



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

THURSDAY, 9 JANUARY 2025



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FOURTH SESSION - 1ST SITTING - THIRD MEETING

Thursday, 9 January 2025

Parliament met at 10.00 a.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I welcome you back from the Christmas and New Year festivities. This morning, we got information about our brother, Hon. Ssegirinya, who has been admitted in Lubaga Hospital, that he had passed on.

However, upon consultation with the doctors, they said that his organs have collapsed but the heart is still beating. Ethically, they cannot pronounce him dead. Therefore, we will keep the House posted but he is in critical condition. We will make sure that you are informed of whatever is taking place in the hospital.

The Leader of the Opposition is in the hospital; he will come back and give us information.

Honourable members, in the spirit of the African Union and as the Parliament of Uganda, we congratulate Hon. Alban Sumana Bagbin, the Speaker of Ghana, for being re-elected. He is also the President of Africa Union Speakers where I am the deputy. *(Applause)*

Honourable members, this year, 2025, is going to be, notably, a political year, where various political parties will have primaries at various levels. They will have nominations but as Parliament, we will make sure that we harmonise the Parliamentary calendar together with that of the Electoral Commission so that you are able to perform your duty as a Member of Parliament, and also be able to go and stand and maybe compete to come back to Parliament.

We will not disadvantage you but we will work together with you and see how we synchronise the calendar to fit the nominations of political parties.

Honourable members, there is an issue that was raised on the Floor on the 28th of November by the Leader of the Opposition in the House referring to the purported money, which had got lost from Bank of Uganda. We asked for a forensic investigation on that money. The Auditor-General has done a very good job. They have done the investigation and given me the report. I request the Commissioner to lay the report as per Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure.

Give the report to Commissioner Emeritus. The other commissioners are at the hospital. Hon. Obua, can you help me lay the report on the investigation of Bank of Uganda?

10.08

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): For the record, I am also Commissioner Emeritus. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on Table the Forensic Investigation Report into the Allegation of funds at Bank of Uganda.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, I have been in consultation with His Excellency the President on this matter. Looking at the ingredients that have been found there, they are criminal in nature and as such, we will direct this report to be taken directly to the Criminal Intelligence and Investigations Directorate (CIID) for further management. The CIID will report back to us on the action that has been taken.

Honourable members, my attention has been drawn to the challenge that we have in most hospitals; we do not have blood in the blood banks. We request to get a report from the Minister of Health on the status of availability of blood in several hospitals. The minister should come and report to this House what action they are taking and what is happening.

I am also in receipt of a petition from the residents of Kyankende in Kiryandongo District regarding the land conflicts arising out of a ministerial directive. After my communication, I will invite Hon. Linos Ngompek to table a petition for onward referral to the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.

Finally, I am aware that on 19 December 2024, the House received and referred the National Budget Framework Paper (BFP) to sectoral committees. However, Section 9(3) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2025 requires the National Budget Framework Paper to be consistent with the National Development Plan. In this sitting, we shall approve the National Development Plan (NDPIV) and after, we shall look at the Budget Framework Paper.

There are committees that had already called ministries, which is irregular. Let us first approve the National Development Plan IV before we look at the Budget Framework Paper.

Honourable members, after the approval of the National Development Plan, we will give you two weeks to look at the BFP and then you will come back and report. Thank you.

10.12.

MR GEOFFREY EKANYA (FDC, Tororo North County, Tororo): Madam Speaker, I am well-schooled on the power of the Speaker regarding matters that are classified. The rules mandate you as the Chairperson of classified committees to handle any matter that is of criminal or of security nature.

Madam Speaker, I am not privileged to the report that has been laid regarding the Bank of Uganda but I thought that by exercising your power, that report would have been handled by the committee that you chair, which is a classified committee, before it is referred for proper management. I seek your guidance.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ekanya, there is a very clear procedure on how to recommit the decision of the Speaker and being a senior Member in this House, you could follow that procedure. Hon. Wilfred?

10.13

MR WILFRED NIWAGABA (Independent, Ndoorwa County East, Kabale): I was following up on that matter. One, I thought this was a report by the Auditor-General, which report would ordinarily be passed over to the relevant committee of this House, which committee would come up with the report itself, and which report would be debated by this House, then this House would either decide to forward the main report of the Auditor-General and that of the House to the relevant investigating authority.

I thought that would be the right procedure because I do not think that this particular audit report is classified in any way -

THE SPEAKER: It is a classified audit report and I will ask the CIID to report back in one month on the action that has been taken.

Honourable members, issues of money are issues of security. We cannot discuss those issues. That one has been closed.

10.14

MR GEOFFREY MACHO (Independent, Busia Municipality, Busia): Madam Speaker, I appreciate your communication, concerning - (*Interjection*) - not classified, that one has been closed. The Speaker has ruled and her ruling is final.

Madam Speaker, in your communication, you talked about the electoral process organisation. I appreciate the Electoral Commission that we see has started its activities as well as our political parties. I, therefore, request and pray that the electoral body begins civic education so that our people can be aware that the process has started because it needs control. In other parts of the country, it is as if we are in elections. You go to a burial- it is not a burial; it is an election. We pray that people follow the election calendar so that the election can move smoothly.

I also request and pray that we follow your advice that there must be a good balance between legislation work and politicking work so that the country moves well - (*Interjection*) - you do not have a political party but I belong to NRM. Madam Speaker, I agree with you. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, we have many items on the Order Paper. Hon. Migadde -

10.16

MR ROBERT MIGADDE (NRM, Buvuma Islands County, Buvuma): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am rising on a matter of national importance. Yesterday, one of my islands, that is Lyabana Island, in Lyabana Town Council, was gutted by fire, and over 300 houses were destroyed. This is not the first time. Many times we have raised these issues because normally when an island is gutted by fire, there is no response from the Uganda Police Force or any government agents. We do not have a fire brigade in the islands, no

fire boat on the islands. Therefore, islands are destroyed 100 per cent, much as they are close to water.

This time, my request is, the ministry responsible should respond to the plight of these people. Many times the response has been in the form of food but where 300 houses are destroyed and the response is only maize flour and beans, is not appealing, much as it may be welcomed.

We request that the Office of the Prime Minister responds as soon as possible to the plight of these people with iron sheets, tarpaulins, and all those other issues because people are not going to cover themselves with beans and maize flour.

Madam Speaker, I so pray and at the same time the other agencies like Uganda Red Cross- because many times when we have fire instances, and because it is costly to go to the islands, even agencies like the Red Cross cannot go because you need 400 litres to go to one island. So, everybody says we do not have money to go and assess. The districts also do not have resources to go yet the Prime Minister needs a report to respond. Therefore, we call for the attention of this House and specifically the Office of the Prime Minister.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Susan?

10.19

MS SUSAN MUGABI (NUP, Woman Representative, Buvuma): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me also emphasise the same matter of national importance, about a fire outbreak in Lyabana Sub-county. I would like to give just more information that Lyabana Subcounty is one of the farthest islands in Buvuma District, bordering Tanzania.

Madam Speaker, these people, specifically, their source of income is fishing. It is not like the Buvuma mainland where people are doing some agriculture. These specifically rely on fishing. The reports we are getting so far from that side indicate that so many boat engines have been destroyed. These are the ones that are used in fishing for people to earn a living.

Madam Speaker, I also request that the Government reviews the emergency preparedness strategies, especially in the island communities, for us to be able to prevent and respond to such tragedies in the future. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Government?

10.20

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, following the information I got from you on the same subject matter regarding the Buvuma Islands, I called the Minister of State in charge of Disaster Preparedness, who indicated that I should, as a practice, advise the area Members of Parliament to ensure that the district local government of Buvuma submit a report, and basing on that report, the Office of the Prime Minister under the Disaster Department will look into what is available and will offer support to the affected families.

I also sympathise with the families affected by the fire that gutted their respective residences. Therefore, may I, request my two colleagues—because that is the practice, that the District Disaster Committee submits a report. The faster the report comes; that will also preempt the action subject to what is available to be delivered to the families affected. May I advise. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you are looking at a scenario where all the people on the island do not have where to stay. It is an emergency. Can something be done as we wait for the report?

MR OBUA: Madam Speaker, I can undertake to move with my two colleagues such that we make calls in order to see what emergency response can be undertaken immediately as we wait for the report from the district local government.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Linos – Leader of the Opposition (LOP), you will come later.

10.22

MR LINOS NGOMPEK (NRM, Kibanda North County, Kiryandongo): Thank you, Madam Speaker, and happy new year to you and to my colleagues as well.

I have a petition from the residents of Kyankende Parish, Kiryandongo District. It is addressed to the Speaker of Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, and it is a petition against the directives of the Minister of State for Lands, Hon. Sam Mayanja, to the Resident District Commissioner, the District Land Board, and other government bodies to open boundaries in Kyankende Parish.

This is an area where more than 10,000 individuals or community members live.

Madam Speaker, our prayer is for Parliament to send the Committee on Physical Infrastructure to go to the locus so that they can come up with a finding and report to the House.

I beg to lay the petition on the Table. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: We are going to refer this petition to the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, for starters, after that, if we fail to get what we want, the committee will then handle it. For now, it is referred to the minister of Lands, pursuant Rule 36 of the Rules of Procedure. Next item.

MR KIBALYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In the same spirit, towards the end of last year, in your speech, you talked about the LOP's issue on Bank of Uganda. In the same spirit, as we were closing the year, there was an issue concerning recruitment of teachers in Seed schools and you referred the matter to the Committee on Education and Sports - thank you - but during the Christmas season, the process continued and recruitment is ongoing.

Madam Speaker, we need to seek guidance from your office on this matter because you referred to the issue and yet we have not received the report from the committee of education, and yet recruitment is ongoing.

Teachers and schools are now wondering what to do and what is going to happen next. Therefore, Madam Speaker, we need guidance. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

10.25

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (HIGHER EDUCATION) (Dr Chrysostom Muyingo):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would also like to wish you the best of the new year, and the same to my colleagues.

It is true that as a ministry, we have advertised and people have started applying. The process of recruitment started.

I do not know what comes from the committee really and what it is doing about it, but we have continued according to the programme.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, there was a petition to that effect. How have you regarded that petition? Did you disregard the decision of Parliament?

DR MUYINGO: No, Madam Speaker, we did not get the decision of Parliament. Let me follow up. *(Laughter)*

10.26

MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was actually going to raise the same matter. The petition was made by the head teachers who are acting in these seed secondary schools to you, Madam Speaker, to the effect that majorly the ministry and the Education Service Commission had actually opened up these adverts to everybody - which is fine.

However, the bigger issue is that the head teachers and deputy head teachers who have been there, acting in these seed secondary schools - I think there was a statement that they had absconded and, therefore, they would not be considered. It is incumbent upon the minister to take this matter up because the petition was even copied to the ministry and the permanent secretary.

Regardless, the Committee on Education and Sports is handling this matter. Maybe we can ask them to expedite and bring the report so that it can be laid on the table and then the minister can take action.

Madam Speaker, there was also your directive, which was to halt. Unfortunately, the process is ongoing. What happens in this case? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: There is information from Dr Apea.

DR APEA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The information I would like to give is that the Minister of Education and Sports presented the report here, and it is to that effect that Members raised a lot of concerns, on top of the petition that was before the House.

I am really surprised that the minister is acting naive, as if he does not know anything. That is the information I want to add that the ministry needs to come out very clearly if they really consider decisions and directives that come from this House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Another point of information?

MR BASALIRWA: Madam Speaker, it is not information but I just want to inform the minister and the House - *(Laughter)* - because he is not on the Floor, that is why it is not information.

The issue of proceeding with the process, and yet there is a parliamentary process, the likely effect is that you are going to render the parliamentary process nugatory. That is the biggest challenge.

Therefore, it would be advisable that you halt that process as was guided, so that the parliamentary process is completed, and the parliamentary will inform the process of the ministry. Otherwise, there is a lot of fear out there on that particular issue.

THE SPEAKER: On the same? Yes, local government?

MR ONZIMA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to inform the minister about the same issue -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Onzima has been in that sector for years.

MR ONZIMA: When the ministry decided that these recruitments should be centralised, the accusation was that the number of corruption cases being reported were high in the process of recruitment when teachers who were on ground were considered. I do not know whether there is no corruption when it is centralised because there are also accusations on the ground that many of these people who are deployed, actually seem to be recruited in corrupt ways.

The other issue is that previously, the same process they are following, was also done. I have an example of a school; Romogi Seed Secondary School. It was one of the schools where teachers and head teachers were recruited under the centralised process. Many people use these opportunities to access the government payroll, but once they are taken to those village schools, they ask for transfers, they run away and abandon these schools. If you went to Romogi Seed Secondary School now, the school has only about five teachers. Many of them have run away.

There are teachers who have been sacrificing. Not all these schools are started by the Government. Many of these are community schools, where teachers and head teachers – for example, one of the schools is Kerwa Seed Secondary School, which is in my constituency. The school started in 2005. The teachers and the head teacher were all in place. When they were locally building the schools, I equally contributed iron sheets to them.

However, this is a situation where you are saying that those who have been sacrificing, without pay or very little pay, do not matter. Let us be considerate. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, if the people who have been sacrificing are competent

– it is about competence. If they are competent enough, why wouldn't you leave them in those places? Even if they do not remain in those places – even if you transfer them to another school as long as they are recruited.

DR MUYINGO: Madam Speaker, the whole idea here is to fight corruption that he was trying to – *(Interjection)* - allow me to develop my point.

Madam Speaker, we are trying our best to be fair to each and everybody. People were using money to access the payroll illegally. What we are asking - and the schools are opening tomorrow. If we halt the exercise, that means these schools will not be able to recruit students, and they will not even operate –

THE SPEAKER: Have they not been operating before?

DR MUYINGO: Pardon?

THE SPEAKER: Were those schools not operating before?

DR MUYINGO: Some were operating, but others had not started operating. There are 115 schools. Those that have been operating before are a very small percentage. However, what I wanted to pray for – Madam Speaker, I do not intend to disobey the decisions taken by Parliament, but what I am trying to -

THE SPEAKER: You have already done it; that is contempt.

DR MUYINGO: Allow me, Madam Speaker, to go and follow up on this.

THE SPEAKER: Please, go and follow up and report back. I need a report on that tomorrow. Yes, LOP?

10.34

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr John Baptist Nambeshe): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to commence by saluting you for raising the concern of blood transfusion services in the country. Indeed, there have

been huge shortages of blood, especially in our region, and also serious claims and allegations of money exchanging hands over blood that is freely donated. I would wish that your directive would require the minister to furnish this House with a statement in the shortest time possible.

However, Madam Speaker, it would be remiss on my part, as the current holder of the office of the Leader of the Opposition, not to bring to the attention of the House the ongoing gross human rights violations. The first and fundamental concern that is being raised is about whether court martials have jurisdiction over civilians. What is occupying majorly the legal minds, the majority of whom are in this House, is whether court martials qualify to be courts of judicature.

Secondly and most importantly is about the powers-that-be threatening to infringe on the liberties of the citizenry, especially by threatening to ban the constitutional right of bond. Soon, I do not know whether he is going to work around the clock to move this House to repeal some of the sections that give those liberties.

That is why, Madam Speaker, I felt I should bring this to your attention and that of the House. I thank you.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you for that information. I had actually not heard about it.

Honourable members, in the Public Gallery this morning, we have the district representatives from Kabale and Rubanda. We have;

1. Hon. Nelson Baba, the LC V chairman, Kabale District. You are most welcome. *(Applause)*
2. Hon. Stephen Kasyaba Ampeire, the LC V chairman, Rubanda District. You are most welcome. *(Applause)*

They are represented by Hon. Musasizi, Hon. Prossy, Hon. Bahati, Hon. Catheline and Hon.

Niwagaba, the Shadow Attorney-General. You have very good Members of Parliament.

In the Public Gallery this morning, we also have student leaders from St Juliana High School, Kyadondo East. Where are they? They are there. You are most welcome. They are represented by Hon. Muwada and Hon. Ethel Naluyima. Hon. Ethel, you can greet your student leaders.

10.38

MS ETHEL NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me also, on behalf of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children, to welcome our youngsters. You are most welcome. This is the Parliament of Uganda, and the one on the Floor is the Woman MP for Wakiso District *-(Laughter)-* Hon. Betty Ethel Naluyima. I stand firm. I am representing the district well, and we are here talking for you and planning for you. Thank you. Welcome, once again. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. St Juliana, you are most welcome. They are my visitors. They came to see me, so, I told them to come and see the proceedings of the House.

10.38

MR JONATHAN ODUR (UPC, Erute County South, Lira): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Before we broke off, the Shadow Attorney-General, Hon. Wilfred Niwagaba, had sought intervention from the Executive regarding matters of administration of justice in this country. I recall that the Chair directed that the Frontbench brings a statement regarding the crowding in our prison facilities, the number of people detained without trial, and even the expeditious hearing of cases.

To make it more alarming, Madam Speaker, the Judiciary sat and issued their own report. In that report, the Supreme Court had performed dismally at only 15 per cent – of the cases that are before them. The Court of Appeal, I think, was at about 25 per cent and the High Court had performed at 35 per cent. In other words, about 80,000 cases are before the High Court

and they have taken years. Recently, we read about a case that had taken more than 20 years.

That cannot be the spirit of the provision of the Constitution, about expeditious disposal of cases. So, I wanted to beg your indulgence that you ask or rule that the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs complies with that commitment to bring that detail here so that Parliament can see how to help the other arm of the Government, which is the Judiciary, to be able to do its work.

Of course, we did part of our work. When we passed the Administration of the Judiciary Bill, the assumption was that the judges and the judicial officers were going to be so comfortable with the benefit that they would do their work –

THE SPEAKER: We even approved more judges.

MR ODUR: We even approved more judges, etc. However, to my disappointment, the rate at which the cases are being disposed of has even slowed down. What is demotivating our judicial officers from doing their work? Cases are filed, and some files actually, I am told, disappear. Cases are not being fixed and people are losing confidence in the Judiciary. Once the public loses that confidence, this country will be doomed.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Knowing that when you delay justice, that is justice denied. Therefore, we need that report from the Government. We need a report.

10.41

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Madam Speaker, we shall follow up with the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and report back to the House.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Next item. Do you have something to say?

MR MOSES ALEPER: Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mine is a procedural point. I submitted a request to raise a matter of urgent importance from my constituency.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, today, is a Thursday. Matters of national importance will come during Prime Minister's Time.

MR MOSES ALEPER: Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Next item.

LAYING OF PAPERS

(I) THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN UGANDA, FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to Section 24(2) and (3) of the Equal Opportunities Commission, I invite a Parliamentary commissioner to table the annual report. Hon. Mwijukye? Can we have the report first?

10.43

MR FRANCIS MWIJUKYE (FDC, Buhweju County, Buhweju): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I beg to lay the annual report of the state of equal opportunities in Uganda for the Financial Year 2023/2024. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is accordingly referred to the Committee on Equal Opportunities.

(II) THE ANNUAL REPORT OF INFLOWS, OUTFLOWS AND ASSETS OF THE PETROLEUM FUND FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to Section 59(1) (b) of the Public Finance Management Act, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development will lay the annual report.

10.43

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to lay the annual report on the inflows, outflows and assets of the Petroleum Fund for the period ended 30 June 2024. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is accordingly referred to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

(III) THE PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO UNITED \$ 106 MILLION FROM THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK AND \$ 25 MILLION FROM THE ABU DHABI FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UPGRADING OF KUMI-NGORA-SERERE-KAGWARA ROAD

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister? Honourable members, we will amend the Order Paper to have that loan laid on the Table. That is a very important road.

10.44

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the proposal to borrow up to \$106 million from the Islamic Development Bank and \$25 million from the Abu Dhabi Fund for the development of the upgrading of the Kumi-Ngora-Serere-Kagwara Road, 98 kilometres. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 155, the loan is referred to the Committee on National Economy for consideration and report back to the House.

MR KATUSABE: First of all, Madam Speaker, Happy New Year to you and colleagues.

This House is a constitutional institution. Everybody in this House took a constitutional oath to protect, preserve and defend the Constitution. If we do not focus on that, then

we have no business in this House. Madam Speaker, that seat where you are right now, is a constitutional seat, and your word is the last word.

In December, Hon. Ssemujju raised a matter in regard to the way that Dr Besigye, my leader, was handled. You directed from that constitutional seat that the Government brings a report, explains and tells the world about how that happened.

I was in court on Monday and I could not believe what was going on. You can see the global feedback that we are getting. I do not think anybody in this House can feel comfortable about the dirty and nasty image our country is getting. It cannot be business as usual. We did not come here to warm seats! We came here to represent the people, including those that do not have the privilege to be in this House.

Madam Speaker, I request that you demand the Government to summon the relevant minister to come and give an account of why Dr Besigye is going through what he is going – (*Interjections*) – not my former leader, my leader. As a matter of fact, I am the cabinet minister for foreign affairs in the people's government led by Dr Besigye, for your information.

My point is: for evil to thrive, you need one ingredient; good people like you and me, to do nothing about it. It cannot be business as usual, Madam Speaker. This Parliament cannot be rendered useless as if we do not have a presiding officer. She rules. She directs the Cabinet but they just ignore it. Not on our watch.

Madam Speaker, I demand, respectfully, that before the close of this plenary sitting, the Government has to come and give an account.

My final request is that Dr Besigye and Hajji Kamulegeya plus the lawyer be released immediately and unconditionally. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, what Hon. Katusabe is raising is similar to what Hon. Odur raised. Those are matters of

administration of justice and this should be responded to through a paper. A report should be brought to this House by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. Attorney-General, we need a report to that effect.

Before we broke off from this House, we had asked for a report on what was raised by Hon. Ssemujju. We may not discuss what is in court because that would amount to sub judice.

10.50

THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Jackson Kafuuzi): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Honourable colleagues, Happy New Year. That instruction is noted. Allow us to prepare. We will present at our next sitting.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Next item.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF
PARLIAMENT TO AUTHORISE
GOVERNMENT TO BORROW UP TO
\$15.222 MILLION FROM THE AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT BANK AND \$73.15
MILLION (UNITS OF ACCOUNTS
55 MILLION) FROM THE AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT FUND AS ADDITIONAL
FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAROPI-
MOYO-AFOJI (INCLUDING THE
BRIDGE AT LAROPI)/KATUNA-MUKO-
KAMUGANGUZI ROAD PROJECT

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, you recall on 18 September 2024, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development tabled a proposal to borrow \$15.222 million from the African Development Bank, and \$73.15 million (AU 55 million) from the African Development Fund, as additional funding, for the construction of Laropi-Moyo-Afoji and Katuna-Muko-Kamuganguzi road project.

The proposal was referred to the Committee on National Economy, which is now ready - the report is now ready - and pursuant to Article 159(2) of the Constitution of Republic of Uganda, and Rule 155 of the Rules of

Procedure, I invite the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to move a motion, after which we will receive a report from the chairperson of the committee.

Honourable members, do not squeeze yourselves; it is free sitting.

10.53

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, before I move the motion, I take this opportunity to wish all colleagues a happy new year, and also welcome the two chairmen, the Chairman of Rubanda District, my chairman –

THE SPEAKER: Join the minister in welcoming the chairmen, please. *(Applause)*

MR MUSASIZI: The Chairman of Rubanda, Steven Kasyaba, my chairman, and my friend for a very, very long time, and Chairman Nelson Nshangabashejja of Kabale District. Join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, this motion I am moving benefits both chairmen. The road starts from Kabale, goes through Rubanda, and comes back to Kabale - *(Interjections)* - No, I am doing my job. *(Laughter)* Moyo-Laropi – *(Interjections)* – please, the minister is a beneficiary, and she is here.

Pursuant to Article 159 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, and Section 34 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 as amended, and Rule 155 of the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure, I beg to move a motion for a resolution of Parliament to approve the proposal for Government to borrow up to \$15.222 million from the African Development Bank, and \$73.15 million from the African Development Fund, as additional funding for the construction and development of the Laropi-Moyo-Afoji, including the bridge at Laropi, and Katuna-Muko-Kamuganguzi Road. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? It is seconded by Hon. Afidra, Hon. Margaret – both Margarets – Hon. Apolot, Hon. Acuti, Hon. Okot, Hon. Rose, Professor, MP for Kasilo, Hon. Bahati, the Government Chief Whip, Dr Kaducu, minister for education, minister for Karamoja Affairs, the army, Hon. Ababiku, and the chief youth.

Yes, would you love to speak to your motion?

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, briefly, the project will provide an all-weather road between Katuna, Muko and Kamuganguzi, support tourism flows from south-western Uganda and access to iron ore mines, provide an all-weather road between Laropi through Moyo to Afoji, a permanent bridge at Laropi, and a one-stop border post at Jare-Afoji to facilitate inter-regional connectivity of the West Nile region with other parts of Uganda, and onwards to South Sudan via Afoji border.

What are the components? Madam Speaker, given that the required amount is additional funding, the project scope remains the same as initially approved in August 2020.

The project has four components: one is the road and bridge civil works in two lots; project implementation support services and institutional support, and compensation and resettlement of the project affected persons.

What are the terms?

Madam Speaker, the terms are the following: The loan amount is \$15.222 million, which is an equivalent of 11.445 units of account. The period is 25 years, including a grace period of eight years. The interest rate is the best rate, plus funding cost, plus lending margin, plus spread adjustment rate, plus maturity premium. The commitment fee is 0.25 per cent per annum on the undisbursed loan balance. The front-end fee is 0.25 per cent of the loan.

The terms of the African Development Fund (ADF) loan are as follows: Loan amount is

\$73.15, an equivalent of 55 million units of account. The loan period is 50 years, including a grace period of 10 years. The commitment fee is 0.5 per cent on the undisbursed loan amount, and the service charge fee is 1 per cent per annum of the disbursed loan, and the amortisation loan is 40 years after the expiration of the grace period.

Madam Speaker, the conditions precedent to first disbursement are as follows: The loan agreement shall enter into force upon fulfilment by the borrower of the respective provisions of Section 12.01 of the General Conditions, applicable to the loan agreement of the African Development Bank (ADB) and the ADF.

The obligation of the bank and the fund to make the first disbursement of their respective loans, shall be subjected to the execution and delivery of a subsidiary agreement, between the executing agents and the borrower for each loan agreement in form, and substance satisfactory to the bank and the fund, respectively.

What are the financial implications? Madam Speaker, the total project cost, including physical and price contingencies, and the resettlement action plan, with the compensation cost net of taxes, is \$292.87 million.

The project will be financed by the African Development Bank (ADB), African Development Fund (ADF) and the Government of Uganda. ADB shall be the lead financier contributing up to \$252.83 million which is 86.3 per cent consisting of an ADB loan of 135 million units of account, an equivalent of \$179.68 million and the ADF loan, an equivalent of 55 million units of account which is \$73.15 million while the Government's counterpart contribution is up to \$39.03 million and 13.3 per cent of the total loan, with \$27.44 million for RAP compensation and \$11.06 million for civil works, an equivalent of 7.1 per cent.

In addition, they also secured a grant from the bridges for prosperity up to \$1 million. This will be channeled through ADB and will cover the construction of the 10-village footbridge under component 1. We assess the project's

financial implications and have no objection to the said borrowing. The above amounts will cover 100 per cent of the civil works contract and Resettlement Action Plan for the project.

The loan is already programmed within the medium-term fiscal framework and debt strategy. The counterpart funding is prioritised within the resources already provided under the medium-term fiscal framework projections and it will not affect the country's debt sustainability or debt-to-GDP ratio, which is currently at 46.86 per cent, as of the end of June 2024.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. I remember you said that is additional funding. We already approved a loan to that effect for those roads and now we are making additional funding to complete the work. Yes, honourable chairperson?

11.02

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ECONOMY (Mr Bosco Ikojo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me also to wish you a Happy New Year.

Honourable members, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has already given an insight on this. The committee, therefore, is ready to report, and I will summarise.

Madam Speaker, allow me lay a report of the Committee on National Economy on the proposal by the Government to borrow up to \$15.222 million from the African Development Bank and \$73.15 million units of accounts, \$55 million from the African Development Fund as an additional funding for the construction and development of the Laropi-Moyo-Afoji including the bridge at Laropi-Katuna-Muko-Kamuganguzi road project.

Honourable members, this is one of the best facilities we have. This loan has a national character since it covers about three regions. Therefore, Madam Speaker, allow me to lay

the minutes of the committee meetings and the report of the committee to Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR IKOJO: Honourable members, like the Rt Hon. Speaker stated, on Wednesday, 18 September 2024, a proposal for the Government to borrow up to \$15.22 million from the African Development Bank and \$73.15 million from the African Development Fund as an additional of funding for the construction and development of the Laropi-Moyo-Afoji including a bridge at Laropi-Katuna-Muko-Kamuganguzi Road was presented to Parliament and referred to the Committee on National Economy. The committee considered and scrutinised the loan request and now reports.

Honourable members, the honourable minister has already given the details, components of the project and the debt sustainability of the country, and therefore, allow me to just proceed to the committee's recommendations and observations.

Observations and recommendations

The minister already gave the terms and conditions of the loan for both facilities; the one for ADB and ADF and the loan components. Therefore, the committee made the following observations and recommendations:

Low performance of the projects in the sector

The committee noted that almost all ongoing projects in the works and transport sector have faced slow performance and this is attributed to slow disbursement rates. Delays in procurement process, incomplete or errors in designs, and compensation issues that make sites inaccessible. Bureaucracies, delayed payments due to lack of funding, mostly brought by conditions precedent in the disbursement among others.

The committee particularly observed that the financing agreement for the Namagumba-Budadiri-Nalugugu, that is the 29 km road project, was approved in May 2023, three

years later after the approval by Parliament in August 2020.

The committee further noted that the delays in the implementation or executing of critical road infrastructure projects create a significant impact on the service delivery, economic growth and overall stability of the infrastructure sector.

The committee recommends that for efficient and effective implementation of this project, the implementing agency should ensure adequate identification and evaluation of risks that occur throughout the project cycle to ensure that they are adequately mitigated to avoid further delays.

Variation in the project scope

The committee noted that whereas Parliament approved the construction of the 29 km Namagumba-Budadiri-Nalugugu Road, the progress report submitted by Uganda National Road Authority (UNRA) indicated 39 km for the project, contrary to other documents and Parliament's approval of 29 km, yet the project designs and feasibility studies were completed by the time of approval.

The committee also noted that the unit cost of constructing the Namagumba-Budadiri-Nalugugu Road, inclusive of land acquisition, had increased from \$1.87 million, a total of \$54.35 million for 29 kilometres to \$1.95 million, a total of \$75.9 for 39 kilometres in the additional funding request before Parliament. The scope change implies that the project resources were allocated to tasks that were not originally planned for.

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Works and Transport should ensure that the additional scope of the project does not compromise the quality of the works during the project execution.

The committee also recommends that the appropriate procedures and approvals are thought by implementing agencies, in this case UNRA, before changes in the scope that affect resource availability are affected.

Lack of readiness at approval of loans

The committee observes that, at the first approval in 2020, the Namagumba-Budadiri-Nalugugu and Laropi-Moyo-Afoji road projects have complete feasibility studies and detailed designs, while the studies for Katuna-Muko-Kamuganguzi Road and the Laropi Bridge were still ongoing. The committee has learned that, this is the reason as to why the Namagumba-Budadiri-Nalugugu commenced in 2023, while the other two components stalled. This has, in turn, increased the cost of the project by \$105.3 million, which is 40 per cent from the \$263.5 million that was initially anticipated.

The committee recommends that the government and the implementing agencies always ensure that all the readiness required are in place before loan requests are brought to Parliament for approval so that projects commence immediately after such loans are approved.

4. The project's institutional and implementation arrangement

The committee observed that section 5.02 of the financing agreement clearly stipulates that the Uganda Road Fund Authority shall be the executing agency for the project. Madam Speaker, I believe this one has been overtaken by events and allow me to skip it.

Observation number 10.5; project financing.

The committee noted that this project has four financing components, namely:

- i. \$164.458 million from the African Development Bank that remained of what was approved by Parliament in 2020;
- ii. \$15.22 million of a new funding from ADB;
- iii. \$73.15 million from ADF;
- iv. \$39.03 million from Government of Uganda as counterpart funding.

The committee noted that the ADB component, whereas the request to Parliament indicated the intention to borrow only the additional

funding, the loan agreement indicates that the aggregate of the two components amounting to 179.68 million will be borrowed.

The committee recommends that Parliament approve the additional funding amounting to \$15.222 million from the African Development Bank.

In conclusion, the committee recommended the proposal by Government to borrow up to \$15.222 million from the African Development Bank and \$73.15 million equivalent to units of account, 55 million from the African Development Fund as additional funding for the construction Laropi-Moyo-Afoji, including the bridge at Laropi-Katuna-Muko-Kamuganguzi Road, be approved subject to observations and amendments. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much, honourable chairperson. Do you have a minority report?

MR IKOJO: Madam Speaker, we do not have a minority report. This was the consensus of the committee.

THE SPEAKER: I got a minority report in my office.

MR IKOJO: Madam Speaker, my office is not aware of the minority report. I am just receiving it here, on the Floor. I think he has just written it, but since this House belongs to Ugandans, we can allow -

THE SPEAKER: Did you submit the minority report to the chairperson? Let us hear his areas of dissent. Honourable members, let us hear the areas of dissent of the Member.

11.14

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luwero): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for your wise ruling. As a matter of fact, I participated yesterday in the committee meeting that drafted and processed this report. I managed to elucidate my areas of dissent to the Chairperson and the entire committee, and I hereby present those areas of dissent.

First and foremost, I need to thank my able Chairperson for the report, but Madam Speaker-

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Hassan, the minority report is always supposed to be handed over to the chairperson of the committee.

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA: Madam Speaker, it is not the first time-

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I got the minority report, but I did not know that the Member had not given the chairperson the report. However, honourable, for the sake of harmonious living, it does not cost us much to hear what he says. Give us a summary of what you are saying.

MR KIRUMIRA: Madam Speaker, I will go straight to the summary of this report. In 2017-

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, listen to the member.

MR KIRUMIRA: In 2017, the President of Uganda gave us an Executive Order that for the Minister of Finance to process or borrow, there should be a letter of clearance from the President, and since then, all loans brought to Parliament have passed that requirement.

This particular loan did not provide a clearance from the President. What they gave us was a clearance for the original loan, but for this particular loan that they are applying for, which is new, there is no letter of clearance from the President. We believe this is an irregularity knowing that a presidential directive must be obeyed.

The second area of dissent, Madam Speaker, is the non-compliance with the Constitution and the rules of procedure. In attempting to approve any loan, the Minister responsible for finance shall in accordance with Article 159 of the Constitution and Section 36 and 39 of the Public Finance Management Act, present to Parliament the proposed loan, guarantee request for approval and Rule 155 must be satisfied. Rule 155, Clause 5(c), talks about the loan disbursement and repayment schedule

being provided to the committee but in this case, the minister did not provide the same to the committee.

Rule 155(7)(b) and (k) talk about the performance report for all the projects being implemented by the ministry and (k) about the performance of past loans that we were provided to the committee, which is crucial in the approval of the additional loan.

Madam Speaker, this particular loan, we do not know how the money was utilised for the previous loan. The committee has not taken the initiative to find out if the original money was utilised properly or whether there was value for money. Before this House approves the funding, the Committee on National Economy needed to physically visit the project and ascertain the exact amount that has been utilised for this particular project.

The Committee finds no reason to first the project before the approval. They approved a loan without knowing what was happening on the ground.

My recommendation is that this House, in the spirit of minimising loss and to rationalise resources for development, stands over the loan request until the minister responsible for finance tables clearance from the President as required by law.

The letter should explicitly clear the additional loan request for the specific project because what we have now is a clearance from the President on the previous loan, but not a new loan.

Two, the Committee for National Economy should visit the project and ascertain its progress before additional loan approval requests are granted.

Conclusion, Madam Speaker, and honourable Colleagues, we request you, for the sake of reducing the risk and fear of increasing debt stock for this country to consider and support the minority report. This minority report is signed by me; Kirumira Hassan, together with other honourable colleagues. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Which other MPs? It is signed by who? *(Laughter)*

MR KIRUMIRA: Madam Speaker, this report is signed by me, Kirumira Hassan. Other colleagues are still coming back from their constituencies. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Kirumira, the report is only signed by you. Minister of Finance.

11.22

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you Madam Speaker-

THE SPEAKER: I want you to address the issues of dissent.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, yes, I am always on point. Hon. Kirumira raised three fundamental points:

One is that the President did not clear the loan. Madam Speaker, this is not a new borrowing. We are just seeking an addendum in the form of additional borrowing. What is the procedure here? The project-

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, listen-

MR MUSASIZI: Some of you must listen so that you are able to appreciate how these things are done.

Madam Speaker, when we are procuring a borrowing for a project, the condition is that the project must be cleared by the President. This happened on 13 November 2017, when this project was procured. When additional borrowing is required, the requirement is that we must go back to Cabinet, where the President is the Chairman, and we get approval.

Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that this additional borrowing was presented to the Cabinet on 2 September 2024, and a minute extract is attached.

He also alleges that we have not reported on the performance of loans. This is a legal requirement under the Public Finance Management Act that we must regularly report to this House on the performance of loans and grants. Timely reports always come to this House.

I invite the honourable colleague to the library where these reports are stored. You can always find this information as and when you need it.

Additionally, Madam Speaker, the chairperson of the committee is here and the members. When I appeared before the committee, all the compliance requirements were there, and I submitted them to the committee. The chairperson can confirm whether I presented these documents or not. I think these are the two.

Going to the field, I have been in this house for the last 14 years, and I have moved around committees. I do not remember any loan we passed on this Floor with the condition that members must first go to the field to see. This is not a requirement under our rules of procedure.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, do you want to debate this loan? We have a very important item coming up; the National Development Plan *-(Applause)-* that is the item which is coming up.

Chairperson, do you have what to add on the areas of dissent? I have already allowed Hon. Mwijukye

11:26

MR JOHN-BOSCO IKOJO (NRM, Bukedea County, Bukedea): Madam Speaker, I concur with what the State Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (General Duties) has stated. When processing this loan, we called for all documents, and all of them were provided. Unfortunately, my colleague, Hon. Kirumira, was not in the meeting when they submitted the other documents that were lacking. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: It was the Christmas holiday. *(Laughter)*

MR IKOJO: I want to implore him to move in tandem with the committee. Thank you.

11:28

MR HENRY KIBALYA (NRM, Bugabula County South, Kamuli): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am a committee member, and this is for us all, the interest of this country and the interest of us as members of Parliament. We would have signed Hon. Kirumira's report if we had had motives. We agreed to sign the report, but through your office, Madam Speaker, we request the minister to follow the guidelines on all occasions.

We signed the report because it was in the interest of the country. However, there are some things that the minister does not follow. Therefore, through your office, we need to seek your help and have the minister follow guidelines. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, the members need to get value for money. They need to visit the ground and see whether the money that has been approved has done a good job. In the interest of this country, and this being a very important road, we will approve the loan, but next time, you have to make sure you provide money for the committees to go and do their work. You know the committees cannot visit because there is no money. Honourable members, there is an issue from Hon. Mwijukye.

MR MWIJUKYE: Thank you very much Madam Speaker-

THE SPEAKER: You sit.

MR MWIJUKYE: Madam Speaker. I congratulate the minister, the chairperson, and Kasilo here, Kabale, Rubanda, Moyo, Laropi, Ngora, and Serere - I congratulate you. However, I have a concern for the minister of finance.

On the 19th of June, Uganda National Roads Authority wrote to finance informing you that Bwizibwera-Buhweju-Kabwohe Road- let me read the letter if you allow me.

THE SPEAKER: Can we first finish this loan then you bring that one?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I put a question that the motion for resolution of Parliament to borrow up to USD 25.22 million from the African Development Bank and USD 73.15 million, UA 55 million from the African Development Fund as additional funding for the construction of Laropi-Moyo-Afoji Katuna-Muko-Kamuganguzi Road project be approved by this House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Motion adopted.

THE SPEAKER: Raise your issue.

11.29

MR FRANCIS MWIJUKYE (FDC, Buhweju County, Buhweju): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. My issue is with respect to the Bwizibwera-Nsiika-Nyakambu-Kabwohe Road and then Nyakabirizi-Nsiika Road.

On 19 June 2024, the Uganda National Roads Authority wrote to the finance ministry about this road – and this was the letter addressed to the minister for finance.

“The Uganda National Roads Authority has concluded the procurement of a contractor for the above-named project. China Railway 18th Bureau Group Limited has been evaluated as the best bidder for the civil works for the upgrading of Kabwohe – that road – from gravel to paved standard at a contract price of Shs 249,774,854,000.

The Solicitor-General has advised that we confirm financing with your ministry and obtain approval from Parliament before clearing the signing of the above contract. Being a priority project in the National Development Plan III,

UNRA needs guidance on the way forward. The purpose of this letter, therefore, is to forward this issue to you for guidance.”

Madam Speaker, this is a road that has a contractor. The price is already agreed on; it is pre-financing. The letter was written on the 19th of June. It covers the districts of Mbarara, Buhweju, Sheema and Bushenyi.

The finance ministry has refused or failed to respond to this letter, yet all that is needed is just a commitment because it is pre-financing.

My concern, Madam Speaker, is to the ministry. Why has the ministry –(Interjections)- yes, I am sure the Speaker is listening; she is always listening.

THE SPEAKER: I am listening and I have a copy of the letter.

MR MWIJUKYE: Thank you very much. The Speaker has a copy of the letter. My concern to you, the ministry for finance, is why you have deliberately failed to respond to this letter when everything is already done. The contractor is available and you have already agreed with the contractor on the money. Where is the problem, as we conclude on the roads that you have presented to us today? Thank you very much –(Interruption)- information from Sheema.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Information from Sheema?

MR KATESHUMBWA: Madam Speaker, work on the road that is being talked about was supposed to start way back. The people whom that road work affects were identified, their properties were marked, schools were marked and some of the people were told that they were going to be compensated and that they should stop the economic activities around the road.

For more than a year, nothing has been happening. People are stuck. For those who had acquired loans, their buildings have been empty. When you go to the minister for finance, he tells you: “I have done my part. Go to the ministry for works”. When you go to

the ministry for works, the minister tells you: “We are waiting to hear from the ministry for finance.”

We need to understand what is going on, from the ministry for finance, about this particular road because our people need to move on. If you are not working on the road, tell us so that we inform our people to restore their buildings and do their economic activities.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. We will need a response on that. We will also require you to respond on the Jinja-Kampala Expressway and the Mabira road, where you are just patching. Honourable minister, just get –

MR KAHONDA: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. In the same spirit, the President of the Republic of Uganda, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, wrote a letter that he had got a contractor – this is Chongqing International Construction Corporation (CICO) - that was going to use its own money to construct the road from Kabwohe –

THE SPEAKER: Pre-financing?

MR KAHONDA: Yes, pre-financing, for the Kabwohe-Kitagata-Mutara-Kabira-Rukungiri Road. He wrote a letter to the ministry for finance. It is now three years down the road. That road had even appeared in the budget, but for the last two years, it has disappeared. We do not know what happened.

Can the minister for finance clarify on this directive from the President? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Let us have Hon. Basil and then we get a response from the minister.

MR BATARINGAYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The same road that is being talked about and presented by Hon. Mwijukye is listed as number 77 in the National Development Plan IV as feasibility, when it has –(Interjection)– no, feasibility; page 352. When –

THE SPEAKER: You are now taking us to NDP IV before we go there. That is legislating in anticipation.

MS OPENDI: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. The President has written several letters on the pre-financing of various roads. One of the other roads that I want to bring to the attention of this House is the Nabumali-Busolwe-Namutumba Road and that also connects Tororo-Nagongera Road –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Sarah Opendi, that is in NDP IV.

MS OPENDI: Madam Speaker, the clarification I want from the minister is for him to tell this House what happens with the pre-financing of these roads. That is what I want to find out.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, you are discussing what is going to be discussed next. I am privy to what is in the NDP IV and that is why I am saying that you wait for the report. Honourable minister?

11.38

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr John Baptist Nambeshe): Madam Speaker, the much-hyped Namagumba-Muyembe-Nalugugu Road, which has for the last seven years been earmarked for tarmacking, is merely being used in this loan as a formidable weapon to approve monies for other regions.

What they have already earmarked to do is not the tarmacking of the road, but construction of a camp - a temporary shelter for accommodation of equipment and tools. Honestly, is that fair to the region?

This road, from time immemorial, has been earmarked together with the Bubulo-Bududa Circular Road, but that one was kicked out and this one, which survived, is being used as a mere weapon to get or siphon funds for other regions. I see this as being insincere and very unfair to our region, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, I do not know where the minister of works is. The Mabira-Jinja Highway - the other day, I was traveling; I was with you. All the car tyres were cut. Can we work on just that small part?

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will pass on your concern to the minister of works for handling.

THE SPEAKER: It is a national concern; it is not my personal concern.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, when you are in that Chair, you are a national leader. That is why we take all your concerns as national concerns.

Madam Speaker, I now come to the issue that Hon. Mwijukye raised and I want to squarely handle it with others which came from other colleagues.

His Excellency the President has guided us on 12 strategic areas that are key to growing this economy.

On roads, this is what he says; “Ensure that the present road network of tarmac roads does not deteriorate using cheap technology to maintain the murram roads as we carefully add on the new tarmac roads without going for new and forgetting the old.”

The most important issue here in regard to Kabwohe to Bwizibwera Road of Hon. Mwijukye is that among the new roads, His Excellency the President has asked us carefully to prioritise the Kabwohe-Bwizibwera Road, which Hon. Mwijukye has just presented.

However, these are processes. It is not that when we get a directive, the next day, you see the roadworks beginning. I want to *-(Interjection)-* there is nothing to clarify here. I am telling you that your road is one of our priorities. Allow us to manage our processes and when we conclude them, we shall inform the country about the status.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MUSASIZI: Point two, Madam Speaker is on pre-financing. It is true that we received several letters on various roads that require financing through pre-financing. What do we do when we receive these letters?

First, we look at our fiscal space. Do we have fiscal space to accommodate these projects? Then we look at the cost and the financing implications of these roads, considering also the options. Do we pre-finance? Do we borrow directly? Or do we finance it using our own money?

What I am saying is that when you say pre-financing, this is not a straight-through. It is also subjected to several other studies and most of the letters we have recommended that pre-financing be dropped as we look for other options to finance these projects. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Bahati-

11.44

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Thank you, Madam Speaker and Happy New Year to all of you.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank you for the loan that the House has just approved; Laropi-Moyo-Afoji, Katuna-Muko-Kamuganguzi Road and the additional resources we needed to complete this road which is part of my constituency, but most importantly, the economic activities including the 312 million tons of iron ore in our region; the tourism.

Actually, part of the story of Winston Churchill told by historians is that when he reached those hills where the road is going to pass and looked at Lake Bunyonyi, he said, this is the Pearl of Africa. So, it is an important road and we hope that this additional funding will be able to move fast and then we continue to finalise the road.

Lastly, the Leader of the Opposition says - I was a party at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development when we moved this road, which was a three-component road; Namagumba, Laropi and Katuna-Muko.

It is important to note that out of the resources we have approved, the Namagumba-Budadiri-Nalugugu project has been allocated \$75

million and I do not think that it can only work on camps as you are saying. So, it is important you cross-check. I know that you, the Leader of the Opposition, are well-facilitated. You need to go and cross-check and see what is happening. *(Laughter)* Otherwise, thank you, Madam Speaker and the House for approving this important road.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR NAMBESHE: Madam Speaker-

THE SPEAKER: An order to who? He has finished but it is a fact that I facilitate the office well.

MR NAMBESHE: You know it is a trivialising what I have raised - *(Laughter)*- and even bastardising it. The truth of the matter is, Madam Speaker-

THE SPEAKER: We need that road to be worked on.

MR NAMBESHE: The current allocation is merely for the construction of a camp. It is not true that they have allocated \$75 million. That is a lie of the devil and I never expected it of all people from Pastor Bahati. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR BAHATI: Madam Speaker, for record purposes, the report is here. The Leader of the Opposition, please read the report; it is \$75.9 million. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, we need to move faster. Yes, Hon. Mudimi?

MR MUDIMI: The information I want to give the House on that project, the Nalugugu-Budadiri-Namagumba road, is that for the last seven years since the project was conceived, the current status is that they have been constructing a camp. That is the update that is on that road; the contractor is putting up a camp now.

THE SPEAKER: I think what we are going to do is to wait for a Ministry of Works and Transport so that we can find out what is happening and why are we having a camp instead of having a road. Next item.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF
PARLIAMENT TO AUTHORISE
GOVERNMENT TO BORROW UP TO
EURO 45.0 MILLION FROM THE AGENCE
FRANCAISE DE DEVELOPPEMENT
(AFD) TO SUPPORT THE KAMPALA
WATER-LAKE VICTORIA WATER AND
SANITATION II (KW-LV WATSAN II)
PROJECT

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, as you may recall, on 17 December 2024, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development laid a proposal to authorise the borrowing from AFD to support the Kampala Water-Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation II, KW-LV WATSAN II project.

The proposal was referred to the committee and the report is ready for presentation. Before we do that, pursuant to Article 159(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Rule 155 of the Rules of Procedure. I invite the minister to move a motion to the effect.

11.49

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, in line with Article 159 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Rule 155 of the Rules of Procedure, I beg to move a motion for a resolution of Parliament to authorise the Government to borrow up to EURO 45 million from the Agence Francaise de Development (AFD) to support the Kampala Water-Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation II project. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? *(Members rose.)* The motion is seconded by Hon. Iddi, Doctor, Hon. Angura, Hon. Isaac, Hon. Clare, Dr Aabuka, Hon. Ariko, Hon. Moses Aleper, Hon. Faith, Hon. Ibanda, Dr

Nekesa, Hon. Alanyo, Hon. Omara, Hon. Dr Kaducu, Hon. Bahati, Hon. Amos, Hon. Ikojo, Hon. Achia Remigio, Hon. David, Hon. Olanya, Hon. Noeline, Hon. Ruyonga and by the majority of the House - Hon. Goli Ogwal, Hon. Rose and Hon. Muwuma. Would you like to speak to your motion?

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The funding will be used to finance the project interventions aimed at increasing the impact of the new Katosi system by developing its downstream part, including, among others, the distribution network.

This will lead to an increase in the system coverage, which will result in more inhabitants being reached and supplied. The project is being implemented by the National Water and Sewerage Corporation.

The project objective is to facilitate the realisation of the initial WATSAN project objectives, that is, promoting sustainable socio-economic growth and improved health through enhanced access to safe water, thereby contributing to the poverty eradication efforts of the Government.

KW-LV WATSAN (II) project addresses the shortfalls in the original scope and overall project structuring in order to address the objectives of the WATSAN project as originally conceived.

The project financing and cost are as follows. The ADF will finance the project through a concessional loan to the Government of Uganda. This is estimated to be broken down as follows:

Component 1, which is complementary works on the structural network, € 10 million;

Component 2, network extension in areas with conventional habitat and activities, € 20 million;

Component 3, network extensions including public standard posts with prepayment devices in informal settlements, € 10 million and four accompanying measures which is 1.5 million and a contingency of € 3.5 million –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, is it ADF or AFD?

MR MUSASAZI: It is AFD, *Agence Française de Développement*.

THE SPEAKER: So, we correctly answered; it is AFD, not ADF.

MR MUSASIZI: *Agence Française de Développement* (AFD). The terms are as follows: Loan amount, € 45 million. The effective interest rate is to be determined at the time of signature. This will be based on liability of six months minus 174 best points equivalent to 0.4 per cent as at 25 September 2024.

The commitment fee - why we determine at the date of signing, is a variable rate. The commitment fee is 0.5 per cent per annum on undisbursed loans, the appraisal fee is 0.5 per cent calculated on the maximum amount of the facility, and the maturity period or tenure is 20 years, including the grace period of six years.

What are the benefits of the project? In summary, we have an abundant water supply; a capacity of 160 million litres per day at Katosi Water Treatment Plant with sufficient transmission and storage capacity, but with inadequate water distribution capacity to reach customers of the greater Kampala metropolitan area. Hence, we cannot realise the full value of the investment.

Two, the Government of Uganda in 2012 undertook the Kampala Water-Lake Victoria WATSAN (I) and (II) projects to provide a long-term response to the growing water demand in the greater Kampala metropolitan area. In 2015, to identify, optimise, and schedule the related investments, the Government of Uganda commissioned the Greater Kampala Water Supply Master Plan.

In 2021, in compliance with the Master Plan, the Government of Uganda completed the construction of the Katosi system, a major infrastructure aimed at supplying bulk drinking water to the inhabitants of the Greater Kampala metropolitan area. Some works on the plant's

primary distribution and storage system are already financed under the ongoing WATSAN (I, II) packages.

Madam Speaker, the most important thing to note is that the first tranche was € 150 million, and this € 45 million is an additional total of up to € 195 million to enable the project get completed. With this justification, I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Can I have the chairperson? Procedure from Hon. Nathan.

MR BYANYIMA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me add my voice to wish everybody a happy new year. This is an important loan but I am at a loss when I see no minister of water in this House. Yet, these are the people to implement and to preside over that big project.

In the 10th Parliament, you voted money for Isingiro water, a big project from Kagera. Isingiro is one of the most hit areas, water-stressed.

The loan was approved, and the project started. It is the National Water and Sewerage Corporation that is doing the work to get water from Kagera to Mbarara. The beneficiaries of where water is coming from, Isingiro, the project is at a slow speed under the Ministry of Water and Environment. Some of us were talking of rationalisation, and knew ministries were dormant. I cannot imagine having a loan like this, and you do not have any minister in the House.

There are three ministers in the Ministry of Water and Environment, but because we have an efficient agency in the National Water and Sewerage Corporation, some of us get some comfort that work will move. But it is important for them to be here. My people of Isingiro, normally vote very wisely; they might be disappointed when they cannot get water from their area, but it goes to Mbarara. What will happen to people with bad hearts? I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I am happy you have said that the National Water and Sewerage Corporation is efficient and since it is efficient and is the implementing body - but it is also just out of courtesy that the ministers whose loans are here come to the House. Go ahead, committee chairperson, and give us a summary. Where is Hon. Opolot?

11.59

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ECONOMY (Mr Robert Migadde): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to lay on the Table minutes of the report of the committee held on 8th of January in a consideration of this loan.

This is the report of the Committee on National Economy on the proposal by the Government to borrow Euro 45 million from the *Agence Française de Développement* (AFD) in the form of additional funding towards implementing Kampala Water - Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation II Project.

The minister has already taken us through the background, performance, and components; justification for the loan, the project's cost and financing, and the conditions. Allow me proceed to observations and recommendations. That is on page 11. I am happy it is uploaded.

Madam Speaker, the committee observed that both the Ministry of Water and Environment and National Water and Sewerage Corporation have implemented loan finance projects over the years.

The committee, however, notes that while the loan projects implemented by National Water and Sewerage Corporation are efficiently and effectively utilised, there is still an implementation challenge with loans under the Ministry of Water and Environment, as evidenced by poorly done or stalled projects. Direct execution of projects, in effect, increases the project's cost, as well as affecting the quality of works and this ultimately affects value for money.

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Water and Environment should scale up its efforts in the project implementation methodology in order to adequately and timely execute the projects and realise value for money.

Need to reduce the cost of water tariff

The committee noted that the cost of water per unit is Shs 5,000 at the level of domestic consumption. It was also noted that whereas National Water and Sewerage Corporation charges Shs 25 per 20 litre jerry can for community/kiosks, some vendors charge the end user up to Shs 200 thus, further making water unaffordable for the ordinary person, limiting consumption, which in turn affects revenues of the agency. This cost is prohibitive to the majority urban poor.

National Water and Sewerage Corporation informed the committee that the high cost of Shs 5,000 is brought by high cost of electricity and other maintenance costs incurred by the agency. They also informed the committee that the cost is likely to come down since power tariffs are reducing.

The committee recommends that:

- i) Water tariffs should be reduced so that it can be easily made affordable by all, regardless of socio-economic categories. *(Applause)*
- ii) National Water and Sewerage Corporation should come up with a circular regarding the price of water for vendors, beyond which they should not charge the ordinary customer. *(Applause)*
- iii) Punitive measures should be put in place for those who do not adhere to this directive.

Need for enhanced water supply in the country
The committee notes that the high growth of the country's urban population, in addition to rapid urbanisation of the rural areas has increased demand for domestic, industrial and water for agriculture. However, several challenges are still faced in the water sector, such as scarcity, climate change and water quality.

The increasing rate of waste water production with inadequate wastewater treatment resources and systems often lead to affluent discharge into water systems. This does not only lead to the degradation of downstream ecosystems but also causes health problems to humans and the environment.

The committee recommends that the Government should prioritise budgets for the water sector as guided by Agenda 2030, Sustainable Development Goal number Six, in order to address water and sanitation demands for the increasing population.

Need for inter-sectoral coordination

The committee noted the continued destruction of the road infrastructure by utility service providers, such as telecommunication companies, electricity, and national water itself. This destruction increases the maintenance costs of the service lines.

Recommendation

The Ministry of Works and Transport should spearhead coordination of activities of all utility service providers and incorporate service lines in all new road infrastructure designs to mitigate future destruction.

Conclusion

The committee recommends that the proposal by Government to borrow up to Euro 45 million from the *Agence Française de Développement*, additional support to Kampala Water - Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Project at a revised interest rate of six months Euribor, that is, -1.74 per cent as at 25 September, 2024; be approved subject recommendations herein. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, committee chairperson. Hon. Hassan?

12.05

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luwero): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank my committee chairperson for the good work done.

Madam Speaker, together with my other colleagues, I conceded to the majority report for some reasons because, if you look at this particular loan request, it is a concessional loan with very good terms.

However, just like the honourable colleagues raised concerns about determining the interest rate at the point of signing, that was also my concern. I raised it to the minister and he clarified that these are fluctuating rates and that it happens every after six months. If we process this loan request within the current period, and it is done, then we are going to get a very good ongoing interest rate.

Therefore, as a member of the committee, we conceded to the majority Members as regards this report. Water is life and we all know the necessity of having water in our household. I only wish that the concerns raised by the Members in the committee, specifically on the tariffs for water, are put into the consideration by the ministry and our people get water at low costs. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Do you want to debate, Hon. Isaac?

12.07

MR ISAAC OTINGIWI (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also thank the committee chairperson for the report.

The committee chairperson raises a very good point in their report in terms of the unit price of water. This is becoming unbearable, especially for some of us who are in the rural constituencies. We would very much like to expand the services of national water to our rural constituencies but this is being limited because of the unit price of water. I hope that the Government can constitute ways in which we can reduce the unit price so that the over 20,000 villages that are not connected to any fresh water can be able to access fresh water provided by especially National Water and Sewerage Corporation. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Rose and then Hon. Mudimi.

12.08

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you, Madam Speaker. In the same vein, I thank the committee and the minister, for this wonderful presentation but –

THE SPEAKER: I have seen all of you thank him, meaning that the report and the borrowing are okay. Is that okay?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Yes.

MS OBIGAH: It is okay. Just one thing –

THE SPEAKER: Now that we have a very important item on the Order Paper, why don't we pass this? We put the question - finish with your thanking. *(Laughter)*

MS OBIGAH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is good to be appreciated, but the issue of the rural communities- the unit costs, and the dry wells. They are supplying nothing in our local communities, and once there are breakages, there are no repairs. The communities where they are picking water from do not get an outlet.

If you are picking water from this particular village and you do not give them water that is from the town councils, Terego has Omugo, and it has no water. They are boasting we have given Terego water. It is better to get our water under the ministry rather than getting it from national water because it is a very stressful thing for the local people. Thank you.

12.10

MR WAMAKUYU MUDIMI (NRM, Elgon County, Bulambuli): Thank you, Madam Speaker and honourable colleagues. We agreed in this House that for the loans- if there is an element of counterpart funding, we have to get assurance. National Water and Sewerage Corporation is currently stuck with unpaid certificates up to the tune of Shs 106 billion for previous Katosi works and is attracting interest.

Finance ministry, what is the way forward on those outstanding - they are attracting interest daily?

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Elijah?

12.10

MR ELIJAH OKUPA (Independent, Kasilo County, Serere): Just like Hon. Nathan Byanyima raised the issue - my request is to the committees of natural resources and national economy that when we pass these loans, can we follow them up. The case Hon. Nathan Byanyima is quoting is similar to what happened on this water for production in my village. The Ministry of Water and Environment came and dug a production well in 2019. However, up to date, they have not evacuated water. What is happening?

I appeal to the committees responsible to follow up on these matters such that this issue is addressed. Otherwise, we are going to be throwing money there and there will be no value for it. That same thing applied to the loan that we passed previously under ADP for the so-called modern landing sites. The one in Kagwara has never worked. Even the minister came and said, "I cannot commission it". Now the thing has been reclaimed by the water.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Abeja?

12.12

MS SUSAN ABEJA (Independent, Woman Representative, Otuke): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I appreciate the minister for coming in with this loan to support the National Water and Sewerage Corporation, but I have information from the Executive Director (ED) of National Water. There was a day I was with the ED of National Water and Sewerage Corporation and we were trying to discuss -

THE SPEAKER: First declare your interest.

MS ABEJA: My interest?

THE SPEAKER: It is okay, go ahead.

MS ABEJA: Madam Speaker, my concern is that I went to the ED of National Water and I discussed with him how our rural people are suffering with repairing their boreholes. He felt it and he told me that Parliament should create an avenue to allow them to support rural communities in repairing boreholes.

These rural communities pay the loans. They pay loans, but they do not have clean water. In our district, we are facilitators of repairing boreholes. I request my darling sister, *Nalongo* to convince this House to come up with an avenue - allow the ED to come to your office to share this with you on how you can let the locals who pay tax also benefit from this loan.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Abeja, I have given you a task to bring the ED to my office.

MS ABEJA: Let me go right now, Madam Speaker. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Okay. Hon. Annet is here.

12.14

MR RONALD AFIDRA (NRM, Lower Madi County, Madi-Okollo) Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me a chance to speak to the whole House about approving this loan. Water is life, and without water, there is no life. The previous House had approved some loans for water, and my constituents were part of the beneficiaries.

During this break, there is a subcounty called Ewanga where the World Bank project drilled two boreholes, and the entire subcounty was to be connected-

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, before Hon. Asamo leaves, I have just got a chit from Hon. Asamo on the sad news of the death of Hon. Margaret Baba Diri, the former Member of Parliament for Koboko. Hon. Baba Diri was with us in the 10th Parliament, a very active Member of the House. I just received a chit from Hon. Hellen Asamo. It is so bad. Hon. Asamo, can you say something? We need to confirm from you - we do not want to anticipate.

MS ASAMO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As a greeting, we say Happy New Year to everybody. But the news has just come that she has passed on. Her long-time driver from 1996 is the one who has sent the message. She has been in this House since 1996. For some of us, she was the mentor. She is the one who encouraged me to come to this House.

She has died. She has been battling diabetes. I think it is the cause, but I have not got the details. So, Madam Speaker, I beg that I go and see what is happening because her family is close to my heart. Some of the children are not here, but the majority are in the country. We shall update the House on what is going on. Thank you. The information just came that “*Mama has died*”. I am just going to get the information, and then I can update the Speaker and we will see how we can move on.

THE SPEAKER: We will wait for a confirmation first.

MR AFIDRA: Madam Speaker, as I conclude on the World Bank grant to benefit the people of Madi-Okollo and Wanga, the two boreholes which were sunk by national water in the north - during this break, the people of Wanga indicated that national water went over there and declared to them that while the resource-

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, are we discussing the report?

MR AFIDRA: No, that is about the loan for water, and the previous loan for the people of Madi-Okollo has not met its expectations. Those are the two boreholes that I was reporting on. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, I put the question on the motion for a resolution of Parliament to authorise the Government to borrow up to 45 million Euros from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) to support Kampala Water-Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation II (KW-LV WATSAN II) Project be approved by this House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: Item 4 on the Order Paper-

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE
FOURTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PLAN (NDP IV) (2025/2026-2029/2030)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, you recall on 19th 2024, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Lugoloobi Amos, tabled the fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV) (2025/2026-2029/2030) for Parliamentary approval.

The NDP IV was referred to the Committee of Budget for scrutiny and the committee has ably done so and is ready to report to this House. However, I will invite the minister to first move a motion to the effect. Honourable minister for finance?

12.18

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR
FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT (PLANNING) (Mr Amos
Lugoloobi):**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. May I say, Happy New Year, to colleagues and to you, Madam Speaker, and express my sympathies to the families of the late Hon. Ssegirinya and Hon. Baba Diri — *[Interjection]* – He is alive? I am very sorry.

On that note, let me go to the point – I had been misinformed. I am moving a motion for a resolution of Parliament to approve the Fourth National Development Plan, commonly called NDP IV, for the period of Financial Year 2025/2026 to 2029/2030.

“AWARE THAT Article 125 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda establishes the National Planning Authority whose mandate is to produce comprehensive and integrated national development plans, as highlighted by the National Planning Authority Act, CAP 202, and the National Planning Authority (Development Plans) Plan Regulations (2018);

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT the National Planning Authority Act, CAP 202 requires the National Development Plan to be submitted to Parliament for approval, and the Public Finance Management Act, (2015) also requires that the annual budget must be consistent with

the National Development Plan (NDP) which implies that the National Budget Framework Paper that will be submitted must be consistent with the NDP IV that must have been approved by this august House;

WHEREAS the implementation of the third National Development Plan (NDP III) elapses at the end of this Financial Year (FY 2024/2025), the National Planning Authority and the Government in general have prepared the fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV; Financial Year 2025/2026-Financial Year 2029/2030) -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson – honourable minister, sorry I am calling you a chairperson because you used to be my chairperson. I thought you were moving a motion first then you would make a justification.

MR LUGOLOOBI: Madam Speaker, I am actually moving a motion.

THE SPEAKER: Okay.

MR LUGOLOOBI: I am giving a background to that motion (*Laughter*)

THE SPEAKER: What will you do when it comes to justification? Just move a motion then you will give us the background.

MR LUGOLOOBI: Okay. Madam Speaker, I am moving a motion for the adoption of the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV Financial Year 2025/2026 – Financial Year 2029/2030). I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? It is seconded by Hon. Wilfred, Hon. Hassan, Hon. Karim, Hon. Ethel, Hon. Mpindi, Hon. Ibanda, Hon. Rose, Hon. Allan, Hon. Mwijukye, Hon. David, Hon. Mudimi, Hon. Okot, Hon. Emmanuel, Hon. Isodo, Hon. Acora, Hon. Steven, Hon. Christine, Hon. Noah - the whole House – Hon. Anyakun - by the whole House. Justify.

MR LUGOLOOBI: Thank you, Madam Speaker and colleagues, for supporting the

motion. I will continue from where I had stopped earlier. (*Laughter*)

“WHEREAS the implementation of the third National Development Plan, (NDP III) elapses at the end of this Financial Year 2024/2025, the National Planning Authority and the Government in general have prepared the fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV; Financial Year 2025/2026-Financial Year 2029/2030) with the attendant National Human Resource Development Plan for approval by this House.”

Madam Speaker, I laid this Human Resource Development Plan in the Committee on Budget and I beg to lay it in the House for the information of the House.

Further acknowledging that the process of preparing the NDP IV was informed by the NDP III mid-term review that provided lessons, the Uganda Vision 2040, and the Government strategy to grow the economy ten-fold in the next 15 years. Several experts, programme working groups, non-state actors, local governments, regional and international development frameworks were all consulted.

Honourable members of this august House were also consulted on NDP IV on 3rd and 4th December, 2024 at the parliamentary premises, and the recommendations and guidance of the honourable members have been extensively considered in the final document.

Noting that the NDP IV is benchmarked on the key achievements, challenges and lessons learnt in the implementation of the NDP III, the goal and theme of NDP IV is therefore to: achieve higher household incomes, the full monetisation of the economy, and employment for sustainable socio-economic transformation. This goal will be achieved under the theme – this is our main focus area – “Sustainable industrialisation for inclusive growth, employment and wealth creation.

Further noting that the NDP IV shall be delivered through five strategic objectives. These objectives are the ones the NDP IV aims to achieve:

- a) To sustainably increase production, productivity, and value addition in agriculture, industry, minerals, oil and gas, tourism, ICT and financial services;
- b) To enhance human capital development along the entire life cycle;
- c) To support the private sector to drive growth and to create jobs because we always say the private sector is the engine of growth.
- d) To build and maintain -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you are now giving us what the chairperson of the committee would say. You know you are a long-time Chairperson of the Budget Committee so I think you are still interested in that.

Let the chairperson present that since you have made your justification.

MR LUGOLOBI: Thank you for your guidance, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

12.27

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON BUDGET (Mr Patrick Opolot-Isiagi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Since it is my maiden speech this year, I would also like to say, happy new year to all. Amen.

The minister laid the National Development Plan IV, way back in December, and it was referred to the Committee of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Committee on Budget. The two committees under the leadership of Hon. Patrick Opolot-Isiagi – myself – and the Chairperson of the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Amos, is here with us. The Deputy Chairperson of the Budget Committee, Hon. Remigio Achia and the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Moses Aleper, are available.

All the members of the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Budget Committee participated fully and we were able to produce a report. There are many members of the committees, like the senior counsel, the survivor, Hon. Omara – (*Laughter*)- and many others – Hon. Okupa – all participated and worked tirelessly to produce the report. I would like to lay the report of the committee, which is here.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay.

MR OPOLOT-ISIAGI: I would also like to report that there is a minority report signed by only one member, Hon. Ekanya. Other members refused to sign the minority report because they came to Parliament through a majority vote. (*Laughter*)

I also beg to lay the minutes of the meetings. I would also like to lay a real copy of the NDP IV, which we scrutinised. This NDP IV is also accompanied by an implementation plan. I beg to lay.

Madam Speaker, as a usual procedure, we have, in the report, methodology and the legal regime under which we processed this. Definitely, we had to scrutinise some documents, which you can see on page 4. We also consulted key stakeholders in order to come to this report.

In the report, we said that the principles underlying the Comprehensive National Development Planning Framework (CNDPF) are that we must ensure equity, competitiveness, apply Public-Private Partnerships, sustainable development, economic diversification, participation, and ownership of these plans; the plans must be evidence-based and, therefore, accountability for results has to be ensured.

We looked at the plan, how it relates to Vision 2040, how it relates to 2030, and then the tenfold. I would like us to look back on where we are coming from and where we have reached. That means the past development plans have scored some achievements from where we came.

Firstly, the country has got serious peace, security – *(Interjections)* – yes, it does not just come unless you have planned for it – and there is also macroeconomic stability. That means that this business of prices changing overnight and so on – there is now stability.

Madam Speaker, the size of Uganda's economy has increased more than threefold in the last 14 years. *(Applause)* It has increased to Shs 202.1 trillion, from Shs 64 trillion.

Madam Speaker, the economy has also been diversified from the traditional base, that is, the 3Cs and 3Ts of coffee, cotton, copper, tobacco, tea and tourism. We have now moved to other areas. *(Applause)*

We have also achieved better domestic revenue mobilisation, which has risen up to Shs 27.7 trillion - here we mixed commas and points - from Shs 6.4 trillion, way back. That is about 13.8 per cent, much as we are now moving towards 18 per cent, and the plan which is coming is going to show that things are getting better and better.

Investment in road transport infrastructure has significantly improved connectivity, providing potential for better movement of people, goods and tourists. The stock of paved national road network has increased from 6,199 kilometres out of a total of 21,000 kilometres. We have 21,000 kilometres, if we are to have the whole network. So far, we have managed to move to 6,199 km from the previous 3,112 km. That is quite remarkable, colleagues.

We also have to note that electricity generation capacity has been built, and it has tripled in the last 14 years. That is why you see that with electricity, now we are only suffering with transmission and whatever – what do you call them? Distribution? That is so that all people get electricity. The next plan will now address where we are heading.

On average, Ugandans are now living longer. The average life expectancy has moved – because of all these good things; good life, good health, and so on – from 50.4 to 68.6.

(Applause) Therefore, our people, like my sons, Hon. Masaba here, Hon. Odur, and Hon. Mwijukye, are not going anywhere. *(Laughter)* You are going to be here for 20 other terms because things are going to be better and you will see that in the next plan, it will be even better.

Strides have been made in lifting our people out of poverty. Although vulnerability remains at high levels, there is some improvement.

Access to education, at all levels, has increased. Honourable colleagues, primary school net enrolment increased from 91 per cent in the Financial Year 2019/2020 from 82.3 in the Financial Year 2012/2013. From 2019/2020, it has come to 91 per cent for primary school-going children. Secondary school enrolment has also improved. Therefore, as we build more schools and provide UPE and USE, there is great improvement, and illiteracy levels are coming down.

Madam Speaker, the Government's restoration and tree planting policy is yielding results. The forest cover, as a percentage of total land area, increased to 13.3 per cent in 2021/2022 from 10.7 per cent in 2010/2011. So, there is some increase, although we need more.

Internet penetration and usage have also increased. The percentage of the population subscribed to the internet rose to 53 per cent in 2022, from 1.8 per cent in 2010. Therefore, there is a big leap there. That means that if the trend continues and if we put some catalyst, it will even go to 100 per cent soon.

However, much as we scored these improvements, they would have been better but there are also some challenges. That is why we are now talking of –

1. The proportion of the population outside the money economy is still high. We need to work harder - stop this politicking. Let us work hard and make sure that our people come out of poverty.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, there is a brief interruption. I now have an official statement from the hospital.

“Announcement on the passing on of Hon. Muhammad Ssegirinya

It is dated 9th January 2025.

With deep sorrow, Lubaga Hospital announces the passing on of Hon. Ssegirinya, the Honourable Member of Kawempe North. Hon. Ssegirinya has been under the dedicated care of the medical team of Lubaga Hospital. Despite all the efforts to ensure his recovery, he passed away today, Thursday, 9 January 2025 at 12.10 p.m.

On behalf of the hospital, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the Parliament of Uganda, the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, and honourable Members of Parliament, plus the family of Hon. Mohammad Ssegirinya.

We join the nation in mourning a dedicated servant of the people.”

It is confirmed; we have lost one of our own, Hon. Ssegirinya. As Parliament, we shall be communicating the next plans. May we rise and observe a moment of silence.

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

MR OPOLOT-ISIAGI: Colleagues, we still have challenges in land fragmentation, land ownership, and there are distortions that constrain production. I think Government, together with the House, will address those issues.

Despite existence of abundant resources of land, minerals, and tourist attractions, there is limited value addition. Uganda’s leading exports in 2023/2024 were in low-value commodities like coffee, maize, fish and its products, and tea.

Regarding coffee, 6.12 million 60-kilogramme bags were exported, fetching only \$1,143.8

million at a mere \$3.1 per kilogramme. If we added value, we would have gotten more money. Those are the issues making us not earn money. Therefore, we should prioritise value addition.

High transportation and electricity costs constrict the country’s economic growth and competitiveness, the tariffs and so on.

Another challenge we are facing is the high cost of capital. Interest rates in this country are very high. You borrow money to do business; you borrow money to do development but the interest rates are very high, including the moneylenders who are siphoning all our people’s money.

Uganda is also heavily reliant on rain-fed agriculture with limited irrigation, limited fertilizer and limited mechanisation. We have to invest so that we can earn more.

Investment and use of science, technology and innovation is still low. We are still doing things mechanically. We need a lot of research, investment in research and knowledge growth so that we innovate a number of products that can earn us more money.

Domestic revenue generation is still inadequate to finance our development. We now mitigate by borrowing and so on, where Hon. Ikojo has been begging for approvals.

There is also indiscipline where we undermine effective planning and budget implementation and we fail to realise the results. Our plans are prepared and left to the dust. Implementation goes a different direction. That is why we must all pay a keen eye so that when we plan, we plan properly, and we must stick to our plans. That is what we are going to emphasise for all.

Industrial parks and free zones are inadequately developed to drive value addition and the industrialisation agenda. Water, roads, electricity, internet connectivity are very limited in our industrial parks.

There is limited collaboration and weak follow-up on implementation which has hindered realisation of development results. The coordination between our agencies; the audit of the implementation of the plan – We left some of this monitoring to the Office of the Prime Minister, National Planning Authority (NPA) and these are the players. At the end of the day, the monitoring is not properly done. So, monitoring and evaluation is not adequately handled.

As we go ahead, we are going to recommend an independent audit by the Auditor-General of this plan implementation. Also, as we do the budgeting, we must also stick to what is in the plan. *(Interjection)* Thank you very much for that, my former friend, Hon. Namugga. *(Laughter)*

In performing our duties, we agreed that we work as a team. We have given you where we have come from. Now, where we are going to, is the NDP IV, which you need to hear and pay much attention to, having known the weaknesses and having known that we need to be very serious in the next plan.

I now invite one of our Members who doubles as a member of the finance committee and budget committee, Hon. Faith Nakut, to take us through the NDP IV. She is an able bodied lady.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Before Hon. Nakut comes in, in the strangers' gallery this afternoon, we have the Executive Director of the National Planning Authority and also the *Katikiro* of Busoga Kingdom, Dr Muvawala –

MR OPOLOT-ISIAGI: I beg your pardon, Madam Speaker. I have been reminded by the Front Bench that I missed something very important. Number 16 -

THE SPEAKER: Chairperson, can you sit? You know, the chairperson has grown old. *(Laughter)* I was still introducing the NPA Executive Director, and the *Katikiro* of Busoga Kingdom, Dr Joseph Muvawala. You are most welcome. He has come to observe the proceedings.

Chairperson, you can finish what you want to say.

MR OPOLOT-ISIAGI: Sorry. Number 16 says – this is one of the challenges and problems we are facing – there is regional imbalance that has remained, despite various affirmative programmes -

THE SPEAKER: Why had you left it out?

MR OPOLOT-ISIAGI: It was just a lapse. Let me say it verbatim.

THE SPEAKER: Read it as it is.

MR OPOLOT-ISIAGI: Regional imbalances have remained despite the various affirmative programmes and projects implemented by the Government. The regional disparities are due to high income poverty levels, limited underdeveloped regional value chains, inadequate economic and social infrastructure and services, and weak public sector management in some local governments.

Poverty levels in some regions like Bugisu, West Nile, Busoga, Bukedi and Teso have reduced - the word is “reduced.” *(Interjections)* We are coming - while Kigezi, Lango, Acholi and Karamoja have registered increases in poverty. Poverty is falling in some areas but growing in other areas.

Even in some areas where poverty is reduced, such as Busoga, Bukedi, and Teso, it still remains above the national average. That means that the reduction is so insignificant. Of course, at times we celebrate whatever results we get. However, we work. It motivates us to work and understand that things are possible. It is very possible for us to reduce this poverty, as it has reduced in some areas.

Madam Speaker, it says vulnerability is high in all regions, evidenced by the inconsistent patterns in poverty rates.

Madam Speaker, I now invite the honourable lady.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Before Hon. Nakut comes in, Hon. Baba.

12.53

MR JAMES BABA (NRM, Koboko County, Koboko): Madam Speaker, thank you for the privilege. Honourable members, I regret to inform you that our old colleague, a veteran politician, Hon. Margaret Baba Diri passed on 30 minutes ago on the way to hospital.

We have asked the funeral caretakers to handle the body and we shall announce further arrangements later on. Just to let you know, Hon. Baba Diri, former woman Member of Parliament for Koboko District and previously representing people with disabilities for the North since 1996, has now left us.

With much regret, that is the information I wanted to tell you, and thank you for the privilege, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. We had got the information, but it was not very clear, and that is why we asked for a confirmation, but now that we have the confirmation, may we rise and observe a moment of silence.

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

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much. We will join you in organising the send-off for both of our colleagues. Hon. Baba Diri did not have vision, but she was in our committee and she would see. She would tell you that the chairperson on that day was putting on red. She would ask her aide what she was putting on, then the aide would say - One time she said, chairperson, I saw you over the weekend putting on shorts. I said, but how do you see? Anyway, that is God's work.

Hon. Faith?

12.56

MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak): Madam Speaker, kindly register my deepest sympathies to you and colleagues, and to their families. It is a

hard thing losing two colleagues in a matter of minutes. May God strengthen the House and strengthen you, the family.

I will continue from where the Chairman of the Budget Committee stopped. It is on page 13 for Members who are following. The National Development Plan IV (NDP IV) strategic direction and high-impact projects. The NDP IV strategic direction.

I know that there is a lot on the Order Paper, and we will have to rush, but I request that you allow me to read from pages 14 to 24, and the committee observations. We will skip some parts that Members can follow on their own.

The NDP IV strategic direction

The specific objectives underpinning the overall growth strategy are six, as highlighted by the minister. I will interest you in the details.

Number one, attaining a sustainable double-digit economic growth target of 10 per cent by Financial Year 2029/2030. It will entail prioritising investment in five key growth areas, to enhance value addition. One of those intervention areas is agro-industrialisation.

Sustainably increasing production and productivity in agriculture is the focus for this plan. This will include promotion of soil testing services; construction of agricultural research support facilities; and production of cement, breeder seed, and early generation seed for priority commodities; establishment of appropriate farm water reticulation systems, solar powered irrigation systems, deep production wells, multi-purpose bulk water infrastructure, groundwater extraction, and community watering points gravity flow irrigation schemes, micro-irrigation systems for farmer groups; acquisition of sets of walking tractors and implements to support the Parish Development Model (PDM) enterprise groups; establish zonal agricultural mechanisation centres to improve access; train, demonstrate, and test appropriate agricultural mechanisation technologies and equipment; establish partnerships with the private sector

to allow mass production of fertilisers and soil testing kits; provide subsidies to farmers to access fertilizers; establish the National Seed Company; accredit the Uganda Fisheries Laboratory to international standards; construct or improve zonal aquaculture, indoor hatchery and cage culture facilities to massive fingerling production; establish aqua parks with 150 ponds, a hatchery, a mini fish feed mill and an artificial wetland, assess, acquire and restock understocked water bodies; acquire enterprise-specific equipment for Parish Development Model (PDM) SACCOs so that they can improve their productivity, water harvesting equipment, production enhancement equipment, acquire and distribute livestock vaccines in their different assortment - I want to read in detail.

Recruit extension staff for every sub-county;

Equip and facilitate extension workers to provide extension services to farmers at parish level to support the PDM.

Allow me to move to the next one. You can read the rest.

Improving harvest and post-harvest handling and storage

This will include establishing and stocking two national food and seed reserve facilities, constructing cold rooms in markets, and acquiring regional meat cold chain transportation trucks, rehabilitating 10 dilapidated milk collection centres, and establishment of animal feed storage facilities on NAGRC ranches and farms, conducting training in harvesting, post-harvest handling, and storage, undertaking refurbishment of warehouse facilities and inspections to assess conformity to warehouse standards.

The next thing within the agro-industrialisation component is the developing and operationalisation of value addition infrastructure. This will include acquiring and distributing value addition and agro-processing equipment for farmer organisations, equipping,

repairing, and revamping non-functional agro-processing facilities in local governments, establishing a coffee soluble plant, 10 mini dairy processing plants, cocoa processing factory, animal feed processing plant, floating fish feed plant, potato processing factory, grain processing factory, tea processing plant, meat processing factory, among others, through the PPP arrangement.

Train value chain actors in that sector

The next within that list is increasing market access and competitiveness of agricultural products in domestic, regional, and international markets. This will include support to export ready Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), companies to participate in trade related events such as world expos, trade fairs, and exhibitions, regional and international, negotiate and secure market for priority agricultural products, update and roll out the Uganda market information system, create business and market linkages through commodity platforms, develop and integrate national coffee traceability models into the geospatial coffee registry system, develop and roll out a livestock traceability system, construct two export animal quarantine holding grounds, a national agricultural food safety laboratory and support centre.

The other is increasing access to agricultural finance and insurance. This will include finalising and enforcing the national agricultural finance and insurance policy -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Doctor - those Members who are going away, I would like to inform you that we have a special sitting tomorrow at 10.00 a.m. Therefore, even as you go, remember to be here. There will be a special sitting to pay tribute to the late Hon. Muhammad Ssegirinya.

MS NAKUT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We will ensure to be around.

Strengthening coordination, legal and institutional framework for agro-industries

This will include undertaking regulatory impact assessment and stakeholder consultation to develop appropriate policies, develop and review strategies, review the pesticide residue monitoring plan, the Cotton Development Act Cap - that one which we rationalised.

On tourism development, the following are prioritised in the plan:

Promoting inbound and domestic tourism

This will include undertaking aggressive marketing and promotion using media and other sources in key source markets, carrying out brand marketing campaigns and branding foreign missions in key source markets, undertaking and improving uptake of tourism-related research and market intelligence.

Improving the stock and quality of tourism infrastructure

This will include the development and improvement of tourism infrastructure such as hotels, airstrips, roads, ICT, safety and rescue, water transport, ports. Many of them will be done through public-private partnerships.

Conserve, develop, improve and diversify tourism products

This will include conserving Uganda's natural and cultural heritage, including wildlife-protected areas such as national parks and wildlife reserves, cultural sites, undertake protected area boundary maintenance, including establishing markets, boundary reaffirmation, buffers, wildlife deterrent measures, Uganda Wildlife Authority Ranger Force deployment and operations, combat poaching, illegal trade and trafficking of wildlife, among others.

On tourism development, again, we have developed skilled personnel along the tourism value chain.

This will include upscaling training in line with international tourism training standards and also rolling out apprenticeship and exchange programs with internationally acclaimed

tourism institutions, strengthening the capacity of Uganda Hotel and Tourism Institution, among others.

Finally, on tourism, we have a plan to enhance enforcement of regulation and coordination of the tourism program.

This will include developing regulations, standards, and guidelines for the existing legal frameworks, reviewing the Tourism Policy 2015 to consider emerging trends, including sustainable tourism development, establishing quality mark standards for grading of tourism-related facilities, scaling up registration of tour operators, guides, facilities, among others.

Minerals, oil and gas development

This is number three; I talked about agriculture and then tourism. The focus will be on increasing sustainable exploration of extractives. This will include undertaking exploration and quantification of the oil and gas frontier basins, priority minerals and geothermal resources.

Increasing sustainable production and commercialisation of extractives

This will include establishing and functionalising laboratory networks for extractives, produce crude oil to feed the EACOP and the refinery, prioritise production of gold, iron ore, limestone, tin, tungsten, tantalite, rare earth elements, phosphate, pozzolana, marble, develop mining fields and processing plants for the priority minerals, develop the refinery and pipeline.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Faith, what you are reading is in the National Development Plan (NDP) and was presented. It was actually copied and put in the report. Therefore, we would like you to look at 8, that is page 37, because the other one is already in the NDP. What are your recommendations as a committee?

MS NAKUT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We are going to page 37, where the committee observations and recommendations are.

Committee observations and recommendations

Legal compliance

According to section 7(1) of the NPA Act 2002, the primary mandate of the National Planning Authority is to produce comprehensive and integrated development plans for the country elaborated in terms of the perspective vision, long term plans, and mid-term plans. According to Regulation 4 of the NPA Regulation 2018, long term plans are 10-year plans, and medium term plans are five-year plans.

- i. The committee also observes that the NDP IV (Development Plans) do not explicitly provide medium-term projections of the resource envelope as required by the NPA 2018 regulations.
- ii. The 10-year national development plans have not been developed, and this hinders the alignment of the five-year development plan to the 30-year vision.

The committee recommends therefore:

- i. That the National Planning Authority develops a 10-year national development plan that will link the vision with the five-year plan.
- ii. Amendments are made to the NDP IV to include the resource envelope for the medium term. It will help in planning.

NDP IV Programmes

The committee observed that the NDP IV programmes have reduced from the 20 programmes in NDP III to now 18 programmes. The NDP IV Community Mobilisation and Mindset Change is now a component of human capital development. Sustainable petroleum and mineral development programmes have been merged to form the Sustainable Extractives Industry Development Programme.

The programme approach was adopted in NDP III and was intended to enhance synergies and reducing “silo” approach to planning, budgeting, and implementation

across government. However, before full adoption and understanding of the programme approach, the NDPIV has already proposed adjustments to the programmes. These changes in the programme designs could undermine the effective implementation of the programme approach.

Therefore, the committee recommends two remedies:

- i. Amendment of the PFMA Act, 2015 to ensure it recognises the programme approach.
- ii. There is need for the Government to ensure consistency in the programmes and programme designs and ensure that programmes do not continue to change over time.

The third observation: Rationalised Agencies under RAPEX.

The committee observed that while several agencies were rationalised, the plan continues to recognise them as implementing agencies, for instance UCDA, UNRA, URF, DDA, among others. They are in the plan.

Therefore, the committee recommends amendments to the NDP IV to be consistent with the current government policy on rationalisation of government agencies.

Monitoring of National Development Plan

The committee observes that monitoring of the past development plans has not been adequately undertaken. For instance, in the Financial Year 2022-2023, the Auditor General’s report highlighted that only 40 per cent of planned indicators were effectively monitored, and only 30 per cent of government projects had adequate M&E plans. Local governments still lacked functional data systems, and the community information systems were not operational.

The committee recommends that Government prioritises strengthening the capacity of NPA

to effectively monitor implementation of the National Development Plan.

In addition, the committee recommends that the Office of the Auditor-General carries out annual special audit on the implementation of the NDP IV and report to Parliament.

The other observation is realignment of the ruling party manifesto with National Development Plan.

The committee observed that after approval of NDP IV, the ruling party manifesto in 2026 may be inconsistent to the NDP IV's strategic controls and direction. This inconsistency may hinder implementation of the plan, regardless of which government takes power in 2026.

Therefore, the committee recommends that in order to ensure consistency of the ruling party manifesto and the National Development Plan, the NPA should conduct annual and mid-term reviews of the NDP IV as per Regulation 10(2) of the NPA Regulations, 2018.

The other observation is slow implementation of public investment projects.

The committee observes that all growth strategies of the NDPs are anchored on public investments, especially in their core projects/high impact projects, and other attendant projects.

However, project delays are still a challenge, in particular for externally funded projects. Over the last six years, externally financed projects have spent only 44 per cent of their allocated budgets over the same period. With delays in the acquisition of rights of way such as land and compensation and all resettlement for project affected persons, procurement delays, which in turn affect project implementation, increase in direct costs of non-performing projects, including commitment fees, insufficient real-time monitoring of projects, poor sequencing of projects, insufficient feasibility, and appraisal studies of projects cited as the main reasons for the under execution.

The committee recommends the following five things:

- a) The NDP IV should focus on the incomplete strategic projects carried out by the NDP III. These projects are largely in the railway, roads, energy, and oil and gas sectors, basing on plans to develop industrial ecosystems around iron ore, oil and gas, and phosphates, there is a need to continue investing strategically in electricity power generation.
- b) There is a need to undertake project due diligence through rigorous feasibility assessments to gauge the viability of government projects. This will ensure that projects are well structured, commercially viable, and will provide value for money.
- c) Government undertakes real-time monitoring of development projects annually and biannually.
- d) Government fast-tracks the development of a policy on the acquisition of the right of way and corridors for the development of infrastructure to ease planning and avoid delays in infrastructure development.
- e) Finally, the government sequences projects with priority given to those generating a bigger growth dividend.

One of the other observations the committee made was on the Parish Development Model as a flagship intervention.

The committee observes that the goal of the NDP IV will be achieved through full monetisation of the economy, accelerated by full operationalisation of the Parish Development Model (PDM), *Emyooga*, and other wealth creation funds. The PDM is a government last mile delivery approach to improve citizens' livelihoods and well-being.

From this, the committee observes that:

- (i) Parishes are not homogeneous. They vary in population density, geographical size,

- level of development. The “one size fits all” currently being popularised does not offer appropriate solution to some parishes.
- (ii) Inadequate operational funds to support the PDM. About 84.5 per cent of local governments reported lack of funds for operations of the PDM.
 - (iii) Limited capacity to effectively implement PDM at the parish level. Some parish chiefs have limited capacity to manage people and the programmes. They require serious orientation and training to effectively coordinate the PDM pillars effectively.
 - (iv) Many cases of misuse of funds have been reported due to lack of supervision and follow-up.
 - (v) Many parishes and some districts lacked information and communication technology gadgets to facilitate data entry.
 - (vi) Full operationalisation of the seven pillars of the PDM model has not been achieved. This has undermined the parishes to serve as the lowest planning units that are envisaged.
- d. The Government should fully operationalise the other six pillars of the PDM beyond the financial inclusion pillar.
 - e. The national secretariat should continuously create awareness to stakeholders about their roles.
 - f. The local governments will need to provide continuous capacity building on management of associations, financial literacy for the parish chiefs, parish development committees, SACCOs, and enterprise groups. Financial literacy is key.
 - g. For the full implementation of the parish development model, the Government should integrate, maintain and mainstream the PDM in all MDA strategic plans, budgets, and work plans to take care of the other pillars. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should work with the PDM Secretariat to earmark funds specifically to run the office of the parish chief and SACCOs if the parish SACCO is to be supervised by the parish chiefs. The PDM concept had envisaged that each parish would have modest and equipped office building, transport, and operational funds.

The committee recommends as follows on the matter of Parish Development Model (PDM):

- a. Going forward, resource allocation to parishes for PDM activities should be informed by various parameters like population density, geographical size, level of economic development of parishes, among others.
- b. The PDM should envision innovative and case-by-case development solutions for the parishes. In this way, we shall have interventions that deal with real issues that are adaptable to local conditions and circumstances.
- c. The Government should enhance the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the PDM operations.
- h. PDM should revise the scope of enterprises to include non-agricultural enterprises, which are more relevant to the urban areas where the land is limited.
- i. Finally, on PDM, in order for the PDM to move subsistence producers and survival enterprises into the money economy, the parish-level economic activities such as primary production, primary processing, and produce aggregation must be vertically linked to the regional value chain so that people do not produce and it rots in the parish.

The other observation, and I am about to conclude, Madam Speaker, is on revenue mobilisation enhancement.

The committee observes that:

- i) Revenue mobilisation efforts have characteristically been hindered by lack of national tax policy that would form the basis for tax legislation and administration. Large informal sector, inadequate implementation of Domestic Revenue Mobilisation Strategy (DRMS) tax arrears and tax exemptions, among others. It is estimated that the potential revenue collection is between 16 to 18 per cent of GDP, highlighting a significant gap to be covered in revenue collection.
- ii) Of the 26 domestic revenue mobilisation strategy interventions tracked, seven registered good performances, nine were fair, and 10 were poor. Some challenges are also noted, including non-implementation of strategic domestic revenue mobilisation strategies intervention, inadequate specialised training conducted by Tax Policy Department (TPD) and Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) staff, low technical staffing levels at both TPD and URA, and limited access to necessary data by the TPD and URA.
- iii) In addition, the wide range of exemptions and the deductions granted to investors has resulted into lower tax revenue. That means the aspirations of the plan might not be achieved if the revenue is not matched.

Therefore, the committee recommends as follows:

- i) Fast-tracking the implementation of the domestic revenue mobilisation strategy and develop an effective implementation action plan for the effective operationalisation of the domestic revenue mobilisation strategy.
- ii) Develop a national tax policy that would form the basis for effective tax legislation and tax administration, as currently there is none.
- iii) Implement a coordinated approach to revenue mobilisation across government ministries, departments and agencies to

improve revenue mobilisation efforts. Leaving everything to URA alone might not help the country.

- iv) Wider consultations on tax policy design should be prioritised prior to drafting tax policies into laws and to avoid tax policy reversals that have happened in the past.
- v) Finally, on revenue, in regards to tax exemptions, a comprehensive assessment of the beneficiary companies in terms of their economic contribution should be undertaken as required by Section 77 of the PFMA, 2015 so that we know whether the exemptions are yielding or not.
- vi) Fiscal deficit management is our other observation. The committee observes that over the years, fiscal deficit, as percentage of GDP, has consistently been above the three per cent target. This is less than the desired outturn as post-fiscal risks and has led to increased domestic borrowing to finance the deficit. The NDP IV has projected to reduce the fiscal deficit as a percentage of the GDP from 7.7 per cent in 2023-2024 to negative 0.8 per cent, excluding grants.
- vii) Financing the deficit has increasingly been from domestic sources at a very high cost to the Government. This has increased the debt service burden and led to the narrowing fiscal space for development expenditure. In addition, external financing anticipated to rise to 6.6 per cent of GDP in the Financial Year 2025-2026 involves a shift from cheaper concessional loans to more expensive non-concessional loans. Those are commercial loans that are hard to sustain. Moreover, frequent supplementary budgets continue to undermine planning and the budgeting processes. Frequent use of supplementary budgets not matched with revenue collection estimates continue to undermine budget credibility and should be discouraged.

The committee recommends as follows on this fiscal deficit management:

- i) Commitment to the Charter of Fiscal Responsibility should consistently be used as the anchor to enforce fiscal discipline.
- ii) The Government should rein in on fiscal discipline, especially on the use of supplementary budgets which are not matched with revenue collections and result into budget suppressions.
- iii) As mandated by the law, the budget for the short and medium term should fully comply with CFR requirements and any deviation must be guided by Section 7 of the PFMA, including the reasons for the deviation.
- iii) Programme planning, costing and monitoring capacity in both MDAs and local governments must be strengthened as it had been with the sector-wide approach, if the transition is to be effective from SWAPs to programme-based budgeting;
- iv) The Government should strengthen comprehensive annual spending reviews (expenditure tracking), prior to the budget process. These reviews should be used as the basis for prioritising resource allocation in the subsequent year; and
- v) Performance contracts of accounting officers should be hinged on the NDP IV results. To ensure that plans are implemented, performance agreements should be derived from the corresponding results.

Aligning annual budgets to NDP

Progress has been registered in aligning MDA and local government plans to budgets. However, compliance level of budgets to NDP has, over the last four years, averaged 60.3 percent, the many underfunded priorities notwithstanding.

The committee observes that:

As at end of Financial Year 2021-2022, only 17 per cent of NDP III results had been achieved. This is partly attributed to misalignment of annual budgets to NDP.

The committee recommends as follows:

- i) In line with section 13(6) of the PFMA, budget allocations should strictly be aligned to NDP IV;
- ii) Strengthening programme cost estimation for budget preparation be prioritised and mainstreamed within the Government by setting up a unit (coordinated by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, NPA, Public Service and OPM), whose role is to establish the unit costs on programme inputs and the corresponding service delivery standards, so that we do not pay different prices for the same service to the same Government;

The other observation is management of domestic arrears. The committee observes that domestic arrears in Uganda have been a perpetual challenge and the Government has, over the years, put in place several measures to address the problem since 1999 – maybe, some Members here were not born; I was around.

The Government developed a domestic arrears strategy in June 2021 called “The Strategy to Clear and Prevent Domestic Arrears”. The strategy emphasises a two-pronged approach; one prong focuses on the phased clearance of the existing stock of arrears in the medium term and the second prong focuses on the management control measures to stop the accumulation of new arrears.

However, domestic arrears have continued to rise despite the Government’s efforts to reduce them over the years. By the end of 2022/2023, the office of the Auditor-General reported a further increase in the stock of domestic arrears to a tune of Shs 10.8 trillion.

Arrears pose a perpetual risk to the Government, which can affect the country’s credit risk rating, as well as arrears directly affect the envelope.

The committee recommends as follows:

- a) The Government should set aside adequate resources in the domestic arrears budget to clear the current stock of domestic arrears over the medium term;
- b) The Government should consider new approaches to stop the accumulation of new domestic arrears and sanctions should be enforced to penalise errant accounting officers, as per the requirements in the PFMA Act.

The other observation is on the effectiveness of industrialisation strategy. Honourable colleagues, I am about to finish. The committee observes that the theme of the national planning framework has consistently been “Sustainable Industrialisation for Inclusive Growth, Employment and Wealth Creation”.

However, the contribution of the industrial sector in total GDP has not fundamentally changed overtime, averaging 26.8 per cent in 2020/2021 to 2021/2022. The ratio of manufactured exports to total exports has also stagnated at about 13.5 per cent for the first two years of NDP III.

The committee further observed that structural information of the economy driven by industrialisation was not realised during the first two years of the implementation of the NDP III adequately.

The committee recommends as follows:

- a) There should be deliberate effort by the Government to fast-track the industrialisation agenda. Development of industrial parks should be at the centre of promoting industrialisation. The Government should focus on ensuring functionality of all the industrial parks with adequate provision of electricity, water, interconnection roads, among others;
- b) Based on plans to develop an industrial ecosystem around iron ore, oil and gas and phosphates, there is a need to continue

investing strategically in electricity power generation. We have not yet reached there. This will minimise the cost of transmission and distribution of power industrial clusters;

- c) There should be deliberate effort by the Government to fast-track the industrialisation agenda through establishment of specialised financial institutions targeting small- and medium-scale indigenous-run industries. In this way, Ugandans will be participants, not observers, in the industrialisation drive;
- d) For agro-industrialisation to be realised, there is a need to holistically champion this strategy through large-scale programmes such as the Parish Development Model, private sector development programmes centred on production zones and setting up a conducive environment for private sector participation in this industrialisation process; and
- e) Develop Public-Private Partnership strategies to enhance financing of the industrialisation agenda because the Government cannot do it alone.

Legislation, oversight and representation programme

The committee observes that paragraph 525 of the proposed NDP IV does not reflect the current status of the Legislature programme, for instance, reference made to nonexistent institutions and inaccurate human resource information. The committee observed that the book needs some cleaning.

The committee recommends that that paragraph, particularly, should be deleted because it is not up to date – it should be expunged.

Alignment of the administration of justice programme and the governance and security programme

The committee observed that some interventions under the governance and

security programmes in the proposed NDP IV, like the enhancement of equitable access to justice for social economic development and the strengthening of justice service delivery systems, including interventions related to juvenile offenders in remand homes, LDC and others, are more directly related to the administration of the justice programme –

THE SPEAKER: Please, read all of them.

MS NAKUT: Okay. The industrial courts, LDC interventions that contribute to justice service delivery, court-related forensic analysis interventions, LC courts, DPP interventions that contribute to justice service delivery are more directly related to the administration of justice programme.

Therefore, the committee recommends that all the interventions currently under the governance and security programme that relate to the enhancement of equitable access to justice for social economic development and the strengthening of justice service delivery systems should be transferred to the administration of justice programme. It is an issue of alignment of the 18 programmes, as highlighted above.

Regionally balanced development

The committee observes that although commendable progress has been registered in reducing poverty, regional disparities have, however, remained and increased vulnerabilities across regions. The chairman had mentioned it, so, I will not read it.

The committee recommends that the Government prioritises the development and implementation of regional development plans, including comprehensive regional physical plans, to ensure balanced economic growth, equitable service delivery, and equitable resource distribution. I would have asked for an investment map, but the committee did not allow.

Promotion of games and sports

The committee observes that the National Development Plan (NDP) IV provides for several interventions for promoting games and sports but does not provide interventions relating to physical exercises for health reasons, amateur sports for mass participation and professional sports for commercial benefit.

In addition, the committee observes that the NDP IV high-impact projects focuses only on the establishment of four regional sports stadia and 14 district sports grounds in the traditional sub-regions of Uganda. These do include international and national stadia.

Further, the committee observes that the desired high-level programme results by the year 2029-2030 provide insufficient information in regard to niche sports rankings. This hinders the effective monitoring of the high-level program results.

Therefore, the committee recommends two interventions.

- a. That the NDP IV is amended to incorporate interventions for physical exercises for health reasons, amateur sports for mass participation and professional sports for commercial benefit.
- b. NDP IV high-impact projects should be amended to include three international stadia, Namboole, Hoima, and Akii-Bua, 10 KCCA artificial surface grounds (Rubaga, Kawempe, Makindye, Nakawa and Central Divisions) and 15 national stadia (Arua, Moroto, Soroti, Mbale, Tororo, Iganga, Jinja, Lugazi, Luwero, Masaka, Mbarara, Ntungamo, Kabale, Kasese and Fort Portal).

Railway master plan

The committee observed that the NDP IV mentions that in order to lower the cost of doing business, the focus will be on improving the transport infrastructure. However, the NDP IV is silent on the need to develop a railway

master plan that would guide investment in the development of railway projects across the country. Without this master plan, the interventions will be haphazardly done.

Therefore, the committee recommends that the Government prioritises the development of the railway master plan that clearly highlights the railway connectivity across the country. Where will it start and where will it end? Taking what? And picking what?

Animal and crop traceability

The committee observes that the NDP IV is silent on the comprehensive strategy for traceability for animals and crops. Currently, traceability of animals and crops is being undertaken at a piecemeal level.

When international markets demand it, then we set up. The lack of a comprehensive strategy and implementation framework for traceability for animals and crops constrains the marketability of Uganda's products internationally.

The committee recommends that the Government prioritises a comprehensive strategy for all crops, livestock, and fish not just for picking one and leaving the other- (*Interjection*)- Yes, we should.

Finally, I am finishing the last one. The NDP IV projects listed a long list of projects.

The committee observed that the proposed NDP IV listed projects including the high-impact projects which are not regionally balanced. They exclude key projects required to upgrade Health Centres II, key tourism and other strategic road infrastructure upgrades, some projects listed are duplicated.

You will find that the agricultural project is registered twice, projects in the completion stages have a full cost in the plan and therefore, inflate the total cost of the plan; some are at 80 per cent but they have included a full cost.

Some bridges that are completed and operational are still in the plan like the Issa

Bridge, Nyara Bridge connecting Arua to Otravu, and the Kangole Bridge connecting Katakwi to Moroto. We are using the bridge but I do not know what it is doing in the plan.

Other strategic impact projects that will solve Uganda's needs are omitted in the plan. So, the committee recommends that comprehensive amendments to the NDP IV high-impact project list and the NDP IV project list is undertaken to remove project duplication, update the actual status of projects, and incorporate the high-impact projects that are listed in that annex.

Two, that the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should submit to Parliament an amended NDP IV project list within one month from the date of approval of this plan- (*Interjection*)- is one month too much? The House will decide that but there is cleaning that must be done in the plan so that we know what we are focusing on for the next five years.

Madam Speaker, the joint Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Committee on Budget made those observations and begged that the House approve the NDP IV with the recommendations highlighted above. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I am happy the executive director is still here. You have heard the duplication; the work that has already been done is still in the plan. So, you will have to do a thorough clean-up and remove what is not supposed to be here and put what is supposed to be here mindful of equity and regional balance.

We should have a National Development Plan that is always evaluated but also a smart one that is achievable not just putting - we need a smart NDP IV. Hon. Baka- Is there a minority report?

MR BAKA: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: No, there is a minority report.

MR OPOLOT-ISIAGI: Madam Speaker, can we invite the author of the minority report? However, before he comes in, you will note that the projects proposed are enlisted in annex 1 for inclusion in the development plan.

It could be long to read one by one, but we have it in the report which is uploaded.

THE SPEAKER: The report will be uploaded and the information is already with the National Planning Authority (NPA). Yes -

1.47

MR GEOFREY EKANYA (FDC, Tororo North County, Tororo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the Chairperson of the Budget Committee and all the Members.

The National Development Plan IV as presented to this Parliament - from the position of the minority report, I state that I agree 80 per cent with the main report and, therefore, the position of dissent is quite limited. I would like to take very limited time so that the House can do surgery. I thank Hon. Nakut and all the Members.

Our position of dissent is based on the performance of the NDP III. Its performance is at 17 per cent, whereas the budgets for the last five years during the NDP III performance from the development aspect was 40 per cent and the recurrent was more than 100 per cent but when you aggregate the five years, you realise that the NDP III performed at 17 percent. Why? Simply because of mismatch and alignment and we should not allow the disease that occurred in NDP III to come to NDP IV and that is our position of dissent.

Secondly, is the mismatch and the legal cohesion. Madam Speaker, the Public Finance Act, the National Planning Authority Act and the attendant legal framework demands cohesion in the legal framework while designing and coming up with the NDP IV. As of today, Madam Speaker, you realise that the NDP IV is designed based on the program. We have not amended the Public Finance Act, or the Rules of Procedure. Some institutions

are still operating under a sector-based wide approach, and this is the tool for which we are using -

THE SPEAKER: We are amending the Rules of Procedure as per programs and the report is already uploaded.

MR EKANYA: Thank you, but the Public Finance Act and other institutions have not been amended and aligned, and therefore this creates a serious legal gap.

Secondly, the Act and the regulations, which I have here, require the National Planning Authority to have district development plans before we have the National Development Plan. As of today, the National Planning Authority, and Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development have not tabled the comprehensive districts' development plan which should incorporate the entire master plan for Vision 2040 and therefore, this National Development Plan IV is supposed to help us achieve Vision 2040.

The main report, Madam Speaker, talks about the lack of a 10-year full development plan which will help us to achieve Vision 2040 that does not exist for the last 30 years and that is a serious gap. How are we going to achieve growth of Shs 581 billion and an annual income per capita of \$9.5 million?

Secondly, the mismatch of NDP IV ambitious targets and the National Budget Framework Paper. The mismatch is glaring. There are programs and projects that are not in the National Budget Framework Paper and legally, we should not be have the National Budget Framework Paper now before we approve the National Development Plan and therefore, legally, it is proper that the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development humbles himself, withdraws what he laid on the Floor and awaits the approval of the National Development Plan because what tool did you use to design the National Budget Framework Paper? You are operating outside the legal system and this creates the mismatch, misalignment and failure of the National Development Plan.

Weak coordination, planning of budget entities. Madam Speaker, the National Development Plan is designed and managed by the National Planning Authority. The National Budget Framework Paper is designed and coordinated by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The challenge that we have had, and that creates mismatch, and incoordination, is that the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development deliberately has been trying to weaken the National Development Planning Authority.

It is upon this House to ensure that Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development design the National Budget Framework Paper to be in line with the National Development Plan. Without that, we will be having the National Development Plan standing as a silo and the Budget Framework Paper standing separate –

THE SPEAKER: When we are looking at this thing we must differentiate what is supposed to be operational like what you are talking about is operational in nature vis-a-vis what is supposed to be in the plan. What you have talked about is operational.

MR EKANYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. If you look at the draft National Development Plan IV, there is an increased cost of public administration. It does not reflect the Government plan of Rationalisation of Agencies and Public Expenditure (RAPEX). We expect that the National Development Plan –

THE SPEAKER: That was already corrected by Hon. Nakut.

MR EKANYA: Madam Speaker, the beauty of the main report is that they talk about all these things. They say the kid got 10 per cent, 5 per cent, and 0 per cent, but was promoted to the next class while improving and that is the position which we in the minority position dissent from.

Insufficient funding to agro-industrialisation. Honourable colleagues, if you look at –

THE SPEAKER: What will you discuss during budgeting?

MR EKANYA: That is the work of the Budget Committee –

THE SPEAKER: No, Hon. Ekanya, you are a senior in this institution. When you talk about inefficient funding, you have now gone into the budgeting process.

MR EKANYA: Madam Speaker, I was trying to summarise the points because the key impact project and the theme of the National Development Plan is focused on agro-industrialisation, and tourism, among others –

THE SPEAKER: Can you conclude, but what I am telling is, do not mix what is supposed to be in the budgeting process vis-a-vis the plans that are there for the five years. Remember, budgeting is per annum.

MR EKANYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is important, in order to achieve the NDP IV, the resource allocation mechanism must be aligned with the planning. If you allocate 2.4 per cent for agro-industrialisation, you allocate 1.5 per cent for agro-industrialisation, and then you allocate in the entire five years 24 per cent debt servicing. That means, Madam Speaker, this development plan is a debt-servicing National Development Plan.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The National Development Plan IV, all we need to do is clean-up, and make sure that there is equity. We need to make sure that –

MR EKANYA: Madam Speaker, I need to conclude. I, therefore, wish to conclude and recommend that the National Development Plan IV should not be approved until all the issues that have been raised by the main report and the minority report have been incorporated and the minister brings it back for approval.

THE SPEAKER: We have timelines for the budgeting process and they must be followed. Approving a National Development Plan does not have an effect because we have to do the Budget Framework Paper (BFP) and that is

a precursor to the Budget Framework Paper. Thank you for your operational issues, Hon. Ekanya. Yes, Hon. Baka?

MR BAKA: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I rise to support the main report and thank the two committees, the Committee on Budget and the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development, for the work they did. I passed there and I saw they were very busy. This was a huge report, but they dedicated time to ensure that it came out. I was surprised that on the dot when you invited me, the report was uploaded.

I also thank the National Planning Authority (NPA), my Prime Minister of Busoga, and the Executive Director, for the great work they have done in investing in this NPA project.

Madam Speaker, I support the report of the committee, and my support is anchored on a paragraph, which is on page 46, which recommends that all programs which had been hitherto put under governance and security should be transferred to a new session of justice program. Madam Speaker, I am the Chairperson of the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, and we are very interested to see that the administration of justice is efficiently done.

We pray that all programs which have a bearing on the administration of justice should be anchored and transferred to the administration of justice program. In the report, they mentioned some programs, and interventions which are found in the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, Law Development Centre (LDC), Ministry of Local Government, the Government Analytical Laboratories, and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), but they have left out interventions found in Uganda Police Force, Uganda Prisons Service and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, which have a critical bearing on the administration of justice. If they are left out –

THE SPEAKER: The juvenile courts.

MR BAKA: The juvenile courts have been mentioned under the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development –

THE SPEAKER: That is under Uganda Prisons Service but also as the chairperson of the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, there is something that was raised by Hon. Odur on the issue of backlog. He wanted assurance; that they would be efficient if you took all this to them.

MR ODUR: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank my committee chairperson for granting me an opportunity to raise this point of clarification. I would like to get assurance from you about one of the justice institutions, the Court Martial under the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF).

Is it now your assertion and support that, that Court Martial must be removed from the purview of the UPDF and brought under the administration of justice, since you are bringing all justice institutions under one programme?

MR BAKA: This is what I am saying. What we are saying, Madam Speaker, is that institutions that have a bearing on the administration of justice should be brought together for planning purposes. I was talking to the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) yesterday. She told me that, for example, Judiciary is given funds to go and kick-start their operations. They actually start - judicial officers are available - but there are no prosecutors. They do not have funds to operate.

If they are together in one pool planning their operations, funds will be available at the same time, and therefore, it will help in working out on the –

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR BAKA: Madam Speaker, my prayer is that as we approve the report, we also recommend that interventions in institutions, which have a bearing on the administration of justice, should be transferred to the Administration of Justice programme, especially the police, the Prisons and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, in the programme-based budgeting, one institution can have even five programmes and

they can belong to different institutions. When you look at, say, Parliament, you will find that the Auditor-General is based in Parliament and that kind of thing. Therefore, you can have them different, but you have not answered what Hon. Odur was asking about. Can I have a response from the Attorney-General.

2.00

THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Jackson Kafuuzi): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I wish to appreciate the committee and the honourable colleagues that have been making presentations on this matter.

The suggestion that all programmes that have a bearing on justice be put under the Judiciary –

THE SPEAKER: We are not saying all our programmes. The programmes have been listed.

MR KAFUUZI: The programmes that are listed. There are those to which we would have no problem that have a direct bearing, like the DPP. Be that as it may, this is not the appropriate time for us to do this. I humbly request, for example, for one to argue that there are no prosecutors; if the DPP joins, it is okay. They can do their budgeting together.

However, to lump the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, which handles the Electoral Commission, the Uganda Law Reform Commission, the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the Uganda Registration Services Bureau, which does companies and what not; Judicial Service Commission and the Law Development Centre (LDC), and several others together, would cause a problem.

I humbly propose - in order to add to what Hon. Odur has said on the issue of the Court Martial, a specialised military court that operates under special circumstances, which circumstances can only be designated within the military sector - If you pluck it from there and then place it under the Judiciary, it is not proper. *(Laughter)*

I propose -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the recommendation of the committee is very clear. Yes?

MR NIWAGABA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. From my learned friend, of recent, you have this system of video conferencing from prisons. You do not bring prisoners to court but they attend through video conferencing. Who budgets for that and who handles it? If prisoners, for example, are in Kitalya under remand by the Court Martial and they are supposed to attend to video conferencing, who is in charge of that system?

MR LUGOLOOBI: Before he responds to that, Madam Speaker, from the perspective of planning, we begin with the objective and then we lay out the strategies (the interventions). We then ask ourselves a question, who is responsible for implementing this? Then we say, it is Agency X. We do not start from the institution. We are actually not rationalising or reorganising institutions. We are starting from the intervention side. That is the programme approach to planning. We are actually promoting the concept of collaboration in the implementation of Government programmes.

Therefore, these issues the Attorney-General was raising of the Electoral Commission, those activities will go to the relevant programmes. They can even remain in the governance. Remember what the Speaker clarified; that an institution could be placed under different programmes. In fact, they are there.

When you look at the plan, you will find one institution appearing in more than three programmes because of the activities that they perform. That is the logic behind this. We are promoting cohesion and collaboration within these institutions to deliver towards a common goal and purpose. That is the idea.

2.05

MR GODFREY ONZIMA (NRM, Aringa North County, Yumbe): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Whereas the explanation from Hon. Amos seems to be clear – *(Interjection)* - the one who is a minister, not the chairperson

of the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

When you look at the explanation from the minister, it is clear that under programme-based budgeting, it is about who plays this role. The funds are supposed to go to that particular entity or agency.

However, my concern on this is, whereas we always emphasise the issue of programme-based budgeting, when you go to the actual implementation, we are still stuck in silos and sectors. There is a lot of duplication. You find the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Local Government and Ministry of Works and Transport, all doing roads. Do we talk differently and act differently? Do we implement what we plan?

When you look at some of these changes - we are saying that when we were implementing the National Development Plan III, we ended up achieving only 17 per cent of the planned expectations. Is it not because of this? I think as we talk here, we should go back and realign our documentations with our actions. That is my observation. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, chairperson?

MR LUGOLOOBI: Madam Speaker, to address that problem of duplication, this time around with this National Development Plan (NDP), we have formulated an implementation plan for each of these objectives and the interventions. We have formulated this plan. And to the extent possible, we have tried to eliminate these duplications in terms of implementation.

This was partly intended to cure that problem. We are following the programs and then the implementation plans just to make sure that there is no duplication. We posted accordingly and have set the target to be achieved.

THE SPEAKER: Let me hear from the chairman of the committee.

MR OPOLOT-ISIAGI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Honourable colleagues, when this matter came to our attention as the two committees- we were very conscious of the matter of separation of powers in the Arms of Government. We tried to avoid what would cause confusion between the Executive, Judiciary, and Legislative, but the two. Otherwise, if we pick everything, we will end up mixing the Executive and the Judiciary.

THE SPEAKER: Are you only picking some programs?

MR OPOLOT-ISIAGI: We picked a few that are sort of courts. That is why we picked those few.

THE SPEAKER: But related to the administration of justice?

MR OPOPOLT-ISIAGI: Yes, please.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ekanya, sit.

2.09

DR GEORGE BHOKA (NRM, Obongi County, Obongi): Thank you, Madam Speaker and the chairperson of the committee for the report. The National Development Plan should reflect the aspirations of Ugandans. Therefore, bottom-up planning becomes very important. The District Development Plan should be a basis for forming the regional development plans.

The Regional Development Plans should feed into the National Development Plan. We noted lacunar in the District Development Plans and the Regional Development Plans- that is something that NDP needs to speak to.

Two, out of the regions that are represented and have a regional development plan; it is only the Karamoja region that has developed a regional plan. The other regions do not have regional development plans.

The minister has to ensure the other regions are supported to see to it that they have regional

development plans or strategies that guide the regional development programs.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, in the human capital component of the strategic plan and the health sector sub-program. Uganda has approved the National Community Health Strategy. That has interventions that will help us strengthen-
(Member timed out)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, the National Development Plan is supposed to be adopted, but it scales up to down. It is just like the Constitution- that all the laws that you make must conform to the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

Therefore, the District Development Plan that you are talking about should be in line with the National Development Plan. Yes, Deputy Attorney-General?

MR KAFUZI: Madam Speaker, the report has presented the reason why we are having this; that there is lack of clarity on what institutions exactly they want to move from governing-

THE SPEAKER: It is not institutions, it is activities and programs.

MR KAFUZI: Yes, I would humbly pray that we list them.

THE SPEAKER: They are listed in the report. They are there, LC1 codes.

MR KAFUZI: Okay, for LC1?

THE SPEAKER: They are listed.

MR ODUR: Madam Speaker, at the beginning when these programs were introduced in the 10th Parliament, one of the schemes at that moment was that they wanted the institution of Parliament to be under Governance and Security under the office of the President.

THE SPEAKER: Which was wrong because of independence.

MR ODUR: It was resisted here. It was resisted here because of the principles that have been enumerated here of the separation of powers. If you look at the attendant explanation- for example, the independence of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions(DPP), that independence is not only in the operations work plan, it also includes budgeting for itself.

Therefore, when we now ambush and say we are going to move them, we are likely to cause a lot of confusion in the implementation of these programs.

I therefore advise that we allow the programs as it has been enumerated to continue and if there is anything else, a study must be done and after that, you can come back and we agree.

That is why I asked the Chairman legal, the implication of the statement he was making here because I understood and know the history of that court martial. There may be questions about how important it is to remain there. Let us accept without interrogating we are going to cause a lot of confusion. That is the information I wanted to give you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, we are going to have this NDP IV cleaned up. Further analysis is going to be done on these projects, which program belongs to where, what can be taken to Justice or wherever it must be analysed before they bring back the report.

Based on that, we are going to adopt the recommendations, and after that we will send you to go and clean up the documents. You will come and lay that document on the Table in one month. Minister, do you have anything to say?

MR ODUR: Madam Speaker, before the minister comes, I would like to add that under the National Planning Authority Act-
(Interjection)- minister just listen. This House is supposed to do two things-

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, listen to-

MR ODUR: The first thing that the House does is to approve. However, they have also used the word adopt. Those two words have been used deliberately to approve and adopt meaning if we adopt just like if you take another child, the child becomes yours. This House must own it.

THE SPEAKER: We are proving then we adopt when they bring the final.

MR ODUR: Yes. That is what I am saying. But because the chairperson has highlighted in very strong terms the imbalance, that report coming, must show the projects by district or by region. The National Planning Authority is not just an entity that is moving by the roadside that can sit and decide, let me buy maize or buy a roasted-

They are an institution that knows how many districts we have; and how many regions we have. For us to see that imbalance, let it be specific. If you are talking about the health centres-

THE SPEAKER: The aspect of equity.

MR ODUR: Yes, but even the health centres you are going to construct, you know the sub counties that do not have. List them. Otherwise, we are going to approve them and get into this position, the minister has said that he has an implementation plan somewhere we have not looked at it.

We risk approving this plan without an implementation plan which will have details which are very discriminatory for this country.

THE SPEAKER: For us, we are approving the NDP IV that we have. Honourable minister?

MR LUGOLOOBI: Madam Speaker, we would like to agree to the idea of approving now, and come back to report on what we shall have done for adoption after one month.

THE SPEAKER: With the amendments that have been brought from the committee.

MR OPOLOT-ISIAGI: Exactly, and the mapping that is being proposed.

THE SPEAKER: And total clean up without repeating projects that have already been implemented.

MR OPOLOT-ISIAGI: All that will be done, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I put a question that the motion for adoption of the fourth National Development Plan FY2025/2026 - FY2029/2030 be approved by this House with amendments from the committee.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members – Hon. Opolot, do you have something to say?

MR OPOLOT-ISIAGI: I just want in sincere terms to thank you Madam Speaker, the members of this House and strongly-

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, listen.

MR OPOLOT-ISIAGI: Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you for steering the process of approval of the plan and all members of the House. Thank you, and in the strongest terms, I would like to thank members of the finance committee and members of the budget committee for giving all their time to process this report. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, we will adjourn the House to 9.00 a.m. tomorrow, and I am repeating 9.00 a.m. for a special sitting.

(House rose at 2.18 p.m. and adjourned until Friday, 10 January 2025 at 9.00 a.m.)