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(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 16 APRIL 2025



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA
IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FOURTH SESSION - 28TH SITTING - THIRD MEETING

Wednesday, 16 April 2025

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

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I welcome you to today's sitting. We shall be handling matters of national importance tomorrow because today, I would like us to finalise Ministerial Policy Statements; the sectors we are handling today are very critical.

The sector for physical infrastructure - I know what colleagues are going through, the sector for education, and the sector of foreign affairs are standing on the global stage.

Honourable colleagues, today, I received a petition from rice traders from Mutukula and downtown; these people are going through a lot. The unfairness in this country, sometimes you ask yourself, where do we want some people to go? Because these are just small-scale people.

Unfortunately, there are groups of people who form companies and get withholding tax exemptions. They do not deal in rice, but they go and get permits for rice and get withholding

tax exemptions, then sit at the border and start collecting tax on behalf of the Government. If you bypass them- of course, the 6 per cent already, you cannot compete in the market because they are exempted. So all these companies are now forced to go through these few.

This petition came here two years ago, and the Committee on Trade, Tourism and Industry handled the matter, and all this was stopped. There was calmness and fairness in the trade of rice, especially from people who get it from Tanzania, but now, it has resumed. As a presiding officer, when you wake up, people send you thousands of messages and videos, etcetera – I mean it is depressing.

Another issue is that when you touch these people, they run to court and get court injunctions. "URA (Uganda Revenue Authority) do not touch me" and then, because there is a group, last time when we handled this matter, they had gone to court and URA won in the end, but they did not have money to pay because they were dealers, not rice traders.

They just form companies, get permits through their ways and they start dealing. So, today I spoke to the Commissioner General of URA, and he said, "We defeated them in court but they did not have money to pay us, despite making billions which they share through certain chains".

I think as the Government we need to sit down and stand our ground by saying "people should

not use machinations to suffocate others” If you want to trade in business, give all tax traders withholding tax exemptions so that they all work because if you have two who are not even trading in rice but have those exemptions and sit to collect money from those without those exemptions, it does not make any sense, you will just encourage – by the way, some of them – there is one who said to me, “But Mr Speaker, instead of you using Parliament to push for these people, why don’t you come and we make this money?” And he told me there is clean and smart money. I said, “But you, is this clean money?”

So, I feel that for quick action, I am going to use my powers under Rule 36 of the Rules of Procedure to refer this petition to the minister, so that he can quickly take action. I am going to refer it to the minister for trade, so that he can bring together the whole sector – URA and the Attorney-General, sit together as the Government and get a solution.

If anyone wants to trade in rice and there are a few people with exemptions, they should also let others get exemptions so that you have a levelled playing field. (*Applause*) If you cannot, then you cancel the exemptions of the other people also. It is a matter of fairness.

So, honourable minister, I think you can give us feedback in one month. It might be quicker than taking it to a committee you go through, but also, look at the report of the committee for trade, which handled the first petition. That same group is the one which has a petition.

When we handled it, it was settled, but now, they have started the same behaviour. I do not know if this matter has come to your attention.

2.23

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, TOURISM AND INDUSTRY (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, it is true I know about this issue but I would like to request for two weeks given that we are going for Easter, so that we are able to coordinate the matter properly and come with a clear way forward.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh, so you want two weeks? Because I had given you a month. I had given you a month. So you feel -

MR BAHATI: I heard one week ago. But I -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given you one month, but work within it. Two weeks still fall within one month.

Honourable colleagues, as you know that we have a new Member, I will amend the Order Paper to allow the Opposition Chief Whip to designate our colleague so that he can start participating in the activities of the House. Clerk? – Okay, I am going to allow one – Hon. Mwijukye.

2.24

MR FRANCIS MWIJUKYE (FDC, Buhweju County, Buhweju): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Just like you rightly said, this issue of rice traders came to the trade committee. They handled it and made recommendations. However, I have a challenge with certain ministries, where we make recommendations as Parliament, but they do not take our recommendations very seriously, and because they do not take action, these challenges continue to come.

So, as we ask the minister for trade to get back to us, I request that you, I do not want to use the word “direct” but that the ministers should take the recommendations of Parliament very seriously. Otherwise, we keep on doing the same work and - because it had come to some of us again, these traders were sending us messages that “You handled our issues, but things are coming back” It is as if Parliament is not doing its work.

So, Mr Speaker, I request that you direct the ministries that once we make decisions, they should take our decisions very seriously because we do that on behalf of the people of Uganda.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Mwijukye. I think when the minister is

responding to address the concern raised by the Hon. Mwijukye on this issue, honourable minister, let us include an action-taken report on the previous recommendations of the House so that we can debate all of it together - your response and the action taken on the report which was adopted by this House from the trade committee over the same matters.

MR BAHATI: Mr Speaker, we will do that. I just wanted to mention one point to confirm to Hon. Mwijukye that we take the recommendations of Parliament very seriously. Some of them require Treasury Memoranda, where the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development comes back to report to the House.

There is no recommendation that we have made that we have not taken seriously within our means. We take Parliament very seriously. For example, on this issue of rice, we took some action, and you have heard from the Speaker. He has said it had been resolved, but it is resurfacing. When new things emerge, we address them. However, I will do what you have guided me to do.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. *(Hon. Namugga rose)* Hon. Namugga, please. Information was not granted. Kindly switch off your microphone - *(Laughter)* – Hon. Omara - Now, why didn't you ask your size-mate, Hon. Mwijukye? *(Laughter)*

2.28

MR PAUL OMARA (Independent, Otuke County, Otuke): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the guidance you provided to the Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives. As much as this matter is under the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, we all know that the ministry that is responsible for granting tax exemptions is the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. I would like to seek your guidance on whether the two ministries should work together because that is a key item under the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, but the permits are issued by the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives. That is why I said, Minister for Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, liaise with your colleagues. I mentioned the Attorney-General, Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), and all that. They work together as a team. Hon. Namugga, you had critical information.

MS NAMUGGA: I would like to thank you, Mr Speaker. However, this is for the benefit of the House. This is in the Auditor-General's report, and it is about the implementation of the recommendations of Parliament. I am speaking as a Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Public Accounts (PAC). It was clearly indicated that you have only been implementing 31 per cent for the last five years.

Therefore, it would have been courteous for my colleague - I am a former minister - to have allowed – yeah, Mr Speaker, we should take note that the Executive only implements 31 per cent of the parliamentary recommendations. You would have taken the information. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have students and teachers from FPA High School, Busiro North, Wakiso. They are represented by Hon. Paul Nsubuga and Hon. Ethel Naluyima. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them. Kindly stand up. *(Applause)* Thank you.

Equally, in the public gallery, we have a delegation of student Guild leaders from King Caesar University, Kampala. They are led by the Guild President, Mr Adonia Ainebyoona. They are represented in Parliament by Hon. Derrick Nyeko and Hon. Shamim Malende. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)* Thank you. Next item.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO
COMMITTEES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chief Opposition Whip?

2.31

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr John Baptist Nambeshe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me commence by congratulating the Hon. Elias Nalukoola *-(Applause)* - on the hard-earned victory of the Kawempe North seat. The rules allow, even in the absence of a Member, to designate him to the committees, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not complain about that. So, who are you responding to, honourable member?

MR NAMBESHE: There were murmurs from the Members.

Designation of the National Unity Platform Opposition Member of Parliament to the sectoral committee

Mr Speaker, in accordance with Rule 187(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I hereby designate the National Unity Platform Opposition Member to the sectoral committee as follows: Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Hon. Elias Luyimbazi Nalukoola of Kawempe North. I beg to designate. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Chief Opposition Whip, on which committee was the late Hon. Ssegirinya?

MR NAMBESHE: My memory may not serve me right on the sectoral committee, but on the standing committee, he was on the Committee on Human Rights. That is where we have exactly designated Hon. Nalukoola.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you have not designated.

MR NAMBESHE: I am yet to, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are proposing and - Why I was raising that is I was looking through the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources yesterday; they are oversubscribed. But since we are coming to the end, I can accommodate. Clerk, next time, we must be clear on the number. I have seen committees with around nearly 60 members, and you have another committee with around 30 members - that balance is very important for us.

That is why we are going to review your budgets as committees. We were giving a standard amount for all committees. We say sectoral committees this much, standing committees this much. However, one committee has 40 members, another committee has 20 members. Thank you. Continue with the designation.

MR NAMBESHE: Mr Speaker, I thank you for that observation. However, as per the rules, you are supposed to endorse by announcing before I proceed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I wanted to do both.

MR NAMBESHE: Okay. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Designation of the National Unity Platform Opposition Member of Parliament to the Standing Committee

In accordance with Rule 160(2) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of Uganda, I hereby designate the National Unity Platform Opposition Member of Parliament to the standing committee as follows: Committee on Human Rights, Hon. Elias Luyimbazi Nalukoola of Kawempe North. I beg to designate, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I put the question that Hon. Elias Nalukoola be designated to the proposed committees.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: But I heard some “nay” from the opposition –(Laughter) - Or it was this side. Next item?

LAYING OF PAPERS

I. ANNEX 1: TRANSFER OF BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development?

2.35

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a request for the reallocation of budget estimates for Financial Year 2024/2025 and revision of work plans for the third batch of institutions affected under the Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditures (RAPEX) reform and approval of Supplementary Expenditure Schedule 4 for RAPEX-affected Votes for Financial Year 2024/2025. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. It is referred to the Budget Committee for consideration and report back.

II. ANNEX 2: SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE 4 FOR AFFECTED INSTITUTIONS UNDER BATCH 3, FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Planning?

2.36

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the Supplementary Schedule 4 for Financial Year 2024/2025 for institutions affected by Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure reform under batch three. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Today, I did not have an opportunity. Hon. Musasizi always checks with me before coming, but today he did not pass by for consultations.

My concern on this is: how is it affecting these institutions? because the Committee on Budget is now going on to the consolidation, harmonisation, and reconciliation of the Budget.

Honourable minister, shall we be able to serve you in time, with these institutions?

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We are aware that the Committee on Budget – and Parliament generally – is very busy finalising the Budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

However, the request I have laid is in respect of the Financial Year for 2024/2025. We have a situation where the agencies have gone back to the mother ministries, and the staff need to be paid.

The activities they have been doing need to continue.

I, therefore, pray that the Committee on Budget handles this as a matter of urgent attention, and at the earliest opportunity, we will come here and do the necessary. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Namugga?

MS NAMUGGA: Mr Speaker, I request the honourable minister to be clear on this. Last time, we received supplementary schedule 2, where you submitted a list of some of the agencies that were affected.

Now, he is submitting other agencies under the supplementary schedule 4. We need to be sure. Are they complete? Or do you intend to bring another supplementary? He tends to do this piecemeal.

All the agencies were rationalised at once. Why don't you submit a supplementary schedule once so that all are considered? Otherwise, he should inform us whether he intends to come back to submit another one.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister -

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I submit schedules for consideration by Parliament as and when the process is ready. We passed Bills, but they were assented to by the President. Whenever the President assents to a Bill, our job is to come here and seek reallocation of funds.

Therefore, Hon. Namugga, through you, Mr Speaker, as long as the process is not complete, I am duty-bound to come here as and when need arises. I am aware that there are a number of Bills yet to be assented to by the President. When he does so, I will definitely come here to seek authority to ensure that they have funds to enable them to operate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Omara?

MR OMARA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Would the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development be able to clarify that in the absence of the President signing these Bills, how are the agencies operating? Under what accounting system is the Ministry of Finance helping the agencies to survive? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker, not until we get a notification of assent that we close the operations of the Votes. So, the Votes are still in place and the funds are still being released to the agencies.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, here, there are things that we agree upon; we appropriated money for these agencies on their Votes. What they want now is to shift this money from the old Votes to the new Votes.

Honourable minister, I just wanted to get one confirmation from you that you are not proposing any new money beyond what we had appropriated for these agencies and programmes. Then I will give my guidance.

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker, I wish to confirm to the House that the request I have laid is not seeking new money. And it is neither seeking to transfer funds that have been utilised. If you get into its particulars, you will notice that out of the Shs 62 billion in total for the year for the Votes in question, I am only seeking reallocation of Shs 13.3 billion because Shs 49 point something billion has already been utilised in the last three quarters which we have covered in the financial year.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: My guidance is now going to be very clear based on that. Committee on Budget, I need you to sit, look through, and confirm these figures, and tomorrow, at 2:00 p.m., report back here and we will consider this item.

This is so that it does not interfere, number one, with the operations of Government, and number two, with our tight schedule of the budgeting process, which is statutory. You just need to go and confirm that indeed no new money and no money already spent is being reallocated.

2.43

MR WILFRED NIWAGABA (Independent, Ndoorwa County East, Kabale): I realise the challenge we are in is because this institution, to some extent, is not helping us to track the movement of Bills from Parliament to the President.

We passed these RAPEX Bills three or four months ago, and under the Constitution, the President should be assenting within 30 days.

Where could the problem be with the failure to assent in time? Is it this Parliament or is it the presidency? If it is the presidency, why don't we operationalise the passed Bills in accordance with Article 91 of the Constitution, by laying them here if the President is too busy to assent?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Working together and being coordinated is very critical; not each one flexing their muscles. We

have been coordinating and linking up with the President on these Bills, and we are again going to do that, honourable colleagues.

However, there is a certain proposal we are working on as an administration, which we discussed with the President a few weeks ago, which we shall be sharing with you in terms of generally tracking Bills which we send to His Excellency the President for assent.

Therefore, I refer the supplementary expenditure schedule 4 for RAPEX affected institutions under batch 3 Financial Year 2024/2025 to the Committee on Budget for processing and reporting back tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. so that we conclude this process and we do not make government institutions fail to move.

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE
PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET FOR
FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

I) COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL
INFRASTRUCTURE

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Chairperson, you have 20 minutes. [*Hon. Katusabe rose*] Guidance is not provided for in our rules, Honourable Member, interruption of debate is provided for under Rule 78, and there is no guidance - under what rule, honourable?

Honourable colleagues, Rule 78 mentions that there shall be a procedure. But rule 78(4) says that when you stand up on a point of procedure, you must say which rule you are going to apply, not the exact rule that gives you a procedural matter.

Hon. Atkins, my brother, let us not go down that route. Just tell me what your issue is. (*Laughter*)

MR KATUSABE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for your generosity and kindness. I was here yesterday, and you guided me to place a request, which I did, as an obedient Member of your House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am seeking guidance on whether this falls under the items that you have categorised as matters of national importance. I did indicate –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it your issue of yesterday?

MR KATUSABE: Yes, about Dr Besigye, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The team I see here – because tomorrow, I am expecting the Prime Minister. It would be better for it to be applied to the Prime Minister. However, if you are comfortable bringing it out now, since I promised you, you can go ahead. The problem is that I do not want to refer, to say “come back and report tomorrow”. If you can be patient enough, we could do it tomorrow.

MR KATUSABE: I better do it now, Mr Speaker, because I feel it is time-bound.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, go ahead.

MR KATUSABE: Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

I did indicate, Mr Speaker, that on 25 December 2024, all of us in this House had Christmas with our families. On 20 April 2025, all of us in this House, again, look forward to having or celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, with our families. We also know that we have a value system in this country, and it is: I am my brother’s keeper; I am my sister’s keeper.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on 25 December 2024, I had no Christmas whatsoever. I am at pain that this Easter Holiday is at the door and I am going to have another sad Easter. Taking Uganda as a family, wouldn’t this House – I am praying through you, Mr Speaker, that as a country, we ask the leaders of this family called Uganda to allow Dr Kizza Warren Smith Besigye to have this Easter with his family, come April 2025.

In conclusion, as you guide on that, Mr Speaker, you will recognise that I was in the House -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order, Hon. Macho?

MR MACHO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have noted my honourable colleague, for almost 14 days, raising one matter whenever the House is sitting. He has been talking about the same matter; Christmas, Easter, Eid and repeating – all Christian and Islamic faith days.

Moreover, as I talk now, the people of Busia Municipality have problems of lack of enough electricity. *(Laughter)* Mr Speaker, is our honourable colleague in order to waste the time of our people, repeating the same matter every day, instead of us talking about issues affecting our constituencies? *(Laughter)* I do not know whether he wants to be a deacon or a bishop.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Macho, Hon. Atkins Katusabe belongs to the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) party. I do not know which faction he belongs to, but I know it is the FDC. The person he is talking about is someone he is very close to. Sometimes, empathy comes in – it becomes difficult for me to stop a Member when something touches him so much.

I request honourable colleagues, please stop interrupting. I request that the Member concludes his point. We have also taken note that Busia has no electricity, and you wanted it on record, through Hon. Atkins. *(Laughter)*

MR KATUSABE: Thank you so much, Mr Speaker, for your kindness, grace, mercy and generosity. *(Laughter)* I do not want to take that direction. I do not want to say anything.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the way I appeared yesterday in this House is not the same way I have appeared today. You will recognise that yesterday, I had a beard at some point. I thought I was going to keep and grow that beard until I see Dr Besigye out of prison, but I thought that was not going to work.

Therefore, what I did, just like I did with the Pope, when the Pope was ushered into the

Intensive Care Unit (ICU), I told God that “I am going to fast, and I am not going to break my fast until the Pope is out of ICU”. I am happy that my holy father is well and making a lot of progress. So, for Dr Besigye, I am going to fast, and I am not going to break my fast until Dr Besigye is out of prison.

Mr Speaker, as I sit, my request is: is it really too much for us as a country - is it true that we have got no space anymore to accommodate Dr Besigye in our country, and we feel the only place befitting him is in incarceration?

Mr Speaker, Sir, at some point, we said where exactly we should put our hearts. I ask you to join me in pleading with God to touch the hearts of all leaders. That is the reason some of us are requesting to meet with the leaders of this country to ensure that we build a country that is big enough to accommodate everybody, including Dr Besigye. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable colleague’s prayer is very clear: that I join him in praying. When it comes to praying for a Ugandan, that one I do – and I urge you, honourable colleagues. For fasting, we did not get the details of which fasting. *(Laughter)*

Hon. Atkins Katusabe, I really feel your issue. The only challenge on our side – and I believe on the side of the Executive – is that this is a matter before court. Dr Kizza Besigye requested for bail. Bail was denied by the courts. I believe the best route is to appeal. I do not know whether he has appealed. He has followed the right process. We pray that, indeed, God grants him good health and courage to continue with the process that he is going through until he is set free.

Next item. I had already called the chairperson of the committee on physical infrastructure.

2.56

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (Mr Tony Awany): Thank you, Mr

Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to present the report of the Committee on Physical Infrastructure on the budget estimates and Ministerial Policy Statements for the Ministry of Works and Transport and Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, for the Financial Year 2025/2026...

Mr Speaker, before I make the presentation, allow me to lay on the Table a copy of the report and the minutes of the committee's meetings during the processing of this report. I beg to lay.

Mr Speaker, in the interests of time, allow me to give an executive summary of the detailed report that has been uploaded. I hope the honourable colleagues have read through.

The ministries, departments, and agencies overseen by the committee on physical infrastructure fall under the following programs:

- i) Integrated Transport Infrastructure and Services Program, where the Ministry of Works and Transport is the lead agency; and
- ii) The Sustainable Urbanisation and Housing Program where the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development is the lead agency.

Below are the votes overseen by the committee:

- i) Vote 016: Ministry of Works and Transport;
- ii) Vote 609: Local Governments;
- iii) Vote 012: Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development; and
- iv) Vote 156: Uganda Land Commission.

Mr Speaker, allow me to go straight into the budget outlook and focus on observations and recommendations. I request honourable colleagues to focus their attention – *(Interruption)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Oguzu Lee, do you have a procedural matter? Honourable, you are very smart. *(Laughter)*

MR OGUZU: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for recognising that we cannot do away with our tradition, which must symbolise this Parliament at all times. I am moving under rule 232 (2), which requires that some documents can, upon request, be inspected by a Member.

I have listened to the committee chairperson's submission, and I am privy to the fact that the sectors he deals with are one of the greatest contributors to emissions in this country. I know traffic congestion costs this country about US\$ 1.5 billion annually. It has made Kampala one of the most polluted cities.

I would have wanted to understand whether this committee has ensured that the various sectors they are handling comply with the law, which requires them to integrate climate change into their programming.

I can only be able to do that if you exercise your rights and privileges under that rule to help me examine the documents he has laid before this House.

Mr Speaker, I invite you to exercise your rights under that rule and allow me to inspect whether this report, with its accompaniments, which have been laid here, actually comply with what the law says or not.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleague, under which rule did you rise?

MR OGUZU: I said I was moving under rule 2 -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, under what point did you stand?

MR OGUZU: I said, "He has laid documents on the Table."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you stood up on a point of order.

MR OGUZU: No, I said "procedure." I was saying that if you could exercise your privileges under that to help me examine the documents he has laid on the Table to ensure that they actually comply -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sure. These are public documents. Please, clerk - Thank you. Committee chairperson, proceed.

MR AWANY: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Compliance with the law

All the ministerial policy statements under the committee's purview complied with the requisite laws and regulation. Therefore, it is in order that the honourable member peruses through some of those annexes.

I invite Members to focus on Vote 016: Ministry of Works and Transport, as I give observations and recommendations.

Unpaid certificates

Delayed payment to contractors has been and continues to be one of the major factors negatively affecting the construction industry in the works and transport sector. Long outstanding payables are an indication of poor budgeting and cause a risk of litigation and payment of penalties for delayed periods.

Consequently, contractors lose the properties they use as collateral to acquire loans to execute government projects. Commercial banks, who are the main financiers of the industry, are losing confidence in government-funded projects, making these projects less competitive.

The committee noted that the proposed budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026 has a budgetary requirement of Shs 1,735 billion, that is Shs 1.7 trillion towards areas and unpaid certificates for the National Roads Department, and yet only Shs 150 billion has been allocated, leaving a funding gap of Shs 1.5 trillion.

The committee, therefore, recommends and urges the Government to provide additional resources to a tune of Shs 1.5 trillion to clear the outstanding debt, in order to avoid paying interest, which creates an additional financial burden to the taxpayers.

Rehabilitation of the Tororo-Gulu Railway Line

The committee was informed that on 13 April, 2023, the Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Works and Transport and the Uganda Railways Corporation, as the implementing agency, signed a contract with the China Roads and Bridge Corporation to rehabilitate the 382 kilometres of Tororo-Gulu Metre Gauge Railway at a cost of Shs 199 billion.

This project is fully funded by the Government of Uganda and was supposed to take a period of two years, with the completion date set at July 2025. The metre gauge railway will support the Government's efforts to increase stock and quality of strategic infrastructure in order to accelerate Uganda's competitiveness.

The committee noted that while the ministry had budgeted for Shs 90 billion towards compensation, rehabilitation and supervision of civil works along the Tororo-Gulu Metre Gauge Railway, only Shs 46 billion was provided, leaving a funding gap of Shs 44 billion.

The committee takes cognisance of the crucial role that the Tororo-Gulu Metre Gauge Railway will unveil for northern Uganda and Uganda as a whole, upon completion, in terms of boosting economic growth through facilitating trade and transport, connecting the region to global markets and boosting key value chains like agriculture, cement, oil and gas.

Therefore, it recommends and urges the Government to provide an additional Shs 44 billion for the metre gauge railway, if it is to be completed by the end of 2025.

The committee further recommends that the metre gauge railway to Gulu be extended to Pakwach because the railway line infrastructure originally terminated at Pakwach and is still in existence, although it needs rehabilitation.

The New Standard Gauge Railway Line

The committee was informed that the Standard Gauge Railway line has been allocated Shs 79 billion under the Government of Uganda counterpart funding, and Shs 2.2 trillion under external financing for the year 2025/2026.

The committee was further informed that although the Engineering, Procurement and Construction/Turnkey Contract (EPC/T) was signed in October 2024 and construction was expected to commence this financial year, sourcing of more external financing will still take some time.

In view of the above, the Government of Uganda and the contractor agreed to start part of the preliminary works on the project under limited notice to proceed arrangement for which the budget is Euros 75 million. The works were expected to commence in January 2025 and the process to effect this is ongoing.

Whereas the preliminary works are set to commence soon and full works in the Financial Year 2025/2026, the external budget of Shs 2.2 trillion is inadequate, but the budget of Shs 79 billion is significantly inadequate. The project requires additional funding.

The committee noted that in the FY 2025/26, the ministry requires Shs 765 billion to fully offset the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project, leaving a funding gap of Shs 686 billion.

The committee further noted that the SGR project is long overdue, given that the new railway system will alleviate congestion on Uganda's roads, a long-standing challenge, and will reduce passenger travel time through offering efficient and reliable transportation.

The committee reiterates its earlier recommendation that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development allocates an additional Shs 686 billion towards the Standard Gauge Railway in order to ensure that it fully commences in the Financial Year 2025/26 as prior planned.

Further, the Ministry should prioritise sourcing additional external funding for the project.

The committee also urges Government to fully commit to adequate funding of its critical projects if it is to meet the desired outputs as enshrined in the National Development Plan Four (NDP4), focusing on building and maintaining strategic, sustainable infrastructure in transport, housing, energy, water, industry and Information Communications Technology (ICT).

The Development of the New Kampala Port in Bukasa

The Government of Uganda intends to construct a port at Bukasa near Kampala to address the future traffic demands across Lake Victoria. The planned infrastructure developments involve the construction of the ports and associated marine transport services, and the development of railway and road links to the port. This, will form part of the central corridor route from Kampala across Lake Victoria to Mwanza and Musoma and then, on to the Indian Ocean ports of Tanga and Dar es Salaam.

The main purpose of the Project, is to develop a second cargo route to the Indian Ocean in favour of Uganda and its neighbours. This is a public-private partnership engagement where GAF Consultants Engineers is the private entity whose role includes acting as technical consultant, project manager, procurement agent, technical assistant for port operations and training.

The committee noted that in the Financial Year 2025/26, the project has been allocated Shs 3 billion, against a funding requirement of Shs 7 billion. The Ministry plans to complete (62.5) per cent cumulative swamp removal and complete reclamation works, as well as compensate 12 numbers of PAPs in the next financial year.

The committee cognisance of the need for alternative routes for both domestic and international cargo, and the adverse effects this

cargo has on the country's national roads, and consequently recommends that the ministry be allocated additional funding to the tune of Shs 4 billion to enable it to complete the first phase of the project. The committee also urges the Government of Uganda to always honour its commitment to counterpart funding.

Rural Bridges Infrastructure Development

The committee was informed that the ministry is implementing a Rural Bridges Infrastructure Development project intending to enhance rural connectivity and access to essential services, focusing on trail bridges, for safe passage in areas where traditional bridges were lacking.

The committee was further informed that in the Financial Year 2024/25, the ministry had planned to carry out various bridge constructions in the districts of Bundibugyo, that is, Nyahuka-Mirambi Bridge, Bulambuli-/Bukedea-Taja Bridge, Pallisa-Aleles Bridge, Kasese-Karujumba Bridge, Sironko-Bujibundi-Buna-Dasa Bridge-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr chairperson, sorry for the interruption, but if you have been following how we have been doing-, we received these reports much earlier. I usually want to save time for Members to debate, because we read this report. Please, just go to the critical issues, and then we will be able to -

MR AWANY: Thank you. Much obliged, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not finished, please. *(Laughter)*

Why are you hurrying? Colleagues, in the VIP Gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation from the Ministry of Justice from the Republic of Malawi. They include:

1. Hon. Titus Edward Songiso, Minister of Justice of Malawi. *(Applause)*
2. Mr Allison M'bangombe, Solicitor General and Secretary for Justice of Malawi. *(Applause)*
3. Mr Samson Ngutwa, Clerk to the Cabinet of Malawi. *(Applause)*

4. Mr Chiku Nomelo, Registrar General of Malawi. *(Applause)*
5. Dr Kullu Kalumiya, Honorary Consul of Malawi to Uganda. *(Applause)*

They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them. The delegation is in Uganda on a mission, on a benchmarking visit with the Ministry of Justice and Uganda Registration Services Bureau.

They are accompanied by our very own, senior legislator and member of this House, Hon. Nobert Mao, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Uganda. *(Applause)*

On the technical bench, we have Mr Robert Kasande, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. *(Applause)*

Mr Gilbert Agaba, Director, Intellectual Property, Ms Mercy Kainobwisho- They are also in the Gallery. *(Applause)*

Ms Mercy Kainobwisho, Registrar General, Uganda Registration Service Bureau, and they have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please, once again, join me in giving them a warm welcome. *(Applause)*, Chairperson, proceed.

MR AWANY: Mr Speaker, in respect to the rehabilitation of district roads, the committee recommends and urges the Government to provide additional Shs 52.9 billion towards the rehabilitation of district roads as they are a critical driver towards socio-economic transformation.

Road Fund management

Formerly, Uganda Road Fund (URF) is a department under the Minister of Works and Transport, with a mandate to finance routine and periodic maintenance of public roads in Uganda.

The committee recommends and urges the Government to fully operationalise the Road Fund, in order to enable it to operate within the resources drawn from the second-generation fund as resolved by Parliament.

The mechanical engineering services

The Government procured and distributed road equipment to various districts, government institutions to improve infrastructure and road maintenance.

Concerning the mechanical engineering services, the committee noted that routine road equipment maintenance and corrective road equipment maintenance outputs are inadequately financed, given the gravity of the status of road equipment in most districts. In the Financial Year 2025/26, Shs 23 billion has been allocated against a funding requirement of Shs 66 billion.

The committee recommends that the Government adequately funds road equipment maintenance, given that repairs need to be done in a timely manner, because when left unattended, they develop into much bigger-complicated issues, which require more money and, at times, total overhaul.

Uganda Civil Aviation Authority

The committee was informed by Uganda Civil Aviation Authority that it required 67.4 acres of land formerly owned by *the* Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and NAGRC, to facilitate the expansion of Entebbe International Airport.

In respect to that, the committee recommends that MAAIF/ NAGRIC, should immediately relocate from the land at the airport which was paid for by the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority in 2019. This should be enforced within six months of the adoption of this report to clear the way for the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority to plan for the expansion.

The Government Debt

The committee noted with concern that as of 31 January 2025, the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority was owed Shs 159 billion.

Mr Speaker, the committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and

Economic Development should provide a clear repayment plan to ensure that these Government agencies completely repay the debts owed to the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority incrementally until completion in a period not exceeding three years.

Encroachment on the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority land

The committee noted, with concern, that some land and property belonging to the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority at Entebbe International Airport and other regional airports were encroached upon by local communities and other individuals.

In respect to that, Mr Speaker, the committee recommends that the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority expedite the titling, proper demarcation, and fencing of all its land across the country and seek legal redress, including tenable enforcement of eviction of illegal occupants on all its land across the country.

Maintenance of aerodromes

The committee noted that aerodromes are crucial, acting as vital gateways for international travel. In respect to that, the committee was informed that although the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority had budgeted for Shs 10 billion, it was allocated only Shs 1.8 billion, leaving a gap of Shs 8 billion.

The committee takes cognisance of the revenue that Uganda Civil Aviation Authority would contribute to the economy, especially through the tourism sector, both international and local, if the aerodromes are well maintained and fully operational. We, therefore, recommend that the Government provides additional Shs 8.1 billion towards maintenance of the aerodromes.

12.0 Kampala Capital City Authority

a. Disparities in Project Implementation Costs

The committee noted with concern that KCCA was concurrently implementing road projects of similar scope at varying costs, despite the projects being in different divisions.

In respect to that, the committee recommends that the Ministry of Works and Transport should expedite the completion of the study on unit cost of roads construction so that it can assist implementing agencies standardise road costing to ensure transparency and accountability in future road construction projects. The study should be completed and the report shared with Parliament within six months of adoption of this recommendation.

b. Management of ongoing Construction Works

The committee recommends as follows:

- i) KCCA should ensure proper traffic management, effective dust control measures during ongoing works, and adequate protection in areas with deep excavation.
- ii) Ensure contractors undertake proper forward maintenance of all the roads under construction, as well as diversions; and
- iii) Ensure adequate notification to inform road users on upcoming closures in a timely manner.

c. Stormwater Management and Drainage Systems

The committee was concerned about the stormwater management and capacity of the drainage systems in Kampala. The recent rains, especially on 26 March 2025, demonstrated poor stormwater management and inadequate drainage systems that led to flash floods.

In respect to that, Mr Speaker, the committee recommends that the Government should:

- i) Prioritise implementation of the Kampala Capital City Drainage Master Plan by allocating sufficient funds to improve drainage infrastructure; and
- ii) Explore innovative solutions to mitigate flood risks in Kampala and surrounding areas.

d. Delays in the completion of construction projects

The committee notes with concern that there have been delays in the completion of some of the ongoing projects.

In respect to that, the committee recommends as follows:

- i) KCCA should ensure the availability of adequate funds for relocation of utilities, before commencement of projects, and expedite the removal of all utilities. In addition, sufficient funding should be provided for compensation of the Project-Affected Persons to expedite project completion and minimise delays.
- ii) KCCA Contract Management Team and other oversight agencies should closely monitor contractors' progress to ensure effective resource mobilisation and provide adequate lighting to facilitate implementation of the night shifts, to facilitate timely completion of the Kampala City Road Rehabilitation Project.
- iii) KCCA should fast-track the enforcement of existing regulations on parking in buildings to decongest streets of cars. Several structures have basement parking that have been converted into stores that no longer serve their intended purposes; and
- iv) KCCA should design and develop designated parking lots and stopovers for buses and taxis at strategic locations throughout the city to help mitigate the disorganisation and congestion in the city. This would improve traffic flow and enhance overall urban mobility.

e. Designs of Roads in Kampala

The committee noted with concern that the designs of numerous roads are inadequate, unresponsive and not in tandem with the increased traffic.

In respect to that, the committee recommends that KCCA should:

- i) Expedite its proposed interventions to create paved walkways by covering existing drainage channels as per the design, in order to enhance pedestrian safety and mobility in Greater Kampala areas;
- ii) Develop and implement a requirement for buildings located near roads to pave any undeveloped space in front of the building extending up to the road, including the drainage channel. This would address the challenge of open drainage channels alongside roads and enhance pedestrian safety and mobility.

0. Design Reviews

In respect to that, the committee recommends that the Ministry of Works and Transport should:

- i) Review and update design standards and guidelines in light of the changing environmental and demographic factors. In this regard, it should promote the construction of climate-resilient infrastructure with the capacity to withstand the changing climate.
- ii) Ensure prioritisation of project planning and design to reduce costly reviews once implementation commences.

11.1 Delayed Absorption of Loans from Development Partners

Mr Speaker, there has been scrutiny on the delayed absorption of loans from development partners. I am not going to go through this, as you guided, but allow me to give our recommendations in respect to this.

The committee, therefore:

- i) Recommends and urges the Government to adopt automated procurement processes to reduce delays in the procurement of contractors for civil works and corruption-

related syndicates that lead to lengthy project approvals; and

- ii) Recommends that the Government ought to ensure timely disbursement and utilisation of project funds. This will save the Government from incurring huge sums of money in commitment fees.

11.2 Non-compensation of Project-Affected Persons (PAPs)

In respect to that, the committee recommends and urges the Government to ensure prompt compensation, pursuant to Article 26 of the Constitution of Uganda, of all outstanding PAPs, and prioritise the release of funds for outstanding compensation. This will mitigate costs associated with compensation delays and ensure that Uganda's rights are protected.

11.3 High Cost of Financing for Local Contractors

In respect to that, the committee recommends and urges:

- i) The Government to enhance the current Uganda Development Bank Limited's Ugandan Contractors Financing Initiative to make it more inclusive by increasing the annual limit from Shs 150 billion to Shs 500 billion, and offer both contract and trade financing solutions at an interest rate of at least 5 per cent per annum; and

- ii) That the Government ought to facilitate the acquisition of a construction guarantee pool of Shs 500 billion in state-owned commercial banks to enable national providers recommended by the Contractors' Association to access the required bid, performance and payment guarantees to secure work.

11.4 Delayed Government Projects

Kampala-Jinja Expressway

The procurement process for the Kampala-Jinja Expressway was initiated in May 2018.

The project remains incomplete to date due to delays in approving the Partial Risk Guarantee requested by pre-qualified consortia.

In respect to this, the committee recommends and urges the Government to prioritise this project and ensure that land acquisition is strongly prioritised in the short term. The project is very crucial due to the fact that it is meant to decongest the Kampala-Jinja Highway.

The Standard Gauge Railway

The committee noted that the Government's commitment to providing and releasing adequate funds for Project-Affected Persons' compensation on this project remains sluggish, years after the launch in 2014 and its implementation since 2016.

Delayed acquisition of the right-of-way has financial implications, since some Project-Affected Persons may require revaluation of their land. This has cost implications for the taxpayer. This is evidenced in the way that there is an ongoing reassessment of sections between parts of Buikwe to Kampala.

Busega-Mpigi Expressway

The committee recommends and urges Government to reduce risk of payment and contractor accumulation of interest claims on delayed payments by acting expeditiously.

Works on the new Kampala inland port at Bukasa

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Works and Transport should:

- i) Expedite the completion of all outstanding Phase 1 works, (including the dredging and swamp reclamation) in order to pave the way for the commencement of other project phases;
- ii) Ensure that the Ministry of Finance completes payment of all affected persons, fully secures the project site from access by all compensated Project-Affected-Persons

(PAPs), unauthorised occupants and evicts any illegal occupants; and

- iii) Establish a full resource technical PIC to facilitate progress on the project and clear any outstanding claims by the consultants.

1.5 Loopholes in the provision of ferry services

The committee recommended the following:

- i) The Government should undertake long-term, comprehensive, countrywide planning, including needs assessment, demand projection and cost implication to inform prioritisation and optimisation of ferry service provision; and
- ii) Regularly assess and compare the efficiency of ferries across Uganda, to identify opportunities for improvement and optimisation.

1.6 Upgrade of Bridges in the country

The committee recommends the following:

- i. That the Government provides timelines on the proposed new bridge over Karuma, including: expected completion of feasibility studies, necessary approval processes, preliminary and final designs, leading to the commencement of works in June 2026; and
- ii. Immediately implement the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), indicating the land acquisition for the bridge, funding for the RAP and compensation to the project-affected individuals.

1.7 National road projects with minimal budget provision

The committee recommends that the Government avails additional resources for the implementation of these crucial projects.

Mr Speaker, as I had earlier indicated, the committee also scrutinised the budget performance of the Sustainable Urbanisation

and Housing Program. Under this program, the committee came up with the following recommendations.

7.1.1 Ministry construction requirements

The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development was informed by the committee that the Parliamentary Commission intends to demolish Development House, which currently houses the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, I am not getting you properly. I thought you were concluding because I gave you extra time.

MR AWANY: Mr Speaker, thank you for the guidance. Allow me to make three recommendations before I conclude.

The committee takes cognisance of the current budgetary constraints and the need for the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development to relocate to pave the way for the Parliamentary Commission to construct offices for Parliament, and recommends that Government fast-track the implementation and construction of the Government campus. This will go a long way to saving the Government the much-needed monies that are currently being paid out in rent for the affected MDAs.

The committee also reiterates its earlier recommendations that:

- i) Capitalisation balance of Shs 88 billion to be paid to the National Housing and Construction Company Limited in the budget of the Financial Year 2025/2026; and
- ii) That the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs prioritises payment of Shs 32 billion to the National Housing and Construction Company Limited in the Budget Financial Year 2025/2026 in its domestic arrears for the payment of the debt.
- iii) Government should commit to the full acquisition of the National Housing and Construction Company Limited.

7.1.3 Land Acquisition and Compensation

The committee recommends and urges the Government to prioritise the clearance of outstanding payments owed to various cultural and religious institutions and others in order to avoid litigation that may arise in more cost of the Government. Government should also avail the balance owed to ranchers before the lapse of the stipulated period.

Conclusion

The committee considered the ministerial policy statements of the Integrated Transport, Infrastructure and Services (ITIS) and the Sustainable Urbanisation and Housing Programme (SUH), and recommends that the report of the Committee on Physical Infrastructure on the Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2025/2026 be adopted. I beg to report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable chairperson. Colleagues, I am opening the debate right away. I usually start from other corners. This time, I will start from this side. I will start with Hon. Donald Katalihwa, followed by Hon. Lillian Paparu.

Honourable colleagues, let us take note of this - please pass a paper through, Clerk, because I know this is a very critical issue but I am going to give you only two minutes. Be straight to the point so that I can accommodate most of you.

Please, pass through a paper because I know colleagues will come later and start - I have picked you and you know your neighbours and you follow each other. If you do not treat me well, I will stop wherever I feel like stopping, so you better behave.

3.34

MR DONALD KATALIHWA (NRM, Mwenje County South, Kyenjojo): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I want to speak when the Minister of Works is here and he has walked out –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is listening, and I have assigned him.

MR KATALIHWA: I see Hon. Musasizi walking to interrupt you, yet my question also goes straight to him. I come from the Rwenzori region. Everything we do in this country regarding roads is always planned and budgeted for. The road that connects Kampala to the greater Fort Portal City is the worst in the country, East Africa, Africa, and the world. It is the only road that connects to the only tourism city we have in this country.

This road has been talked about several times. I want to ask the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Minister of Works and Transport what they are doing for this road.

As we speak, the contractor has abandoned the road. That is the road that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance use, but recently, they have shifted to using the Hoima road, meaning that they have abandoned us to suffer.
Mr Speaker –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Remind him of the road again.

MR KATALIHWA: The road from Mityana to Kyenjojo is the worst in the country, East Africa and the world. That is the road that the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the Prime Minister and Minister of State for Works and Transport, Hon. Fred Byamukama, use.

Recently, they have switched to using Hoima Road to go to Kakumiro instead of the major road. When elderly people are moving to Kampala, we no longer use that road. When we have patients, ambulances use the Hoima Road – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point noted, honourable member. I gave two minutes each so that I could accommodate many of you.

3.37

MS LILLIAN PAPARU (NRM, Woman Representative, Arua): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have read through the report, and

as Members of Parliament from West Nile, we have always been presenting the challenges of the road between Nebbi and Arua here. Whenever we talk about this road, what the ministry does is to pick some soil and drop it in the pits. Within a week, it is done. During the dry season, the sand is picked up by the wind and during the rainy season, the soil is washed away by water. This is in addition to the challenges we have had with water cutting off the Pakwach Bridge.

I have not seen, in the budget, how to handle these challenges that we have been facing as the people of West Nile. I would like to know what the ministry will do now that we are going into the next financial year with no allocation to rehabilitate the Nebbi-Arua Road.

Mr Speaker, we are happy that we pushed for an allocation of Shs 1 billion for roads in local governments. However, this running financial year, the ministry came up with a new guideline, removing the five per cent, which was allocated for administration and oversight. This year, the local governments have been challenged on how to oversee and maintain the roads.

I would like to request the ministry to take note that two years down the road, the roads that we were rehabilitating with the Shs 1 billion are getting damaged. They can review the guideline for the use of Shs 1 billion. We can allocate some money for Road Fund to maintain the roads that we have done within the Shs 1 billion. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have students of the School of Law, Makerere University, in Kawempe South. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please, join me in welcoming them. Kindly, stand up for recognition. *(Applause)*

I requested that you write your names down. Sergeant-At-Arms, are you still writing? Thank you.

3.39

MS IRENE MULONI (NRM, Woman Representative, Bulambuli): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I thank the committee for its report and the Ministry of Works and Transport for the support they are giving us.

Mr Speaker, Bulambuli District is in a mountainous location. The terrain is very difficult, especially during the heavy rains when the volcanic soils are washed down. Our road of about 50 kilometres from Simu Corner going up to Bufumbo, bordering Kapchorwa District, winding up to Bulaago, which borders Mt Elgon National Park, with a tee-off to Buluganya up to Buyaga Town Council, where it joins the main road, was put in the manifesto in 2016.

In 2021, the road was removed from the manifesto. His Excellency the President pledged that being a difficult terrain, let us use low-cost sealing technology. We welcomed that. However, up to now, I do not see our road surfacing anywhere. We are still struggling. When it rains, actually, we fail to get to our places because all the volcanic soils and the little murrum that is put during maintenance are washed away.

I would like the ministry to give us urgent attention – including the associated bridges, because we have many rivers from Mt Elgon flowing down to the valley. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Atukwasa and Hon. Acon Julius. Honourable colleagues, I will be picking from all sides. I want to balance the boat properly. *(Laughter)*

3.41

MS RITA ATUKWASA (Independent, Woman Representative, Mbarara City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the committee for the report. I have two critical issues related to bridges.

I think that being, in the 21st Century and struggling with making money, a city presents a very good opportunity. Mr Speaker, all over the world, the best cities have water bodies

through them. Mbarara City is blessed to have River Rwizi, running through it. With it are about four bridges, three of which are very critical. We could use them for easing human transport, but as well make money. When people go to Paris, Sydney or London, they are clamouring – they are all over those bridges for tourist attraction.

I have looked at the priority bridges mentioned. Surprisingly, Mbarara City – with the Kanyeyite, Taso and Katete bridges – is not there.

Also, when we do small work without exhausting –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, can we have order in the House?

MS ATUKWASA: We shoot ourselves in the feet. You find that little money is allocated to do works on particular issues, like a bridge or road. However, in a short while, like after a year, you are back in the same position. That is happening to Mbarara City with the rehabilitation of Katete Bridge that happened, which was not very conclusive and exhaustive. It will not surprise you, Mr Speaker, that we are again here to vote for that same bridge.

Therefore, I think that there has come a time when we must concentrate on particular areas to give us income and use that to reach out to other areas. Right now, I chair the roads committee in Mbarara City. All the roads we have worked on either had no culverts or they are not enough. When it rains, all the money that you have spent on a particular road comes back to zero.

You used the Kihangire Road as you visited one of our entrepreneurs, Mr Kananura. I think you saw that road. Right now, it is flooded. Why? They put gravel, but there are no culverts so we are back to square one. I think we need to be smart on how we use our resources.

I have seen the vouching for Shs 52.9 billion to be added to particular districts. I am wondering: what are the others going to use?

All of us here use roads to go to the hospital – a pregnant mother does, a child uses a bridge to go – (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Clerk, two minutes strictly. Hon. Acon, followed by Hon. Okot-Ogong.

3.44

MR JULIUS ACON (NRM, Otuke East County, Otuke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committee for a good report. One of the major things that we are way behind in is the road reserves. It is one of the major challenges. We allow the citizens to come and construct very close to the road. By the time we want to construct the road, you have to compensate these people very highly. Honourable minister, even in Amuria, this is one of the things you should consider. We should put road reserves first.

In addition, what plans do we have for the cyclists, boda boda riders or even the sportsmen and anybody who wants to jog? I think we need a special road place where the cycling would be. These are a few things, which I do not see in our report. Cycling is increasing in this country, which is one of the major businesses, yet we do not have a road reserve for these people. I think we are going to lose millions of lives. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Okot-Ogong, followed by Hon. Okwalinga and Hon. Chemonges.

3.46

MR FELIX OKOT-OGONG (NRM, Dokolo South County, Dokolo): Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would like the minister for works to pay attention to what I am saying.

Dokolo-Namasale Road is in a very deplorable situation. People have changed the route and are now going via Kaberamaido District, which is very far.

Honourable minister, you are my neighbour. I do not know why you have abandoned your

own people. Why don't you work on that road? You have not worked on that major road for three years. What is the problem? Honourable minister, my brother, please, ensure that you work on it.

Otherwise, you will not cross the Dokolo-Namasale Road. We shall declare you *persona non grata*. I know you are going to do it. You are my brother.

3.47

MR SIMON OPOLOT (NRM, Kanyum County, Kumi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Before I give credit to the Committee on Physical Infrastructure for a good report, there is an issue that relates to road equipment and maintenance. I do not know why they have decided to centralise the repair centres and workshops.

I wanted the committee to have fully captured and recommended the issue of decentralising the repair workshops. In Kumi, we have to come up to Jinja for repair and there is a long queue of repairs taking place. I do not know why they cannot increase the purchase of this road equipment so that the districts are compliant; whenever they need any work, it is easily accessible.

Secondly, whereas I appreciate the Government for a very good road, the Tirinyi-Pallisa-Mukongoro-Kumi is causing accidents almost every week. This is because there is no control over speed. There are no humps and I am told you are saying that this is a highway. Does a highway pass through peasants' homes? Are peasants not residents of the area?

Therefore, you cannot say it is a highway. If it is a highway, put it underground or in the sky, but you cannot endanger the lives of our voters. Who will be voting for His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and Opolot, the guardian himself? (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Chemonges, Hon. Hanifa Nabukeera, Hon. Brenda Nabukenya and Hon. Macho.

3.49

MR WILLIAM CHEMONGES (NRM, Kween County, Kween): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join the honourable members to thank the committee for the reJd Hon. Bwanika?

3.55

MR GEOFFREY MACHO (Independent, Busia Municipality, Busia): Mr Speaker, I thank the chairperson and the committee for the good job. I expected to hear from the chairperson about the Standard Gauge Railway connectivity from Malaba to Majanji via Busia Municipality. They have been very silent on that matter. Moreover, it is one of the key burning issues that will make President Museveni get more votes in Busia Municipality.

At the same time, there is a lot of anxiety among the people of Busia. They want to hear from the Government on the 18 kilometre road from Lumino-Buhehe connecting Mulwanda for the new customs border post. In Kenya, they have already put up a very good tarmac road from Funyula up to Mulwanda. As I talk, the Minister of East African Affairs has promised people that any time, the customs entry point is going to be open.

At the same time, Busia Municipality, where I lead, is the gateway to Uganda but we have very few roads that are tarmacked. I am happy that the Minister of State for Works and Transport (Works), Hon. Ecweru, has one leg in Busia and when he was there, he promised my people that we shall be given more kilometres of tarmac roads but I have not heard anything about this.

Moreover, with the large number of trailers that cross via Busia Municipality to Kenya, I do not know what answers we shall give our people. I, therefore, seek his attention on this matter because the committee is silent about it.

Lastly, the Government should be sympathetic to the people who use the Jinja-Kampala Highway - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Bwanika, followed by Hon. Naluyima

3.56

DR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimaanya-Kabonera Division, Masaka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The 10 new cities have operated in the last four years without road equipment, and severally, on the floor of the House, they have promised us that they will provide money to secure road equipment for them. I would like to be certain that the ministry has provided for that money.

Secondly, the Busega-Mpigi Express Highway is part of the East African Northern Transport Corridor. Funds were secured. Mr Speaker, I saw you on that route on an oversight visit on our behalf. When you were there, works began to move, but currently, there is no work being done. We want to know the reason for the delay of this very important infrastructure that is connecting Uganda to the business world in the West. What is happening honourable minister? I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Naluyima, Hon. Kamuntu Moses, Hon. Okia Joanne, Hon. Kasolo Robert.

3.58

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I do not follow the lists but rather pick NRM, Opposition, Independents because I want us to have a mix in terms of submissions, but everyone on the list is going to submit. Unless you are rushing somewhere, you can go. *(Laughter)*

MS NALUYIMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I also appreciate the chairperson, together with his members, for this report. Those who sat in this Parliament before us had solved the matter of road maintenance and put up the road fund. We are asking the ministry for finance what they have done to ensure that the road fund is operationalised. You know that road fund management – *(Interjection)* - it is still - I still stand by my question. I do not need an intervention. What has happened to the road

fund operationalisation so that we ensure that funds are provided to several other entities, especially districts, local governments and municipalities?

To date, local governments are not getting road funds and even though several of them are meant to receive it, they do not. So, what is happening to the operationalisation of the road fund?

Allow me to draw the attention of this House to an international embarrassment in Uganda. In Entebbe, we have Kigungu Road which goes to Kigungu Catholic Church - remember this was where Father Marpel and Brother Loudrel first landed in Uganda but as you land in this country and see how sunny and dusty it is, you know that you have reached Entebbe and those things are an embarrassment to the country. Can we also have the ministry for works consider that road and have it tarmacked - *(Applause)* - so that we reduce the embarrassment of this country?

As I summarise, let us also have compensation for the many projects ongoing for people who are affected by - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kamuntu Moses, followed by Hon. Okia Joanne and then Hon. Kasolo.

4.00

MR MOSES KAMUNTU (Independent, Rubanda County West, Rubanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Kisoro-Kabale Road was a very expensive project that was abandoned and if it is not worked on within a few weeks, it is going to cause a serious crisis.

There are four spots, one in Bwindi and another in Muko, that are giving way. When the President was in western Uganda, we talked about it and the minister promised to come and fix it and now that it is a heavy rainy season, it is going to give way.

All tourism roads in Kigezi have not been worked on. Tourism roads around Bwindi

are not even first-class murrum, and yet that forest brings in Shs 600 million every day. So, it is high time we start considering these areas where the Government is making a lot of money and put in some more money. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Joanne Okia.

4.01

MS JOANNE ANIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Madi-Okollo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The committee makes reference to the term "low-volume roads". The road from Pakwach-Madi-Okollo to Arua used to be such a road but due to the breakdown of Nebbi-Goli-Arua Road, all traffic, heavy trucks, even many of the MPs in this House have passed through Pakwach-Madi-Okollo-Arua.

That road, which was a low-volume road, has been completely destroyed by these heavy trucks and so my question - and part of this road was a presidential directive to the ministry for works that they should work on it using high grade murrum. This has never happened and there is a lot of patch-up work.

This road is now in a sorry state. Ministry of Works, what is the plan? His Excellency has said the Government will look for tarmac for these roads, but in the meantime, he has said, why can't we put high-grade murrum on these roads? What is the plan? This was pledged in the 2023/2024 budget, but nothing happened. In 2024/2025, we waited, but still nothing. What is happening in 2025/2026 on this road? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kasolo Robert, followed by Hon. Kizza Acrobert and then Hon. Stella Isodo.

4.03

MR ROBERT KASOLO (NRM, Iki-Iki County, Budaka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I just want to commend the committee on the report. However, in the report, the chairperson and the honourable minister highlighted an issue of unit cost. In my recollection, this very

Parliament allocated money when there was national concern about the unit cost of roads in this country, and I was responsible for it.

We allocated Shs 10 billion to the ministry for works to come up with a proper unit cost of a road in Uganda, and we thought that would solve the problem so that no such occurrences would happen again. To date, we have never received the unit cost of a road in this country, and yet, money was allocated to the ministry. Would it not be prudent for the honourable chairperson to interest himself in finding out what happened to that money and how far that report is? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The minister will first respond and then we will see whether we need to go to the committee. Hon. Acrobert?

4.05

MR ACROBERT KIIZA (Independent, Bughendera County, Bundibugyo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Fort Portal-Bundibugyo Road is one of the most expensive roads we have in this country because of the terrain. Now, because of landslides, the road is actually gone. Nowadays, we use one lane.

The Committee of Physical Infrastructure was on the ground. If the Government does not look for money to rehabilitate this road, we are going to use much more money than was used when it was being constructed.

Mr Speaker, from Kichwamba to Karugutu, there are so many potholes. If one would like to rear fish, the place is now favourable for the fish ponds. I implore the Government - now that Bundibugyo has only one route - If that road is gone, I think the Government will, maybe, deploy helicopters for transport. Therefore, I request that the road be expeditiously worked upon. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Isodo?

4.06

MS STELLA ISODO (FDC, Woman Representative, Ngora): Mr Speaker, I rise on three issues. First, I appreciate the committee chairperson. On page 37, he reports that the Aleles Bridge is complete. I am here to report and also inform the minister that the Aleles Bridge is still not passable. It is wrong to report that it is complete. That is connecting Pallisa to Ngora.

Secondly, Tirinyi-Pallisa-Mukongoro-Kumi Road. On Saturday, the 12th of this month, I was travelling back to Kampala and three people were knocked dead at the junction of Mukongoro to Ngora. I add my voice to that of the area Member of Parliament that we need speed limit checks or humps - the minister knows the language very well.

Lastly, Mukongoro-Ngora-Kapiri-Soroti Road needs to be upgraded because it is a Central Government road. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Wilson Kajwengye and Hon. Geoffrey Feta.

4.08

MR WILSON KAJWENGYE (NRM, Nyabushozi County, Kiruhura): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is at this time of the budgeting process that we all converge to talk about national matters, not specifically our constituencies.

Let me start with the drainage in the city, which affects all of us. I have, on several occasions, seen Ugandans, not so well brought up, who just throw garbage anyhow. It is this garbage that is thrown on the streets that ends up clogging the drainage. It is an act of good manners that, first and foremost, all able-bodied and well-brought-up Ugandans desist from that. Our drainage is clogged because of that.

Mr Speaker, it is also important to note that this garbage originates from all our constituencies. We do not need to bring unpeeled matooke to the city. The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries should take interest in this. We could invest in value-addition

upcountry; we retain the peels so that we bring clean food to the city.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, *kaveera* should be banned. We should ban *kaveera*, plastics - all that, and it is this House, at this moment, when we are planning and putting the budget -

My constituency is Nyabushozi, and there is a road that has featured in four manifestos - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Feta and Hon. Dr Rutahigwa.

4.10

MR GEOFFREY FETA (NRM, Ayivu Division East, Arua City): Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity. I would like to thank the committee for the report. I am glad that Hon. Musa Ecweru, the minister, is here. He promised to come to West Nile; he has never come one year later. I hope you will give us a report on your plan for the Nebbi-Arua Road. I almost died on that road yesterday morning as I was coming here. It has life-threatening potholes. Give us a report of what your plan is.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, the committee reported that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has budgeted Shs 10 billion for the maintenance of upcountry aerodromes. The available money is Shs 1.8 billion, yet they need about Shs 8.2 billion to do it.

Last financial year, CAA budgeted Shs 20 billion to work on the Arua Aerodrome runway. The ministry stopped them. They took their company called East of Eden to do a feasibility study. One year and three months later, there is not even one page of a feasibility study. The money that was budgeted was later diverted to Jinja.

The ministry needs to tell us what their plan is. Are they doing it deliberately? That airport is the second busiest domestic airline airport after Entebbe. What is your plan? Are you frustrating us? What do you want us to do? Do you want us to walk to Kampala so that you feel these guys are really strong?

Honourable minister, the country should improve all the transport systems so that we can grow. If you go to Tanzania, the domestic routes are operating very well because all the airports in the regions are working very well - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable member, you do not need to walk to Kampala for you to be seen as strong. He can see you are strong. When you look at him, you see he is a very strong man.

However, Hon. Ecweru, Hon. Feta raises a critical issue. I just wanted to know about Mbarara. When are you reopening Mbarara Aerodrome? Also, these aerodromes you are making are small. When I see Uganda Airlines rushing abroad - If they could start with the domestic ones, the money they would make - it is even much more sustainable. *(Applause)* Just local ones, but that will only be possible if you could enlarge the existing infrastructure.

I heard you are trying to make one in Kanungu. For God's sake, you have a private individual who put in a lot of money to put up an airstrip. Why don't you tarmac that for now so that the tourists can be going to Kanungu and show support for the private sector? You have supported many. I saw Mr Garuga Musinguzi's airstrip. If you could work it out with him and you tarmac it, the tourists would be landing there. You would make money.

Hon. Rutahigwa, followed by Hon. Gabriel Okumu and Hon. John Faith Magolo.

4.13

DR ELISA RUTAHIGWA (NRM, Rukungiri Municipality, Rukungiri): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committee chairperson for the good report. However, my concern is on road equipment. Some districts are very big and the terrain is also very challenging. The road equipment that we have today - and I want to use an example of Rukungiri - is very old. In fact, for Rukungiri Municipality, we now have to hire; we cannot use our own equipment. Hiring is very expensive.

Mr Speaker, according to the report, if I got it well, Shs 66 billion was budgeted for, but they only provided Shs 23 billion. I would like to ask that all that money should be available to buy equipment for our constituencies.

I would also like to mention - if you look at Rukungiri, for example, one road equipment cannot be enough. By the time the equipment is in, let us say Rubaabo County, it will do well but by the time it goes to Rujumbura, it will be spoilt and it becomes very expensive.

Therefore, I would like to request the ministry to consider - if the money is less, let them consider Rukungiri to have the road equipment purchased. Second – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Gabriel Okumu -

4.15

MR GABRIEL OKUMU (NRM, Okoro County, Zombo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to bring to the attention of the august House the Nebbi-Goli-Zombo-Vurra Road. The minister is very familiar with it, and it is a huge toxic political road in that region.

Currently, DRC is our biggest trading partner. The distance between Nebbi and Goli is only 14 kilometres, but the Government has been promising to work on the 14 kilometres since 1996. I perused this budget, which was read before Parliament this afternoon, but to my dismay, Goli-Nebbi is not featured anywhere.

Can the minister, for God's sake, tell the people of Uganda and the Alur people, where he worked for a very long time and got blessings to be a minister of Works, what he is going to do for them before these coming elections? Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Magolo -

4.17

MR JOHN MAGOLO (NRM, Bungokho County North, Mbale): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committee

for the report. However, when you look at the Bugisu sub-region and you see the terrain – yes, for example, last year you provided Shs 7 billion per district.

When all that is put, the following day it is all swept away by the rains. We have always asked in our plan, and why can't we provide low-cost sealing for those roads? We can go slowly, but we shall reach there because you put it there today, and the following day it is all washed away, and we go back to zero.

That should inform our planning as a ministry so that we can use our meagre resources for the good of our country.

Secondly, I wonder, honourable minister, what road you use when you are going to Soroti or Teso. If you use the Jinja highway, I think it is important that we get timelines about the Jinja-Kampala Highway so that we know what we are talking about.

The road that brings every good into this country, and you sit there overnight trying to access the city. It is embarrassing, honourable minister. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Nyakikongoro-

4.18

MS ROSEMARY NYAKIKONGORO (NRM, Woman Representative, Sheema): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the committee, but straight to the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Minister of Works and Transport.

Nyakambu-Bwizibwera-Nsika-Kabwohe Road-Kyambura. This road has been surfacing, and we have met the Minister of Finance, Hon. Matia Kasaija, who said, "Oh, I do not know how they skipped it." He said that it was a presidential directive that this road should be worked on.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not mind; it will come - *(Laughter)*

MS NYAKIKONGORO: I am going to talk about all of them. We interacted with Hon. Musasizi, who said, “You need to be patient, there is no money”. This road was surveyed. They took people’s land titles. They cannot do anything on their land; that they were going to be compensated.

Recently, the Minister of Works and Transport, Gen. Katumba Wamala, said that the contractor had been identified. They are supposed to be on the site and they only need a little money from the Ministry of Finance. Even in this financial year, I do not see it among the roads that are going to be worked on. What message should we take to the people?

It was in NDPII, NDPIII, in NDP IV, and it disappeared because they were looking for money to do feasibility. How do they do feasibility when they came and started even marking and taking land titles from people? What message do we take to the people?

In all the financial years, we have been telling people that the road is going to be worked on – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Colleagues, let me make it easy [*Hon. Member rose*] Do not lobby me; I registered you, but if you are rushing somewhere, kindly go. And if you did not register, do not send me notes here saying, “Please put me on”. No, we closed. Hon. Onzima -

4.21

MR GODFREY ONZIMA (NRM, Aringa North County, Yumbe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank you for the opportunity. I also want to thank the committee for the good report.

When the budget cycle starts like this, is when one wants to see whether issues that are challenging in their areas are considered. In my district of Yumbe, there is a road from Yumbe District headquarters that runs 21 kilometres towards Terego, up to a river called Uree.

Due to the pressure of various vehicles that work in refugee camps, the Japanese Government decided to give around \$25 million to work on that road in 2018.

We have been seeking support from the Government to provide counterpart funding so that this road can be worked on. Since then, the Government has not given us an explanation as to why it cannot provide the counterpart funding.

Many times we see Government coming with loan requests to work on roads; borrowing money as a loan to work on other roads, but this is a grant from Japanese Government.

We cannot take advantage of free money, but we opted to borrow money from banks to work on other roads. This beats logic and reason. We cannot understand this. You have free money and you cannot take advantage of it, but you opt to go and borrow money to do other roads, it does not sound well. We always fail to explain to our people why the Government has failed to give us the counterpart funding.

I want to appeal to the ministry, at least, if they cannot give us the counterpart funding, then they should give us a reason – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Atima?

4.23

MR JACKSON ATIMA (NRM, Arua Central Division, Arua): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I also join others in thanking the committee for the good report.

My observation is that the extension of the meter-gauge railway from Gulu to Pakwach is a very good idea. But I will implore the committee to extend this railway to Arua City because we have a value-addition facility there that needs raw materials from the Acholi Subregion and Teso. That will serve the value-addition facility with raw materials.

Two, this Shs 1 billion for road maintenance in the districts is a gift to some technical officers in the districts and cities because Arua City and other cities in the country have no road equipment, I have not seen the committee come up strongly with a budget for road equipment for the 10 cities in this country. It would be prudent for them to have that factored in.

Lastly, the ongoing construction works in the country; I have two points to mention to the committee. As I was driving from Arua to Kampala, between Olwiyo and Karuma – the minister communicated that after the rehabilitation of Karuma Bridge, Ayago and Karuma were opened.

Honourable minister, you did not provide road safety signs on the road. One side of the Ayago Bridge has no guards. There are just a few poles – *(Member timed out.)*

4.25

MR ALBERT LOKORU (NRM, Tepeth County, Moroto): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also take this opportunity to thank the committee for the good work.

Mr Speaker, I am lucky that our minister is here with us. I happen to come from the Karamoja Subregion, which is characterised by some challenges, mostly of insecurity across the border with the neighbours.

I remember one time I went to inspect a road, together with our minister, from Moroto to Lokitanyala. While we were there, I told him that the area borders the Turkana on one side and the Pokot on the other side. There is a need for a ring road because of the porous borders. It should run from a parish called Lopelipel to Nakiloro, to buffer the area from the Turkana whenever they come to invade and cause insecurity in Uganda.

From that time, I have not heard anything regarding that ring road. Honourable minister, what is the problem? We have said that we should have one East African Community, promote trade, and be peaceful. What is

happening? I have engaged your commissioners to consider this ring road, to connect the whole area around Mt Moroto, and to ensure that services are provided to the people of Tepeth County, which I represent in this House.

Secondly, there is an issue of bridges and culverts. The only good bridges are those constructed by the – *(Member timed out.)*

4.27

MS MOURINE OSORU (NRM, Woman Representative, Arua City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

My observation is that the committee only captured Shs 44 billion for the compensation of the Tororo-Gulu Meter Gauge Railway Project, without indicating the compensation for the few landlords in Arua City that vacated their land for the construction of Arua Airfield. I pray that the committee also captures that, such that the few landlords who were not catered for, are catered for.

Secondly, Arua-Biliefe Road - I am raising this again - and the Arua-Lia-Odramacaku Road are generating a lot of revenue for this country. We have border markets there. However, the roads are not in a good state, and I do not know how long they are going to take to work on them. The electorates keep asking us, and we are heading towards the campaign period.

I pray that the ministry can provide an answer, or help us to work on those roads. Those are my two observations.

4.28

MR ISAAC OTIMGIW (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would like to start by reiterating my greatest disappointment that, once again, Nebbi-Goli-Zombo-Vurra Road has missed out on this year's budget. Mr Speaker, Sir, we are on the verge of losing a lot of votes because of this road, in the upcoming election, yet this is a stronghold of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) party.

We have taken great officials there. We took Ms Kagina, the then Executive Director of Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA). We drove through the entire stretch of the road, but she still promised us air. We took you, the honourable minister, and drove through the entire stretch of the road from Nebbi to Vurra. Still, you promised us air. His Excellency the President has been there three times and proclaimed that the road was going to be repaired. Up to now, there is nothing. We hope something is done very soon, before the elections.

Secondly, the Alui-Nebbi road has faced tremendous delays up to now. That project was supposed to have ended a long time ago, and the reason is because you are not providing enough funding to the China Railway Company to complete it.

On the issue of the Uganda Road Fund, most of our districts last received funds in the second quarter. We are really in dire need of that money, especially our subcounties.

While on the issue of subcounties, what is happening in the Ministry of Finance in regards to coding the new subcounties and town councils? They have failed to get road funds because they have failed to code them.

Lastly, on the issue of district bridges, they are now almost finished. In my constituency, we have Ayila, Kibira and Pajukwi bridges, which are almost death traps. What are your plans for helping districts build and maintain their bridges? We need your help. Thank you very much.

4.31

MS JULIET BASHIISHA (NRM, Woman Representative, Mitooma): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

My concern is about the rehabilitation of Kitagata-Mutara-Kabira-Rukungiri Road. It connects people who use Kitagata Hospital, and it is the only hospital that serves Greater Bushenyi. It connects the people who use the Kitagata Hot Springs - actually, it is the route to Mutaka Mines. Mutaka Mines has heavy

trucks that carry minerals from Mutaka to Kapeeka, and they have totally destroyed the road, honourable minister. Recently, some robbers started to use the bad spots, especially in Kafunzo, Rubanga, Mulama and Kitojo, to harm passengers. We request your urgent attention.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, we have the Ncwera Bridge. Honourable minister, you visited the Ncwera Bridge. You know that even the Deputy Speaker cannot connect to his own district - *(Interjections)*- unless he uses another route. Three years down the road, honourable minister, you have not worked on Ncwera Bridge. I request that we at least get attention for it. Recently, it almost killed district officials. Their vehicle almost fell off that bridge.

Mr Speaker, I request that at least we work together and make sure that the Ncwera Bridge is worked on. Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. This has been the greatest submission since we started. *(Laughter)* Yes, but honourable minister, I know you should be able to update us. I know there is a good update on the Ncwera Bridge – yes, I have been in touch.

Since the honourable member has raised it, the road from Ishaka, that is from Kizinda, through Hon. Annet's area to my constituency, honourable colleagues who visited me last time when I hosted the President, we thanked him for the good road. The Speaker and honourable colleagues called and asked: "Why didn't you make us pass through that good road, which you are thanking the President for?" I said, no, it is the one you used – people have never forgotten.

When some of us are complaining, we cannot come here very much. Honourable minister, we are dying silently. What is painful is that I do not have any Central Government roads in my constituency. We neighbour three districts. The districts of Bushenyi and Mitooma made recommendations for you to take over the road that comes from Kizinda, through Mitooma, and connects to Rukungiri – just a takeover, but

you have refused. The district cannot manage that road.

Now, you want me to also - I only wait for my sister to speak for me. *(Laughter)* Seriously, honourable minister, look into it. I do not have a central government road in my constituency. I only survive on district roads, which have nothing.

Hon. Annet Katusiime?

4.35

MS ANNET KATUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Bushenyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mine is about the Mbarara-Kabwohe-Bushenyi-Ishaka Road. This road was in the National Development Plan I, II, III, and it has now been carried forward to NDPIV.

When the report was being read, I was very sure, 100 per cent, that I would see this road in this budget. To my dismay, it is nowhere to be seen.

In 2021, His Excellency, the President, directed Uganda National Road Authority (UNRA) then to rehabilitate the road, but the road is in a sorry state. It is too potholed despite its economic benefits.

This morning, I took the initiative to call the regional traffic officer to give me the statistics of how many people have perished on that road. In Bushenyi alone, 23 people have died since January to date. Shema - 32, Rubirizi - 14, Mitooma - 7 and Buhweju - 8. In total, between January to date, 84 have perished on that road. Those are the ones that are known, but some are not known. Mr Speaker, it is very unfortunate and regrettable.

Honourable minister, kindly, look for money from somewhere, because this road cannot wait - and work on this road. This is a road that connects very many tourist destinations. It is a road that connects to the Residence District Commissioner, Mpondwe Border - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Sowedi Kitanywa, Hon. Sarah Najjuma and Hon. Kayagi Sarah.

4.37

MR SOWEDI KITANYWA (NRM, Busongora County North, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I looked at the roads that have been stated on page 71 of the report, and they are around 65. However, I have observed that some of the roads that had been planned for this year, and have not yet been worked upon, have been abandoned, and now they are introducing new roads.

For example, in my constituency, I have a road called Nkenda- Nyakelingijo-Mubuku-Maliba Road that is in this current year. It has been abandoned. The same road is in the National Resistance Movement (NRM) manifesto, and the President told us that this is “Kisanja Hakea Mchezo.” I wonder why the minister has abandoned this road, and yet he knows that he has a vested interest in my constituency. He is part of this road.

The second issue is to do with the roads that were formerly under UNRA. They are currently in a very sorry state. If you look at these roads, you will now begin to regret why we rationalised UNRA. For example, there is a road from Rugendabara to Kitswamba going up to Kasangali. It is now impassable.

Minister, I request - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

4.39

MS SARAH NAJJUMA (NRM, Woman Representative, Nakaseke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the committee for the report. I have read through the roads that are going to be worked on.

Honourable minister, Ecweru, that name, thank you that you are working on the road from Luwero to Butalangu, but most people on that road are not yet compensated. That road is supposed to have a second phase from

Butalangu to Ngoma to Masindi. Where is the second phase? You are also supposed to work on the road from Kisule-Nakaseke-Kapeka. That was a presidential pledge.

When I talk about roads in my district, Nakaseke or greater Luwero, you know what we are talking about. We contributed a lot to the coming of this – *(Interjections)* - Yes, we contributed a lot, so you have to prioritise us. How can Greater Luwero have a few kilometres that are tarmacked? Let us be ashamed, honourable minister.

Even now, from Butalangu to Ngoma, the road has become impassable. We have gotten hurt and annoyed. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kayagi Sarah?

4.40

MS SARAH NETALISIRE (NRM, Woman Representative, Namisindwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the committee for the report. I think the word “priority” has changed its meaning in the area of road infrastructure. We have had roads that have been in the budget and identified for over four to five consecutive financial years as “unfunded priority roads.” Nonetheless, these roads remain an unfunded priority.

For example, the Bududa - Circular Road appears in the budget this year, next year, and the following year and nothing is done. there is no equity in the distribution of road networks in this country. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, for us who come from mountainous areas, gravel and murram roads are not working. Honourable minister, you need to sit back and rethink. If we do not consider having a low-cost ceiling on these roads, we are going to continue spending money on gravel, and yet it is not working.

Look at the subregion. In the Bugisu Subregion, we only need 300 kilometres of low-cost ceiling-tarmacked roads, and we will

be done. We shall not even come back to you and complain; just 300 kilometres. This is a road that is being worked on, going to one area.

Honourable minister, the unfunded priority statement cannot appear in your budget for over five years while you work on the new roads. Therefore, why do you continue saying – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Dr Isamat Abraham, Hon. Ogwal Goli and Hon. Hillary Kiyaga.

4.42

DR ABRAHAM ISAMAT (NRM, Kapir County, Ngora): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We do appropriation and oversight. Luckily enough, some of us here are even chairpersons of the District Road Committee, and I happen to be one of them.

In my district, Ngora, as much as I am a very able chairperson - because there is evidence - the problem that I have in Ngora District is the district engineer and the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). I want to believe that in many districts in Uganda, this is a cancer that must be treated.

When we were having lunch, I heard one colleague saying that her district engineer, after a long period, when he finished grading, went and poured murram on the road.

In my district, I have written a report to the district CAO. I have even copied to the speaker and the Minister of Works and Transport and then other authorities.

The issue that is painning me and the *wanainchi*, the community, is that there are various roads in Ngora district where attempts have been made to work on, but the materials that these people have used were of poor quality.

We have earmarked 52 - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ogwal?

4.45

MR OGWAL GOLI (NRM, Dokolo North County, Dokolo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I really thank the Government for the Shs 1 billion which has been provided for local government; in Dokolo, it has helped us a lot. Thank you.

Having said that, I know that roads under the spirit of programme budgeting support issues related to industrialisation. In programme budgeting, we are talking about industrial parks. We have planned for about 22 industrial parks, but the budget for them is always a challenge.

My proposal is, why don't we have those districts which have industrial parks added at least half a billion, so that they have one and a half billion, to be able to start developing their parks, by opening the roads and then also have electricity.

Having said that, I want to reiterate what my brother mentioned, the Dokolo-Namasale Road. The importance of that road is that it will reduce the transport distance by 164 kilometres. It will also reduce the consumption of fuel by 40 per cent.

If that happens, that is what we call competitiveness, which a road is supposed to bring, by supporting a process of industrialisation, which I have talked about in my earlier comment.

My request is, kindly let us plan for roads to develop the place well, especially if we do not have municipalities. We are expecting a municipality in Dokolo, but as we wait for it, let us have incentives which come with the municipality in terms of an increase in areas for roads. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Kiyaga Hillary, Ssekitooleeko Robert, Ngompek Linos and Adeke Anna.

4.47

MR KIYAGA HILLARY (NUP, Mawokota County North, Mpigi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Honourable minister, I am

going to talk about the Mpigi-Busega Express. That road caused the diversion of the Masaka-Highway, so that all cars going to Masaka-Mbarara go through the Mpigi Town Council.

The Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) had requested only six months, but it is now almost one and a half years. Surprisingly, there is no work going on the Mpigi-Busega Express. We are worried because the traffic is too much, causing congestion and accidents in the Mpigi Town Council, and the road itself in Mpigi Town Council has been damaged, yet UNRA is no longer there.

The second is on what we spend on the delay of the Mpigi-Busega Express. Colleagues, we spend almost Shs 75 million daily taking care of these delays. We spend almost Shs 2.3 billion monthly, care of the delay for the Mpigi-Busega Express. How are we going to handle this? What are we doing about it since we are in the budgeting process? Is this road abandoned? Nothing is taking place, honourable minister, and the Ministry seems comfortable.

Lastly, there is the Bujuko-Katende Road. It was part of the maintenance program by the Mpigi-Busega Express contractors. Since they are no more, the road is in - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, Hon. Ssekitooleeko Robert and Ngompek Linos.

4.49

MR ROBERT SSEKITOLEEKO (NUP, Bamunanika County, Luwero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On the issue we are handling of infrastructure by virtue of the discussion we get, it shows how pertinent it is, but there is someone who is missing. It is a question mark. By the end of the discussion, we shall know who is missing. We plan here, tomorrow we go to our constituencies, and they say that the road is now under presidential order. They adjust and you wait for five years.

When the campaign starts, they just put some machines there to show that construction is ongoing. That is the story from the Kabimbili-

Ziroobwe to Wobulenzi Road. Every campaign time, they put machinery there to show that something is going on. Up to now, you cannot cross to Kayunga via Luwero.

Nakasongola is becoming a city soon but you cannot cross from Kikyusa to Nakasongola because of floods. Now, here, we are saying, we are planning, we are appropriating. Honourable minister sir, here we are. We are planning, we expect the best.

Even the quality of work is wanting. We allocate money, but the work we get is not the best. That is why we are suffering in Kampala. The roads are constructed today, but you will cry tomorrow for the Government to come. For what?

Two, there is Uganda Airlines. We appropriate money for it, but the returns are the best. Rethink about it.

Then, on compensation, many rich people are paid - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Linos Ngompek, Hon. Adeke Anna, Hon. Nkunyingi Muwada.

4.51

MR LINOS NGOMPEK (NRM, Kibanda North County, Kiryandongo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank the Chairperson of the Infrastructure Committee.

In September, the President of Uganda directed the Ministry of Works to locate a ferry on Mutunda-Atura Road but I have not heard it anywhere in the budget. The minister should also explain why it is missing.

Recently, they opened the Karuma Bridge and my brothers and sisters from Northern Uganda were extremely happy, happy over an old bridge, yet the Government has been promising to construct a new bridge. The contract was signed but the committee does not emphasise and tell us when the project will commence.

On the road infrastructure protection, many road signs have been vandalised as the ministry keeps looking on. What remedies do they have to protect our road infrastructure?

Finally, since when did our Rules of Procedure allow Members of Parliament to come dressed in clothes that have wings or tails, like my brother has donned today? Thank you *(Laughter)*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Anna Adeke, Hon. Nkunyingi.

4.52

MS ANNA ADEKE (FDC, Woman Representative, Soroti): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am privileged because the Minister is a user of the roads in Soroti District, so he will know all those that I am talking about.

I appreciate the allocation to the low-cost ceiling roads and to the low-volume roads. I have seen the report make mention of Soroti and honourable minister, please take note of Arapai- Katine-Tubur Road, Atilir-Acuna, Asuret-Aukot Road. I am giving you this because you are a consumer of that service.

Also, honourable minister, you promised to take some of our roads. We did a tour in Soroti, and my voters saw you. They were very hyped, but now, I am really stranded with no answers. Some of them go and to Amuria, please save me because I am in bad shape. They know that I took the minister there, but nothing has been done. Honourable minister, save me and also save yourself. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Muwada, Hon. Auma Linda, then, Hon. Ekudo.

4.54

MR MUWADA NKUNYINGI (NUP, Kyadondo County East, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the committee report, they mentioned an aspect of delayed projects. I want to learn from the committee whether you have investigated the delayed completion or construction of the Kasangati-Matuga Road.

Whenever I check with the contractor, he says you have failed to compensate the Project-Affected Persons and that has occasioned a delay, year after year. There is an extension of the project. I would like to know from the committee whether you have interrogated it.

Equally, when it comes to delayed absorption of loans, this costs the taxpayer because these loans have to be repaid. One instance is to do with the stretch of Mpererwe-Kiteezi road under the Kampala Capital City Authority. I do not see the Minister for Kampala, but I guess the available ministers can ably answer. What happened? This Parliament appropriated money for that road years ago. Till now, no work has commenced.

Is there any provision in the report to do with that particular road? It covers a very sensitive area, the Kiteezi landfill, where the Government of Uganda killed the people for failure to take over and safeguard the people from the landfill. They had to break people's houses to access the landfill, yet Parliament appropriated money for it. Let us save lives; construct the road – *(Interjection)*- which order? *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Auma?

4.56

MS LINDA AUMA (Independent, Woman Representative, Lira): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I would like to join my colleagues in thanking the committee for the well-elaborated presentation. On behalf of the people of Lango, we would like to thank the Government for the Apac-Rwenkunya road and the rehabilitation of the Soroti-Kamdingi Road.

Lango is the third highest payer of taxes in this country, but our road bitumen coverage is three per cent, and these are mainly roads that the former Governments constructed. Since the inception of this Government, it has constructed only the Apac-Rwenkunya Road.

I request that the Lira-Aloi-Abim-Kotido Road be especially put in this budget. This has been in the manifesto for two consecutive terms.

There was even a time we were called for a handover; the ministry disappeared up to date. This would boost business because we have enough industries to supply northern Uganda. We need a connection. Thank you so much. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ekudo Tom?

4.57

MR TOM EKUDO (FDC, Gweri County, Soroti): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would also like to draw the attention of the Minister of Works and Transport, who comes from Teso, to the Soroti-Gweri-Toroma-Katakwi Road. You promised that you were going to put it in the budget. The report has been read, but we have not seen it yet this is a shortcut to your home. Because the road is in bad shape, it makes you and even the Vice-President travel a longer distance. *(Laughter)* Honourable minister, can you please put this road in the budget?

I would like to appreciate the Government for the Shs 1 billion which is being allocated to the districts. It does good work, but the money is small. We still need more money for this activity. I have not seen in the report where the minister or chairperson says whether they will add more money or not.

The other issue is on drainage and waterways on the roads. This is what is spoiling our roads. Even if we construct them today, if we do not put drainage systems well, the roads will still get spoiled tomorrow. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Mukasa Aloysius?

4.59

MR ALOYSIUS MUKASA (NUP, Rubaga Division South, Kampala): My pleasure, Mr Speaker. Let me hope the minister is not overwhelmed. My focus is on the Kibuye-Masaka Road. I have severally invited the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) to bear witness on the sorry state in which the road is and how my residents are dissatisfied with the supervision that the Minister of Works and Transport undertakes.

I will also put my focus on the Nateete-Nakawuka road. Currently, it is blocked after Nateete traffic lights, putting my residents and traders around that area in a state where their businesses are stalled. My advice is that we should cease installing these cylindrical or round culverts, which sometimes lead to faster clogging of the drainage systems, and resort to these box or structurally constructed culverts when they are being earthed. This is the root cause of floods along the Masaka-Kibuye Road. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Nyangweso?

5.00

MR DENNIS NYANGWESO (Independent, Samia-Bugwe Central County, Busia): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the committee for the report. I would like to address myself to the Uganda Road Fund.

Some time back, after rationalisation, the hardworking Minister of State for Finance, Hon. Musasizi, rushed here with a motion to reallocate money, especially for those agencies that had been rationalised to ensure that service delivery is not disrupted.

Mr Speaker, I remember you were the Chair of the session at that time, and you urged us to quickly consider the motion. I am the Chairperson of the Busia Roads Committee, and we were recently informed in a meeting that the Uganda Road Fund money had not been released.

Unfortunately, the Minister of Finance has just stepped out, but the Minister of Works and Transport is here. We need confirmation. Since that money was reallocated but not released, the district is asking whether we should re-plan for the roads that have been affected by non-release of that money because right now, we are doing the budget for next financial year for the district.

Are you going to release money for Quarter 3 that was not released but was approved by this Parliament through a supplementary or should

we consider it under the new financial year, such that we can have those roads planned for the next financial year? Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Mutembuli?

5.02

MR YUSUF MUTEMBULI (NRM, Bunyole East County, Butaleja): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. It is very unfortunate that up to now, we are still lamenting about the roads in this country. That is why you see most of our colleagues in the Opposition are smiling.

In the National Development Plan (NDP) III and NRM manifesto, it was clearly indicated that the Namutumba-Busolwe-Nabumali Road was supposed to be upgraded in the Financial Year 2022/2023. All of us were excited. I did not even sleep, reading through the entire report to see where I would find that road. Unfortunately, it is not even mentioned as one of the roads that anyone is dreaming of being upgraded.

Mr Speaker, Butaleja District is in Bukedi, which has seven districts but only one district, Butaleja, does not have tarmac, which is very unfortunate. Honourable minister, please, can you think about this road? The moment you work on this road, people from Lwakhakha will never go to Mbale; they will use that shortcut. People from Malaba will never use Bugiri Road; they will use this shortcut.

In one way or the other, we shall be saving a lot economically in terms of fuel, distance and so on. It is my humble prayer that we make this road a priority, so that we also improve the lives of the people of Butaleja.

Two, in the report, you are talking about what I would call a conflict between UCAA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. You are talking about – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Milton Muwuma, followed by Hon. Zijjan.

5.05

MR MILTON MUWUMA (NRM, Kigulu County South, Iganga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Salutations to the Committee on Physical Infrastructure. I thank the Government for compensating my people who were affected by the standard gauge railway project.

Compensation stands at 85 per cent as of today, and I pray that the remaining 15 per cent is expedited so that people get value for their money.

The area where they have already compensated people and demolished houses is turning into a habitat for criminals because jungles and bushes have developed in this place. I request that you clear the neighbours that remained to be cultivating fast-growing crops instead of us having forests in this place and turning it into a security threat.

I have two Roads that originally belong to Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) that are costing me a vote if at all I am not helped in the *-(Interjection)-* Yes, because people are saying the road is not accessible from Iganga district quarters through Nakigo to Bugweri, then from Iganga district quarters to Mayuge up to Bwondha.

These are formerly UNRA roads but nothing is happening and they are impassable as we speak. Honourable minister, I request that you intervene as fast as possible.

Finally, on 20th December 2020, the honourable minister, with your team, including the Head of State, the Rt Hon. Former Speaker, the Rt Hon. Former Secretary General, and the former Minister for Presidency, launched the tarmacking of Iganga-Luuka-Kamuli Road. People celebrated that this was a Christmas gift then. The equipment disappeared from then to date - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Zijjan, and Hon. Lee.

5.06

MR DAVID ZIJJAN (Independent, Butemba County, Jinja): Thank you, Mr Speaker and the committee for a wonderful report. Honourable minister, I would like to address you for a second time about the fate of the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) of the standard gauge railway between Wairaka and Kimaka. You promised that the ministry was undertaking to compensate people.

To date, several affected persons have not been compensated, and some have not been compensated on the pretext that they are in a wetland.

Honourable minister, these so-called wetlands are not gazetted places. These affected persons were identified initially as potential recipients, then, after disclosure, you came back and told them that they were not going to be compensated because they were in wetlands.

You have compensated some people in Kimaka around Makenke, but there are people who have turned despondent, destitute, can no longer use their land because it was earmarked for that development but you have not compensated them.

They are being tossed around and turned into beggars. We do not know what the gimmick is. Specifically, block M147, M148, and M149. Mr Minister, pronounce yourself.

The second issue is that the road between Kimaka to Mbulamuti has appeared several times in the budget - I warn my colleagues, your road appearing in the budget is not a guarantee that there will be implementation because this road has been there severally but it has never been funded, and it is turning into a butcher. People around Budondo are - *(Member timed out.)*

5.08

MR LEE OGUZU (FDC, Maracha County, Maracha): While sitting there, I was sympathising with Hon. Ecweru and wondering where he is going to find money to solve all these problems but I cannot also sympathise

with him because he has connived with the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to allow the Government to incur unnecessary arrears.

They are failing to manage the economy and I do not know what they sit to discuss in Cabinet that we must incur unnecessary arrears and not be able to utilise the loans we borrow.

Seated here, I am asking who speaks for the Government? The other time, the Prime Minister came here and said the roads A, B, C, and D are going to be in the budget.

However, today, these things are not there. I would like to move a motion that we must investigate the Committee on Physical Infrastructure. Why do I say we must investigate them? There are so many things the Government has made commitments to in written and when we look at-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Lee, are you a Member of the committee?

MR OGUZU: No, I am not. I have written commitments, seen the National Development Plan IV (NDP IV) and all those priorities have been switched. Who has messed up with that? I have a list of all the roads that are going to be worked on.

I can tell you, honourable members, that there is no equity in the project we are going to implement next financial year. If you gave this thing time, you are going to find out that you will be blamed for nothing because there is nothing in your area that you should be- I was looking at whether, maybe because he is the Speaker of Parliament, that there are roads that are going to be done in your area, nothing, so who is this- (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We had given him a special assignment, so another two minutes to conclude.

MR OGUZU: Before this report is sent to the Budget Committee, let us take some time and scrutinise it so that we address all these issues

at once. To conclude the matter I raised here, I asked whether this certificate of climate change was there.

However, I found that it has become a ritual just to write letters like this. There are no district climate action plans, no national climate action plans and we even do not know how much money will be put into climate action. Traffic congestion, as I said, is costing Shs 1.5 billion in Kampala but there is no action.

So, if we pass this kind of thing, what kind of Parliament shall we be? We are all stuck in congestion on the streets of Kampala, killing four hours then you come and pass this kind of thing saying that it must go to the Budget Committee for harmonisation? Ugandans from today onwards are going to query what kind of MPs we are, thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, return our document, it is for the Clerk. Honourable colleagues, I intentionally gave the Committee on Physical Infrastructure nearly three hours.

[Hon Member rose_] Honourable, no need for standing up, I have a list. If you registered, I will read your name. If you did not, I am sorry. I am back on my list. Hon. Namugga, Hon. Balimwezo, Hon. Olanya Gilbert and Hon. Ebwalu Jonathan.

5.13

MS GORRETH NAMUGGA (NUP, Mawogola County South, Ssembabule): Thank you, Mr Speaker, you have asked the right question. You are not safe. How I wish Hon. Musasizi were here. We are tired of wasting time in this House. When you look at the report of the Committee on Physical Infrastructure, the issue of arrears is Shs 1.7 trillion, you only committed Shs 50 trillion yet You have a balance of Shs 150 trillion in arrears.

People are here lamenting about the roads, where are you going to get the money? You cannot come up to say that you do not have a budget. We are here wasting time, Kyabakuz-

Matete Road, Ssembabule-Mbirizi, you do not have money. Hon. Musasizi has to come and explain. Why are you putting us in a circus of budgeting yet you do not have money?

You have repeatedly come to this Parliament to lie to people. Honourable colleagues, you do not have a budget. You are here lamenting over the roads; these people have no money.

When you look at the unfunded priorities, you can do nothing. We should get back to the consolidated report on financial statements from the Auditor-General; you have nothing.

We waste time and taxpayers' money here for you to lament about roads when you cannot even afford to work on a single kilometre next financial year. He is here nodding his head here (*Laughter*)- We do not have money to work on roads, honourable colleagues. You will talk about the equipment. But the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development needs to be here to explain where they will obtain the funding. Look at this –(*Interjections*) – I am guiding you; we are wasting money. He should respond. I am telling you, Mr Speaker, we have no money.

Getting back to the private sector, look at the contractors. They borrow at 23 per cent interest, but for the foreign contractors, it is three per cent. Why are you frustrating the private sector? You no longer give contracts to the local contractors. We are here suffering with foreign contractors. You come here and say, “Buy Uganda, Build Uganda.” From where?

You are giving all the contracts to foreigners; who will make money? Unemployment among the youth – how are you going to give them jobs? Mr Speaker, we need to become serious.

The Auditor-General submitted a report, and as the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government), we guided that why don't we first – (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, we have the money,

but it is not enough. What we are doing here is to manage the scarce resources. Scarcity does not mean there is nothing. We cannot say there is no money when the Ministry of Works and Transport has been given around Shs 6.4 trillion. How do we manage this scarce resource? That is what we are doing here. Hon. Namugga, we cannot abandon this little money that we have.

5.16

MR RONALD BALIMWEZO (NUP, Nakawa Division East, Kampala): Thank you. Mr Speaker, well aware that you are a student of economic law, the traffic jam in Uganda is becoming a serious issue. We have bankable projects. The Kampala-Jinja Expressway is one of the most bankable projects that we have in the country, just like the Entebbe Expressway, one of the most expensive roads in Uganda.

By the time they were thinking about the Entebbe Expressway, they thought it would generate a mere Shs 2 billion per month. To date, as I speak, Entebbe Expressway generates over Shs 3.8 billion every month. I believe that the Kampala-Jinja Expressway would be even four times higher.

In a traffic jam in Uganda, we lose 240,000 man-hours every day, according to Colas Limited, a UK-based company. This comes to Shs 10 trillion every year. Some of us are economists. Just think about that.

For the Kampala-Jinja Expressway, up to now, we do not know how much we are supposed to compensate people. When you look critically at the recommendation of the committee, just urging the Government to prioritise this without even noting how much the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) require is a mess.

Therefore, I thank you, but also request you to give details on the expressway. We spend – (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

5.17

MR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak South County, Amuru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to appreciate the committee and the chairperson, my brother, Tony Awany, for presenting an elaborate report.

Mr Speaker, for the first time, I would like to appreciate the Minister of Works and Transport and his ministry as far as Karuma is concerned. This time, you kept your word and followed the exact timeframe you had given. *(Applause)* I pray that for all Government projects like roads and bridges, the timeframe should be kept the way you did for that one.

We have many roads across the country. The committee should have prioritised the roads in an equal and balanced manner. All districts need good tarmac roads. His Excellency, the President, promised very many roads across the country. For example, in my district, His Excellency promised to construct the Awer-Amuru-Rhino Camp Road, together with a constructing ferry at Rhino Camp. However, up to now, we are not seeing the work done.

The committee should have looked at the important roads across the country. Some roads connect districts, but are not all that important because the traffic is not heavy on those roads. You should have prioritised the heavy traffic roads.

On the Kampala-Jinja Expressway, I recall that in the 10th Parliament, we borrowed money for this – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable members, you know the procurement issue that came with the Kampala-Jinja Expressway. It is an issue that we have been handling on the Floor.

5.20

MR JONATHAN EBWALU (Independent, Soroti West Division, Soroti City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The principle of equity demands that we must share what is available. When you look at the report, the ministry now wants Shs 6.4 trillion because of the implementation of

the Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Expenditure (RAPEX) projects.

Mr Speaker, I was going through documents in my research and noticed that Northern Uganda, the biggest of the regions in the whole country, with a size of 82,000 square kilometres of roads, has only 639 kilometres of tarmac roads, representing 14 per cent. Eastern Uganda has only 19 per cent. That means that the eastern and northern areas have only 34 per cent of the tarmac roads. Western Uganda has 41 per cent. Central here has only 25 per cent, yet we all pay taxes.

I would like to appeal to the committee and the Members of Parliament that, before we adopt this report, the Minister of Works and Transport should tell us how much money is going to the north, the west, the south and the central, and which roads they are going to work on. When we pass it blindly, other regions are going to miss out. We are seeing what is happening. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I would like us to be very cautious about that issue. I have given you my example. Sometimes, you judge the west – “the west is having much”. Come to my constituency. Come to Buhweju. In my constituency, I have told you I do not have a single Central Government road.

I think, honourable colleagues, have been putting issues here. Let us look at this from a national outlook, but when we start saying, “this area, that area”, some of us will also say, call a caucus of the eastern region and see where Mitooma is. That is not helpful.

However, what Hon. Jonathan Ebwalu says is that let us ensure we have equity. For example, I visited the Zombo area – the Gori Road. It is really unfortunate. When we say we are working on a road in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), that road would open us to DRC - that area of the West Nile. You would have opened a huge economic activity if you opened that area.

If you go to this area, which Hon. Nyakikongoro has been talking about - I drove through that road when the President was touring Ankole, passing via Hon. Naome Kibaju's area, the President told people: "Please, count this done in July." I was there personally.

I have my list here. Yes, let us hear from Hon. Katali Joy and then Hon. Midius.

5.24

MS LOY KATALI (NRM, Woman Representative, Jinja): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I thank the committee chairperson and members for the detailed report. I will start from where my honourable colleague stopped, on the Standard Gauge Railway. I have two minutes, so I have to rap.

Concerning the Standard Gauge Railway, honourable minister, I would like to find out when you are going to pay those people who have not yet been paid?

On the issue of Amber Court, Budondo-Mbulamuti, as my honourable colleague, said, year in, year out, we have been hearing about it. It is number 52 on the project supposed to be worked on and we are hoping that you work on it this time you work on it.

Honourable minister, I would like to inform you that right now, the road is impassable because of the rain.

I thank the committee and the members for appreciating that the Jinja-Kampala Express Highway should be a priority road, but as we wait for the main express highway, the road is in a bad state, with lots of accidents and traffic jams. It is impassable. Honourable minister, we need answers.

One honourable colleague talked about the contracts that were ongoing during the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) time, before we took it back to the ministry. We have the Magamaga-Iziru-Namagera Road. Honourable minister, we need answers because that road has to be worked on.

The committee talked about people encroaching on the Uganda Civil Aviation land. I think most times, people sleep on the job. How do these guys encroach? We leave people to encroach on government land, build there, then we come and say, "Please vacate." What happens? Who is responsible? When these people are encroaching, why do government people sit back and sleep on the job? Afterwards, they come and destroy people's property and send back packing.

5.26

MS MIDIUS NATUKUNDA (NRM, Woman Representative, Rukungiri): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will talk about the issue of the Ntungamo-Rukungiri Highway, which is in a very bad state. Last week, we had an accident, a Perfect Coach bus collided with a taxi, and we lost about six lives. If I could mention the number of people who have died on that road, there are many. Kindly give us a solution and work on this road as soon as you can.

On the road equipment maintenance, the funds for maintaining the equipment are very low. The 10 per cent that you give them is not enough. They used to operate on 15 per cent, which was also a challenge. What can 10 per cent do? I kindly request that you increase their budget to 20 per cent so that they are able to maintain the road equipment.

In the last rainy season, most of the district bridges in Rukungiri were washed away; that is, Njororo, Omuruhita, and Kanshenkye Bridge. It is now another rainy season, and we do not know what to tell the people because they are counting on us for responses. Minister for Works and Transport, hear the voices of the people of Rukungiri and work on these bridges.

Some districts are very big, and the Kigezi terrain - Rukungiri is a very big district, so one road equipment is not enough. Most times, when it works in one subcounty, it is out of use. It needs to be maintained. If you cannot give us another equipment, at least, let the funds for maintenance for a timely response.

5.27

MR GYAVIIRA SSEMWANGA (NRM, Buyamba County, Rakai): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Government for the Shs 1 billion grant. However, some of that money is used to hire excavators. I would like this House to think about giving money for buying excavators per district. An excavator can go for Shs 500 million, and when you calculate by 146 districts, that is about Shs 73 billion; it is workable.

Secondly, I have issues with roads, for example, the Lumbugu- Lyantonde Road. However, whenever we go to finance, we are told that there are no funds. Here are the funds, Mr Speaker. Everyone has talked about the Jinja-Kampala Express Highway. It is a Public-Private Partnership Project (PPP). We have to investigate and think about PPPs in this country.

The Public-Private Partnership Project alone on that project, which is about \$1 billion, increases the cost by about 20 per cent. Why don't we have economic analysts from the ministries of finance and that of works to present to us when it is fully public and PPP? We shall solve the problem and save about 20 per cent.

The traffic jam along Jinja Road alone contributes a 6 per cent loss of GDP in Uganda. We have to solve it once and for all. I beg to submit.

5.29

MR BOSCO OKIROR (NRM, Usuk County, Katakwi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I noticed we have read two books of the Bible. We, the Members of Parliament, have read the Book of Lamentations and understood it very well. The ministers have understood the Acts of the Apostles.

I would like to look at the report and mostly the mission statement because it is very attractive. It talks about providing reliable transport infrastructure. However, I want to be very basic to the point that if we want to provide a reliable transport infrastructure, we must understand what the bottlenecks are.

For a road to be worked upon, we need a grader and an excavator. We have requested the honourable minister, time and again, that the cost of repairing equipment from Katakwi back to Jinja, because all that area will come to Jinja. Why don't we, as a Parliament, resolve that we have these graders and excavators at a subregional level? It can help us.

We did provide Shs 1 billion, but right now, all the districts are struggling to utilise that money. You will find that three to five districts all want excavators. Without an excavator, you cannot advance. At the end of the day, it is counterproductive, and there is no work moving. Even where we have provided money, we are limited. You cannot go and dig without a hoe.

We need to provide the hoe so that we can be able to - Otherwise, honourable ministers, I want to look at the weight you are carrying – *(Member timed out.)*

5.31

MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I thank the Government for constructing our beautiful road, Atiak-Omi Road, which is almost done. However, we have a big challenge connecting us to Obongi via Sinyanya Road.

Annually, people get cut off. Yes, the ministry has tried, but I will propose that you think of a more permanent solution, knowing that we do not have proper roads in Obongi. That is the only road that can aid our movement from Obongi to Adjumani and vice versa.

The second issue is about the maintenance of our equipment at the regional centre. The regional centres can give us backup, but the amounts voted to maintain our equipment are inadequate. Therefore, I move that we look at that vote and we add more money. That is our next option to rescue the districts.

Issues of bridges and culverts to support the districts can be a priority. I have places which are cut off totally just because we cannot provide

culverts. We cannot work on the bridges. If we can increase the money, it will help our people. You can imagine within a district, subcounties are cut off. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kenny Auma, Dr Batuwa and Hon. Fred Kayondo.

5.33

MS KENNY AUMA (UPC, Woman Representative, Kwanja): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This very Parliament approved a loan from the Islamic Development Bank for the construction of the Masindi Port Ferry. However, up to now, nothing has been done on that road.

I would like the honourable minister to clarify because the contract was signed, but there is nothing on the road.

Honourable minister, you need to clarify to our people because that is a bridge that most of us use whenever we are going to the Lango subregion.

Secondly, I do not know whether the honourable minister knows that most of the roads that were under the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) are no longer passable. For example, I have a road called Aduku-Nambieso Road. That road has been cut off, children can no longer access school, and the community can no longer access Nambieso Health Centre III.

Mr Speaker, this road connects our people from Nambieso to Aduku, those going to the Health Centre, our main market in Aduku and the district headquarters, which are in Aduku. The chairperson of the committee has recommended that we need to get some money for the rehabilitation of that road. I also support the recommendation of the honourable chairperson. Thank you

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr Batuwa, followed by Hon. Kayondo

5.35

DR TIMOTHY BATUWA (FDC, Jinja South Division West, Jinja City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We want to know the fate of the land titles of the people of Amber Court, Kimaka - generally, people affected by the Jinja-Mbulamuti-Kamuli-Bukungu Road. This road has been promised since 2001, it is now 25 years later, yet it had reached a high stage of procurement to make it now a bitumen class 2 road, and that was under Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA).

Unfortunately, UNRA is now rationalised under your docket, honourable minister, so we do not know its fate. When are you going to progress and deliver that road, or have we now seen the end of that promise? But along with that road, Jinja City was promised 20 kilometres, which were to pave the roads within the city. I cry for the road that goes to the industrial area.

In that area, we find BIDCo Uganda Limited, a company that is paying a lot of tax. It is one of the 10 highest tax-paying companies in Uganda, but along with that, there are still rolling mills; there is one making iron sheets. That road serves industries. So, we would like to know the fate of this project. It was on a pre-financing arrangement, and we were ready to receive it, but we do not know whether, when you took UNRA, we also lost the project. Otherwise, people are eager to listen to you on that.

Lastly, at a national level, the substances that make a road like aggregate, marram, and maybe in the near future bitumen, are going to be locally sourced. What is the cost of the road? Why is it so high? Are we paying for the skill? *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kayondo, followed by Hon. Mudimi.

5.37

MR FRED KAYONDO (DP, Mukono South County, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would also like to thank the committee. When they talked about the way they do not understand the criteria used in the distribution

of ferries, then I knew that the report was made by the able leadership of the infrastructure committee.

I stood here several times, reminding the Government how the President came to my constituency in 1996 and promised a ferry to Kome. Mr Eweru was touched. He called me and convinced me thoroughly - and I was convinced, Mr Eweru, I am here, where is the ferry to Kome?

To make matters worse, when they are testing ferries for other areas, they use Kome water and then take them away. No, Mr Eweru, we are both here, and you are reading the budget. Where is the ferry to Kome?

The best we see is NRM moving around to restore the lost love. They say we no longer love them, so they must restore the love. Come to Kome and ask for that lost love. Love without action is dead. *(Laughter)* Mr Speaker, let us not behave like the Bourbon Monarch, who forgot nothing and learned nothing.

Why are you forgetting everything and learning nothing? For 30 years, you have made that promise, but nothing has been done. Let us not forget the floods that have been happening around Kampala. Right now, because the floods have stopped, we are quiet. We are forgetting everything and learning nothing.

I was almost happy because one citizen had to change his route and is now using Munyonyo Road because of the catastrophe that happened. Now, he has gone back. Chairperson, we abused him- *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Mudimi?

5.37

MR WAMAKUYU MUDIMI (NRM, ELGON COUNTY, BULAMBULI): I also take the opportunity to thank the committee for the report. Mr Speaker –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Mudimi, please, the Floor is yours. Please listen to Hon. Mudimi.

MR MUDIMI: Members are talking about the Kampala-Jinja Highway. But another nightmare is the road from Jinja to Nakalama. It is a 40-kilometre stretch, but you can use more than 3 hours. So, when we are planning for Kampala-Jinja, we also need to plan for the Nakalama stretch. Short of that, I do not think it is going to solve the problem.

Secondly, the Government decided to forcefully acquire people's land for resettlement in the areas of Kibaale and others. But many people are demanding money from the Land Fund, and some of these cases date back as far as the 1990s. You are compensating a person whose valuation was done in 1999, and giving them money.

So, honourable minister for lands - I should divert from the roads. Really, is that value for money? Some of them are even trying to look around to get money, yet they have taken their titles. I have a family in Kakumiro. They took their title, one of the family members is very sick and wants to go for treatment abroad, yet they are not paying them; they cannot go to the bank to borrow.

So, the other day, my in-law was saying - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry about that. Honourable minister, we have titles of many people where projects ended, and you even compensated some, but the titles have not been returned. People need those titles.

Hon. Omara, Hon. Mwijukye and then the Leader of the Opposition. Oh, I saw Hon. Ongiertho Emma's name somewhere. Sorry, I am going to cross-check because I have the lists. Hon. Okae Bob, Hon. Ongiertho Emma – let me check the lists.

5.42

MR PAUL OMARA (Independent, Otuke County, Otuke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Given the complaints that the honourable members have made, it looks like we are in a conundrum. When you look at these roads, you notice that some of them were already in NDP

III, where work had already started. Things like valuation, the technical work that people do, but the same roads are in NDP IV.

However, what is coming from the report of the committee is that some of the roads, which we had already started, have not been captured in the report, and are also not in the budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026. For example, honourable minister, you know the Lira-Aloi-Otuke-Abim-Kotido Road, which honourable Linda referred to, is 179 kilometres covering six districts of Lira City, Lira, Alebtong, Otuke, Abim and Kotido.

How come after the work has been done - because we were excited. That was the first tarmac road that was going to pass through some of our places. You did the valuation, and people were waiting to be compensated - we were expecting now for the graders to start working, but they are not even in the plan. How do we defend the plan of the Government, which is in the NRM manifesto and the NDP III and IV?

Mr Speaker, we need to look at the list again. As the Committee on Budget, we shall align it with NDP IV and see how we arrived at some of them – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Mwijukye, Hon. Bob Okae and Hon. Ongiertho.

5.44

MR FRANCIS MWIJUKYE (FDC, Buhweju County, Buhweju): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am concerned about the issue of Shs 1 billion, where in some districts the engineers insist that part of it should be used for repairing the equipment. You find that about Shs 300 million is spent on repairs. So, at the end of the day, you do not use the Shs 1 billion, but you use Shs 700 million. I would like some clarification on that.

Secondly, some Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) staff sat for interviews to be incorporated into the ministry. They have not been appointed, and consequently, because

the UNRA staff are not working, there is no business going on.

Last year, I raised the issue of the Buhweju Road, the only one we have, which used to be the UNRA road, the Central Government road. It is impassable. When you talk to UNRA, they tell you they are still waiting for the appointment. So, what happens?

Finally, the issue that was raised by Hon. Nyakikongoro of the Bwizibwera-Buhweju-Kabwohe Road has become like a song. Honourable minister, you said everything was done, you have a contractor, you have agreed on the money, you have the agreement; where is the problem?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Bob Okae?

5.45

MR BOB OKAE (UPC, Kwania North County, Kwania): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Kwania has three subcounties that have not been benefiting from the Uganda Road Fund for the last four years, and they are very bitter. Last time I went there, they told me to take them back to their original subcounties because they were created when I was the district chairperson. The issue of coding does not work because these are gazetted subcounties.

Secondly, the Gulu Regional Workshop was created way back when some of us were still kids, and the Lango Subregion had two districts; now we have ten. These people cannot do miracles. Regional workshops should be in every subregion if we are to realise any results.

Kwania District Local Government, among other districts, was partially given road equipment: a grader and an excavator, but without the roller and the water booster. I thought that in this budget we were going to hear something about that, but the minister is silent, and even the committee is.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, I think you need not regret for not having Central Government roads. Kwania has two Central Government

roads that are very impassable. You cannot move on those roads. We are even wondering if they can give them back to us as a district. We will work on them because this is causing problems. We have people who think they are coming for the campaign. One of them was seriously working on that road, and the voters have started celebrating, saying that those are the kind of people they needed - let us work on these Government roads.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ongiertho and Hon. Kwizera.

5.47

MR EMMANUEL ONGIERTHO (FDC, Jonam County, Pakwach): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I would like to find out from the Minister of Works and Transport: when the Uganda Road Fund was an entity on its own, the Government was not giving them the money that was due to them as Uganda Road Fund. I would like to find out how easy that is going to be now that it is a department within the Ministry of Works and Transport.

Secondly, the road that my sister, Hon. Joan, talked about, from Pakwach to Rhino Camp, that road actually starts from Panyimur. Honourable minister, you know about it. It starts from Panyimur, and as we speak, if any heavier rains come, that road is going to be cut off completely. Therefore, honourable minister, you need to look into that.

Thirdly, committee chairperson, you mentioned the meter-gauge railway from Gulu to Pakwach as a by-the-way because the initial issue you talked about was that railway line from Tororo to Gulu. Pakwach was now mentioned as a by-the-way. I would like to appeal that the one from Gulu to Pakwach does not become a by-the-way; it should become something that is looked at more seriously.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I said it here one time that we are in an election period - for the Nebbi subregion - from Pakwach up to Zombo - that road, even if repeatedly, we are going to talk about it; the one from Nebbi to Goli and Zombo, and whatever. That road for us in the Nebbi subregion – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Wa-Gahungu?

5.49

MR EDDIE KWIZERA (NRM, Bukimbiri County, Kisoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the committee for the work that they have done. However, I would like the Government to clarify some of these few things. We have 65 roads in the report. Last year we had the same. Why can't we look at the resources available and not excite Ugandans? When you continue exciting Ugandans, it is not good, honourable minister. You cannot work on 65 roads. Let us look at the resources available for a given period so that we do not excite people.

Secondly, we no longer have a standard of which road to make. Do we use the economic rate of return and international standards, or political considerations, or where the minister may be married from, or where the sister is married to, and they want to make the road? There is no standard. Can't we have a standard, honourable minister, so that people know what to expect?

Instead of I coming and benching you in the office, I beg you - I hear other people talking about presidential directives. A presidential directive is not an economic rate of return. Can we have a standard, honourable minister? I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Rwenduru?

5.51

MS JOVANICE TWINOBUSINGYE (NRM, Woman Representative, Kiruhura): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to join my colleagues in thanking the committee for the report.

Mr Speaker, I would like to know from the minister the fate of the Kashwa-Kashongi-Ruhumba Road. I came eagerly to see my road appearing there in their report. He has several write-ups on his table about the same road. Kashwa-Ruhumba Road has appeared in different NRM manifestos, four consecutive NRM manifestos.

Mr Speaker, it has been appearing in NDP II, NDP III, and NDP IV, but it is not anywhere today. It is unfortunate. There is even a presidential directive on that road. The contractor was assigned. The designs were made three years ago, but up to today, the road is a mess. It has not even been maintained for the last two years, Mr Speaker. We have lost lives; over 54 people have died on that road. Pregnant women have lost their lives while coming from Kashongi to Rushere for medication. I would like to know, from the minister, the fate of the Kashwa-Kashongi-Ruhumba Road.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to know the fate of the newly created town councils and subcounties. Those town councils and subcounties are not receiving funds. I would like to know their fate; they are suffering a lot. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Before the Leader of the Opposition (LOP), I come to Hon. Christine Nakwanga.

5.53

MS CHRISTINE NAKWANG (NRM, Woman Representative, Kaabong): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to join colleagues in thanking the committee. At least I am grateful that the upgrading of Karenga-Kapedo-Kaabong Road, 68 kilometres, is in the report. However, I have two roads - Kaabong to Kalapata, Usake to New Cush. This is southern Sudan. It is just 104 kilometres only, committee chairperson. I see the minister looking at me. The second road is Kalapata to Kanyun to Oropoi, Kenya. This one is 48 kilometres.

The first one was given to Zimwe Construction, but since that contractor died, the road has been left alone. It was given by the ministry –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: When was that? *(Laughter)*

MS NAKWANG: More than 10 years ago, Mr Speaker. It has been abandoned. Honourable minister, it needs to be worked on. Then the

one that goes to Oropoi is just a few kilometres, 48km away.

A month ago, you would have received “RIP Tubo Christine” messages from the people of Kaabong. You have been seeing me limping. I almost died on that road. I want to appeal that it appears, and if it does not appear now, let it appear in the budget for the next financial year.

Finally, we have some counties that were created in 2018. Six of those in Kaabong do not benefit from the road fund. What is going to happen to them? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Leader of Opposition.

5.54

MR JOHN BAPTIST NAMBESHE (NUP, Manjiya County, Bududa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me commence with this, respectively, to persuasively convince you to accept some of these statistics that some of our own have burned the midnight candle to research on.

Hon. Ebwalu drew exactly from what our alternative budget had researched. The truth of the matter is that even the National Development Plan has a map. There is what they term the Uganda National Development Plan map, and it locates its basis in the regions.

Incidentally, the northern region carries the largest geographical part, followed by the eastern, but look at the percentages. We are not saying that Western, having 41 per cent tarmac road coverage, is concentrated maybe in your area, but we were looking for instance at the Albertine Graben, then draw down there – *(Interjections)* - someone whispered DRC, no, we did not go to DRC.

These are the statistics that are emanating from reliable sources: eastern – 19 per cent, northern – 14 per cent, central – 25 per cent. If you add northern and eastern, you cannot even equate it to western.

Mr Speaker, I was looking at national objectives in our Constitution -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Nambeshe, you have put it well. You and I were on the Committee on Natural Resources in the 10th Parliament. You know how much coverage the oil roads – not Bunyoro roads, contributed to that percentage of Western Uganda. Do not call them western roads, they are oil roads.

I remember the long debate we had in this House, and the issue was, for you to extract your oil, you must build these roads to take the equipment, whatever. Now, if the roads were for oil, I cannot complain that they were not built in Mitooma.

Otherwise, I would have also quarrelled at that time and said, “Give part of it to Mitooma.” But if you put it in Mitooma, how do you extract the oil? That was the logic.

Honourable colleagues, that is a very delicate route, because even within us, also in Western Uganda, some of us are not happy. Look at that percentage of the oil roads, honourable. It is the one which has made Western Uganda look like it has so much, and I was with you.

MR NAMBESHE: Mr Speaker –
(*Interruption*)

MR ONZIMA: I would like to give him information. Mr Speaker, I was among the members who went and supervised the activities of the oil in the 10th Parliament. When we went to Buliisa, where the Total camp is based, we were shocked to learn that as they were exploring oil from the underground, but from the northern side of Uganda, using technology.

When we look at these oil projects, there are a number of social corporate responsibility activities by that these companies are doing by where of building hospitals, schools and so on. Why did they choose to explore the one from Northern Uganda underground? They should have gone live on the ground so that some parts of Northern Uganda would have also benefitted

from these roads, which are constructed under oil and also other projects.

I also do not understand that rationale because the congestion would not have only been in the Bunyoro area. It would have also gone to Northern Uganda. If the roads, schools, and hospitals in Bunyoro have been worked on under the oil projects, why did we choose to get the one from Northern Uganda underground using other technologies? Was it a deliberate sabotage? We are also asking these questions.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, that is a valid question. You remember the other day when we were discussing the issue of scholarships? I asked, “How come you are restricting these scholarships to Bunyoro when you have oil coming from Nwoya?”

I even remember that on the Committee on National Economy, when we were working on the loans, we asked that very question, which Hon. Onzima is posing. The answers that we were given at that time were that the one on the side of Nwoya is in the national park. And the environmentalists and activists, whom we all believe in and cheer, said, “You cannot go and start destroying the national park.”

However, I agree with you; you cannot pick oil from Nwoya, and you do not build their roads. That is very clear, but honourable colleagues, let us not take that line.

MR NAMBESHE: This was very useful information. So maybe allow –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, it was. But I am going to cut you off. Your time is up.

MR NAMBESHE: I was looking at Northern Uganda, and the minister knows that at 639 kilometres, compared to Western Uganda with 2050 kilometres - Mr Speaker, allow me to read what the Constitution says. I actually admire the reason and the logic with which you articulate this argument about Western maybe having more of the roads in the Albertine Graven.

However, let us come to what the Constitution says in the National Objectives and Directive Principles XII on balanced and equitable development. It says in (iii) thus: “*The State shall take special measures in favour of the development of the least developed areas.*”

That is where I concur with Hon. Kwizera’s submission when he says that it seems even when we have a whole directorate of planning, we do not seem to have had a standardised - even minimum standards of planning.

There is a huge conundrum in all this. You are talking, for instance, of a mountainous terrain like the Bugisu and Sebei sub-regions.

Now, a bridge that your ministry recently purported to give - they were playing on the psychology of the leaders - (*Interjections*) - yes, that they had dispatched a team to assess the magnitude of damage - a bridge, which connects to Bududa Hospital. Actually, it has now cut off Manafwa, Namisindwa and Kenya. When River Tsutsu burst its banks, it washed away this very important bridge. We eventually proved that you had not dispatched any team. I am sure you have not even visited it. I do not know whether, in your plans, you are about to go there.

The truth of the matter is that now, Bugisu Subregion, particularly that area of Bududa, is recording the highest maternal mortality rates. Even if you talk of roads, there are places where you cannot construct them. We have seen Members here advancing for ferries. Indeed, you have done well in that area.

However, in your planning, what are you going to do for areas with mountainous terrain, where you cannot ferry a mother in labour from some valley, up a hill and down to the hospital? We had earlier mooted a plan of at least an aircraft, but we do not even see it in the National Development Plan (NDP) IV.

This Bududa Circular Road, which is much awaited and hyped, has appeared in the budget almost seven times – Hon. Mudimi can bear me witness – but it mysteriously disappeared,

yet this is a very important road. As we talk, the cost of doing business on this road is extremely high. We get so many Kenyan trucks, and now they can no longer access Bududa. Most of the produce there, of course, is perishable. Farmers are counting losses.

Mr Speaker, I have just realised how much we are spending, as Uganda, on commitment fees on the Kampala-Jinja Expressway. If it is above Shs 6 billion, I do not know whether the ministry can see that as a huge haemorrhage of the meagre resources that the country needs to fix roads that are in a deplorable state – and they are numerous. Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: (*Mr Mao rose*)
Let us hear from the Minister for Works and Transport; justice minister, you will talk last.

6.06

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS (WORKS) (Mr Musa Ecweru): The minister for justice may bring legal arguments to this case. (*Laughter*)

Mr Speaker, first of all, I want to let my colleagues know how touched I am by the concerns that they have very ably articulated.

I start by thanking the committee, because it has raised issues and captured very clearly, what we, as the ministry, have requested this Parliament to allocate to us, so that we can ably deliver.

Mr Speaker, I want Members to look at the trend. Since 2006, we have allocated reasonable resources to build roads in this country. The graph went up, but by 2020, the graph started coming down, and the graph has continued to take a downward direction, to the extent that when we come and ask you, Parliament, that we want Shs 6.4 trillion to address the challenges that we have, we are instead allocated Shs 3 trillion.

Honourable colleagues, I beg you that Gen. Katumba, the team at the Ministry of Works

and Transport and I, are your very loyal servants. However, you are giving your loyal servants a goat to be served as lunch for 560 guests. It takes Christ in Galilee to multiply the fish so that all those who need something can go with a full stomach.

We are now budgeting. I want you, honourable members, to look at the critical areas in this report very carefully, before we harmonise. For example, there are areas for which we have asked Shs 66 billion, and then you give us Shs 23 billion. If we are given Shs 23 billion, what happens sometimes - and in most cases, this is what happens - is that there will be cuts. Even after the cuts, the release of what is cut does not even come.

I hear you, my friends, talking about Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) roads. Let me make it abundantly clear to you that UNRA has never done any tarmac roads. What it did was to procure the contractors who were doing the roads. What is also true is that by the time we took it over, UNRA had a debt and obligation of Shs 1.3 trillion owed to contractors. That is why you see that across the country, all the roads that the contractors were supposed to be doing are in a fairly sorry state.

I want to thank this Parliament -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, that statement you have made about UNRA is very unfortunate, because it would go on record as if we were appropriating money for nothing. UNRA did some work, even procurement and management, including managing these debts. That is why you see that when UNRA was working, the contractors were not off the roads. When you took over, they ran off. I want to put that to you, clearly. We were seeing them managing the portfolio.

We supported you on the merger. Please, take over from UNRA. Do not bring the ghosts of UNRA here. It is belittling to the Ugandans who put in a lot of effort. Those UNRA engineers were suffering with you, and it was you praising them. Now you are saying they

were only doing procurement. They did a great job. Put that on record, so that it does not look like UNRA did nothing during that period.

MR ECWERU: Sir, I am saying, and I will repeat this for the record, UNRA, as an agency, did not tarmac any road. That is a fact, Sir. What UNRA did, and what we are going to do, first, is to make sure that we, as a ministry, develop the in-house capacity to tarmac some roads. This is what Namibia does -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, you are going into uncharted waters. We are not going into issues of ghosts.

MR ECWERU: Sir, I must say this. What has happened? We came to this House and requested for a supplementary budget. This House has been very supportive; you passed the supplementary. We have Shs 450 billion that is meant to take care of these contractors, though what we expected was bigger than that.

What we are going to do, and what is being done technically, honourable colleagues, is to make sure that these contractors are enabled, in the next few days, to recover some of the equipment, because the banks had grabbed them so that they can go back to the roads. Our hope is that the contractors will go back.

Let me just give an example of Mityana-Mubende without going through all the details because I have captured 178 requests here. Mityana-Mubende is funded by the Government of Uganda and the contractor is Energo, which has not been paid to a tune of about Shs 60 billion by us because of lack of resources.

Therefore, for that reason, Energo was taken to court by the suppliers of fuel and the bank was demanding them. Energo had to fold up, awaiting us to release the money. I am happy to report to you, honourable colleagues, that with the resources that have been released in the supplementary, we hope to send resources to Energo in the next few days. Energo will be back on that road. It is a very critical link to this country.

For us to come here, honourable members, and imagine that there is a deliberate effort sometimes to ignore you, I must say that is not correct.

Let me say something about the community access roads, these ones under District Urban and Community Access Road (DUCAR). Members, while it is true that the most important roads are the highways that are plied by these trailers and that bring many taxes to the country, to all of us here, the most critical roads are the crossings from this swamp to that health centre and from this swamp to that market. The financial year we are concluding received zero release, when we had identified the contractors to do all those community access roads.

The good news now - I have had a discussion with these colleagues of finance – is that in the supplementary, some resources have been put so that we can be able to activate those that we had committed. This is in order for you, honourable colleagues, to have something to explain to the people. It was delayed all right, but it has come. That is what happens.

Finally, let me say this. Let me say this, Mr Speaker - and I want to emphasise this to you, honourable colleagues. From one 1,000 that we inherited to now about 7,000, the trajectory is good. The most important thing that I need this honourable House to do is to pass these resources and before we harmonise and pass, we want three-quarters of the resources that come to the ministry to go for maintenance of what we have achieved. We may delay on the new projects, but let us not allow the old ones to collapse. On this, we shall put our feet down and make sure that that happens.

The good news is - I can now leak this, now that my colleagues are here - that the Head of State of this country, as he goes around to check on the Parish Development Model (PDM) projects, everywhere he has reached, in his own words, he has been accosted by the population about the poor state of the roads.

He has come back and said, “I have identified some people who can support us financially to do a good many more roads.” He has requested my humble office to work with this office to suggest the critical commitments that we have always made and continue to appear and disappear, so that we can make these roads. We are going to do this as a Government. I can assure you that we are going to do it. We are around. We are not about to go away, and we are going to do our roads.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I put the question that the report of the Committee on Physical Infrastructure and the Ministerial Policy Statements and Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2025/2026 be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, the recommendations are referred to the Committee on Budget for harmonisation, synchronisation and consolidation.

Honourable colleagues, I have given this matter enough time. I wanted us to capture the national picture. We might solve it here, but the debate on the issues of infrastructure will not stop here. They have to continue. Next?

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Committee on Foreign Affairs? Honourable colleagues, for the coming items, committee chairperson, strictly use fifteen minutes.

6.20

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Ms Catherine Lamwaka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. You guided the committee to use 15 minutes to present. I wish to also let the House know that the committee is in the purview of 38 Votes -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, I know your votes are embassies. We

want to get a general picture. We do not want to go to a specific embassy. That is why the Votes are many. We read the report so we shall capture all of it on the *Hansard*.

(The report is attached hereto.)

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the report for the committee, with all its attachments, and the minutes of the meetings of the committee.

I now proceed to present the report of the Sectoral Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Ministerial Policy Statement and Budget Estimates for Vote 006: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Votes 501 to 538: Missions Abroad for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

Like the Speaker guided, the scope of the report covers compliance of the ministerial policy statement to legal requirements, Half Year Budget Performance, 2024/2025, key planned outputs for the Financial Year 2025/26, proposed budgetary allocations for the Financial Year 2025/26 and medium term and finally committee observations and recommendations.

Honourable colleagues, I now take you to the committee observations and recommendations, which are on page 24. Members can follow through.

Contributions to International Organisations

Objective XXVII of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of the State Policy under the Constitution provides that Uganda shall actively participate in international and regional organisations that stand for peace and for the well-being and progress of humanity. Uganda is currently subscribed to about 40 international organisations, which give access to global platforms for diplomacy, international cooperation, peace, security and socio-economic development.

However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is only responsible for seven (7) key organisations to which it is required to make annual financial

contributions, and those organisations are listed on page 24.

When you go to page 25, you can look at the benefits of subscribing to these international organisations. Why I am stating this is because over time, this issue has been very important in this House; Members have been raising it even in the Committee on Budget.

Observations

The committee is gravely concerned that despite the substantial benefits that have accrued to Uganda from its membership in these international organisations, the country has persistently failed to fulfil its financial commitments to the organisations. By June 2025, Uganda's arrears will have accumulated to Shs 89.698 billion, as detailed in Annex 8, which Members can look through.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs be allocated additional funding of Shs 72.085 billion to clear the outstanding arrears and Shs 25.56 billion for payment of Uganda's annual assessment contributions obligations to international organisations.

6.2 Purchase of land for extension of the ministry's headquarters

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the committee that it received a grant of approximately Shs 19.5 billion from the Government of China for the construction of an extension to its headquarters. The Ministry has identified suitable land near the headquarter building for the project comprised in that location described there. The cost of the land is Shs 17.02 billion, of which Shs 3.1 billion has been provided in the budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026, leaving a funding gap of Shs 13.92 billion.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the ministry be allocated an additional Shs 13.92 billion

for the purchase of land in the Financial Year 2025/2026 to benefit from this grant.

6.3 Funding for NAM mid-term review meetings

We are all aware that Uganda successfully hosted the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit, assuming its chairmanship until 2027. This landmark event elevated Uganda's international profile, highlighting its leadership potential at the global level. However, as the chair of NAM, Uganda is mandated to host the midterm ministerial meeting of the 19th NAM summit in July 2025. The funding requirements for the ministerial meeting is Shs 5.724 billion, which has not been provided for.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs be allocated an additional Shs 5.724 billion for the mid-term ministerial meeting of the 19th NAM summit in the Financial Year 2025/2026 to enable Uganda to fulfil its obligation as NAM chair.

6.4 Absence of a documented foreign policy

The committee reiterates its concern that to date, Uganda lacks a documented foreign policy that would serve as a reference point for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, foreign missions and diplomatic staff in conducting bilateral and multilateral engagements, as well as a benchmark for assessing the effectiveness of Uganda's foreign policy decisions.

Recommendation

The committee recommended that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs- the current state of the Ministry be in consultation on draft foreign policy, which is ongoing at the highest level, according to the report of the ministry that is at the head of state.

We recommend that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expedite consultations and finalise the draft foreign policy.

6.5 Failure to lay international agreements before Parliament the committee notes with concern the persistent failure by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to lay international agreements entered into by the Government of Uganda before Parliament within the prescribed six months as required by Section 4 of the Ratification of Treaties Act, Cap. 190 and Rules of Procedure of Parliament as required. Mr Speaker.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs strictly adhere to the provision of Section 4 of the Ratification of Treaties Act, Cap 190 and Rule 40(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, by ensuring that all international agreements, including protocols, are laid before Parliament within six months of signing or conclusion.

6.6 Non-Implementation of Memoranda of Understanding

The committee observed that the Government has entered into several memoranda of understanding with other countries in various areas of cooperation. The negotiations for the MOUs are often facilitated by Uganda's missions abroad and they report on them. However, there are quite a number of redundant MOUs.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs conduct a comprehensive review of all existing MOUs to assess their relevance and implementation status. Redundant MOUs should not be renewed.

6.7 Absence of diaspora policy

The committee notes that one of the core functions of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and missions abroad is to enhance the participation of the diaspora in national development. However, Uganda lacks a policy framework to guide meaningful engagement with the diaspora. As a result, diaspora engagement

is not consistently prioritised across most missions.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expedite the development of the National Diaspora Policy to provide a clear, coordinated, and strategic framework for effective diaspora engagement by the ministry and missions abroad.

7.1 Increased Funding for Economic and Commercial Diplomacy. When you move to page 30, you look at the achievements under economic and commercial diplomacy, which is very core for us as a country, because this is where we can attract a lot of investment into the country and can support us in our economy.

The achievements: we have 12 missions; at least by half of the financial years, as contained in Annex 10, have portrayed their potential and what they were able to reap from allocated ECD funding.

In the Financial Year 2025/2026, there is a proposal for more missions to get ECD funding, and because of time, I will not read the details, but the table in there shows that about 34 missions are going to benefit from ECD funding.

Observation of the committee is that 34 out of 38 missions abroad have been allocated ECD funding. The committee appreciates the Government for this.

7.1.2 Missions not allocated funding are named there, Rwanda, Havana, Khartoum, New York, and the reasons why they were not allocated funding are stated on page 32.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs prioritise the deployment of adequate staff to missions in Luanda and Havana in the Financial Year 2025/2026, simply because they could not benefit from ECD funding, because they have limited staff. Thereafter, the ministry should consider the two

missions also to benefit from ECD funding. In addition, missions in Khartoum for inclusion in the next phase of ECD funding simply because currently, Khartoum is not very peaceful and so the ministry has preferred to give time for them to settle down and be considered in the next financial year.

7.1.3 Need to prioritise the development of a documented ECD strategy

Economic and commercial diplomacy aligns with the foreign policy objective of the promotion of Uganda's national interest as set out in the Constitution and is one of the key development strategies under NDP IV.

However, ECD to be effective, there is a need for a documented ECD strategy that clearly defines the country's ECD priorities and ensures they are aligned with national development goals. Such a strategy will not only serve as a reference for developing ECD work plans and allocating funds for ECD activities but also act as a benchmark for assessing the performance of missions, ensuring accountability and value for money in the utilisation of the Economic and Commercial Diplomacy Fund.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the committee that it is working with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Missions abroad and other relevant agencies to develop a draft ECD strategy, which is expected to be finalised in June 2025.

The ministry further stated that continued funding for ECD activities will be contingent on a Mission's performance, and Missions that fail to meet their targets will not receive ECD funding in subsequent financial years.

The ministry has also established an ECD Task Force comprising officers from the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has developed templates to track and assess the progress of implementation of ECD funding.

Mr Speaker, we recommend that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expedite the development

of the ECD strategy by the end of the current financial year to ensure effective planning, implementation and monitoring of the programme because the committee was concerned about how Missions are selected to benefit from this fund.

Need to align ECD funding with Programme-Based Budgeting

This is critical. The committee notes that in Financial Year 2025/2026, funding for ECD has been allocated to Missions under the Governance and Security Programme. However, ECD activities cut across several development programmes, including tourism development, agro-industrialisation and manufacturing, among others.

To ensure consistency between the budget and the National Development Plan IV, ECD funding should be aligned with the Programme-Based Budgeting.

Additionally, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the committee that there is no dedicated budget line for ECD in the Programme Budgeting System. Instead, ECD is a generic –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chairperson, your time is up. I can give you three minutes to conclude because I guided you, but I can see where you are going. We read your report; that is why you gave it to us in advance. Conclude in three minutes.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: Mr Speaker, I may comply, but the details of Missions, which have many Votes, have not been captured. I really plead with you, if you do not mind.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chairperson, I have been to these Missions; they are suffering with the same problem. I request you to summarise for us the problems of the Missions because they are crosscutting, not each one being specific.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: Mr Speaker and colleagues, these are our recommendations under ECD. This is a critical point that I draw

the attention of the finance ministry to look at critically and it affects our work as Parliament as well.

- a) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should ensure that ECD funding for Missions abroad is aligned with the relevant development programmes to maintain consistency with the National Development Plan;
- b) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should establish mechanisms within the PBS to ring-fence ECD funding.

Honourable members, since there is no time, I request that you read page 34 on the restoration of Uganda House in Nairobi, which is very critical. Members have been asking for it in this House. There are photos attached there. The same applies to our Mission in DRC, which was vandalised.

The committee recommends that, since funds for the restoration of Uganda House have been allocated in the financial year but less by Shs 1.8 billion, that funding be provided.

Mr Speaker, there are a number of issues the committee discovered that came as gaps from the Missions, regarding issues of the destruction of our Missions in DRC and Nairobi. The committee has made recommendations for Missions to improve on that.

Relocation of our Mission in Cairo

Cairo is moving to a new capital, and it is mandatory that the Uganda Mission also move. There is a funding gap there. The committee recommends that an additional Shs 8.78 billion to be allocated to them to move to the new capital.

Need for temporary relocation of the services of the Mission in Kinshasa

This is because of the security situation there. The committee has recommended that the ministry temporarily relocate our services

at our Mission in Kinshasa within areas of accreditation for our presence to continue to be felt there.

Renting of the official residence in London

Mr Speaker, the Government appropriated funds and the residence was renovated. However, to the dismay of the committee, the residence is not being used by the Ambassador but is being rented for Non-Tax Revenue.

The committee has recommended that this decision should be reversed because if residential –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Switch on and conclude, chairperson.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: As I conclude, there is compensation of diplomatic Mission staff in Khartoum. Mr Speaker, this is a critical matter and I draw the attention of Members to it. We have recommended for them to be provided funds to be compensated.

Absence of substantive Heads of Missions in some Missions

Mr Speaker, this issue has been drawing the attention of this House many times. We have had issues of misconduct by some of our diplomats, which is captured on page 42.

We recommend that substantive Heads of Missions should be appointed by the President for them to take care of our image as a country in those areas where they are accredited.

As I conclude, there are quite a number of issues that I believe Members will have time to read on their own.

It is now my humble appeal that the House receives this report for subsequent discussion and final adoption of the recommendations of the committee, and the proposed figures for Financial Year 2025/2026 for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Missions abroad. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Chairperson, I would like to thank you. I read through your report; it is very comprehensive. You touched on nearly every mission and every aspect of foreign affairs. Shadow minister?

6.40

THE SHADOW MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr Muwada Nkunyngi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank the committee chairperson for the exhaustive report. I would like to buttress three aspects.

One, the report talks about staff recruitment. As we stand now, Uganda lacks substantive ambassadors to DRC, Iran, Nairobi Kenya, Abuja, Canada and many other would-be Foreign Service staff. There is also a question of staff promotion. I want to know from the minister what the way forward is. What arrangement is available and what efforts have been undertaken -?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable shadow minister, I am sorry I made a mistake. You are a member of the committee, and I do not have a minority report, which means you agreed with the recommendations of the committee. Hon. Kwizera? *(Laughter)*

6.41

MR EDDIE KWIZERA (NRM, Bukimbiri County, Kisoro): Mr Speaker, thank you. I would like to thank the committee for the work they have done. However, we want the Government to tell us why they have failed to develop a written foreign policy, in accordance with Part 28 of the Constitution. We should have copies of the foreign policy to guide Members and the country. I hope that the minister presents it.

Secondly, on the vandalised buildings in the DRC, we want to know the role of the Government of DRC because that is a sitting Government which is supposed to take responsibility for putting it right. Have they communicated and what has the DRC said? Was there any insurance for the building in Nairobi? I have not heard about any insurance cover on it.

Another issue, Mr Speaker, is about diplomacy. Diplomacy is a career. Once there is a failure to develop careerism in diplomatic services, the country is rated very low in diplomatic services.

I appeal to the minister to report to the President that where we have Missions like Nairobi and Kinshasa, we have substantive ambassadors. If we do not have substantive ambassadors in the East African Community, then when is the Community going to function? Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Itungo, Hon. Okot Boniface, and Hon. Kibalya.

6.42

MR NATHAN TWESIGYE (Independent, Kashari South County, Mbarara): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the chairperson and committee for the report.

As the Hon. Kwizera has said, there are issues that we should take very seriously. If a report says that we lack a foreign policy, and when we are talking about labour, that is where you are concerned, that some countries negotiate for their labour forces in the market. So, how do you negotiate with your workers if you do not have a foreign policy? Minister, tell us, what is the problem?

Yesterday, when the report was presented, I had an issue with resources, as some of the things were not about the resources but about any other issue.

So, honourable minister, how much do you need to have a foreign policy so that you can appropriate the money, and have that foreign policy? This is a serious issue, and the minister should give us an answer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Okot Boniface, and Hon. Kibalya.

6.43

MR BONIFACE OKOT (NRM, Youth Representative, Northern): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will focus on two issues. The first

one is the fact that we do not have a foreign policy. Year in and out, if there is one recurrent issue in the ministerial policy statement brought by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, it is the issue of Uganda lacking a foreign policy.

Uganda holds the chairmanship of the G77 plus China, of about 123 countries, and also the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). The membership of NAM is 120 countries, and yet we do not have a documented foreign policy is a shame. I plead with the minister that one of the gifts he can give the 11th Parliament is to resolve that matter and guide this Parliament on how we can go about having this foreign policy.

Secondly, it is on the issue of the reclassification of the missions of Uganda. I am aware that our geopolitical interests keep evolving over the years. Some of the countries that we had initially prioritised for peace-related works, we are now interested in trading with them.

Moreover, we have had this from many foreign missions. I also want to inquire from the minister when we are going to partake in this process of doing a comprehensive reclassification of our mission... – *(Member timed out.)*

6.46

MR HENRY KIBALYA (NRM, Bugabula County South, Kamuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker, I join colleagues to thank the team, the chairperson and the committee for the good report. Two issues: One, the minister and the team, as you have said, and everybody is aware, that most of the issues affecting these embassies abroad are the same.

However, every year we come here, lament but there is no issue solved. I implore the minister and the team that let us have priority areas, so that at least this financial year, we address countries A and B, so that next year we get a report where they say we had an issue in countries A and B and it was sorted.

This year we are sorting C and D, otherwise, every year we have the same problems, the same stories, yet the issue is affecting us.

Two, when we establish embassies in most of these countries, we have relationships. If there are issues that are affecting our structures, embassies, we expect our team on the other side to liaise with the other team and we handle some of them.

Uganda has been so friendly to most of these countries. Why aren't these countries also so friendly to Uganda? So that we have some of these things sorted.

Lastly, the issue of our embassy in Brussels. We have our land and the other day, when we were in Brussels, as you are the president now, you could be privy to more information.

When we were there, they told us that the Ministry of Works and Transport was doing some architectural plans and sending some engineers to do some design and come up with the best plan.

When we were looking into the ministerial policy statement for the Ministry of Works and Transport, I was so eager to see something related to engineers or the work to be done – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Okupa, Hon. Hanifa, you spoke during the Committee on Physical Infrastructure debate. So, Hon. Okupa and Hon. Abdallah.

6.49

MR ELIJAH OKUPA (Independent, Kasilo County, Serere): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and the committee. Let me speak on a few things. You talked about staffing. Chairperson, I want your committee to take an interest because last year, it took the President to write after a complaint by a number of staff in the ministry who had spent 16 years without being promoted.

Even as of today, we have had whispers about people who, since they were recruited 12 years down the road or when they were seconded or when they were fired there, have never been officially absorbed. The career staff, nine, ten years without being promoted. It is one thing that I need you to pick up.

For the issue of Nairobi, we provided money under a supplementary budget, though I thought the Government of Kenya would have taken responsibility because it was the Kenyans who demolished our building. How come that we are the ones who have had to foot the bill?

For the issue of Cairo and those who were with us there for the African Cup of Nations, shifting the city from Cairo to a new place started a long time ago and we had thought that the Government of Uganda at that time had also started.

Now, we do not even have money for relocation to the new city. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should tell us what could have been the problem, why, up to now, we have not moved at the pace of the movement of the city to a new place.

On foreign policy, maybe we are giving too much to the minister; he should now tell us, why can't we have a foreign policy? Moreover, we will see how we can be able to solve – This is a constitutional matter. Honourable minister, please help us. Finally, the issue of our ambassadors – *(Member timed out.)*

6.50

MR ABDALLAH KIWANUKA (NUP, Mukono County North, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I only need to raise two issues, specifically about our relationship with Sudan. Our ambassador there seems to be so powerless and weak.

Our people are suffering; their merchandise and cars are being impounded. As we speak now, over 30 cars have been parked since January but no assistance has been given to those people.

What our embassy specifically to help our Ugandans, and what can be done to rectify the relationship between Uganda and South Sudan.

Secondly, we do not know our policy with our people who are going abroad. From now and then, our people are suffering but all the embassies have to call back to Uganda to help

our people to be repatriated. If we cannot ban our people from going abroad, can we prepare our budget so that, in case they are in trouble, they can be repatriated? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister? We are doing education next.

6.52

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (REGIONAL AFFAIRS) (Mr John Mulimba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the honourable colleagues for their feedback. It is not true that the problems affecting all missions abroad are the same. That is one clarity.

And it is also not true that our ambassador of Uganda to South Sudan is weak but challenges are part of life. I am also not aware that we have 30 cars parked – parked where and over what? I will be glad to get that information here after. All I know is that the relationship between the Government of Uganda and the Government of South Sudan is cordial and warm, despite challenges. So, whatever emerges, we handle.

On issues of heads of missions, honourable colleagues will note that the responsibility to appoint heads of missions and ambassadors is a preserve of the President of the Republic of Uganda, courtesy of Article 122(1) of the Constitution of Uganda. Ours is to remind him, which we have done diligently.

Mr Speaker, on the issue of staff welfare and promotion - I want to bundle all of these, the issue of dilapidated infrastructure, lack of mission courtesy vehicles, challenges of travel and accreditation to multiple accredited missions, travel abroad to study and reclassify missions abroad and others – all require funds. Our total budget shortfall amounts to Shs 238 billion. Once we are supplied with that money, as it is contained in our ministerial policy statement, we shall be good to go.

On the issue of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), I would like to bring it to the attention of Parliament - last time I was questioned here as to whether we had a Head

of Mission for DRC and why he had not been accredited. I laboured to explain. Accreditation is a process. I am now glad to inform the House that the final process in accrediting Uganda's ambassador to DRC has been concluded by our ambassador handing in his credentials to the President of DRC.

In respect of all other missions, we cannot sit here and say there are no heads of missions. Missions are structured in a way that in the absence of a head of mission, there is a deputy. In the absence of a deputy, there is *chargé d'affaires*. The work of appointing the substantive heads of missions, like I stated earlier, is the work of the President. Ours is to study and inform.

As far as promotions are concerned, all this falls under the budget shortfall with respect to wages. Every promotion requires the availability of wages and that has been one of the challenges.

Mr Speaker, just to summarise, I have heard Members talking about low staffing and little presence. We have a directive from the President to make a cost-benefit analysis in terms of the potential benefits of our presence in the 35 embassies and scale down to about 15. While you are still thinking about the lack of staffing, the proposal is to scale down, first, in terms of presence, but also cut down the number of staff.

I look forward to having the support of the Committee on Budget in respect to provision of the shortfall, such that we can make better the situation of both the ministry at home and also missions abroad. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I now put the question that the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Ministerial Policy Statement and Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2025/2026 be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report, adopted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Recommendations are forwarded to the Committee on Budget for harmonisation, reconciliation and consolidation in line with Rule 149 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

Congratulations, committee chairperson. Thank you, honourable minister. Committee chairperson, do not mind the short time we have given you on the Floor. Your full report is captured on the *Hansard* for the record. You and your team have done a fantastic job. *(Applause)*

Honourable colleagues, we need around three minutes of stretching. The house is suspended for three minutes.

(The House was suspended at 6.57 p.m.)

(On resumption at 7.11 p.m., the Deputy Speaker presiding_)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Next item?

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SPORTS

7.11

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SPORTS (Mr James Kubeketerya): Mr Speaker, I have a report to lay on the Table. I will be basing on the executive summary for the Ministry of Education and Sports. This one has both the minutes and the report.

Mr Speaker, this is just the executive Summary of the Ministerial Policy Statement and Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2025/2026 for the Committee of Education and Sports.

The first page is the introduction plus the budget performance half year. Page 3 is the sub-program for half-year performance for the Financial Year 2024/2025. Then the supplementary budget for the Financial Year 2024/2025, details are on page 5 as well as the schedule in detail. Then on page 9, we have the draft annual estimates for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

Overview

Overall, the committee was informed that the human capital development has a 12.3 per cent increment in budgetary estimates for Financial Year 2025/2026 compared to Financial Year 2024/2025.

A 10 per cent growth was noted under the current expenditure component by Shs 691.29 billion in the Financial Year 2025/2026 compared to the Financial Year 2024/2025. There is a 17 per cent growth in development, mainly due to the 15.4 per cent growth in the Government of Uganda Development Expenditure.

The allocations of Shs 11,313.42 billion to Human Capital Development is Shs 803.42 billion higher than the proposed costing of Shs 10,510 billion in the National Development Plan IV. Hence, the need to fully align the program priorities to those in the National Development Plan IV to ensure full attainment of targeted outputs as projected.

There are changes in the budgetary estimates in the ministerial policy statement -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, we read all of that. What are your recommendations?

MR KUBEKETERYA: Let us move to recommendations. Mr Speaker, I would like your guidance.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, the essence of giving you these reports is to read. Now, the time I try to save is for you to debate. If I have read, I expect honourable members to have read. The whole report will be captured on the *Hansard*. Chairperson, just do the needful. I guided you earlier. I do not know why you are –

(The report is attached hereto.)

MR KUBEKETERYA: Thank you.

Implementation of free and compulsory Universal Primary Education (UPE)

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development allocate an additional Shs 309.16 billion towards the implementation of free and compulsory primary education.

Grant aid of 100 Secondary and 300 primary schools

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development allocates an additional Shs 58.1 billion to the Ministry of Education and Sports for grant-aiding 300 primary schools and 56 secondary schools.

Rehabilitation of primary schools and secondary schools

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Education and Sports fast-track the implementation of the project.

Rehabilitation of UPDF formal education schools

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the ministry for finance allocate Shs 64.39 billion in a phased manner, with an initial allocation of Shs 10 billion under the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) to ensure sustained improvements focused on providing quality and sustainable education for all students.

Grants and living allowances for trainees

Recommendation

The committee recommends that an addition of Shs 5.11 billion be provided by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to cater for these increments and supplement it

towards vocational skilling, as is envisaged in the National Development Plan IV.

Shortfall in the cost of capitation grants

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates the Ministry of Education and Sports an additional Shs 25.97 billion in order to improve the capitation grants to UPE and USE, as committed by the Government, at Shs 20,000 for primary schools and Shs 175,000 for secondary schools.

Salary harmonisation of science and arts teachers

Recommendations

The committee recommends that the finance ministry urgently harmonise the salaries for the arts head teachers with the science head teachers in the Financial Year 2025/2026 for purposes of equity.

The committee also recommends that the finance ministry urgently harmonise the salaries for the arts teachers with the science teachers in the MTEF period for purposes of equity.

Uganda Secondary Education Expansion Project (USEP) Recommendation

The committee recommends that the Office of the Attorney-General lift up the conditionality of the acquisition of land titles as a preliminary requirement for the commencement of the project, since this requirement has stalled the project both in rural and urban areas.

The committee further recommends that the Ministry of Education and Sports adopts and approve cost-friendly designs for storeyed classrooms for city secondary schools in urban areas.

Uganda Health Professions Assessment Board (UHPAB)	the development and implementation of the new A-level curriculum.
Recommendation	Inadequate training on teaching the lower secondary curriculum
The committee recommends that the Accountant-General grant UHPAB vote status for efficient execution of its duties, like all the other assessment boards.	Recommendation
Supervision and monitoring of the Nursing and Midwifery Field	On the inadequate training on teaching the lower secondary curriculum, the committee recommends that the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) be supported with additional funds to ensure that all teachers are trained in the lower school curriculum, to ensure effective implementation of the new lower secondary curriculum and the activities of the curriculum implementation.
Recommendation	Domestic arrears
The committee recommends that the finance ministry allocate additional funding of Shs 9.55 billion to UHPAB to fully monitor, as part of the examinations, students while at clinical placement sites.	The committee also recommends that the ministry for finance allocates an additional Shs 1.309 billion to the centre to cater for the accumulated arrears.
Physical construction of the office block	Inadequate staffing levels
Recommendation	Recommendation
The committee recommends that the ministry for finance allocate Shs 26.7 billion to UHPAB to construct a new office block, simulation skills labs, an IT centre, storage space, confinement hostels and conference facilities in the Kyambogo site in a phased manner, starting Financial Year 2025/2026.	The committee recommends that the centre should be supported with additional Shs 1.08 billion for wages in order to recruit an additional 15 staff to improve its staffing levels to at least 63 per cent.
Procurement of the printing equipment	On Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA)
Recommendation	About seed schools, the committee recommends an additional Shs 3 billion to be allocated to KCCA to purchase land for the construction of a city school in Nakawa division.
The committee recommends that the ministry for finance allocate Shs 0.82 billion for the procurement of the printing equipment, including the computer to plate machine and cutting machine.	On Phillip Omondi Stadium
National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC), especially the A-level curriculum	The committee recommends further that the ministry for finance, as per the Public Finance Management Act (Amended), 2015 Section 23(2), avails the remaining funds of Shs 39 billion to KCCA to complete the construction of Phillip Omondi Stadium at Lugogo.
Recommendation	
The committee recommends that the ministry for finance allocate Shs 6 billion to fast-track	

On Uganda National Examination Board (UNEB)

Accommodation for hosting examiners

The board requires Shs 6.5 billion to cater for this out of the required Shs 22 billion, and the committee is recommending that finance allocate Shs 6.52 billion to cater for the increase in the cost for accommodating examiners and checkers during marking of examination scripts.

Marking fees for examination

The committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates Shs 4.85 billion to enhance marking for examinations to attract the right number of examiners. You remember during the last examination, the examiners rioted so this is mitigation.

About enhancing the field conduct of examinations, the committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates an additional Shs 8.45 billion to cater for the travel inland and effective supervision of exams.

On assessment of the new lower secondary curriculum and continuous assessment of UACE aligned curriculum

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates Shs 12.3 billion for assessing the new lower secondary school curriculum, continuous assessment and development of assessment tools for the aligned UACE curriculum.

Administration of the National Assessment of Progress of Education (NAPE)

The committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates an additional Shs 5.4 billion for the administration of NAPE for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

Construction and equipping of the e-assessment and digital centre

Recommendation

The committee recommends that ministry of finance allocate Shs 17.7 billion to cater for the additional resources in phase 1 construction of the e-assessment centre and digital centre.

The Education Service Commission

This is about their construction in Kyambogo. The committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates Shs 11.083 billion to facilitate the initial phase of construction. That is as far as the Education Service Commission is concerned.

National Council for Higher Education

On no capital development budget

The committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates the project code for the development of the main office block and an additional Shs 17.8 billion in a phased manner to facilitate the construction and completion of National Council for Higher Education's main office building and the Shs 1.8 billion be availed for replacement of old ICT equipment, furniture and vehicles.

Inadequate staffing of NCHE

The committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates an additional Shs 2 billion for wage in fulfilment of its commitment to cater for the recommended staffing needs of the council.

On equating politicians' qualifications

Because we are going to elections, the committee recommends that the ministry for finance allocates additional Shs 10 billion to facilitate its role of equating politicians' qualifications in the coming elections.

National Council for Sports	Support to regional coordinating offices
The committee recommends that the ministry for finance allocates an additional Shs 8 billion for national teams' preparation for major critical international championships and tournaments	The committee recommends that the ministry of finance allocates UVTAB an additional Shs 1.5 billion for purchase of five double cabins and 100 desktop computers.
On refurbishment of various national stadiums	On sensitisation of stakeholders
The committee recommends that the ministry for finance allocates an additional Shs 30 billion for the refurbishment of various national stadiums.	The committee recommends that the ministry of finance allocates UVTAB Shs 1.2 billion to construct, sensitise, and train stakeholders on the new reforms of TVET.
The committee further recommends that Shs 300 billion be availed for the construction of Buhinga Stadium in Fort Portal City.	Gross cutting issues on public universities, Mr Speaker, is on page 29 on my summary of all the public universities.
The National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO)	The committee recommends that the Government commits to addressing the persistent issue of underfunding in public universities to at least operate at an average of 50 per cent staffing level.
The committee recommends that the ministry for finance provides an additional Shs 3.0 billion to the National Council of Sports as subvention to the National Anti-Doping Organisation.	On Government-sponsored students in public universities
On the Rewards and Recognition Scheme for Athletes, Design and Redevelopment of Uganda Golf Course	The committee recommends that the ministry for finance allocates enough funds commensurate to the number of Government-sponsored students to avoid incidents where the university has to use its operational funds.
The committee recommends that ministry for finance avails the National Council of Sports with an additional Shs 10 billion to fund the Rewards and Recognition Scheme for the talented athletes and redesign the Uganda Golf Course in Kitante to international standards.	On the infrastructure development of public universities
Uganda Vocation and Technical Assessment Board (UVTAB)	The committee recommends that the ministry for finance continues to support public universities in the mid-term with capital development in order to rehabilitate the infrastructure in a phased manner.
About inadequate funding for the development of review of Technical Vocational Education and Training Operations and Management (TVET) curriculum, the committee recommends that the ministry for finance allocates an additional Shs 25.03 billion to UVTAB to fast-track the development and review of TVET curricula to align it with the new TVET Act of 2025.	On research funds of public universities
	The committee recommends that the ministry of finance avails a research grant of Shs 2 billion to each of the public universities to support their research and innovation function, given that research is a priority in the budget.

Presidential pledges

The committee recommends that the Government, through the ministry for finance, commits to fulfilling all the presidential pledges that were made with the earlier unfulfilled pledges taking the first call.

Specific issues on the universities

Makerere University

The committee recommends that the ministry for finance allocates an additional Shs 15 billion to enable the university to undertake renovation and the construction works to full completion, since it is an old university and most of the infrastructure needs rehabilitation.

Mbarara University of Science and Technology

The committee recommends that the ministry for finance allocates additional Shs 4.1 billion for recruitment of at least 26 new staff and promotion of the staff who meet the criteria.

Makerere University Business School (MUBS)

The committee recommends that the ministry of finance allocates Shs 9.199 billion to MUBS for its institutional development project for acquisition of the assets and equipment of PWDs.

Kyambogo University

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates an additional Shs 9.9 billion for a perimeter wall to avert encroachment on the university land for the university to be able to effectively manage its resources and maintain it in a secure environment.

The committee also recommends that an additional Shs 9 billion be given to fulfil the presidential directive for the renovation of the student halls of Kyambogo.

Busitema University

The committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates an additional Shs 10.32 billion to the university to recruit additional staff and an additional Shs 15 billion to address its infrastructural challenges in its six campuses, including the Maritime Institute and the Kabwangasi Primary School Teachers' College.

Muni University, which has several uncompleted buildings

The committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates:

- i) Shs 4.6 billion for the completion of the main building;
- ii) Shs 1.6 billion for the completion, renovation and expansion of Madi-Okollo farm;
- iii) Shs 2.55 billion for completion and renovation of Erepi Primary Teachers' College;
- iv) Shs 2.3 billion for the completion of the Multipurpose Health Science Lab;
- v) Shs 0.9 billion for the completion of the construction of a welding workshop, to roll out engineering programmes;
- vi) Shs 2.75 billion to construct a modern ICT hub; and
- vii) Shs 0.363 billion for lab equipment to support increased health research and training for medical professionals.

Kabale University

The committee recommends that:

- i) Additional Shs 18.772 billion be provided to Kabale University as seed capital for its infrastructural development;
- ii) Shs 1.78 billion for the university to clear its previously inherited arrears from private expenses of the university; and
- iii) An additional Shs 0.65 billion to meet the demands of the Government-sponsored students.

Soroti University

The committee recommends that finance ministry allocates Shs 10 billion to Soroti University to support the new academic programmes that the university intends to run in the 2025/2026 Financial Year.

Gulu University

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development continues to support the university in the medium term with additional funding in order to complete most of the construction projects.

The committee further recommends that the Ministry of Water and Environment provides a solution to the degazettement of the Gulu Central Forest Reserve to enable the establishment of the university hospital.

The committee further recommends that the Ministry of Education and Sports, in liaison with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, process the land title and the finance ministry avails funds in a phased manner with an initial allocation of Shs 7 billion.

Lira University

The committee recommends that finance ministry provides Shs 9 billion for the completion of the main administration block and Shs 10 billion to kick start the Lira University infrastructural project.

The Uganda Management Institute (UMI)

It lacks funds to improve infrastructure in its different campuses.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates to UMI a budget of Shs 15.2 billion, in a phased manner starting next financial year, to enable the institute to undertake its capital development, and Shs 2 billion to disseminate its research outputs.

Mountain of the Moon University

The committee recommends that the finance ministry allocates:

- i) An additional Shs 5.19 to increase staffing levels, especially the number of professionals at the university from the current;
- ii) An additional Shs 6.5 billion for contractual obligations for the construction of the Faculty of Agriculture and Environment Science lecture complex; and
- iii) Shs 4 billion for full implementation of the Mountain of the Moon Research Agenda, to enable the university to conduct transformative and scientific research for community, national development, as well as establishment and provision of materials and equipment for the incubation centre.

Mr Speaker, the rest are details and I would like to conclude. I beg to move that the budget for the education, sports, and skills subprogramme for Financial Year 2025/2026 be approved. I beg to move. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, committee chairperson. Just two things: one, we are the House that has been accusing the President of not fulfilling his presidential pledges. Now, the President fulfils presidential pledges and you sit as a committee to say we reallocate the money. Isn't that sabotaging His Excellency? Now, what will you tell the people of Karamoja? When you say the money for Karamoja University be taken away when there were celebrations in Karamoja - That is where we should stop, not to interfere with the programme of His Excellency the President, especially on pledges. Once it is a presidential pledge, the committee should not be sitting to start removing money, taking it somewhere yet we are accusing him every day, under Hon. Ssewungu. I think Hon. Ssewungu left. Yes, that is very critical.

Secondly, I am seeing here a list of schools to benefit. Let us not do much about that list. Committee chairperson, I implore you to

withdraw this list; go and reconcile with the ministry. I think it would be better - so that I avoid debate on that issue. I have already received many notes on it. So, instead of us wasting time on it - Yes, committee chairperson.

MR KUBEKETERYA: Mr Speaker, thank you for the guidance. We withdraw that list and we will consult with the minister. However, we brought it purposely because it was top on the agenda and they were not being clear. That is why we brought it. Now that you have spoken, I will withdraw it and consult.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now that the list is no longer part of the report, we can move very well, honourable colleagues. We do not discuss what has been withdrawn.

On a very selfish note, I will start with Mitooma, then Kalangala, Hon. Santa, Hon. Karubanga, Hon. Chemaswet and honourable members for Ibanda and for Apac. I know why I picked those special cases - and Hon. Bumali Mpindi, and Member for Youth. I will give you time, honourable colleagues, but let us use our style of two minutes so that we get more people.

7.39

MS JULIET BASHIISHA (NRM, Woman Representative, Mitooma): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Thank you for the good report, the Committee on Education and Sports.

My issue is on the rephased PTCs. I have an institution in Mitooma; Bikungu PTC, which was phased out in 2023. I have been following it up and I have been told that it has been repurposed to become a polytechnic; a teachers' instructor's school. Up to now, the school has been abandoned. The institution has a lot of land, but that land has now been encroached on.

When I observe most of the teachers who were well-trained as primary school teachers, some are retiring, others are resigning, and others are dying. Soon, we are not going to have real primary school teachers. Most of the PTCs around Greater Bushenyi: Kitabi PTC, there was Ruyonza - all of them are no longer in

place. Honourable minister, I request to know the fate of our children in the very few years to come, when most of the teachers are out of service?

Secondly, the committee chairperson talked about teachers' salaries. Arts teachers are asking, "I hear you are talking about deputy head teachers and the head teachers. What about those who go to the classroom to teach?" We need to have - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Kalangala -

7.41

MS HELEN NAKIMULI (NUP, Woman Representative, Kalangala): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Thank you, chairperson for your able presentation of the reports. I would implore the Committee on Education and Sports to also consider island districts, for example, Kalangala where I come from, Namayingo, Buvuma and all those other islands.

Government schools have been constructed in our island districts. They have pupils and students. Unfortunately, we do not have transportation from those schools to other areas of the district.

For example, I have two constituencies, that is, Kyamuswa and Bujumba. Kyamuswa has four subcounties that are on the waters. These pupils cannot access the headquarters. If there is an activity and they have to get to the district headquarters, they would have to hire boats.

Therefore, I implore the Government that, if you put infrastructure or a school in a far-off island, please also consider transportation of those pupils from that far area to the headquarters for purposes of either learning or travelling.

In addition to what my honourable colleague said, I am in support of the report of the committee when they say that we need to harmonise salaries because in the hard-to-reach areas, you will only find the science teachers teaching and the arts teachers are not

attending because they say they receive less salary compared to the science teachers.

There is that very big gap that needs to be bridged between the science and arts teachers. Otherwise, we are going to see – (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Karubanga?

7.44

MR DAVID KARUBANGA (NRM, Kigorobya County, Hoima): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committee for the report. In my constituency, some subcounties have no secondary schools, and when you look at the distance to the centre, it is about 30 kilometres. That specifically leads to high dropout rates. I am talking about a place which is near Buliisa site, 30 kilometres. Another one is near Buseruka, 15 kilometres away, especially the girl child.

I am worried that the generation we are raising, which just attains primary education and cannot have secondary education is not going to be good for our country. The ministry needs to start looking at these issues of how near the schools are in relation to the existing facilities.

Recently, we had a secondary school, and where it was located was within a radius of 500 metres of the existing one and which is within the town council where there are other schools. My request is that the Ministry of Education and Sports needs to look at how far these schools are in terms of serving these disadvantaged areas. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Chemaswet -

7.46

MR CHEMASWET KISOS (NRM, Soi County, Kween): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My thanks are only to you, but not to the committee at all. We, in our own committees, have been working for all of us. In the Committee on Public Service and Local Government, we have been working for every other Member

of Parliament. I was in the Committee on the East African Community, and we worked for all members of Parliament.

I would like to make a prophetic proclamation and the chairperson of the committee and the minister should listen to this. The chairperson and the committee members, you are all cursed. I am saying that it is a prophetic proclamation. I cannot have a constituency with only three primary schools but without a secondary school.

For all these four years you have been the chairperson, we have been talking about the proposed Ngenge Seed Secondary School. It was in the budget.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Chemaswet, this is the first term of Hon. James Kubeketerya as the chairperson. However, Hon. Chemaswet, I know you very well. You cannot wish anyone to be cursed, and you cannot curse. You are everyone's best friend. Kindly lift the curse.

MR CHEMASWET: Mr Speaker, this school has been in the budget for 2024/2025. The challenge is that the technical staff and the committee members keep changing the signposts and goalposts of every other school that is supposed to be constructed.

Must we all work in the same Committee on Education? Must we all be there? Look at the primary schools – I do not want to talk about them. I provided 8.5 acres for the construction of the same school. They said they needed a title, we titled the land, but it has not been constructed.

Last month, I constructed eight primary schools. Go and see them. I am tired. Chairperson of the committee, you have been talking of Ngenge Secondary School, and every time I meet you, you tell me, Ngenge. Is it a mockery? Must we call ourselves Kenyans for you to accept that we must go to Kenya in order to be given primary and secondary schools? We suffered because of cattle rustling; the resettlement programme has become impossible. I have the *Balaalo* who are staying there. They even lack secondary

school education and primary schools. They are wondering, must we - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Chemaswet. Hon. Jane Bainomugisha -

7.49

MS JANE BAINOMUGISHA (NRM, Woman Representative, Ibanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the Committee on Education and Sports for the good report. However, I have three issues.

When I was going around doing my oversight role in schools, I realised that some schools had understaffing issues. If we are yearning for quality education in this country, we should consider the improvement of the teachers' welfare so that our students can have the best service delivery.

The second one is about salary enhancement for the arts teachers. I would like the honourable minister to update the people of Ibanda, especially the arts teachers, about that. We are also trying to have quality education as far as that is concerned. As you may be aware, there is a difference between the art teachers' and science teachers' salaries.

The third one is about the infrastructure or staff quarters in Ibanda District, especially in the public schools. I would like the honourable minister to inform us when or if that budget is there for the improvement of the staff quarters, especially in the public schools.

Mr Speaker, there is a policy that each parish should have a seed school but in Ibanda District, we have - sorry, subcounty, I beg your pardon. But when you -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, not a seed school but a Government -

MS BAINOMUGISHA: A Government secondary school. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for that.

I would like to inform you that in Ibanda - *(Member timed out.) (Laughter)* I need your protection -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can see how I am looking at you. You are grabbing the microphone, honourable member.

Hon. Betty Engola and Hon. Boniface Okot.

7.51

MS BETTY ENGOLA (NRM, Woman Representative, Apac): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I also want to commend the chairperson for his report. I agree with the recommendations that they have come out with, as a committee.

Mr Speaker, I am happy to hear that primary schools will be rehabilitated. That is very good because many of them, especially in my district, have been looking really bad. I also request the minister that the toilets in those primary schools be given a facelift. This is because some of them do not have doors and so forth.

Mr Speaker, I am happy to hear that the Government should support students at the university level. That is very relieving.

Mr Speaker, what I have not heard, which I think is also very important, is the issue of adding more staff or teachers' houses at schools. That is very important because teachers should reside at schools.

Honourable minister, I thank you for appointing the 300 head teachers and deputies. In Apac District, Arocha Seed School has also benefited. It is within Apac Municipality. I am happy to hear that. Out of the 116 new seed schools, Apac District - *(Member timed out.)*

7.53

MR BONIFACE OKOT (NRM, Youth Representative, Northern): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I also salute the committee for their report.

Mr Speaker, I will restrict my submission to two issues. One is on positioning our education as an export. One of the core interests of any government is to improve its economy by bettering its balance of trade.

Historically, Uganda used to be a huge exporter in terms of our education system. Now, the trends have changed. In fact, we have even produced many leaders of other African countries. However, when you sit on Ugandan flights going to other countries, you will see a number of our young people going to seek education elsewhere.

Mr Speaker, it is even a shock that Makerere University, which used to be the best university in the region in terms of ranking, is not the best. Sometimes, it even goes beyond the 10th position in the entire of Africa.

How I wish the Government could consider meaningfully prioritising and investing in areas where we have a comparative advantage, like our education, which could generate a lot of money and support other needs. Our outlook on education should not be consumptive. Education is also a productive sector – it could generate a lot of money for our country.

My second comment, Mr Speaker, is on research. I am utterly disappointed that at this point, we are still investing only Shs 2 billion in public institutions for research and innovations. How I wish this money were even more – because that only amounts to Shs 18 billion.

The President has made many commitments –
(*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, in relation to the issue that Hon. Boniface Okot has raised, I am even more scared in terms of the ranking of our public universities. Most of this ranking is based on research output. Most of the research in these universities has been funded by foreign countries, especially the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and others.

With the recent happenings, what are we doing to mitigate this? If the research output of our universities goes low, their ranking is - I was on the Makerere University Council

for 10 years. I know that the moment you do not work on issues of research, your ranking goes down. A university like Makerere should not be teaching; it should be innovating and bringing out new knowledge. I do not know what you are doing about this to ensure that our universities remain ranked high.

7.57

MS SANTA ALUM (UPC, Woman Representative, Oyam): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, I thank the committee for recommending that Lira University be given an additional Shs 19 billion. This is a university with an incomplete administration block. It is a very serious issue. When we talk about research, we need a library to support that aspect, for many students who are willing to take it up.

Number two, Mr Speaker, I add my voice to the skills and sports development sector, which remains lagging behind. Many times, our sports ladies and gentlemen qualify for the international tournaments, but they always lack funding. The committee is advocating for Shs 8 billion for these international tournaments. Many times they borrow money. Sometimes they run to Parliament. How I wish this time around we could close this gap.

My third concern, Mr Speaker, is about the disparity between the arts and science teachers. Arts teachers get Shs 900,000 vis-a-vis the Shs 4 million that science teachers get. This is a country for all of us. There are children who have strength in arts and others in sciences. This is the right moment for us, as Parliament, to bridge this gap.

Finally, on the issue of the Primary Teachers' Colleges (PTCs) that have been closed, Madam Minister, what are we going to do with this gap left behind?

Lastly, honourable minister, we have Acaba Subcounty without a secondary school yet –
(*Member timed out.*)

7.59

MR ALLAN MAYANJA (NUP, Nakaseke Central County, Nakaseke): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity.

Madam Minister, there is a policy that is effective 1 July 2025, that all school fees and related charges in government-aided primary and secondary schools will be collected through the Consolidated Fund and managed by the Uganda Revenue Authority. We want clarification on this policy because most of the schools and our parents are very worried about this policy. We have witnessed that it has already crippled local governments. You can see, right now, that public universities are suffering. The ministry for finance collects the funds but fails to remit them to the schools.

Secondly, in Nakaseke District, Butalangu Subcounty, we do not have a secondary school. The whole town council does not have a secondary school owned by the Government. Even some parishes or wards lack government primary schools.

Lastly, I concur with the committee's recommendation that the Government should take up a policy of storied buildings for classrooms. In Nakaseke, we have Kikamulo Seed School, but all the buildings are scattered and they are not storied. I think storied classroom buildings could reserve space so that these government schools can have enough space - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Mpindi Bumali and Hon. Nangoli.

8.01

MR BUMALI MPINDI (Independent, PWD Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I read somewhere in the report of the committee that Uganda National Examination Board (UNEB) needs money to do the assessment and examination of children with disabilities before and when they sit for exams. However, the ministry has failed to provide money for the examination and assessment of children with disabilities in schools.

Education of children with disabilities is not a privilege, it is a right. I wonder how the ministry can provide money for the able-bodied peers and fail to provide money for the examination of children with disabilities. I pray that this issue is sorted. Otherwise, we cannot allow that to happen.

Two, I thank the committee that it has now provided money for the major games; Hon. Santa has alluded to it. When our people go for competition, countries pray that Uganda takes the first or the second position. Even if they fail and are in the third position, the chances are high that the Ugandan teams will fail to go for those international competitions. Then the third country goes in the slot of Uganda. This is such a shame to our people who struggle to see that they qualify. I pray that this issue is sorted and the Budget Committee provides money for the major games - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Nangoli and Hon. Dr Otaala.

8.03

MR GERALD NANGOLI (NRM, Elgon North County, Bulambuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question goes to the honourable minister. Last year, around June, the Government took over 46 schools from the community under grant aid. The teachers were subjected to interviews at the schools in various places in the country.

To date, all these teachers have not been accessed on the payroll, and we are now in April. We are left with about one month to end the financial year. The money was provided, and as I speak, teachers are disgruntled. They got the appointment letters, assumed duty, and their acceptance letters were submitted to the Ministries of Education and Sports and Public Service, but to date, they have not accessed the payroll.

The second thing is the issue of staff quarters. Some of the areas, especially Elgon North, are hard-to-reach like Buginyanya Comprehensive Secondary School. We have teachers who have been posted there. The only thing they did was

to report and sign in the attendance book on the first day, simply because there is no accommodation. You know, when it begins to rain in our area, it rains day and night, and you cannot even cross from here to Jinja Road. Therefore, it is very difficult for them to stay in the school without staff quarters. What plans do we have as a Government?

Thirdly, on the issue of land, I know it is a government policy that the community, through local government, must have at least 5.5 acres of land in order to have a government secondary school. What plans do we have as a government?

This is because the community will run very fast simply because the services are coming nearer to them. At the end of the day, people need to be compensated because people will not just give you land and you think - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr Otaala?

8.05

DR EMMANUEL OTAALA (NRM, West Budama County South, Tororo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. Before I dive into issues of education, I want to applaud one colleague who did the work of a good Samaritan this afternoon while I was coming to Parliament, namely Hon. Oguzu Lee. I applaud him for rescuing a woman who was knocked down by a boda boda and her legs were broken. He stopped and picked up that woman and delivered her to the China-Uganda Friendship Hospital in Naguru. I want to thank you very much for that.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well done, honourable. Unfortunately, we do not have medals in Parliament and you stopped the service awards. We appreciate you.

DR OTAALA: Mr Speaker, if it may please you, give me one more minute.

I want to go into the issue of school feeding. We all know that our brains grow best when they are still young. I appreciate the Univer-

sal Primary Education (UPE) program of the Government that has offered the opportunity to most of our children to access education.

However, I am surprised that we have not taken any steps to implement the school feeding programs. This is absolutely important for young brains so that we do not produce academic dwarfs. All of us are here because we fed while at school. We did not feed because the Government was giving us free money for feeding, but our parents were contributing a little money - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, please.

DR OTAALA: Thank you. How I wish the Government could come up with a policy to compel parents to contribute something for their children to feed on while at school.

In fact, these days, parents are even leaving this to MPs. When it comes to examination time, that is when they remember that the children need to eat. I just want to give an example of ourselves here in this Parliament. If we do not have lunch, we shall not have the brain to debate. This is a very important matter and I believe that the Ministry of Education and Sports should take it up very seriously.

Finally, Mr Speaker - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable. I want to give myself as an example. I studied in Kigarama Primary School and we never had any feeding. My grandmother, whom I grew up with, would pack food for me.

Now, I do not know the differences between constituencies and areas. Maybe you come from an urban area. When I visited the schools in my constituency, with our new curriculum, they did not have books and equipment to use. Therefore, what is more important? Is it to give more money for feeding or to equip our schools so that our children can also compete favourably?

You see, for us in our culture, I believe a parent packing food for a child would be more im-

portant, but of course, things are changing in the modern era. I have just given an example, and you said that you were eating at school, and parents were contributing.

In my case, our school only cooked for teachers. I remember a time when we could not raise school fees, and I had to contribute sweet potatoes to the school in exchange for school fees. That was what we could do. I think this is an issue we need to look at deeply to see what our schools need. On that one, I am sure the minister has the capacity to study and update us here and see how best we can contribute.

Hon. Mamawi, Hon. Felix Okot-Ogong, senior, and Hon. Kenny Auma.

8.10

MR JAMES MAMAWI (NRM, Adjumani East County, Adjumani): Thank you, Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I am trying to see - I started with colleagues whom I had not given an opportunity to speak today. Did Hon. Kenny speak? Then, if Hon. Kenny spoke, you would also speak. It seems some of you are late and very restless. You stand up and make all sorts of signs at me. Please, we are here together. *(Laughter)*

The ones who are moving so much and are desperate to speak will speak last, so that you accompany me out of here. Do you want to abandon me and I remain here alone? Hon. Mamawi?

8.10

MR JAMES MAMAWI (NRM, Adjumani East County, Adjumani): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the committee for the report. I thank the Ministry of Education and Sports for what they are doing in all these schools. I need clarification from the chairperson when he said at a certain point that the Attorney-General should lift the process of land title acquisition for projects in rural areas. On several occasions, we have suffered while implementing some projects between the community and the Government.

There are high risks that when the Government puts a large property in an area, the community at the end of the day claims ownership of the land. Again, we are trying to say, let us uplift some of this process before having a title, we put a facility in this area. Which one is which? Can you help us clarify this?

Secondly, in this era, we still have schools in our areas where learners are learning under the trees. The classrooms and teachers are not enough. We are happy that we are going to renovate several schools, but again, can we ask that we also help the local governments in putting up some structures in schools with large populations?

We have partners who are working with the refugees. Some of us come from refugee-hosting districts. Can we align our work plan with these partners so that they help the Government, where we cannot do much to put up some of these structures, rather than having over 200 pupils in one class, where the ratio of pupils to one teacher is supposed to be 50, but we have over 200? We cannot blame our teachers when pupils are not passing well, because the number of - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Colleagues, I urge you that when you are speaking into a microphone, keep a distance so that you can be audible; the *Hansard* team finds it difficult. Hon. Okot Ogong?

8.13

MR FELIX OKOT-OGONG (NRM, Dokolo South County, Dokolo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have about two issues. One, my community in about four parishes, initiated primary schools, they have constructed the schools, are employing teachers, and paying them. Their request for the last 10 years has been for the Government to take over these primary schools. We have asked and asked that you should grant-aid these schools and code them so that the Government takes over, because it is your policy that each parish should get a primary school, and that is what we have.

Why are you not coding our primary schools? I have four of them. I have been talking to the chairperson. Last year, he promised and showed me a list that if you behave well - and I have behaved -(*Laughter*)- and I am asking, why don't you give code to these primary schools?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, how did you behave?

MR OKOT-OGONG: Of course, I have been nice to him, and I greet him every day – (*Laughter*)- Because I am begging him to grant aid to those primary schools.

Secondly, we have a primary school in my constituency. The President went there and he promised that he is going to modernise that school into an ultra-modern primary school in that area. He has forwarded the name to the ministry, and they have not done anything. The list, name and the budget - (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kenny Auma?

8.15

MS KENNY AUMA (UPC, Woman Representative, Kwanja): Thank you, Mr Speaker. When we talk about education in this country, it pains me a lot because when you move throughout the country and you look at the status of the schools in this country, most especially the primary schools. Some pupils are still studying under trees in the very country that we are in. Some teachers are still sleeping in grass-thatched houses. Some children are still sitting on the floor. They have classrooms that have not even been worked on. The children are sitting in the dust, and you expect such a child to come and compete with children who are in Kampala.

I think in the country that we are developing; education is meant for the children of the rich. We have left the children of the poor to remain in the village, and they will never come to Kampala or even join Makerere.

As a country, I was born in the NRM Government, but I am UPC by blood. If we

are to remember some of the schools that were built in the Obote Government, how was the education sector in the Obote Government? Children were picked from Mitooma, some villages, very far from Kampala. Children of the villagers, children whose fathers cannot pay school fees, but because they are bright, they were brought from their villages. Some of them, even their parents, have never seen Kampala, but were brought by the Government to come and study under Government sponsorship. Now, when we are talking about the Government - (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Lee and Hon. Namugga.

8.17

MR DENIS OGUZU (FDC, Maracha County, Maracha): I agree with my sister that education is now being used to disenfranchise some communities, and the sign is what we just dealt with. I am glad that you allowed it to be withdrawn because that is one of the tools for disadvantaging some communities.

I have issues. We have been moving to professionalise teaching education. We said all our teachers must become professionals, and we are not investing in it. If you read the report, it says UNITE needs about Shs 65.7 billion to repurpose all PTCs, to put national teacher education colleges to use to skill our teachers. There is a stock of over 50,000 certificate primary teachers who have no future if this money is not provided.

If this committee decides to make such a thing an unfunded priority, who are they working for? Or if the Government does not provide resources for this, the Government is working for whom? That is a big issue we must address.

Two, there are so many youths who cannot continue with their education. In my district, the completion rate is below 10 per cent. It means that when 100 pupils enrol in P1, fewer than 10 will finish, and these people would have their future in skilling, and that skilling needs technical institutes. The President has written to direct - these letters; I do not know where they go. There is a hole in the Ministry

of Education that swallows all the budget for technical schools, which is to uplift people in under - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Because you rescued someone—*(Laughter)*—that is the only way I can also rescue you and pay back for your good deeds.

MR OGUZU: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for rescuing me. I have been heavily involved in emergency care. You remember I built a system that won a global award, and the Government is not using that system. These are all political questions we must deal with, but the key is that we are not investing in our young people, and that thing needed about Shs 100 million.

Lastly, I want the minister to clarify. UNEB usually collects fees from children to sit exams, but we also see allocations for UNEB. I want to know if the other non-tax revenue goes to the Consolidated Fund. Where does it go? If you add it to this, what do we expect of UNEB? Wouldn't it be better if we used part of this money to deal with the staffing in universities?

Entities like MUNI do not have lecturers to teach children. You pretend you have sent your child to university, but the child is just going there to drink, smoke, when there are no lecturers to teach them and the planners are here. What are they planning? What are you planning for this country if you cannot avail resources? I – *(Member timed out.)*

8.20

MS GORRETH NAMUGGA (NUP, Mawogola County South, Ssembabule): I would like to thank and appreciate you, Mr Speaker, for the time that you have given us today. We are ready to be here even up to midnight, as long as we have issues.

I would like to inform the House that free education to the children of this country is not just a privilege, but a responsibility of the Government. That is under Objective XVIII. I would like to ask the minister to take an inventory of all the schools that we have in this country.

Honourable colleagues, some areas have schools that do not qualify to even be Government schools. A school has four classrooms from P.1 up to P.4, but it is coded as a Government school. Kindly take an interest in coding at all the schools. You want more money to aid 100 secondary schools and 300 primary schools, but take time to take inventory to see whether those we have qualify to the standards of the Government.

We have spoken about equity. Some areas are over-served; others are under-served. Kindly distribute resources equitably. Otherwise, I support aiding more schools, but take inventory to ensure that we avoid wastage of resources.

The second is about Non-Tax Revenue (NTR) for universities. Universities pay money to the Consolidated Fund, but returning it to universities has become a hassle. We are seriously compromising university education. Madam minister, make sure that we return the NTR to universities as soon as possible because we pay school fees for our children to get quality education, not to support other Government activities.

The other issue is about the shortfall in the unit cost of capital grants, where in primary school, you need to pay Shs 20,000 per child, but give Shs 18,000. That is non-negotiable. You must give money because we must have quality education across the board. Otherwise, thank you for what you have done so far, but ensure that there is equity in the distribution of public resources.

Lastly, make sure that you fund UPDF schools. We need our soldiers to get quality – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let me pick these five colleagues. Today, the one who will conclude is Hon. Ebwalu; I want a senior Member to contribute. I will start with Hon. Acrobert and then go to Hon. Isodo, Hon. Auma, Hon. Mutembuli and Hon. Muwuma.

8.23

MR ACROBERT KIIZA (Independent, Bughendera County, Bundibugyo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for yet another opportunity. My concern is about the unfunded priorities. According to the report, we have 100 secondary schools that are unfunded - yet they require Shs 66.3 billion. There are 300 primary schools that require Shs 31 billion, but they are under unfunded priorities. My appeal to honourable colleagues is that we should find money.

My area is known for being hard to reach. Bughendera has 14 administrative units, but we still have eight subcounties without any secondary schools. So when I see this, I wonder whether we are in Government and Bundibugyo is known for voting in NRM – 98 per cent. Honourable colleagues, it is my plea that we look for money.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, there is an issue of the arts teachers. This is a thorn in our flesh, where science teachers go for the same classes. The same fees paid by the science teachers is the same as the arts teachers' pay, but you wonder why they are paid less – *(Member timed out.)*

8.25

MS STELLA ISODO (FDC, Woman Representative, Ngora): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I would like to appreciate the chairperson. My concern is with coding.

I submitted three primary schools in January 2023; that is Ajuket, Kacinga and Katengeto, which is an island in Ngora and a hard-to-reach parish. I agree with Hon. Gorreth, that we need to code all the schools that need to be coded.

Government policy is also that every subcounty should have a secondary school. Out of the 11 subcounties in Ngora District, six do not have secondary schools; among them are Morukakise, Mukura, Ngora, Opot and Agirigiroi.

Finally, it is also a Government policy that every county must have a tertiary institution for education. Ngora District has two counties, Ngora and Kapir, but they both do not have a

tertiary institution. Honourable minister, I need answers. I beg to submit.

8.26

MR DENNIS NYANGWESO (Independent, Samia-Bugwe Central County, Busia): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. Allow me to thank the committee for the report, particularly for prioritising infrastructural development for primary schools.

I have dedicated some time to visit schools in my constituency, especially the primary schools. The situation there is very appalling. You find children; boys and girls, sharing a latrine. To make matters worse, teachers also share latrines with the pupils.

There are no staff houses. It is very difficult for the school administrators - because I have interacted with the district inspectors of schools – to discipline teachers. Attending duty is very hard to enforce by the administrators because teachers come from very far. They do not come regularly; transportation is a problem.

I applaud the committee and appeal to the ministry to support this initiative. Let us have infrastructure development for schools. I studied in a village school, but it had staff quarters, and it was very easy for the teachers to attend to the pupils. However, when teachers are transferred to far schools, they do not even report because there is no accommodation. The money which they earn as salary is not enough to allow them to rent in nearby – *(Member timed out.)*

8.28

MS LINDA AUMA (Independent, Woman Representative, Lira): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I would like to commend the committee for the report.

I am in pain because Lira District had major schools before the city was created, but at the moment, I have only one A-Level school in Lira District: Amac Complex Secondary School. Amac Complex has neither a laboratory nor a library. We have a new curriculum that needs a lot of research.

How do we expect the students sitting in the Amac Complex to join the university? Even under the quota system, the Lira District and the city have been combined to benefit from it. I have been very keen on this.

Every year, I address these students before they go to the university, but it pains me because the children of the rich in the city are the ones who benefit from the quota system. My poor people in Lira District do not benefit because they are not performing to the expected standard to be admitted for the quota system. Minister, what are you doing about that?

Secondly, Mr Speaker, Lira District has a school called Bar Oganda Primary School. It was supported by Plan International. The classrooms have been constructed and fenced. We have written to the Ministry of Education and Sports several times to code the school, but they have failed. Minister, I will be in your office tomorrow. Please, help me and code this one school so that our parents get relieved.

Lastly, we have schools that need to be rehabilitated. Agweng Secondary School is in a bad state, and primary schools like Abongorwot and Ororor Primary Schools - the President landed there, but their infrastructure is in a bad state and is almost collapsing. They always ask me, Hon. Linda, you were the one interpreting for the President, our school is collapsing, but I have no answer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Mutembuli -

8.31

MR YUSUF MUTEMBULI (NRM, Bunyole East County, Butaleja): I am grateful, Mr Speaker –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who is that, and how did you start behaving that way?

MR MUTEMBULI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the committee for the report. On page 38, they talk about grant-aiding 44 schools. There are schools that are ready. I can give an example of a school

called St. Luke SS, Nabiganda Town Council, Butaleja.

They constructed it as a community. They have all the blocks, classrooms, and libraries—they have everything, and they are saying, “Government, come, we hand over this, and you take over.”

The Government is saying, “First, wait,” but they go to a school that does not have a classroom and say, “We are grant-aiding such a school.”

I propose that you do research, look at some of these schools that you think are ready, and then grant-aid them so that the Government can take them over. That should be one of the methods that you can use to grant-aiding some of the schools.

Lastly, honourable minister, there is a subcounty called Mazimasa. We have written that this subcounty should be given a secondary school.

To date, you keep telling us we shall see what to do. Good enough, the Chairperson is there and he has always helped me to talk to the ministry to ensure that we get a school for that particular subcounty.

Most of them have been crossing to Himutu, but as you heard, the Manafwa bridge broke down. It is now difficult for these children to go to another subcounty to have their education. Please – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Mudimi, Hon. Kajwengye, and Hon. Midius. Please colleagues, I am not following an order that I am going to pick everyone. you do not pass on the microphone to each other.

8.33

MR IGNATIUS MUDIMI (NRM, Elgon County, Bulambuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I also join colleagues in thanking the committee for the report. Let us support Hon. Chemaswet, at least to have at least one secondary Government school in his constituency. *(Applause)*

Honourable minister, if we can get money – I am a resident in his place, they do not have a Government secondary school. There are only three primary schools, and one of which is an Army school, Chepsikunya.

Hon. Chemaswet needs affirmative action. I beg that we look for money in the budget and at least start a school for him. If the ministry is overwhelmed, you can send the money to the district for them to kick-start. That area has land, my area, and other mountain areas of Elgon are hard-to-reach.

Normally, we need to know the policy for retaining teachers. You post teachers from other places, but the challenge we have is that they go there to access the payroll, then move the following year and do not replace them.

Why can't you take the locals? They are there, but they say no, the recruitment has been centralised.

Another point is that there are construction projects that were abandoned by the Government. A number of schools, even in my constituency, before I even came to Parliament, I have just seen in the Auditor-General's report – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before Nyabushozi, let us first get Gen. Mugira.

8.35

GEN. JAMES MUGIRA (UPDF Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I thank Hon. Namugga for that expression of solidarity and support to the Uganda People's Defence Forces, that is the spirit.

Permit me, on behalf of the officers and men of the Uganda People's Defence Forces, to express our appreciation to the committee's leadership and members for their recommendation to support our 52 schools in three areas.

The first one is infrastructure development, instructional material, and filling the human resource gap. We appreciate you, the committee and the leadership.

As you all know, these soldiers are always in operations, both within and out of the country. You cannot concentrate on defending the country when you are not sure that your children back home are getting a quality education. By providing this rehabilitation of our schools, you are enabling these soldiers to focus on implementing their constitutional duty. We thank you very much. *(Applause)*

I wish to add that these schools do not only serve UPDF, as you have heard in all your constituencies, where they are. 70 per cent of the pupils enrolled in our primary, secondary, and tertiary schools are from the community. We support - in fact, I even have - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am adding two minutes to you, General. This constituency is special, and you can see even Hon. Namugga is lobbying for it. *(Laughter)*

GEN. MUGIRA: Thank you for your consideration. I want to give you the figures and then conclude. For example, we have a total number of 50,170 pupils in the primary, secondary, and tertiary schools.

Out of those, 35,965 are from the communities. It is only 13,504 who are children of our soldiers. With that information once again, permit me to thank the leadership of the committee. God bless you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kajwengye -

8.38

MR WILSON KAJWENGYE (NRM, Nyabushozi County, Kiruhura): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. The National Development Plan III that we transitioned from to now, NDP IV, laid the ground rules that each subcounty must have a secondary school, and each parish must have a Government-aided primary school.

As we have seen from the coffers, it is hard for us to fund that. There is a cheaper way to eat, and I am happy the committee captured it.

The cheaper way to do this is through grant aid. If you grant aid to as many schools as possible, then you have provided education and the Government is doing its responsibility.

I would want us to vote for more money for grant-aiding if we cannot construct a secondary school per subcounty or one per parish.

In my constituency, I have four subcounties; Kinoni Community needs grant aid. Kasha Secondary needs grant aid. Rwenshande needs grant-aiding. Rwemikunyu High School needs grant aid.

These are community-run or church-founded schools. The communities have been running them. We have been appealing for grant aid.

Honourable minister, kindly take that and one other subcounty that totally does not have a secondary school, like Akayanja subcounty. I would be very glad if this were captured.

I support the proposal to support the army's primary, secondary, and tertiary schools. I know and can testify that communities within proximity greatly benefit from that - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Midius -

8.39

MS MIDIUS NATUKUNDA (NRM, Woman Representative, Rukungiri): Thank you, Mr Speaker, I also want to thank you for alluding to the presidential pledges that normally get lost along the budgeting process and also in the ministry. An example is a polytechnic institute in Nyarushanje Subcounty in Rukungiri that has been a presidential pledge for a very long time. In the last two years, the President wrote several letters to the ministry, asking them to start the process of operationalising the said institution. However, up to now, nothing is going on.

We have no update from the ministry and the report does not also say anything about Nyarushanje Polytechnic Institute being affiliated to Mbarara University of Science and

Technology. I would like to ask the ministry: what is the update on the President's pledge about the said polytechnic institute?

The report also mentioned that they need money to rehabilitate primary schools, which I agree with. However, we have these schools that are always washed away by the storms. When this happens, we run to the ministry of relief and disaster and they give us iron sheets and the like.

What is the role of the ministry in providing other building materials? I believe the iron sheets are not enough to put up these structures that are washed away by the hailstorm. What is the ministry doing about these schools?

Lastly, I also agree that we should give them money to train teachers in the new curriculum for schools. However, we also need teaching and reading materials for both the teachers and the pupils. We also need sensitisation of the parents. You can all attest that when Ordinary Level results were released - *(Member timed out.)*

8.42

MS MOURINE OSORU (NRM, Woman Representative, Arua City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I did not hear from the report the fact that most teachers are retiring without replacement. As a ministry, what plans do you have? It is a big challenge that is affecting that sector.

Secondly, I support the additional Shs 4.6 billion to be given to Muni University to complete the unfinished projects such that we can improve the quality of education in that region.

Also, a directive came from His Excellency the President that every region should have at least a stadium. It has been 20 years since Dorcus Inzikuru won a 3,000-meter race in Finland. His Excellency, the President, alluded to the fact that Barifa Stadium should be named after Dorcus. To date, there is nothing has been done about it. Now, the stadium is left for the animals to be grazed in, yet we have young people who

are able in that area. Honourable minister, the people of West Nile need to know how far you have gone with the Dorcus Inzikuru Stadium.

Lastly, we have schools that have computers, but they are not connected to electricity. Uploading the learners' data to Education Management Information System (EMIS) has become a problem in most of the schools. Is it possible for us to get funding to extend electricity to some of those schools? Thank you.

8.44

MR JACKSON ATIMA (NRM, Arua Central Division, Arua City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I thank the committee and the minister. I want to join my colleague, Hon. Osoru, in appreciating the Shs 4.6 billion to Muni University. However, honourable minister that Shs 4.6 billion will not do much because we have projects, which have stalled.

From the information that we have obtained from the university, the multipurpose health science laboratory, which is at 70 per cent, the administration block, which is at 53 per cent, the engineering mechanical workshop, which is at 40 per cent and Erepi Primary Teachers' College (PTC) to be moved for an education department needs Shs 2.5 billion. Honourable minister, the Shs 4.6 billion, in my view and according to the institution, is not sufficient. I urge you to add more money for that institution.

Two, I would like to appreciate the capitation of schools. I appeal to the committee and the ministry to think about Mvara Secondary School in Arua City, which still has classroom and dormitory blocks with asbestos roofs. Mr Speaker, remember that one time a student from that school called you, that their school still had blocks that had asbestos, which is dangerous to human life. I urge the ministry to think about Mvara Secondary School, give iron sheets and more money to support the infrastructure.

Lastly, I support the idea of harmonising salary discrepancies between science and arts teachers. This has caused demotivation and

demoralisation to the arts – (*Member timed out.*)

8.46

MR GODFREY ONZIMA (NRM, Aringa North County, Yumbe): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. Many Members have talked about the lack of classrooms, staff quarters and the rest. I think the reason is that the money given to the primary and secondary schools, as capitation grant, is not enough.

The committee is proposing Shs 25.97 billion. This is not available money. It is an unfunded priority. I appeal to the Budget Committee that when compiling the final report, we need to look into this money and provide it.

When the results came out, there is a school called "Clergy" in my constituency, where all the pupils failed. I took the initiative to go and ask why it happened. That school had only one staff quarter, which was given to the headmaster. Most of the teachers who were transferred to that school ran away. There were only three teachers on the ground, who were supposed to teach seven classes, from P.1 to P.7. That was one of the reasons. Therefore, I support that we give this.

I also want to add my voice on the Shs 4.6 billion to be given to Muni University to complete the administration block. That block has been a white elephant. Since the university started, it has never been completed. This is a proposal, where we are supposed to look for money. I, therefore, appeal to the honourable colleague and Members who sit on the Committee on Budget that let us do favour to this university and look for this money.

We had a meeting with the university management. They were pleading with us, as Members of Parliament from the region, that they are – (*Member timed out.*)

8.48

DR ABRAHAM ISAMAT (NRM, Kapir County, Ngora): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise in support of your guidance to the committee, particularly on the issue of presidential pledges.

In 1989, an unfortunate event occurred in Mukura, where 69 people perished in a wagon. The Government established a school called Mukura Memorial School.

In 2010, His Excellency the President pledged to Mukura Memorial School that the school would get a bus. That school has a student population of about 1,300. It is a destitute school when it comes to transporting those students. I wrote a letter to His Excellency, the President, and got a reply, where the State House Comptroller was charged to fulfil that pledge. Unfortunately, to date, the bus has not been given.

I am requesting the committee that for those pledges of the President, kindly, fix because we are desperately in need of it.

Lastly, my colleague, the Woman Member of Parliament for Ngora District, said that there are six subcounties, which do not have seed schools. I want to say that in my county, among the six – (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry. Hon Sowedi Kitanywa, Hon. Nyakikongoro and Hon. Achayo?

8.50

MR SOWEDI KITANYWA (NRM, Busongora County North, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I agree with most of the recommendations of the committee. However, I disagree with one, where they are recommending to waive the requirement that communities should first title their land for it to be supported with seed secondary schools.

In my opinion, this is dangerous. Instead, the recommendation should be that the Government supports the communities in securing the land. Or that the ministry for lands supports the communities to secure titles, rather than waiving away the issue of the titles.

The second issue is about grant aiding, like honourable colleagues -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, when you have such a specific issue, you should propose an amendment it.

MR KITANYWA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I, therefore, propose an amendment that instead of waiving away the issue of having titles, we should encourage the communities to work with the ministry for lands to secure the titles very fast.

The second issue is about grant aiding. My colleagues have talked about it, but I want to re-echo the points that were given by Hon. Kajwengye. One seed secondary school costs between Shs 3.5 billion to Shs 5 billion, yet grant aiding some secondary schools would even give us around six secondary schools.

In my constituency, for example, I have 13 lower local governments, and out of the 13 lower local governments, eight of them do not have secondary schools. Instead of giving me one seed secondary school, if you grant aid to eight secondary schools, you will have supported the whole community. I beg that that is the way we should go. Thank you for the opportunity, Mr Speaker.

8.53

MS ROSEMARY NYAKIKONGORO (NRM, Woman Representative, Sheema): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and the committee for the report. My concern is with the committee's recommendation in regard to the presidential pledges. I do not know which criteria they used because there are several presidential pledges that I particularly picked interest in, because I sit on the Committee on Budget, and they have been recurring.

For example, there is the Karamoja Peace and Technology University. There is a big presidential pledge to that university.

There is also a presidential pledge on the University of Saint Joseph in Mbarara. There is also a small pledge of Ankole Western University (AWU). The President pledged Shs 100 million through Hon. Matia Kasaija.

Therefore, I beg that we amend the presidential pledge list that the committee has presented to incorporate those presidential pledges.

Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, the ministry provided the money, but the committee is saying, take away the money.

MS NYAKIKONGORO: How can the committee now decide?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: In short, your amendment is proposing that the money should be reinstated to the entities: Karamoja, St. Joseph and AWU?

MS NYAKIKONGORO: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the guidance. I beg that I adopt the Speaker's words so that I do not eat up my time because I have other points to bring on board.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I interrupted you so I will allow you, but I will send you an invoice if you adopt my words.

MS NYAKIKONGORO: Mr Speaker, I have another concern with – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, I am adding you time. We shall sort ourselves.

MS NYAKIKONGORORO: Recently, there was an advert for the recruitment of teachers in seed schools. The applications were put at the regional level and the seed schools were very few. However, the number of people who applied to join government service was overwhelming, yet we continue to produce teachers in and out. I do not know whether Members of Parliament have not been approached by several teachers who want to join teaching in government secondary schools.

What career guidance do we give to our people, students in the country? Have we reached a ceiling in terms of employing teachers in secondary schools? Why don't we open up opportunities for teachers to teach? Yes, schools complain of the lack of teachers.

Finally, much as we do not have money, the issue of arts teachers is terrible. We are sitting on a time bomb. Our students are not studying and are demotivated. The teachers just go to class, but they do not teach because they go to the same market where the science teachers go. Much as we are dilly-dallying with that issue, we need to think about it seriously, so that they are also brought on board. It can be a small increment, like what we did for the Uganda Police Force, the Army, and the Uganda Prison Services. Let us make a small increment to appreciate the work that they are doing. Thank you, Mr Speaker

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable colleague is proposing that we at least start on it in a phased manner. Some teachers ask, some of you who did the arts but can't even fight for us? *(Laughter)*

Hon. Juliet Achayo?

8.57

MS JULIET ACHAYO (NRM, Ngora County, Ngora): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I join the rest of the colleagues in thanking the chairperson for the report.

Mine is just two issues. One is in regard to the salaries of the teachers. Ever since we migrated to the new HR system, our teachers have not received salaries from February up to now in Ngora District so I would like to know about that.

Secondly, is in regard to the issues of public secondary schools in the subcounties, like my colleague mentioned earlier. I have three subcounties with no secondary schools. I hope this time I will get something. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

5.58

MR DONALD KATALIHWI (NRM, Mwenje County South, Kyenjojo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Mine are three and very short. I thank the chairperson of the committee for a very good report. Most of the things have been captured.

The chairperson captured the issue of Buhinga Stadium. This has been a long-time promise by the President and it has become a white elephant.

This was pledged at the same time Akii Bua was pledged. The new one in Hoima also came in and our hands are tied. Works on the Akii Bua and Hoima Stadium have started, while in Buhinga Stadium, the UPDF just came and built a fence as if they were fencing off some cows. It is a funny fence.

Our people are very anxious. Works on other stadiums have started, but ours has stalled. Mr Speaker, I want a commitment from the minister when this stadium is going to be constructed to the same level as Hoima and Akii Bua.

The second issue is with the Mountains of the Moon University. I thank the committee because they brought some money for the construction of the faculty of agriculture, around Shs 6.5 billion.

I want to inform this House that this money is more or less for clearing arrears. That is why they say it is an outstanding contractual obligation.

The cost of the facility is very expensive, but now we are only paying Shs 6.5 billion, which is almost arrears. I encourage the committee to take into consideration adding some money to that university so that it takes off, because it is supposed to.

Finally, Mr Speaker is the issue of grant-aiding. You guided that the list should not be discussed, but I plead that – (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us now hear from Hon. Najjuma, Hon. Rwenduru, and Hon. Netalisire.

9.00

MS SARAH NAJJUMA (NRM, Woman Representative, Nakaseke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We have 11 schools that were built by Save the Children and Build Tomorrow,

but the district has written several letters to the ministry for coding without any response. I do not know what challenges they are facing with coding.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, I think we should review the policy of teacher ceiling. You find a school has 1,000 pupils but with only seven teachers. You find a teacher with almost 150 kids in a class struggling to teach them. I think for effective service delivery; we should review the issue of teacher ceiling.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for instructing the committee chairperson to withdraw the list that they had in their report. The committee chairperson allocated himself five schools under rehabilitation. That means – (*Interjections*) - yes, read the report, you will see it. Bunya East has five schools under rehabilitation. Nakaseke does not have any – (*Interjections*) - check. That means they had allocated themselves schools. Thank you, Mr Speaker, for telling him -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, you are discussing an item that they withdrew. Yes, Hon. Rwenduru and Hon. Netalisire.

9.01

MS JOVANICE TWINOBUSINGYE (NRM, Woman Representative, Kiruhura): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to join my colleagues in thanking the committee for the very good report. I will specifically talk about grant-aiding. I am happy that the committee seriously recommended for more funding for grant-aiding. I am also happy that this time around, the committee also considered Kinoni Community School. They recommended it for grant-aiding. I am happy, and I appreciate the committee for that.

I also add my voice to that of my colleague, Hon. Wilson, about the four schools that he mentioned. We need grant aid for those schools. Also, I would like to add one subcounty, Akayanja Subcounty, to be considered for a seed school.

Further, I request that we consider Ntubura Primary School for coding, because its request has been there for the last 10 years. So, if we consider it, we will be very grateful.

My last submission, Mr Speaker, is on infrastructure development. I support the committee on their recommendation on infrastructure development. The schools, especially primary schools, are in bad conditions. We do not have staff quarters in several schools and even classrooms. We support the committee in all the requests that they made. They are all important to us because they affect our communities. I submit. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Netalisire?

9.03

MS SARAH NETALISIRE (NRM, Woman Representative, Namisindwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the chairperson for the report.

I seek clarification from the minister on whether she has carried out an inventory on hard-to-reach areas and schools that are within those hard-to-reach areas.

We have a challenge on the retention of teachers. Previously, what motivated them to stay and accept to be posted in those schools in the hard-to-reach areas was the hard-to-reach allowance. But in most cases, these allowances are not paid to them, and some of those areas that were identified as hard-to-reach have not been taken care of.

So, I would like the the Minister to help me and answer my question on what he is doing to ensure that these hard-to-reach schools and the teachers that are there benefit from that allowance.

Secondly, I have an issue and a challenge in accepting the Shs 10 billion that the committee is requesting to be allocated to the National Council of Higher Education to facilitate in the litigation process of equating of academic qualifications of politicians.

I think the National Council for Higher Education should put stringent measures or levy a fee that can deter people who submit fake academic qualifications, so that it can deter politicians from submitting the same. There should be a fee that can be - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Muwuma, Hon. Aloysius, Hon. Katusabe and the Hon. Abdallah Kiwanuka, Hon. Okupa and Hon. Ebwalu.

9.05

MR MILTON MUWUMA (NRM, Kigulu County South, Iganga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to go on record in thanking the Government for finally taking over Busoga University. I want to report that the Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF) is on the ground and renovations have started.

However, we just got surprised along the way, when the chair was reporting, the committee report was silent on when the university is taking shape or being re-established, how much money is being provided, when is the minister - in fact since she is here, I should ask her directly: when are you bringing the statutory instrument to operationalise Busoga and Bunyoro universities?

I am asking this because these are presidential commitments and pledges in the NRM manifesto, and life seems to be taking shape, so we needed to know when the statutory instrument is coming on the Floor of Parliament and when is the recruitment of staff and students going to take place. Do we prepare for August intake or what happens? This is something that is seriously disturbing me, and so I need some information for the country.

Finally, on grant-aiding, I think I am one of those who have been writing, requesting for Bulamagi Community Secondary School, a secondary school that you supported with some roofing materials. We should say, "Thank you," but we requested the ministry to take it up for grant-aiding because everything is set.

Lastly, on presidential pledges for Budwege Primary School - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

9.08

MR ALOYSIUS MUKASA (NUP, Rubaga Division South, Kampala): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have always inspected Government-aided schools and Government schools, and I am happy that they always have libraries. But one of my discoveries is that most of their library books have turned out to be completely obsolete and never considered relevant.

When I was still schooling, any newly registered student, was supposed to bring a book. My secondary school teacher is seated right across from there and she can fully support me.

Currently, the Government has taken over the responsibility of updating and buying new books for Government schools. But most of the Government-aided schools in my constituency have outdated books. I think the minister can fully work on that so that we can have updated materials in our schools. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Atkins.

9.08

MR ATKINS KATUSABE (FDC, Bukonzo County West, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Madam minister, you are aware that you closed Bwera Teachers College yet Kasese District has 1.4 million citizens. Kaborole District, which has a Government university - the Primary Teaching College (PTC) there was closed same as that for Bushenyi and Mbarara.

So, our request, Madam Minister, is that the very PTC that you closed, ungraciously, can be upgraded into a public university because the foundations and infrastructure are lying there, idle.

Secondly, honourable colleagues, let us not allow this budget to pass without an increment or a package for the Arts teachers. They go to the same markets, school from the same

schools, they have the same needs as they relate to the science teachers. In this particular budget, not even for next year, Mr Speaker, let us have something for our Arts teachers.

Finally, this is for you, Mr Speaker, and the message is from Monsignor Dr Landus Bwambale. He said that when you or Madam Speaker are presiding, I have to raise this, that the Catholic schools and other faith-based schools should be supported. They educate fellow citizens. It is a pity that the Government abandons supporting religious schools - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Faith-based schools need support. Yes, Hon. Abdallah.

MR ABDALLAH KIWANUKA (NUP, Mukono County North, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I rise on Gulu University. I remember a petition was presented here about the degazettement of part of the forest land, yet the university had already developed that land, and there are buildings, which are existing. I remember having passed a resolution in that favour that the university was going to hand over certain land for a tree plantation.

I am surprised that the issue is still in the report and requires a resolution from the ministry. It is supposed to be the Parliament here to degazette; to approve the degazettement, which I remember we already approved here. I wonder why it still exists in the report.

Mr Speaker, there is an issue that the President has always been echoing now and then, about the restriction of fees in Universal Secondary Education (USE) and Universal Primary Education (UPE) schools.

Can the minister come out clearly and tell the nation, which fees are supposed to be paid by parents or students? Otherwise, there is a lot of havoc in the schools. The parents are about to fight with the management of the schools.

On the recruitment, I beg the honourable minister that we consider recruiting teachers

from the indigenous districts; the teachers coming from those very districts, so that we can maintain them in the schools. When you recruit teachers from far districts, for example, a teacher to operate in Gulu but coming from Kampala, the chances of this person leaving, not operating in Gulu, are high or going there one day only – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, for the record, we have never passed a resolution for the degazettement of Gulu University land. Please, we have never because in the process of degazettement, the motion must come from the minister. What we said here was, Gulu University has met all the requirements. However, the Government is refusing to bring a motion here. So, we urged the Government to expedite the process.

Sometimes I ask myself, who is behind this because - and why I am asking this is that Gulu University is a Government university. We borrowed money from the African Development Bank, built infrastructure in a forest reserve and applied for it to be degazetted. The university went, bought land and planted trees that would offset the carbon footprint of the area they had taken.

Now, even if you go to where they are, you do not see any trees to say it is a forest. However, we remain on it with the Government buildings. The university is operating, but for purposes of records and all that, the university needs that area to be degazetted. It is like the forests, which we have in town. In the middle of town, you hear there is a forest. There is no forest, but we just hold on to it. For a Government institution, I really wonder.

I visited Gulu University. They explained to me where the main building is. I wonder why the minister cannot - maybe we should now call the minister here to explain; the Minister of Water and Environment. Yes, we are going to call the Minister of Water and Environment to come and explain why. Hon. Onzima, is it on the same?

9.15

MR GODFREY ONZIMA (NRM, Aringa North County, Yumbe): Mr Speaker, I remember on this particular issue, a proposal was brought here, and a request to degazette the area was also presented. The Members who were in the House then approved that, and the minister promised –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who brought the request?

MR ONZIMA: The motion was brought by Hon. Mapenduzi, I remember.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, but that is not how the process is.

MR ONZIMA: It was a request for the minister to bring –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That was to urge. That is what I said. We urged the minister. We urged the Government. We urged, and they refused to be urged. *(Laughter)*

MR ONZIMA: Mr Speaker, what I was saying is, indeed, we urged, and the minister then promised that she was going to do consultations and come back. However, since then, she has not come back. We do not know where the consultations ended. That is what I was trying to say.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clerk, remind me after the budgeting process. However, this is an issue that we can get feedback on tomorrow. I do not know why we should even take it further. So, tomorrow, let the Minister of Water and Environment come and update us on the process. Yes, Hon. Okupa.

9.17

MR ELIJAH OKUPA (Independent, Kasilo County, Serere): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to join the voices that have agreed to support the UPDF primary schools and the other social institutions. I would like to add that, as we have started with the UPDF, let us extend this to the Police and the Prisons as

well, because they also have primary schools and other institutions in those areas.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, I would like to thank you for directing or urging Members to withdraw that list because when I looked at it, I saw schools which have already been grant-aided and coded. It was wise to ask that the list be withdrawn such that we can submit.

Now that that is the case, I would like to bring to the attention of the minister that in Kasilo, there are requests that have also been lying in your office. St Francis of Assisi Secondary School, Kagwara Seed Secondary School, where most of you helped me to raise money - we have already constructed seven classrooms - is one of those for which the request has been made. Also, Omongolim Primary School, which MTN has graciously helped us to put up five classroom blocks with a latrine. I request that you include those in the next selection.

Mr Speaker, this issue, which we have been reading about in the newspapers, of course, needs to be clarified by the minister; the Government's proposal to collect money from these faith-based primary and secondary schools. It is a big concern because it is once bitten, twice shy. Schools need money as soon as schools open. If the money has to go there, you know the policy of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, they release money quarterly. How will schools operate?

We also have the fear of diversion; you see the issue of the Road Fund. We said this money must be for the infrastructure when we passed that law, but the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development stubbornly refused despite the directives of the law.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Like how you have stubbornly taken over the microphone before I could give a response? *(Laughter)* Okay, conclude.

MR OKUPA: Mr Speaker, my apologies for having raided the microphone without your permission. *(Laughter)* With those comments,

I thank the ministry, the committee chairperson and his team for the work well done. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Chemonges and Hon. Ebwalu.

9.19

MR WILLIAM CHEMONGES (NRM, Kween County, Kween): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I want to add onto what my colleagues have talked about, especially on grant-aiding. We have schools that communities have constructed, all classrooms; everything is there. They have teachers who have been there for years, teaching and expecting to be taken up by the Government.

I request the minister to look into this. More especially this one that I have been telling you, Kworus SS in Kapkwata subcounty and the entire subcounty does not have another school, meanwhile, the school has 924 students.

Another serious issue in this report is about the assurance to us, the members of Parliament, who have many subcounties without government-aided schools. We need a comprehensive statement from you, minister, so that we can be - if we are to mention, one by one, we will not manage and therefore, you should just give us one statement.

Finally, on the issue of creation of universities - when the President visited Sebei three months ago in December, the request from the people of Sebei was to have a university.

Our people travel for about 600 kilometres - imagine from Kapchorwa up to here. We feel we need a university and the President okayed it. Maybe the minister can guide us on how we should move along with it. Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ebwalu -

9.21

MR JONATHAN EBWALU (Independent, Soroti West Division, Soroti): Mr Speaker, I want to thank the committee for the report. There are one or two things that they should be able to go sit and put right.

You rightly guided on the presidential pledges and directives. The President, while campaigning in 2016 and 2021, pledged to provide sanitary pads to all the schools in Uganda, but that has never happened.

Minister, how far have you gone in following up the presidential pledge on provision of sanitary pads in schools? I am asking this because it is one of the main causes of school dropouts especially in Soroti and the country.

Number two, is thousands of our children who did not perform well in the new curriculum are still at home. Senior ones have joined and senior fives have joined. What about the thousands who failed to participate or failed to pass in the new curriculum?

The new curriculum does not give them a path to move. Unfortunately, the ministry is still quiet. You have not told us what to do next.

Finally, on recruitment, we want to ask Parliament to support the Ministry of Education and Sports. I have a school called Arapai Primary School with 900 students but it has only seven teachers, including a head teacher. We encourage Parliament to support the ministry – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Conclude, Honourable.

MR EBWALU: Thank you. We should give them money so that we are able to recruit enough teachers to handle the children in our schools.

In conclusion, the National Council of Higher Education asks for money from aspirants or politicians and people pay, and it is the same thing with the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB).

When I went to UNEB, I paid Shs 300,000 for verification of my O'level paper and another Shs 300,000 for verification of my A'level paper.

However, here, you are asking for Shs 10 billion to give to NCHE. Where does NCHE take our money that we pay during that time of verification? We do not need to give these people this money. Where do they account for it? Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Colleagues, the National Council for Higher Education is clearly underfunded and one of the issues is the scandal, which we had here – accreditation of courses, you remember.

You find the National Council for Higher Education has thousands and thousands of courses to accredit. And to accredit one course, the process of going through the curriculum for that course – because each university has its own curriculum, unlike the government.

The experts involved - and I think that is money - would need - I also know that they have a shortfall on their building. But, verification of documents - anyway, the Chairperson will clarify. I thought that we pay that one. If you have your documents to be verified, you pay. But they will clarify.

9.29

MR MATHIAS MPUUGA (NUP, Nyendo-Mukungwe Division, Masaka City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. For the National Council of Higher Education, apart from public universities, the private universities pay for every programme to be accredited.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I know, but the charge they give compared to the cost of doing the work is much lower because of the experts involved.

MR MPUUGA: There is no standard cost. But Parliament can provide a fund to leverage on their costing. Otherwise, I agree with Hon. Ebwalu, that other requests can be channelled to another vote that requires money; they do not need it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Leader of Opposition, do you have any comment?

9.26

MR JOHN BAPTIST NAMBESHE (NUP, Manjiya County, Bududa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The report is good, except for the provisional list of the private schools for grant aiding. A number of those schools – we have been scanning through with some honourable members -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, you are debating a withdrawn document; we cannot discuss those.

MR NAMBESHE: Okay. The high dropout rate, which has been alluded to by some colleagues here, is worse in some areas, especially with the complicated terrain like Bududa or the Bugisu Subregion in general. There are several factors. One of them has been mentioned, the sanitary pads, which were pledged to the school-going girls, but that pledge has never been honoured.

Another is the ratios. The teacher-to-pupil ratio is wanting. The classroom to pupil ratio, then the pupil to teaching materials ratio. You alluded to it, that one would prefer to have teaching materials to availing food because priority should be given to equipping these young ones.

However, the challenge is that in places like Bududa, I have two subcounties where the technical team rejected the land that had been freely donated by the community to construct a seed school.

This was because after conducting tests on the soil and because of the mountainous terrain, they feared that there could be landslides that could sweep away the infrastructure. Now, what could be the solution for such complicated terrain?

Moreover, this is a subcounty that has the highest fertility rate. Because there is no school, girls, for instance, no longer go to school. They

travel longer distances. The nearest school is about five hours away. Going back home would mean a girl child arrives around 10 o'clock or even midnight. That is next to impossible. Most of them have crossed to Kenya to do menial jobs. That is one of the factors for the school dropout rate.

What would you do for such complicated terrain? Would you relocate the people to a place where you would construct a school for them? Since they are idle and disorderly, they retire early to bed.

The other challenge is that they are not beneficiaries of rural electrification. So, they have virtually nothing to see in the evening, like a video – and they retire early to bed. This is a serious concern that the ministry should capture and address.

I am of the view, Mr Speaker, that on the 30 per cent hard-to-reach fund - a portion of it, like Kenya has done - should be allocated to the ministry for education, rather than it being housed under the ministry for public service.

Teachers who are in the habit of using places such as Bududa to access the payroll and thereafter they withdraw their service to greener pastures, would be stopped by that. However, because there are no fringe benefits for people working in the hard-to-reach places – because they are hard to reach, hard to work in, hard-to-stay in, the only incentive would be in paying them slightly more than those who work in urban places.

Mr Speaker, you seem to be hard-pressed with me on time - *(Member timed out.)*

MR KUBEKETERYA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Honourable members, thank you very much for your comments.

Mr Speaker, I begin by repulsing the curse from my best friend, Hon. Chemaswet. That curse is not for our committee. We are like messengers who give information. I am sure the minister will answer your calls.

What I noticed is that his school is part of the Uganda Secondary Education Expansion Project (USEEP), to which there was a list and a presentation. USEEP was in another financial year, but because of a lack of land, they do not appear here.

Two, the reason we picked all the names of these schools was to bring it to the notice of this House, because the information is that all those schools are not funded.

Mr Speaker, there is a saying in another language, which says that when you want a ripe banana, you get the young one and they will actually show you that “here is the ripe one”. This is a wake-up call to the House, that as we go to the Budget Committee, there is virtually nothing.

The comments you have made are the ones that we made when we met the ministry. We discovered that the civil servants did not guide us well here, because you cannot say you are totally not grant-aid a single school. It was very hot. They went about three times. When we asked them to look around and cut some of their recurrent costs such that they can show that there is something to do, we came up with this idea.

This committee is just a messenger. We come and the decision is made here.

The other, Mr Speaker, is: let it go on record that I come from a subcounty that does not have a secondary school. All these on the list are just an accumulation. Honourable member from Nakaseke, that is the information.

On the National Council for Higher Education, they said now that they are going for elections, this Shs 10 billion is an estimate for litigation. This is because some people take them to court and ask for costs. It was just preparation. Otherwise, they are underfunded as far as other sectors are concerned.

About the land title, Hon. Sowed, the committee was of the view that when the process has started, let the construction start.

USEEP stalled because they did not have the land title. It was a project that was almost expiring. Our view was that let the two go hand-in-hand –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, some of these funders put a condition, like the World Bank was making –

MR KUBEKETERYA: Can I give information?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

MR KUBEKETERYA: What we heard was that the funders were not so interested in the land title; it was the ministry for finance. That is why we said that the ministries for education and finance should agree that when somebody has given the land, the process goes on. I am told it was just something from –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Maybe what we should propose is that money is provided for titling. Some institutions said they would allow you to build, but they would not give you a title. There are many. That is why the Government said: “We cannot build if you cannot give us the title.”

MR KUBEKETERYA: Okay, that one is left to the House.

Lastly, we have never de-gazetted that forest on the land for Gulu University. We were trying to tell the ministry of education to alert the ministry for environment that the matter was done – (Interjections) - yes, so the Speaker has directed. I thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, committee chairperson.

Honourable minister, the issues were general. Please, do not risk answering one by one.

9.36

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. Honourable

colleagues, I thank you so much for your constructive contribution. It is really very useful. It will strengthen our bargaining power to lobby for more funds for the sector.

Mr Speaker, I thank you so much for your patience in allowing us to discuss this report extensively. I thank the committee. They analysed the budget, and they produced the report based on the principles of equity, quality and inclusive education, skilling and sports. Indeed, they are really patriotic in analysing the budget.

I have taken note of all the issues that have been raised, as I said, ranging from infrastructure, the teachers' issue, assessment bodies, the Primary Teachers' Colleges, research and innovation, the tournaments, stadia and policy issues. I associate myself with quite a number of your submissions, honourable colleagues, especially on issues of inadequate and a lack of secondary schools.

It is true, many of you have written to and alerted us, like honourable colleagues from Kween, Nakaseke, Ngora and others. I have taken note of all those gaps, especially the issue of the lack of seed secondary schools in subcounties.

The inadequate staffing cuts across all universities. On the issue of research, the Speaker has already talked about it. I do not need to emphasise it.

Mr Speaker, allow me to take on two issues. One of them is on coding and the grant-aiding of the schools. True, in this 11th Parliament, we did grant-aiding and coding of schools, but only once. We did that last financial year. We grant-aided 46 secondary schools and coded 38 primary schools. That was the only opportunity when funding was provided for coding and grant-aided. For that matter, our ceiling for the budget could not allow us to put additional schools for coding and grant aid.

However, that is why the committee did the intra-allocation of the budget to cater for coding and grant aiding. The only additional funds we

had this time round were for rehabilitation of primary schools. That is where you see the 95 primary schools, public schools and the 37 UPDF primary schools to be rehabilitated, but not coding and grant-aided.

In line with that, I just want to say that to help all of us, this financial year, we are sending Shs 103 billion for school maintenance as grants to the local governments. We are sending, under the school facility, grants of over Shs 41 billion. These funds are meant to give a facelift to rehabilitate our primary schools.

Mr Speaker, oftentimes, this money does not serve the intended purposes. I want to give a point of example. Last week, I was in Sironko. This financial year, we sent Shs 1.5 billion to Sironko Local Government. However, in an open meeting, when I tried to inquire about the schools that are under that grant, there was nothing.

The LC V chairman told me openly that they were not aware of this. This means that we are going to put a criterion to enable us realise value for money. We shall provide the list for this money.

In the event that we get money for grant aiding and coding, in order to meet the principles of equity, I request that we take into consideration the schools in the districts that were coded and grant-aided last financial year.

We have a criterion to select those schools. Therefore, as we work and harmonise the list together, we will as well look into those criteria; whether those schools have really met the minimum requirement for it to be grant-aided and coded.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, I have taken note of all the issues that have been raised. We still have room for consultation and further discussions.

On the issue of presidential pledges - and the statutory instruments to allow the universities to operate, as we all know, for us to have a lawful university that can offer degrees and bachelors, we need to bring the statutory instrument to be

approved here. The National Council of Higher Education is working on that together with my ministry, and we will bring that.

As I conclude, there is the issue of sanitary pads. I think that was really handled. We had a project under the basic education with an agenda of preventing teenage pregnancies in schools, supporting the girl child education, and districts were selected; it is still an ongoing procedure. I think that has been taken care of and we will continue to advocate for the girl child.

Mr Speaker, I thank you so much. I have taken note of all these issues that have been raised. We will continue.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I put the question that the report of the Committee on Education and Sports on the Ministerial Policy Statement on the Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2025/2026 be adopted with amendments.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, the recommendations and the amendments are referred to the Committee on Budget for reconciliation, harmonisation and consolidation in line with Rule 149(2) of our Rules of Procedure.

Honourable colleagues, in a special way, I thank you. I hope everyone who wanted to speak has spoken. I am really happy that we voted for Hon. Chemaswet. We intentionally gave a lot of time to service-related policy statements: education, health, infrastructure, natural resources and health. This is because these go directly to your people. We are going to follow up to ensure that, indeed, in the budget committee, they are given the attention they deserve.

Honourable colleagues, I wish you a good night. The House is adjourned until tomorrow at 2:00 p.m.

(The House rose at 9.45 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 17 April 2025, at 2.00 p.m.)