee - So, Hon. Nabulo, I just wanted us to listen to the Member. What do you want mainly? To see the smallholder farmer supported? And - *(Hon. Ssewungu rose_)* But Hon. Ssewungu, you have been out, and you have just come back. You were in the corridor so I must first allow those who were here. Let me first be with those who never went for the other thing. You know he is an elder; he is a senior here.

5.37

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu County West, Kalungu): Mr Speaker –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ababiku then –

MR SSEWUNGU: When we are tackling this motion, we look at a key component of the words used. Resilience, climate resilience - Mr Speaker, I support the motion. However, there must be funds from Government; otherwise, what do you tackle? Infrastructure in the whole country. How do you control floods? How do you build the roads and bridges?

Two, agriculture itself needs money. You are saying, early warning systems for resilience. You have the third one: environmental protection. You have to look at disasters. There are so many things involved. As the Speaker was stating, do you know that most of us are crying that we would rather go back to the previous system where we were getting maize seedlings from Government, NASECO and others other than PDM? This is because we are no longer getting that. However, my interest is that where there is a need for money for resilience in the whole country, the Government must spend money and they must be willing to spend, not in one particular area but in the other.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you support the motion?

MR SSEWUNGU: Of course, when anything is dealing with climate, I go with those who come. However, we must look for money to cater for this. I can see Gen. Bright has now said, Ssewungu has run away from me. I have to support my friend. Thank you. *(Hon. Biara rose_)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Biara, I will pick you. Let us get Hon. Ababiku.

5.39

MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to thank my sister for the motion. My understanding, from the justification, is that it is more reflected on implementation challenges where our small-scale farmers are not targeted as expected. Members have been submitting that if it goes to financing, the big farmers are the ones benefiting more. However, even as we appreciate the PDM, we are saying the funds released for PDM are inadequate. In a parish, how many people are getting it and how much?

Therefore, it is a challenge of implementation; whether we can debate scaling up a deliberate urge for support for small-scale farmers from all perspectives beginning with the opening of our lands, seeds, irrigation, and financing. I feel it adds value because if we take even the numbers of the small-scale farmers, they outweigh those who are in commercial agriculture now. We are the majority.

Mr Speaker, not moving towards investing more in small-scale farmers is the result of the famine we are seeing across the country. This afternoon when we started talking about specific regions getting support, we would have given more information but it was on a matter of national importance. Otherwise, the whole country is hit by famine. The backbone of some of our rural districts is not the big farmers. It is these small-scale farmers.

I come from Adjumani and if you want to list the commercial farmers there, you may not get 0.2%, maybe 0.1% out of 100%. So, neglecting the largest population of farmers in this country is what is pulling this country behind. However, on the issue of having a specific legal framework, I am saying, no. It is an implementation problem – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, Hon. Nabulo, the Members are proposing - Then once she agrees, Honourable colleagues, I will allow debate on that amended motion. The Members – *(Hon. Asha rose_)* But, Honourable, we are going into your line so, allow us to propose your line, okay?

Honourable colleague, the members are saying that we amend the motion and the resolution you are proposing to say that it is, "A motion for a resolution of Parliament urging Government to scale up support for National Smallholder Farmers' Transformation and Climate Resilience Programme" and the resolution would also be along those lines. Is it agreeable to you? This is because it changes what you are talking about.

MS MAFABI: Thank you, Mr Speaker, and all the Honourable Members of Parliament who have contributed towards this motion. I am humbled, bearing in mind that indeed, Government has put up several policies and programmes to empower the exact community we are discussing today.

I speak this from an informed point of view. Sironko district is one of the highest beneficiaries of Parish Development Model money in Uganda. Yes, we have the biggest. So far, Sironko has received more than Shs 80 billion. If you were to scale it up - I would love for it to be scaled but if I am to look at my rural district, I cannot see the translation of the 80 billion in Sironko District.

When I say we set up a legal framework, I am saying let us bring all these ministries, all these programmes which are answering the same issue and we tie them up in a bundle so that it works efficiently. This motion starts that way because I did not have enough time to explain.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, it is your time. Explain; I am giving you enough time.

MS MAFABI: Thank you. When I say we set up a legal framework:

1. The problems of a smallholder farmer start with this little land because they do not know how to fully utilise that land. Therefore, they need technical know-how to get maybe 20 bags out of one acre instead of the 10 bags that they have been getting.

2. They also need the right inputs because the new statistics on climate change indicate that 40 per cent of our land is degraded. This is because we have overused the land, and we are using chemically induced fertilisers and pesticides. There is also the issue of the machinery as well.

When we go to financing, our farmers, specifically smallholder farmers, are in a rat race of poverty because when they get a problem that needs finances, they sell off their farms prematurely to solve that problem. Someone who would have gotten about Shs 4 million in the harvest will comfortably sell it off at Shs 1 million prematurely because he has a sick child or his wife has given birth.

When we have such issues, we shall also have need for micro-finance attached to the small-holder farmer service centres. On top of that, our farmers, instead of carrying one bunch of *matooke* or one bag of onions to the market, shall have a collection centre. Instead of them idly sitting at the market waiting for someone to buy, we shall be able to take that from them because there is availability of funds. Even for the government funds and private organisations which want to fund farmers, this will be their point of contact where they can support the farmers.

Concerning irrigation systems, who is going to monitor these irrigation systems that are being given to smallholder farmers scattered all over

the country? It is these farmer service centres which are going to keep a close eye on the performance of the irrigation systems and on top of that, we are planning, in the near future, to probably tax farmers because it fetches a lot of money. How are we going to keep track of what we are gaining economically from farmers? Again, the statistics will be able to be got from here.

ICT is also incorporated in this issue of the farmer service centres. We shall have an IT desk at every farmer service centre where we shall collect information on how much acreage of this particular product we are producing, and we can produce reliable statistics annually that we know this area produces this much tonnage of carrots.

This concept is already a policy in the Ministry of Trade, actually - (*Interruption*) A moment, honourable, let me finish up. It is also in the policy: "It is one village, one product". This policy has been implemented in countries like China. What is happening in China? They select, in their agro-ecological zones, what does well in this particular parish, village, or sub-county, and all the people in that community plant that one crop. Government provides processing plants and so on and so forth. This programme is cross-cutting, from technical know-how to equipment – Basically, this is the support, the backbone, the spine of the smallholder farmers.

Honestly, I must take this opportunity to thank the Government because you have done well. You have disbursed a lot of money in the community. However, I believe it is scattered, and it is not achieving the big picture. We are getting results, but they are small and scattered. We want to consolidate and get a solution that is permanent. For a smallholder farmer, all they need is two seasons of support, and they will be able to support themselves for the rest of their lives. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question to you honourable - You have said it all, but do you need a law? Do you need a legal framework, because you have submitted excellently? Do we need a legal framework? I just wanted you to guide the House so that we debate very well, knowing whether you want us to continue with your proposed motion as it is or as proposed to be amended. -*(Interjection)*- No, it is her choice. We started early. I do not want us to bulldoze a Member. A Member has her opinion, and she is entitled to her opinion. So, honourable, guide us. Do we continue with the - because if you do not allow the amendment, honourable, I will not put the question. Reason being, it will fundamentally alter - No, we submitted on this for long, and that is why we reached this stage. You can pick information from colleagues whom you feel can help you.

MS MAFABI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable members, honestly, I am overwhelmed. I am not a graduate of law, although I am a law student. I would like to request the lawyers in the House - I do not know whether Hon. Kakooza is a lawyer, but I would like him to give me his opinion on the matter. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us start with Hon. Kakooza. Hon. Kajwengye, you will also get a chance. Honourable minister, wait a bit. I want the Member to exercise his – Yes, Hon. Kungu. Thank you. Two minutes each.

5.50

MR JAMES KAKOOZA (NRM, Older Persons Representative, Central): Mr Speaker, I am not a lawyer but I am an accountant. Regarding the matter we are dealing with, and according to the laws which were read by the Chief Whip, Government has been targeting to help all those small farmers and commercial farmers. The only challenge is in implementation because when you look at all those laws, they are targeting those people to uplift them. If the Government makes a strategy and says, we are going to help farmers who have 50 acres with interest-free loans, " the Government has an intention to help, but what happens when you go to the bank? The strings attached to that loan will frustrate a person who comes from Kashagama or any other part of the country.

You tell him or her to get a cash flow and a feasibility study. This kills the intention of what the Government wants to do. All the laws are enough, but the challenge is: how do you implement it. That is why I want to amend her motion and say, yes, Government has an intention but let us urge Government to have a comprehensive mechanism and strategy that all these disjointed resources be put together and Government makes agriculture as a security matter because when you lack food, it is an insecurity.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: So in short -

MR JAMES KAKOOZA: In short -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does she need the legal framework or -

MR JAMES KAKOOZA: It is okay, but the way we implement - Government should make a deliberate strategy to help those small farmers.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am seeing non-lawyers standing up. Hon. Kungu. I know the lawyers here - *(Mr Kajwengye rose)* - No, I gave the chance to the mover, and the mover requested lawyers first. Hon. Kajwengye, I am going to give you - *(Mr Kajwengye rose)*- Dr Musa, sit. Hon. Kungu, then Member for Jonam.

5.53

MR SAMUEL KUNGU (NRM, Kigulu County North, Iganga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also happen to be a lawyer.

The motion tabled by Hon. Asha is not an issue to do with the law. Uganda and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries have enough laws. The only issue we have here is policy implementation. We do not want to congest the ministry with laws which are not going to be implemented.

The honourable minister, in his opening remarks, already said we have enough laws. There is nothing new that this motion is introducing in the legal framework. What we need is to see how best we can ride on the laws that are in the Ministry of Agriculture so that we make our small-scale farmers better.

Secondly, the motion has no definition. What is the yardstick of a small farmer? I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kajwengye then Hon. Alenyo.

5.54

MR WILSON KAJWENGYE (NRM, Nyabushozi County, Kiruhura): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have already submitted as a seconder of this -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, submit as a lawyer.

MR KAJWENGYE: Truly, I am a lawyer, an advocate of the High Court and other courts subordinate thereto. I also acknowledge that the Ministry of Agriculture has a plethora of laws and policies.

We actually do not need a law specific to that purpose. What we are lacking is implementation of the existing policies and laws. We are moving a motion to urge Government to act. May I, if you give me a chance to distinguish between a smallholder farmer and a PDM beneficiary -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, honourable member, we do not have that much time. The resolution which you want is totally different from what you have concluded with. It is good you have guided the mover. *(Hon. Rwamirama rose_)*

Honourable minister, I will give you a chance. Ministers usually come in later. I want the voices of Members to be heard first. Hon. Alenyo? Let me count one, two, three lawyers, then I will come to Hon. Biara. This is for smallholder farmers; all of you, including the Rt Hon. Lumumba, are big farmers. *(Laughter)*

5.56

MR MARSHALL ALENYO (Independent, Jonam County, Pakwach): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am a smallholder farmer and an advocate of the High Court. Indeed, we

admire the tenacity with which our sister spoke. We admire the zeal; we admire her direction.

We need to applaud her love for the smallholder farmers –*(Applause)*- and that is the spirit this Parliament has to carry forward. That when we come to this Parliament, we come as giants in image and all spheres; giants in politics and in money. However, when we find one of us in this House standing up for smallholder farmers like those in Pokwero, Pandara and Panyango, we must applaud her spirit. Therefore, we thank her for that.

Mr Speaker, as a lawyer, I am always attracted to the attention, topic or title of the document. This motion requires us to bring a legal framework. For a situation to need a legal framework, it needs a clear establishment of the formal rules. You cannot have a legal relationship when all these laws, policies, and entire administrative hierarchies are in place.

What our sister needs is not a legal framework. She needs more input, supervision, policy and study. Actually, with the way she spoke here, our smallholder farmers need more markets, access to things and a better life. As a lawyer, I say that they actually do not need – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I only want to deal with learned people for now. *(Laughter)* Those who are planning to learn – *(Hon. Ssewungu rose_)* No, Hon. Ssewungu, you are not one; you already submitted. He is a learned friend, but he is not the one submitting.

5.58

MR PATRICK KITIYO (Independent, Kapchorwa Municipality, Kapchorwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am a lawyer by profession. I served as a judicial officer for 18 years so, I have sufficient knowledge to advise or inform my sister, the mover of the motion.

In law, when they bring a criminal sheet, there is what you call "a statement of offence". It shows you the offence for which the suspect is charged. Below that statement of the offence is what you call "particulars of the offence". The particulars of the offence will describe you, the offender, the offence for which you committed and the date when you committed that offence. For our sister – *(Interjections)* - yes.

Mr Speaker, the motion that our sister has brought forth needed what you call a statement and then a particular, which our colleagues have brought forward. It needed a title and you needed to clothe that title. Right now, we do not need a legal regime for that. We need a policy working paper to direct how we go about smallholder – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Biara? Lawyers, you are starting to confuse us because you are laughing. *(Laughter)*

6.00

MR EMMANUEL BIARA (NRM, Bulambuli County, Bulambuli): I am also a lawyer in the making. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to inform my very good sister and neighbour - because from Sironko you cross to Bulambuli - that she brought here a motion about the elderly, and this whole House supported it. So, she should not be overwhelmed because of the advice and guidelines that are coming through from the Members.

Mr Speaker, like the Chief Whip and many other Members have already spoken, the Ministry of Agriculture already has policies that are running. For example, the Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Programme covers 69 districts across all the 13 agro-ecosystems in Uganda. That means we are already covering half of the districts and these ones were equitably selected across the agricultural zones. On top of that, they also have a National Adaptation Plan, which is also for the agricultural sector on climate resilience for smallholder farmers.

Therefore, I request my sister to allow the amendment of the motion so that we compliment the coordination and support of small holder farmers – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Bisaso, then Hon. Masiko.

6.02

MR ABDUL BISASO (NRM, Kassanda County South, Kassanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mine is a different one – *(Interjection)* - just wait. What I propose is, first of all, to ask the Government to undertake a legal and institutional gap analysis before we send our sister away, to find whether we have gaps in the existing laws.

You may find a gap that needs to be addressed. Where we find no gap, we could ask: what discrepancies are causing her to bring this up to the fact that we need a law? Then the Government can address those. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Gen. Masiko and then Omodi.

6.03

MAJ. GEN. HENRY MASIKO (UPDF Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I did not stand to second the motion because I did not understand its essence but when the honourable member from Sironko tried to expound, I linked it to what the honourable Chief Whip proposed.

The contradiction I see is that in her expounding, she is searching for a development model. As the Government side is emphasising, the model already exists; it is tabled. What the Chief Whip proposed is that this model is only half understood, because it has seven pillars.

When she spoke, she addressed each pillar. From where I stand, as someone who knows that one of the biggest problems with our transformation path is mindset, this model has a pillar meant to address mindset.

The Parish Development Committees (PDCs) - Because some of us are very passionate about this model, we thought Uganda had finally got the path to say: let the local people organise and participate in the debate on how they should organise their local economies. What she spoke to, the only missing link is to - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Omodi.

6.05

MR DENIS ALYELA (NRM, Lira East Division, Lira City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to support the objective of this motion, but also to challenge Government to clarify whether there are gaps in our policy, in our existing laws, and in the implementation.

Mr Speaker, farmers need finances, services, but above all, accountability. Most importantly, let us strengthen the existing policies and laws, but also cost every implementation plan we have for agricultural modernisation.

Mr Speaker, Uganda is perceived to be one of the food baskets of the region. This is a myth. We would not be having the current food crisis. I would like to request my sister to allow us to amend this motion but also, let us not create another law without examining whether there are existing policies and laws that would necessarily bridge the gap. I submit.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

6.07

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (ANIMAL INDUSTRY) (Lt Col (Rtd) Bright Rwamirama): Thank you, Mr Speaker and honourable members. Let me thank Members for their frank submissions. I do not want to go into the details, but I want to give a small background and go to the diagnosis of the problem.

The background is that we used to give stocking and planting materials. This money was converted to the Parish Development Model, and this is the money we are giving cumulatively as a grant.

From the Members' opinions, I perceive that the challenge is to scale up inputs. As I mentioned, the seven pillars are being implemented in a programme approach.

Specifically, what the smallholders want - I want to thank Hon. Ssewungu, Hon. Ngabirano, and the lawyer because they addressed the problem. What the farmer needs are inputs and these include planting and stocking materials. The farmer needs irrigation, fertilisers and extension services. At the moment, is the funding up to the task? This is the challenge. *(Applause)* We are implementing this using existing policies, laws, and regulations.

The farmer needs regulation at the farm level to ensure that what he produces is of good quality for the market, both for local consumption and export.

Therefore, Mr Speaker and colleagues, we do not need the law. I think we should see how best we can increase intervention for smallholders to match the required speed.

As Members of Parliament, you have been pushing for planting materials because farmers were used to getting from you the seeds that we gave you. This seed money we used to give was transformed. We no longer have it. If it is Parliament's wish, you can recommend that we revisit the programme. I submit, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable mover?

6.10

MS ASHA MAFABI (NRM, Woman Representative, Sironko): Thank you, Mr Speaker, honourable minister and honourable members, for all your guidance and submissions. I accept the amendment of the motion. *(Applause)*

However, I request that we have an extensive discussion on this matter with the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. I did not get a chance to pre-empt everything I had regarding how effectively we can implement this. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, appearing before the committee is very easy. Write to the committee and tell them the issues you have and seek their audience. That should be very easy.

Honourable colleagues, with that permission, I can put the question that the motion for a resolution of Parliament urging Government to develop and enact a legal framework for the National Smallholder Farmers Transformation and Climate Resilience Programme be adopted with the proposed amendment.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Clerk will capture that amendment, which starts with the title and also the final resolution. We shall have it as we proposed earlier. It is very well captured.

Honourable colleagues, on item number seven, I do not see the mover or the seconders. Therefore, the House is adjourned to tomorrow at 2.00 p.m.

Please, for those invited to the different sessions; the Women's Forum and Business Forumn, let us attend and be there on time.

(The House rose at 6.12 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday, 7 October 2026 at 2 p.m.)