



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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FOURTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2024



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FOURTH SESSION - 16TH SITTING - 1ST MEETING

Tuesday, 17 September 2024

Parliament met at 2.05 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, Clerk. Honourable colleagues, I welcome you to today's sitting. Government Chief Whip, I hope your ministers are about to come so that when we handle matters of national importance, we do not have more pending issues; we would want them sorted there and then.

Honourable colleagues, once again, I register my condolences on the death of our sister, Hon. Sarah Mateke. I was not able to be with you throughout that period because of other issues that had already taken me away.

Nonetheless, I thank you for the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood that you showed, at that time, to the family, and also to each other because whenever we lose a colleague, it is always a very difficult situation amongst us; you find that we need to console each other. Therefore, I thank you for that and for turning up in big numbers in Kisoro to give her a befitting send-off. We shall continue to pray that our sister's soul also continues resting in eternal peace.

On the same note, I express my sincere condolences, on behalf of Parliament and on my own behalf, for the death of Sergeant Rebecca Cheptegei, who died in an arson attack in Kenya. She was our former Olympian. It is unfortunate that we keep losing people in such a manner, especially through domestic violence. It is really something we have to sit down and see how best we can handle. It is very unfortunate. There are many who are dying that way and are not known.

Our sister, Rebecca, at least had a name that could sound beyond her own area, but for those who are dying quietly, it is an issue which we have to tackle as leaders, as a community, not only political leaders, but leaders from all aspects of society. It is an issue that we must see a way of tackling and must put our heads together and get a solution on how best it can be mitigated. With that, I request that we stand up and observe a minute of silence.

(Members rose and observed a moment of silence.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Later on, we shall move a motion to pay tribute to her and I will allow you, honourable colleagues, to express your views and condolences in as far as our sister's death is concerned.

Honourable colleagues, on a more positive and beautiful note, our President clocked 80 years and we had a huge celebration. *(Applause)* I usually tell friends that someone attaining another year on earth is something worth

celebrating. That is not an issue for debate. Whenever each one of us clocks - even Kony who was murdering people - when he celebrates his birthday, we say, "Happy birthday", even if we do not agree with him.

However, for the President who has done a lot for this country, there is more cause to celebrate. *(Applause)* I saw many colleagues there. Honourable colleagues, there are lessons to be learnt. Some of us who are half his age already look like his age. So, those are lessons we should learn in terms of fitness; how he has kept himself healthy. On a personal note - beyond the politics - because the politics might come in, but in terms of looking after ourselves personally, it is a very impressive example to find someone at 80 years still doing what he can do, looking healthy, with a very sharp memory, and running his duties effectively.

Honourable colleagues, that is the end of my communication, but I have two announcements that I would like to make to you. The Uganda Parliamentary Fellowship announces the 26th Uganda National Prayer Breakfast that will take place on Tuesday, 8 October 2024 and the parliamentary women's forum (Uganda Women's Parliamentary Association) meeting on 7 October 2024. The National Prayer Breakfast brings together national and international guests from all faiths, branches of Government, the business community, the diplomatic corps and international community, with the purpose of fellowshiping, praying and committing our country to God.

The key information is that the chief guest will be His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda, and the host will be the Rt Hon. Anita Annet Among, the Speaker of Parliament of Uganda. The keynote speaker will be Apostle Isi Igeneba, the founder of Mount of Deborah Ministries International and the venue will be State House, Entebbe, 7.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

I think the theme is, "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Hon. Bahati will clarify if there is anything I did not get right. We request you to confirm your

attendance by filling the confirmation forms at the desk near the pigeon holes by 24th September and after you have confirmed, you will do a COVID-19 test.

The women forum meeting, honourable colleagues, happens the day before the National Prayer Breakfast and will be hosted by the Rt Hon. Speaker on 7 October 2024. The Speaker will be the guest of honour and the keynote speaker will be Her Excellency Jewel Howard Taylor, the former Vice President of Liberia. The special guest will be Her Royal Highness Jovia Mutesi, the Queen of Busoga and the venue will be Speke Resort Munyonyo, 8.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. There is no need for a COVID-19 test. Please confirm your attendance on 24 September, 2024. The Leader of the Opposition will attend this one, since there is no COVID-19 test, to welcome his namesake, Jewel.

Honourable colleagues, we have some matters of national importance - Oh, reactions to my communication? I will start with Hon. Jane Pacuto, Hon. Bwanika, Hon. Kirumira, workers' representative, Hon. Ssemujju, Hon. Ruhunda and Hon. Yona. Hon. Macho, I must give you a chance.

2.15

MS JANE PACUTO (NRM, Woman Representative, Pakwach): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity to welcome you and all the colleagues back from Gulu. Mr Speaker, on your communication about the loss of our sister, the late Hon. Sarah Mateke, given the sudden death of our sister, whereas we may look so healthy, it would be good that the leadership makes it mandatory that after a certain period of about three or six months, we do - I know we have insurance but if we had medical personnel coming to check on us, because there are certain diseases - *(Interjections)* - Mr Speaker, please protect me.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are protected, honourable. Hon. Peruth, this is her view.

MS PACUTO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. You can see, that means Members are not willing to do checks on their own. That is the reason you are hearing that negative energy and voices coming out but it is for our own good.

It was so painful because some of us attended certain functions with Hon. Sarah hardly a week prior, only to hear the news of her sudden demise. This means that many of us are carrying ourselves with illnesses that we may not be aware of.

That is my humble opinion, Mr Speaker, and I would like you to take it that this noise implies that many of us do not want to do - whatever. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The former commissioner may want to comment on this.

MR OKUPA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Hon. Pacuto, it will not be the first time. Previously, every morning as you came in here, there was a team at the entrance to do the basic tests of pressure - (*Applause*). As you leave, you also do at your own will. Members, this is about our health.

Last week, when we were having this - one of our colleagues collapsed. We had to rush him out of this place to the hospital. Therefore, what the honourable member is raising is something that pertains to all of us and even His Excellency the President, the other day, asked of us - I am wondering why people are heckling when a serious matter of this nature is raised.

I appeal to the Commission that Members should be free to test every morning and evening as you come in here. It is not a forceful thing. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, you are aware that we have a parliamentary clinic. Anytime you walk in, do at least those simple checks. So, maybe you need to be encouraged.

Otherwise, I do not know how we shall display there and - Honourable colleagues, let us kindly do medical check-ups and not take things for granted; this is on a personal note. I request you because we do not want to say that the late Hon. Sarah died because she was not doing medical check-ups. No, she was doing them.

She used to share with us a few things and she was open about - like pressure and all that - she would tell you. I encourage you to take it up but also the way we live; we should remove this *chapatti*, *mandazi* and sugar from the breakfast package. Let us give water and *muwogo* - cassava, which would be a bit healthier.

Yes, I had allowed Hon. Bwanika -

2.19

DR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimaanya-Kabonera Division, Masaka City): Mr Speaker, in the same period when we lost Hon. Sarah Mateke, I saw in the news that we also lost two army generals in an accident and one of them was a director for training. I felt that they are worth mentioning on the Floor.

Secondly, there are currently so many fatal accidents in the country. We should have an opportunity on the Floor of Parliament to ask the Minister of Works and Transport - but also for us to debate to find solutions on how to mitigate these fatal accidents.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Dr Bwanika. I have requested the Clerk to get me the names because it is important to have them on record and then after, we shall observe a minute of silence. Thank you. Yes, Hon. Kirumira -

2.20

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luwero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also appreciate your communication on the birthday that happened in Nakaseke, greater Luwero. It is within our interest to celebrate life but of concern is the lavish expenditure that happened during the celebrations.

When the former President of Tanzania, the late John Pombe Magufuli, became president, one of the things that he cancelled were national celebrations and money was diverted to hospitals and schools. In the greater Luwero where the birthday happened, we have so many children going to schools and sitting on bricks. How I wish we could divert that kind of expenditure to schools and hospitals where our people are suffering.

We are all raised up to celebrate life and we all celebrate birthdays. Do not get me wrong, colleagues, but we need to look at the greater good. I was particularly concerned by the organisation and the amount of money that was spent in celebrating the birthday. We would have gotten our cake somewhere and celebrated it as Ugandans for Gen. Museveni getting to 80 years. I believe that Ugandans would have been very happy with that. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kirumira, be informed that people made contributions for this function and if you are among the people who listened to the speeches, you heard them being thanked.

I was among the people who contributed personally. We have people who contributed cows, bananas - we only missed your contribution and if you have it ready, I can deliver it because there are still have a few debts we have not cleared. So, this was not a state function but a private function organised by the family, children, friends and well-wishers. Thank you.

Honourable colleagues, I have received information from Lt Gen. Elwelu that the two army generals who died were Brig. Gen. Twinamasiko, Director, Training of the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) and Brig. Gen. (Rtd) Kyambadde, the former Deputy Commander of the Artillery Division. I request that we observe a minute of silence in their honour.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I had - No, it was Hon. Yona Musinguzi.

2.24

MR YONA MUSINGUZI (NRM, Ntungamo Municipality, Ntungamo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for telling us what transpired at Nakaseke as you celebrated the birthday of His Excellency, the *Ssabalwany* of this nation.

I add my voice to thank God for the good life He has given him. I do not know, maybe Gen. Elwelu will answer me because I know he was among the 27 freedom fighters who are still alive who brought the peace that we are all enjoying. I thank the people who brought bunches of *matooke*. Personally, I wanted to bring. I would also like to thank those who brought cows. I also thank the Speaker for standing in for us. We really wish him a happy birthday, as Parliament. Thank you.

2.25

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kiira Municipality, Wakiso): Mr Speaker, I would like to thank you. A while ago, Hon. Pacuto advised that we need to subject ourselves to periodic checks, following the sudden death of our colleague. However, there are also constitutional requirements. To be the President, the Constitution says you must be mentally and physically fit.

In America, President Joe Biden was actually asked not to participate in elections on account of his age. When you have an 80-year-old president who keeps making erratic decisions - Mr Speaker, I implore this Parliament that we subject our President, now that he is 80 years, to periodic mental and physical tests. That is the requirement of the Constitution - *(Interjection)*- you can say "Aah!", but the Constitution says so -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order, Dr Lokii.

MR JOHN BAPTIST LOKII: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have listened to my senior colleague, Hon. Ssemujju, who happens to be the MP of the area where I live. He is trying to insinuate

that an elderly person at 80 years cannot steer this country – cannot reason.

Mr Speaker, if America is saying that people should be subjected to medical tests – our President has not shown any sign of failing – *(Applause)*- to discharge his duties.

So, is Hon. Ssemujju in order to insinuate that our President, who is experienced to lead this country, cannot lead this country? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You know, honourable colleagues, I told you some time back that the issues of Hon. Ssemujju and His Excellency Museveni are like issues of the generals: they usually sort themselves out. *(Laughter)* However, Hon. Ssemujju has referred to the Constitution. I do not know whether the Constitution goes to give the parameters for requiring you to subject someone to a test and all that. I do not know whether he is proposing that we amend the law. However, the man is doing very well. *(Applause)*

MR SSEMUJJU: Mr Speaker, I am saying this in good faith – because the makers of this Constitution had actually put an Article that, at 75 years, you cannot be a president. I was not in the Constituency Assembly (CA). The President himself – you know, before I came here, I was a journalist. When we interviewed him, he said, “At 75 years, you are tired”.

Someone who does not even remember that there is no governor for the Central Bank! *(Interjection)* I am doing this in good faith – even for his health – *(Interruption)*

DR BARYOMUNSI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I thank Hon. Ibrahim Ssemujju for yielding the Floor. From a medical standpoint, we have two types of aging. There is what we call “chronological aging”, which is a measure of the number of years, and what we call “physiological aging” – where you have seen people who are 60 years but they are finished. So, they are chronologically young, but biologically aged.

I want to speak, as a medical professional, that President Yoweri Museveni may have chronologically clocked 80 years, but he is biologically young. *(Laughter)* Yes. And, the spirit and letter of the Constitution is that it is up to the voters, if he presents himself – or any other aged person – to assess whether one is energetic to lead them or not.

I know Hon. Ssemujju is a Muslim, but I just want to quote from the Bible. If you read Job 12:12, it says: “Wisdom belongs to the aged, and understanding to the old.” That is what the Bible says.

So, there is no problem with the age of President Yoweri Museveni. In any case, physiologically, he is very sound and able to lead. And, indeed, there are many leaders who are above 80 years in many countries. We can give you many examples. So, do not be worried. If he offers himself, it is up to the voters. That is what the Constitution of Uganda says.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssemujju, conclude.

MR SSEMUJJU: I thank the minister for information. He, actually, only confirms that we need to do a test – that was his submission – to establish whether he is chronologically or – *(Laughter)* So, we need to do a test.

Mr Speaker, I am saying this – I want to repeat – in good faith. You know, when presidents age – you saw what happened to Zimbabwe – even family members begin taking national decisions. You saw Grace Mugabe. These days, you have seen the President’s son – *(Interruption)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssemujju, there is a point of procedure.

MR KYOOMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise under rule 79. A Member has been advised and even a quotation has been read to him from the Holy book, but he has continuously engaged and derailed us in repetitions, which are actually not adding any value. Mr Speaker, under this rule, I would like to move that the

Member no longer be heard. *(Laughter)* Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, we run this House on flexibility, but let us not overstretch that flexibility. Hon. Ssemujju, conclude – you were concluding.

MR SSEMUJJU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have never seen young people who want to be led by old people – *(Interjection)* - and they take pride in it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, I told you to conclude, but you are opening more wars. *(Laughter)*

MR SSEMUJJU: Mr Speaker, since you are one of those who were approached to contribute cows and bananas, I know you have more access than any Member of this Parliament. Kindly, on our behalf, make arrangements to do a simple thing: just test if the President is mentally and physically okay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I think this Parliament sat down and resolved – whether you agreed with the resolution or not, you resolved that you do not want to limit the age of anyone leading this country. You knew that even people of 100 years would present themselves to become the President. We are the ones who resolved it so, we cannot run away from it.

We are the ones who allowed President Museveni; let Ugandans either accept or reject him. I think the best test for him to know whether he is very okay will be done by Ugandans. As Parliament, we do not have any power to do a test on an individual. Yes, Hon. Macho?

2.35

MR GEOFREY MACHO (Independent, Busia Municipality, Busia): Mr Speaker, I want to thank God for your wonderful communication today, which includes the birthday of President Yoweri Museveni.

Mr Speaker, together with the people of Busia, we joined the rest of the country and I want to appreciate all the statements that were made on that day. Although my friend, Hon. Kirumira, is not agreeing, it is worth it to celebrate the life of a president, moreover an honest president. We have President arap Moi who died without us knowing his age, but here is a president who declared that he is 80 years. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, in Busia culture, we have a proverb saying that, “If you steal from the basket of an old man, it is a curse.” When Hon. Kirumira was complaining, I remembered the words of our President when he said that at the age of 75 years, these people of National Unity Platform (NUP) stole his one million votes. *(Laughter)* I do not know what the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) is thinking because if you steal from an old man of 75 years, you cannot wish him a good birthday. *(Laughter)*

As a country, we must agree that President Museveni is a gift to this country because of the stability and the peace he has brought in this country, and the development majorly. With what I have witnessed in Busia Municipality, I believe he is still strong enough. We have seen younger people, although they have grown up in the cities and ghettos, doing more mistakes than the elder. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Rwabushaija –

2.37

MS MARGRET RWABUSHAIJA (Independent, Workers’ Representative): Mr Speaker, mine is a matter of national importance.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Hon. Ruhunda?

2.37

MR ALEX RUHUNDA (NRM, Fort Portal Central Division, Fort Portal City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would advise all the young and middle-aged MPs to learn from President Museveni. How can you live up to 80 years and you are still fit? I think he is a role model for us to learn from.

Mr Speaker, I was very disturbed when we lost our two generals, because I know what it means for the nation to train a soldier to reach up to the rank of a general. A lot of resources are spent on this person, but the knowledge and expertise that guarantee our security is very key. So, it is very disturbing that we lost our two generals through road accidents.

The first question, Mr Speaker, is to find out the circumstances that led to the death of these two generals. How could these two generals die in one day, at different times? They were in different cars so, what would be really the reason? Can we get an explanation from the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF) and the Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs? The Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs must come here with an explanation about the cause of these two generals' deaths because we value our generals, we value our army.

Mr Speaker, I stand as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Forum on Road and Water Safety. We are losing a lot of lives in this country out of reckless accidents and when we go to the researchers, they show that 95 per cent of these accidents are due to human error.

Unfortunately, through all these different spiritual beliefs, Ugandans have come to believe that actually it is God's plan for somebody to die on the road. This is very unfortunate because in other nations where the traffic laws work, we experience very minimal loss of lives. But here in Uganda, everybody has come to be accustomed that actually, it is the act of God that is robbing our people on the roads.

Mr Speaker, my prayer, as I sit down, is that it is good you visited us in Fort Portal. The Fort Portal-Kampala Road; this is a national road but it is a total mess, it is dilapidated. A journey that would take only four hours now takes seven and a half hours. This is the road where this Minister of State for Works passes to go to his constituency. It is where the Prime Minister passes to go to her constituency, where the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development passes to go to his constituency.

I am wondering, really, when you sit in the Cabinet, what happens regarding this national economic road that is now going to cause more deaths for our people. I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, maybe you will touch on that because I know there is a contractor on that road, but it is a growing concern.

Hon. Francis Mwijukye, the shadow Minister for Works, had earlier on brought an issue related to that, so let me allow him to raise it, then the minister can respond at once.

2.41

MR FRANCIS MWIJUKYE (FDC, Buhweju County, Buhweju): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, there are very many accidents on the roads. Although we are talking about the two generals, it is important to point out that accidents on these roads have increased. On very many roads; Masaka Road, Jinja Road, Tororo Road, Busia Road, Entebbe Road – there is a spot on Entebbe Road, I think around Nkumba, that has claimed very many people; at the university stage. We have seen buses of students - even in town here.

Last year, in July - I think it was the 13th of July - this matter came in this very House and the Rt Hon. Speaker then convened a meeting between Minister of Works and Transport, Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA), the LOP, I think there was Minister of Internal Affairs - Mr Speaker, I have a copy of the *Hansard* here.

After that meeting, very many interventions were agreed upon in the immediate, medium, and long-term. Mr Speaker, some of these interventions were to do with:

1. Initiating pop-up messages by the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance;
2. Replacing the missing road infrastructure;
3. Towing abandoned vehicles;
4. Immediate removal of roadside markets;
5. Compliance with the right-of-way and use of lead cars;

6. Increasing the recurrent budget allocation of UNRA;
7. Responsible use of Government vehicles;
8. Compliance with the speed limit;
9. Enhancement of budget provisions;
10. Dealing with blind and black spots.

Many interventions were reached at. The last one was that they agreed to have a monthly meeting to evaluate what they agreed on, on immediate intervention.

Mr Speaker, most of these interventions have not been effected and now we are talking about increased road accidents. Mr Speaker, I would like to know why all these interventions were not effected, and now, a year later, we are talking about - because that was 13 July 2024, this is September 2024, and nothing has happened.

Maybe, if we had effected this, we would not be talking about increased road accidents. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, it is coming to 3.00 p.m. and we are still on my communication before matters of national importance. We have an Order Paper to manage. Honourable minister?

2.44

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) (Mr Fred Byamukama): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will begin with the issue of Entebbe. We are aware of it and we have a report that we are finalising. I must say that the issue was that the traffic lights were near one another and that would confuse the drivers. However, I request that, next week, I bring the detailed report, because we have got many accidents on that stretch, such that everyone is informed.

On the issue of Mityana –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu, do not move to the microphone. Once he refuses - Honourable minister, proceed.

MR BYAMUKAMA: On the issue of –

MR SSEWUNGU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The reason you give us these front seats, as shadow ministers and ministers of Government, is so that we can work out and mitigate the challenges in the country. The issue I am raising is one that I am interested in and I seek the clarification of the minister.

This year alone, road accidents have claimed the lives of 260 children. You can think about those parents. So, what I am seeking is, could you come with –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the source of that information, honourable?

MR SSEWUNGU: The clarification is, could you come with detailed information of how those children have been getting these accidents? Are they as a result of crossing roads while going to school? What happened to them? This is in order for us to take a good analysis and look at all those challenges, but 260 children are a big number -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, once we put statistics, we need the source of information because the *Hansard* is an important record - So, the minister is a source of information? *(Laughter)*

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, to put the record clear, it is a traffic police report from last week and I will table it if you want -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you seem to be the source so –

MR BYAMUKAMA: Mr Speaker, I did not know that elders also nowadays tell lies. I must say what he is saying is a lie. That is his source of information and if he has evidence that –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order?

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, I never intend to raise a point of order because, of course, you know one time you directed me - and the minister promised to go with me to the Kampala-Entebbe Expressway so that we look at the barricades that were removed but

he never came. He is here telling the House that “Hon. Ssewungu is telling lies”. I have been in this House and I always give the right information. What I have stated here is a police report and even the minister is given news in his office, but he does not make good use of the news; it is very unfortunate. The Government is procuring newspapers for him, but he is not using them.

Therefore, is he in order, Mr Speaker, to deny what I have said, whereas he would have stated that, “Honourable member, let me take keen interest and find out what I can report back as I come?” Is he in order to say that I am a liar while I am smartly wearing my rosary? *(Laughter)* I am speaking the truth from a police report which is displayed in the news and is well known by the Ministry of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) and his team.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not defend the minister because I warned him when he was giving you an opportunity, but he did not listen. *(Laughter)*

Anyway, on a very serious note, it would be very important for you to table a report here when you refer to it. Now, it is difficult for me to know whether he is lying or you are lying. I think to make it very easy, tomorrow, we can correct the record by you tabling the report and that will help us. Thank you.

Honourable minister, here we do not use the language of “lying.” We usually say, “I am not sure” or “the Member has not proved.”

MR BYAMUKAMA: Mr Speaker, I withdraw the word I mentioned; “the lie” in good faith, but what provoked me was the unverified information. So, my colleague, I withdraw that statement.

As I conclude the Entebbe issue, our intervention is to remove the traffic lights which were close to one another, as we look around to solve that issue permanently so that we save our Ugandans. We shall bring the report to this House, as you may guide, so that the country can be able to know what is happening.

On the issue of –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, once you request to be allowed to speak twice and you are not responded to, please, you start disrupting the proceeding. Honourable, kindly take your seat.

MR BYAMAUKAMA: On the issue of Mityana-Mubende, I use that road but does it mean that I should strangle the Government programmes on how they have arranged to cater for my place. If the resources are limited then all of us should be equal. The contractor – *(Interruption)*

MS ASINANSI NYAKATO: Thank you, honourable minister, for giving way. Mr Speaker, last year, Kafu Bridge was washed away by floods. The honourable Minister of Works and Transport came here and told Parliament that works will commence this early January.

With oil and gas at its highest peak in the country, Kampala-Hoima Road is the main route to the Albertine Graben and most of the heavy trucks are using that bridge. I would like the honourable minister to also clarify when the Kafu Bridge construction works are going to start. I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

MR BYAMUKAMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. On Mubende-Mityana, we have Fort Portal. On the stretch from Mityana to Mubende, we had a contractor on site but we did not have enough money to pay in time. He was demanding us Shs 41 billion and we paid him Shs 20 billion. We have engaged him and he is back on the site to finish the stretch up to Mubende, as we look for the balance of Shs 21 billion.

On the side from Mubende going up to Fort Portal, we are doing some simple rehabilitation for the potholes -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Going up to Kyenjojo, because you are done with the Fort Portal-Kyenjojo stretch.

MR BYAMUKAMA: Yes, going to Kyenjojo - we have done some simple rehabilitation using our in-house engineers and the equipment we have. My honourable colleagues, you must be seeing those people on that road.

Meanwhile, the designs have been completed. We shall go to the next phase to look for funds and once we get them, the contractor will reconstruct and rehabilitate the entire stretch from Mubende up to Kyenjojo.

My colleague, Hon. Ssewungu, said that I came here and promised to go with him to the Kampala-Entebbe Expressway to visit those places. Honestly, I must be on record; I looked for the honourable colleague on the phone. *(Laughter)* He did not answer my calls. I even sent him a *WhatsApp* message but he did not reply. It is on record and I can bring the evidence of the dates when I called you.

As a ministry, we went and visited; it is on record, and if he wants our findings, I will share them with him. I looked for him - maybe if it was within my means then I could have made it publicly - but we shall share with you the report on the findings we got.

Lastly, the Bridge was washed away and immediately we got money, we rehabilitated it. Rehabilitating it was a temporary solution and currently, traffic is flowing very well. To avoid other future problems, we want to make designs for reconstruction of all -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hold on, honourable minister. Point of order -

MS ASINANSI NYAKATO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I speak, the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) came and put some concrete blocks in the middle of the bridge where there were potholes and left them there. That is the rehabilitation the minister is talking about.

Is this procedurally right - *(Interjections)* - Is the Honourable Minister for Works and Transport in order to misguide this honourable House that they did the renovation on that bridge?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable, you have just confirmed that they did some rehabilitation, by putting whatever they put. It might not have been sufficient. Honourable colleagues, please let us listen to the minister on the long-term solution. He is reporting on the long-term solution. Look at how best we can support all this effort.

MR BYAMUKAMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As a long-term solution, since the weather keeps changing, the same problem may occur in the future and cut off the road for about a week which we do not wish to happen.

Currently, we have constituted a team to redesign all bridges on busy roads so that at a given point when floods surface, they will be able to handle the volumes of water so that people do not suffer.

If my honourable colleague wishes, we can move together for supervision of that bridge we are talking about. It causes no harm; she is my good sister. This is so that I and the engineers can explain what we did and what we intend to do in the future so you can appreciate it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable minister. The honourable colleagues have many issues to do with accidents and the Road Sector. Hon. Mwijukye gave a comprehensive list of issues that we discussed with the Speaker. The Chairperson, Forum on Road and Water Safety, Hon. Alex Ruhunda also raised salient issues.

Since you are bringing the report for Nkumba, I request that you look at those issues and respond to them one by one; we come here and have a comprehensive debate to accommodate all these issues.

Otherwise, each one has a serious point on this. Honourable colleagues, this is done. I do not know how I can pick one and leave the others on the same point. Let us wait for the report from the minister and then I will give you opportunity.

2.58

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On the 10th of August, when the country had a catastrophe at the Kiteezi landfill, the State Minister of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees on the 13th day, was here to give a way forward and update this Parliament on what could be done and what was being proposed at that time. By then, over 1,000 people were affected. As we speak, several of our people are still in the camp of Kiteezi and many of the affected have not gone to school, especially those in higher levels.

Matters were made worse during this rainy season because the Kiteezi landfill blocked the drainage system and foul water from the landfill now flows to other people's residences, leaving the 200-meter buffer zone for those who are now in the camp.

My prayer is that since this very august House was briefed that there is a residential space at Dundu, when is the Government going to expeditiously resolve the matter of Kiteezi through compensation? Because they were promised. Nothing is taking place as far as compensation for those who are in the buffer zone, because another catastrophe of foul water flowing into the neighbouring residences is coming.

As representatives of the people in Kiteezi, let the Government also update this House fully on what is going to be done as far as the landfill is concerned and clearing that garbage. Because several dead bodies are still down in that garbage.

We pray that we get an update on when Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) is going to come up with a plan of removing that garbage so that the drainages are cleared and so that the Kiteezi matter gets more priority as far as the Government is concerned. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, do you remember that last time the Prime Minister, through the Minister for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, presented

a statement on her own volition and requested us and promised to keep updating the House? Honourable, these answers should come in an update so that the leaders from that area can easily explain to their people and all of us, citizens.

3.01

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Mr Speaker, we had a meeting yesterday in the Cabinet about Kiteezi. I request that you permit the minister in charge of Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) to come and give an update on what we have agreed on.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sure, it will get priority. The ball is in your courts. Even if you say tomorrow or Thursday -

MS NAKADAMA: I request that the minister comes on Thursday to give a brief to Parliament. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Leader of the Opposition (LOP)?

3.02

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am glad a statement is coming - I would like to encourage the Prime Minister that we do not wait for a prodding from this side. It is important that there is a regular update.

I did see a story on Television about a Pastor who lost his wife and child. He made an appeal to the Government saying; "Please allow us to conduct a funeral service at that Kiteezi place so that we have closure for our loved ones" because he lost his wife and child and the bodies have not been exhumed.

I would like to appeal to the Prime Minister that as that update comes on Thursday, can there be an emphasis on the waste plan for Kampala? Because we have a disaster that is looming. KCCA tells us that Kampala generates between 2,000 to 2,500 tonnes of waste per day. That waste now does not have a home. They tried to

go to Wakiso but it was not received well. They tried out Mukono but there is an arrangement that is not quite working out.

When you move through different parts of Kampala, you will find heaps of garbage because it is not being collected. Can we know what the plan is? Otherwise, we are going to have another disaster; cholera or something of the sort. Away from Kiteezi, for the other parts of Kampala and the surrounding areas, that update must capture what the plan is. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I hope you have taken note of that.

3.04

MS ANNET KATUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Bushenyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker – (*Member rose*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let her finish.

MS KATUSIIME: I have a matter of national importance requesting for relief and assistance for the victims of disasters in Igara West, Bushenyi District.

The people of the sub counties of Nyabubare and Kakanju as well as Bitooma Town Council were affected by hailstorms, which destroyed a number of households and crops. The major crops, which were affected, were bananas, cassava, beans, maize, sweet potatoes, tea and coffee. These disasters occurred on 28 August 2024 and 9 September 2024.

Buildings were also affected: two primary schools were affected and, actually, some pupils have not yet reported back to school. The owners of the houses that were damaged are sleeping outside. In summary, 1,460 homes were affected.

My prayers, Mr Speaker, are that:

1. The affected households should be assisted with planting materials and seedlings.
2. The affected schools and parish headquarters should be funded to reconstruct the damaged structures

and they should also be given building materials such as iron sheets.

3. The affected households should be given relief food items such as *posho* and beans.

Mr Speaker, I have with me a copy from the district - it is already received in the Office of the Prime Minister – to justify what I have just submitted –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: A copy of what, honourable member?

MS KATUSIIME: A comprehensive report of the disaster that took place in the district. I, therefore, ask you to allow me to lay it. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, do not mind because that is usually what the Prime Minister asks for. We have taken note of it.

MS KATUSIIME: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prime Minister?

3.06

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Mr Speaker, sorry about what happened in those areas that Hon. Annet has mentioned. However, I would like to remind honourable colleagues that whenever we have such disasters, let us follow the correct procedures, especially by going through the disaster committees and then bringing the report to the Office of the Prime Minister, specifically, to the Office for Disaster Preparedness, so that it can be handled.

However, I have taken note of what has happened to those people and I request my sister – Hon. Annet, please, let us get that information. Since you have it in writing, you can forward it to our offices or give it to me and then we handle those cases. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, number one, for the record, it is not Members of Parliament who should be taking those

reports. It is the Chief Administrative Officers. As Members of Parliament, we usually get copies for record purposes and following up. So, the honourable member has her copy for following up, which she can pass on to you so that it can help you.

Number two, I have received very many issues of that nature. I worked a little bit in that sector when I was the Government Chief Whip. Under the Office of the Prime Minister, we used to have Tuesday meetings - and I am sure that even now, they still do and discuss these issues.

I think that what we need to do – Rt Hon. Prime Minister, this is a rainy season and these cases are going to keep coming up. I think you need to come here and update the House on how prepared you are to address these concerns. This is so that we know whether you have food, tarpaulins, iron sheets - and they are in the store. Members should know so that if they are not there, they do not bother themselves, but if they are there, Members come. I have very many cases - I have a list here and the answer is always the same.

So, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, can I - Wednesday next week? You are going to have your meeting on Tuesday. You also have Cabinet meeting and all that. Prepare an update on how prepared you are to mitigate all these disasters that are going to come up during this rainy season. It would help us reduce these matters coming on the Order Paper every day.

Hon. Margaret Rwabushaija – oh, Hon. Enos, did you say you have a procedural matter?

MR ENOS ASIIMWE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. You had given the Prime Minister instructions to bring a report on Kiteezi and my honourable colleague –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleague, I do not give instructions.

MR ENOS ASIIMWE: Okay. You had directed –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Listen. In literature, there is what we call “diction”. Diction is about choice of words. I use my words deliberately. I do not direct a minister because I do not supervise ministers. I request – and they usually take my request seriously.

MR ENOS ASIIMWE: Thank you. You had guided that the Rt Hon. Prime Minister should bring a report on Kiteezi and my honourable colleague mentioned something to do with the water that is running off the heap.

Before the incident, that water had a treatment plant but the treatment plant itself had failed because it eventually ends up into Lake Victoria. The problem we had then – as the Committee of Climate Change, we had requested for money so that the treatment plant could be worked on. They were asking for Shs 5 billion, but by the time of the incident, the money had not been provided for.

So, don't you think it is procedurally right that as the Prime Minister comes to give a statement, they give us an update on the treatment plant? This is because this water that is running off the heap is actually ending up in the lake and it is this lake that we are feeding on. I beg for your guidance.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable member, that is not a matter of procedure, but the minister should take note. Procedure has to do with how the House is running on that same day. Thank you. Let us have Hon. Rwabushaija and then I will allow Hon. Ssekikubo.

3.11

MS MARGARET RWABUSHAIJA (Independent, Workers' Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Mine is a matter of national concern on the non-payment and discontinuation of the part-time teaching staff by Kyambogo University management.

Kyambogo University is one of Uganda's largest public universities that has been in existence for 21 years. It boasts of robust

programmes of skills training for the so-called “bazzukulu”.

However, there has been an ongoing challenge of the staff because they are not being paid. So, there is a problem with the management over non-payment of salaries yet we have very many part-time lecturers who constitute 80 per cent of the university payroll.

The story of the non-payment of salaries seems to be synonymous with the institution’s name. In 2023, part-time lecturers threatened to withdraw their services or not to set examinations. With that, the staff members showed that there was a gap because those who are on full-time pay cannot do much because of the workload.

Currently, I have been informed that there is a deficit of Shs 5.6 billion that has been accumulated over 13 months in salary arrears. However, the Department of Mechanical and Production Engineering is demanding up to 16 months of salary arrears.

Interestingly, the Human Resource Department, instead of working to make sure that people get what they are claiming, instead dismissed all of them. They recruited another team of the same category of part-timers. So, there is a challenge and I feel that we should be able to look after the workers in this country because many of us have gone through the hands of those workers, irrespective of where they belong.

My prayer, Mr Speaker, is that you help us and come up with a committee to investigate and make recommendations on how to ensure that the affected workers get paid their salaries.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, I pray that you help us carry out a forensic audit of this very good institution for those of us who passed through there, because it is now a nightmare. I submit. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ssewungu had a matter related to that which I had registered.

MR SSEWUNGU: Thank you. As the shadow Minister of Education and Sports, I also raise this matter and it has always come whenever the term is beginning. I made a round call in a number of districts, and the schools have not received capitation grants. The Minister of State for Higher Education was on radio directing head teachers to buy school items and materials for the new curriculum with no funds. What is happening, Mr Speaker, is that students are not reporting to school. I think they have got wind of what is happening.

Whenever a term is beginning, teachers must be at the school at least a week before, to prepare. That is what private schools are doing but here we are and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has refused, adamantly, to send money in time, yet this Parliament directed that schools should get their capitation grants 15 days prior.

Government is paying Shs 3,000 per child per term and a term has 92 days. However, you have failed to send this money in time and you are going to arrest the head teachers that they stole money and are not doing well. If you give them money after the term has moved by two months, that means it is their share. They will not be able to buy chalk or pens. What are teachers using to prepare to start teaching?

As the shadow minister, as the minister was directing head teachers to start buying scholastic materials for the new curriculum and we have candidate classes, where are they getting the money from? Are they getting it from their poor, meagre salary? Mr Speaker, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is here. What is failing you to send money before the term begins so that these teachers can do something?

Mr Speaker, anywhere you go, the majority of students have refused to report to schools. As Members of Parliament, we have been pushing; we have talked to parents to take their children to school but there is nothing to do at school. They are taking them to slash compounds. That is my matter, Mr Speaker, and I am happy that the honourable minister has come.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development - release of capitation grants.

3.18

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The matter being raised by Hon. Gonzaga is a matter of national importance. From the way he is portraying it, it is as if the Government is not doing anything, which is not the case. Mr Speaker, I need to come back here tomorrow with facts and figures about what we have budgeted, released, and what we plan to release in October.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The minister has asked to come back tomorrow with facts so, let him come tomorrow. There is nothing to contest. Minister, tomorrow we shall give you an opportunity to update us. Let us wait until tomorrow when the minister will update the House. Honourable Minister of Education and Sports, kindly update us on the issue of Kyambogo University failing to pay staff.

3.20

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker,

apologies. I had moved out to the lobby; I wanted to get the correct information so that –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you kindly link up with Hon. Rwabushaija and update us tomorrow?

MR PETER OGWANG: I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ssekikubo, I had allowed you on a point of procedure.

[Text expunged.]

LAYING OF PAPERS

- I) REPORT ON PUBLIC DEBT, GRANTS, GUARANTEES AND OTHER FINANCIAL LIABILITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Finance, Planning and Economic Development- [Hon. Aogon rose] Please, I am the custodian of the rules and I determine whether a procedure, an order or what - Okay? Honourable minister -

3.41

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, first wait. Honourable, nowhere is it written in our rules that when a Member stands up on a procedure, the presiding officer must stop and first get him. I want you to have that, okay? As the presiding officer here, I have made my ruling. Honourable minister, continue.

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a report on public debt, grants, guarantees and other financial liabilities for the Financial Year 2023-2024.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is referred to the Committee on National Economy for consideration and report back to the House.

- II) REPORT OF A DELEGATION OF PARLIAMENT TO THE FOURTH EAST AFRICAN CONGRESS OF ACCOUNTANTS (EACOA), KIGALI, RWANDA PURSUANT TO RULE 33 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Nakut, just use 10 minutes by giving the highlights.

3.42

MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay a report of a delegation of Parliament to the fourth East African Congress of Accountants (EACOA) in Kigali, Rwanda in April 2024. As permitted by rule 33, allow me to give three key highlights about the fourth EACOA where we participated.

It was a three-day congress and the Parliament of Uganda was represented by five delegates; there were over 600 participants. The Ugandan delegation was the second biggest delegation that appeared in that congress.

There are three issues that I wish to draw your attention to, arising from this Congress. The first one is the participation of the East African accountants and auditors in the provision of services in the region.

Mr Speaker, even though we have the East African Community and the agreements therein, not every country has opened their doors to accountants from all the countries. Some countries have opened, while some have not. So, there is work to be done. We appeal that the Ministry of East African Community Affairs champions the harmonisation of our laws so that accountants and auditors in Uganda and other East African countries can offer these services with ease in any of the East African countries.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, we had a discussion with the leadership of Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU) and we saw the need to widen the scope of ICPAU to cater for full grooming of the accountants from lower levels to the CPA levels that we have now. The learning was from Rwanda, which has improved their numbers and the quality of their professionals because there is no hindrance to the CPA Rwanda.

So, it is our wish that when we come to seek leave to amend the Accountants Act to cover the scope of ICPAU and the needs of the East African Community, this House will cooperate.

Thirdly, we had a representative of the Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area in that congress. She gave a report on the contributions and participation of countries in the African Continental Free Trade Area. She also said that funding for the African Continental Free Trade Area secretariat is computed based on the level of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). That means that given our high GDP, Uganda has obligations, which are higher than other countries.

She challenged us to find out from our countries what we are doing to make good use of that contribution. That means we should take stock of the goods and services that we are selling and supplying to the countries on the continent.

Based on that, it is our considered view that the ministry for trade tables before this House our participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area. Those are the three issues I wish to highlight.

Let me give a vote of thanks to the Members that represented Parliament. We had Hon. Herbert Tayebwa, Hon. Moses Aleper, Hon. Loy Katali, Hon. Roland Ndyomugenyeni and I. These Members delegated me to lead them and that is why I am laying the report on their behalf. I wish to thank them. They did not give me any hard time and I will be happy to work with them, again, very soon.

I also wish to thank you, Mr Speaker, and Madam Speaker, Anita Among, for making it possible for us to participate in the Fourth East African Congress of Accountants. Otherwise, without your support, it would be difficult.

I also wish to thank Minister Musasizi for pushing for us to participate in this very important congress. I beg to submit, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I will be appointing the time for debating this report, as required by Rule 33 of our Rules of Procedure. Next item.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF
PARLIAMENT TO PAY TRIBUTE TO
SGT REBECCA CHEPTEGEI: UGANDA'S
FALLEN CROSS-COUNTRY, LONG-
DISTANCE AND MARATHON RUNNER
AND OLYMPIAN

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

3.48

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR
EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)**

(Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to move a motion for a resolution of Parliament to pay tribute to the late Rebecca Cheptegei, an Olympic athlete and a sergeant of the Uganda People's Defence Forces, for her enduring and patriotic contribution to the sports development in Uganda.

Mr Speaker, I will move under Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda.

"WHEREAS the Parliament of Uganda received with deep sorrow the tragic news of the death of Sergeant Rebecca Cheptegei, Uganda's Olympic athlete, which occurred on 4 September 2024 at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya;

AWARE that Sergeant Rebeca Cheptegei has had a celebrated career, serving the Uganda People's Defence Forces from 2007 with honesty and integrity, rising to sergeant through sports;

NOTING that Sergeant Rebecca Cheptegei was a celebrated long-distance and marathon runner who represented Uganda in many international competitions on track, road and cross-country, including the just concluded 2024 Paris Olympics, World Athletic Championship which took place in Budapest, Commonwealth Games, World Mountain Running, 2022, World Cross-Country Championship, All-African Games, Budapest, 2023, Kampala Marathon, 2014, Poland, 2013 and 2010 Punta, Spain, 2011, as well as many other local and international marathons;

RECOGNISING that Sgt Cheptegei was an athlete of distinguished talent and skills, who through strong work ethics, confidence, professionalism, commitment to her sports and patriotism, set international and local records. Her illustrious career in sports complemented the Government's efforts to change the narrative about Uganda internationally. Indeed, she is among the elite athletes, the unsung heroes of our nation, who have heeded to the call of duty to not only raise the Ugandan flag through sports at international stage, but also to inspire our youth and the generations to come to live a purpose-driven life. Her life is an epitome of success as illustrated by her achievements that have been etched into the annals of history, and these include, but are not limited to the following:

- i. Gold medallist in the World Athletics Mountain and Trail Running Championship in Chang Mai, Thailand, where I was present;*
- ii. Gold medallist at the Podava City Marathon in Italy;*
- iii. Gold medallist at Santa Pola in the 10km race in Spain, 2013;*
- iv. Gold medallist at the 47th Iteration of the Cross International Ciutat in Spain, 2013;*
- v. Silver medallist at the Firenze Marathon in Italy, 2023;*
- vi. Silver medallist in the 2021 half-marathon in Madrid, Spain;*
- vii. Silver medallist in the Dakar half-Marathon, 2029;*
- viii. Silver medallist in Kampala Half-Marathon in 2021.*
- ix. Bronze medallist in the World Military Games in Rio de Janeiro, 2011;*
- x. Bronze medallist at the Guangzhou Half-Marathon, China, 2016.*

- xi. Fourth in ADNOC Abu Dhabi Marathon, United Arab Emirates, 2022 with a national record of 2.22.47;*
- xii. She was 4th at the just-concluded All-Africa Games in Accra, Ghana;*
- xiii. She was 4th at the Brazzaville Half Marathon in Congo;*
- xiv. She was 7th at the Doha Marathon, Qatar, 2024; and*
- xv. She was 12th at the Shanghai Half Marathon in China in 2017.*

Those are just but a few.

APPRECIATING that Sgt Rebecca Cheptegei used her position as an athlete to promote the profile and international standing of Uganda and its people, the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), the sports fraternity of Uganda, and was a great inspiration to Ugandan athletes, especially women and the girl-child;

UNDERSTANDING that Sgt Rebecca Cheptegei is survived by two biological children - I want to put this on record, and one child she adopted as her daughter because the young girl was left by a mother who disappeared up to now. So she has an adopted kid - survived by two children aged 11 and eight who are in dire need of support for she was their sole provider;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by this Parliament as follows:

- 1. That Parliament collectively conveys its deepest condolences to the bereaved children, family, relatives, friends, the athletics and sports fraternity and the people of Uganda, for the loss of a globally-acclaimed athlete, a patriotic soldier and a responsible citizen; and*
- 2. That this Parliament takes cognisance of and appreciates the immense and enduring contribution made by Sgt Rebecca Cheptegei to the promotion and development of Uganda through sports."*

Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues, I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Is the motion seconded? Okay, it is seconded by Hon. Kayemba Ssolo, Hon. Joel Ssenyonyi, Hon. Julius Acon, Hon. Tom Aza, Gen. Elwelu, Government Chief Whip, Hon. Rwamirama, Hon. Zaake Francis, and by the whole House. Honourable minister, would you love to speak to your motion?

MR OGWANG: Mr Speaker, when I speak about this motion, sometimes, as a certified hustler, I feel like crying. Sometimes you must appreciate where you come from. It is our history that drives us to work for this nation.

For Rebecca, I want to confirm that I came to know her as a minister in charge of sports when I met them, as Team Uganda for the just-concluded Paris Olympics. Like I always do, I tend to give a lot of time to understand the children whom I work with.

I want to confirm, that Team Uganda and specifically, I was discussing with the Uganda Athletics Federation the performance of our girl-children in international competitions. For some of you who have been following athletics, and sports in particular, you look at the girls' performance of Team Uganda vis-a-vis our neighbours - our performance, with the exception of one, that is Peruth Chemutai, is a bit wanting. I took a keen interest to understand where the problem is.

I want to confirm as a minister, unlike others, that some of these daughters agreed to confide in me about the personal problems they were facing. I want to say this: Rebecca, out of the many, is among those who told me that she had a family problem.

Friends, and I call upon all of us here to first accept; we must denounce bad cultural practices, which still exist in our societies. *(Applause)*

Number two, we must denounce domestic and gender-based violence. Truth be told, Mr

Speaker, what killed our daughter was the issue of property. She has been running in line with the records I have shared here; she has been winning some money.

For that, some of us men still want to believe we have ownership of the monies of these children or our wives. I want to confirm here to us men, please can we accept to work hard so that what belongs to us is ours and what belongs to our wives is theirs? *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, the whole issue, which led to Rebecca's death is a question of - my daughter confided in me, she had a boyfriend who was based in Kenya who - *(Interjection)* - yes, he was a Kenyan - who she had bought a property with. Unfortunately, my brother, the late now also, was not comfortable whenever she brought up the topic of developing her property.

The late wanted all the properties to be put in his name. The late wanted the account - the late husband - that the account my daughter was controlling also be put in shared names.

Friends, look at the barbaric way in which our daughter died. How can you, in this 21st century, buy petrol and you come and pour it on a human being and set her on fire? What kind of person is this?

Friends, Rebecca is gone, but the message must live to help us address other emerging challenges amongst the population we have today.

Mr Speaker, similar challenges are happening to others, for which I want to say - I had promised them, and I want to confirm this on the Floor of this House, I am going back to meet all the families of these elite athletes, specifically ladies, to begin addressing some of these challenges amongst them with their spouses and their family members.

Mr Speaker, I want to specifically thank the Government of the Republic of Kenya. Friends, the moment I got this information, I was able to link up with my colleague, the Minister of Sports of the Republic of Kenya, and I want to confirm that they had pledged to airlift our daughter to Nairobi Hospital and settle all

medical bills. Unfortunately, Rebecca could not live to get the service; she passed on.

I want to thank Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret; the medical team there did what they could to help our daughter. I want specifically to thank my dear President and my senior minister, who having got the information, were able to come in to help.

His Excellency, the President contributed Shs 50 million to help the family of Rebecca, who are still alive today. I want to thank the UPDF. Thank you, army generals, for standing firm. Our daughter was given a burial not of her rank; she was given a burial befitting the Generals who are before us here in the august House. So, I want to thank the leadership of UPDF.

Last but not least, Mr Speaker, I want again to reiterate that gender-based violence is one vice we must all condemn in the strongest terms possible for us to have a free world where all of us live equally, in terms of the way God created us.

I thank you, for allowing us to move this motion. May the soul of our dear daughter, Rebecca Cheptegei, rest in eternal peace. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. That was really emotional. You know, honourable colleagues, we sit on a lot. We might find there are even some of our colleagues who go through that - yes, especially females, but also some men.

You know, there is something I read, honourable minister, that some of these athletes' ATMs are with their boyfriends, you know.

MR OGWANG: Mr Speaker, that is the reason I have given - can I be heard, Mr Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, honourable colleagues, let us listen to the minister.

MR OGWANG: That is the reason I have given a big statement by emphasizing that we

must denounce bad cultural practices, which still exist. Why am I bringing this up? In some of the communities in our country and our neighbouring countries, they still believe that property and money should be held by men.

Mr Speaker, I know of a case - which I do not want to put on record - where one of my daughters, who is one of our national athletes, came and cried to me. She requested me to talk to her husband. And I want to confirm that I called her husband, the father and the mother of her husband. I sat with them in my office and counselled them. Today, that friend of mine, my daughter, is finally peaceful and doing a commendable job.

It is true that these things exist. So, I challenge us, colleagues, to get back to our society and explain certain roles. If not, you are right with what you have said.

The last one, which I had forgotten - imagine this barbaric man - the poor girl attempted to run into the house to pick water, having burnt her mother - she ran to get water to pour onto her mother but the poor man kicked the poor girl. What kind of human being is that?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now let us hear from Hon. Ssolo Kayemba. Honourable colleagues, we have seconders who are registered here. Those are the ones I have to start with. The motion is seconded. I hope you have copies of the Order Paper because they are listed on that Order Paper.

4.04

MR GEOFREY KAYEMBA-SOLO (NUP, Bukomansimbi South County, Bukomansimbi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join this Parliament to second the motion for paying tribute to our international fallen athlete, our sister, Rebecca Cheptegei. It is so sad that Uganda went viral in the international media over such a bad act, which generated a bad image.

However, I would like to tackle it differently. First of all, how did our sister go to Kenya? She went to Kenya because she was looking for a better training facility to realise her dreams.

That is how she got a man, a monster, that took her life. Actually, I would call him a beast. Honourable minister and the Government, to end these injustices and this situation where our athletes are losing properties and lives in Kenya, we should focus on improving our training facilities.

We have the Teryet High Altitude Centre, which has been built for 13 years but is not yet to be completed as of now. Yet, if it was in good condition, our people would not go to Kenya to look for better facilities.

Hon. Ogwang did a good job in counselling the girl athletes. However, we need fair budgeting for these other sports federations. We agree that football is the most popular sport in the country. If other federations also got better budgets, maybe, they would have a professional person, who would speak to the athletes, before doing this post-mortem.

Therefore, I call upon the minister and the Government to see to it that budgets for other sports disciplines are improved. Imagine, one sports discipline getting Shs 17 billion while netball is getting Shs 320 million. We need to find a way of balancing this and exercising fairness for all the sports disciplines.

When we speak about sports - most countries have what we call, "high-performance centres." These look like national academies and are always in different regions. When they tap into a talent, they bring them together and stay together, because sports are based on four aspects; the technical one, tactical, physical, and the most important thing is the psychological approach.

Honourable minister and the Government, where are these things in our country? Where is the national centre that helps to improve these athletes when they are still young?

I think we should focus more on making a national academy; a national high-performance centre, not only national but even regional, where if we get talents at an early age, we nurture them for them to excel in the four aspects.

The Government of France named a sports facility in Paris after our fallen heroine. What is the Government of Uganda doing? France, which is a lot of miles away from here, has a sports centre named after this heroine.

Honourable minister, we also need to know - because we always need to remember her. The way she died needs to act as a sign for men and all people not to be involved in domestic violence.

I pray that we get more sports facilities. I am happy that this time at least we got some, but it would have been done years ago - and it is not enough.

Based on the African Cup of Nations (AFCON), which is football, since we have many disciplines, those stadiums that are built should tackle other disciplines. We should have a gym for boxing, netball and the rest.

Lastly, the main issue for Uganda, especially for sports, is not prioritising. I thank this Parliament because it is the first Parliament to give sports space. I thank you very much for doing that.

Our main issue is the money. We have betting companies in Uganda. I know the National Lotteries and Gaming Board is trying to do that, but I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Minister of Education and Sports to engage with the National Lotteries and Gaming Board so that these betting houses that take our money - and most of them are for foreigners - leave a percentage in the sports fund.

We need to develop a sports fund; a board to take it over and manage it will be a topic for another day so that money can go to develop a stadium in Bukomansimbi or at Kakyeka. That is what we have seen everywhere we have travelled. Thank you, Mr Speaker. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see there was no meeting between the mover and the seconder. The seconder was not even seconding the motion. He seconded by saying - no, you

cannot come up to - you chose him. Yes, as a mover, you chose him, and now you are rushing to respond to him. You should have held a meeting and agreed. Hon. Grania Hope? Honourable, I still have Members who are listed on the Order Paper. Hon. Nalule Aisha Kabanda, Hon. Santa Alum.

4.12

MS SANTA ALUM (UPC, Woman Representative, Oyam): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to second the motion to pay tribute to Sergeant Rebecca Cheptegei, our fallen Olympian, a marathon runner, and our heroine.

We have been paying tribute in this Parliament to various sporting disciplines winners but this afternoon, I stand, in a very sad way, to pay tribute to a fallen heroine in the sports fraternity, after being killed by a partner or a lover, for that matter, doused by petrol and set ablaze.

Mr Speaker, this is a wake-up call against domestic violence, which is so rampant not only in the sports fraternity but even in our communities.

To this extent, I would like to thank the mover of the motion, the state minister of sports. He has tried to do his best but on top of what he is doing, let us put a serious desk or structure in place to help these people when they get their money.

Mr Speaker, talking to these athletes or sports people, one by one, will not be so easy. I join you, together with the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development - I am happy that she is here in person - we need to sensitise our sportsmen and women who are lifting our flag so high about men out there who are ready to play with the money the athletes or the sportswomen earn from their sweat.

Two, I would like to add my voice to the issue of the lack of training grounds for our sportsmen and women. I thank the Government for putting up the High Altitude Training Centre, which is soon to be completed.

The mover appreciated the late Sgt Rebecca Cheptegei but are we going to build another training centre and name it after her? This would be something so great to remember her. Much as she is gone, it will inspire many more youth who will live up to what she has done.

Three, our runners are always migrating to neighbouring Kenya, looking for training grounds. The late was very patriotic, she concentrated and she represented our country.

In the 2024 Olympics, some runners were running for other countries. But she was so patriotic that after training in Kenya, she came back and ran for Uganda.

Mr Speaker, if we are to remember her as a country, we need to build another stadium and name it after her. We have one but it is not enough.

Finally – (*Interjection*) - Akii-Bua was already named. We need another name – gender because sports are so male-dominated. So, I would like to urge the Ministry for Sports and the Ministry of Gender to ensure gender balance in sports to help these women.

In the past years, there was news that some of the girls were being asked for sex so that they could be put onto the team. This has gone to another level - that was the third time that a sports lady was killed in Kenya.

Mr Speaker, through you, the Minister for Gender is here, I would like to urge that we put in place something to help the female flock in the sports fraternity. Thank you. May her soul rest in peace. And my condolences to the family, children, the sports fraternity and the country at large. Rest in peace, dear Olympian.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I am going to give you a chance. I will first pick three people for specific reasons before I go to the Sebei group and the rest.

She was a Sgt in the UPDF, so, I will start with Gen. Masiko, then our former Olympian,

Hon. Acon, but also our star athlete, Hon. Tom Aza. He is even wearing to show that evidence - (*Laughter*) - then I will pick Hon. Alan Ssewanyana.

Honourable colleagues, this is the only item we are going to handle today. The purpose is to give all of you a chance; if we can be very quick in speaking.

4.18

M A J . G E N . M A S I K O (U P D F Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity given to me to speak on behalf of the institution that is bereaved by the unfortunate incident of the passing of Sgt Rebecca Cheptegei.

I support the Motion for paying tribute to this young lady as UPDF, when we received the information we were greatly saddened and particularly touched by how she met her death.

Mr Speaker, as the honourable minister has indicated, Sgt Rebecca Cheptegei was accorded a befitting send-off and it would not have been any less. It is sad that Sgt Cheptegei Rebecca met her death in the manner she did.

As a policy, the security forces are giving priority to sportsmen and women during recruitment, so that not only do they have a stable livelihood apart from what they earn during their performance but also have guaranteed welfare. It is contradictory that a trained personnel could be treated this way.

We feel sad and we are going to take steps to ensure that other sports ladies and men particularly within the security forces take precautions not to meet such a fate.

I also use this opportunity to comment on the statements, which appeared in the press that Sgt Cheptegei could not have died, had it not been that she was looking for better facilities in Kenya.

I have had the opportunity to visit the High Altitude Facility at Teryet, near Kapchorwa town. It is not true that this facility is incomplete.

To the contrary, this facility is complete and in use. (*Applause*) I heard fellow sportspeople and male counterparts appealing to those who still want to go out to take advantage of this facility.

Teryet is a world-class facility. It can even host world games. As we pay tribute to this young lady, we should urge the private sector to take advantage and begin putting up hotels around Kapchorwa so that in the future we can bid to hold world games.

Honourable members, that facility is worth visiting to see what this Government has done. With those remarks, may the good Lord grant Sgt Cheptegei eternal peace. I beg to support.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, General. Yes, Hon. Acon.

4.23

MR JULIUS ACON: (NRM, Otuke East County, Otuke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also would like to add my voice to pay tribute to our fallen heroine, the late Rebecca Cheptegei. It was very hurtful when we heard the news.

Mr Speaker, we, athletes or sportsmen, generally come from a very deplorable background. For you to be a good athlete – or succeed in any sport – you must come from a very poor background, where your parents cannot pay school fees or afford one meal a day.

It is very unfortunate that we lost our sister. Imagine waking up in the morning to run 12 to 15 kilometres daily because you are trying to find a way to survive!

Mr Speaker, not many years ago, women athletes were not supposed to compete or do any sports. However, I am happy to see that the generation is changing and the Government is also putting a lot of effort into making sure that sports transform or change the lives of the youth.

We do sports as part of employment, Mr Speaker. You heard what the honourable

minister read in regards to the performance of this wonderful young fallen heroine. She had already made her way and her family was surviving with the small money that she earned. It is very unfortunate that she did not make it.

Honourable minister, I know that there is some money, which they are paying to the well-performing athletes, who have won medals. Can the Government continue supporting or paying that money to the family of our fallen heroine for some few months since she left many children - three – as you have said?

Mr Speaker, I would also like to ask the Government: if they cannot build a stadium, then let me request something simple: maybe a school. I think this would motivate other young female athletes or sports ladies in this country. It could even be a road. I think this would be simpler.

We have two occasions to pay tribute. Normally, we do it when somebody is still alive and, secondly, when somebody is dead. However, we must do something to remember our fallen heroine, Rebecca Cheptegei. If we do not do this, it is just going to end like this; she will not be remembered.

I feel so disheartened by what happened and I cannot speak much. May her soul rest in peace. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, our brother, Hon. Acon. Now let us hear from the Hon. Aza Tom.

4.26

MR TOM ALERO (NRM, West Moyo County, Moyo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity. On behalf of the people of Moyo District, I extend my sincere condolences to the bereaved family members, relatives, friends and the people of Bukwo, Uganda, Members of Parliament and everybody on the demise of Sergeant Rebecca. We always say that “God gives and God takes”.

Mr Speaker, during the days I was the Chairman for Athletics in Arua District as well as the

Federation of Uganda Football Association (FUFA) delegate for Arua District, during Lawrence Mulindwa's regime, Sgt Rebecca would come with her peers to West Nile. Since I was the chairperson for athletics in Arua, I would always receive them, take them around and they would participate in what we called "Mayank Race". Mayank comprises districts from West Nile. She would come and we would train them and, at times, we would also pay a visit to Kapchorwa. That is how we always interacted.

Honourable minister, this is for your attention. As I speak, I have a daughter called Margaret Ejoria Aza. She has qualified to go to one of the European countries next month - her accolades are here. I hope she is going to be protected. *(Applause)* She is called Margaret Ejoria Aza. She is going to one of those European countries - like father, like son - *(Laughter)* - like father, like daughter. *(Laughter)* Thank you. I also have a son who is a goalkeeper, anyway.

Lastly, I would like to bring this to the attention of the House. Number one, we should develop our athletics potential by using our land, not taking our runners to go and train in Tanzania, Kenya or South Sudan. We have undulating hills and lowlands where they can train from.

Number two, as said by the minister, we should avoid gender-based violence in all areas of life.

Mr Speaker, here was the idea of constructing 18 stadia in the country. How far has that programme gone, honourable minister? I understand Celecele Stadium in Moyo District is one of them. Also, Barifa Stadium, in the name of Dorcus Inzikuru, is supposed to be constructed.

Otherwise, I would like to congratulate and thank the Uganda Cranes, who are doing us proud. Let us pray for them and encourage them so that they qualify for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Morocco.

However, it is important to note that as I talk, there is bickering, confusion and quarrelling in the netball fraternity. What is happening there? Minister, help in that regard.

Otherwise, to all of us, let us take to sports so that we become healthy, and avoid non-communicable diseases – cardiovascular diseases and diseases that affect us such as diabetes, stroke, cardiac arrest, hypertension, high blood pressure and so forth. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Ssewanyana.

4.31

MR ALLAN SSEWANYANA (NUP, Makindye Division West, Kampala): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also stand here to pay tribute to our athlete, Rebecca Cheptegei, who died in Kenya.

There are many problems, which have been cited here, the lack of a training facility being one of them - like what my shadow minister said. We indeed lack a training facility, which is ready for athletics training in Uganda.

However, that will not stop capable athletes from going somewhere else for better training. That is a fact in sports. Even when we get Teryet completed, people will come from Finland or Iceland and train from Uganda because they think we have better conditions.

Even people from America and the United Kingdom have been going to train in Iten, Kenya. So, it is not a matter of a training facility. They will keep migrating. For example, in football, people run to France to get better training facilities, and some run from France to Uganda to get better training facilities. It depends on the mind of that athlete.

However, Mr Speaker, we should not take the death of Cheptegei lightly. This is because, for your information, in December last year, we lost another athlete, Benjamin Kiplagat, under the same circumstances. He was found stabbed in a car last December, in Kenya. Another Ugandan athlete has died in Kenya almost under the same circumstances.

So, the minister in charge of sports must discuss this with the Government of Kenya to see why our athletes, as of late, are not treated hospitably in Kenya.

Going by the current competition between Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia, over who is the king of long-distance running in the whole world, can cause such issues against our athletes who have gone to Kenya to find better training facilities. So, we should not take that as a light thing.

As much as there is domestic and gender-based violence, all those issues can happen. But what happened when they killed Kiplagat Benjamin, who was also a national athlete? So, the Government of Uganda should seriously take this up as a matter between two Governments, the one of Kenya and Uganda, to safeguard our athletes who go there for competition.

However, we must thank Kenya. Because of its facilities, we managed, Mr Speaker, to take a cyclist as an athlete to the Olympics for the first time in 65 years because they have competition in the form of clubs and facilities. So, Kenya has facilities and even competition is there. Clubs are there that compete favourably in the athletics field. We should not say that it is because of the facilities that our people are being killed, much as we continue yearning to have better facilities for them to be pulled this side of ours to come and compete from our country.

I thank you, Mr Speaker. May God bless Rebecca wherever she is. Rest in peace.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, in the public gallery this afternoon we have pupils and teachers of Forest View Primary School, Bukwo District and this is where Rebecca was coming from. They are represented in Parliament by Hon. Chelangat Alinga Solomon and Hon. Chemutai Everlyn. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me once again in welcoming them. *(Applause)* Thank you.

Hon. Phyllis Chemutai, Hon. Fadil Twalla, and Hon. Betty Chelain. Honourable colleagues, I am first picking Members from Sebei Sub-region. There are only four who are here.

4.36

MS EVERLYN CHEMUTAI (Independent, Woman Representative, Bukwo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Listen, honourable colleagues. Please, do not overreact. There is a way we work here. When a Member of Parliament is from a certain region, we give priority to MPs from that region before anyone else. It allows healing for the community. So, let us do it that way. Yes, honourable.

MS CHEMUTAI EVERLYN: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I would like to say that I am really saddened by the death of Sgt Cheptegei Rebecca. It really paralysed the whole of the Sebei region. I want to thank all those who went to bury her on Saturday.

To lose such a person of such a calibre is really very, very bad. Getting somebody like her is not easy. Somebody who has trained to her level and has done a lot for this country should really be remembered. She has left her children; they should be supported.

I want to say that some years back, the President visited Bukwo District and promised to build a stadium. I am now requesting the minister for sports to build this one in the name of Cheptegei Rebecca. *(Applause)*

My other prayer is that this lady, this champion, this heroine should be promoted, and should be given a posthumous promotion from Sergeant to Warrant Officer. That is my request to the UPDF, the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, or to Captain - to a higher level so that the benefits – my prayer is that Cheptegei Rebecca be given a posthumous promotion to Commissioner Officer so that the benefits can be given to the children.

The other one is - I am wondering about the Teryet National High Altitude Training Centre. I would like to ask the minister - he is saying that it has been completed, but I do not think it is complete yet. Do we have enough dormitories for these people to stay in? Not yet. Even according to the plan, it is not yet finished. We need a three-star hotel in that place.

We also need it to be commissioned. We have been waiting for it to be completed and then commissioned so that our people can use it. They are not using it yet. Then, on a sad note, men, why are you killing women? I think it is high time we accepted that women are being brutalised by men, especially when a woman has money. When a woman has money, she becomes an enemy to a lover or husband. Why should we live in such a state? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us hear from Hon. Fadil Twalla, then Hon. Emma Cherukut followed by Hon. Chemaswet. If you know your name does not start with 'Che', first wait.

4.40

MR FADIL TWALLA (NRM, Tingey County, Kapchorwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to pay tribute to our fallen heroine, our daughter, Cheptegei Rebecca.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Uganda, the UPDF, and the Ministry of Education and Sports, for giving her a wonderful burial.

I know our daughter died in Kenya just because she was looking for how she could train better. I want to tell you that the Teryet National High Altitude Training Centre - the first phase is done. It can still accommodate our athletes now. They can even train, but the first phase is done. We want to ask the Ministry of Education and Sports, and the Government - that the second phase should start with immediate effect so that we can be able to accommodate our athletes.

We also want Kenyans to come and train from Uganda because we have a better facility. Ours, I think, is even going to be the best.

When my sister, Hon. Everlyn Chemutai talked about a three-star hotel, people were laughing, but, this facility, Teryet National High Altitude Training Centre was meant to have these things – the hotel because if you are hosting internationally, where are people going to sleep? Mr Speaker, we want the Government to really put all its efforts into completing the Teryet National High Altitude Training Centre.

The President has managed to contribute Shs 50 million for the burial but still that is not enough, Mr Speaker. We want the Government to take full charge of the family of Cheptegei Rebecca because she left very young children. As we think about naming a stadium after her, we should think about these children first because those are some of the athletes, the champions we are looking at in the future. In that case, I pray that our sister rests in eternal peace. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Fadil. Let me now have Hon. Cherukut, Hon. Chemaswet, and Hon. Betty Chelain - then other Members can come in. *(Laughter)*

4.43

MS ROSE CHERUKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Kween): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My colleagues, Members of Parliament, I take this opportunity to appreciate the Minister of State for Education and Sports (Sports) for having ably represented Uganda in the send-off of our daughter, Rebecca Cheptegei. Hon. Peter Ogwang, the minister of state, when I saw you with the Cabinet Secretary, that is the Minister of Sports in Kenya, Murkomen, on the same table, I felt there was a lot of good stuff that flowed in as far as sports is concerned.

The death of Rebecca Cheptegei was very unfortunate and very painful. I was present at that burial - and I would like to also appreciate my sister, Hon. Chelain Betty, who was also present.

However, as a mother, my heart is bleeding. We have lost a soul that was just approaching 30 years, leaving children, 11 years and 8 years, plus the adopted child. It is very painful and unfortunate that the idiot who burnt our daughter was so heartless - I call him so because he deserves all the worst names on earth. Why would he burn somebody because of her money?

Each time I talk about sports, I always talk about the power of the legs. It is a gift that is not for everybody, but for only some people; only for a few. For example, while I am also

from Sebei, I do not have that talent. These are the God-chosen few. I do not know - it is unfortunate that this guy died. How I wish he was living to see what we would do to him.

Honourable minister, Hon. Peter, it is my humble plea and prayer that you kindly work hand in hand with the Minister of Sports in Kenya, Mr Murkomen, the Kenyan Cabinet Secretary, to see to it that justice is brought to the family of Rebecca Cheptegei.

I remember when we had just concluded the burial, the burial committee wanted to get the Shs 50 million for the burial expenses. However, I would like to appreciate you so much, honourable minister, because you stood your ground and said, "No, that money is meant for the siblings. Where do you expect them to go?" I remember your words. You said, "I know what a burial entails. The moment it is done, people take off." The bereaved family members are the ones left there with the innocent children. He said no, and it was a strong no. I appreciate you 100 per cent, honourable minister. *(Applause)*

Regarding the High Altitude Training Centre that we have in Kapchorwa, I appreciate the Government of Uganda for that facility. It is my humble admiration. I encourage our sports fraternity to learn to love what we have. Why would we cross boundaries and borders and come back dead when we have the same facilities? It is unfortunate; it could be because of the love - but when I saw her in the casket, I said, "All the way from Kampala to Sebei, Kapchorwa, Kween, to Bukwo, she managed to cross the borders to Kenya but came back in the coffin?" It was really painful. To us, it matters. The idiot who killed our beautiful daughter just because of her money was a boda guy.

To the Government, my other prayer is to support Hon. Phyllis and Hon. Twalla's suggestion that a five-star hotel be put in the Teryet High Altitude Centre so that it can attract tourists and also the people who would want to train from other regions. Why would you train and at the end of the day, you do not

have where to refresh and eat something, to get more energy? We must have a hotel at the high-altitude training ground for the betterment of the sports fraternity in Sebei.

Last, but not least, let me conclude like this: I appreciate Team Uganda for always supporting our athletes each time they win the gold medals. I know so many gold medals have been won by sports people in the Sebei Subregion.

When we talk about some of these roads being put or named in remembrance, at one time some of the serious athletes - talk of Joshua Cheptegei - after all the medals he has earned - even Kiprotich - they are many, but at least Joshua Cheptegei, more so in this Kampala, we may be the C's - if our efforts have been seen, not only in Uganda or Africa alone but the world at large, why can't we lift or appreciate this son of the soil by just naming one of the roads, even here in Kampala, as Joshua Cheptegei Road?

To run is not a simple thing and we have even seen them many times collapse, but at least he has done his best, severally, to earn us medals, together with his friends.

To the family of Joshua - darkness, I do not know why *-(Laughter)-* I think I better summarise. To the family of Rebecca - there is something I have remembered directed to the gender minister. It is very crucial for the female athletes to be talked to. They are being counseled so that they do not make errors in as far as choosing their loved ones to be -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, kindly conclude.

MSCHERUKUT: They need to be counselled. Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. May the soul of our dear beloved daughter, Rebecca Cheptegei, rest in eternal peace. *Asanteni sana!*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Chemaswet?

4.52

MR CHEMASWET KISOS (NRM, Soi County, Kween): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for allowing me to speak to the motion raised by Hon. Ogwang, the Minister of State for Education and Sports.

Hon. Ogwang has come up with various motions. There was a time we debated a motion here and I know very well that the resolutions were sent probably to the office of the Prime Minister for implementation, but I also know that at times, there are those who sit on the resolutions. We do not want to just speak to the motion whose resolutions may not be implemented – that we only speak and everything ends here in our seats.

Mr Speaker, when resolutions of Parliament are being transmitted to the Prime Minister, the same resolutions ought to be copied to Members of Parliament. This will help us to understand that our resolutions have been appreciated by the Executive; let me speak to this motion.

There are two things that have given Sebei and Uganda a name: one is that the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Government has provided security in Sebei and the whole of Uganda. *(Applause)*

The other is the athletes who have lifted the name of Sebei and equally, Uganda. *(Applause)* Kenya, to us, is not an issue. It is just a crossing point. It is just a river dividing us with our brothers on the other side.

So, with me, crossing the other side is not a problem because I do not use my passport to go to Kenya. I just walk to the other side, meet my relatives, and talk to them. Our brothers on the other side felt the pain when our sister, Stg Rebecca Cheptegei died; they equally condemned the incident.

Amb. Dr Kurgat from Eldoret called me, he was the supervisor for my master's programme because I did a thesis on the emergence of land conflicts in Mount Elgon District in Kenya where the same boy came from and I think he

had lost his parents because of the Sabaot Land Defense Forces in Mount Elgon and had issues as well that affected him very much.

Dr Kurgat, who was an ambassador in Moscow, told me, "Chemaswet, I think this must have been the cause of the thesis that you researched on", the emergence of Sabaot Land Defense Forces in Mount Elgon, which was a bigger war. It was a real fight over land matters.

That is why it is always important and paramount that land matters are addressed by Government including that of the Benet people as we speak.

Sgt Rebeca Cheptegei committed to me for two hours and thirty minutes during the event in Paris. I do not always watch television because the news is always about propaganda; I only watch athletics. Also, I do not watch football because there is a lot of betting. I fear betting, having lost KShs 100 in 1984 because of three cards only. One was money and the other two were not. So, the guy played it and I lost the money; I have never liked betting.

Although, I am an Arsenal supporter. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: For that reason, can you conclude? *(Laughter)* Or just sit down.

MR CHEMASWET: Mr Speaker, I am concluding. In one of the resolutions that we had before, Hon. Ogwang had recommended the tarmacking of the road from Atari to Ngenge through S-Corner and I think these resolutions were probably sent but I need to remind Hon. Ogwang, about them. Thank you.

MR OGWANG: Thank you, Mr Speaker and Hon. Chemaswet, for giving me way. First of all, with due respect, the information I have in writing is that having come to represent the Minister of Education and Sports in the homecoming of our children in Kween, your district, those are the requests I received while there and I processed them.

The Ministry of Works and Transport has communicated to me in writing about their

plan to include that road in the priority roads for tarmacking in the following financial year.

Hon. Chemaswet, it is important that you appreciate the role of the Government in what we do whenever we come down there. Thank you.

MR CHEMASWET: Thank you, honourable minister. Finally, on the question of promoting our sister, it was communicated by the Minister of Education and Sports that the soldiers who buried Stg Cheptegei were at the rank of General. Therefore, having been buried by Generals, she ought to be posthumously promoted to the rank of a General. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Chelain

5.02

MS BETTY CHELAIN (NRM, Woman Representative, Amudat): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support the motion, which was moved by the honourable minister, Hon. Peter Ogwang, who also attended the burial.

I attended that burial - it was very painful to hear what the late Sgt Cheptegei went through. After hearing all that was said at that burial, I really pity men; how can you burn a woman?

In my culture, a woman is just a child. So, I request men to make use of your money and sweat - not only Kenyan men but even Ugandan men. There are women here dying because of the pressure you give them.

According to the research I did after the death of Sgt Rebecca Cheptegei, number one, Uganda has good training sites but some facilities are missing. We need to improve the facilities in that training centre.

When you ask Ugandans - because I travelled up to Eldoret, and I was able to meet a few Ugandans there. There is a boy from Amudat District who decided to leave Uganda and is training from Eldoret. He said that in Uganda, the officials who take them through segregate

them. When you do not have a godfather or anybody in this Government, with a reputation, no one considers you.

The majority of our children are escaping to Kenya due to the lack of good conditions. We need to improve on that. I think our Government, especially our President, H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, who did a lot during the day of the burial.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF), the army commanders, especially those at the third division whose head office is in Moroto. They came and accorded our sister a state burial, which was good, and also the contribution from the President.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Kenyan Government, because they helped us with the hospital bills, they brought the body of our sister and handed it to us.

Finally, in the field of athletes, we have so many hills in Uganda.

There are some places where we have people who can run very well, but we have not gone down to the lower levels to investigate. For example, when you go to Karamoja, you can attest. I come from Karamoja, but the name "Che" - the Speaker said if you know the "Chelain". *(Laughter)* So, I am from Karamoja region.

Mr Speaker, in Karamoja, our boys, when there were still those wars, could cross over 100 kilometres in a minute - *(Laughter)* - Yes, these people can run. I am just giving you an example. They can run with a cow from Moroto and, within minutes, they are already in Amudat.

So, those are good people whom if we take - this one goes to the honourable minister. He is very aware and he knows them. Honourable minister, you are among them - those ones who run with the cows. *(Laughter)* He is my neighbour.

So let us take interest in bringing all our children on board.

Finally, Mr Speaker, let us provide security –
(*Interruption*)

MR OGWANG: Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank my colleague for the information she is providing to this House. However, is it in order for my colleague to mention and insinuate that I am among those who run with the cows –(*Laughter*)- when, in actual sense, my work is to run away with my cows, which are normally under attack by my neighbour?
(*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think our sister can clarify it better. I know the two of you are good friends.

MS CHELAIN: Mr Speaker, what I meant is that he is among the reformed people.
(*Laughter*)

Mr Speaker, my request to the people –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no, no. There is an issue about the honourable member. – and, if it remains on record that he runs away with people’s cows –(*Laughter*)- he becomes a rustler. (*Laughter*)

MS CHELAIN: Mr Speaker, I really apologise for saying that.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, do you wish to withdraw the statement?

MS CHELAIN: Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS CHELAIN: Mr Speaker, I request the Government to give protection to the athletes. I see people being escorted with the lead cars in this country. I see people in different offices being protected by escorts. I request that since these people get hold of much money – and when they have that much money, they become insecure - I request that we join hands and protect the lives of our athletes. Otherwise, thank you so much. May my sister, Cheptegei, rest in peace.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I have finished the group from the region. Each one of us will now use two minutes so that I can capture as many of you as possible. So, I will pick – (*Members rose*)- I am going to read the first list; do not mind.

It seems some of you are rushing and want to leave me here. Let us just be patient. I am going to ensure that each one of you speaks – those who want. Allow me to read these names, which I had put down. I have Hon. Betty Aol, Hon. Kalule, Hon. Joanne Okia, Hon. Agnes Kirabo, Hon. Silas Aogon, Hon. John Bosco Okiror, Hon Christine Akello, Hon. Mourine Osoru, Hon. Koyekyenga, Hon. Kyooma, Hon. Ayume, Hon. Paparu and Hon. Susan Abeja. Then, I will pick another round.

Let us use two minutes strictly so that each one of us is given an opportunity. I am ready to go longer.

5.06

MS BETTY AOL (FDC, Woman Representative, Gulu City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is a very sad moment that we are paying tribute to one of those very few – you know athletes are not many. And, this one is an international figure – not only national. She is a big loss, first, to the country, and even a bigger loss to the family. So, I send condolences on behalf of the people of Gulu City.

This is about domestic violence. I remember that we enacted the Domestic Violence Act in 2007. The Act should be popularised by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. We need to popularise and sensitise people on domestic violence and gender-based violence. Even if we think we have done enough, it is not yet enough.

There are very many women – and even men – who actually die because of domestic violence. We do not want people to die. Families are meant to be very peaceful and to bring up good children. However, this vice of domestic violence is very rampant. I go with those people who have suggested that the memory of

Sergeant Rebecca Cheptegei should not just be lost within a short time - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Kalule.

5.09

MS FLAVIA KALULE (NUP, Woman representative, Kassandra): Thank you. Mr Speaker, another woman's life has been taken senselessly by the scourge of gender-based violence, which is very rampant, and which is still haunting many families and homes, even within us.

Mr Speaker, it is shocking that we failed, as a country, to protect an international asset. Cheptegei was an international asset and needed more protection.

One woman's death is a death to many. As a woman, I am deeply hurt and I insist that we cannot stay silent on issues of gender-based violence. Gender-based violence is systemic, deep-rooted in our cultures and within us. We have all the right to uproot it. If we continue losing people – not only her, but even the ordinary women and men – because of gender-based violence, we are losing as a country, deeply. We are saying not another woman has to die this way.

Can we, in memory of Cheptegei, continue to construct gender-based violence shelters by the Government? The majority of them that we have are for the private sector. Can the Government be able to protect women who are suffering from domestic violence in their relationships?

We need to have stringent measures on how to handle domestic violence issues. Right now, when you get someone and you take them to the police, as you are leaving, they are also leaving. This is because the police are easily bribed. Can we say no to gender-based violence? Can we join our voices and demand that men and women respect each and be able to settle their issues amicably and stringent measures be taken against the perpetrators like that Kenyan man?

It is really poetic justice that the man also had to die that way. However, it is very unfair that we had to lose a national treasure, first, for this discourse to come to light. Thank you.

5.11

MS JOANNE OKIA (NRM, Woman Representative, Madi-Okollo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I would like to extend my condolences, on behalf of the people of Madi-Okollo, to the people of Sebei and the family of Rebecca Cheptegei.

Many Members have highlighted the issue of gender-based violence and I would like to add my voice by saying that more needs to be done in the area of mindset change on both parties – women and men.

I would also like to highlight the historical issue of power imbalance between men and women. You find that power has always been in the hands of men, in terms of holding property and money.

Even when you get married, they say “Go to your husband's home.”

The situation has changed in that some men are in the women's home, and so, there is a lot that has to be – *(Interjection)* – yes, she may own the property, so, a lot has to be done in sensitising both parties because historically, power is in the hands of men, money is in the hands of men.

What does a young man do when the money is in the hands of a woman? Usually, the one who holds the gold rules. So, there must be some mindset change and sensitisation done to both parties, not just for the men, but also for the women. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kirabo?

5.13

MS AGNES KIRABO (NRM, Youth Representative, Central): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We are here to pay tribute to Rebecca Cheptegei who lost her life at the hands of the person she loved. We believe all that this

person could have paid or was supposed to pay back, is love and support to her, but, we are here mourning and paying tribute.

Mr Speaker, most Members have talked about facilities, but let us all believe that Cheptegei lost her life because to gender-based violence not because of lack of facilities, although it is also true on the other hand. Let us not run away from the fact that gender-based violence still exists in our societies.

So, what are we supposed to do, as Members? My colleague has talked about awareness, but let us also try to advocate for a world that is free, where women can live freely from gender-based violence, attacks, exploitation, and abuse.

Cheptegei was not just an athlete, she was more than that. She was a beacon of hope. She was a symbol of resilience, an inspiration to so many young people, and young athletes outside there. Her achievements have been celebrated by us, they have given us pride as a nation. So, Members, let us all advocate for a world that is free from gender-based violence. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us hear from Hon. Aogon, followed by Hon. Okiror Bosco.

5.15

MR SILAS AOGON (Independent, Kumi Municipality, Kumi): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. One, I want to thank you for giving us enough time to discuss this very important topic.

Mr Speaker - I do not know whether this microphone is okay!

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: More than okay. Are you okay? *(Laughter)*

MR AOGON: Thank you. I will beg that you add at least one minute for me, reason being that, I had an opportunity to be with these athletes in Paris and for that reason, somehow, we had that connection. It comes from the

heart. And, I request that once in a while, like now, I have that opportunity - I was there with Hon. Obua.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: First consume the two I gave you.

MR AOGON: Okay. Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I am here first of all to thank you. Then, number two, to thank my brother, Hon. Peter Ogwang. The way he has handled this sector, the way he has treated the athletes; he takes them as his family members. That is why we are seeing a big change in our sports sector. I think that is a big thing for us to really applaud.

Number two, the Board of the National Council of Sports (NCS) and the management have done a tremendous job. Yes, we have all these challenges, but we need to support these people.

Mr Speaker, to run is not easy, to walk may be easy. I attempted to run in Bujumbura. I ran alongside Tom Aza Alero and Hon. Acon Julius. For the first lap, people thought they were going to get two stars from Uganda; chase Silas and then Acon Julius, but Mr Speaker, when we went for lap two, I do not know what happened. *(Laughter)*

Hon. Acon was increasing the speed at the pace of an aeroplane. I said, now, am I running with an elephant? A giraffe? A serious animal or a human being? Then I realised that running is not for all of us, it is for certain generals.

At that time, Hon. Mugole was behind me. I think I was the second last.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You also had someone behind you?

MR AOGON: Yeah, I had someone, I heard some noise behind me, when I checked it was only one person remaining. *(Laughter)* What happened later, I realised, I was actually the last person after a short time.

However, I realised one thing: this world is beautiful when you appreciate your position. I was the last but I can tell you everybody got up to applaud me, the last man. You do not have to grab land from your neighbour, you do not have to kill your lover, you do not have to kill your wife because of land, because of a house; you can be in your position and be better. You can share better when you love that person. For me, that is what I think. That is why the Bible says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Why should you kill your person because of property? I can tell you one thing: when you kill somebody because of property, you will never enjoy that property anymore. Therefore, I am here on behalf of the people of Kumi Municipality, to denounce gender-based violence. There is no room for that in this era; there is no room whatsoever.

To the men who are here, do not embarrass us. When you have a quarrel, cool down, give space, love your wife and she will give you everything that you want. (*Laughter*) That is what this world is about. Let us respect ourselves, let us respect the women. They are supposed to be women of dignity.

Mr Speaker, I see the way you always move with your wife, I think that is what people should copy from you. Learn to carry your wife hand by hand, side by side, not the woman behind when you are in front. That is a body picture. Let us move with them side by side and the world will be a better place for all of us. I think that is the way to go.

Mr Speaker, when I saw what was happening in Paris, most of the athletes, the ladies are really people who are showing us that Uganda is about to control the world. Everybody was asking, "Where is this country?" "Where is Uganda?" Because of the work of the athletes that they saw.

We had a dinner in this place – Protea, after we had won the medals. It was a shining evening for me because everybody was happy that we got what we had failed to do for a long time,

and Uganda was up there. You can imagine seeing that flag when in a foreign land, when they sing your anthem you shed tears naturally. Men usually find it hard to cry, but for me, when Cheptegei for instance won, my tears just rolled naturally. When I touched them, I thought water had been poured on me yet no they were joyful tears because she had won for us, it was something big. It was not a mistake; it was not an accident; it was God-given.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I think as Uganda, let us applaud this country. Let us appreciate ourselves the way we are. Be happy with your position, and do not kill your neighbour because of what they have, they will give - share the love and they will share the story. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Aogon. Hon. Okiror?

MR BOSCO OKIROR (NRM, Usuk County, Katakwi): Mr Speaker, I want to thank you for this opportunity. It is very unfortunate that this is a motion against which we are paying tribute to one of the fallen heroines.

Mr Speaker, there are various disciplines in sports. We have athletics, football, basketball - if you looked at basketball, you notice that it is a collection of five people. It is a joint effort. You come to – it is even worse with football. It is 11 players. Teamwork!

But when you do athletics - I want to recount, Members, one statement of a colleague of ours when we were training for the East African games, my brother, Hon. Yona Musinguzi, and I will never forget it, he said, "Okiror, the only discipline where you can pretend to be corrupt, but when it comes to going to the starting lineup you leave your corruption in the lineup, is athletics. You can smuggle your way to go to the lineup and say you are going to present but when they tell you, "On your marks, get set," you will regret the corruption, which happened to take you to the lineup."

So, losing such an icon is really very devastating. She has been carrying our flag high, freely marketing our country. It is very

absurd and surely Members, let us be grateful to our country that we have put in place the legal mechanisms. Those bad customs that Hon. Peter Ogwang talked about. We have out - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Akello Christine? I am sorry, honourable colleagues, I want to pick as many of you as possible.

5.22

MS CHRISTINE AKELLO (NRM, Erute County North, Lira): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to be on record that I am also a medalist of the 11th Parliament. I represent Uganda in the East African Parliament. I have seven gold medals within the three years, and I have two silver, meaning I have got nine medals within the three years. *(Applause)* It is not easy for a married woman, a mother of children, just like me, to run up to this age. People believe that when you deliver, you cannot run, but that is not true.

I send my condolences to the fallen heroine, my role model because I came a long way; my journey has been full of role models. Today, I am where I am because I was following some people's footsteps.

It is a lesson to learn. I am not going to talk about my sister. The lesson we are going to learn is about the fallen champion. As we talk, the young people, the young talents, are down there watching and listening. What will the Government do concerning the safety of the young talents?

I always try to promote sports because I do not want to die without leaving my seeds behind. In my constituency, I support the young girl child plus boys, but my interest is to promote the young ones. The report I got from them tells me their parents do not allow them to participate because of their safety. Honourable minister, you need to take the safety of the young talent seriously, especially the girl child. Some of them get pregnant but get used - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Our champion, because of the medals you have listed, please conclude. *(Laughter)*.

MS CHRISTINE AKELLO: Thank you for the time given. We have a champion who raised the flag of Ugandans; that is Dorcus Inzikuru. She is always struggling with the young talent – for instance, about 30 young people in Kyambogo, Makerere University are being knocked by boda boda and have no transport. She is even hosting some of the young talents, trying to promote them to take them abroad. Honourable minister, you need to go closer and work hand in hand with Dorcus Inzikuru. The woman has been suffering. She is my coach and every morning, I facilitate her to come and coach.

Lastly, we are talking about the lack of a training facility, but before we go to Kapchorwa, let us start from Kampala, Lugogo. It has been turned into an entertainment ground for music, dance and drama. When I go to train every morning at Lugogo, I find faeces all over. Sometimes, you want to do press-ups but you end up touching faeces. It is not safe, honourable minister. Every Friday, you find people dancing, and it has lost meaning. Let it be strictly for sports.

As we talk, asbestos is not supposed to be used but it is still being used in Lugogo and the shade is going to collapse on the people one day. It is not very safe; the place is very alarming, and appalling. Honourable minister, take it seriously because the environment matters. It motivates somebody to play before you even start putting in energy. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, you have heard how Hon. Christine Akello does press-ups. I think for the men, next time you are going to speak, I am going to require press-ups here - *(Laughter)* - and you start eliminating yourselves.

Hon. Akello Christine, in the case of Hon. Inzikuru, the Parliament of Uganda has strongly supported her. We employ her as a coach and we pay her handsomely. The money Hon. Inzikuru earns from here should be an issue of personal priorities.

We did it; we are a Government institution. When Parliament is supporting her, the Government is supporting her. I think it is an issue of personal choice, where she wants to put her money but Parliament has done a great job supporting her by giving her a contract as a coach. I wanted that to be on record. Someone might think she is suffering without being recognised. Let us hear from Hon. Osoru and then Hon. Koyekyenga.

5.29

MS MOURINE OSORU (NRM, District Woman Representative, Arua City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As the female captain for athletics in the 11th Parliament, I want to say that nobody deserves to die the way our sister did. On behalf of the people of Arua City, I condemn violence in the strongest terms.

It is so unfortunate that women suffer quietly in the hands of ruthless husbands who are greedy enough and not contented with what they have. The International Committee of the Olympics is wondering what is happening in East Africa because, in the East Africa Community, we have so far lost about four athletes by the way. We have lost two from Uganda and two from Kenya all in the name of violence.

They are asking what could be happening. Why can't we protect our athletes? I am very much aware that the late must have had some unfinished projects. How I wish that the Government can carry on with the unfinished projects and then also support the children. Together, as Parliament, I also request that we have annual lectures about our late, such that she is also remembered annually.

She has gone when the young generation still needs her. She continues to inspire many young generations and forever we will look up to her. May her soul rest in peace.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Koyekyenga?

5.29

MS OLIVER KOYEKYENGA (NRM, District Woman Representative, Buhweju): Talking about our sister, Rebeca Cheptegei, who just passed on like that, on a special note, I thank our honourable Minister of Education and Sports because he has been there. We saw him doing great work. These days, men do not want to work. Most of them sit down and wait for the money – (*Interjections*) – okay, some men -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Men do not want to work apart from Members of Parliament. (*Laughter*)

MS KOYEKYENGA: It has not only happened to Rebecca alone but very many women out there are dying, like dogs. They are being beaten and slaughtered because of money. So, it is sad to see that Cheptegei has passed on. She has left her children and unfortunately, the father could not stay to see those children grow. Gender-based violence is real and as Members of Parliament, as people, as Ugandans, we must stand up and fight for the people, ladies, and boys. It is not happening only to women, but also to some men. The boy child is also suffering. So - (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kyooma, followed by Hon. Ayume and Hon. Paparu Lillian.

5.31

MR XAVIER KYOOMA (NRM, Ibanda County North, Ibanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join the rest of my colleagues to pay tribute to our fallen sister, Sergeant Rebecca Cheptegei.

And in the strongest terms possible, I would like to condemn the barbaric act, as a result of moral decadence that saw the end to our sister's life. Rebecca was not only an asset to our country, but also an international asset.

By definition, an asset is anything of value from which cash flow and inflows are expected. Rebecca, was an asset and her asset status was in the form of capitalised human efficiency

because of her skill. We were getting inflows from her in the form of foreign exchange. Therefore, it is a big loss.

I thank the minister, Hon. Ogwang, for your effort and open-door policy; please keep it up, to reach out to these sports ladies and sportsmen all over to stop losing such assets. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Dr Ayume, Hon. Paparu, then Hon. Bashir-

5.33

DR CHARLES AYUME (NRM, Koboko Municipality, Koboko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join the rest in paying tribute to Sgt Rebecca Cheptegei and condemn the heinous act. I would like to broaden this discussion that gender-based violence is beyond physical abuse; it includes physical, verbal, psychological and sexual.

On average 200 fathers are involved in the defilement of their children annually and I do not know how this skips the radar of Parliament.

In Uganda, if you look at the crime report of Uganda Police, in 2021, there were 200 and last year they were 129. Parliament needs to unpack and go beyond.

The positive side of this death is the “tip of the iceberg”. But there is a lot more, so we need to make a deliberate effort. I would like to encourage the women members of Parliament to lead from the front.

This data is both at the health centres and in your various districts-the Central Police Stations. So, can we have it reflected on our Television screens all over Parliament so that this discussion of gender-based violence is brought to the surface?

Finally, the Minister for Sports- at one point, the Chairperson of the Netball Federation complained of sexual harassment within. I do not know where that discussion fell, but I would not be surprised that some of the coaches and the coaching staff prey upon- especially where

there are females like basketball, volleyball and netball. So, how do we... (*Member timed out*)

5.35

MS LILIAN PAPARU (NRM, Woman Representative, Arua): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join my honourable colleagues to pay tribute to the late Sgt Rebecca Cheptegei. This was a champion, who still had more time to shine and bring glory to this Country. It is unfortunate that at times falling in love can lead to such a bad end.

For us women fall in love with our hearts and souls. At times Men probably fall in love with their heads and start calculating so many things.

I would like to thank the minister who has started talking to the athletes. Most of these athletes start who are succeeding earn money at an early stage. But most of their managers focus on training but not on financial management. Someone mentioned Dorcus Inzikuru, one of the champions from Arua District.

When Dorcus Inzikuru started winning, she was so young at that time and had a lot of money. People complain when they see where she was and what she is doing now but it is not only her.

We have had our champions in sports shining only when they have the medals at hand. But when time goes, they are nowhere to be seen. When we started talking of the Akii-Bua when you trace their homes, what they have and yet at time T they were shining and having a lot of monies.

Therefore, honourable minister, I am very happy you said are that you are taking this on... (*Member timed out.*)

5.37

MR BASHIR LUBEGA (NRM, Mubende Municipality, Mubende): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I and the people of Mubende Municipality add a voice in paying tribute to our fallen sports icon. What happened to Sgt Rebecca brings some internal

bleeding. It is indeed painful and something we cannot reverse but discuss it to avoid a reckless repeat of such.

Mr Speaker, when some of these things happen... *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, that was not two minutes, please switch on.

MR BASHIR LUBEGA: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please technical team, check-*(Laughter)*

MR BASHIR LUBEGA: Mr Speaker, when such things happen, we rush to apportion blame. We have heard issues of greed of the man and moral decadence.

I would like to point to a new perspective. In Uganda, studies have shown that 14 million people, that is around 22.9 per cent, are grappling with mental health issues. Certain things happen not out of the will of the people doing such things. It is very useful to look at it from that side.

Even among us, we have seen some of our colleagues- and people are rushing to condemn them to the guillotine- that this one is a mad person. People who require psychiatric and psychological support are condemned. we should look at some of these issues from that perspective, I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Laura Kanushu, Hon. Betty Naluyima, Hon. Nancy Acora, Hon. Milton Muwuma, Dr Opio, Hon. Midius Natukunda, Hon. Faith Nakut, Hon. Linos Ngompek, Hon. Achia Remigio, Hon. Asinansi Nyakato, Hon. Mugole, Dr Ruyonga, Hon. Alan Mayanja - Hon. Susan Abeja and UPDF-I will fast take the two of you then the ones I have read- Hon. Abeja, then I go to Colonel- I will do another round we are still here.

5.41

MS SUSAN ABEJA (Independent, Woman Representative, Otuke): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for allowing me to condole with the family of Sgt Rebecca Cheptegei. May her all rest in peace.

However, as we were burying our sister Sgt Rebecca Cheptegei, the same incident also happened in my district where a man who did not go to School raped a young girl of eight years, killed her and the girl has been buried. She was called Rebecca Akello, and was a child to a primary school teacher in one of our schools. It was a sad moment in our district.

Mr Speaker, this is the docket of the Ministry of Education and Sports. I request the ministry – His Excellency, the able leader of this country, has always sung about free education, but this has never been put into action. We are leaving the boy child down there, not educating them because their parents are not able to take them to school, yet these are our future husbands. There is a saying that “love is blind”. One can go to school and end up marrying a man who does not have anything and has not gone to school. I request the Ministry of Education and Sports - this is not my statement. Go to my area. All the young boys are busy smoking because their parents have refused to pay for them school fees.

Let us embrace free education. Yes, even the educated ones can kill their wives, but at least somebody who has something in his pocket can - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us have Hon. Dr Nekesa and, then, Hon. Laura Kanushu.

5.43

COL VICTOR NEKESA (UPDF Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to support the motion and pay tribute to our fallen heroine, Sergeant Rebecca. Indeed, it is a loss to us as an institution and the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) fraternity. She was a tourism ambassador for us, as a country, and also put forward the value

of a woman in the military. So, that is really a gap for us. However, we thank God that we were able to notice her and put her in that area.

I would like to share something about - we have spoken about women, culture and one of us said that culture is about women and the children and the minister for sports said something about progressive culture.

Mr Speaker, I think we should take the issue of women in modern society seriously, where women compete equally with men in military, sports and others. Before, those were male-based jobs. It is high time modern society allowed women to co-invest, co-share and also have property so that we have partnerships other than fighting.

It is a pity that we have this happening now as we are promoting the girl child and women in society. Women are achieving, but there is that bit of culture and children who cannot run on their own - who cannot invest or co-invest. It is high time we revised it.

I do not know what the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development can do, but we need to revise culture in modern society so that women can do that and we can have a very peaceful, progressive culture where women are seen and valued more. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Laura?

5.45

MS LAURA KANUSHU: (NRM, PWD Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to send my deepest condolences to the people of Sebei. I would also like to thank the minister for everything he did for the family, but also implore him to make sure that the children of Cheptegei are taken care of.

Everybody who is a parent here knows that – God forbid – if you are to die, you would want your children to be taken care of. So, I think that is the priority.

Mr Speaker, we seem to agree that the issue of gender-based violence is not only against women, but also men. Since I hear the voices, I want us, as Parliament, to think about the reports. There is a whole report on gender-based violence from the committee on gender - after COVID-19 – that Hon. Ayume was referring to. Most of the issues were in that report.

When we write reports and make recommendations, what do we do, as Parliament? Are we only going to be stopping at coming here and reading reports and making very good recommendations and never following up on them?

We really need to go back and see the good reports that we have in this Parliament and make use of them.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, let me talk about the Marriage Act. It is an ancient law. We cannot be talking about a law that, I think, was made in 1904. Honestly, we cannot. Every time it comes to Parliament, it peeps and goes back. Now that we seem to agree, both men and women, that men can kill women and women can kill men – domestic violence is real – I think it is high time we brought that Bill here. It is high time we made amendments to that law, because we cannot be working with a law of 1904 - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I think the minister will refer to - I will wait for a response from the minister of gender, but we would need an action-taken report on the report of Parliament, which was brought by the committee on gender. Thank you for that reminder.

Let us have Hon. Naluyima, followed by Hon. Nancy Acora.

5.47

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As an executive member of the Uganda Parliamentary Sports Club, I also join the rest of us, parliamentarians, to pay tribute to our fallen heroine, Cheptegei.

As we remember Cheptegei, could we get a response from the Government on what really happened to the funeral policy - that legislation that talks about what could be done upon someone who has died, especially given that some categories in the society are catered for? What about internationals - now we are talking about Cheptegei, but what about Benjamin Kiplangat? What do we have for him? What about his children? I am talking about our ex-internationals. It could help the different people who are really helping to raise our flag.

As I conclude, there is the issue of the sports complex – where we train from. Could we get a guarantee that it will remain a sports grounds? Can we remember Cheptegei the same way we named KCCA grounds after Omondi? Can we also name the MTN Arena, where we are training from, after Cheptegei as we look for other facilities?

Finally, for us, the people of Wakiso in Namboole, could we be helped so that the schools which used to train from Namboole are given more space to access that facility once again, so that the community does not see devolvement as a problem, but as a point of success? May her soul rest in eternal peace.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us have Hon. Nancy, followed by Hon. Muwuma.

5.49

MS NANCY ACORA (Independent, Woman Representative, Lamwo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the people of Lamwo District and Acholi subregion, to condole with our brothers and sisters from Sebei, for the loss.

The issue of gender-based violence in this country is profoundly loud. At this juncture, I would like to implore our senior minister, Hon. Betty Amongi, to take keen interest in initiating some particular projects, which are meant for the men.

The men out there are suffering from inferiority complex, which is really killing

these generation, especially those ones that have women who are economically more empowered than them. Many women are dying in silence. The people out there - marriages are breaking up every day. It is not because we, the women, are bad or maybe because we do not respect our husbands, but it is because a man feel so small to live as a husband of an economically empowered woman.

Honourable minister, take keen interest and develop a strategy to empower the men so that they take their space and know that they are our husbands and really – (*Member rose*) I take the information.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, you have two minutes. No, I do not do this because in the two minutes, it counts –

MS ACORA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I conclude, the men out there can do better than killing women by looking for space and struggling for property, just like my other former colleagues have spoken. May the - (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us have Hon. Muwuma, followed by Hon. Dr Opio.

5.52

MR MILTON MUWUMA (NRM, Kigulu County South, Iganga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to support the motion and, at the same time, convey condolences to all Ugandans because the late was an asset for the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to thank the armed forces for identifying talent and also developing these talents, at the same time allowing them to shine at those different levels where they have been representing us.

The Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF), the Uganda Police Force and the Uganda Prisons Service have been very supportive to Kiprotich and the late Cheptegei; so we salute them for that.

Mr Speaker, allow me to thank the Minister

of State for Sports, Hon. Ogwang, I have to thank you so much for bringing your docket to the limelight. You have been very supportive, you came with luck, there are so many things happening in that docket that are making us shine.

I will not substantiate but at least AFCON - Mr. Speaker, recently there is this *Pamoja* thing we are talking of, stadiums are being constructed, so we are proud of this, yes - we are proud of it. Mr Speaker, I think I needed to bring this forward. The last time I visited Sierra Leone, they earmark pieces of land for sports achievers and medallists to develop and invest.

Because it is hard to secure, like the Members were pushing, to secure somebody, you give a patrol to somebody in Kenya, give one in Rwanda, may not be tenable. However, if at all we secured spaces of land here in Uganda, like your Uganda Investment Authority has done for investors in the manufacturing sector, we say all sportsmen who have achieved to this level be accorded land here - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Dr. Opio followed by Hon. Midius Natukunda.

5.54

DR SAMUEL OPIO (Independent, Kole North County, Kole): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to pay tribute to the late Sergeant Rebecca Cheptegei. She lived as an epitome of sports excellence. It is unfortunate she died as a victim of domestic violence.

However, we note that she was at the rank of a sergeant in the army but when you come to us as a country, she was at the rank of an international diplomat. I really want to appeal that whatever benefits she will be given should not be at the rank of the sergeant in the army but an international diplomat.

The National Sports Act provides for national recognition and reward scheme, which includes gratuity, pension, and other monetary benefits. I really want to implore this House and the minister that we evoke those provisions

so that she can be able to receive that national recognition and award that matches the rank she had internationally as a diplomat. In that way, we would have honoured her, not just as a sergeant in the army, but at the rank of a diplomat of our country.

May her soul rest in eternal peace.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Midius Natukunda, followed by Hon. Faith Nakut.

5.55

MS MIDIUS NATUKUNDA (NRM, Woman Representative, Rukungiri): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also rise to pay tribute to our fallen star, Rebecca, who was a rising star in sports. From what the honourable minister was reading to us, you could see that she started at an early age to develop her sports career.

It is so unfortunate that she has died in her prime, but at least what she set out to achieve, she achieved; she shined, though we still wanted more of her.

I also want to thank the minister who has said he took up the initiative to make sure she talks one-on-one with the female athletes regarding their issues with the culture and managing their finances. I think it is going to be so tedious for you to call one on one. I remember during budgeting, each ministry had a Vote on mind-set change. I want to implore the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development - we did not see the gender ministry when we lost this star of ours yet you can see the issue that led to her death is domestic violence. It did not come up to denounce this.

Members, I encourage all of us - much as we are talking about gender-based violence in Parliament, what are we doing in our constituencies? When you are given space to talk, what do you talk about? Do we wait for such things to happen and then we raise our voices? Let us stand up in our constituencies and raise the issue of domestic violence because today it is her, tomorrow it is me or your sister or someone else. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Nakut, followed by Hon. Linos, followed by Hon. Achia-

5.57

MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak): Mr Speaker, I also stand here to pay tribute to the late daughter of this country, who made Uganda proud severally. Of course it is regrettable that she had to die in that manner, because she fell in love. I wish she died over something else.

There are things we should learn from this death but it is my hope that the ministry responsible for museums and monuments considers the option of putting her sculpture in the National Museum. So that this story is not lost, so that the future generations can see and also read and the boys and girls see that it is wrong to kill someone just like that. Let her story not just get lost. It is my appeal that we do that.

It is also my appeal that the ministry responsible for gender, through our Community Development Officers (CDOs), that a communication be sent out so that our CDOs can inform all the women in this country that it is okay to exit an abusive relationship before you end up dying. That communication should go so that we rescue the women.

It is not an issue of Kenya. Even here in Uganda, several women are dying quietly. They cannot even speak. They cannot - even men, they cannot even go to police because when they go there, they will be seen as cowards and laughed at. These are things which are hard to manage. If the women and the men know how to exit an abusive relationship, then we will prevent such occurrences. I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Linos, then Hon. Remigio Achia.

5.58

MR LINOS NGOMPEK (NRM, Kibanda North County, Kiryandongo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. To her teammates, it is such a pity because I know at this point in time they are all broken down. So I urge you to be strong, firm,

go out there, win more medals in honour of our late sister, Sergeant Rebecca.

To the team at the Ministry for Education and Sports, National Council of Sports, we shall always support you whenever you come with a better proposal here. Mr Speaker, the issue of domestic violence must be condemned because like Dr Ayume said, it is not the physical, we also have the mental. Even us, you find colleagues here going back home past 11:00 p.m. just because they want to take sleep and wake up in the morning and come to Parliament. It is because, mentally, our women are also not treating us well.

We should not say it is only the men who are violating their wives' rights or women's rights. Even us men, are going through hell. We therefore need to have a discussion as a nation about domestic violence. Both men and women are going through hell. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Achia?

5.59

MR REMIGIO ACHIA (NRM, Pian County, Nabilatuk): Mr Speaker, thank you. It is a very sad moment. My condolences to our sisters and brothers from Kapchorwa and to the country at large. My message in this - Mr Speaker, as you may already have been briefed, this was not the first time that this young man who killed this lady had beaten her, almost threatened to kill her. There were even many cases in court before this final sad event happened.

To the women and also the men, early reporting is important. Had this woman kept reporting or sought help, maybe we would have not lost our sister.

Mr Speaker, even women kill. My friend, Gen. Kazini, was killed by a woman. So, I agree with Hon. Ngompek that - in my constituency, Hon. Faith Nakut knows that I am an ardent supporter of the boy-child. Recently, the men you are waiting for are not being brought up properly. Even the civil society and NGOs are focusing on the girl-child. They are giving

them free scholarships and they are leaving the young men there in the village. What do you expect?

Moreover, those are their early friends, childhood boyfriends, and they will end up going to those villages and marrying these young men. This should not be a one-sided question. We must also focus on family, because in our Karamoja culture, it is only a poor man or a greedy one who can kill a woman, or even slap one. A poor man can beat a woman. When you are rich, what do you have - if she is bad, leave her and go and marry another one. *(Laughter)* Why do you waste time? It is the poor men - stupid men - who marry a – So, this question must be opened up and let us not look at it one way that our sister - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Remigio Achia might be a strong supporter of the boy child, but he is someone who has allowed his wife to grow; he has not suffocated her. For those who might misunderstand it - the woman is empowered. In fact, if Hon. Remigio committed any crime, it is the wife who would prosecute him, because she is a DPP of Uganda. What he is saying is that we should support both genders and see how best we can bring them up very well. Hon. Nyakato Asinansi?

6.02

MS ASINANSI NYAKATO (FDC, Woman Representative, Hoima City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On behalf of the people of Hoima City, and on my own behalf, I also condole with the family for the loss of our dear sister. I do condemn domestic and gender-based violence.

Mr Speaker, as we pay tribute to our fallen sister, I wish to remind the Government of the presidential pledges to our medalists. Note that the President did pledge Shs 5 million monthly salary to all medalists who win gold at continental level, Shs 3 million to those who win silver and Shs 1 million to those who win bronze. I appeal to our dear, honourable minister, through the Ministry of Education and Sports, to ensure that you implement the presidential pledge.

Finally, Mr Speaker, if it pleases you, I also request that we also pay tribute to our dear honourable members who have won this country gold, silver and bronze medals. I submit, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable. We shall look at that. Hon. Mugole, Hon. Dr. Ruyonga, Hon. Allan Mayanja, Hon. Okello Geoffrey, Hon. Kirumira, Hon. Kayondo, Hon. Oulanyah, Hon. Namukuta Brenda.

6.04

MR STEPHEN MUGOLE (NRM, Kabweri County, Kibuku): Mr Speaker, as we pay tribute to the fallen heroine, whose quietus caused an eximus situation on my epidermis, I would like to reiterate that Uganda has legislation on sexual harassment, domestic violence, harassment at work, all of them. The only thing is that, whenever something happens, what we should do is policy. I would like to submit as follows on three issues:

First, that whereas we have all these regulations and laws in place, we need to popularise them further, so that it changes the mindset of both men and women and children too, because domestic violence involves every person.

Secondly, since these deaths of around two or three of our Ugandans have happened in Kenya, there must be a bilateral relation between Uganda and Kenya in regard to this particular aspect. How would we control that?

Thirdly, for somebody to get a gold medal, that person becomes an international diplomat. How I wish that all these gold medalists change their passports to diplomatic or official ones so that whenever they are getting out of the country, at least we are aware. That would also help the security of those people because they are assets of this country. I submit, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. By the way, honourable colleagues, something very funny, people rush for diplomatic passports and all that, but for us who carry them, we know what we go through. My friend

can get a visa to UAE or to any Arab country in 30 minutes, but I take four days. I have to wait. To apply anywhere, I need a diplomatic note. I am always delaying my business partner sometimes when we want to travel.

The only thing it protects you with is on crimes. If you commit a crime somewhere, then they have to inform your Government to either waive immunity and if they do not, then you are declared a *persona non grata*. There are better things that we can give these people than diplomatic passports because they need to move freely. For everyone who crosses the border, whether you are using an ordinary passport or a diplomatic passport, the Government knows; they have your profile. It is mainly their welfare which should be the most important issue.

Dr Ruyonga and then Hon. Allan Mayanja.

6.07

DR JOSEPH RUYONGA (NRM, Hoima West Division, Hoima City): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this chance. On behalf of the people of Bunyoro, I would like to pay tribute to Rebecca, who was the pride of Sebei, the pride of Uganda, the pride of Africa, dying under such circumstances. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Mr Speaker, we have had a number of instances where many people have been burnt after being poured on petrol. Is there a way we can regulate the sale of petrol to some people? For instance, you find somebody with a five-litre jerry can going to a petrol station and asking for petrol and they just give it to him.

You cannot use petrol for cooking, you have to use it for either a vehicle, a motorcycle or a generator. Is there a way? I know you can access petrol from motorcycles or vehicles, but if we regulate the sale of petrol to people who do not have vehicles, maybe, we can be able to reduce the incidents. May her soul rest in eternal peace. Thank you.

6.08

MR ALLAN MAYANJA (NUP, Nakaseke Central County, Nakaseke): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. For today's sitting, I am nicknaming myself "Chemayanja", in my way of recognising the great landmark made by Rebecca Cheptegei. (*Laughter*) She won four international gold medals and four international silver medals.

The details of the minister's motion state that Sergeant Rebecca Cheptegei is survived by two children, aged 11 and 8, who are in dire need of support, for she was their sole provider. Mr Speaker, I am thinking about the continuity of these only two children.

I, therefore, propose that let it be resolved that the Government takes care of these only two children of Rebecca Cheptegei, until they finish university. That is my proposal. Let us amend the resolutions of this motion to include that. I thank you, Mr Speaker. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable, that proposal has a charge on the Consolidated Fund and violates Article 93 of the Constitution. Therefore, we cannot make such, but we can urge the Government to look into that. I am very sure the minister has taken note because the spirit was good. Thank you.

6.10

MR GEOFFREY OKELLO (DP, Nwoya East County, Nwoya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to support the motion and thank the honourable minister for moving a motion to pay tribute to the late fallen heroine, and also to denounce the blind and heartless murder, which is becoming very common.

Mr Speaker, this country first witnessed the escalation of gender-based violence during COVID-19. Even if we overcame COVID-19, the violence in families has become fairly chronic.

There is need for an inter-ministerial approach to this matter and for the Parliament to involve other stakeholders, like the religious fraternity and the civil society to attack this menace.

Mr Speaker, Sgt Rebecca died so soon; my colleague here raised the issue of children who are also international; the father is Kenyan and the mother was a Ugandan.

Just as my colleague said, there is need to formalise some way to put informal bilateral discussions about these children. And they are not only two but three including the adopted one.

So that there is a policy to take care of such, should anything happen in future. She was a national heroine and she is not only survived by children but she also left us - (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, are you still on record? You are talking of records but I do not know- I think that was not more than a minute.

MR GEOFFREY OKELLO: Can I conclude?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Conclude.

MR GEOFFREY OKELLO: Yes, she has an international record but to me, our national record is equally important. She has set a record to be broken and she died before someone broken the record.

The honourable minister also listed a lot of accolades. Can we also get some place where we can see all these accolades for those who died and for those who are still living so that we start honouring our heroes while they are still alive? May her soul rest in peace. Thank you.

6.13

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luwero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also join my honourable colleagues and associate with their submissions but I want to emphasise on domestic violence.

Our cultural values and religion put so much attachment on marriages and relationships and to some extent, people do not want to move in respect of their cultural and religious values

and more often, cases of domestic violence come as a result of that.

I think it is paramount for us to call for people to speak out on issues of domestic violence because many of them do not come as rainstorms.

Slowly but surely they build up and before we realise, something bad has already happened. Not only women but even men who are suffering and who are having issues IN their marriages should be encouraged to speak out.

We have so many football players and sportsmen crying a lot because their wives have taken their properties. Some of them stay alive and they remain poor on the grounds of their women. Maybe then it will help to improve on this question. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

6.15

MR FRED KAYONDO (DP, Mukono County South, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The people of Mukono South strongly condemn this act. There is a difference between a calling and having an appointment. Let me say it categorically. Hon. Peter Ogwang has a calling in this ministry- (*Applause*)- it is not an appointment.

The same thing with our Shadow Minister, Hon. Kayemba-Solo- (*Applause*) who also has a calling. Let us agree that it is God who chooses whom to give and not too. Let us not blame and hurt the given.

Let us blame the giver because He has the whole authority over whom to give and not to and finally, marriage is not a prison. If it is not working, for God's sake, leave it. Even Hagar, the wife to Abraham, had to leave when it was not working out with Sarah.

We want you, not your marriage. This heroine had reports of a marriage that was not working out. We lost someone who was trying to protect a marriage. Why should you swallow a

poisonous nut because you want people to clap for you...? (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, when it comes to issues of marriage, some of us have very strong sentiments. We believe in making marriage work and not just go in and then conveniently walk out.

We know that each marriage has issues and we always work on them. I pray that a message does not go out that members of Parliament are saying, “No, if you have a little quarrel, go out, because we need you as a human being.” Of course, there is where it reaches the limit. Even those who have tried but failed but some of us still believe- for better for worse, you push on.

6.18

MR ANDREW OJOK (NRM, Omoro County, Omoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I bring condolences from the people of Omoro, Acholi and the Uganda Rugby fraternity. I also join my colleagues in condemning this heinous act of domestic violence. There should be no room for such in this modern era.

I would like to thank the Government for giving this gallant daughter of the land that befitting burial; she did her best to represent the country.

I also pay tribute to the Ministry of Education, through Hon. Ogwang and the First Lady. It is not easy to do what they are doing under the limited resources.

Last year, this Parliament passed a silver bullet over the law, the National Sports Act. My colleague, Dr Acuti, mentioned Section 5 of the law of creating the National Recognition and Reward Scheme. It is just a matter of operationalising it because the honourable minister has mentioned several times that many times we won, for example in rugby, in the All Africa Games in Ghana, we got gold, both men and women.

In Mauritius recently, we received gold medals but we are still grappling with the issue of player welfare and it is a matter that we can only

address through certain schemes like this one. I appeal to the minister, that let us operationalise the law because it is a very fantastic.

Secondly, the federations struggles organising international events, especially those sanctions- because they are not sanctioned by the National Council of Sports but by the Government.

Recently, the Ugandan Rugby Union hosted the Rugby Africa Cup here in Uganda. Up to now, we are still paying debts because the Government is yet to fulfil its commitment. We have a debt of over Shs 2 billion - (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Namukuta- I will make a special consideration for the former Chairperson, the Committee on Gender. She has been here from 2.00 p.m. Honourable colleagues, I know but again, I have to stop somewhere.

6.20

MS BRENDA NAMUKUTA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kaliro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, on behalf of the people of Kaliro District, I would like to send my sincere condolences to the people of Sebei.

Mr Speaker, I would like to appreciate the Government for considering sports, particularly athletics. If you were to look at the trend in recent years, it was not as it is now. I would like to appreciate the Government for that.

Whether we like it or not, we cannot deny the fact that the late Rebecca succumbed to gender-based violence. Mr Speaker, very many people are suffering silently, and, as leaders, we need to take serious action. I will openly say that some of us are victims and we shall not hide from that fact. We speak this with emotions because what that woman went through – it is unfortunate that she died. I have seen families where people are seriously cutting each other with pangas.

I, myself, have faced this in my home. I am not ashamed to speak about it. Someone threatened me with a panga, not once and not twice. It is

so emotional – I am sorry, but it is happening. Now, if it can happen to me, a Member of Parliament, what - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I know the case of Hon. Namukuta; we have shared it before. Let me allow her more time to speak out for the rest. *(Applause)*

MS NAMUKUTA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We, women, are very patient and secretive. By the time I come to you to speak out my problems, it means it has gone beyond. Some of us are trained to be patient. However, if a woman comes to you to share their problems – like, honourable minister, you said that that lady came to you and shared something; I think it was overtaken by events. However, honourable colleagues, when a colleague comes to you to share – because many of us are suffering silently. For me, everyone always asks me: “How have you survived?” Among ourselves here, people come to me for advice.

Mr Speaker, our men have something called “inferiority complex”. Some of them – I will use the word “some” because much as we say that all men are the same, not all men are the same and not all women are the same. That is a fact. As men are crying – like Hon. Linos said, it is true that many men take their time in bars. They take their time outside home and just go home to sleep because they know that what is at home is hot.

So, as we pay tribute to the fallen hero, let us take note and take the issue of gender-based violence seriously. Let us take action, because the majority of the people in this country look at protecting their names other than protecting their lives.

Mr Speaker, it is too much. May Rebecca’s soul rest in peace. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable member, for speaking out. I have shared with many – many have come to us, as leaders. We have tried to solve some of the cases, but for some, we have failed – including a few of the men. However, honourable

colleagues, please, do not die alone. Just share with a colleague. You never know where the solution and advice can come from.

Yes, Hon. Flavia Rwabuhoro?

6.25

MS FLAVIA KABAHENDA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kyegegwa): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Ogwang for the motion. I condole with the people of Sebei, the family of Cheptegei and the dear orphans.

Mr Speaker, I listened to Hon. Ogwang very well. I would like to know from him whether the ministry of sports has a department of gender. Why would it be you talking to women and men? Don’t you have a department of gender in that ministry?

Number two, Mr Speaker, let us be deliberate on identifying and developing talent. Schools and educational institutions carry out competitions in sports. I thought that this would be an avenue for the ministry for sports to identify young people who are coming up with talent.

I want to believe that in this country, in various districts, there is talent that is not developed. Hon. Ogwang, my young people invited you to my district to come and talk to them and be able to identify the talents they have so that you can develop them. However, you are concentrating in only one place, thinking that it is only Sebei who have the talented ones. I want to – *(Member timed out.)*

6.27

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join colleagues in seconding the minister’s motion in paying tribute to our fallen heroine, Rebecca Cheptegei.

Mr Speaker, as a society, we need to stop victimising the victims. What normally happens is that, even when they report these incidents, they will be asked questions like: “Why are you bringing bedroom matters to the public” – “why are you shaming your husband? It is

problematic, and it emanates from the society in which we live. We must not be the ones to foment that. This must be dealt with.

Two, it is important that we encourage victims to be bold and stand up against these ills – both men and women. We have challenges because even when some women report these cases to police and the police says “okay, we want to arrest this man”, it will be the same lady deterring them, saying: “Please, do not arrest our breadwinner.” This is because she would be stuck. She says: “Just threaten him, but do not arrest him.” It is a challenge that we have in society.

Even when these cases end up in court, you will find that the victim is the one who is standing surety for their tormentor. It is a problem. So, there will be a vicious cycle of these incidents because the tormentor will become petrified and emboldened because they are thinking: “I can do it again and get away with it.”

I encourage fellow men that it is important that we become the number one cheerleaders of our wives or partners. (*Applause*) May God help us for our egos not to get the better of us.

Mr Speaker, I would want that we use this opportunity – and honourable colleagues have done so – to remind the Government about what we have always talked about. Let us improve our sports facilities and build new ones in many of these different places. We are waiting for an update on Akii-Bua Stadium. Hopefully, it will come soon.

In Western Uganda, there is another that is meant to be attended to. Hopefully, one of these new ones could get to be named after Rebecca Cheptegei. May her soul rest in peace.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I will start with the minister for gender. Before the minister comes – you know, having been a member of the university council at Makerere University for 10 years, we grappled with the issue of sexual harassment until we strengthened the Gender Mainstreaming Directorate. It came up with a very stringent Gender Harassment Policy.

Honourable minister for sports, I think it would be prudent for you to work with the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, to establish a unit that would handle issues of domestic violence and sexual harassment because there is also sexual harassment going on in the sports sector amongst our stars, like any other.

You might be a father, but like Hon. Flavia Rwabuhoro asked, you know, there are issues these people cannot confide in you, but also, there are experts in that area who are good at probing, they also go beyond –

Some of them are criminal activities that would go on. Then protection to the people who have reported the victims and all that. I think it is one thing which we should look at seriously, but I was very happy to see the coordination between the honourable minister and the Kenyan Government. In fact, me, I first learnt about her death from the Speaker of Kenya, Hon. Wetang’ula, who was the first to inform me about what had happened.

So, you can see, the whole Government structure of Kenya, was putting in all effort and it must be recorded properly that we really appreciate their involvement and their consideration of this.

Honourable Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development? You do not need to answer everything, I know you know how to summarise it and deliver the point home.

THE MINISTER OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Betty Amongi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to bring condolences from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to the family of Rebecca Cheptegei and the people of Uganda for the loss.

I want to thank the members of Parliament for no exception in the voices that have come up condemning domestic violence as a vice. There was no exception, everybody spoke with the firmness on the need to deal with domestic violence.

Specifically, I want to applaud Hon. Brenda for speaking out. (*Applause*) These are things that for politicians, a number of you will not talk about, but she has been able to speak, and speak on the Floor of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, gender-based violence is a national and global problem.

In Uganda, most of the surveys and most of the studies indicate that at least 95 per cent of women have experienced some kind of violence, either mental, physical, sexual, but according Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) National Survey on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) that of 2021, 95 per cent of women have faced some form of domestic violence.

Domestic violence will not segregate whether you are a Member of Parliament, a minister, Vice-President, Speaker of Parliament, teacher, poor, rich, white or black. It is a global problem that affects all women.

Of course, these days, globally, the campaign for domestic violence against men has also gained momentum, but it is not up to the level of the women. It is deeply entrenched, as many have indicated, because of the socio-cultural and religious context within which we have been socialised. Most of you are socialised in religion and in culture.

To protect marriage, to protect your name, not to speak, and even if you speak and you go to the clan or to the church, they will advise you; “No, do not go to police. It will shame you, it will shame us, it will shame the clan.” Even police, if you go to police, the first advice they will give you is, “First go and try to sort it at home.”

So, the socialisation context has perpetuated domestic violence and this is where, as a Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development we are focusing on. We are having collaborations with the cultural and religious institutions. We give them support in terms of subvention money for us to collaborate. I am glad that a number of cultural institutions have established bylaws to start reforming cultures,

norms that subjugate women and girls into domestic violence. We shall continue with this.

We have heard most of the issues raised by the Members on popularising the laws. We have the laws; we have the policies. I was one of those who were very instrumental in passing the Domestic Violence Act, 2010, which gives the LC 1 as the court of first instance of dealing with domestic violence, of dealing with issues of defilement and others.

We shall continue to work with the local government system to ensure that we popularise the law, we enforce the law with the institution of police and the Ministry of Health, who are the first people to support in gathering evidence when it comes to sexual and other violence.

We believe that empowerment of women is very crucial in addressing domestic violence, especially in areas where people would want to leave the marriage, the abusive marriage. I am sure if Brenda was a village woman, married without any option of where else to go, it would be very difficult for Brenda to speak out and leave that marriage or relationship.

Most of our women in the villages, because they are married and are in the land where the husband is, at home, the land that you should be owning has already been distributed to the boys, so you have nowhere to go. You are now thinking, “If I leave the marriage, where will I go?”

Some women even go to the extent of asking, “Where will I be buried?” Yes, but for women who have money and are economically empowered, they will be able to say, “I can go and rent and go with my children and be able to pay fees for my children,” because a mother and a woman to think that I am going to leave my children for another woman to look after them, you will not sleep.

And part of the reason why most women will be in abusive marriages is because they are unable to look after the children when they go with them, so they must live in that marriage to look after their children. So when we empower the women, you empower them to take decisions.

We want to continue with the empowerment crusade for women to support them to have the economic base to make a decision when they know, when I leave this marriage, I have where to go and stay, how to look after my children, and it is very important as one of the issues.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, we will continue with several programmes that we are running; creating awareness, partnering with cultural and religious institutions. We are also working with partners to establish shelter where those who can report and have nowhere to go can go to the shelter.

We have legal aid in partnership with many organisations, training, we are partnering with the Judiciary to train the courts. I am glad the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) now has a programme of fast-tracking sexual and gender-based violence cases as a partnership between us and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). The Police are working with us. That is why you find that in the police, there is a special desk for reporting gender-based violence. The Ministry of Health has a partnership, ensuring that a collection of evidence is done, and most importantly, involvement of men and boys as the face and voice of talking about domestic violence. I thank you and we will collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure that we deal with the vice. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Honourable Minister of Education and Sports? Use three minutes.

6.33

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have indeed taken note of many of the issues that were raised by Members.

The first one is why did our daughter go to Kenya? It is a question of training. I confirm that in the East and Central Africa, the National High Altitude Training Centre we have in Uganda is the best; we are talking about 14 countries here. Teryet National High Altitude Training Centre is the best.

Friends, the Government of Uganda and the Government of Kenya have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in sports cooperation. What we are discussing here specifically is a matter where my daughter was staying with her spouse in Kenya and at the same time undertaking her training near her spouse. The Cheptegei we are talking about is the best athlete of all time and he has never gone to Kenya to train; he trains here. So, let us make these records clear.

However, to also supplement what my shadow minister said, athletes world over move to different places for high-performance training. It is part of the game of sports, and that is acceptable. What I am beginning to introduce now, in line with the MOU, is if you are going to Kenya, I need you to register with the Uganda Athletics Federation, so that we fast track where you are in Kenya, but not just crossing over there.

Even if you have your spouse in Kenya, I need to know that you are my national athlete and you are staying at your spouse's place in Kenya. That is what I am beginning to enforce as a matter of urgency as a minister responsible for sports. I am taking that up because we cannot allow the same reoccurrence.

The second issue is that it is true we lost an athlete who ran for Uganda, but is a Kenyan. He was attacked by thugs like any of you; you can be killed innocently. That is what happened to the late Kiplagat. The truth is he is a Kenyan who chose to run for Uganda. No wonder the President of the Republic of Kenya had to send me to go and deliver his message to the family and the condolence to the family in Eldoret on behalf of the Government of Uganda and I did it. I want that to be clear.

Then the other ones –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: For the record, who sent you? Was it the President of Kenya?

MR OGWANG: It was the President of the Republic of Uganda and the senior Minister of Education and Sports –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You had said the President of Kenya. That is why I wanted the record corrected.

MR OGWANG: No. Thank you, Mr Speaker. The President of the Republic of Uganda sent me and my senior to go and pay our condolences to the family of the late Kiplagat, who was murdered by the thugs. I delivered Shs 20 million to that family. Mr Speaker, the following issues have come up:

First of all, the budget for sports. Mr Speaker, I thank you and our sister Rt Hon. Anita Among, and the Members of Parliament. Truth be told, finally, the investment is coming into the sports subsector, which is beginning to get us the outcomes in terms of performance.

What awaits us - I also want to confirm that the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) BID 2027 is giving us to construct a certain level of infrastructure which is not one-sport, but multi-sport.

Let us thank the Rt Hon. Speaker in Chair. *(Applause)* I know the debate where we have been discussing this. Some people want us to construct some of these facilities for one specific discipline, which I say no to. For instance, I expected the Woman Member of Parliament of Hoima here to say, with due respect, the first stadium going to be constructed by the NRM government is in Hoima and the construction is going on. She is here; she can either deny or confirm -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: She has already applauded and confirmed that.

MR OGWANG: This stadium is a multi-sports stadium. In our mapping of Uganda, we have defined this country in various disciplines. Hoima is a centre we have selected to host the National Sports Academy, which is meant to be for talent development across the country. *(Applause)*

Therefore, when my colleague, the shadow minister, spoke about academies - I was with him in France where we met some of the

serious investors who want to come and invest. I invited him to that meeting because I know he is a colleague in sports.

My Leader of the Opposition (LOP), that is how we work in the sports sector. He was part of the meeting and I want to confirm that there are serious people who want to come and help us invest in the sports academy, so that helps us a lot in terms of work.

The other one is that while in Bukwo, there has been a question of what to name after our daughter. It is true I have got this from here. It is true I have the Head of State and the Cabinet. It is also true I have my senior minister. The people of Bukwo requested that the field in Amanang Senior Secondary School, where people paid their last respects to this dear daughter of ours, be named after her.

I would like to pledge that as the Minister of Education and Sports and the National Council of Sports, we will work within our means to improve, first of all, that facility, which will help our children in Bukwo to continue running and training. Then, the question of giving a big place to be named after her can be handled.

The last one, Mr Speaker, is one of the two things which Hon. Aza mentioned here. First of all, I want to allay his fears that his daughter is safe because the Government of Uganda sponsors these children to go to international competitions. I congratulate you that your daughter has been identified through talent identification and development in line with what the honourable Woman Member of Kyegegwa raised here.

I do not concentrate on Sebei. I have been asking a question to all of us. Why should it only be the Sabiny who go and represent Uganda? What is our role as leaders in the promotion of sports where we come from? The Sabiny have agreed and accepted that this is a business. The Government has appreciated their efforts by constructing a national high-altitude training centre. In Kyegegwa, it is true - I accepted to come to Kyegegwa and I will come because I go to every part of Uganda.

Truth be told, I challenge all of us. The reliance on Sebei alone is risky.

We must agree that the first gold medals came from Kigezi. The highest altitude training area - if you go to the sports records - are in Kigezi. The question is how many Bakiga or people from Kigezi are participating in this competition?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, you risk being cut-off (*Laughter*) Concentrate on critical things.

MR OGWANG: I want to clarify this; it is true that we have the Lugogo Complex. My Head of State had helped me, like he always does, to identify the contractor, who should help us construct a state-of-the-art indoor arena, which will change the skies of Kampala. Unfortunately, because of our funding challenges, at the moment, we are not able to meet that work.

I would like to ask us that sports should be mainstreamed, specifically to my friends in the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. I challenge them that we should accept mainstream sports as part of the mainstream budget to support talent identification and development because in the world today, sports is an industry.

The question of saying that there are faeces in Lugogo, I deny. There are no faeces in Lugogo because I know how busy it is.

Sexual harassment among the netball players: this issue was brought up, and I submitted it to my senior minister; we wrote to the Department of Gender in Makerere University to help us carry out investigation on some of these issues of sexual harassment, like you have said.

In the structure of the National Council of Sports, I do not have a specific department which manages some of these gender issues. I have personally tasked them- for now, because of the emerging challenges which are coming, that we must to plan to raise one or two staff, to help us understand the challenges of our daughters.

Last but not least, is the issue of regulations. I want to confirm that I got a zero draft from the Attorney-General Chambers. I am beginning to discuss these regulations- we will need them like yesterday because they will help us to address most of the issues.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to move this motion. May the soul of our dear daughter rest in eternal peace. I say all this, for God and my country. (*Applause.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable minister. I now put the question that the motion for a resolution of Parliament to pay tribute to Sergeant Rebecca Cheptegei, Uganda's foreign cross-country, long-distance marathon runner and Olympian be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Motion adopted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clerk, please transmit a copy of the resolution together with an extract from the *Hansard* of this Motion to the relevant ministries, departments, and agencies for action and also to the family so that they know that indeed their daughter was honoured.

Honourable colleagues, earlier on, Hon. Ssekikubo raised an issue to do with his motion and I told him that I would consult. I consulted with my technical team and they said, "Yes" the rules allow us to inform the House formally. Therefore, for record purposes, I am going to read the letter, which The Speaker wrote to Hon. Ssekikubo so that it can go on the record of Parliament.

ON THE 16TH OF AUGUST 2024, HON. THEODORE SSEKIKUBO, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, LWEMIYAGA COUNTY, SSEMBABULE DISTRICT

RE: MOTION FOR THE REMOVAL OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONERS NAMELY; HON. ESTHER AFOYOCHAN, HON. MATHIAS MPUUGA, HON. PROSSY AKAMPURIRA AND HON. SOLOMON SILWANY

Reference is made to the notice of motion that you filed with the Clerk to Parliament on 5 August 2024 in relation to the captioned subject matter.

The Clerk to Parliament forwarded the same to my office in compliance with the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda.

I note that you are inviting me and by extension the House, to process the motion for the removal of parliamentary commissioners, namely;

- a) *Hon. Esther Afoyochan*
- b) *Hon. Matias Mpuuga*
- c) *Hon. Prossy Akampulira and*
- d) *Hon. Silwany Solomon*

I am aware that on 24 May 2024, the Office of the General Counsel was served with the Miscellaneous Cause No. 0085 of 2024, Bwette Daniel v. Parliamentary Commission, wherein the applicant applied for judicial review against Parliamentary Commission, seeking, among others;

The prerogative orders of certiorari to call for and quash a Parliamentary Commission's decision of 6 May 2022 of granting a service award to four backbench commissioners and Leader of Opposition for being illegal, ultra vires, arbitrary, biased, irrational and unfair and other related matters.

The grounds for the application were that:

1. *The payment to the former leader of the Opposition and backbench commissioners was termed as "service award" a term that is alien in the parliamentary payments and does not form part of the legitimate*

benefits which accrue to a serving member of Parliament.

2. *Neither Parliament nor any of its committees was involved and as such, the process leading to the impugning decision was tainted with illegalities, procedural impropriety, irrationality and so the impugning decision is inoperative, null, and void.*
3. *The respondents' action of awarding themselves a service award was illegal, arbitrary, null and void.*
4. *The respondent's actions complained of are an abuse of statutory powers and discretion, mismanagement of a statutory body and an abuse of constitutionally guaranteed rights of Ugandans, contrary to the constitution of the Republic of Uganda.*
5. *The respondents did not have any reasonable or lawful justification for making the impugning decisions which directly contravenes the Constitution.*

The matter in controversy in court was whether the decision of the Parliamentary Commission of 6 May 2022 to pay the outgoing Leader of the Opposition and backbench parliamentary commissioners, Shs 1,700,000,000 was illegal, procedurally improper and irrational.

On the other hand, the base for your motion to remove the commissioners from office was that;

1. *The commissioners' participation in the meeting held on 6 May 2022, at which the service award was considerably approved by the Parliamentary Commission, was in contravention of paragraphs 3(a) and (f), 4, 5 and 7 of Appendix F of the Rules of Procedure.*

2. *The commissioners participated in a meeting that considered and approved a matter in which they had pecuniary interest.*

3. *The commissioners created a service award which is unknown in law, thereby failing to uphold the laws of Uganda.*
4. *The commissioners received a service award without parliamentary approval.*
5. *The commissioners withheld information from members of Parliament relating to the decisions taken by the Parliamentary Commission in relation to the service award.*

On 12 August 2024, the above court matter was decided and the declaration made that declaration made that the decisions dated 6 May 2022 to award the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Hon. Mathias Mpuuga, Shs 500 million and the three other commissioners Shs 400 million each as a service award was approved by Parliament and formed part of the budget presented by the Executive.

The High Court further found that the argument of conflict of interest is not sustainable given that in terms of Section 42 of the Administration of Parliament Act, the allowances of members of the Parliamentary Commission are determined by the Commission with the approval of Parliament. No wrongdoing on the part of the Commissioners was established or found by the court.

In light of the above, I am constrained to take further action on the motion following several court decisions that cited Parliament for debating and resolving on matters that courts have decided upon.

Indeed, Article 128(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, is clear on the fact that all organs and agencies of the State shall accord to the courts such assistance as may be required to ensure effectiveness of the courts.

Further, in the case of Muhammad Allibhai v. Attorney-General, Miscellaneous Clause No. 217 of 2021, court found in the following terms:

...In my view, while Parliament and its relevant committee was vested with a constitutional right and mandate to investigate and inquire into the matters that are the subject of the impugned report, their mandate does not extend to undertaking investigations into matters that are the subject of court proceedings and decisions. If done, this contravenes the res judicata rule where a matter is already determined and the sub judice rule where the matter is pending before the court.

In this case, it should be noted that the sub-committee was operating as a quasi-judicial body. Acting on matters that are res judicata or sub judice would constitute an affront to the well-established principle of separation of powers and independence of the judiciary, which are cornerstones of the rule of law.

Although there is no bar, in my view, for Parliament to discuss or even undertake investigations over matters that have been subject of court decision, the cardinal point is that such should not involve or constitute rehearing those matters and reaching conclusions that are contrary to the findings and decisions of the Court.

Parliament is obliged to derive guidance from the Court decisions rather than taking liberty to depart or even reverse such decisions.

In other words, Parliament should avoid placing itself in a position of reversing a decision of the court. Where a party is not satisfied with finding a decision of the court for whatever reason, their remedy is to use the well-established channels for challenging the court decision and not reopening the same or related matters by way of petitioning a committee of Parliament.

This was a ruling in the case of Muhammad Allibhai v. Attorney General (Miscellaneous Cause No. 217 of 2021).

The Speaker goes on to say: "All aspects of the motion have been well conversed in the ruling of court, and continuing with the same would not only be an action of legal mootness,

but also violate the res judicata principle, as illustrated in the above decision.

Parliament was even condemned in courts, where it attempted to investigate matters that had already been adjudicated upon by the Constitutional Court in Hon. Justice Mulangira v. Attorney General (Constitutional Petition No. 07 of 2024).

*Anita Annet Among, MP
Speaker of Parliament.”*

It is copied to the Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker of Parliament and the Clerk to Parliament.

This is what I was requested to do – that for a matter to be closed, read your ruling on the Floor. I have done that, honourable colleagues.

Further to that, there were today’s statements that were made in violation of Rule 72(2) of our Rules of Procedure, which reads:

“72. Contents of a speech

- (2) The conduct of the Speaker, Members, the Chief Justice and Judges of the Courts of Judicature shall not be raised, except upon a substantive Motion, and, in any amendment, question to a Member or remarks in a debate on a Motion dealing with any other subject, any reference to the conduct of persons mentioned is out of order.”*

Very many issues were raised in regard to the conduct of the Speaker. So, in line with Rule 229 of our Rules of Procedure, I hereby direct the Clerk to expunge from the record of Parliament anywhere where the conduct of the Speaker of Parliament was raised, so that it can be in line with Rule 72(2) of the Rules of Procedure.

House adjourned to tomorrow at 2.00.p.m.

(The House rose at 7.02 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday, 18 September 2024, at 2.00 p.m.)