

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION - SECOND MEETING

TUESDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2026

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIRST SESSION - 6TH SITTING - SECOND MEETING

Tuesday, 13 October 2026

Parliament met at 2.17 p.m. in Parliament Building, Kampala.

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I welcome you to today's sitting. Last week, a delegation of Ugandan legislators, led by myself, joined fellow parliamentarians in Arusha, Tanzania for an engagement under the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

We are grateful to our brothers and sisters from Tanzania for the warm reception and hospitality, and we want to tell them, "*Asante sana.*" Our hosts welcomed us in the true East African spirit, reminding us that beyond our borders, we are actually one people.

I am pleased to note that during the meetings, Hon. Evelyne Ninsiima, the District Woman Representative of Rubanda, was appointed to the IPU High Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism – *(Applause)* – while Hon. Juliet Achayo Lodou was appointed to the Committee on Peace and International Security.

I congratulate both Members on these appointments and trust that they will represent Uganda with distinction. The IPU delegation will, in due course, present its report to this House on the proceedings and outcomes of the engagements.

Our participation also coincided with the East African Community Speakers' Bureau meeting, where, among other matters, we discussed preparation for the forthcoming EAC Parliamentary Games scheduled for December this year.

I hope our parliamentary sports teams are already in high gear. Uganda has built a strong sporting reputation in the region, and we look forward to seeing our teams defend that standing, while strengthening the friendship and unity these games are meant to promote. Tanzania is threatening to beat Uganda. *(Laughter)*
Please do us a favour and come. Thank you.

Before we go to item 3, there are a few Members who indicated matters that are very urgent, and one of them is the Leader of the Opposition.

2.22
THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On Friday last week, the nation commemorated Independence Day; we marked our 64th Independence anniversary. Government decided that these national celebrations would no longer happen in the same fashion they have been happening. The reason was to try to exercise some frugality, so that money can be saved.

Mr Speaker, I do not usually commend Government but on this one I want to commend it. *(Applause)* The fact that Government said, "Let us save this money so it can be channelled elsewhere," is a very welcome idea, and so we do commend it.

However – *(Laughter)* – we had expected that Government would channel this money, with specificity, to certain sectors because we were told that Shs 24 billion was to be saved. We thought it would specifically target certain areas, and we have a plethora of areas that require some funding. We thought maybe the Government would channel this money to enhance the pay of, for example, medical workers, teachers, and our men and women in uniform like the UPDF, Police, and Prisons because they deserve better pay. We thought that would happen.

As we talk about enhancing pay for some, there are those who have not even gotten what is due to them. We have talked about the Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs). Those ones have gone without pay for months. It is a meagre amount of about Shs 150,000 for months, which has not come to them.

We thought some of this money that has been saved from the national celebrations would be channelled to these areas, so that we sort that out. Ugandans would then be excited and know that the Government has saved money from national celebrations; it has at least taken care of this issue or the other.

Finally, Mr Speaker, as we celebrate Independence, when our grandparents and great-grandparents in the 1940s began to agitate for independence, they were pursuing certain ideals. Independence means freedom, justice, and fairness. These are the ideals that our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents were pursuing at the time.

I think that we need to work a lot harder today for those ideals to be realised – for justice to come through, for freedom to be actualised, and for fairness to thrive. As we are celebrating independence, freedom and justice, the reality is that there are some families that are looking forward to that justice.

If you spoke to the family of Sam Mugumya, who has been held for over a year, you will notice that they do not know where he is. He has not been produced in court. They do not see the freedom that came with independence; they do not see the fairness. There is Christopher Gobi, also known as King Zare, who was also taken in April and Eria Jengo, a journalist, all of whom we are saying produce them in court, so that they have a fair day in court if they have committed an offence.

So, Government needs to work extra hard to actualise these ideals that were fought for by our grandparents, so that when we are celebrating and commemorating Independence Day, people will say, "At least, we no longer see some of these things that were bothering our grandparents". Thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Government? The two of you know each other, and so, when one speaks, you have to speak.

2.26

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. Allow me to congratulate all the Members, including the Leader of the Opposition, on celebrating our 64th Independence Day and also celebrating our freedom from many things, and he knows them. I would also like to appreciate his comments.

Mr Speaker, you will recall that we had asked for two weeks to respond to the Leader of the Opposition on the issues that he continuously raises here, and I have been following up. Our time ends this week, and he will receive a good response. I want to allay his anxiety.

On the issue of funds being saved and redirected to other activities, I believe the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development already did that at the beginning of this financial year, when we were budgeting. The funds were allocated to various ministries,

departments, and agencies, and we are utilising the resources. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation of students from the School of Law of Kampala International University main campus. They have come to observe the proceedings of the House. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause*)

Those are our future lawyers, speakers, and everything - *(Laughter)* - although some might make bad choices, and they will not become future something. *(Laughter)*

However, I know those listening to me have no choice but to become somebody in this country. Welcome to the Parliament of Uganda. *(Applause)*

In the same way, honourable members, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation from the Refugee-Led Organisations Network (RELON). They have come to observe the proceedings of the House. Please join me in welcoming them. They are right here. *(Applause)*

Peace in Uganda makes us ask why people are running to Uganda, because for the last 40 years, we have not fled this country. I join the Leader of the Opposition in congratulating Ugandans upon this freedom, despite a few challenges.

We now have a few Members who will have an opportunity to raise matters of national importance, but one minute each. I will start with Hon. Boniface Okot. He will be followed by Hon. Okeyoh and then Hon. Bright Tom Amooti. Hon. Okot?

2.30

MR BONIFACE OKOT (NRM, Kole South County, Kole): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mine is about the electricity outage in Ilera Parish, Ayer Subcounty, Kole District.

For about three months now, the transformer at Ilera Primary School has been out of service. This community has numerous trading centres, and they all close by 7.00 p.m. UEDCL has been invited several times, but it has failed to restore the power.

I pray that the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development fast-tracks the restoration of electricity in Ilera Parish, Ayer Subcounty.

Secondly, in the three greater subcounties of Kole South – Akalo, Bala and Ayer – we request urgent electrification because electricity coverage stands at a meagre three per cent. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Government?

2.31

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (MINERALS) (Ms Phiona Nyamutoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On the transformer that broke down in Ilera Parish, UEDCL, as you are aware, faced procurement challenges, which have since been resolved.

We will take up the matter with UEDCL and ensure that the transformer is replaced. However, regarding electrification, we ask for a little more patience as we await financing from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable Minister of *Masanyalaze*. *(Laughter)* The first statement sounded more of *Nyamukenzo. (Laughter)* The second one did not give – Next, Hon. Okeyoh.

2.32

MR PETER OKEYOH (NRM, Bukooli Island County, Namayingo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance regarding the miners in Buyanga Village, Rabachi Parish, Sigulu Islands Subcounty.

Mr Speaker, our people were chased away from the lake and sought refuge in mining. They have exploration and mining licences.

Unfortunately, they were chased away by the Minerals Protection Police. As we speak, our people are living miserable lives. My prayer is that the minister fast-tracks the mining sector - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Minister?

2.33

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (MINERALS) (Ms Phiona Nyamutoro): Mr Speaker, on the eighth of last month, the ministry officially communicated a deferment period to undertake a review of the licensing process. All licences are under review, and once the review is concluded, we shall report back to Parliament and the country at large.

This is being done to harmonise responsible and sustainable mining. Anyone who mines illegally shall be removed from the mine and shall not be allowed to exercise mineral rights granted only by the Government. That is very important.

If we find that artisanal miners qualify for a gazetted area, we shall organise and formalise them. Mr Speaker, I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon. Bright Tom Amooti?

2.34

MR BRIGHT TOM AMOOTI (NRM, Kyaka Central County, Kyegegwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance under Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure concerning the escalating insecurity and brutal murders in Kyegegwa District.

I am deeply saddened and disturbed to inform the House about the escalating insecurity and brutal murders of innocent citizens in Kyaka Central County, Kyegegwa District.

In the past few months, the number of deaths and murders have been very high, and this has caused alarm, fear and instability in the district. A case in point is that on 25 May 2026, in Kitende LC I, Kabalodi Yasita, a member of the Monday family of Kyegegwa Subcounty, was murdered.

On 12 July 2026 – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Please, give him one more minute so that the record captures the details and the names.

MR BRIGHT TOM: Thank you, Mr Speaker. On 12 July 2026, in Muhangi LC I, the family of Bruhani lost a couple, Tumwesige Ismail and Mariam. On 23 July 2026, in Kitende, the Mutesa family lost Mutesa Donat and Kyalisiima. On 23 July 2026, in a village called Kyekakuru, the Mugume family lost their son, Bright. On that very 23 July 2026, in Kyekakuru LC I, they lost another person called Katurole Joseph.

On 28 July 2026, we lost five people in Nyanga Subcounty. The names are already on record.

Mr Speaker, this has caused total panic and fear among the people of Kyegegwa, and many are no longer sleeping in their homes. They are sleeping in intervals. Families are already running up and down. No activity is taking place because of the insecurity.

My first prayer is that the Government, through the Ministries of Internal Affairs, Security and; Defence, and Veteran Affairs, presents a comprehensive statement to this honourable House on the situation in Kyegegwa.

My second prayer is that the Uganda Police Force and – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: The first prayer covers the second prayer. *(Laughter)*

Government?

2.37

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Ruth Aceng): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The issue of insecurity was highlighted by His Excellency, the President, in our last caucus meeting. It is not only in Kyegegwa; I am sure many of you have seen in the print media that

it is affecting over six districts. The Ministry of Internal Affairs is already working seriously on it. I undertake to inform them to come and make a statement on this Floor regarding what is happening.

THE SPEAKER: There is a clarification from –

MR MUBANGIZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. My name is Dedan Mubangizi, the representative for the people of Buwekula South. I would like to give information to our dear Government Chief Whip. The same incidents and the series of brutal killings are happening in Buwekula South Constituency. I wrote to request for space on the Order Paper, but to just give information that as the country celebrated independence, our people woke up to the alarms of this series of brutal murders. From the 9th to the 10th Buwekula South lost five people, and five others are critically ill. They were brutally attacked with pangas and hoes, which the attackers found in the same households.

My prayer is, first of all, I want to commend UPDF for the work, but –

THE SPEAKER: How do you give information and –?

MR MUBANGIZI: Most obliged.

THE SPEAKER: The Government Chief Whip, as you have noted, you have been given more information that the problem is widespread. Otherwise, we will have all Members from the six districts making prayers. What is your undertaking? You were concluding.

DR ACENG: Mr Speaker, I was saying that I undertake to inform the Minister of Internal Affairs to come and present a statement to this august House. However, they need time to carry out their investigations; it is about several districts.

THE SPEAKER: They do not need much time. This House feels that – Government Chief Whip, you have been in areas where there is insecurity. It affects people in various ways, but one of the ways is panic. People lose their livelihood because they cannot dig or be productive. I saw the Inspector General of Police (IGP) going that side; the minister should come tomorrow and comfort those people about the security of those six districts, including Kazo, Ibanda, Kitagwenda, and Kiruhura.

What is causing the insecurity? We should get a baptism for it. Is it hooliganism, rebel activity? What is it? Somebody needs to come and – Government Chief Whip, tomorrow. We do not know who else would be killed between now and the two weeks to come. Hon. Ssewungu, do you want to give Government's position today? *(Laughter)*

MR SSEWUNGU: No, thank you, Mr Speaker. I am the Shadow Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs. The clarification I seek from the minister - we have to tell this country the truth; whether you like it or not, you will not have policemen everywhere.

Recently, we held elections for Local Council (LCI) chairpersons, who also elected the leaders they will work with. It is incumbent upon the Government to train these people on how to carry out their work, particularly the secretaries of defence, so that villages can manage themselves internally as police come in.

The clarification I am seeking from the Government Chief Whip is: when are they going to train these LCI people? I pray that we let that exercise take place. It can come with some relief in some areas because whether you like it or not, whether you have – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu wanted to be on record advising, as the shadow minister for defence, that "Please reactivate local defence units so that you can curb the insecurity". Hon. Jackie Kyogabiirwe Muganda? Is that the name? Kyegegwa? Isn't it the same problem?

2.42

MS JACKIE KYOGABIIRWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Kyegegwa): It is the same issue, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, the same answer. Hon. Maari Asensio Mujuni, Isingiro South, I think it is the same matter. Why are you called Maari when you do not know the meaning of Maari?

2.43

MR ASENSIO MUJUNI (NRM, Isingiro County South, Isingiro): I know the meaning, Mr Speaker. I will come to the office and explain it to you. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter that is a big problem in our constituency. We thank God for the rains, but they came with disadvantages. As I speak, there are some children who have been sent on a forced holiday in a certain school called Kambizi Primary School due to the heavy rains and strong winds that took off the iron sheets. We know Isingiro is well known for matooke, and right now, many people in Kihiihi Parish and Tungu Subcounty have lost their banana plantations due to these strong winds.

My prayer is that the Prime Minister can come in and at least give these people relief food and seeds so that these people can plant and get food in the shortest time.

THE SPEAKER: Government?

2.44

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Ruth Aceng): Mr Speaker, I will inform the Minister in charge of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees to take up the matter and ensure that these people are supported.

MR KIMOSHO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am sorry to raise this procedural matter against my chief whip. You realise that the Government Chief Whip has become a messenger for the ministers. Every matter we are raising, she is like – no one has knowledge of every sector, but every moment you talk about the Government, she is the one who stands up. We have 82 ministers in this Government. Why can't they have a roster so that when one minister is not in, another one comes? There are three ministers in each ministry. The Government Chief Whip is taking notes and becoming a messenger. Are we proceeding well to have these ministers absent conspicuously?

THE SPEAKER: Government Chief Whip – *(Laughter)* – are you proceeding well? This, however, is a serious matter. We had a good start. The Government side, this Parliament praised you for being available to Members. See the number of Members here. Whenever you see every head and face here, they are representing a community. They do not come here to sit in a club; they want answers. They have not come because they have nothing else to do. We are here because we are duty-bound. Government Chief Whip, is that part of your job to represent those? You could be very competent, but others say, "Even if I do not go, the Government Chief Whip will be there as a messenger to take notes." In any case, my office gives a write-up to the Government Chief Whip and the Prime Minister on all matters of national importance.

Therefore, it is not an ambush. End by 11 and we pass it on so that they are not ambushed when they come. It should be the way the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development spoke about the transformers; she was spot on. Then wait for Hon. Ogwang if anything comes up on education – and maybe Public Service. Those are the people I know.

Take note that we need your ministers here. Look at the number of Members of Parliament (MPs) in the House. These are thousands of people. Hon. Maari, the Government Chief Whip, has committed to being the messenger about your matter. She co-ordinates Parliament with the Government, Members, and ministers. It is part of her work to whip the ministers to be here.

However, where I come from, your name, Maari, means "love," in case you did not know. I also have a son called Maari; so, I have to

find out whether we are related. Hon. Kaluya Andrew?

2.47

MR ANDREW KALUYA (NUP, Kigulu County South, Iganga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance regarding the destruction of homes, loss of lives and livelihoods in my constituency after a severe downpour. Most of the affected villages of Buwande, Nakilurwe, Nabwe in Magogo Parish, Nabitovu and Busowobi. We had a loss of over 55 houses. Two children died, and plantations were destroyed.

My prayer is that Government, through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), helps us with emergency relief supplies to the affected households in terms of; iron sheets, tarpaulins, beddings, food, seedlings and some cassava cuttings to prepare for the next season. It is very urgent.

THE SPEAKER: Government Chief Whip, if I were you, I would start with the seedlings and then the tarpaulins.

DR ACENG: Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Water and Environment has been alerting us about upcoming El Niño rains, and this is part of what we are going to experience. I know that they are undertaking to come and make a statement here on what to expect and how prepared we are.

Once again, I undertake to inform the Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees. I also inform Members that the ministry will expect at least a letter from you with pictures of what has happened.

Whereas I undertake to do this, I request that you do the same to the Minister for Disaster Preparedness so that they can support you with evidence. I thank you. *(Hon. Kaluya rose_)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Kaluya, are you not satisfied?

MR KALUYA: Yes, Mr Speaker. I have the letter from the Chairperson of LC III plus the pictures with me. I beg to lay them on the Table.

THE SPEAKER: You need to submit that to the Prime Minister's office where there is a disaster committee. The MP's role is to raise advocacy here when there is nothing being done. You are doing a good job.

Hon. Kiwanuka Sulaiman? One minute each because I have seen several people. No amendments.

2.51

MR SULAIMAN KIWANUKA (NUP, Nakifuma County, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am a product of football; so, it hurts so much to notice that every day I wake up to news of the former captain of the national football team, who is about to lose a school. I know that this matter is in court. However, my prayer is that the minister comes up with a statement on how the Government can save the likes of Mr Andy Mwesigwa, who has played for the national team and been a captain.

THE SPEAKER: Sports minister, do you know this matter, or do we challenge you?

2.52

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to begin by congratulating all of us on celebrating the 64th birthday as a country. First, I thank my honourable colleague for raising this matter. I have had a meeting with our former national team captain, Mr Andy Mwesigwa, on this subject matter.

Personally, I have written to His Excellency the President and aiding his personal interaction with the Head of State. He committed to supporting Mr Mwesigwa on the loan he got for the purpose of building a school, in addition to his hard-earned earnings during the time he was active in playing football. His property should not go to waste.

I plead with my honourable colleague to allow me to follow up on the President's directive. Again, this morning I saw a message from him.

Mr Speaker, I would like to refer honourable colleagues to Section 5 of the National Sports

Act. It talks about national recognition and reward schemes for outstanding athletes, sportsmen and women. I plead with you that since the budget cycle is beginning, we allow some money to be put in that area under the National Council of Sports to specifically support and recognise the best sportsmen and women of this country.

The law is already provided for.

THE SPEAKER: We are looking for ways to rescue our former captain. I would like to challenge ourselves on how much the money is; about Shs 1 trillion? The matter is presidential – Hon. Ssewungu, what point of procedure are you going to raise?

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, I am a good sportsman and today I was with the minister –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu, you are known for other things.

MR SSEWUNGU: The procedural matter I am raising is that it is a bank issue. The bank wants to take someone's property who is crying to Government. The Government must provide a remedy between the one who is suffering from the loan and the bank, because they have the capacity.

We have been here with Hon. Ogwang - Mr Andy Mwesigwa works for this country. Why can't the Government come in very fast to talk to the bank first, so we can get a remedy? He was building an academy for our children. The Government can be a shareholder to solve the challenges. The faster, the better because those who want to sell the property will not wait. The remedy is that Government can – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu, the matter is noted. The minister was very clear that the matter is now presidential and he has committed himself. Hon. Ogwang is a sportsman, both by appointment and practice. Hon. Charles Tebandeke?

2.56

MR CHARLES TEBANDEKE (NUP, Bbaale County, Kayunga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On Monday, 5 October 2026, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development suspended its operations across different zonal offices, which has disrupted public service.

This was due to the impromptu transfer of registrars from different zonal offices, and some of them have declined to take on the new assignments. It has affected access to online searches for land titles. Not only that, but the Government's revenue generation and quick transactions have also been affected. My prayer is that Government explains the disruption and how it is going to restore sanity to the ministry and resolve the transfer dispute.

THE SPEAKER: Minister for Lands? This is the first time I have heard Hon. Tebandeke making a case for Government not to lose revenue. So, why can't you join me in upholding – *(Laughter)* - you know, that is a nationalistic view.

2.58

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng): Mr Speaker, the minister for lands will be informed. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ocen Geoffrey, Member of Parliament, Kioga. One minute, please.

2.58

MR GEOFFREY OCEN (UPC, Kioga North County, Amolatar): Mr Speaker, I rise on the issue of heavy rain and hailstorms which have destroyed crops in Aputi and Akwon subcounties, especially the area of Aromi where about 1,600 acres were destroyed.

In the same vein, heavy rain and hailstorms destroyed the roof of a four-classroom block at Awelo Primary School, and the pupils are now sheltering in the church. Unfortunately, the church roof is also leaking. So, we urge the Government to support – The parents are

willing to contribute towards other expenses, but they need support in securing iron sheets.

They also need seedlings to support them, given the fact that – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. There is something about Amolatar and flooding. Small rain makes the whole – Government Chief Whip? – The Prime Minister will be informed?

3.00

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng): Yes, Mr Speaker, but again I request the honourable member to compile the evidence and submit it to the disaster committee. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ongorok Richard, Member of Parliament, Usuk.

3.00

MR RICHARD ONGOROK (NRM, Usuk County, Katakwi): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of national importance regarding human-wildlife conflicts. On the 10th of October this year, a herd of buffaloes invaded my constituency, specifically, Ongongoja Subcounty. They attacked and killed Malinga Isaac.

In 2019, the same buffaloes came from the side of Kidepo National Park, attacked and killed Mr Elungat Joseph in Usuk Subcounty. In the same year, a buffalo also killed Mr Alepa Lawrence from Oigoimumwa Aketa, Ongongoja Subcounty.

My prayer is that the Government through – thank you, Mr Speaker - as we speak, all the families of the people I have mentioned have not received any compensation, yet the cases were reported to the police.

The other prayer is that these wild animals leave the park because of water scarcity. I pray that the Government does something for the people of Ongongoja, especially so that the animals do not have to leave the park and invade the people. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: There is a whole item on the Order Paper about this, but Government Chief Whip, do you want to respond? I think it will allow us to discuss.

3.02

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng): Mr Speaker, I will inform the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities so that the ministry can intervene.

THE SPEAKER: That is the same issue with the Hon. Lugwar Benson of Agago, and Hon. Otto Edward Makmot. I think they are living in a wildlife area or they are themselves wildlife – *(Laughter)* - but they have the same issue. I am putting you on record so that the – Government Chief Whip already has this. I want them to – *(Hon. Lugwar rose_)* You do not access the microphone before – so, that request is denied. So, Hon. Lugwar Benson, who is asking for one minute, and Hon. Otto, all your interests are covered under that. The Government Chief Whip should be able to provide the same. And then I called Hon. Matembu Chriss Wataka, Member of Parliament for Bubulo West.

3.03

MR CHRISS MATEMBU (Independent, Bubulo County West, Manafwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Matembu Chriss Wataka, Member of Parliament for Bubulo West County. My concern regards the construction of the Bubaya, Bunekesa, and Tongoilo bridges.

I have a letter here, submitted in 2010 to the Office of the Prime Minister. It is now 16 years with no work at the site, yet my people cannot access the road or Government facilities. I beg to submit. In the same vein, I pray that the Ministry of Works fixes these bridges so that they can be –

THE SPEAKER: Government Chief Whip or minister for works? At least you have one committed one from the ministry for works.

3.04

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) (Mr Julius Maganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to welcome you back from Busia and thank you for officiating at the function. We love you so much.

THE SPEAKER: I love you also. *(Laughter)*

MR MAGANDA: Mr Speaker, we took note of the concern of the Member from Bubulo West. At some point, this bridge was captured by the Government through the Office of the Prime Minister, but there were no funds. However, I want to assure the Member that this bridge is amongst the 19 bridges that are undergoing a Government feasibility study, and when I saw this, I called our regional office in Mbale.

Currently, the team is heading to the office to see the final stages because, at first, there was some delay, but at least now the matter has been escalated, and I invite the member to come to the office tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. so that we can have a conversation and see how we can escalate this matter further.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. You can imagine that kind of response. The *wananchi* of Bubulo are watching and know that their MP is working. But they also know that there is a minister in charge who is working. So, thank you very much. You had a powerful function. I enjoyed myself. I ate many fish there, and thousands of people attended. Hon. Dr Monday Julius Rude?

3.06

DR RUDE MONDAY (NRM, Bukonzo County East, Kasese): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance concerning the plight of 527 pupils of Kihungu Primary School in Kyarumba Subcounty, Kasese District, which was blown off by a windstorm. These pupils are now studying from outside. The wind did not stop there; it also blew off about 27 houses of the people in the neighbouring community.

My prayers are that the Prime Minister comes to our rescue and provides maybe like 500 iron sheets to roof the seven-classroom block that was blown off. And also, that the National Forestry Authority comes to our rescue to provide seedlings - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Government Chief Whip, or the line minister? School? It is multi-sectoral. Honourable member, I advise that unless you have a bill of quantities (BOQ), do not fix the number of iron sheets. As a survivor of the iron sheets scandal - *(Laughter)*

If there is anything embarrassing that has ever happened to me, it is when I was given 300 iron sheets which I did not ask for.

Hon. Ssenyonyi and the rest used it so much against us. My world almost came to an end. Therefore, when you are asking for 500, is that informed by a BOQ? Why don't you just ask for the iron sheets so that you leave the rest? I have an experience, my friend - *(Laughter).* So, Minister of Education?

3.09

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I am happy that the minister for planning is here. At the ministry level, we normally have meetings to look at the projection based on the First Budget Call Circular, which has been issued for the next financial year.

Before, my ministry used to plan and budget for these particular cases. However, today, I do not have any resource envelope to answer to the challenges at hand. I am again appealing to my colleague, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, that while you are asking for the iron sheets – to which Mr Speaker, you have better experience – I want to say the problem is not only about iron sheets. Once the wind blows off the roof, it has ripple effects on the building. Therefore, it is imperative that my colleague in finance reinstates what I used to call "emergency funding" to support these kinds of projects.

No wonder when Members are raising issues here, we can give you iron sheets, but is it enough to ensure children get back to conducive learning as they did before? No. Therefore, I would like to ask my colleague in charge of planning in the next budget to help me plan and handle matters regarding education. I thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Onesimus Twinamasiko, MP Bugangaizi East?

3.11

MR ONESIMUS TWINAMASIKO (NRM, Bugangaizi County East, Kakumiro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On 3 July 2020, the Government, through the Ministry of Health, elevated Kisita Health Centre III to a health centre IV status in Kakumiro District. The construction of the theatre began in 2024. Later on, before the year ended, work stalled. It is now two years; the Government is silent on this matter.

Mr Speaker, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development released funds for the completion of this theatre and the engineering brigade of the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) took over this contract. However, they claim not to have funds, yet the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development released funds.

Mr Speaker, it is alleged that some individuals embezzled some money on this project –

THE SPEAKER: You see, the moment a Member of Parliament starts making allegations, which you do not have facts for – I think you would restrict yourself to what you know. Yeah, what is within your domain. So, what are your prayers?

MR TWINAMASIKO: Mr Speaker, I pray that the Government of Uganda prioritises the completion of the construction of the theatre and expands the facility with more structures that are befitting of a health centre IV status.

THE SPEAKER: That is much better. Yes?

3.12

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng): Mr Speaker, it is true that in the year 2024, the Ministry of Health undertook to upgrade Kisita Health Centre III to a health centre IV, and it is still in the plan. I want to reassure the Member that it has been captured in the next Uganda Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer (UgIFT) Programme and it will be completed. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Tayebwa, not Thomas, Hon. Tayebwa Didas, MP, Kooki County.

3.13

MR DIDAS TAYEBWA (NRM, Kooki County, Rakai): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. On the 6th day of October, hailstones hit us, and that left 50 houses unroofed and 17 villages with no plantation.

Mr Speaker, I pray that the Government provides us with iron sheets, at least to cover those destroyed houses. In addition, to also provide us with seedlings to help us do farming that is now being destroyed. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Government Chief Whip. The one who gave you that job knew you would not get tired.

DR JANE ACENG: Mr Speaker, I will inform the Minister for Disaster Preparedness. Additionally, I appeal to the honourable member to put this to the disaster committee. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Similar one from Hon. Musisi George, MP Kira Municipality.

3.15

MR GEORGE MUSISI (NUP, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As the Government Chief Whip already noted, we are going through a serious rainy season. Over the weekend of the 10th and 11th of this month, flash floods breached areas of Kimbejja and Kyaliwajjala in Namugongo Division, Kira Municipality. Several houses

were affected, many properties were destroyed, and this morning, we reported a death because of those flash floods. This is as a result of the incomplete road works on the Kira-Kyaliwajjala stretch, which has caused many problems not only to road users, but now, every time it rains, it has become a disaster.

So, our prayers are one, to seek that the contractor undertakes immediate remedial works or interventions since the rainy season is ongoing to ensure that whatever disaster that - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Works and Transport, prevail on the contractor to complete the ongoing works.

3.16

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) (Mr Julius Maganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am aware of the inconvenience caused due to the floods on the same road because that is also my village where I stay. The contractor is on the ground, but as you know, while we suffer with the rains, there are also inconveniences that come while construction is ongoing. We have asked the contractor to make interventions in terms of creating some channels and blocking the floods pushing into the village because that is also my village and I am equally concerned. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: So, you spoke for him. I have been informed that the minister in charge of wildlife is finally here. The Government Chief Whip has whipped her. Please respond to the three issues before you make your statement, but since she is still being briefed, I do not know whether she is ready. I would want to call on the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities.

3.17

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Ms Susan Nakawuki): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I want to apologise; I have been a bit delayed because of work. My senior minister is indisposed. I am reliably informed of the situation that is going on in Katakwi District.

We are aware as a ministry, of the serious human-wildlife conflicts involving buffaloes in Katakwi District, and that is around the Pian Upe Conservation Area. I am also informed about the death that occurred on 11 October 2026 and another serious injury in the same area.

Mr Speaker, as we are aware, Karamoja has been experiencing a serious drought, and this has not only affected domestic animals but also the wild animals. We recently had a directive from the President to pass a percentage of the Pian Upe Conservation Area to the community for grazing purposes.

As a result, 43 per cent of the conservation area was gazetted for use by the population. As a result, the wild animals remained without adequate pasture and water. Because of that, they are forced to go into the community in search of water.

The challenge has been the fact that when there are such occurrences, the population is not well-sensitised on how to handle such a situation. So, they use force and, in this situation, I am reliably informed by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) that the community members actually attempted to hunt down the buffaloes, and they can easily get charged. When they do, because they know they are under attack, they also attack.

As a result, in that fracas, two people were badly injured and taken to the hospital. One of whom died in a health centre II. Mr Speaker, we have been in touch with the family. We condole with them. I really want to pass my condolences to the family for the unprecedented death of a 23-year-old. As the Uganda Wildlife Authority, we have given a compassionate contribution of Shs 5 million to offset the burial expenses, and we are also planning to compensate the family for the death with Shs 20 million.

I heard the Member complaining of the fact that when such deaths occur, families are not immediately compensated. It is very true because, according to the Uganda Wildlife Compensation Regulations, there is a procedure

that has to be followed, and one such procedure is acquiring letters of administration. Usually, you have multiple claims from different family members. So, every family sits and agrees on who should apply for letters of administration, and once they produce them, the person named therein is the one who receives the compensation from the Government. We are going to work with the family.

THE SPEAKER: He also said there were other families.

MS NAKAWUKI: Yes, the second person is still in hospital. The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) is actually taking care of-

THE SPEAKER: The one of 2018/2019.

MS NAKAWUKI: Yes, Mr Speaker, as long as the families do not deliver letters of administration, they cannot be compensated. We have had a situation, for example, where a mother comes and claims the compensation; they are given the money, and then the father also comes and says, "I am the head of the family," when the money is already gone, or even a sibling comes. To cure that, it has to be one person. It is, therefore, upon the family producing letters of administration that they can receive the money. It is possible that the issue occurred in 2018, but the family was not able to fast-track the process because many of them go looking out for lawyers, sometimes they turn out to be quacks.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, the procedural issue of what they should follow is clearly stated, but there is also for Agago North and Agago County. Ten and eleven of the – Members of Parliament affected, I think you will be glad to go and interact with her. She is a willing minister. She is giving too much detail that you can exploit.

MS NAKAWUKI: Mr Speaker, regarding Agago, the elephants that usually attack them come via Orom Subcounty, and they cross through to get to Agago. The challenge had been the fact that the leaders in Kalenga had declined the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) from fencing off that area simply because UWA's proposal was the fact that most of the animals are in the community land.

If they fenced off the park, they would have locked most of the animals out. Last month, the whole ministry for tourism went out to Kalenga, sat with the local leadership, and agreed with the different subcounty leadership to allow us to fence off. We could not do it by force. We went to the leaders who are willing to have us –

THE SPEAKER: We have an item which we shall debate. Today, please cease fire. Honourable minister, you have generated a lot of interest. You better get ready. Hon. Kwizera Eddie?

3.24

MR EDDIE KWIZERA (Independent, Bukimbiri County, Kisoro): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I come from Bukimbiri County which is a tourist-destination county where we have Bwindi National Park, where there are mountain gorillas. Last week, a bridge connecting Kisoro and Bwindi National Park collapsed, and the ministry has not come to our rescue.

My prayer is that the ministry considers it as an emergency because there are contractual obligations between wildlife, the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) – we collect money from tourists – and the tourists who are coming. In the meantime, because we have a number of helicopters, they be availed to the people in Kisoro District to keep on taking people from Kisoro town to Bwindi in Bukimbiri County. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Did you say there are many helicopters here? You meant Parliament or where?

MR KWIZERA: Mr Speaker, aircraft last longer when they are in the air. Now that we have both helicopters in police and the military and they are not doing anything – Uganda is at peace – they can deploy those helicopters to help the people in Kisoro District for transport. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Works and Transport, come and help us. You either fix the bridge or take the aircraft.

MR MAGANDA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank my brother Hon. Kwizera for the concern. We received the report that he submitted to our regional office. The bridge that collapsed is big and has a bigger connection within Kisoro District. The ministry team is already on ground, and I request the Member to make a follow-up. We are putting up a temporary intervention to allow access and for people to move as we do designs to build a permanent bridge which will be coming soon.

I will ask the Member to keep in touch with our regional office. You attempted to call the regional engineer, but they missed your call, and they said you have a very good working relationship with the office. I would ask that you maintain the same relationship. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Dedan Mubangizi, Member of Parliament for Buwekula, your matter is the same as number three on the murders. Now, there is Hon. Hussein Muyonjo, Member of Parliament, Jinja North Division.

3.27

MR HUSSEIN MUYONJO (NUP, Jinja North Division, Jinja City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am the Shadow Minister of Culture and Performing Arts. I rise on the matter of national importance concerning the planned eviction –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, do you have any other name you are known by? *(Laughter)*

MR MUYONJO: I know you enjoy that so much – I am a.k.a. *Swengere Muwomya*. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of national importance concerning the planned eviction of residents and the demolition of structures along the Busoga railway line and even in other constituencies of Hon. Nassolo, Hon. George Musisi, and even that of the Leader of the Opposition (LOP), to mention but a few.

Mr Speaker, basing on the letter dated 29 September 2026, the Minister of Works and Transport ordered the Uganda Railways Corporation to evict people and demolish what he regarded as illegal structures on Busoga line. I do not agree with him, but that one will be for another day.

Mr Speaker, this directive has caused panic and sleepless nights to the people of Busoga and the entire country because this directive to evict people has no clear survey, no fair hearing, and no compensation. My prayers are –

THE SPEAKER: Pray and you close.

MR MUYONJO: Okay, thank you. My prayers are that this House resolves to suspend all evictions and demolition along the Busoga line and other areas until the matter is clarified and reported to this very House.

Secondly, let the Minister of Works and Transport table the gazetted notes, titles, survey plans, and reverse the width for the line to end the conflicting reports of 30 metres, 50 metres, *sijui* 70 metres because this pushes our people to a place of nowhere. I beg to submit. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Works and Transport, you are evicting people without the survey maps, *sijui* what. *(Laughter)*

MR MAGANDA: Mr Speaker, we came up with a decision to issue the letter to the public after a thorough assessment of how much the Uganda Railways Corporation land has been encroached on. Uganda Railways Corporation has about 20,000 acres across the country and about 3,000 has been encroached.

The decision was taken after we made an assessment and we have titles of most of the places the minister wrote the letter about. These are people who came to occupy the pieces of land when they were very much aware that they

were living within the area which is gazetted for railways, within a 50-metre radius.

We have planned to first have an interface with the community and the people who are affected. We shall have a community engagement before evictions can take place. However, there are others that we shall outrightly evict because at least we are aware, there have been a bit of warnings that the ministry has been undertaking.

I would like to assure the Member that at the time the ministry comes over; we shall invite you to be part of the engagement that we shall have with the community before we undertake the eviction. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ogwang is also being evicted in Namboole.

3.32

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, I would like to appeal to my colleague to allow us to carry out a clean-up in the railway line. For instance, my workstation is in Hon. Musisi's constituency. That is Mandela National Stadium.

This Parliament gave us money to renovate that railway line which begins from the station, up to Mukono. However, if you look at the Namboole halt, there is a segment and a section where the CAF officials have held a meeting with me, in line with the drone footage which was taken to showcase Uganda around the stadium. With due respect, these illegal structures along the railway line are making our country look unpalatable to the rest of the world.

I would appeal to my colleagues that we allow the Ministry of Works and Transport to clean up whoever is within the reserve line, which is meant for the railway. With due respect, we should be national leaders. I talk for purposes of Namboole, and I want to ask the Minister of Works and Transport, as a matter of urgency, to begin with the Mandela National Stadium area. I thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: From the sound of things, the Minister of Works and Transport has gotten a lot of support. Honestly speaking, I neighbour the Uganda Railways Corporation, but it is one entity that marks the boundary.

The point Hon. Muyonjo is making about the metres should be clear – I do not think there is anybody who wants to stay there. They want to stay, but they know they are staying there illegally. That is why the structures look the way they are. They say that instead of paying rent, let us build something, and when they come, we shall go. However, give them the metres about how far they should – because I am a neighbour to the railway, but then there are also my other neighbours. Yes, Hon. Paul?

3.35

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr Paul Mwiru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. What we need is clarity. What is the distance? Is it 15 metres? Is it 30? Is it 50 or 70 metres? You see, it has kept on changing. I will give an example. When Gen. (Rtd) Katumba Wamala was in Jinja for the Standard Gauge Railway, the law had earlier provided for, I think, 15 metres – 30, yes. Then after some time, it changed.

The dispute was now not about the 30, but the additional 20. How do you take the additional 20 when people had already settled? I think we need clarification from the minister so that there is a circular. Even as I speak now, I have also been called from my constituency, and I cannot say with certainty the, the actual distance. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The MPs neighbouring railways all want to talk now. However, minister, can you come back here with a clear answer, maybe tomorrow, on what you stand for, so that you inform the whole nation about the metres. There is a general consensus that people should stay away from railway land, and it makes our country look good. Hon. Okwi - We go back to the one-minute timing. I wanted to end because we have done more than one hour on matters of national importance. That is not nice; as if this is all we have to do.

3.37

MR CONSTANTINE OKWI (NRM, Kibale County, Pallisa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the interest of time, I rise on a matter of national importance in relation to inadequate lightning arresters in primary schools and snail-paced responses from the Prime Minister.

Over the weekend, lightning hit the environs of Agurur Primary School. When we checked, we actually discovered that the school does not have a functioning lightning arrester. We are lucky that it happened at night.

Last night, we had a hailstorm that destroyed the villages of Okaracha within Kibale County. What is distressing is that in February, we had - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Next. If your time catches up with you and you have not prayed, there is no way I can ask -

3.38

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, this information goes to all of us. In line with the issue of the lightning arresters, it is the minimum requirement for all schools across the country. District Education Officers, Inspectors of Schools, and CAOs must ensure that every school has a lightning arrester. That is the position of the Ministry of Education and Sports. I thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kapyagon Brian, MP Kongasis.

3.39

MR BRIAN KAPYAGON (Independent, Kongasis County, Bukwo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. That is Kongasis County from the eastern region, where you come from. Those people love you so much.

About two weeks ago, I came here and reported a matter concerning insecurity in Bukwo, and it has re-occurred. Last week, a group of people again attacked an old lady of 73 years and razed down her building. Yesterday, there was a health worker who was coming from the hospital; he was ambushed, attacked and cut. As we talk, this person is hospitalised in Mbale.

My prayer is that the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Inspector General of Police should provide us with a police patrol - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Internal Affairs or Government?

3.40

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Ms Jane Ruth Aceng): Mr Speaker, the Minister of Internal Affairs will be informed.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Prof. Dr Wilber Manyisa Ahebwa, MP Nakaseke North.

3.40

MR WILBER AHEBWA (NRM, Nakaseke North County, Nakaseke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on an issue of land eviction in Ngoma, Nakaseke North, which is affecting seven families that have stayed on the land for the last 30 years, ordered by a one Fiona Birungi to implement a contested court order, disregarding the guidance of the Chief Justice and the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.

As I talk, it is going on. My prayer is that the IGP should immediately halt the eviction so that we can give a chance to the affected third parties to the order, to have their application heard in court, but also to allow the President, who had started an ADR process, to have it completed. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Issues of land eviction should be effected after a due court process. I am aware that the President is involved in that matter and so is the Chief Justice. Who would want to act in disregard? I have seen correspondence from the Chief Justice. Government Chief Whip? The Attorney-General is here; I had not seen him. Reconcile the law with the facts in favour of the complainant.

3.42

THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Jackson Kafuuzi): Mr Speaker, I have not seen the documents you are referring to. I think I would give a better answer if my colleague, the professor, was able to share those documents or further, and better particulars. I will liaise with him, then we can advise accordingly.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, that brings hope. Hon. Muzaale -

MR MUZAALE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The procedural matter I am raising is that, as of last week, one of our colleagues raised very serious allegations about a credible institution in Busoga, namely Lubega Institute of Nursing. If what is actually on the agenda is matters of national importance, and this was raised as a matter of national importance, and the minister is here and he had promised to clear the air, would it not therefore be procedurally acceptable for the Minister of Education and Sports to come and clear the allegations?

THE SPEAKER: The Minister of Education and Sports is ever ready. Are you ready?

3.43

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, I would like to confirm that, as I said on the Floor, I would follow up on the matter with this institute. I formally received the report as of today, just before I came here. Permit me to make a full presentation tomorrow, if I am able to make it to the Order Paper, because it is an investigative report based on what I got from the school. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. If a matter is raised as a matter of national importance and it requires the minister to respond, even if the minister has the response here, we will need it to appear on the Order Paper because it comes with a statement that – It is the same like that of the Minister of Water and Environment who came and we are going to amend the Order Paper and allow her to respond to one Member who raised similar matters.

I have just two to finish and we go into the main - However, honourable colleagues, we had said we would handle five or six. We run the risk of being a Parliament of national importance. As you know, national importance is constituency-related; some are national, some are - I have guided but I think the Clerk-at-table today did not help me much because we needed to sort out - They need to sieve out what is really urgent. It could be a matter of national importance but is it urgent? Does it meet that - I see 25 names here? When you look around, the Member is looking at you with the kind of eye which is – *(Laughter)* Hon. Namulondo Sarah -

3.46

MS SARAH NAMULONDO (NRM, Woman Representative, Buyende): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of public importance. The communities of Buyende District are increasingly facing a challenge of crocodile attacks in the villages of Nkone, Irundu Sub-county. The family of Mr Zali lost a person due to an attack. In Buyanja, a one *Mzee* Bazilio lost about two cows or more due to the same.

My prayer, through the Government of Uganda, is that the Uganda Wildlife Authority urgently - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Yes, the minister of crocodiles and wildlife.

3.47

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Ms Susan Nakawuki): Thank you, Mr Speaker and the honourable member for raising that concern.

Mr Speaker, I received a call from the honourable member about this issue. She is really worried about her constituents who are dying as a result of crocodile attacks. Uganda Wildlife Authority has put up safe cages where people are supposed to collect the water, but the challenge sometimes is that the communities choose to go deeper into the lake because they have a stereotype that when you go deeper, that is where you get cleaner water and in that process, they are attacked by the crocodiles.

We regret such incidences and I am going to engage the honourable member immediately. First of all, we are going to do some sensitisation with the community but also fast track the issue of compensation.

When the required compensation is below Shs 5 million, that money is credited on the mobile phone but the challenge we have been getting is that many of the mobile money numbers are not registered in their names and they cannot be given the money. If the compensation is more than Shs 5 million, it is put on their bank accounts and majority of them have no bank accounts. That is an issue of the law and we cannot create a shortcut for it. However, I will be visiting your constituency, honourable member, to handle that issue.

3.49

MR EMMANUEL BIARA (NRM, Bulambuli County, Bulambuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: They are saying that your bow tie is facing me -*(Laughter)*

MR BIARA: Hon. Ssewungu is a teacher but sometimes he tells a lie. It is facing the leader - oh sorry. Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of national importance on issues coming from what the Minister of Local Government is doing, during the anti-corruption *barazas*. I really commend him for the good work he is doing because - I request the Members to clap for Hon. Balaam. Much as he is doing a commendable job - *(Member timed out.)*I beg that you add me only 30 seconds.

THE SPEAKER: The Vice President has just entered, did you realise?

MR BIARA: Yes, I have seen her. Your Excellency, you are most welcome.

THE SPEAKER: And you still want to add yourself 30 seconds? Conclude.

MR BIARA: Mr Speaker, there are projects that the anti-corruption *barazas* started in Bulambuli Constituency and indeed, he did a good job. However, there are projects that he supervised, people were arrested for misappropriation of funds, but they have stalled up to now and the electorate is asking what is next. I am sure it is not only in Bulambuli but across the country.

My prayers are that the contractors or responsible entities are required, where it is legally and contractually appropriate, to complete affected projects within a defined period.

Secondly, where the courts establish - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Do not go to what the courts do, but do what politicians can do like you have done a good job to raise the matter. Where is the Minister of Local Government? Okay, next? Can we have Hon. Namara? He is the last one, and this shall not be exercised again. You have overstretched me on this.

3.51

MR DENNIS NAMARA (NRM, Buyaga West County, Kagadi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance regarding the land tenure system in Buyaga West Constituency.

Mr Speaker, Buyaga West Constituency has 19 sub-counties, 15 of which are under what we call the resettlement scheme. Under Section 29(2)(b) of the Land Act, as amended, the law provides that the occupants of that land are *bona fide* occupants and can process titles. As we speak, the District Land Board does not allow the *wanainchi*, who are the local people, to process titles.

My prayer to the minister is to direct the District Land Board to allow people to process titles for them to be able to access capital, even from the banks. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Government? I have never seen the Government Chief Whip smiling ear

to ear. Is the Vice President responsible or Hon. Lugoloobi? *(Laughter)* I mean, for your smile. Okay, the Vice President.

3.53

THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Jackson Kafuuzi): I am close enough to know that it is Hon. Lugoloobi. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, I have listened to the concern raised by Hon. Namara. It would not be fair for us to make a decision without hearing the reason as to why the District Land Board is not acting. There may be more facts behind their decision that are not known to us, and if we make that decision, they will say Parliament has decided; we grant titles, and tomorrow, when those titles are granted, the Commissioner for Land Registration and the Attorney-General will be sued. Others will seek cancellation of titles.

Therefore, I humbly suggest that my colleague, Hon. Namara and I get together so that we get the actual information and give proper advice. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Education and Sports, what did you say about the P.7 candidates? Also, somebody should have responded on the issue of Hon. Balaam. Is it too bad that nobody can respond on behalf of Hon. Balaam?

3.54

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): The question is clear, according to Hon. Mukwasi. His issue is about some of the projects which have stalled due to the actions which have been taken in line with the arrest of some of the responsible officers at the district.

As far as my sector is concerned, I really need to address myself to a matter in line with the education project, if at all there is any, but if it is not there, Mr Speaker, I beg that you allow the Minister of Local Government to come and respond to those issues. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The Government Chief Whip, you will allow the Minister of Local Government -

MR PETER OGWANG: Mr Speaker, I have about two issues for which I have asked for the indulgence of the Government Chief Whip. One is a question of UNEB fees. A Member who raised the matter avoided asking it on the Floor so I do not know whether it is procedurally right for me to accept to give information which has not been put on record, sir?

THE SPEAKER: You only respond to what has been on record. The Member has the right to abandon. Next item.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE RISING DOLLAR RATE

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Finance?

3.56

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PLANNING) (Mr Amos Lugoloobi): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. We took note of the requirement for a statement on the rising dollar rate, and indeed, we are preparing the paper. As it is now, we are still carrying out further consultations with the key stakeholders on the matter. Thank you.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No, no, no!

THE SPEAKER: I thought we were in Parliament, honourable colleagues. The murmuring makes me think I am on Nagongera Road or something. Let me guide. It came to my attention, after we had put this as an item on the agenda, that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Bank of Uganda are harmonising this matter.

It is not a simple matter that we can rush them on. They need to come here when they are ready with what we can consume; not a political statement but an economic policy statement. Therefore, this matter is going to be

deferred, pending the readiness of the Minister of Finance. Next item.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE RISING FUEL PRICES

THE SPEAKER: Government Chief Whip?

3.58

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Ruth Aceng): Mr Speaker, that item and the first one are related. I have been informed that the ministers have been summoned - as you can see, even the two who were here left - to go and harmonise those issues before we can have this debate on the Floor.

THE SPEAKER: *[Mr Zaake: "Order".]* Order on what? *(Laughter)* That is him for you.

The two are indeed related. One is a first cousin of the other. Do we need to get the truth? If the answer is in the affirmative, these two should be handled together because you cannot talk about fuel without looking at the global market and the factors that are distorting the prices.

Government Chief Whip, put your house in - Get ready. *(Hon. Zaake rose_)* I might ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to find a seat on the other side - *(Laughter)* - if my neighbour continues to try to be a Speaker on the side. That is the prerogative of the Speaker.

The two will be discussed together. They have to come together, and we debate them. One of them has already been partially discussed here, so, that one is also deferred. I think you should come back here within one week. What is the time frame? Do they want two weeks? Okay.

DR ACENG: Mr Speaker, one week is enough. We will ensure that the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Uganda harmonise as soon as possible.

THE SPEAKER: That is brilliant. You can feel the urgency in the Government Chief Whip's voice. When you people want to do two weeks, she is saying one week is enough. We expect the ministry next week. Next item.

LAYING OF PAPERS

BI-ANNUAL INSPECTORATE OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO JUNE 2026

THE SPEAKER: Parliamentary Commissioner?

4.01

MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. Allow me to lay the report of the Inspectorate of Government on the Bi-Annual Performance Report for the period January to June 2026. I beg to lay. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Let the records capture it, and the report is referred to the sectoral Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, which should report to us within 45 days.

Chairpersons of committees, this is guidance from the Speaker. When we give 45 days, it means 45 days. If you are not able to do it, you are duty-bound, according to our rules, to come and seek for time, and briefly tell us the status.

We met the Inspectorate of Government yesterday and they said their reports are never discussed here. We also realised that our recommendations never get to them. We have, therefore, harmonised that we need to work, and 45 days should be 45 days. Next item.

MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY ON THE PERSISTENT INCIDENTS OF HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERVENTIONS TO MITIGATE SUCH INCIDENTS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE NATIONAL PARKS

THE SPEAKER: Committee chairperson? The committee chairperson is assuring me that he is the one. *(Laughter)*

4.03

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY (Mr Patrick Aeku): Mr Speaker, I know you are not disappointed, but I am the one, and I am the vice-chairperson.

THE SPEAKER: I cannot be disappointed. You know you, and I go a long way.

MR AEKU: Thank you. Mr Speaker, if you permit me, according to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda, I beg to lay minutes and a copy of the report of the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry on the persistent incidents of human-wildlife conflict and the effectiveness of interventions to mitigate such incidents within and outside the park. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Let the record capture that. You can go to your executive summary and read the findings and recommendations. The rest of the report will be captured verbatim by the *Hansard*.

MR AEKU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me, first and foremost, go straight away to the background.

Uganda is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, and wildlife is one of the strongest pillars of the national tourism economy. Decades of investment in the protection of national parks and wildlife reserves have produced one of Africa's notable conservation recoveries.

The State of Wildlife Resources in Uganda Report 2026, launched by the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities in April 2026, records an increase of 29 per cent in buffalo, 18 per cent in zebra and 20 per cent in chimpanzee populations, and puts the national elephant population at 6,352 animals from 2023 to 2025. The same report records a decline in lions to 291 animals, showing that recovery is uneven.

The matter referred to the committee

During the proceedings of the House on Tuesday, 4 August 2026, the Member of Parliament for Nyabushozi County, Hon. Wilson Kajwengye, raised an urgent matter concerning the destruction of crops and water facilities and the loss of lives caused by wildlife from Lake Mburo National Park in the areas of Kanyaryeru, Sanga, Akayanja and Nyakashashara.

He told the House that communities, which had coexisted with the park, now faced severe hardship and food insecurity. The Member prayed for emergency relief, the provision of planting materials, immediate fencing of the park, improved compensation for affected communities, an increase in revenue sharing from 20 per cent to 40 per cent and reconstruction of damaged communal water facilities. The Speaker referred the matter to the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry for consideration.

The committee noted that the situation described by the Member is grave and similar in areas adjacent to, and within, other national parks across the country. It, therefore, took a holistic approach, examining incidents of human-wildlife conflict nationwide and the effectiveness of the Government's interventions.

Due to the volume of financial data involved, the committee's findings on revenue sharing, including the Member's prayer for an increase in the rate, are presented in a separate report.

Straightaway, Mr Speaker, I will move to the terms of reference (TOR) -

THE SPEAKER: That is not in question; it is what guided you. You can refer Members to the TOR and the methodology and then go into the meat.

MR AEKU: Most obliged.

The terms of reference are under 2.0. In considering the matter, the committee was guided by the following terms of reference:

i) To ascertain the nature, extent and causes of the damage, losses, injuries and human deaths suffered from persistent incidents of human-wildlife conflict within and outside wildlife conservation areas in Uganda;
ii) To evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the Uganda Wildlife (Compensation Scheme) Regulations, 2022 in redressing the losses suffered by victims of human-wildlife conflict;
iii) To appraise the effectiveness of the interventions; and
iv) To assess the institutional, financial and governance capacity.

The methodology is under 3.0, honourable members. I will go straight to TOR 1.

TOR 1, under 5.1, was to ascertain the nature, extent and causes of the damage, losses, injuries and human deaths suffered from persistent incidents of human-wildlife conflict.

Under 5.1.1, we examined the nature and extent of the conflict. Section 5.1.2 covered testimonies on deaths, injuries and livelihood losses. Section 5.1.3 covered the conduct of UWA rangers. Section 5.1.4 covered unclear and disputed boundaries. Section 5.1.5 covered wildlife movement onto community land. Section 5.1.6 covered the fishing villages inside Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Observations of the committee on TOR 1

i) Human-wildlife conflict losses are widespread, repeated and unevenly documented. The committee noted that the UWA data presented do not disaggregate deaths, injuries, livestock and crop losses by district, species and year, and that the figures differ across documents.
ii) Victims of human-wildlife conflict outside the parks, who bear no responsibility for wildlife management, wait years for redress. Several families that testified have never been compensated.
iii) Allegations of ranger abuse, whether or not proven, must be independently investigated because they affect the legitimacy of conservation.
iv) Unresolved boundaries expose families to loss without compensation and the Government's provision of social services inside Queen Elizabeth National Park -

THE SPEAKER: I need help to get the names of the people who are making noise there. I want to tell their constituents what they come to do in Parliament. Hon. Paul Mwiru, get me the names. Go ahead, Hon. Aeku.

MR AEKU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was on number four. Unresolved boundaries expose families to loss without compensation and the Government's provision of social services inside Queen Elizabeth National Park, though humane, has entrenched settlement within the park without a clear land-use and population plan.

Number five; wildlife recovery has outpaced investment in prevention and the spatial gap between where wildlife lives and where people farm is closing.

Recommendations of the committee on TOR 1

The committee recommends that:
i. UWA and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics develop, within six months, a single national human-wildlife conflict incident register that records every death, injury, livestock and crop loss by district, species, date and response, and publishes a consolidated annual human-wildlife conflict statistical report to Parliament;
ii. Government, through the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, provides emergency food relief and planting materials to the affected communities in Nyabushozi, Kiruhura District, within three months, and facilitate the repair of the damaged communal water facilities, as prayed by the Member of Parliament;
iii. The Uganda Human Rights Commission, working with the Uganda Police Force, conducts an independent inquiry into allegations of extrajudicial killings and

disappearances at the boundaries of national parks, beginning with Nwoya, Buliisa and Kasese, and reports to Parliament within six months;

iv. UWA publishes and trains all rangers on standard operating procedures on the use of force, requires the reporting and investigation of every fatal or injurious use of force, ensures that families are informed of and assisted to recover remains and equips patrol teams with body-worn cameras as resources allow;

v. UWA supports the families of rangers killed or injured in the line of duty and compiles and publishes annual statistics on ranger casualties;

vi. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and UWA jointly verify, reopen and publish the boundary register of every wildlife conservation area within 12 months, with priority given to Lake Mburo, Kidepo, Mount Elgon and Bugoma, and that, pending the resolution of any boundary dispute, residents in the disputed areas are not denied compensation or social services;

vii. Government adopts a time-bound, participatory settlement policy for the 11 fishing villages in Queen Elizabeth National Park that, after consultation, choose between voluntary resettlement with fair compensation and formalisation under a binding zoning plan with population caps and, in the meantime, halts the construction of new permanent infrastructure within the villages while investing in safe water points, crocodile-exclusion enclosures, early warning and livestock protection;

viii. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development reports to the committee, within three months, on the gazettement status of each fishing village, including Katunguru. UWA tables the agreement with the investor at Katunguru and the Karenga concession agreement; and

ix. Government of Uganda and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) operationalise the Virunga transboundary initiative and map and secure priority wildlife corridors so that the movement of elephants and other wildlife is anticipated rather than reacted to.

5.2 TOR 2: To evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the Uganda Wildlife (Compensation Scheme) Regulations, 2022

Section 5.2.1 is the legal framework. Section 5.2.2 is the status of claims and payments. The tables are very clear.

Section 5.2.3 concerns statutory limits and the board's discretion. Section 5.2.4 concerns departures between the law and UWA practices. Section 5.2.5 concerns structural impediments in the regulations.

Mr Speaker, I will go straight to the committee's observations on TOR 2.

Compensation is a safety net and not a means of preventing future incidents. The Compensation Scheme has paid out substantial sums of money to families, and the committee commends UWA for that. Even so, the scheme has designed and implemented its law, which is burdensome, inconsistent and not victim-centred. Even where money is available, it has not reached the victims who testified, in some cases, four years after the loss.

Recommendations of the committee on TOR 2

The committee recommends that the minister amends the Uganda Wildlife Compensation Regulation 2022 to –

(a) remove the inconsistencies in the regulations and onerous obligations imposed on victims, including the conditions in regulations 7(c), 7(d), 8(e)(ii), 9(c), 9(f), 9(g) and 9(2) and (3), shifting the burden of verification to the Authority;

(b) create a single integrated process in which an incident report to any one of the LC chairpersons, the Authority or the police is deemed to be a commencement of the claim, so that the victim files once and is not required to report to all authorities;

(c) extend time for reporting an incident from 72 hours to at least five working days, computed in accordance with Section 34 of the Interpretation Act, and prescribe the time in working days instead of hours;

(d) prescribe binding and shorter timelines for decision by the Compensation Verification Committee and the Board, and require the Authority to pay interest at a rate to be prescribed on approved claims unpaid after 90 days;

(e) decentralise verification to conservation area level and to lower governments in the affected areas;

(f) introduce a tiered approval system under which the Compensation Verification Committee approves claims below a prescribed monetary threshold and the Board retains the high value claims, complex cases and appeals;

(g) fix the compensation for death to a uniform amount and prescribe published scales for permanent disability, minor injuries, livestock and crop damage, with burial and emergency medical expenses paid promptly as an advance and counted as part of the final award and require district evaluation rates to be updated annually;

(h) allow alternative payment mechanisms, including mobile money in accordance with the national payment system and remove the requirement for a bank account;

(i) dispense with letters of administration and use the administration of estates, small estates, Special

Provisions Act with local attestations and community verification as sufficient proof of beneficiaries;

(j) replace the review by the minister with a review by an independent body or the courts and extend the time for applying to at least 30 days; and

(k) require the authority to issue written preventive recommendations promptly under regulation 19 and to support their implementation before any claim is reduced, rejected or withheld.

(l) the minister amends Section 83(2) of the Wildlife Act, Cap. 315 to extend compensation to lawful entrants within the protected areas, including road users and authorised visitors, and reviews the list of compensable species to include crocodiles and other species that cause significant loss.

(m) UWA pays all outstanding approved claims, currently about Shs 4.2 billion, within three months of funds being available, with priority given to death and injury claims and to the oldest claims, starting with the families who testified to the committee;

(n) UWA digitises the compensation process so that the claimants can track their claims with SMS updates from registration of payment and publishes the status of claims by district;

(o) UWA undertakes a nationwide sensitisation campaign on the compensation process in local languages, through radio, community meetings and local government structures, and establishes community liaison officers at the district and sub-county level to help victims file claims;

(p) UWA reconciles and publishes a single authoritative claims and payment schedule and explains the difference between its August and September status reports;

(q) the Inspectorate of Government and UWA internal audit investigate alleged bribery, favouritism, arbitrary rejection of claims within the compensation process and report to the committee; and

(r) UWA reports to Parliament, through the minister, quarterly on the work of the Compensation Verification Committee, including claims received, rejected, awarded and paid.

5.3 TOR 3: to appraise the effectiveness of the intervention to mitigate incidents of human-wildlife conflict

5.3.1 We are looking at the overview; you can look at the table.

5.32 Electric fencing

Observations and the recommendations on electric fencing

The committee observes that electric fencing is the most reliable and widely accepted barrier, but only where it is complete, maintained and complemented by other measures.

The committee recommends that:

(a) the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities expedites the fencing of hotspot boundaries, giving priority to the most affected areas namely Lake Mburo (Kiruhura), Murchison Falls (Nwoya, Oyam, Buliisa), Queen Elizabeth and Kidepo (Karenga and Kaabong), and complete the unfinished 15 kilometres at Bugungu;

(b) UWA closes the weak points at roads and river crossings through cattle grids, electrified gates and monitoring;

(c) the Attorney-General conducts a value-for-money audit of electric fence installation covering a cost variation between conservation areas and the direct procurement in Oyam, and the quality of materials.

THE SPEAKER: Did you say, Attorney-General?

MR AEKU: The Auditor-General. Did I say Attorney-General? For the record, I must correct – *(Laughter)* - I wanted to say the Auditor-General, so I will repeat that one.

(c) the Auditor-General conducts a value-for-money audit of electric fence installations covering the cost variations between conservation areas and the direct procurement in Oyam, and the quality of materials;

(d) UWA adopts open and competitive procurement in accordance with the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act, and has the Uganda National Bureau of Standards test and certify fence materials before purchase;

(e) UWA tables a memorandum of understanding between UWA and Total Energies, and the ministry follows up on the completion of the Nwoya sections;

(f) UWA budgets for the maintenance and a fixed local workforce for fences from the outset and engages sub-counties and communities in the co-management; and

(g) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities pursue the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the Virunga transboundary initiative.

5.3.3 Trenches, Thorn Hedges and Unpalatable Crops

The committee recommends that:

i) UWA keeps trenches maintained annually and provides a maintenance budget line;
ii) UWA scales up Mauritius thorn and other live hedges as a low-cost complement to trenches and fences, and uses revenue sharing funds for this purpose;
iii) UWA invests in research, together with the National Agricultural Research Organisation, to ensure that unpalatable crops can be grown all year round and matched to the species raiding each community;
iv) the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries jointly provide targeted agricultural subsidies and extension for unpalatable crops in frontline sub-counties; and

v) the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities sensitises communities along the park boundaries on suitable crops for specific animals.

5.3.4 Beehives

I will go straight to the recommendations – I beg your pardon.

5.3.5 Hippos and crocodiles conflict

The committee observes that much of the response to hippo and crocodile conflict outside the protected areas remains reactive, and that some communities have not adopted the demonstration hippo fences because of inadequate consultation and ownership.

At Katunguru, the committee was shown crocodile exclusion enclosures that give residents safe access to water. The committee recommends that:

i) The Ministry of Water and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries enforce laws on wetland and lakeshore management, and illegal fishing because encroachment on wetlands and lakeshore lies at the root of hippo and crocodile conflict;
ii) Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) conducts a national hippo and crocodile census within 12 months and develops species-specific management and, where appropriate, culling or ranching strategies;
iii) UWA increases the number of crocodile exclusion enclosures, capture cages, and safe water access points in high-risk fishing villages and landing sites; the Ministry of Water and Environment supplies piped or protected water points.
iv) UWA co-designs hippo fences with communities and local governments with agreed maintenance responsibilities before extending them.

Problem Animal Response, Capture, and Translocation

The committee recommends that:

i) UWA establishes and equips wildlife response centres outside protected areas, recruits and deploys more human-wildlife conflict staff in all conservation areas with vehicles, boats, motorcycles, drones, and specified specialised capture equipment;
ii) UWA sets up a 24-hour national human-wildlife conflict call centre and toll-free line for reporting and response, linked to community scouts and local governments;
iii) The Uganda Wildlife Research and Training College conducts scientific studies on the ecological implications of translocating problem animals from overpopulated to underpopulated areas;
iv) UWA invests in sustainable coexistence so that the wildlife is regarded as an asset and not a threat.

Scare Shooting, Deterrent Lights, and Technology

The committee recommends that:
i) UWA treats scare shooting strictly as a temporary deterrent, regulates the use of firearms near community boundaries, and trains rangers to distinguish non-lethal scare tactics from defensive shooting;
ii) The Uganda Wildlife Research and Training College studies the effectiveness of carnivorous deterrent lights, and UWA extends them to other predator hotspots, if proven;
iii) UWA uses live telemetry data to alert community scouts and local leaders by SMS or radio whenever collared animals approach settlements;
iv) UWA scales up the community informant and scout network, camera traps, and community early warnings.

Sport Hunting

The committee recommends that:
i) Ecological assessment and game counts are strictly required before quotas and licenses are issued under section 52 of the Uganda Wildlife Act;
ii) Quotas are limited to mature, post-reproductive, problem or surplus animals where control is ecologically necessary;

iii) The ministry strictly licenses and monitors professional hunting companies, and a UWA ranger is present at every hunt with tagging of all trophies;
iv) Where specific animals consistently cause conflict, quotas prioritise those animals; and
v) A portion of sport hunting royalties is earmarked to co-fund electric fencing and other human-wildlife mitigation in the affected communities.

The Conservancy Model

The committee observed that even after fencing, a significant number of animals would remain outside protected areas, notably around Kidepo and Murchison Falls.

The committee recommends that the Government adopt a conservancy model, especially in Kidepo and other highly affected areas, under which communities and private landholders manage wildlife on their land under agreed zoning and share the benefits.

Terms of Reference 4: To Assess the Institutional, Financial, and Governance Capacity of Government to Manage Human-Wildlife Conflict Sustainably

Reactive rather than preventive posture

UWA told the committee that the response to human-wildlife conflict remains largely reactive, that the infrastructure alone cannot address wildlife corridors, access to water, poorly planned settlement and land use, and that some interventions have little uptake because of weak consultation and low trust.

The committee agrees with UWA and a strategic direction should be prevention first, rapid response second, and compensation as a safety net for eligible losses.

Capacity, Equipment, and Funding

The committee heard that limited staffing, inadequate operational funds, and procurement delays constrain UWA's response, especially where response requires additional personnel, transport, and coordination with the local governments, and that insufficient vehicles, specialised equipment, and technology, including drones and telemetry, limit responses in dispersed, high-conflict areas.

The Compensation Fund is financed by just 2 per cent of UWA's income and has not scaled to the volume of claims. In its prayers to the committee, UWA asked for more funds for human-wildlife intervention, compensation, and livelihood projects.

Data and Monitoring

UWA reported that human-wildlife conflict data collection is fragmented, which limits its ability to track trends, identify hotspots, monitor recurrence, and measure intervention costs and outcomes. The inconsistencies found by the committee in its claim figures, beehives, trenches, and scouts confirm this. An integrated digital system linking incident reporting, response, compensation, telemetry, and intervention performance is required.

The Inter-Agency Coordination and Land Use Planning

Human-wildlife conflict cannot be resolved by UWA alone. The Ministry of Water and Environment is responsible for wetlands and lakeshores. The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal, Industry and Fisheries is responsible for fisheries, crops, and livestock.

The Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development is responsible for land and boundaries, and the Local Government for physical planning and land use. Where these functions are not coordinated, settlement and cultivation continue to advance to park boundaries, and the human-wildlife problem is recreated even as the fences are built.

The Community Participation and Benefit

The committee observes that the success of any intervention, from hippo fences to beehives, depends on community ownership.

Every wildlife conservation area is required to have a community wildlife committee to link UWA with the community. UWA has trained community scouts. These structures need resources and a real voice in decision-making, and communities need tangible benefits from conservation, including a revenue-sharing scheme addressed in the committee's separate report.

Recommendations of the committee on TOR 4

The committee recommends that:

i) The Government establishes a dedicated ring-fenced human-wildlife conflict mitigation and compensation fund financed by a rising share of UWA income above the current 2 per cent. Appropriations by Parliament, a share of sport hunting royalties, and a contribution from extractive and other corporations operating near protected areas;

ii) The Government increases the budget of the human-wildlife conflict division and the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, and in particular, funds the recruitment of human-wildlife conflict staff, vehicles, boats, motorcycles, drones, and equipment, and the 592 km of proposed electric fencing in phases over the medium term, starting with the high-risk boundaries;

iii) UWA develops and launches a national integrated digital human-wildlife management system within 12 months and conducts national studies to map human-wildlife hotspots and keep a living database to guide resource allocation.

iv) The Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities establishes a standing inter-ministerial human-wildlife conflict coordination committee with the Ministries of Water and Environment, Agriculture, Lands, Local Government and Finance, which reports annually to Parliament;

v) The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and the Local Government integrate human-wildlife conflict considerations into district physical planning, development, and land use plans, and prohibit new settlement and cultivation in mapped wildlife corridors and buffer zones;

vi) UWA strengthens community participation through consultation before any intervention is installed, co-management and maintenance agreements, and support for community wildlife committees, scouts, and the District Natural Resources Offices and Community Development Officers;

vii) The Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities accelerates the review of the Uganda Wildlife Act, Cap. 315 and the Uganda Wildlife Policy (2014), to address the gaps identified in this report, including compensation for lawful entrants, the independent review of compensation decisions, the conservancy model, and the financing of human-wildlife mitigation; and

viii) Government reports to Parliament, within six months, on the implementation and recommendations in this report.

Conclusion

Mr Speaker, I want to thank you for referring this matter to the committee. I want to thank my colleagues and chairman for the work that we have prepared here, and also pray that some of these recommendations can be taken up by the Government for action.

Mr Speaker, human-wildlife conflict is a matter of national importance. It threatens human life, community livelihoods, public support for conservation, and ultimately, the wildlife that attracts visitors and revenue to Uganda.

The committee found that the Government has made real progress: more than 348 km of electric fence, hundreds of kilometres of trenches, nearly 11,000 beehives, a functioning response division, and a Compensation Scheme that has approved over Shs 8 billion in claims. The committee commends the dedication of UWA staff who work, often at a great personal risk, at the frontline.

However, the committee equally found that the compensation process is slow, burdensome, and in some places inconsistent with the law; that fencing is incomplete and costly; that boundaries are unresolved; that allegations of abuse by rangers remain unanswered; that responsibility is split among agencies that do not plan together, and that victims, some of whom testified before the committee, are still waiting.

The strategic direction should therefore be prevention first, rapid response second, and compensation as a fair, fast and dignified safety net. The committee calls upon the House to adopt the recommendations in the report and upon the Government to provide the resources and coordination required so that Ugandans living beside wildlife can enjoy better livelihoods, security, and well-being, and wild conservation can continue to prosper.

Mr Speaker, I beg to report. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: We must thank the vice-chairperson who has stood in for the chairperson. When you are a deputy chairperson and you are given an opportunity, use it so well that the chairperson may feel the – *(Laughter)* Thank you. He did a good job.

Should I have the minister at this point or should we debate? Let us begin with the Vice-President, because she also comes from a district affected by wildlife.

4.38

THE VICE-PRESIDENT (H.E. Jessica Alupo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I always tell you, honourable colleagues, that the Speaker is a very good man and today, I am calling him a good man for putting this item on the agenda. *(Applause)*

Arising from the presentation of the report, allow me, first and foremost, to underscore the fact that conservation, tourism and hospitality are one of the biggest foreign exchange earners in our country and as we sit here, we have already set the agenda of the Tenfold Growth Strategy. In that agenda, tourism and hospitality is one of the sectors that we think should be exploited maximally to realise those results.

I thank honourable colleagues of this House for walking that journey with, specifically, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, but indeed with the Government as well.

I would like to thank the minister for tourism and all the associated departments of Government for the good work they are doing in the tourism sector because the tourism sector gives our children jobs as tour guides and in host hotels and the hospitality industry.

However, regarding the report, if I recall very well, its genesis comes from a matter that was presented here by the Member of Parliament on human and animal conflict, specifically the destruction of crops in Kiruhura District. The Member was worried about food insecurity in the area.

In the report of the chairman of the committee, it was clearly highlighted that in extreme conditions, human-animal conflict occasions loss of life. Mr Speaker, two days ago, buffaloes killed a 23-year-old boy in Katakwi District and as we speak, there are 30 buffaloes in Katakwi District, which strayed from Kidepo National Game Park.

I have heard the chairman of the committee allocating roles and responsibilities, in his recommendations, to UWA, the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, and even to us, the leaders. I think it is important, Mr Speaker, that we categorically highlight areas where we think the community also has a role to play. *(Applause)*

If we handle the awareness part and not just look at UWA alone, because awareness is very important - When animals invade villages, it means that there is something they are looking for and they must get it. As we speak, what the animals are looking for in Katakwi is just drinking water. They have a lot of pasture in Kidepo National Park, but they want drinking water. It is what they have come to look for in the district.

I am glad to report to this House that the Government is in advanced stages of establishing water points in all national parks in the country so that animals do not stray away from the park to look for water during long droughts. According to eyewitnesses, the boy who was killed wanted to see a buffalo; to engage in tourism when the buffaloes have come to your village. That is why I said that the awareness part is very important.

The community should know the characteristics of these animals. It is not a matter of hearing that buffaloes are in "village x", then "village z" moves in a group - children, women - I have seen that - "Where are you going?" "We are going to see buffaloes". You can only do that in India where I have seen that buffaloes are very friendly. People milk them and drink their milk.

Committee chairperson, the awareness part should not only be left to Uganda Wildlife Authority, but should be taken up by everybody. I want you to single out the responsibilities and roles of the communities. We have seen, in some areas, where women are in the garden, the children are seated under a tree, and a chimpanzee has attacked the children. In some areas, people have gone to fish, and then they meet the wild animals which are in the water bodies. All these challenges have solutions, and the solutions are with us. Once those solutions are developed, the Government stands ready to implement all of them because the benefit of conservation, the benefits of protected areas, game parks and national parks, return back to all the people of Uganda.

I, therefore, support the chairperson of the committee, and I support the recommendations. Regarding the other recommendation of 2 per cent to 4 per cent compensation, I do not know the impact on the budget and on the planning - maybe that can be studied further.

However, there are interventions that are immediate, medium-term, and long-term. I entirely support the chairperson and the members of the committee on their recommendations. I thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you for your guidance and the debate. That is how national leaders do. Okay? Now it would be fair to hear the petitioner, immediately after the brilliant submission by the Vice-President. Who does not admire the Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda? *(Applause)*

4.47

MR WILSON KAJWENGYE (NRM, Nyabushozi County, Kiruhura): Mr Speaker, I also register my admiration to Her Excellency the Vice-President.

Mr Speaker, as a primary mover and petitioner of this august House, I am profoundly elated that this matter that originally was a matter concerning the people of Nyabushozi turned out to be a matter of national importance.

I am very happy and I thank you, Mr Speaker, for having referred this to the committee. I was present when honourable colleagues whose constituencies share direct borders with the national parks were making presentations to the committee; some of them were crying. I will be very happy to see that all the recommendations have been adopted and implemented.

I will add only two. I am happy about the report. Secondly, in my constituency, some farmers have gone to the extent of modernising their farms and cultivating modern grass. This grass, which they buy and plant for purposes of milk production and productivity and beef fattening - animals from the national park come and outcompete cattle and that is not considered to be crop destruction. I would like to see the recommendations amended to capture that too.

Regarding the second recommendation, and I listened to Her Excellency the Vice-President, in Lake Mburo National Park, the two permanent water sources are Lake Mburo and Lake Kakyera, but predominantly, Lake Mburo is fenced off as a national park. The people are outside, but they took the trouble and resources to invest in water sources for their animals. These animals come and completely desilt the water sources, and that is not compensated. No, that is not fair. As a country, I agree that tourism

earns us a huge percentage and is an anchor to ATMs for growth strategy but that must be felt by the people sharing direct borders with the national park. I submit, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Otto Makmot Edward, Agago, then he will be followed by Woman MP Agago - only the border districts; I know you. Yes.

4.49

MR EDWARD OTTO (NRM, Agago County, Agago): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to thank the committee for that comprehensive report, and also the Vice-President for a very analytical view of the whole matter. It is a matter that requires money, and that requires us, as leaders, to find a solution.

Mr Speaker, I welcome the recommendation and everything. Before I add more recommendations, let me talk about two people who were killed in Agago yesterday. Eryem James was brutalised by a herd of about 40 to 100 elephants. They failed to chase them, and for the entire day, they would go and come back. It was really bad yesterday after I left this place.

Mr Speaker, as part of the solution, we also need to find ways of making money and convincing people to appreciate tourism, which is part of the ATM. One of the things I see in Agago, which borders Kidepo Game Park, is that we should probably open up another gate there.

I feel that we are behind concerning tourism in that game park. The front is that side around Orom where people enter. We do not know what the value of these animals are. I have been in other areas where people appreciate tourism. We also need to start and appreciate that.

They have talked about expediting compensation and access roads in these areas. I would imagine even if we had rangers who can go and rescue, and even if you increase and train more rangers, I see a problem in accessing some of the - Agago is the widest district in the Acholi sub-region, so to access these places like Lukole Sub-county where the elephants were yesterday, to even reach Olung village, to reach Lukole Sub-county and the Parish of Olung where the animals were yesterday, is a very big problem.

I think there are a number of things that need to be done, and we need to look for money. To every dark cloud, there is a silver lining, as I have told people. There is an opportunity in tourism but we need to compensate these people and rescue them fast enough when these animals come. There are so many other solutions that we can sit and discuss. I have been speaking to the minister and I think we can be able to - I really appreciate it because a lot has been put in these recommendations. I hope we get the money and some of these recommendations are really implemented. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The time keeping - I think we forgot that everyone was not Vice-President. *(Laughter)* There is only one Vice-President. Let me have the rest and it is two minutes please.

4.53

THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (NORTHERN UGANDA) (Ms Beatrice Akello): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I thank the chairperson of the committee and the members for the findings and the recommendations that the committee came up with.

Before I became the Minister of Northern Uganda, I was a Minister of State for Economic Monitoring and we have been monitoring the economy of this country. I am glad to report that the greatest driver for our economy is tourism and as Members of Parliament, we need to embrace this. We need to support this sector to provide more opportunities in the development of our country.

Mr Speaker, I come from Agago District and I am a woman Member of Parliament for Agago District. Agago District does not actually border Kidepo National Park. It is Kitgum District which borders Kidepo National Park.

Some years back, we were experiencing little conflict. However, this year, like the Vice-President has stated, I think this prolonged drought caused a lot of problems in the park. One month ago, over 800 elephants were driven back to the park by the UPDF. We really want to thank the UPDF under the leadership of Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba for really supporting this move in Agago and Kitgum because these 800 elephants totally destroyed crops in Agago and Kitgum.

It did not even take five days. These elephants came back because there was no water in the park. I am here to recommend that as Parliament, we need to really fast-track and allocate money to putting up dams in the park. Otherwise, we shall be endangering the community neighbouring the parks if we do not allocate and appropriate funds to support our community.

Then yesterday in Agago District, a serious scenario happened whereby elephants instantly killed two individuals and other two were injured and were taken to the hospital. Out of the two who were taken to the hospital, today we have got a report; Mwaka also died. So, it means yesterday alone, three people were killed by elephants in Agago District. It is good that I communicated to the minister and the Executive Director of the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)- Mr Speaker, they are willing to support our people. So, I am here to recommend strongly that at least the Government has already -

THE SPEAKER: You want to behave like the elephant? -*(laughter)* Conclude.

MS BEATRICE AKELLO: Let me conclude. I also recommend that the Government has already allocated Shs 10 billion. At the moment, they have about Shs 2 billion lying with the UWA. Why don't they expedite fencing of Kidepo National Park so that we protect our people? I beg to submit, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Achia. Where is he? He neighbours the Vice President.

4.56

MR REMIGIO ACHIA (NRM, Pian County, Nabilatuk): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My special thanks to Hon. Boniface and your team for the very good work done. I am the immediate neighbour of the Vice President and my constituency, Pian; most of you have heard about Pian Upe Game Reserve, and I am next door. She has rightly said the current influx of buffaloes into Pian and Katakwi is because of a lack of water.

Mr Speaker, it is contradictory because we have cried for water and the President of Uganda listened to us. Recently, the Ministry of Water and Environment gave us about Shs 2 billion to build a dam on the edges of Pian Upe Game Reserve. However, three weeks ago, the Uganda Wildlife Authority came and seized the Ministry of Water and Environment's equipment and used it to cover up what was excavated.

The President has directed and located money. Uganda Wildlife Authority, Madam Vice President, has come and closed what we had started. I do not even understand who to talk to, whether it is the President who gave the money? Or the Vice President? There is a crisis in my constituency; all the nine dams - Napyakachar, Okochot -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Achia, we want the record to capture you clearly. Are you referring to the Uganda Wildlife Authority of Uganda or of Kenya? Just be clear.

MR REMIGIO ACHIA: Yes, our very own Uganda Wildlife Authority of Uganda - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Please give him one minute to conclude.

MR REMIGIO ACHIA: Our Uganda Wildlife Authority has decided to stop construction of Tirikol Dam, which was meant to solve some of these problems, not only for livestock but also for wildlife and elephants. That is probably why, when they passed through my constituency, they did not stop. They went

straight to the Vice President's constituency because there is Lake Bisina and water there.

We pray through you, Mr Speaker, and to the Vice President, that this matter be resolved, because that area is where we can find grass and, at the same time, an opportunity to build dams. After all, nine other dams built by the Government of Uganda are already attracting these elephants.

Building one dam should be a priority instead of contradicting ourselves. Why should the Government fight itself? I do not know what to report to the President, Madam Vice President. Please tell him that the boys of the Uganda Wildlife Authority have thrown away the money you gave us, and this matter should be resolved urgently. I pray.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Who are the other border people? Let me first handle this way. Kasese, Koboko should keep quiet first. For Kasese, we will get one representative to speak for you all.

5.00

MR SOWEDI KITANYWA (NRM, Busongora County North, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I represent Busongora County North in Kasese District, and it is bordered by three national parks. Rwenzori, Queen Elizabeth, and Kibale National Parks. Evidence shows that where there is an electric fence, cases of human-wildlife conflict have reduced.

In this Parliament, Mr Speaker, I have seen us borrow money for projects that do not even bring revenue in this country. I want to beg that the Government should allow us to borrow funds so that we can fence all the national parks in this country, and we shall therefore have concluded the problem of human-wildlife conflict in the country.

My colleague here has told you of a project where they were supposed to get water from the national park, and I also have the same experience. The Ministry of Water and Environment gave my constituency Shs 4.5 billion to build a gravity-flow scheme called Kitakena. Unfortunately, the contractor did all the work, but he was supposed to get water from the national park. Uganda Wildlife Authority has stopped the project. We are now wondering how the Government can fight with - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. That is very disheartening. Hon. Abigaba.

5.02

MR CUTHBERT ABIGABA (NRM, Kibale County, Kamwenge): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I join my colleagues in thanking the chairperson and committee members for a very comprehensive report. I represent Kibale County in Kamwenge District, and my immediate neighbours are two national parks, Queen Elizabeth and Kibale National Parks.

Mr Speaker, I want to appreciate UWA. They fenced off Queen Elizabeth National Park, but where it ends is where Kibale National Park begins. When they fenced the other side, all animals migrated to Kibale National Park, and we now face daily invasions by elephants. What is so threatening is when these elephants strike; the locals want to herd them to my home because I am a leader. They think maybe these elephants fear leaders. It is very threatening.

Mr Speaker, the compensation process has been a nightmare. I want to applaud the committee. People have made claims; I have moved throughout my constituency; animals destroy our crops; I have never heard anybody testifying to have been compensated. So, if this process is made quite easy, I think maybe our people will start being compensated, and therefore life will be easy.

I pray that Kibale National Park be included in the national parks due for fencing, because the fence stops at Queen Elizabeth National Park, and Kibale National Park is bare. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Opio. I have seen all of you.

5.04

MR ACUTI OPIO (NRM, Kole North County, Kole): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Every traveller going to Lango, Acholi, and West Nile through the Karuma route is a potential victim of human-wildlife conflict because, when you go through the Karuma stretch, I have had encounters with elephants twice.

Good enough, they recognised I was a Member of Parliament *(laughter).* However, this year alone, we had an accident at the Karuma-Pakwach section, and a life was lost at the road crossing itself.

Secondly, on that Karuma stretch itself, we have baboons. This again creates potential for the spread of zoonotic diseases. The ministry needs to look at road crossings critically, not just limit itself to districts that border the national parks.

Lastly, snakes are also part of wildlife. I come from Kole, which has a lot of wetlands and very many snakes, and lives have been lost. There is a need to also look at some of these areas that are not seen as conventional areas where wildlife is, but there are potential conflicts that occur. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Give the microphone to your neighbour, Member from Terego, and then Hon. Patrick Ogwang Obura. Who else is there? These are people in the middle of - okay, go on.

5.05

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We feel so sad when we applaud the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities, then we feel they are not doing enough. This Parliament has ever allocated money for live fencing.

The Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities does what it does best: when an elephant knocks a bus, they say the bus knocked the elephant. They really forget that we pass there and lives are lost. The bus owner has to go a long way to compensate the elephant. This has happened to several bus companies in West Nile. The bus company compensates the people who die in these accidents.

The Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities is difficult to deal with. I remember going up in arms with them when they blocked us from using the road, even though they knew Karuma Bridge had broken down. We had no option. The Minister for Works and Transport laboured to get people to use the road, until the President intervened. I think this is wrong.

They should accept that when we pass things in this House, they should oblige. The President does not have to be brought down every time to talk to them. Who do they think they are? We cannot operate this country like this.

Mr Speaker, I beg you. We put money into digging water, and then you hear they have closed the water; they should be penalised. Such characters should stop wasting taxpayers' resources. This is hard-earned cash. I would like to tell you that we suffer so much. We stopped on the road to West Nile because of a crossing elephant.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Who do they think they are? *(Laughter)* Hon. Obura?

5.08

MR PATRICK OGWANG (NRM, Oyam County South, Oyam): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to join the rest of the House in thanking my brother, Hon. Boniface Okot. When you head to Lango, as my brother rightly said, you cross through my constituency, Oyam County South, and that is where you start to interface with the elephants.

I thank the Government for providing us with funds. Indeed, the park was fenced. I want to emphasise that maintaining the fences is very important because, as you realise, elephants still attempt to cross over and destroy crops, especially in Myene Subcounty and Kamdini Subcounty.

Mr Speaker, I would also wish to appeal to UWA that sometimes they go out of their way

and arrest people arbitrarily without really confirming that they are poaching in the parks. As I talk now, I have about 30 people who are rotting in jail. They have not been brought to court. I pray that UWA appreciates that these people help conserve the very same income you are talking about. People living around the parks help conserve this critical wildlife asset. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: There are three ladies there. I will get one of them to speak.

5.09

MS SARAH ITUNGU (NRM, Woman Representative, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Who got you? *(Laughter)*

MS ITUNGU: My name is Sarah Itungu Masereka, Woman Member of Parliament, Kasese District.

THE SPEAKER: One person had spoken for Kasese, but anyway, one minute.

MS ITUNGU: First, I would like to thank the committee for the work well done and for taking keen interest in the agreement with the Kazinga Channel investor, who has restricted the community's access to water and land. I request that this agreement be provided to the committee as soon as possible so that they can make their final decision on how Kazinga Channel will operate.

Secondly, I have a concern about recommendation 15.1.6G. The committee recommends no more permanent housing at the 11 landing sites in Kasese and voluntary resettlement. Mr Speaker, these people have lived at the landing sites for a very long time. Since they were born, they have been working on the landing sites.

The recommendation that they should not build more housing - where will they stay? It is like saying that the people of Ssese Islands should stop building and vacate the island.

When we met the President, the leaders from Kasese recommended that we talk to the communities affected by the boundary conflict, and he offered 10,000 acres of land elsewhere if they agreed to relocate.

I recommend that the committee engage the President on allocating the 10,000 acres of land to the people of Kasese District at the landing sites, instead of saying they should completely stop constructing houses. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, but here they do not fight for microphones. *(Laughter)*

5.11

MS AGNES KHAINZA (NRM, Woman Representative, Bududa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also join my colleagues in thanking the committee for the scrutiny of the findings and even recommendations.

Mr Speaker, remember that on issues concerning UWA, several Members of Parliament from Bugisu Subregion have stood on this Floor to report the destruction of people's gardens by UWA. In line with the committee's findings and recommendations, the prayer is, in addition to what most sub-districts have presented - issues of destruction and boundary conflicts.

We have only one national park: Mount Elgon. So, our humble plea is for relief. Our people have now turned to asking Members of Parliament to provide food. Remember, during planting, they do not destroy; they keep quiet. During harvest, they attack them and destroy their gardens. We request for relief and planting materials. Thank you. I beg to submit.

5.13

MS METRINE NANZALA (NRM, Namisindwa County, Namisindwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My issue is -

THE SPEAKER: The friend of the Speaker.

MS NANZALA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me now settle. *(Laughter)* I take this opportunity to thank the committee for its work. The people

in Namisindwa County have suffered for many years. It didn't just begin now; UWA employees have made people suffer. Sometimes they even beat and kill people.

As I speak, last time I said that I was taking care of orphans. We could just go up Mount Elgon and carry bodies in sacks. Then we buried them. I was a councillor then, and the young ones could just rush to me. They left the young kids, but they are now grown up, and I am taking care of them.

I used to climb that mountain to dig maize and beans. As I speak, they have slashed everything, even the coffee; nothing is left. I talked to our minister here. She told me they were coming this September, but now it has passed. It is just land demarcation. The problem is the boundary. We need a boundary up there. Otherwise, people are going to be tortured and killed. Enough is enough, Mr Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Please, the minister, help my friend. They have a catchphrase in Bugisu or the Bamasaba that *"Liswa lye Bamasaba"*. Yes, the last one on that side. The lady.

5.14

MS JOYCE AAYOO (Independent, Woman Representative, Abim): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, and I also thank the committee for the thorough work done. I would like to add a recommendation to the ones that you have given: that UWA should invest more in public relations through information sharing. We have many local radio stations. Let them use these platforms to engage stakeholders instead of using excessive force against people living around these national parks. Let them build friendship. All issues of prevention, response, and compensation can be addressed more easily if communities and the wildlife authority talk. Let them build friendship instead of using too much force. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I have seen *Mutume*. Is *Mutume* around? He has no message for the nation? Okay. Honourable -*(Laughter)*- You want to take me back this way? I am giving each of you one minute.

5.16

MS BEATRICE WEMBABAZI (NRM, Woman Representative, Hoima): Okay, thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I just have one issue. While we appreciate the importance of the wildlife authority and tourism, we must also protect the lives of our people. We should not allow our people to suffer losses without proper interventions.

In my district, Hoima, we have UWA, and no boundary separates the community from the wildlife. Recently, an animal attacked the community after giving birth and killed someone. UWA responded three days later, on the day of the burial. That means that if other people had gone there, the animals could have also killed them. We have seen the same thing happening in Northern Uganda along the Gulu highway.

THE SPEAKER: Next, my brother there.

5.17

MR JOSEPH MUGENYI (NRM, Burahya County, Kabarole): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In Kabarole, Kibale National Park shares boundaries with the Subcounties of Kasenda, Ruteete, Kabusoro, and Kyakibaale. It is a very long stretch, and sincerely, the elephants are really disturbing the community.

What are we saying? Our people, Mr Speaker, think the Government values animals more than people. This is what we are trying to bring out: yes, we understand that they bring in revenue. However, people should be recognised. How is this taken? If an animal is killed, the wildlife authority will come instantly, within one second. However, when somebody dies because of the animal, they will take about two, three or four days without coming. Mr Speaker, I am saying yes, we can – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: I will need one representative. Hon. Linos, you are also a wildlife - Okay.

5.18

MR PETER KITI (NRM, T'oo County, Bukwo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I just have one issue regarding *donja* farming in an artificial forest owned by the Uganda Wildlife Authority in Kakwata. Usually, UWA has allowed local communities to utilise this land as the trees they planted grew.

However, for the last six years, they have planted trees on all sides and allowed the community to use a small part for *donja* farming. On the side that the community is using, the trees have grown, and they are very healthy. In the part that they were denied access, the trees have not grown. I would therefore request, honourable minister, that you allow my community to use the land - *(Inaudible)* - for farming.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Linos. We are talking about reducing the human-wildlife conflict. Now one MP wants to enter more into the - Hon. Linos.

5.19

MR LINOS NGOMPEK (NRM, Kibanda North County, Kiryandongo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Karuma Game Reserve occupies a bigger part of my constituency. In the report, I did not see any mention of an electric fence along that stretch.

About one and a half months ago, together with the women MP, we held a stakeholders meeting, and the women were complaining that they no longer enjoy their conjugal rights because at night they are always fighting with animals, specifically, the elephants, and during the day, when they would have, the children are there.

They were asking for a solution. I gave them the solution, but it is an in-house matter. However, last night, elephants attacked the areas of Nyamasa, Diima – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Last time, Hon. Linos started with a change of prayer, and today he is introducing other things. I think you have made a point. You want to conclude? Please conclude well so that you guide -

MR NGOMPEK: Last night they attacked some families in Nyamasa and destroyed the property of a gentleman called Wanok Buga. I call on the wildlife authority to deploy more game rangers to help local people drive away these animals while the fence is being constructed. This is because, if the rangers are not there, the population will struggle to get mitigation. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Shadow minister?

5.21

MS ASINANSI NYAKATO (PFF, Woman Representative, Hoima City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Hoima City is neither a game reserve nor a game park. However, chimpanzees have become a life-threatening problem to our people. Early this year, they attacked eight children aged between three and eight years. Efforts to get compensation for the families from UWA have yielded no results.

I pray that UWA speeds up the compensation process for the affected persons. I also pray that these chimpanzees be returned to the game reserves or game parks. I submit.

THE SPEAKER: Benson Lugwar, Agago North. I allowed the shadow minister to respond, and she has done so ably.

5.22

MR BENSON LUGWAR (Independent, Agago North County, Agago): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I would like to take this moment to appreciate the committee for the wonderful report that they have presented. I would also like to thank you, Mr Speaker, for referring the same issue back to the committee.

However, allow me to cite some countries that have more elephants than us. When you look at Botswana, South Africa, and Kenya; these countries have more elephants than us, but they have mitigation measures in place to manage them. I would like to thank the committee for one of the recommendations they came up with: sport hunting. This is because elephants behave like us human beings.

THE SPEAKER: Give him one more minute. He was adding value.

MR LUGWAR: Elephants behave like us human beings. Other countries have managed to tame them through sport hunting. Therefore, I would like to call upon the ministry in charge of tourism to handle this matter, which is a very important issue. My woman Member of Parliament talked about two people who have lost their lives so far.

On the issue of demarcation, I would like to appeal, Mr Speaker: when you look at the land in Agago, we are not close to Kidepo, but we have land titled by UWA. This issue has caused a lot of conflict between UWA and the community. I request that they find an amicable resolution to the conflict that resulted from the demarcation of this land. When a call for land demarcation comes up, I request that they play an amicable conflict-resolution role without causing conflict within my community. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Nwoya, you have all the animals there. We can share a minute each. Abim, then Nebbi and Kasese. Dokolo? There are no animals there, my friend - *(Laughter)*

5.25

MR DENISH OPIYO (DP, Nwoya County, Nwoya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join this House in thanking the committee chairperson and its members for this detailed report.

Mr Speaker, I confirm that I hosted the entire committee when they came to Nwoya District, and I thank them for reporting precisely what they found on the ground. Nwoya County hosts more than 50 per cent of Murchison Falls National Park. As a result, there have been a number of cases of human-wildlife conflict. I feel the matter of extrajudicial killing has not been brought out very clearly.

The Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019 and particularly part – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: One more minute for him to cite the law properly.

MR OPIYO: Part 2, Sections 70 to 81, adequately provides penalties for offenders under the law. We feel that if people who are suspected to have crossed into the conservation area disappear without trace, then there is a problem. Over the weekend, two more people - I have their names: Okello Peter Acoka and Said Arafat- disappeared.

My prayer to the Government, through this Parliament, is that Rangers should be brought to book so that there is no more killing.

THE SPEAKER: Just for clarification, when you say disappeared, are they killed by the rangers?

MR OPIYO: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: Or animals?

MR OPIYO: No, not animals. Mr Speaker, the trend has always been that when a community member is killed by a wild animal, you find the body and retrieve it. However, each time a community member or a suspect has been shot from the park, you will never find the body.

We have cases of over 30 people who have disappeared without a trace. This cannot go unchecked. That is why I support the committee's recommendation that this matter be investigated and reported to this House.

Lastly, we are aware that UWA recruits Rangers. I recommend that districts that host protected areas be given quotas because, when recruitment happens, we find that residents from such districts are almost missing, and they barely get - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I wanted to ask the House how you would feel if your relative just disappeared and it was attributed to a ranger killing. We love the person while alive, but we love them even more when they are dead. Government, if that is true, you need to look into it.

Hon. Alenyo; Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU) coordinator for? What number?

5.29

MR MARSHALL ALENYO (Independent, Jonam County, Pakwach): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker – 96 -*(Laughter)*

I want to thank the committee for a job well done. I have three very quick issues. First of all, UWA and the ministry for tourism should look at historical reparations to the people. For example, in Pakuba, where all the tourists land. The Jonam people received Catholic missionaries on 17 December 1910. The Kuba family still expects reparations.

Secondly, on the issue of boundaries, I agree with my honourable colleague that Uganda has only 7,900 elephants, while Botswana has 131,000. The issue is border management: how they separate elephants from humans.

On the law, I have an issue with Section 84 as interpreted in relation to the compensation procedures. I thank the committee for highlighting that, but I heard the minister saying that they wait - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Give him one minute.

MR ALENYO: Thank you. That you wait for letters of administration; I encourage you to go to Kenya and benchmark. They do not compensate on the basis of letters of administration but *ad litem* orders of court, which are quicker to get.

You do not have to wait for letters of administration to compensate a family. It is tedious and very long. As long as a family can appear before a judicial officer and obtain court orders for that compensation, you must use them. The world has moved on.

I congratulate you, Hon. Minister. You are doing your best in a hot seat. Thank you very much.

5.30

MS JOYCE AAYOO (Independent, Woman Representative, Abim): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Since 2013, the people of Abim in Alerek Subcounty, Alerek Town Council, Abim, Awach, Opopongo, and Nyakwai Sub-Counties have faced wildlife invasion.

We have issues from the side of Nyakwai and Opopongo of buffaloes, and from the side of Alerek up to Abim to Awach with elephants. Right now, people have left their homesteads and are now renting. They have gone to hire land elsewhere.

Mr Speaker, the hardest part is that many people have not been compensated. We find that our people are complying with the conditions. They sign these papers, take them to the offices, but they are returned. The claim is that they did not fill them out properly. We have not received any officer from UWA to train - *(Member timed out.)*

5.31

MR DAVID MULINDWA (NRM, Busongora County South, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was born in the cradle of Queen Elizabeth National Park.

THE SPEAKER: Are you telling us you are one of them?

MR MULINDWA: Exactly - *(Laughter)*- Thank you, Hon. Okot and your team. I did raise many of the matters here through the committee and even when they visited Kasese at Katunguru Parish.

Honourable minister, quite often, whenever UWA demarcates land, it is the community that keeps losing. In Katwe Kabatoro Town Council, even Government institutional land, the Uganda Development Corporation land, was lost. It is Government *vis-à-vis* the Government.

The Ministry of Education and Sports has failed to even fund Katwe Kabatoro Secondary School simply because they cannot process a title, as the Uganda Wildlife Authority encroached

again in the recent 2022 demarcation of land. It is on record.

Thirdly, the chairperson presented how someone in Hamukungu Parish had been killed by a hippopotamus. The gentleman was called Safi Byaruhanga Mubarak. The Cabinet minister has written to Uganda Wildlife; to date, no compensation has been paid.

Honourable minister, I would require that the issue of compensation be addressed in a timely manner - *(Member timed out.)*

5.33

MR PATRICK KITIYO (Independent, Kapchorwa Municipality, Kapchorwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have a few things; First, Mt Elgon National Park, especially the stretch from Kapchorwa to Kween and Bukwo, has three confusing lines. There is what is called the 'Red Line of 1983.' Then there is a "white line of 1993", and last year, they brought what is called a "black line of 2025".

The problem is the conflict. Where does the boundary for the people end? Where does Uganda Wildlife Authority's boundary end? There is a push-in and push-out conflict. Our biggest problem is conflict between rangers and civilians. When the people go in, they are faced with angry – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Switch on the microphone.

MR KITIYO: Let me go to the prayer, Mr Speaker; I have only two to make.

1. Reopening and correction of this boundary to align the three boundaries of 1983, 1993 and 2025; and
2. Create a buffer zone for coexistence of humans and wildlife. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Member for Isingiro? *(Hon. Kaliisa Rose _)* Hon. Kaliisa, you are not from Isingiro.

5.35

MS LILLIAN RUTERAHO (NRM, Woman Representative, Isingiro): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker, for being vibrant. In fact, you have made this evening very vibrant. *(Applause)*

I happen to know chimpanzees, not from Isingiro, because it is neighbouring Lake Mburo National Park. When I was working in Kagadi, we formed a team called "Friends of Chimpanzees". We would get five people to befriend a chimpanzee, and then UWA would hear from those five people quickly.

In fact, the compensation suggested by the Friends of Chimpanzees, who are human beings, is so quick because UWA listens to them a lot. We would know what the cause of conflict was: the human beings or the animals?

Honourable Members of Parliament, we need to applaud that. When you get five people, they befriend chimpanzees and then UWA gives them the mandate to – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Tell us more about that approach. Who are these friends? Are they female or male? *(Laughter)*

MS RUTERAHO: Of course, they are both, but the majority are male because women fear chimpanzees. That system was introduced by UWA, not us civilians or the teams in the district. UWA makes five people to befriend a chimpanzee.

When the chimpanzees are there, these five people can even talk to them to know what they want. If someone is attacked, killed, or something happens, the five people who are friends with the chimpanzees can testify about the problem and who caused it. Finally, UWA can compensate quickly. You do not go through long processes; they do it fast.

Secondly, the tourism industry and the people put these animals into consideration – *(Member timed out.)*

5.37

MR EMMANUEL ONGIERTHO (Independent, Nebbi Municipality, Nebbi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I have three suggestions to bring forward.

One is that when I was in primary school, for instance, we had clubs that were associated with Murchison Falls National Park, and I believe that instilled in us a sense of the importance of the park. I see that is dying out in the schools. If we can reintroduce that in the schools, that would be fine.

Two, in the Pakwach area, we have water bodies, and it is difficult to have the kind of fence that is being made. We suggest that UWA find a way to erect some kind of fencing to help our people who live very close to the water. The last one – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: You must say the important things first. Conclude.

MR ONGIERTHO: Recently, there was an open day for the national parks and particularly for Murchison Falls. The most important part that excited me was that people who came from the park realised its importance and said we need to protect these animals.

My suggestion is to hold this open day twice a year; you would see how many people would come and ensure the animals in the park are protected. Those were the three areas I wanted to bring forth. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Is that Amudat?

5.39

MS HARRIET JOYO (Independent, Woman Representative, Obongi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is Harriet from Obongi.

THE SPEAKER: Obongi. Yesterday, I also called you "Amudat". You and I have to do something so that I do not forget. *(Laughter)*

MS JOYO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the committee for the comprehensive report that they have produced. In Dufile, Moyo District, elephants cross from South Sudan, sometimes 100 in number, causing significant destruction in the community. Vital crops are destroyed, and the community is frustrated, year in and year out.

The most frustrating thing is the delay in compensating them. I therefore urge UWA to develop a long-term solution to address this problem, especially by building a barrier. Unfortunately, these elephants are crossing from South Sudan, and they come to cause destruction in – *(Member timed out.)*

5.41

MR ALBERT LOKORU (Independent, Tepeth County, Moroto): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join the rest in appreciating the committee's report. Much has been said about the arrogance of elephants towards human beings. I want to mention a new area of conflict. I happen to be from Karamoja.

There is a new area of conflict between wildlife and communities. In Karamoja, there are a lot of minerals, some of which are found in the game reserves. You find that the Uganda Wildlife Authority officers have become arrogant and even want to get the compensation that accrues from the sites where minerals are found. It is causing a lot of conflict now. UWA – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: There should be no conflict. Restrict yourself to matters of wildlife. Matters of minerals are different. Yes, Member for Mbale?

5.42

MS MIRIAM MUKHAYE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mbale): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would also like to appreciate the committee for the report. I would like to comment on the behaviour of the UWA team.

In Mbale, six subcounties neighbour Mt Elgon National Park. These people have beaten up our people. There was a time when one man was beaten and later imprisoned. He passed on shortly. About a week ago, they destroyed crops of our people. The people in Busano

Subcounty are crying because their crops were ready for harvest.

I pray that if they demarcate the boundaries, they respect the community leaders. Let them be involved in meeting with the UWA team, so that the conflicts regarding boundaries are resolved, and our people live in peace in the park. Thank you.

5.43

MS SPELLANZA BAGUMA (Independent, Woman Representative, Kyenjojo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Kyenjojo District means a place of elephants, and there are many. However, human-wildlife conflict is real.

In August last year, a young man was killed by elephants grazing in his compound. That young man who died was in Bihehe, Mbale Town Council. Two years back, two men were killed in Kibira, Nyantungo Subcounty.

In 2016, the Kabale LC1 chairperson and his brother were attacked right in their compound by a lion that fought them. Although they killed it, they were permanently disabled. Since that time, these people have filled out forms to be compensated, but nothing has come forth. I am talking about life, but gardens have been destroyed every day in Mbale.

Mr Speaker, let me make my prayer. The elephants are grazing in people's gardens every day. Therefore, my prayer is for prompt compensation because justice delayed is justice denied.

Secondly, let Kyenjojo be among the priority areas for electric fences, of course, starting with connecting electricity to those areas, because it is not there.

Thirdly, which is last, Mr Speaker, let the revenue-sharing programme be people-centred. Let the affected communities make meetings and prioritise their own projects, some of which should actually - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Amudat. I sometimes get - Amudat.

5.45

MS RUFINA CHEUTICH (NRM, Woman Representative, Amudat): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to appreciate the committee for the good work done. I also want to thank the minister for resolving long-standing conflicts. Thank you so much.

In February, buffaloes killed two people: Abraham Lokolile and Lomunyongole Abilakamar. *(Laughter)* This is very serious. These two were killed by buffaloes. They did what UWA told them to do to ensure they followed the right procedures. They went through them and had their accounts ready - my prayer -

THE SPEAKER: You pray. The names are a bit difficult. (*Laughter*)

MS CHEUTICH: My prayer, Mr Speaker, is for speedy compensation. There is so much hunger in Amudat. People are dying. These families lack food. They need this money to buy food. For sure, UWA, please do the necessary. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Buhweju. Then we shall go to - We shall go behind there, and the four ladies, and we conclude that way.

5.46

MR KOY KARIISA (NRM, Buhweju West County, Buhweju): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also join my colleagues in thanking the committee for producing such a good report. However, Mr Speaker, wildlife-human conflict does not lie only in areas where UWA has control.

We have seen, in many cases, that in forest reserves under the National Forestry Authority, now under the Ministry of Water and Environment, many animals come out and destroy crops. For example, in the Ankole Subregion, a forest stretches from Mitooma to Rubirizi, Buhweju, Ibanda, and Kitagwenda, and it serves as an escape route for animals from Queen Elizabeth.

UWA only comes when the animals - I request one minute to conclude.

THE SPEAKER: Please, conclude.

MR KARIISA: UWA only comes in to collect its escaped animals, but people who die and crops damaged in the process are never considered by UWA because they say it is not within its jurisdiction.

Therefore, I would like UWA to continue looking at areas where it is not in charge but that are still affected by animals escaping from the park. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Bulambuli.

5.48

MS SARAH WEKOMBA (NRM, Woman Representative, Bulambuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also join my colleagues in thanking the committee for the report. However, I have an issue to do with electric fencing.

I neighbour Mount Elgon National Park, and it has never been connected to the national power grid. As a result, the communities living there do not have power.

Therefore, instead of electric fencing, I request an alternative: solar-powered electric fencing, because during the rains we sometimes do not have power.

Then again, during cold seasons, like we are getting into, it will still be an issue. So, kindly provide the solar-powered electric fence.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, next.

5.49

MS SARAH KABAROKOLE (NRM, Woman Representative, Bunyangabu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As you have heard from many Members of Parliament here, Kibale National Park is worsening. Very many people have died. For example, in my district, we have lost lives from Kakinga Town Council, Rwimi Subcounty, and some subcounties neighbouring Kibale National Park.

Mr Speaker, I pray for an electric fence, and maybe some relief, because people do not have food. Whichever crop they plant is being eaten. Animals like elephants, chimpanzees, and others are involved. So, Mr Speaker, please help Bunyangabu and the people surrounding - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Kiruhura?

5.50

MS RUTH RUJOKI (NRM, Woman Representative, Kiruhura): Thank you, Mr Speaker. If this committee's recommendations are considered, we shall be able to eat our cake and have it too.

My prayer is to the honourable minister. UWA has state-of-the-art earth-moving equipment. As a gesture of neighbourliness, as you establish water sources for the animals, please also provide water sources for the people neighbouring the park so they do not endanger themselves by taking risks to find water.

Second, UWA does not compensate for some animals, such as Uganda Kob and monkeys. If a herd of Uganda Kob visited your plantation, the destruction is as bad as an - I pray you also consider including those animals among the ones you compensate for. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The final one there.

5.51

MS REBECCA KYARAMPE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mitooma): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: We have finished the side to my right. I am this side.

MS KYARAMPE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, in Mitooma District, especially Ruhinda North Constituency, we also have an elephant problem. Ten villages and almost 1,000 families are affected, especially in the subcounties of Kiyanga, Kigyende and Rwoburunga.

Mr Speaker, crops and property have been destroyed, and livelihoods are almost at risk. About two years ago, the Deputy Speaker, Thomas Tayebwa, and the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, Hon. Martin Bahinduka, visited, by then -

THE SPEAKER: You, I know you represent Hon. Tayebwa. I was there in his village. He is near the park. Yes, conclude.

MS KYARAMPE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. When they visited, they came specifically to address the problem of elephants from Queen Elizabeth National Park attacking and destroying local farms.

My prayer is that the Government considers the people of Ruhinda North, because this has been long overdue. They have been requesting a fence so that, at least, locals who earn from agriculture and subsistence farming can live well in Uganda. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, those who came were delayed. Hon. Okot, they spoke for you.

5.53

MR PETER OKOT (DP, Tochi County, Omoro): Mr Speaker, I also border the national park through Oyam and Nwoya. Mr Speaker, I thank the committee for the report. If you look at the statistics, you find that most of the human-wildlife conflicts happen with elephants and buffalos, and these animals move in groups. If we are finding solutions, I advise the ministry through UWA to look at investing in implanting chips in some of these animals, such that they are prevented from reaching out to destroy gardens, because as they move, they will be monitored and a response is made for them to be diverted – (*Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Kabanda, advise the country.

MR DAVID KABANDA: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. I just want to give information to the minister that most of the elephants that are violent are in Murchison Falls National Park and in Karenga, Kidepo National Park; they come from South Sudan.

When that issue was raised by a Member, I think in the 10th Parliament, UPDF was deployed in those neighbouring districts, and the information we got is that most of those elephants have been affected by war on the other side, so when these elephants that have been affected by war cross from South Sudan to Uganda, they come with that spirit of fighting because they have been traumatised by the bullets flying, and most of them have been killed actually in South Sudan.

When they come to Uganda, they are actually not the same. Elephants in Uganda have not been affected by war. They are calm, and the elephants in South Sudan are rude; they have been attacked and are hostile. They are like these people on the other side, so the - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: That point is taken that the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities needs to develop a reception centre where you should - is that the advice you are giving?

MR DAVID KABANDA: Not, Mr Speaker, a rehabilitation centre, but for our citizens to know that when they are driving on those roads, the elephants they find on the roads are not the same elephants that we have had in Uganda. These are more hostile and violent. When they see a vehicle, they want to knock it. They are very aggressive and are not the same. Not only for the ministry to intervene, but also for other citizens to know and understand that these elephants are not the same.

THE SPEAKER: I think it may have some validity. Hon. Awany. Then the Woman MP for Oyam; they are from the elephant areas.

5.58

MS CHRISTINE LANYERO (NRM, Woman Representative, Nwoya): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I remember raising this issue in my maiden speech in Parliament, and I thank the Members for discussing it. I also thank the committee

and the minister. I thank you for working hard and producing this report; mine is simple.

Last time I made my prayer, but today I want to say something else about it because an elephant almost attacked me. That is why my hands were up all the time. I wanted to talk the other time, but they urgently called me to handle something, and I was almost attacked in Kiryandongo District.

I left my constituency late and crossed Karuma at around 8:30 p.m. When I reached Kiryandongo District, about 40 elephants were crossing the road to the settlement, and I saw light coming from the opposite side; the vehicles stopped, and my driver could not see the elephants because, at night, the elephants look similar to the tarmac. I saw them moving their tails, and I told my driver, "Those are elephants; please stop" and he stopped, and the elephants took their time crossing from the park going to the settlement. Security lights on the highway will help.

Secondly, let UWA increase the revenue sharing to the neighbouring district.

Thirdly, the ministry in charge should institute a rapid response line, so that if anyone sees an elephant, they can call, and the ministry responds quickly.

THE SPEAKER: Have you finished? Hon. Santa? You can see the happiness when somebody – *(Laughter)*

6.01

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC MONITORING (OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT) (Ms Santa Alum): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving this very important topic the time that it deserves, and also allow me to thank the committee for the job well done.

As a beneficiary district of fencing, I thank the Government for fencing our district along the Murchison National Park. I used to be on the Floor time and again because of the conflict that we had with the animals. Very many times we did not sleep. The community leaders would call me time and again, but after fencing. I add my voice to the committee that the only way to solve this problem is fencing the national park in whole - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Secondly, you conclude.

MS ALUM: As I conclude, I add my voice that the bureaucratic processes of getting compensation should be removed. With humility and appreciation, I thank the committee and the Government for the well-done report.

THE SPEAKER: Do you have a national park in your - but you have not been here. No, I did not see you. Okay, one minute. With your size, I cannot miss you.

MR TUKAHIRWA: Mr Speaker, I have been here since before you entered. I come from Kajara County, and there is no national park there, but I have land that borders a national park, and I am not called "Hunter" by mistake.

I have land stretching over one kilometre bordering a national park, and I want to make clear that the people fueling human-wildlife conflict are not even wildlife conflict; it is the Uganda Wildlife Authority. I have had conflicts with UWA, and I resolved them. That is why Hon. Jacqueline does not present that she borders Katonga Wildlife Reserve, because the conflict is with UWA, and as a great hunter, I did- *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Tell us about your hunting.

MR TUKAHIRWA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I did great fencing, which infuriated UWA, because over 500 animals were grazing on my farm. When I fenced with razor wire, some animals died, but it solved the conflict between humans and UWA. That is why you do not hear any conflict in Katonga Wildlife Reserve, as it is fueled by UWA.

I also worked in the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities for some good years; they do not consider human beings. Therefore,

my prayer to UWA and the ministry is that they need to develop a human face and know that they are human beings and that animals should not be respected more than people. Even when a person dies - *(Member timed out.)*

6.05

MR ELIAB NATURINDA (NRM, Ndorwa County West, Kabale): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am a Member of Parliament for Ndorwa County West.

THE SPEAKER: I always confuse you with East.

MR NATURINDA: It is because you love the people of Ndorwa.

I would like to go straight to the report. On 5.44, it talks about inter-agency coordination and land use management.

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives is missing, because there is no way you can talk about tourism and forget the trade ministry. At the end of the day, tourism feeds into trade, and that is how we get money in the country.

Secondly, on recommendation No. (h) where they say they removed the issue of bank account on payment, but I recommend that you maintain payment on either a bank account or telephone number. That one will help.

Lastly, the issue of Bwindi in Kigezi. I have not heard the report talk about electric fencing. We have issues of gorillas attacking the crops of our people in Kigezi, and that issue must be well considered because it has affected our people for a long time and needs to be resolved.

6.07

MS ROBINA RWAKOOJO (NRM, Gomba West County, Gomba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. About a week ago, a lone buffalo got into my constituency, in my subcounty, with its young one and terrorised residents, and since they were not sensitised about them, it killed one person and injured two people.

We contacted UWA, but I understand UWA has been stopped because they have a limited period to work in certain areas. I call upon the minister to redirect them to do it. My people wouldn't have forgiven me if I had not said anything about this when we were talking about it.

THE SPEAKER: So, what will you give me for allowing you to say that? *(Laughter)*

MS RWAKOOJO: God's blessings.

THE SPEAKER: You bring me a cow. Hon. Otimgiw?

6.08

MR ISAAC OTIMGIW (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My issue is on the road accessibility within these national parks. In Queen Elizabeth National Park, through Ishasha sector, people are not charged to access it; yet, through Masindi, via Murchison Falls National Park to Pakwach, our citizens are charged.

Why do we have that differentiation in terms of payment? That only applies to the access road to West Nile. People going to West Nile are charged to cross Murchison Falls through Masindi- *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Shadow minister, the chairperson, and the minister. I need to be clear. How many shadow ministers do you have on tourism and wildlife?

6.08

THE SHADOW MINISTER OF TOURISM AND WILDLIFE (MR FRED JALAMESO): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this meritorious opportunity. I am the Shadow Minister of Tourism and Wildlife. Mr Speaker, I want to start retrospectively; let the adoption of this report mark the beginning of a more humane, effective, and accountable approach to human-wildlife conflict in Uganda.

I diametrically and vehemently concur with my side. For this compelling - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Allow the Shadow Minister; when others have one, he has two, but speak simply for us to understand. *(Laughter)*

MR JALEMESO: Thank you. The question here is whether to protect human life or wildlife, and the answer is both. From this side, we urge the Government to move from a more reactive response to effective community-benefiting responses.

I urge the whole House to adopt this report without amendments because I have scanned through all, but with additions;

i) community-based insurance policy. Botswana is implementing this, and it has reduced human-wildlife conflict by 90 per cent. If Botswana can do it, and you are aware that Botswana's economy is one of the fastest-rising in Africa and is hinged on tourism. Wildlife in Uganda is almost the panacea of tourism development,
ii) I would like to recommend the addition of effective community involvement in tourism and wildlife management. We cannot say we are conserving wildlife when the community feels they are abandoned and neglected. Recruitment into wildlife management - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Even the shadow should have a limit.

6.10

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY (Mr Patrick Aeku): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I agree that, first of all, on the issue of the fishing villages, 11 are within Queen Elizabeth National Park. The Government degazetted 10, leaving only one: Katunguru. That is the one we recommend degazetting.

On infrastructure, we went there on a field visit, human-wildlife conflict can never end in those fishing villages. While there, you would see a crocodile or a hippopotamus grazing alongside buffaloes and elephants and almost living with the people in the fishing village on the Kazinga Channel.

So, the proposal that we are making is: first and foremost, we have 22,700 people populated within those 11 villages. These 22,000 are producing children and so, the pressure on the park is going to be very high. We are suggesting the Government to have a voluntary resettlement scheme because the people are willing to move away from that area. They can be compensated well and relocated; that is okay.

However, we are not saying that the Government – if people are constructing within the de-gazetted area - because even in Katungulu, the reason they have not de-gazetted it is because the boundary that Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) has given Katungulu village is so small, yet the population is growing and has even expanded beyond the boundary. That is why they have never agreed to those boundaries. That is one.

Secondly, there is the issue of extrajudicial killings. Actually, this a serious matter and that is why we had asked police to investigate it. This is because, when we were with the communities, it was a very serious matter. The communities clearly stated that when an UWA ranger kills somebody, you never get the body however, when it is an animal, they get the body and even compensate you. Mr Speaker, you must note that even the poachers themselves are very dangerous to the rangers.

In the UWA report, they also stated that there were some rangers who had been killed by the poachers. So, either way, all this investigation must take place and a clear report is made.

On the issue of bank accounts, what we are saying is that, currently, the law states that it should be a bank account. But we are saying that "No, you can pay me through…"- *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: What is the point of information?

MR JALAMESO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The information is that we are in agreement because this involves human life. Behind every compensation story is a human life. The information is in regards to the recommendation that the Committee has in the report. The

Committee has called them "allegations" but Parliament does not work on allegations or suspicions.

These are true - on the 9th, 10th and 11th of September, I was in Kidepo National Game Park. A killing took place and it was reported by one of the managers running the facility where I slept - this is true. It is not an allegation. These killings are happening in Queen Elizabeth, Kidepo and Murchison falls national Parks. So, they are not allegations but rather true stories. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Chairman, I want you to conclude.

MR AEKU: I am finishing, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: But I am not interested in your finishing –*(Laughter)*

MR AEKU: But Mr Speaker, you have consumed my time. Additionally, permit me to take this opportunity to invite my Chairperson to say something within the stipulated time because I do not want to take that for granted. Please, Chairperson.

6.18

MR BONIFACE OKOT (NRM, Kole South County, Kole): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In just one minute, as a committee, we do not take your consideration of our committee for granted. When this committee pursued this matter, we noticed that in all the matters that were coming to this Parliament, as matters of national importance, there were two commonest issues.

One was the matter of disasters and the second pertained to human-wildlife conflict. Our committee believes that once the ministry considers these 65 recommendations that we have made, we shall have a significant decline in the number of matters of national importance regarding this situation.

Secondly and finally, Mr Speaker, in handling this matter, our philosophy or method of work was to deal with this matter comprehensively; it has to start with prevention. Of the 65 recommendations, most are preventive recommendations. Then secondly, quick action and the final one is about the compensation. Compensation should be a last resort.

There are two aspects that have come in the discussions here which the committee has decided to consider separately. We have two reports on revenue sharing, which are ready; he post-legislative scrutiny on revenue sharing and post-legislative scrutiny on sport hunting. I believe these are two reports that the House will seriously want to consider because they contribute significantly to the revenues that we so need as a country. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister? Two minutes. Tell us whether you agree with the report or not.

6.19

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Ms Susan Nakawuki): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have listened attentively to the report. I want to appreciate the committee for taking off time to consider this critical issue. I have also noticed the passion with which the Members have been debating this issue. I really appreciate it because they are representing their people ably.

Mr Speaker, if any ranger listened to this report of the committee, they would actually think the committee was very biased when they were writing with this report. But it is not the case. There is a legal maxim that says "He who comes to equity must come with clean hands". And here, we are seeking equity and I appreciate the Vice President because she brought it out very well. "No one has clean hands here". As far as I am concerned, the committee listened well to the complainants but did not pay much attention to the interaction we had.

To bring to the attention of everyone, when you look at the statistics, this past financial year, tourism contributed Shs 11.6 trillion to the world economies, which translates into 10 per cent of the world GDP. In Uganda, the tourism sector actually employs much more than the Government. That is why we should also give it the attention it deserves.

Honourable members, when we interacted with the committee, we put it candidly to them that more than a thousand rangers have lost their lives and to us, all lives matter. The lives of the people in the community matter, but so are the lives of the rangers. Many of them have been maimed permanently; they have no limbs. Others have been traumatised in one way or the other.

So, right now, it is critical for us to look for a neutral ground on how human beings can coexist with the wild animals. I want to appreciate the Members – Mr Speaker I got calls from different Members up to about 2:00 a.m. last night. Hon. Otto Makmot called me. The honourable minister from Karamoja, Hon. Beatrice Akello, called me. Yesterday the Vice President also called me to discuss these issues. I want to appreciate Hon. Ongerwoth Richard. He also reached out because the situation is overwhelming.

The recommendations of the committee are very good although some of them are unrealistic compared to the timelines we are being given. We all know how budgets operate in this country. So, if UWA has to implement all these within six months, where are we going to get the budget because there is a financial implication pegged?

So, I cannot commit that everything will be done within the six months we have been given, because the finances are not readily available.

Mr Speaker, Hon. Kitanywa Sowed of Busongora came up with a very good proposal of us borrowing to fence the park. Actually, the electric fencing is a very good solution to the conflict. But over the period of five years, we have only been able to fence about 500 kilometres. It is because the budget that we are given to handle that is very small. So, if we could find investors who are willing to give us money so that we do this job very quickly and then reduce even on the amount of compensation -

THE SPEAKER: Whom are you addressing, honourable minister? Who should find the investor?

MS NAKAWUKI: Mr Speaker, I meant the Government finding the money because the member brought a proposal. So, when I say, "We," I am talking about Ministry of Tourism and the Government because at the end of the day it has to go to the Cabinet for approval.

THE SPEAKER: If I were you, I would say, "We shall look into finding money for this." But when you say, "if…" - Yeah. We want you to summarise. You are not going to respond to all; you should study the mood.

MS NAKAWUKI: Mr Speaker, why I am saying "if" is because the proposal can come to Parliament and it does not go through. So, that is why there are those "what if's." However, we have taken that recommendation seriously.

THE SPEAKER: Parliament has already assured you of the support.

MS NAKAWUKI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I request for your protection. I do not like being intimidated by Members because I also have an opinion. Mr Speaker, there has been a strong allegation about disappearing individuals. This is an allegation.

When we went to Karenga, it was raised by the sub-county chairman. I actually requested him for any information that could implicate any of the rangers. According to the standard operating procedures, rangers are supposed to arrest, not kill. But the person was not able to give any incriminating evidence -

THE SPEAKER: What is the order about?

MS OBIGAH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Committees work for this Parliament. I am so disappointed by the unparliamentary language the minister has used against her own committee. This devastates the committee. She can only disagree, but she cannot say that the committee was biased.

Therefore, is it in order for the minister to continue with unparliamentary language when she knows that resources are allocated by this House? Who does she think she is? *(Laughter)* Does she have clean hands

when she is talking about equity? Equity serves the vigilant. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: You do not want the Speaker to rule? You see that is the same principle: equity aids the vigilant. But he who seeks equity must come with clean hands. Now, if you are raising a point of order, and again in the process you also breach the order, the Speaker does not make a ruling. Minister, proceed and conclude. If you maintain your order, I would – yes, but now it is a draw. *(Laughter)*

MS NAKAWUKI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Those allegations came up. Actually, we are having a meeting on Friday with UWA to discuss it deeper, and then maybe we can come up with a report regarding the same. But also for the record, Mr Speaker, when these people go into the national parks, there are carnivores, which feed on any kind of meat, including human beings. So, when people go and trespass into the parks, you just expect the worst. There is a possibility that they are eaten by the carnivores or it can be otherwise, and so, it is an issue for investigation.

Also, we are in the process of amending the Uganda Wildlife Compensation Regulations -

THE SPEAKER: What is the order about?

MR DENISH OPIYO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. When we sit in this august House and raise matters of national importance, we do not speak merely to attract the cameras on us. We speak because the people who elected and entrusted us to bring their voices to this National Assembly, expect us to do so.

The disappearance of suspected poachers has always occurred after them experiencing incidents of gunshots. I have been a district councilor of Nwoya for one term. And in that one term, I personally participated in going into Murchison National Park to retrieve bodies of people who had got into ambush by rangers. But we did not find their bodies. Would the minister be correct to say that such poachers were probably attacked by wild animals and eaten? Would that be Ugandan enough? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I think that is a subject of investigation. That is why the minister should not have an issue with the recommendation on the investigation. If she has an issue with that, she would be completely out of order. The investigation is not to apportion blame, but to point out the truth. Minister, do you want to conclude?

MS NAKAWUKI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I was informing the House, we are in the process of amending the Uganda Wildlife Compensation Regulations and the Tourism Act. We are still doing consultations with the public. Very soon we are going to get space in Cabinet and then it will come before the committee for their input to make it better.

Honestly, there are things that are really not right but we can only cure them through that amendment. I have heard the issues of revenue sharing, but I want to inform the Members that yes, it is important - wherever we have gone, they want to see a higher revenue sharing percentage. But still, even the money that does not go directly to those districts, it goes to the Consolidated Fund and it comes back to fund the budget. So, it is not anything to worry about. The money is used across the country. I will take all the recommendations given by Members and ensure that compensation is done in time. Thank you, Mr speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I put a question to the motion for the adoption of the report of the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry on persistent incidents of human wildlife conflict and effectiveness of interventions to mitigate such incidents within and outside national parks with amendments.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

THE SPEAKER: The clerk will extract and share with the Government. I thank the 49 Members of Parliament who have discussed this matter. *(Applause)* There are 49 Members of Parliament who contributed - *(Applause)*- and more could have spoken but I was being

mean because of time. Additionally, let us thank the committee -*(Applause)*

I think the 12th Parliament has a different breed of committees because - we had the committees of presidential, physical infrastructure, and now tourism - what they are bringing out relates to the people, and they have gone down there. This is not desktop research. Therefore, the leadership of the committees and the Members, I commend you. *(Applause)*

I wanted to ask Hon. Peter Aeku what he takes, but I am afraid he will ask for *ajono,* yet I do not know where they brew it from. Thank you very much. Next item.

MOTION SEEKING LEAVE OF PARLIAMENT TO INTRODUCE A PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL ENTITLED "THE QUALITY HEALTH CARE AND PATIENT SAFETY BILL"

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Dr Michael Bukenya, we give you three minutes with your team. Your motion does not attract any debate at this stage. You move, speak to it, and your seconders and then go and prepare the Bill.

6.35

DR MICHAEL BUKENYA (NRM, Bukuya County, Kassanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand under Rule 58 ,127 and 128 of our Rules of Procedure, to move a motion for Leave of Parliament to introduce a Private Member's Bill entitled "The Quality Health Care and Patient Safety Bill". The motion reads:

"WHEREAS Article 79(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995 empowers Parliament to make laws on any other matter for peace, order, development and good governance;

AND WHEREAS Article 94(4)(b) of the Constitution and Rule 127(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament recognise the right of a Member of Parliament to move a Private Member's Bill;

AWARE THAT objective XX of the National Objectives and Directives Principles of the State Policy and the Constitution requires the State to take all practical measures to ensure provision of basic medical services to the population, and Section 84 of the Public Health Act, Cap. 310 similarly places obligations on the Government in relation to the provision of basic medical services and access to health care;

FURTHER AWARE THAT the Public Health Act, Cap. 310 provides a general statutory framework for the protection and promotion of public health, including the prevention and control of infectious, communicable and preventable diseases, sanitation and conditions injurious or dangerous to health, but does not establish a specialised regulatory framework for comprehensive oversight of quality of clinical care and patient safety within health facilities;

NOTING THAT the Medical and Dental Practitioners Act, Cap. 300, the Nurses and Midwives Act, Cap. 301, and Allied Health Professionals Act Cap 296, establish the respective professional regulatory councils to regulate the standards, conduct and practice of health professionals, exercise disciplinary control over them, and provide for the registration, licensing, and inspection of health units or facilities falling within their respective mandates;

FURTHER NOTING THAT the regulation of drugs, medical services, diagnostics and other health products is separately undertaken under the National Drug Authority (NDA) Products Act 2026;

APPRECIATING THAT the ministry responsible for health has developed administrative and policy instruments aimed to improve quality and patient safety including the Comprehensive Health Services Standards Manual, the Health Facility Quality of Care Assessment Framework, the Health Facility Patient Safety Handbook and the Health Services Delivery Standards 2025-2030;

CONCERNED THAT notwithstanding the existing legal, policy and administrative frameworks, the regulation of health facilities remains distributed among different statutory bodies whose mandates are principally defined by particular professions and categories of health units, resulting in separate systems of registration, licensing, inspection and enforcement;

FURTHER CONCERNED THAT the absence of a single regulatory body with a comprehensive mandate overall health facilities has led to a fragmented regulatory framework, thereby limiting the establishment and enforcement of uniform requirements for the registration and licensing of health facilities, minimum standards for patient safety and quality of care, coordinated inspection of health facilities, and an independent mechanism for addressing complaints relating to patient safety;

CONVINCED THAT there is need for a comprehensive statutory framework on quality health care and patient safety, and for the establishment of an independent patient safety body to:

i) Centralise and harmonise the registration and licensing of health facilities;
ii) Prescribe and enforce minimum standards of quality health care and patient safety applicable to health facilities;
iii) Undertake regular and risk-based inspections of health facilities;
iv) Monitor compliance with standards relating to staffing, medical equipment, clinical care, and other matters affecting patient safety;
v) Receive, investigate and determine complaints relating to patient safety and quality of care, and serve as an independent patient safety complaints and redress mechanism;
vi) Take appropriate regulatory and enforcement action where health facilities fail to comply with prescribed safety standards; and
vii) Coordinate with the ministry responsible for health, health professionals' regulatory councils and other relevant regulatory bodies in the enforcement of standards for quality health care and patient safety.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Parliament grants me leave to introduce a private member's bill entitled: "The Quality Health Care and Patient Safety Bill," a draft of which is attached to this motion. I beg to lay it on the Table. I beg to move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? Okay, it is seconded by Hon. Beatrice Rwakimari and by several Members including Hon. Emmanuel, Hon. Isaac Ismail and Hon. Musa, among others. Justify in - is there a procedural matter?

MR MWIRU: Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. This House enacted the Health Insurance Act into law and sent the copy to the President for assent on the 31 March 2021. The President did not do any of the actions provided for under the law on the Bill.

I developed a motion, Mr Speaker, to the effect that the Bill that was passed and sent to the President for assent be laid in Parliament under Article 91(7) of the Constitution so that it becomes law. That motion, Mr Speaker, is before you. Now I see there is a motion, which has been moved by my good friend Hon. Bukenya, which has almost actually the same content. I am only wondering whether it is not procedurally right that you give guidance on what happens to the motion.

Secondly, if we move to re-enact a law, which has almost 90 per cent of the same component, what does that mean, in terms of parliamentary time? I seek your guidance.

THE SPEAKER: At this point, we are not looking at the substance and content of the Bill but the permission. That kind of debate would be relevant if we were into the Bill. Did you say your motion is before me? Every motion that is before me, I bring it here.

MR MWIRU: Mr Speaker, I intended to write to you, I have a number of motions I wrote and submitted to your office that have not been put on the Order Paper.

THE SPEAKER: Every time I receive a motion, I send it to the Clerk that day to handle. They are the ones that schedule. If it is a motion, it is on the move. You cannot hold it. Government Chief Whip, you are the one who brought the – now you are the one who is also - *(Laughter)*

6.44

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng): Mr Speaker, it is true I brought the National Health Insurance Scheme Bill. However, what my colleague is talking about is different from what Hon. Dr Bukenya has raised.

When the National Health Insurance Scheme Bill was passed, that is about nearly five or six years ago, the President responded and clearly highlighted areas that needed to be revisited, reworked on and then represented. Then, I was still the Minister of Health. We concluded on that. The Bill will soon be scheduled before the Cabinet.

However, what Dr Bukenya is talking about is quality health care and patient safety. It is different from the National Health Insurance Scheme Bill. Mr Speaker, I hope you will give me opportunity to talk about it later when he has justified the motion.

THE SPEAKER: Okay. Five years ago, to my recollection, I was not the Speaker. Can you justify?

DR BUKENYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the progressive ruling. Briefly, whereas the Government of Uganda has:

i) Invested significantly in the health sector over the last 20 to 30 years, especially in creating a conducive environment for the training of health professionals of different calibers;
ii) Created a very conducive environment to allow private investors to invest in the health sector;
iii) Invested heavily, especially during the leadership in the sector of Hon. Jane Ruth Aceng;
iv) Invested in infrastructure, in upgrading facilities, in improving water and sanitation, community health and specialised services, which led to the improvement in the indicators of health like life expectancy; under-five mortality, infant mortality, and skilled birth attendance; and
v) Also improved regulation, the World Health Organisation (WHO) still estimates that 15 per cent of overall deaths in Uganda are due to poor-quality health care, which could be avoidable.

Therefore, we need software to ensure Ugandans receive high-quality health care and remain safe wherever they go.

This would be in conformity with other jurisdictions, like in the National Assembly of Kenya, where they are currently handling a similar Bill, and also in South Africa, where their National Health Act, Chapter 2 and Chapter 10, outlines regulatory mechanisms on quality of health care and patient safety. In Ghana and Nigeria, they have policies to that effect.

In Australia, they have the Safety and Accreditation Act and the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality Health Care, which develops standards, monitors and reports on safety, quality indicators and adverse events, improving patient safety and supports health care regulation.

In India, they have the National Accreditation Board to hospitals and health care providers, which is mandated to evaluate health care organisations against defined standards and quality, patient safety and clinical services.

In the UK they have the Care Quality Commission that works alongside the National Health Service and professional councils to regulate health and social care.

It is against this background that we are seeking leave to formally come up with a legal framework to regulate quality health care and patient safety. Therefore, I request this House to support the motion. I beg to submit, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Beatrice?

6.49

MS BEATRICE RWAKIMARI (NRM, Ruhaama County, Ntungamo): Thank you very much -

THE SPEAKER: You have two minutes.

MS RWAKIMARI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to second the motion seeking leave of this House to introduce the Quality Health Care and Patient Safety Bill. I second it because the quality and safety of health care is not merely a professional or administrative matter. It is fundamentally about the protection of human life and the dignity and rights of every person who seeks medical care including us, honourable members.

As a seconder, I am aware that Uganda has put in place important laws regulating public health and the different health professions. We also have standards and policy instruments developed by the ministry responsible for health to improve the quality of health care and patient safety.

However, Mr Speaker, as the memorandum to this Bill demonstrates, the regulation of health facilities is currently spread across different statutory bodies with separate systems of registration, licensing, inspection, and enforcement.

The result is a fragmented framework in which there is no single institution with a comprehensive mandate to ensure that every health facility, regardless of ownership or level of care, consistently meets uniform standards of quality and patient safety.

This Bill seeks to address that gap. It proposes the establishment of the Quality Health Care and Patient Safety Authority with the responsibility for registering, licensing and accrediting health facilities, enforcing health care standards, inspecting facilities, monitoring quality of care and protecting patient rights and safety.

Importantly, the proposed framework is intended to apply to Government, private not-for-profit, and private for-profit health facilities at national, regional, district, health sub-district, and sub-county levels. The Bill, therefore, seeks to create a common framework for quality and safety across the health system of the country.

Mr Speaker, this is not about undermining the existing professional councils and bodies. Rather – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Isaac?

MS RWAKIMARI: Mr Speaker, one minute. The speakers have been very -

THE SPEAKER: You have spoken very well. Hon. Isaac – the one minute is done.

6.52

MR ISAAC OTIMGIW (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi): Thank you very -

THE SPEAKER: He is replacing Hon. Adeke who is in Mongolia. They are eating meat there. Mongolia has a lot of beef.

6.52

MR ISAAC OTIMGIW (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I stand to second the Bill that has been brought by our honourable colleague. The issue of patient safety, especially in our health facilities has be brought here by a number of our colleagues. We all move around our health facilities, and we hear the cases of the various patients who come to us complaining that a number of times they are being chased away from the health facilities. We have heard of deaths due to negligence, yet we have our doctors, our health care professionals, walking free without any remorse whatsoever. The only way that this can be cured is through having an independent body that will check the quality of the health care and patient safety. A body that can clearly go independently and review case by case in our health centres in case doctors do not do their jobs well, and in case we

have patients who lose their lives because of negligence of our health workers.

Yes, the Government has taken several good steps in making sure that our health facilities operate, but we have lacked the proper supervision on the ground to the extent that sometimes we do not have the health professionals in our health centres. Nobody is supervises whether they clock in or clock out. We have had a number of them giving us only minimal time in our health facilities, and they go to work in the private sector.

So that type of negligence will be addressed if we support this Bill under the Quality Health Care and Patient Safety Bill. So, Honourable Colleagues, I beg that we support this Bill so that we can put a check on these issues. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, LOP. You are speaking on behalf of your Shadow Minister of Health. Say one word; we are not really here to debate it, but just share your sentiments, and then I will ask the Government Chief Whip, and I will put the question.

6.55

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Mr Speaker, I am looking forward personally to interacting with, assuming the House does approve and give them leave to go and put together this document. I am looking forward to interacting with the details therein. Healthcare requires a lot of help. That help is legislative, that help is financial, that help is cross-cutting.

I am glad the Government Chief Whip has also indicated that the motion being mooted by the Chief Opposition Whip is a different one altogether. That means there will be room to bring in a lot more ideas. So, I was encouraging him; "They have told you no, do not worry. This one is a different one. You can always bring yours to buttress that and several others because we need to sort out health care". So I am personally looking forward.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Government Chief Whip.

6.56

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng): Mr Speaker, allow me to thank Hon. Bukenya for this Motion that seeks to introduce a Bill entitled: "Quality Health Care and Patient Safety Bill."

When I look at what the Bill intends to cure, I can ably say that all the areas that he has highlighted here are under the various councils. Health is regulated by the councils.

When you talk about registration and licensing of health facilities, that is done by the various councils, Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council, Uganda Nurses Council; they regulate the facilities based on the level of the facilities and the specialty of the facilities. It is not one single body because the nurses are different from the doctors and whatever they do is also different.

When you talk about minimum standards of quality care, all this is captured in the service delivery manual that guides health workers on the service delivery standards at different levels, depending on the specialty of the facility.

When you talk about risk-based inspection, you will notice that this is done by the various councils and the councils by the way are very many. Medical dental practitioners, nursing council, pharmaceutical council and so on and so forth, because the health workers are of various categories. As we talk, many other specialties are coming up. Therefore, you cannot lump them together.

Mr Speaker, in addition to this, the ministry has a client charter that caters for patient safety and quality of health care. The ministry has a full department of quality services, that runs the quality of health care services.

However, we have to be very careful where we tread. When you start talking about patient safety, are you also going to address health care

worker safety? Are you going to think about the health worker,s legally? Let us not introduce things here that will cause health workers to shy away from treating our patients. We have to be very careful where we step because one, we still have very limited number of health workers in our health facilities. We have not – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Have you finished? You finish. Give her one minute to conclude.

DR ACENG: We have not yet met the WHO standards of number of health workers per patient. We have very limited health workers attending to a huge number of patients. So, the workload sometimes cannot give them opportunity to do exactly what they are supposed to be doing. Now when you start regulating them by law, you will make them even shy away from the little that they are doing. This law would have been good to come after we have reached a certain level of health care system in our country, which is the workload is commensurate to the number of health workers and the equipment are available and everything is in place. So, let us be very careful. Therefore, I do not agree with the law. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, guidance now from who? The law does not provide for guidance at this stage.

MR KAKOOZA: Mr Speaker, I want just guidance from you.

THE SPEAKER: From me? I am not a doctor.

MR KAKOOZA: About the Bill and what the Chief Whip has said, I have heard about the councils; maybe the Attorney-General can lead us there, because that private members' Bill has cost implications, yet Article 93 of the Constitution prevents that. So, if it is possible, let the mover of the motion join hands with Government, and they make one consolidated - but otherwise, I am finding it difficult to believe this Bill, if granted - Article 93 bars what the cost is included in that Bill.

THE SPEAKER: For now, you need to know the principle, what is being addressed; I have not allowed the general debate; you say yes or no. Yes, means the Member will come back with the draft Bill, which he has already attached, and I believe when you read some of the clauses, that is why the Government Chief Whip was able to raise some of those things. At this point, the rules bar me from going deeper. I have to remain in the shallow well and put the question to the Motion seeking leave. Guidance again? You want to guide me? Okay.

7.02

MS ANNET BIRUNGI (NRM, Workers' Representative): Mr Speaker, thank you so much for giving me this opportunity. I would like to add my voice to the voices that have spoken to the motion presented by Hon. Dr Bukenya, allow me also to guide that the Nurses and Midwives Act as last amended in 1995. And today, as I talk, when you look at the activities, the roles that we do, and compare them with what is in the Act, you will find that a nurse is not even supposed to give an intravenous line - those IV lines that you see yet all of us have been doing that. I am a nurse myself - I did not introduce myself; I am a workers' MP.

I want to say that I have been practicing for almost 15 years, but this Act is very old. So, I am wondering how we can go for the motion, and allow the Member to go to – *(Interjection)* - Yes.

The Nurses and Midwives Act was last amended in 1995, and with the technology and with the changes that you see in this environment, I think it is important that the minister first looks at the amendment of the Nurses and Midwives Act, so that we can keep the standards of quality of care. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Let the former Minister of Health give you guidance. The Member is interested in an amendment. She has actually not spoken about this -

DR ACENG: Mr Speaker, my sister is absolutely right. It has been a while since all

those Acts of the councils were amended. During rationalisation, by then you were my neighbour in Cabinet -

THE SPEAKER: You want to tell these people what we used -*(Laughter)*

DR ACENG: I do not want to whisper that because they might ask us other things. However, you will recall that the different Acts of the councils appeared on the rationalisation list. At that time, the councils were already independent. They were not part of Government. They are independent, and they do their work independent of Government.

The East African Community had already made a resolution that each East African country should come up with a Health Regulatory Authority, which is an overarching Law that brings all the councils together. During that time, Cabinet directed that all the Acts must be amended, and this process has been going on. The Chairperson of the Health Committee is very much aware and has been engaging with the Ministry of Health on the amendment of these laws. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I want to put the question to the motion for leave of Parliament to introduce a Private Member's Bill entitled, "The Quality Health Care and Patient Safety Bill". What did I hear?

(Question put and agreed to.)

Motion, adopted.

THE SPEAKER: The Government Chief Whip was the loudest, but no, they did not support her. The Members did not follow the Government Chief Whip, and that is a bit of whipping. Honourable member, the leave is granted, but you already know there will be bottlenecks.

I already see you will have to come with a Certificate of Financial Implications, and what the Government Chief Whip was saying is cardinal. I thought you would even have conceded. It is cardinal that you work with the Government because the leave is given, but the Bill is creating an authority. The Government has to really allow you to do that because there is a ban on that, and it has a financial implication.

I do not know the lawyers who are guiding you; they should guide you well. Come back with the Bill; it will give us an opportunity to debate when you have the Certificate of Financial Implications. Next item.

Yes, we amended the Order Paper to allow Hon. Anywar a few minutes to just read. She has been very patient here, and she is one of those very hard-working ministers. So, we receive her response to a concern raised by one of us, but as I made the ruling on the Committee on Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, I should have added that under rule 229, the Government will have to bring an action-taken report within six months. We shall not leave that hanging. You have six months to do all that is required of you after receiving this.

Call the Minister of State for Environment, *Mama Mabira*, which is no longer there - (*Laughter*) - you call her item.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Beatrice Anywar Ongom – no Ongom. I almost said Oboth, but it is okay - *(Laughter)* – yes, Hon. Beatrice.

7.09

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER AND ENVIRONMENT (ENVIRONMENT) (Ms Beatrice Anywar): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your kind consideration to allow me to respond to the issue that some honourable members raised last Thursday, upon which I was directed by the Speaker to come back this week with a response as fast as possible. Here I am, Mr Speaker.

On 7 October 2026, Hon. Kyeyune Ivan, a Member of Parliament for Nakasongola County, raised concerns regarding the environmental pollution arising from the operation of PRO Industries in Luweero District. The honourable

member reported offensive odour and wastewater contamination affecting Lubenge wetland and the surrounding communities, including Nalugi Dulu, Kakooge, Lubenge, Namukenge and Namunsaala.

At the same sitting, Mr Speaker, Hon. Robert Ssekitoleeko, a Member of Parliament for Bamunanika Constituency, raised concerns regarding the offensive odour and smoke emissions from the Biohazard Waste Management Facility located in Kalagala Subcounty, Luweero District.

Mr Speaker, as directed, I am here to respond as follows:
The PRO Industries Limited is an industrial manufacturing facility located in Ndibulungi Village, Kakabala Parish, Butuntumula Subcounty, Luweero District, along the Kampala-Gulu Highway.

Mr Speaker, the facility manufactures fuel ethanol and extra neutral alcohol using cassava and maize as principal raw materials. Its operations include a distillery, carbon dioxide recovery plant, effluent treatment plant, co-generation facility – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Summarise! You will not be able to read it verbatim. The *Hansard* will capture your whole report, so go to the highlights of your response. You have about five and a half pages, but we need you to summarise it; give only the highlights.

MS ANYWAR: Mr Speaker, it is important for the House to know what actions the Government is taking, in response to the concern. But as guided, on 26th March, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) conducted an environmental compliance inspection at the facility and established the following violations:

i) Discharge of inadequately treated industrial waste water from the distillery into the surrounding environment;
ii) Overflow of industrial effluent from the lagoon adjacent to the distillery; and
iii) The release of offensive odours affecting neighbouring communities and road users along Kampala-Gulu highway.

These activities contravene Section 78 of the NEMA Act, Cap. 181, and the National Environment (Standards for Discharge of Effluent into Water or on Land) Regulations, 2020.

Consequently, NEMA issued an Environmental Restoration Order against the company and instituted criminal proceedings before the Makindye Wildlife and Utilities Court. On 4 March 2026, the court convicted the company and imposed a fine of Shs 75 million, in addition to directing the company to restore the degraded environment within 30 days. Action was taken.

On 3 July 2023, NEMA conducted a follow-up compliance inspection to assess the implementation of the court's directive and progress in environmental restoration. The inspection established the following:

i) Previously degraded sections of Ngaju Wetland had shown significant ecological recovery, including regeneration of wetland vegetation;
ii) The company had constructed an additional emergency lagoon to contain industrial effluent in the event of treatment system failure; and
iii) The company had also engaged Central Umbrella of Water and Sanitation to collect and manage the sludge and syrup waste generated from its operations at a designated waste management site, which is approximately six kilometres away from the factory.

These interventions demonstrated progress towards compliance and restoration of the affected environment.

Following the concerns raised in Parliament, NEMA again went and undertook the inspection on 8 October 2026 to establish the current source of pollution. This is what was found:

i) There was a waste treatment facility operated by the Central Umbrella of Water and Sanitation, which had been contracted by PRO Industry to manage sludge and syrup waste from its industrial operations; and
ii) There is a poultry farm operating within the same area where improper management of poultry waste was contributing to offensive odours.

These were discoveries, and therefore, Mr Speaker, NEMA is engaging the responsible operators and taking the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the National Environment Act and its regulations. I wish to assure the affected communities that we are going to enforce and ensure that no one violates the environmental requirements.

Secondly, the concerns raised by Hon. Robert Ssekitoleeko on pollution arising from Biohaz Waste Management Facility in Kalagala Subcounty, Luwero District – *(Interjections)*- this is a Member from Kitgum speaking -*(Laughter)* - I wish to report that NEMA conducted an environmental compliance inspection on 8 October 2026. It was reported last Thursday and on Friday, we hit the ground and were there to make the inspection. This is what was uncovered:

i) The facility's medical waste incinerator was faulty and not functioning as required; and
ii) The medical waste collected from hospitals and health facilities was being burnt in the open.

The facility was operating contrary to its license conditions and the requirements of National Environment Act, Cap. 181. Open burning of medical waste poses serious environmental and public health risks through the uncontrolled release of smoke, particulate matter, and other potentially hazardous pollutants.

NEMA had previously directed the operator to cease operations and transfer the accumulated medical waste to the Government-operated incinerator at Luweero Industries in Nakasongola District for appropriate treatment. In addition, a criminal case file was opened against the company in relation to pollution, arising from the open burning of waste.

NEMA will maintain this enforcement oversight to ensure that the facility does not resume operations until a functional incinerator is installed or restored, the applicable environmental requirements are met and compliance is verified by our agency. We are not going to allow them to operate.

As I come to the conclusion, I want to say that the Government recognises the concerns of the affected communities and remains committed to ensuring that industrialisation and economic development do not occur at the expense of environmental quality and public health.

I wish to emphasise that no industrial investment or commercial activity has the right to pollute the environment or endanger public health. Compliance with environmental laws is not optional; it is a legal obligation.

In conclusion, the Government remains committed to supporting responsible industrial development, while ensuring that the polluters are held accountable and affected environments are restored.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity to raise these important concerns. I assure this House and the affected communities of the Government's commitment to addressing them as they come along. For God and my country; I beg to submit. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Robert Ssekitoleeko - this is when Members raise concerns, and the Government responds. Are you satisfied?

7.22

MR ROBERT SSEKITOLEEKO (NUP, Bamunanika County, Luweero): Thank you, Mr Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: You usually do not.

MR SSEKITOLEEKO: No, Mr Speaker. Thank you so much. I thank the minister for such a wonderful presentation.

Mr Speaker, I would like further guidance on the affected community members. They have stopped the facility's operations, but the community is still - there are families that have been affected, and Government is committing to come up. I want to be guided: how is Government going to come up?

People are affected by diseases because some of those materials are cancerous. That area has gone through enough. Introducing such an element is a sign that they can now have hope, but I still need Government to commit more than that. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Minister, what else is Government going to do? The Member of Parliament is not thanking you for the stop, which I thought he should have said, "You know, I complained about this pollution; it has been stopped. But they are saying they must have…" What else are you going to do?

MS ANYWAR: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also want to thank my son, the honourable Member of Parliament, for complimenting the report because we went on the ground when he raised the concern.

As you are aware the effects are multiple. My ministry focused on stopping what was causing the problems, and we recognised that. Now, your concern is: what else can we do? If the communities are sick because of pollution, that needs another level of intervention. How can we be so sure now that the community is sick?

I want my son, the honourable member, to advise those getting sick - because you cannot confirm by word of mouth alone that pollution affected them - we know that, indeed, it does affect them in the long run.

Let us deal with what is here now. Those showing signs should be advised to cross-check. For now, I am happy to say we have stopped it. Let us monitor it together, because it is not just one side, and see how we progress on that line. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, we thank the minister for bringing the statement. It means the people of Luweero, the affected communities, now have a view that Government has listened because their Member of Parliament spoke.

I have a feeling that most of you in the 12th Parliament will come back unless you do not want to. *(Applause)* If you stay relevant, nobody can vote you out.

Next item. Members are ready for the next item.

ADJOURNMENT

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

(The House rose at 7.26 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday, 14 October 2026 at 2 p.m.)