



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

FRIDAY, 24 APRIL 2026



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA
IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIFTH SESSION - 10TH SITTING - THIRD MEETING

Friday, 24 April 2026

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

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I welcome you to this morning's sitting. Yesterday, I communicated to Members to be here when we are handling appropriation. I am surprised it is only Hon. Bahati, the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) and Hon. Karim present. The rest did not hear what I communicated. Hopefully, they are coming.

As I said, today, we will handle appropriation of the Annual Budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027 in fulfilment of Articles 155 and 156 of the Constitution of Uganda, 1995, Section 13 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and Rules 158, 159 and 160 of the Rules of Procedure.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one who has been committed to this process from the beginning with the Budget Framework Paper, the ministerial policy statements and the tax and revenue Bills. Finally, today, we are here for the appropriation.

Once again, I would like to welcome you. I am happy that we are meeting the timelines. This being a transitional period, we must meet the timelines and then the rest will follow. Thank you. I wish you nice deliberations. Yes, the Leader of the Opposition (LOP), the one-man party?

10.03

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am surprised like you that the Government is not here on such an important day when we are supposed to handle appropriation. Hon. Bahati is here, but nonetheless, I would like to use this opportunity to raise a matter, Madam Speaker, if you allow. It is to do with the new trade order in the different towns and cities.

Madam Speaker, we have waited for the minister to bring a document to this Parliament, but he has not. Ugandans outside are suffering, and they are stuck. They do not know what to do. When the authorities come to carry away the kiosks, they also take away the goods and they come abruptly.

Madam Speaker, since the Minister of State for Trade, Industry and Cooperatives is here, could you allow me to raise this matter as we wait for the other ministers to come in the House? It would be very important.

I request the minister to tell us the plan and strategy they have. This is because people are crying; people are in pain. Now we are going

into appropriation, where we need to take these matters seriously. I seek your indulgence, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The problem we have in this House is that people find coming to the House optional. This matter was raised on the Floor when we discussed the policy statement of the presidential affairs, infrastructure and trade committees. Honourable member, you were not in the House. Let us hear from the minister.

10.05

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Thank you, Hon. Solomon, for raising this matter. Madam Speaker, since these issues were discussed here, we have received a number of complaints, including one from the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRC).

We held a meeting with the IRC members, together with Hon. Magyezi, at his office. We were with the minister for the presidency, the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, and we discussed this matter in detail. The question of the trade order is that we want to bring order in the areas we operate. The Government constructed markets that are not being used. Instead, people are on the verandas. However, we listened to the issues. For example, a church or a mosque is not supposed to be bundled with vendors because they are not in the business of vending.

Madam Speaker, we have suspended the operation of the trade order until we do more consultations. We will have the final meeting at the end of June, so that at the beginning of July, we have a refined way of operating.

We apologised to the religious leaders because sometimes, when our people were moving during this operation, they made reckless statements that this is the first phase. They told the Pentecostals, “You go back to where you came from”; the Muslims “You are making noise”; all manner of things. So, we apologised to the religious leaders. We also met the traders.

The point is, Madam Speaker, the trade order has been suspended until further consultation is carried out, and we are sure it is going to be handled properly to achieve its objective. I thank you.

MR SILWANY: Just a small clarification, Madam Speaker. Maybe we can request the minister to write to the different town clerks of the different town councils in the country. He is saying they have suspended but it is still going on. Even yesterday, they evicted people in Iganga and Bugiri districts. Since the minister has committed that they have stopped, I request that the ministry write a letter officially and give a copy to Parliament so that the different civil servants are aware and –

THE SPEAKER: I think this is an inter-ministerial issue. The Prime Minister should be the one to write. Let them have a meeting and then the Prime Minister will communicate. Do not put a rope around Hon. Bahati’s neck. The letter should be sent out by the Prime Minister, indicating what they have agreed. Yes, Hon. Ibrahim?

10.09

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): Thank you very much. When I raised this matter, you directed the minister for Kampala to bring a statement, which she did not. I am happy Hon. Bahati says they have suspended. My question to him is: what happens to lives that you have already ruined? Do you reconstruct their businesses? In my area, it was the military and technical people who carried out this exercise. But also goons like those who were in the National Resistance Movement (NRM) T-shirts during the campaigns, stealing mobile money -

THE SPEAKER: Are they the ones you addressed in the National Resistance Movement (NRM) T-shirts? Hon. Ssemujju, let us leave these other issues. If someone gets a yellow T-shirt, it does not mean they belong to the NRM. What is important is that the excessive force used in evicting these people and the destruction of their property must be resolved.

MR SSEMUJJU: I agree with you, Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: You have a very good point, but when you bring politics into it, it gets diluted. Your point is very important.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, I agree, and I understand when you have the presiding officer who is also the Second Vice Chairperson (Female) of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) -

THE SPEAKER: And also the Woman Member of Parliament under the NRM ticket.

MR SSEMUJJU: Yes, I understand. The most critical questions that Hon. Bahati must answer: do people reconstruct their businesses? Whenever you want to carry out an exercise like this, can you do it with a human face? Must you go and carry all the lumpen people from wherever they exist? They are the ones insulting people.

The things you have said cannot be said by policemen and military officers. It was a gang. They abuse and insult. Therefore, the next time you want to restore trade order, can you do it with a human face?

THE SPEAKER: Like what Hon. Ibrahim is saying, the army is very professional. If you used them or the police, they would not do what was reported to the Inter-Religious Council – such kind of utterances. However, when you hire those people, they will just do what they have been told to do.

MR BAHATI: Madam Speaker, as I said, we shall continue the consultations to determine how best to achieve the objective of this exercise and to ensure that nobody is hurt or abused. Professional people are used to do any Government work so that there is peace. The intention of this is to bring order, and that must be done in an orderly manner without interfering with people's lives and livelihoods.

Therefore, the consultations will carry on but the most important thing to note today as we

go into appropriation, is that the trade order has been suspended until further notice. The communication will be released by the Prime Minister.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. We need that communication out so that whatever is happening is put to a halt. The Leader of the Opposition (LOP)?

10.13

MR JONATHAN ODUR (UPC, Erute County South, Lira): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise first to react to your communication about the need for Members of Parliament to be in this House to perform their duty of appropriation of the budget.

Madam Speaker, yesterday, you were clear. I was here. The message went out clearly. The Front Bench, the Government Chief Whip and a host of ministers were -

THE SPEAKER: It is their core role.

MR ODUR: Yes. They were present. Madam Speaker, you know that our friends on the NRM side have been priding themselves on their dominance in this House. However, when an important matter like this comes up, we do not see them. When there are other non-important matters, you see them.

Yesterday, I saw some of them somewhere in town hanging out in a hotel when quorum was needed to pass legislation here. I do not know whether they have hangovers and that is why they are not here. Therefore, I would like to ask the current Leader of Government Business to whip his Members to come, as I also do for my side.

THE SPEAKER: Please, can both of you whip your Members to be in the House.

MR ODUR: Secondly, I would like to appreciate the action taken by the Government to suspend the implementation of the trade order. I remember Hon. Ssemujju raised it here. If we had accorded him time at that moment, maybe we would have salvaged something. I

think by the time he raised it, up to now, we have spent about three weeks or a month.

Madam Speaker, the damage to people's lives and property has been enormous. I hope that next time, when something as important as that comes up, this House accords Members the opportunity to present.

I would like to say this. Everyone wants this country to be orderly. However, I caution the Government that you do not just wake up and decide to take some actions. You must think through and consult. This trade order, I think, was a matter of shooting and aiming after. There was no consultation. I am happy that now you are talking of going to consult.

Government, why do you start something when you have not involved the key stakeholders? That should have been the first step. I think it is an indictment on the methods of operation of the Government which should not be in that direction.

Lastly, I sit on the side of the Opposition and I am a member. I was disturbed this morning by a video I saw, which was shared with me of you, Madam Speaker, somewhere last evening, telling the country that in this Parliament where I sit, you have swallowed the Opposition. I do not understand the context in which you said it but you used the word "swallowed." You are required to explain to us as Members of Parliament. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Maybe that is Artificial Intelligence (AI).

MR ODUR: You will respond. That is why I said I saw -

THE SPEAKER: That is AI. I did not say anything.

MR ODUR: I want to now warn that AI – *(Laughter)* - that AI should not -

THE SPEAKER: I have said that when we are in Parliament, we are one. We do not have those divisions.

MR ODUR: Can I first raise, then -

THE SPEAKER: Yes, but what you said was AI.

MR ODUR: Therefore, whoever is responsible for generating such AI and circulating it, should Government -

THE SPEAKER: We should arrest those people.

MR ODUR: Madam Speaker, as we go into appropriation, I would like to state that the Constitution guarantees that members of the Opposition are heard in this House. They are not swallowed. They are not walloped. Any other bad thing that AI intended to do to the Opposition should not stand.

The Opposition is not in this country to destroy anything. We are here by virtue of the Constitution -

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR ODUR: I would like to get the commitment that as we go into this appropriation, we are not going to be treated in a partial manner. I know, as Hon. Ssemujju has said, Madam Speaker, you are a high-ranking and loyal cadre of the party. However, when you are in that seat, you are not a member of NRM or the Second National Vice Chairperson (Female) of the National Resistance Party.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR ODUR: You are a Speaker of Parliament. I implore and ask you to treat us as the Speaker of Parliament. Even when you are outside, try to keep our dignity as members of the Opposition.

THE SPEAKER: I treat you better than anybody else.

MR ODUR: Not me. I have not raised this as an individual -

THE SPEAKER: The Opposition.

MR ODUR: When you make such comments, I do not think that is good treatment -

THE SPEAKER: No. Even this side complains that I favour the Opposition. That is the unfortunate bit.

MR ODUR: Should I be comforted that now you will not swallow or wallop?

THE SPEAKER: Nobody can – *(Laughter)* - that was AI. Honourable minister, we are not saying that this trade order is bad. Recently, I think, two weeks back, I went to Lira City. There is a place called “produce” something. The place is now calm. You can walk.

I went to Nakivubo one evening, and it was calm. How do we do it? Progressively. Make these people understand that such a place is a road reserve and they are not supposed to have kiosks there. Where we need markets to relocate these people, relocate them in the gazetted markets. Those who do not want to be in gazetted markets should be removed. They should, however, not be removed using goons, as Hon. Ssemujju said. We should not use goons. We have other ways of removing those people. Yes, Hon. James.

10.20

MR JAMES KABERUKA (NRM, Kinkizi County West, Kanungu): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me. As you have said, this trade order is not bad. The problem is how we manage it. What precedes the other?

THE SPEAKER: Hon. James, before you raise that - Honourable minister, you said the enforcement of the trade order has been suspended. Does that mean that the ones who were removed are going to return or are you maintaining the status quo? Otherwise, people will return to the streets saying, “The trade order has been suspended, let us go back”.

MR BAHATI: Madam Speaker, the suspension, as we carry out consultations and prepare to do better means that we are suspending what we have not reached. Where

we have covered remains the way it is. For those who have already been taken back to the markets, that is the situation.

Madam Speaker, we are going to continue consulting and by the end of June, we should have a better way of handling this matter. Therefore, I would like to comfort the Leader of the Opposition that AI should not bother you a lot because you are here. If somebody said Hon. Jonathan is not in the House, would that really bother you? You are here and you know the position you are in. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. James was on the Floor.

MR KABERUKA: Madam Speaker, Hon. Ssemujju raised something very critical. For example, when you are in the theatre operating on a woman, if you do not know what to do, you will kill the woman and the child. You will be responsible for the deaths of the two.

Madam Speaker, in the event that you did not consult and did things haphazardly, what is your accountability for the loss of the people who were innocent and those who also lost their property?

Secondly, Madam Speaker-

THE SPEAKER: We cannot conclude that they were not consulted.

MR KABERUKA: That is what he has said.

THE SPEAKER: No. He has not said that. At least I am very sober.

MR KABERUKA: Madam Speaker, another thing I would like to raise with the trade minister is about the skyrocketing prices of fuel. The Minister of Energy and Mineral Development brought a request here asking us to give him money to have fuel reserves in Uganda. However, as we talk, every minute, prices of fuel are increasing. What is the problem? Do we have the stock? Did we just dupe this nation in the form of reserves? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, we asked for a report on the fuel reserves, I think last week.

MR BAHATI: Madam Speaker, everybody understands the economic situation regarding fuel, especially given what is happening in the Middle East and the world at large.

As we said before, we are monitoring the situation. The Government is prepared to ensure that the prices are contained within the context of the economic situation we are in. I am sure that at the next sitting, the energy minister will give a report specifically on the reserves we have in the country.

Madam Speaker, as far as we are concerned at the moment, it is not just Uganda that is affected. We are doing our best to contain the prices, if you look at what is happening in the East African Community. The Minister of Energy and Mineral Development will make a statement and update the House on the fuel issue next week at the next sitting.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR SILWANY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The clarification I would like to make, as the minister comes in, is that it is not only the prices but even the scarcity. Even when you have money to buy fuel, in most places, there is no fuel at all. The issue is scarcity, not just price.

THE SPEAKER: Are they hoarding?

MR SILWANY: That is what we want to know. Are people hiding fuel? If fuel is there, are they hoarding it? It is not about the price but fuel is very scarce now.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, there is a statement attributed to the President. He said, if there is no fuel and if the prices are rising, stay home. Is this now the new policy of the NRM or is this the official Government position?

MR MASABA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Before the minister comes in, mine is on the

issue of the trade order. I received calls from various people. Many of them had had their properties confiscated by the enforcement teams. The people at the council told them, "Come with maybe some Shs 200,000 or Shs 300,000 and we'll give you back your things".

With the suspension of this trade order, are the traders who lost their property, the ones that are still confiscated, going to get it back? Do you have a mechanism for them to receive back their goods and property?

MR BAHATI: Madam Speaker, as you said, in some parts, there are some gains from this operation. There is some order that has been brought in some parts. We recognise that some people who were doing the operation did not do it as well as expected, according to the guidelines that were issued by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government.

I think, honourable member, it would be prudent of us now to wait for the consultations we are making, and see how best we are going to move forward - towards the end of June. When this matter is discussed internally with stakeholders and also with the Cabinet, we shall then come to the House and inform you before we move forward.

On the issue of fuel, we have enough reserves for a limited period. As I said, we are committed to ensuring that we stabilise the price. We, however, need to note that there are people who speculate in the market. There are speculators. We are going to deal with that as the Government. The energy minister will come to the House and make a statement.

All of us should really continue to know that this issue is externally influenced. It is not internally influenced. All of us know that there is a war going on in Iran. There is that issue, and it is a serious one. The President- (*Interruption*) - I beg your pardon?

DR BAYIGGA: The question is: under what circumstances would the reserves be used or sent to the market for use in case scarcity continues to persist?

MR BAHATI: The Minister of Energy and Mineral Development will, on Tuesday, make a statement to establish the reserves we have and how long they will last. The only thing is to guarantee and continue to tell people that, given the situation we are in, the Government will continue to stabilise the price and supply fuel to people.

We are actually doing better than many countries across the East African Community. Therefore, we should thank His Excellency the President for the leadership of the economy and the leadership of the country at the moment. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, what about the people who are hoarding fuel?

10.29

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I came from West Nile two days ago. When I went to fuel at Total, petrol was at Shs 9,900 in Arua City, just opposite the Arua Regional Referral Hospital. The following night, it was sold at Shs 11,000 in Arua, and the prices kept on escalating.

During the day, they bring it down to Shs 6,000 or Shs 7,000. In the evening and early morning - I drove at 4.00 a.m. What are you going to do for these people upcountry in Adjumani, Moyo and Obongi? Prices have kept rising day in, day out. How are we supposed to handle this? If we have oil reserves, what are you doing for the people upcountry, especially West Nile, and particularly the districts I have mentioned? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, when we passed the Petroleum Supply Act, we said we would have a Government strategy, and there would be no middlemen. Since there are no middlemen, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development should conduct surveillance and identify the people who are setting high prices and why. It is only Vitol that is supposed to operate. Why are prices high in other areas and low in others? And others are even hoarding fuel?

10.31

MR DICKSONS KATESHUMBWA (NRM, Sheema Municipality, Sheema): In this country, we have a law; the Consumer Protection Act. The fuel that is in the country - even if there has been an increase due to the exchange rate differences, we should not be expecting big price variations between the fuel here in Kampala and in a place like Arua.

The assurance we need from the Government is the measures they are taking to clamp down on people who are hoarding fuel and those who are escalating the prices unrealistically. We had a press conference - I saw that the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development gave very good information that fuel is available. They have orders but the people who are involved in selling fuel at an exorbitant price are exploiting Ugandans. Madam Speaker, this is where we need to see the efforts that are being implemented to ensure that they crack down and protect consumers.

MR BAHATI: Madam Speaker, it is true that all the fuel is being brought in by Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC); our Government institution. We know the list of people who buy from UNOC and at what price. We are going to follow up to ensure that there is no price distortion in the market and also have enough fuel stock in the market.

On Tuesday, we will be able to give a thorough explanation on this. The good thing is that we are the ones buying and selling fuel to the people who are selling to the population.

THE SPEAKER: That was the basis of passing that law.

MR BAHATI: Yes. We will monitor that and stop this speculation and distortion of the prices in the market.

THE SPEAKER: When will we get that feedback since it is something very serious?

MR BAHATI: Madam Speaker, can we request on Tuesday because -

THE SPEAKER: No. First, communicate that they should stop hoarding fuel and the issues of having the prices being *-(Applause)-*

MR BAHATI: During the sitting, we will be able to talk to the ministry about it. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Please get the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development to communicate to these people.

MR BAHATI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will do that.

THE SPEAKER: It is affecting Ugandans. It affects the cost of goods since the fuel prices have gone high. Even if you have money, you cannot get it because people are keeping fuel with the expectation of selling it at a higher price. Next item.

BILLS SECOND READING

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO.2) BILL, 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, you may recall that the Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025 was read for the first time on 12 March 2026. In accordance with Article 156 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, the Bill was referred to the Committee on Budget under Rule 135 of the Rules of Procedure. The committee has considered the Bill and is ready to report. However, we will first ask the minister to move a motion pursuant to Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure.

10.35

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion that the Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025 be read for the second time.

THE SPEAKER: Is it seconded? It is seconded by Hon. Bahati, the Prime Minister;

Hon. Lukia, Hon. Nathan, Hon. Opolot, Hon. Achia, Hon. Rose, the chairperson of Lango, Hon. Patience, Hon. Edakasi, the Olympian, Hon. David, Hon. Kateshumbwa, Hon. James, Hon. Ssentayi, Hon. Alanyo, Hon. Koluo, Hon. Noeline, Hon. Patrick and the Member representing the elders.

The chairperson of Lango is called Hon. Judith Alyek. Do not capture another name. Can you justify your motion?

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, the Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025 seeks to provide for a supplementary appropriation out of the Consolidated Fund under Article 156(3) of the Constitution and Section 24 of the Public Finance Management Act, a sum of Shs 6,071,239,800,000 to meet additional expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

Madam Speaker, in the interest of Members and the public, it is good that I give further clarification to this because someone out there might think that we are seeking new money from Parliament using this Bill. The answer is no. We are simply regularising the expenditures we have already incurred through the law. In the period which is being captured in this Bill, that is, Financial Year 2024/2025, I moved various motions to supply Schedule No. 1, Schedule No.2, Schedule No.3, and Schedule No.4 of the supplementary expenditures.

Madam Speaker, these motions were in schedules or annexes. Now the schedules are being consolidated into this Bill as the law requires. That is why we are asking for the total of about Shs 6.7 trillion, which was incurred in the Financial Year 2024/2025 in the form of supplementary. This Bill basically seeks to regularise the decisions that this House took earlier. I thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you so much. The chairperson is ready to report.

10.40

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON BUDGET (Mr Remigio Achia): Madam Speaker, report of the Committee on Budget on the Supplementary Appropriation(No.2) Bill, 2025. Before I proceed to report, I beg to lay on the Table the minutes of the discussions of the various Appropriation Bills, that is, Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, and a signed Report.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Please lay.

MR ACHIA: Madam Speaker, the Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025, was introduced in this House for the first reading on 12 March 2026 in accordance with Article 156 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995. The Bill was referred to the Committee on Budget in accordance with Rule 160(3) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of Uganda.

During the implementation of the Budget for the Financial Year 2024/25, the Government sought additional resources for various votes to meet emerging expenditure requirements. In this regard, three supplementary schedules were laid before Parliament in accordance with the provision of Article 156(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Section 24 of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171. These schedules were considered by the Committee on Budget as evidenced by the minutes and subsequently approved by Parliament.

Madam Speaker, now, permit me to present to you the report of the committee on the Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025.

Object of the Bill

The object of the Bill is to provide for supplementary appropriation out of the Consolidated Fund in accordance with Article 156(3) of the Constitution and Section 24 of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171, a sum of six trillion, seventy-one billion, two hundred and thirty-nine million, eight hundred

thousand shillings only to meet additional expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/25.

Madam Speaker, Article 156(2) and (3) of the Constitution provide as follows:

(2) *If in respect of any financial year, it is found*

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(a) *that the amount appropriated for any purpose under the Appropriation Act is insufficient or that a need has arisen for expenditure of a purpose for which no amount has been appropriated for by that Act; or*

(b) *that any monies have been expended for any purpose in excess of the amount appropriated for that purpose or for a purpose for which no amount has been appropriated by that Act, a supplementary estimate showing the sums required or spent shall be laid before Parliament, and in the case of excess expenditure, within four months after the money is spent.*

(3) *Where, in respect of any financial year, a supplementary estimate or supplementary estimates have been approved by Parliament in accordance with clause (2) of this Article, a supplementary appropriation bill shall be introduced into Parliament in the financial year next following that financial year to which the estimates relate, providing for the appropriation of the sum so approved for the purposes specified in those estimates.*

Madam Speaker, these were the rules that we followed to check that what we approved in this House was exactly the figures in the supplementary appropriation Bill.

During the implementation of the budget for the Financial Year 2024/2025, the Government sought additional resources to meet these expenditure requirements as follows:

On 19 December 2024, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development laid before Parliament Supplementary Expenditure Estimates under Schedule (No.1) for the

Financial Year 2024/25 amounting to Shs 1.050 trillion. Furthermore, the minister came back on 6 February 2025 and laid before Parliament Supplementary Expenditure estimates under Schedule No.2 of the Financial year 2024/2025, amounting to Shs 1.243 trillion. In addition, the minister came on 11 of March 2025 and laid on the Table, a Supplementary Expenditure estimate Schedule No.3 for the Financial year 2024/25 amounting to Shs 4.255 trillion.

Madam Speaker, the committee carried out a number of consultative discussions with the ministry of finance to ascertain the consistency and accuracy of the supplementary Bill estimates against the resolutions of Parliament.

The committee reviewed all the documents before it. These are: Supplementary Expenditure Schedules No.1, No.2 and No.3, as laid in the House. The committee also reviewed the resolutions of Parliament authorising supplementary expenditure for the same.

Committee observations and recommendations

Consistency in recurrent expenditures

The committee observed that the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2025 recurrent expenditure figures were consistent with resolutions of Parliament on supplementary expenditure schedules No.1, No.2 and No.3 for Financial Year 2024/25 as indicated in Annex 1 of this report.

Consistency in development expenditures

The committee observed that the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2025 development figures were also consistent with the resolutions of Parliament on supplementary expenditure schedules No.1, No.2 and No.3 for the Financial Year 2024/2025 as indicated in Annex 1.

In conclusion, the committee recommends that the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2025 be passed into law. I beg to report.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable chairperson. This is a direct Bill. Do you have anything to say?

10.47

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): Madam Speaker, as you have said, we are just validating a decision that we made. I am moving that you put the question because there is nothing to say. We are just validating.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Ssemujju Ibrahim, the acting Leader of the Opposition and the Shadow Minister for Finance. I put the question that the Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025, be read for the second time.

(Question put and agreed to.)

BILLS
COMMITTEE STAGE

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(NO.2) BILL, 2025

Clause 1

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that clause 1 stands part of the Bill.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 1, agreed to.

Clause 2, agreed to.

The schedule, agreed to.

The Title, agreed to.

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

10.49

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move a motion for the House to resume

and the Committee of the whole House reports thereto.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the House resumes and the Committee of the whole House reports thereto.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(The House resumed, the Speaker presiding.)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE HOUSE

10.49

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of the whole House has considered the Bill entitled “The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2025 and passed it without amendments.

MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE HOUSE

10.50

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion for adoption of the report from the Committee of the whole House.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the report of the Committee of the whole House be adopted by this august House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

BILLS
THIRD READING

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(NO.2) BILL, 2025

10.51

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion that the Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025, be read for the third time and do pass.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I put the question that the Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025, be read the third time and do pass.

(Question put and agreed to.)

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED “THE
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO.
2) ACT, 2026”

THE SPEAKER: Title settled and Bill passed.
(Applause)

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE
PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/2027

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, you will recall that the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development moved a motion on 15 April 2026, pursuant to Section 13(1) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and Rule 158 of the Rules of Procedure.

Under this motion, sectoral committees presented their reports on the ministerial policy statements for the Financial Year 2026/2027. In line with Rule 156(2) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the reports were referred to the Committee on Budget for reconciliation, harmonisation and consolidation.

Honourable members, since the motion was already moved, the Committee on Budget is now ready to report. I am informed that - If

you want the minister to move the motion again, I have no problem. It was moved by Hon. Lugolobi; it is the same motion. Move it. There is no problem.

10.53

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Article 155(2) of the Constitution, Section 13 of the Public Finance Management Act and Rule 149 of our Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to move a motion for approval of the Budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

THE SPEAKER: It is seconded by Hon. Rukia, Hon. Achia, Hon. Isiagi, Hon. Patrick Nyanzi, Hon. Noeline, Hon. Goli, the whole of this side. It is also seconded by the honourable member for Ruhaama and Hon. Koluo. Speak to your motion.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, the Budget estimates for Financial Year 2026/2027 were prepared under the theme, “Full monetisation of Uganda’s economy through commercial agriculture, industrialisation, expanding and broadening services, digital transformation and market access”. The budget estimates have been arrived at after extensive consultations with the stakeholders and His Excellency the President.

The budget estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027 amounts to Shs 84.39 trillion, of which appropriation is Shs 47.16 trillion and statutory expenditure amounts to Shs 37.23 trillion. This shall be financed through domestic revenue, Shs 44.18 trillion, the Uganda Petroleum Fund, Shs 1.44 trillion, budget support, Shs 1.22 trillion, domestic borrowing, Shs 11.97 trillion, project support, Shs 11.27 trillion, domestic refinancing, Shs 13.97 trillion and local revenue from local governments, Shs 339 billion.

Madam Speaker, Financial Year 2026/2027 will be the first year of implementing the NRM Manifesto for the period 2026-2031. It will

also be the second year of implementing the National Development Plan IV, which is the first plan to deliver our first Tenfold- Growth Strategy, aimed at expanding the economy to at least \$500 billion by 2040.

The budget for next financial year will, therefore, focus on consolidating the gains so far achieved and expanding investment in science, technology and innovations, as well as wealth creation.

The key budget priority investments are the ATMS and their enablers. The ATMS are: Agro-Industrialisation, Tourism Development, Mineral-Based Industrial Development, Science, Technology and Innovations, including the creative industry. The Enablers are: peace, security and rule of law, transport infrastructure, which covers roads, railway, air, and water transport. Electricity: industrial parks development, human capital development, which covers education, health and water. Irrigation and environment and wealth creation funds, which cover PDM, UDB funds, UDC and Emyooga, among others.

Madam Speaker, I wish to thank you. I also thank the House, the sectoral committees and the Committee on Budget for the support during this process. I submit for the consideration of the House, these combined efforts provided during the progressing and processing of the budget estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. We, equally, thank you for your commitment and for always being available whenever the House and the committee need you. As the 11th Parliament, if it were ranking, we would have given you 99.9 per cent on your performance because you have done a great job for the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The committee chairperson is ready to report.

11.00

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON BUDGET (Mr Remigio Achia): Madam Speaker, this is the Committee

on Budget report on the annual budget estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027. Before I proceed to read the report of the committee, I beg to lay on the Table the minutes of the meetings of the committee in consideration of the budget for Financial Year 2026/2027.

Madam Speaker, this year has been unique. This budget report has been built out of consensus. Out of all the Members of this House, everybody agreed with the report, except two Members. There is a minority report in respect to this budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

So, I beg to lay on the Table, as well, the minority report on the annual budget estimates for Financial Year 2026/2027, prepared by Hon. Ibrahim Ssemujju and Hon. Dr Lulume Bayigga. Those are the only two Members of this House, who had a different opinion about this budget.

I also beg to lay on the Table a fully signed copy of the report of the committee on the annual budget estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027. Madam Speaker, a lot of consensus was built, and Members have agreed. Hon. Ssemujju Nganda and Dr Lulume have a small minority report, which they will read after I finish reading this.

Madam Speaker, pursuant to Article 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development presented before Parliament the proposed annual budget estimates for Financial Year 2026/2027 on 1 April 2026 and a corrigendum to the annual estimates on 22 April 2026.

In accordance with Article 155(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, Section 11 and Section 12 (4) of the Public Finance Management Act 2015, Cap. 171, and Rule 155(2) and Rule 156(3) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the Committee on Budget is mandated, among others;

a) To examine, discuss, and review policies, programmes, and the annual

budget estimates and, where necessary, make appropriate recommendations to Parliament.

b) To consider sectoral committees' reports on the budget estimates referred to the committee by Parliament, for reconciliation, harmonisation, and consolidation.

In this regard, the budget committee has examined, reconciled, harmonised and consolidated as well as discussed and reviewed the policies and budget estimates of the Government for Financial Year 2026/2027 and, now, wishes to report on the same.

This report is one of the shortest, unlike the one of last year, which was about 200 pages. We have endeavoured, because there was so much consensus, to produce a 41-page report.

This report is structured in two parts. Part A is on economic and fiscal performance (half-year performance for the Financial Year 2025/2026). Part B is the annual budget estimates for Financial Year 2026/2027.

Methodology

The committee held consultative meetings with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and all the chairpersons of the sectoral committees of Parliament.

The committee also made references to the following documents – and these documents informed the committee's observations and recommendations. I beg that Members read the list of all those 21 documents, which are captured on pages 3 and 4 of this report.

Economic and fiscal performance

3.0 Economic performance (half-year for the Financial Year 2025/2026)

3.1 Economic Growth

Uganda's economy remained resilient in the first half of 2025/2026, despite a challenging global environment. The year-on-year gross product for the second quarter of Financial Year

2025/2026 grew by 8.5 per cent, compared to the growth of 5.4 per cent registered in quarter two of the previous year. This was a very excellent growth for our country.

This growth was driven by the agricultural sector, which grew by 8.8 per cent in quarter two of Financial Year 2025/2026, compared to a growth of 7.8 per cent in quarter two of the previous year. The industry sector also grew by 12.3 per cent in quarter two, compared to 7.7 per cent growth of the previous year. The services sector grew by 6.2 per cent in quarter two of 2025/26, compared to 2.2 per cent growth of the previous year. On a half-year basis, Real GDP of Uganda grew by 6.7 per cent in the first half of Financial Year 2025/2026, compared to 5.8 per cent in the same period last year.

In addition, the robust domestic demand contributed immensely to economic growth, as explained by the final consumption expenditure growth of 17.4 per cent in quarter two of Financial Year 2025/2026, compared to a paltry 4.6 per cent in quarter two of the previous year. This is also coupled with continued implementation of Government interventions and stable macroeconomic conditions, further supporting improved economic activity.

The National Development Plan IV projects that the economy of Uganda will grow to 7.3 per cent in Financial Year 2025/2026, 9.0 per cent in Financial Year 2026/2027, 9.8 per cent in Financial Year 2027/2028 and to a peak of around 10.4 per cent in Financial Year 2028/2029. On the basis of quarter two GDP growth performance of 8.5 per cent, the Government is on track to realise its 7.3 per cent target in National Development Plan IV for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

The table is there. Madam Speaker, this is a small report and I think Members want to hear the few things that we decided to highlight.

Inflation

During the first half of Financial Year 2025/2026, annual inflation remained low and stable, with the headline inflation averaging 3.5

per cent and core inflation (inflation excluding food and energy prices) averaging 3.7 per cent. This was below the Central Bank's medium-term target of 5 per cent. The low inflation was mainly supported by an appreciating exchange rate and declining global inflation.

3.3 Interest rates

During the first half of the Financial Year 2025/2026, the Bank of Uganda has maintained the Central Bank Rate (CBR) at 9.75 per cent to anchor inflation expectations around the medium-term target.

The average lending rate for shilling-dominant loans, unfortunately, trended upward in the first half of Financial Year 2025/2026, averaging 18.78 per cent compared to 17.8 per cent in the second half of Financial Year 2024/2025. However, these lending rates began to ease towards the end of the half year, declining to 19.7 per cent in October 2025 to 18.4 per cent in November and further to 18.0 per cent in December 2025. This easing partly reflects the continued price stability in our economy.

3.4 Exchange rates

The Uganda Shilling strengthened by 0.3 per cent against the US Dollar during the first half of Financial Year 2025/2026 from an average mid-rate of Shs 3,586.57 per US Dollar in July 2025 to Shs 3,575.23 US Dollar in December 2025. On a half-year comparison basis, the appreciation was more pronounced. The average exchange rate appreciated by 3.1 per cent from Shs 3,660.57 per US Dollar in the second half of the Financial Year 2024/2025 to Shs 3,545.42 per US Dollar in the first half of the Financial Year 2025/2026.

The strengthening of the shilling was largely supported by improved foreign exchange inflows, particularly from coffee and other non-coffee exports during the period under review. In addition, remittances remained resilient at \$351.11 million in the first quarter of the Financial Year 2025/2026, continuing to provide strong support to the external sector despite a slight decline from \$395.53 million

recorded in the first half of Financial Year 2024/2025.

Private sector credit

During the first half of the financial year, Uganda's private sector credit showed an increase of 6.46 per cent from July 2025 to December 2025, and the total outstanding private sector credit growth reached Shs 28,469.79 billion. An increase of Shs 26,439.52 billion in July 2025 and this is a vote on our economy, the confidence that people are able to borrow and invest in the country.

The main contributors to this growth in the private sector credit were personal loans, household loans, building, mortgage, construction, real estate, and the trade sectors with growth of 25 per cent, 19 per cent, and 15 per cent, respectively. It is a very good development.

3.5 External sector

Merchandise trade balance

Uganda's merchandise trade deficit with the rest of the world narrowed by 15.2 per cent in the first half of the Financial Year 2025/2026, declining to \$1.369 billion from \$1.615 billion recorded in the same period of Financial Year 2024/2025. This improvement was largely driven by a strong increase in export earnings, which more than, offset the rise in imports. We are exporting more.

International reserves

As of December 2025, the stock of international reserves stood at \$5.991 billion, equivalent to 4.2 months of future imports of goods and services. This represents a significant improvement compared to \$3.303 billion recorded at the end of December 2024, which was equivalent to only 2.3 months of import cover. This was partly driven by a surge in export earnings from coffee, stronger offshore portfolio inflows through the pension sector and the money markets, and the accumulation of gold to strengthen the country's reserve

position. We are in a better position than a few years ago.

Tourism earnings

Earnings from tourism increased modestly from \$423.61 million in quarter one of the Financial Year 2024/2025 to \$462.08 million in quarter one of Financial Year 2025/2026. This gradual growth is consistent with the Government efforts to position Uganda as a premier tourist destination, offering diverse and unique experiences.

Tourism earnings are expected to strengthen further following the introduction of the new national tourism policy which aims to raise annual tourism receipts to \$4 billion and double international arrivals to 2.4 million people over the next five years.

Foreign direct investment

Foreign direct investment remains strong at \$820.72 million in the first quarter of Financial Year 2025/2026 despite a slight decline of 6.4 per cent from \$876.75 million recorded in the same period of Financial Year 2024/2025.

3.6 Public debt

Madam Speaker, the stock of public debt rose by 8.9 per cent to Shs 126.18 trillion or \$34.86 billion in the second half of the 2025/2026. This is up from Shs 115.89 trillion, or in \$32.24, billion in the Financial Year 2024/2025, raising our debt to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio from 50.9 per cent to 52.97 per cent. This increase was mainly driven by higher domestic debt issuance.

Public debt sustainability

Uganda's public debt remains broadly sustainable in solvency terms, but domestic debt particularly poses significant liquidity risks. The debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to breach the Charter for Fiscal Responsibility thresholds as of the Financial Year 2025/2026. In addition, the Charter of Fiscal Responsibility liquidity objective of reducing domestic interest

payments to less than 12.5 per cent of revenue excluding grants by Financial Year 2025/2026 may not be achieved, as seen in table 2 below.

4.0 Fiscal performance

During the first half of the Financial Year 2025/2026, Government operations resulted in a fiscal deficit - net borrowing, Shs 6.526 trillion. This was higher than the Uganda Shs 4.055 trillion deficit projected, mainly on account of higher than planned activities coupled with lower than anticipated revenues.

Revenue, including grants, amounted to Shs 17.114 trillion, which was 7.5 per cent lower than the anticipated Shs 18.493 trillion for this period. This was as a result of domestic revenues and grants from development partners, particularly, being lower than their respective targets for the first six months of the financial year.

On the other hand, the Government expenses surpassed the 18.385 trillion programmed for the first half of the Financial Year 2025/2026 by 9 per cent, due to the higher than planned spending on the purchase of goods and services, inclusive of increased expenditure associated with preparations for the just concluded 2026 General Elections.

4.1 The resource envelope performance

Madam Speaker, the overall performance of the resource envelope was 45.9 per cent compared to a target of 50 per cent. This underperformance was mainly attributed to a very low outturn performance in receipts from Local Government revenue, that is, 32.9 per cent, external financing 35.5 per cent and non-tax revenue 37.7 per cent.

The resource envelope and its performance are properly explained in table three.

4.2.1 Tax revenue

under tax revenue, total tax collections during the first half of the Financial Year 2025/2026 amounted to Shs 16,697.36 billion, falling short of the target of Shs 17,779.81 billion.

a) Direct domestic revenue

The performance of the tax revenue was due to shortfalls in direct domestic revenue, indirect domestic taxes and taxes on international trade, as outlined in the details in the text.

4.2.2. Non-tax revenue (NTR)

Non-tax revenue collections amounted to Shs 1,238.21 billion, representing 80.6 per cent of the target of Shs 1,535.77 billion, as at half year for the Financial Year 2025/2026. The underperformance was mainly driven by lower than targeted collections of motor vehicle fees, amounting to Shs 73.36 billion, land transfer fees, Shs 58.65 billion and driver's permit fees of Shs 39.03 billion, among others.

4.2.3. Grants

Total grants received during the period amounted to only Shs 416.10 billion against a half-year target of Shs 713.40 billion, resulting in a shortfall of Shs 297.29 billion. The underperformance was mainly attributed to the project grants, which registered a shortfall of Shs 323.76 billion, largely due to delays in project implementation, thereby slowing down disbursement.

Madam Speaker, Table 4 gives you the half-year revenue performance. In the first column, you see the titles, and the half-year target is in the second column. Where you see direct domestic taxes, the target was Shs 6,188.86 billion but the actual outturn was Shs 5,881.85 billion. The deviation is the same and runs through the table. Since they have been uploaded, you can read that.

4.3. Expenditure performance

On the expenditure side, the approved expenditures for the Financial Year 2025/2026 amounted to Shs 72.376 trillion. In addition, Parliament approved a supplementary of Shs 8.104 trillion. This has since increased the revised budget of the Republic of Uganda to Shs 80.48 trillion to date.

Government has released 58.1 per cent of the total approved budget for the Financial Year 2025/26 by half year. Out of this, the Government budget releases performed at 63.4 per cent and the external budget performance stood at 47.3 per cent. Furthermore, 77 per cent of the development budget was released half year. This is mainly on account of the Shs 1.2 trillion that was released to the Ministry of Works and Transport to ensure continued road construction and maintenance.

In summary, aggregate absorption (measured by expenditure as a proportion of releases) was 62.8 per cent (excluding the supplementary expenditures). This represents a weak budget execution as at half year. The weak budget execution was mainly attributed to a meagre 29 per cent absorption performance of externally financed development projects, 52.9 per cent absorption performance in treasury operations (debt servicing), and a 61 per cent absorption performance of domestic arrears as evidenced in Table five below.

Madam Speaker, the details are on page 5. I will now go to page 18.

4.4 Contingency Fund performance

In line with Section 17(1)(d) of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171, the Contingency Fund was allocated Shs 169.00 billion by Parliament in the Financial Year 2025/2026. However, only Shs 4.355 billion was released and transferred to the fund by the end of December 2025. These funds were spent on compensation of persons affected by the Kiteezi garbage slide.

4.5 Domestic arrears performance

Domestic arrears are short-term Government obligations arising mainly from unpaid procurement invoices. The Auditor-General's report for the Financial Year ended June 2025 shows a 39.1 per cent decline in Government payables this is good news - from Shs 13.8 trillion in the Financial Year 2023/2024 to only Shs 8.4 trillion in Financial Year 2024/2025, reflecting a significant reduction in the stock of domestic arrears.

This reduction was largely driven by the conversion of temporary advances from the Bank of Uganda into long-term domestic debt, whereby Shs 7.78 trillion of reimbursable advances were converted into treasury bonds payable over a period of 10 years.

Committee observations

- i) The domestic arrears budget allocation in recent years have averaged about Shs 200 billion, below the recommended levels, which for the Financial Year 2025/2026 being a one-off exception, the Government paid Shs 1.4 trillion for domestic arrears. However, for the Financial Year 2026/2027, Government has allocated Shs 317.0 billion for domestic arrears. This is a sharp reduction from the Shs 1,400.8 billion in the Financial Year 2025/2026.
- ii) The low release (38.8 per cent) and absorption (61 per cent) of domestic arrears budget at half year poses serious risks to Government's three-year domestic arrears elimination strategy. The Government could take a decade to eliminate the arrears at the current rate of payment relative to the accumulation of domestic arrears.

The committee strongly recommends that the Government should adhere to the commitment control system - my minister has walked away when I mentioned that - and sanction accounting officers who perpetually commit Government expenditure without resources. Accounting officers who create new arrears in violation of Section 22 of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171, should be held liable as per Section 76 of the PFMA, Cap 171. This is a strong recommendation from the committee.

I will go to report on Petroleum Fund performance as required by law. During the Financial Year ended 30th June -

THE SPEAKER: Based on that recommendation, the Leader of the Opposition, I hope we have a report from the accountability committees that will guide us on the accounting officers. We forwarded that document to the accountability committees.

MR ACHIA: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for supporting the committee's report.

4.6 Petroleum fund performance

During the financial year ended 30 June 2025, the fund received a total of Shs 268.2 billion, compared to Shs 184.01 billion for the previous financial year. The details are in Table 7 of this report. This consisted of Shs 261.5 billion and Shs 6.72 billion from tax and Non-Tax Revenues, respectively. The Non-Tax Revenue includes surface rentals, sale of feasibility data, training fees, business license, among others.

Generally, the increase in revenue earned in the period was attributed to an increase in oil and gas activity following the development phase activities of the many projects of Tilenga and Kingfisher, coupled with the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline.

4.7 Economic outlook

By the end of June 2026, the size of Uganda's economy is projected to expand to \$68.4 billion or Shs 251.4 trillion. That is actually a growth of 7 per cent of the GDP. The GDP per capita is projected to increase to \$1,399, equivalent to Shs 5.03 million this financial year.

The Ugandan economy is projected to grow to 10.2 per cent in the Financial Year 2026/2027 reflecting a strong medium-term growth outlook supported by sound macroeconomic management and improved productivity. This growth is expected to be supported by the Government investments in productivity-enhancing and income support programmes such as PDM, *Emyooga*, among others.

Madam Speaker, I now go to the annual budget estimates - the actual budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027. That is on pages 22 to 41.

5.0 Legal compliance

Madam Speaker, the committee undertook compliance assessment for the proposed annual budget against the various legal requirements and reports as follows:

5.1 Submission of the budgeted documents to Parliament

Section 12 of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), Cap. 171, requires the minister, on behalf of the President, to present the proposed annual budget of a financial year to the Parliament, accompanied by several documents.

Madam Speaker, the committee undertook a strict compliance assessment of the documents submitted to Parliament against the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171, and confirms that all the budget documents required were submitted to Parliament in line with the PFMA, Cap. 171. Table 8 shows it. Item 1, complied. Item 2, complied. Item 3, complied. Item 4, complied. Item 5, complied. Item 6, complied. Item 7, complied. Item 8, complied. Item 9, complied. Items 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and finally 17, complied.

This is the first time, Madam Speaker, a very great development, that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has complied in providing all the documents required by law to be submitted to this House.

5.2 Consistence with the National Development Plan, the Charter of Fiscal Responsibility and the Budget Framework Paper

Madam Speaker, we are required to do this. Section 12(6) of the PFMA, Cap. 171, requires that the annual budget is consistent with the National Development Plan, Charter of Fiscal Responsibility, and the Budget Framework Paper.

These are our observations in summary.

- i. The Certificate of Compliance of the annual budget to NDPIV issued by the National Planning Authority indicates that the proposed annual budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027 is 76.6 per cent compliant with NDPIV. This is an improvement from the previous Financial Year 2025/2026 where the compliance level stood at only 66.7 per cent.

- ii. Areas with less desirable levels of compliance with NDPIV include a 21 per cent alignment of local government annual work plans and budgets with NDPIV- there is a lot of work to do with the local governments- and failure of some Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to include output indicator targets in their budgets. They ask for money but they do not set any target.
- iii. In regard to NDPIV, consistency with the programme budget allocations (measured by the share of the proposed programme allocations against the total budget), the programme budget allocations for the Financial Year 2026/2027 are largely consistent with NDPIV. The details are in Table 2.

Madam Speaker, I beg that Members read that. They show the annual budget estimates, the allocations, the targets by NDPIV, the actual allocations as presented today, the variations, and the share of these allocations in the total budget for this coming financial year.

- iv. The current Charter of Fiscal Responsibility for the Financial Year 2021/2022 to the Financial Year 2025/2026 expires in June 2026. It is, therefore, premature for us to ascertain the consistency of the proposed annual budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027 with the current Charter of Fiscal Responsibility.

It is important to note that the Government has encountered consistent challenges in meeting the fiscal rules or benchmarks it has set in the past Charters of Fiscal Responsibility. For instance, the fiscal deficit to GDP has consistently been above the 3 per cent target, the debt to GDP ratio is above the 50 per cent benchmark, and domestic debt interest payments to total revenues have also continued to exceed the 12.5 per cent CFR benchmarks. I hope the next charter of fiscal responsibility will address these concerns.

- v. In regard to consistency with the Budget Framework Paper (BFP), the proposed

programme budget allocations for the Financial Year 2026/2027 are largely consistent with the BFP programme allocations as detailed in Table 9, on the next page.

It is important to note, Madam Speaker, in this budget, the Government came back to this House –

- vi. In addition to the proposed annual budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027, the Government has also provided an additional fund for key funding gaps as recommended by Parliament during the consideration of the Budget Framework Paper, which we presented in January/February. These additional funds include among others, Shs 664.38 billion for the completion of the ongoing road construction projects, Shs 45 billion for rural electrification and connectivity, Shs 100 billion for the procurement of essential medicines and health supplies. Additionally, the Government has given Shs 20 billion to facilitate export promotion. Another Shs 100 billion for cattle compensation in Northern Uganda, Shs 20 billion for the purchase of ambulances and Shs 10 billion for the maintenance and operations. I think we should clap for this. The Government is starting to listen to us. *(Applause)* So, every ambulance will have a fuel card.

5.3. Gender and Equity Responsiveness of the budget.

Section 12(11)(e) of the PFMA Act Cap 171, requires the minister responsible for finance to present to Parliament a certificate of gender and equity responsiveness in consultation with the Equal Opportunity Commission:

- (i) Certifying that the budget is gender and equity responsive, and
- (ii) Specifying the measures taken to equalise opportunities for men and women, persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

On 1 April 2026, the minister submitted a Certificate of Gender and Equity Compliance of the draft annual budget estimate for FY 2026/2027. The certificate indicates that a compliance level of 70 per cent, up from 68.5 per cent in the FY 2025/2026.

In this regard, however, the committee observed that the measures highlighted in the Certificate of Gender and Equity Responsiveness do not provide explicit measures to equalise opportunities for men, women, persons with disabilities, and marginalised groups. The measures indicated are just budget allocations towards interventions that could be considered gender and equity related. The committee actually examined this and I think there is need for more work in this area.

In this regard, any gender certificate issued to Parliament should include explicit and detailed measures to equalise opportunities for men, women, persons with disabilities, and marginalised groups in the coming years.

5.4 Budgets of Public Corporations and State Enterprises

Madam Speaker, Section 12 (11)(f) requires the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to submit to this House all budgets of public corporations and state enterprises.

However, only budgets of 21 public corporations and state enterprises were submitted out of 61 public corporations and enterprises.

Under volume 3 of the draft estimates - that big document that Hon. Musasizi was laying here; you saw them, they were 13,000 pages. The public corporation and state enterprises that were not submitted to Parliament under volume 3 of the draft estimates for Financial Year 2026/27, include:

As you see in the table 10, those included in volume 3, that were submitted are 21, and they are there. Those that were not submitted are many. They are almost 40. There are no documents for Bujagali Energy Limited, Dairy

Corporation Limited, Deposit Protection Fund, Electricity Regulatory Authority, Enterprise Uganda, Housing Finance Bank, Housing Finance Investments, Insurance Training College, Kampala Industries and Business Park, Kiira Motors, Kilembe Mines, Nakivubo War Memorial, National Drug Authority - nothing was submitted on National Enterprise Corporation, National Housing and Construction Company, New Vision, Pearl Bank and Pride Microfinance. All those were not submitted.

I can continue on and on: Uganda Development Bank, Uganda Development Corporation, Uganda Energy Credit, Uganda Fisheries Enterprise, Uganda Livestock Industries, Uganda National Airlines, Uganda National Oil Company, Uganda Post Limited, Uganda Seed Company, Uganda Telecommunications Corporation and Uganda Wildlife Authority.

No documents were given on Uganda Retirement Benefits Authority, Nile Hotel International, Kinyara Sugar Works, National Social Security Fund, Tropical Bank, Uganda Electricity Corporation and so on.

The committee therefore observes as follows:

- i) According to the Auditor-General report, the Government does not maintain a comprehensive database of public corporations and state enterprises. This undermines comprehensive scrutiny of financial performance of public corporations and state enterprises.
- ii) The legal provision of the PFMA, Cap 171 is consequently being violated with regard to the non-provision of all budgets for public corporations and state enterprises.

The committee recommends as follows:

- i) Reiterates its earlier recommendation that the Accountant-General should establish a comprehensive database for all public corporations and state enterprises which should capture information such as the name of the entity, business/industry, location, shareholding, directors, their

- e-mail addresses, among others, to enable easy traceability and independent verification.
- ii) The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should ensure that in subsequent years, the draft budget estimates for state-owned enterprises and public corporations comprehensively capture the detailed budgets of all public corporations and state enterprises as required under Section 12 (11)(f) of the PFMA.

Madam Speaker, this House is supplying money to these corporations and we need to know our shareholding and the details of these companies. Where are they and who are the directors?

5.5 Replenishment of the Contingencies Fund

Madam Speaker, Section 25 of the PFMA, Cap 171 provides that the Contingencies Fund shall be replenished every financial year with an amount equivalent to 0.5 per cent of the appropriated annual budget of the Government of the previous financial year.

The approved budget for Financial Year 2025/2026 was Shs 72,376.481 billion. Therefore, the Contingencies Fund for Financial Year 2026/2027 is expected to be replenished by Shs 361.88 billion.

According to the annual draft estimates for FY 2026/27, Shs 361.88 billion has actually been allocated to the Contingencies Fund, which is consistent with the legal framework. I am about to conclude, Madam Speaker.

6.0 Annual budget estimates for FY 2026/2027

6.1 Economic Strategy

Uganda's economy is forecasted to expand by 10.4 per cent by the close of FY 2026/2027, marking a significant growth rate from the estimate of 7.3 per cent at the end of FY 2025/2026. This robust growth outlook will be primarily driven by the commencement of oil production, which is expected to generate a

substantial revenue and stimulate productivity through strong inter sectoral linkages. Additionally, the economy will benefit from a sustained investment in the priority sectors outlined in the Tenfold Growth Strategy.

The details are provided there, Madam Speaker, I do not have to go into them. This has been in the Budget Framework Paper (BFP) before. The fiscal strategy will continue to be hinged on the fiscal consolidation agenda that will include reforms that will ensure that efforts in domestic revenue mobilisation and resources in the current fiscal framework are reprioritised.

Three, issues that affect project execution are addressed.

6.2 Budget Strategy for FY 2026/2027

This is the second budget as reported by the minister in the implementation of National Development Plan (NDP) IV. The goal of NDP IV is higher household incomes, full monetisation of the Ugandan economy and employment of sustainable economic transformation. The goal is supported by the Government to be pursued under the theme of sustainable industrialisation for inclusive growth, employment and wealth creation.

The budget strategy for FY 2026/2027 is therefore based on the principles of tenfold growth. That is (ATMS):

1. Agro-industry development;
2. Tourism development;
3. Mineral-based industrial development;
4. Sustainable development of petroleum resources, oil and gas;
5. Development of (petrochemical industries) and knowledge economy. That is mainstreaming ICT and STI into our economy.

The budget for FY 2026/2027 will continue to prioritise ATMS and enablers which are outlined and these include security, infrastructure, roads, electricity and railway.

6.3 The Resource Envelope

Madam Speaker, the resource envelope for the Financial Year 2026/2027 amounts to Shs 84.391.74 trillion, a rise from Shs 72.376.48 trillion as detailed in the Financial Year 2025/2026. The details of the resources are in Table 11. So our new budget in the coming financial year is 84.391.74 trillion.

6.4 How does Government plan to spend this money?

Madam Speaker, Shs 84.391.74 trillion will be spent as follows:

The expenditure allocations in the Financial Year 2026/27 are projected to increase by about Shs 11,917.68 billion compared to the approved budget of the Financial Year 2025/26, as detailed in Tables 12 and 13.

This increase is mainly driven by the additional budget allocations to the following critical expenditure priorities. Madam Speaker, this is where the Shs 84.439.74 trillion will go:

(i) Transport and Energy infrastructure, especially meeting government's counterpart funding commitment for flagship projects such as Kampala-Jinja Expressway, the Standard Gauge Railway, the Meter Gauge Railway, electricity for industrial parks, and water supply, etc.

The Government plans to allocate Shs 1.38 trillion.

(ii) The Government also plans to allocate Shs 111 billion towards the rehabilitation and maintenance of Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) roads, the drainage, and clean up.

(iii) The Government has allocated Shs 918 billion for the completion of ongoing road projects, national road maintenance, and District, Urban, and Community Access Roads (DUCAR).

(iv) The Government has allocated Shs 200 billion to Science, Technology, and Innovation, including Kiira Motors.

(v) The Government has allocated Shs 1.16 trillion towards the enhancement of salaries for primary school teachers, secondary school arts teachers, Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (BTVET) staff, enhancement of wage for Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) scientists, and implementation in the welfare of public servants.

(vi) The Government has allocated Shs 556.78 billion towards strengthening specialised health facilities, national and regional referral hospitals, and increasing the stock of essential medicines.

This was a great development; it was not there before. This is an increment.

(vii) The Government has allocated finance for Multi-Sectoral interventions for meeting our commitments to host African Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027; Shs 496.3 billion.

(viii) The Government has allocated additional financing for security of Shs 318.12 billion.

(ix) Furthermore, the Government has allocated Shs 267 billion to support strategic private investments under Uganda Development Corporation (UDC).

(x) The Government has allocated Shs 205 billion for infrastructure improvement and research capacity enhancement for all public universities.

(xi) The Government has allocated another Shs 205 billion for fast-tracking Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) and Petroleum Authority.

(xii) The Government has allocated Shs 145 billion for improving operations of Uganda Airlines.

(xiii) And among others, the Government has allocated Shs 100 billion for the restocking of cattle in Northern Uganda. I mentioned the ambulance and others.

In brief, Madam Speaker, the overall budget of the Financial Year 2026/27 reflects a growth-oriented but also constrained expenditure pattern, with significant increases in infrastructure, energy, manufacturing, health, and human capital development, particularly in health and education. There are notable contractions in housing and extractives.

Madam Speaker, I refer you to Table 13 for detailed allocations by programme.

Allow me to go to page 6.5.

The budget priorities for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

Madam Speaker, the Government budget priorities for the Financial Year 2026 /27 are as follows, in terms of programmes:

- (i) Agro-industrialisation with a proposed allocation of Shs 2.264 trillion. This will specifically go to:
 - (a) Agricultural research.
 - (b) Provision of agricultural inputs, including fertilisers.
 - (c) Water for irrigation.
 - (d) Extension services.
 - (e) Agro-processing and value addition.
 - (f) Post-harvest handling and storage facilities.
 - (g) Inspection, surveillance, certification, enforcement of quality standards, and market access.

That is where the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) comes in.

On tourism development

- (ii) The Government has given a proposed amount of shs 571.52 billion, specifically under tourism:
 - (a) For branding and marketing of Uganda as a tourist and investment destination.
 - (b) For infrastructure development in tourism sites.
 - (c) For construction of refreshment centres and highway sanitation facilities.
 - (d) Improving and enforcing hospitality standards and training.

- (e) Promoting health tourism by investing in specialised health facilities.

- (iii) The Government has planned to put money in mineral-based industrial development, including oil and gas, with a proposed allocation of Shs 435.55 billion, particularly for the following:

- (a) For continued quantification of mineral resources, starting with iron ore, gold, and copper, and strengthening their tracking system.
- (b) Capitalisation of the Uganda National Mining Company.
- (c) Establishing mineral markets and buying centres to enable transparent mineral trading.
- (d) Expediting finalisation of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline.
- (e) Prioritisation of the construction of the oil refinery.
- (iv) Science, Technology, Innovation, including ICT and the creative arts industry.

The Government has allocated Shs 1.16 trillion. This will go to the following investments:

- (a) Taking Science Technology Innovation (STI) products to the market, especially Kiira motor vehicles, coffee, dairy, bio-pharma drugs and vaccines, and banana products.
- (b) Establishing a high-tech city to support the development of technologies and innovations.
- (c) Additional investment in research and development.
- (d) Increasing coverage, reliability, and affordability of the internet.
- (e) Enhancing digitalisation of government services and e-commerce.
- (f) Promoting business process outsourcing for job creation.
- (g) Finalising and implementing the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act to protect intellectual property and artistic works.

Honourable members, the core set budget priorities under the enablers include the following:

1. Full monetisation of the Uganda's economy with a proposed allocation of Shs 2.49 trillion for the various wealth creation programmes including the Parish Development Model (PDM,) which was allocated Shs 1.084 trillion.

Export guarantee schemes is Shs 180 billion.

Funds for women in business, the GROW project, Shs 75.9 billion; Uganda Development Corporation Shs 454.1 billion; Uganda Development Bank, Shs 442.2 billion; Emyooga Shs 100 billion; Youth programs under the State House Shs 58.5 billion; Microfinance Shs 48.5 billion; and the agricultural credit facility Shs 50 billion.

2. Towards maintaining peace, security and the rule of Law, the Government is proposing an allocation of Shs 10.202 trillion.

3. Towards capital development

There is a proposed allocation of Shs 13.521 trillion. And this will specifically go where we are proposing enhancement in a phased manner, starting with 25 per cent. I have already mentioned this; the salaries for arts teachers, primary school teachers, secondary school teachers, and businesses, business technical and vocational education training institutions, with a total financing of Shs 554.4 billion.

The Government also proposes to allocate an additional Shs 496.3 billion to finance multi-sectoral interventions towards the preparedness - This is beyond the specific money to AFCON, but there are sectors surrounding AFCON's success and they are giving an extra Shs 496.3 billion to finance multi-sectoral interventions towards preparedness for AFCON 2027.

4. Infrastructure development, that is roads, railways and energy.

There is a total allocation of Shs 10.85 trillion, of which roads, railways, water transport and air transport have been allocated Shs 8.788 trillion, and electricity Shs 2.068 trillion.

Priority areas include the SGR, meter-gauge railway, road development, especially express highways, including the Kampala-Jinja Expressway, rehabilitation and maintenance of both tarmac and marram roads, the Bukasa port and ferries, and electricity generation, transmission and distribution lines.

5. Manufacturing, with a proposed allocation of Shs 1.048 trillion. The priority areas include the continued development of infrastructure in priority industrial parks.

6. Environmental and natural resource conservation and protection, there is Shs 514.08 billion for environmental protection and restoration.

7. Administration of justice with a proposed allocation of Shs 651.55 billion.

8. Legislation and oversight with a proposed allocation of Shs 1.226 trillion.

Number 6.6 Multi-year commitments.

Section 12(3) of the PFMA Cap 171 requires the Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to present to the House, for the next financial year, a company with a statement for the multi-year commitments to be undertaken by the Government in the subsequent financial year.

Furthermore, the statement seeks to require Parliament to authorise Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies responsible for implementing development projects that span more than one year to enter into multi-year obligations in order to properly implement projects within the available fiscal space.

Accordingly, the multi-year commitment statement for the Financial Year 2026/2027 indicates that Uganda's Public Investment Plan (PIP) for the Financial Year 2026/2027 to Financial Year 2030/2031 contains 357 projects, of which 306 are ongoing, and 51 are new, with a total investment value of Shs 138.18 trillion.

Of this amount, Shs 58,972 billion, that is 43 per cent, is expected from the Government of Uganda resources, while Shs 79,209 billion, that is 57 per cent, is projected from external financing, indicating continued reliance on development partner funding to deliver the public investment portfolio for our country.

The multi-year commitment profile indicates that the Government is prioritising completion of existing investments, as ongoing projects account for about 85.7 per cent of the PIP portfolio, while new projects account for 14.3 per cent.

This is a positive signal for project continuity but it also confirms that the fiscal space remains constrained and insufficient to fully cover all the outstanding domestic commitments in the budget year.

The committee's observations and recommendations are as follows:

The recent performance of multi-year commitment trends raises concerns about the Government's capacity to execute these multi-year commitments on time.

Madam Speaker, in the Financial Year 2024/2025, the approved budget for multi-year commitments was Shs 18.423 trillion, but only Shs 14.18 trillion was released, equivalent to 77 per cent budget performance while actual expenditure amounted to Shs 9.756 trillion. This is an absorption of 6.8 per cent. So, generally, performance was weaker for externally financed projects where budget absorption was just under 43 per cent.

The committee recommendations.

Madam Speaker, the committee recommends as follows:

1. The Government should strengthen the link between new project admissions and available fiscal space by ensuring that no project is admitted into the PIP without provision for counterpart funding and medium-term affordability within the MTEF.

2. The committee also recommends that, in addition, counterpart funding for externally financed projects should be ring-fenced and centrally monitored because inadequate counterpart funding and inadequate counterpart provision remain one of the most persistent causes of delayed disbursements, poor absorption, and interest rate increments.

Therefore, strengthening these controls would improve execution, reduce interest rate and certificate arrears, and ensure value for money for Uganda's public investment portfolio.

3. There is also a need to prioritise completion of high-impact ongoing projects before taking on additional commitments, especially in programs with large exposure such as transport, energy, and human capital development, among others.

Alongside, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and implementing MDAs should tighten procurement discipline, improve project readiness at entry, and therefore enforce the use of certified project managers to address the low absorption and cost overruns highlighted in the commitment.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I do not know, what we shall do with this, because it keeps coming every year - about multi-year commitments and interest rate escalation because of failure to implement projects in time.

The committee recommends that Parliament approves the multi-year commitments for the Financial Year 2026/2027 and the medium term.

Madam Speaker, the fiscal risks and mitigation measures are outlined in 6.7. and of course, there are some that are exogenous to our economy, especially regarding the wars in the Middle East.

The Government has proposed a number of strategies to mitigate that risk.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, arising from the corrigenda adjustments, the following

figures in the table below are recommended for supply and appropriation as expenditure for the financial year 2026/2027.

The table below is a consolidation of schedules A, B and C in the annexure. I beg to report, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much, honourable chairman, vice chairperson, and members of the Budget Committee, for a very good report.

We have the minority report. Hon. Basalirwa, why don't you leave Hon. Ibrahim?

12.07

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): I thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I will go straight away to the report.

Page 1 has the introduction and also outlines the areas of dissent.

Madam Speaker, Section 12 of the Public Finance Management Act, under which the annual budget is presented, requires that it should be presented together with a number of documents, including policy statements. Those policy statements must contain annual and three months' work plans, procurement plans, outputs, outcomes, targets and performance indicators.

Madam Speaker, as the Budget Committee, on behalf of Parliament, was concluding consideration of the budget, the minister, as usual, walked in with a corrigenda, increasing the budget by Shs 97 billion and also reallocating Shs 862 billion. The money increasing the budget came with no procurement plans, work plans, annual recruitment plan, etc., as required by the Public Finance Management Act. All Votes mentioned in the corrigenda did not present revised annual procurement plans, revised recruitment plans and revised cash flow projections.

This money is susceptible to abuse. We highly suspect that this last-minute movement of

money from stationary to travel and from development to recurrent was deliberately done to place money where it can easily be accessed. The minister claimed they were correcting errors. Why wait and introduce it at the tail-end, giving Parliament no chance to scrutinise it?

The Public Finance Management Act further states, in section 12(11)(c), that the annual budget must be accompanied by a "statement of budget signed by the minister and the Secretary to the Treasury, attesting to the reliability and completeness of the information provided under this section and the conformity of the information to the Charter for Fiscal Responsibility".

This corrigenda that Hon. Henry Musasizi Ariganyira trafficked about 48 hours ago goes against the text and spirit of this section. The table on page 2 summarises the changes that the corrigenda is proposing.

Other than the corrigenda, we are also opposed to the passing of the budget in its current form. The revenue and expenditure, as proposed, do not conform to the aspirations of our people as contained in the National Development Plan. Huge sums of money are allocated to luxury and also given to friends of President Museveni, as has been the practice for many years. Money gifted to the likes of Pinetti should be reallocated to education, agriculture, health and roads – and we will be demonstrating later.

This is Museveni's 41st budget to the country, after 41 years in power. Article 155 of the Constitution states that: "*The President shall cause to be prepared and laid before Parliament in each financial year, but in any case not later than the fifteenth day before commencement of the financial year, estimates or revenues and expenditure of Government for the next financial year.*" This Article is reproduced in Section 12 of the Public Finance Management Act.

Madam Speaker, as I said, this is budget number 41 that President Yoweri Museveni Tibuhabwe Kaguta has caused to be prepared.

You can see – I do not know why Parliament has a habit of distorting photos. The first one is how he looked like when he was presenting the first budget. The middle one was after about 20 years in power. The last one is how he looks when presenting budget number 41.

The 2026/2027 Shs 84.3 trillion national budget

NRM Government has proposed, for next financial year, a Shs 84.391 trillion total annual budget. I summarised it here. The first table on the left is where the money will come from. The table on the right is what the money will do. You can see in the table on the right that debt servicing is going to consume 40 per cent of the budget. Wages and salaries will consume about Shs 14 trillion. You have other staff expenses of about Shs 8 trillion. Classified expenditure is Shs 2.6 trillion. What remains is just Shs 25 trillion.

Allocated to debt servicing, as I have said in the table, is Shs 33.6 trillion, which is 40 per cent of the budget. The proposed salary increment of about Shs 1.2 trillion to various public servants, including teachers and other entitlements, will raise the country's wage bill from Shs 8.5 trillion to about Shs 9.7 trillion. The wage bill and other allowances have hit Shs 14.1 trillion, representing 16.7 per cent of the total budget. Public servants are just about 400,000, but, in this budget, they have Shs 14 trillion to themselves.

There are also other direct expenses by public servants such as vehicle fuel, special meals and newspapers, which will cost another Shs 8.2 trillion, representing Shs 9.7 per cent of the total budget. There is classified expenditure of Shs 2.6 trillion, which is 3.1 per cent of the budget. These four items, alone, are consuming 75 per cent of the entire budget.

What remains for you to debate, honourable members, is just Shs 25 trillion, which is 30 per cent of the budget. I, therefore, want Parliament to note that you are presented with a highly constrained budget that needs real

surgery if it is to make a meaningful difference to the population.

I now want to break down these items that are consuming 40 per cent of the budget. If you look, the first table represents debts that we will pay. In these debts – now, I am showing you whose debts we are paying.

First, we are paying the Democratic Republic of Congo. The NRM leaders are not only accused of stealing from their people, but they are also accused of stealing from neighbours. One such neighbour that has fallen victim to the NRM leaders' stealing habits is Democratic Republic of Congo. During the 1997/1998 invasion of Congo, senior NRM leaders helped themselves to Congolese women, timber, gold and other minerals. They were also accused of recruiting and deploying Congolese children as soldiers.

Congo took Uganda to the International Court of Justice and, since the judges there are not cadres, Uganda lost the case and, after a lot of pleading, we were ordered to pay for our crimes. We have, since 2021, been remitting billions annually. Paying Congo is part of Uganda's public debt servicing.

The NRM Government has included, in this budget that you are passing, Shs 260.4 billion, which will be paid to DRC.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssemujju, would it hurt if you say "Government" rather than specifying "NRM Government"?

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, you did not ask Hon. Musasizi –

THE SPEAKER: Just "Government".

MR SSEMUJJU: You did not ask the people presenting the main report. They said they were implementing the NRM manifesto. You did not stop them. Why does it become a problem when I refer to NRM?

THE SPEAKER: I never heard them talk about it.

MR SSEMUJJU: In the report – on all pages – they are referring to the NRM manifesto, NRM what – *(Interruption)*

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, the document that the colleague is presenting here is going to remain on the *Hansard* of this Parliament for posterity. For him to begin to assume, allege and insinuate that it is the NRM Government which entered into and plundered Congo is one thing for which I beg for your indulgence.

The NRM political party, as an organisation, has its own secretariat. The NRM Government, which we want to confirm –

THE SPEAKER: By the way, NRM did not go and steal from Congo.

MR OGWANG: I am coming to that. Why am I on a point of order? Is it in order for Hon. Ssemujju Nganda to insinuate that it is the NRM that entered and plundered Congo?

Madam Speaker, I am here to ask us to go on the record and state facts. I have also been listening to the words of the minority report; the language being used is unparliamentary, with due respect. How I wish some of the content in this report could be expunged because it is entirely unparliamentary for us to continue allowing a colleague to read such a report.

I have just gone through the report and you are going to see the content that he has put in there. Is Hon. Ssemujju Nganda in order to continue insinuating that it is the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Government that entered and plundered DR Congo, as he alleges? Is he in order?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, if there was theft – which you are asserting happened – it must have been by individuals. It is not by the NRM Government. When you talk about the age from the time – age is golden. Actually, you should even pray that you also become that old. It is just fair for you to say the Government is paying this money for the acts of other people.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, I have not said the NRM Government. I have actually said NRM leaders. You only needed to be careful. I did not say NRM Government, and if you are careful, I am going to tell you about those NRM leaders in the subsequent paragraphs.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, please.

MR SSEMUJJU: This is an abuse of our rules. I am presenting a report. The NRM Government has included Shs 260.4 billion in the coming financial year budget, which will be paid to DR Congo. The Shs 260.4 billion is the last of the five instalments. The last instalment will bring the final figure to Shs 1.2 trillion.

Can you imagine those who enjoyed Congolese women and gold are known and are there, but we are all being ordered to pay. Hon. Ogwang is not one of them. *(Laughter)* This money should have been paid by government officials –

THE SPEAKER: Are you saying they are paying because they enjoyed the women?

MR SSEMUJJU: You wanted names, I am going to give you names. You wanted -

MR OGWANG: Point of order. Please, is “enjoying women” parliamentary? Let us be realistic. What do you mean? Even you, colleagues, are here saying, “Eh, eh” Is it parliamentary for you? Let us be realistic.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssemujju, is this money paid because they enjoyed the women or what? Do you have to pay for enjoyment?

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, the trouble is that when the budget is brought here, it is accompanied by 21 documents. I think Hon. Ogwang is listening to the budget for the first time. I ask him to first listen because he will not be quarrelling for every paragraph that I read. *(Laughter)*

The money should have been paid by senior government officials named in the plundering of Congo, such as Gen. Salim Saleh, Maj.

Gen. (Rtd) Kahinda Otafire, and Gen. Caleb Akandwanaho. Gen. Museveni said that the only thing he took from DR Congo during the period of the war was a stick.

Gen. Museveni's friend Pinetti is given another Shs 350 billion in next year's Budget. I am explaining money they are going to spend on servicing debt, which is 40 per cent of our budget. In next year's budget, there is Shs 305 billion for President Museveni's dear friend Enrica Maria Aristidina Pinetti, for her controversial Lubowa Specialised Hospital project. This money is part of the Shs 33 trillion public debt service obligation.

On the list of debt, it is listed as others. That is what Hon. Musasizi has done. We have so far given Aristidina Shs 916 billion, which is equivalent to USD 247 million. Pinetti now wants another Shs 489 billion to complete the loot. This will bring the total amount spent on Pinetti's project to Shs 1.4 trillion.

Remember, at the beginning of this project, Museveni handlers, including Hon. David Bahati, told Parliament that Uganda was spending about Shs 200 billion on medical care abroad and that an investor Aristidina, was going to help us construct a super health facility in 48 months, which she would manage for eight years and then hand it over to Uganda. Uganda then would pay her using money budgeted for medical care abroad. That was the Pinetti story. Nobody, I think, knew that Pinetti's debt obligation would become part of public debt.

Uganda is borrowing money at a high interest rate and passing it over to Pinetti, allegedly to construct a hospital for us. Mind you, Pinetti is not a contractor; she is not a medical person but rather a dealer in furniture. Her Lubowa project represents the highest level of abuse of public trust. This Parliament demanded a value-for-money audit before more money is sunk in. As usual, this was abandoned, and Pinetti is smiling all the way to the bank.

In this budget, they have also allocated the Minister of Works and Transport Shs 21.54

billion to construct roads around Lubowa Hospital, which has become a monument of corruption under Museveni.

Roko Construction Limited –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssemujju, before you go to Roko Construction Limited, have you gone to Entebbe Airport recently, through the main road? Around Lubowa?

MR SSEMUJJU: Yes, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Have you not seen that hospital around Lubowa?

MR SSEMUJJU: I have seen a *ka*-structure coming up. Not worth Shs 1.4 trillion.

THE SPEAKER: The structure is there. The hospital is there. Yes, next.

MR SSEMUJJU: Page seven, Roko Construction Limited.

The NRM Government has included, in the next financial year's budget, Shs 32.2 billion to help Roko Construction company meet its debt obligation. Roko's debt problems are now also part of Uganda's public debt servicing, courtesy of *Mzee* Museveni.

Remember in 2022 – I do not have to read everything on this page – when these problems of Roko came here. In the end, we are going to be giving these proprietors of Roko Shs 207 billion.

Ntungamo Coffee Plant

This has taken Shs 254 billion so far. I can actually summarise with the table on page nine. So far, we have invested Shs 188.6 billion in this company and the proprietor, Tugume, was seen recently in the Cabinet demanding for more.

Kiira Motors –

THE SPEAKER: Which Cabinet? Do you have spies in the Cabinet?

MR SSEMUJJU: The Cabinet is part of the Organs of the State.

THE SPEAKER: You belong to the State. I am happy today that you appreciate that you belong to the State.

MR SSEMUJJU: All of us Ugandans are part of the Ugandan State.

In the budget, there is Shs 200 billion that has been added to the Ministry of Science and Technology to, among others, fund the operations of Kiira Motors, as you have heard in the main report. Enterprises are supposed to bring their budgets here, and we approve them. Kiira Motors has not brought but they are giving it more money. The table summarises what we have put into Kiira Motors so far to produce those buses.

The Uganda National Development Corporation (UDC), page 10.

The NRM Government has included, in the next financial year's budget, Shs 304 billion for Uganda Development Corporation. Out of shame, Mr Museveni no longer brings some of his friends' companies to Parliament for funding directly during the budget process.

[Text expunged.]

THE SPEAKER: He is the President of the Republic of Uganda.

MR SSEMUJJU: I agree, Madam Speaker - *(Laughter)* - He has now lined up Shs 304 billion for Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) and Atiak Sugar Factory, the main client of UDC, will be one of the beneficiaries. In fact, Atiak has been allocated Shs 100 billion. We have so far invested Shs 668 billion in this controversial Atiak Sugar Factory, mainly through UDC. The Shs 100 billion new allocation will bring the total investment in this company to Shs 768 billion.

The proprietor of Atiak Sugar Factory, Ms Amina, has invested Shs 125 billion but holds 60 per cent of the company's shares. Uganda,

which has invested more than Shs 600 billion, has 40 shares.

The Auditor-General, in his latest report of December 2025, says that in the last 10 years, the Government has, through UDC, invested Shs 1.3 trillion in 22 companies. Eight of these companies are recording net losses. Another eight companies that UDC loaned Shs 238 billion to have not paid the principal or the interest.

UDC is expected to operate with a degree of independence, but it is being financed through project-specific funding. The Government releases funds to UDC that are already earmarked for specific projects, such as Atiak Sugar Factory, leaving UDC with no space to conduct proper investment appraisal, according to the Auditor-General.

The return on investment in UDC is 0.09 per cent, according to the AG report. The table on page 11 is a summary of what we have put in Atiak Sugar Factory.

The Presidential Initiative on Banana Industrial Development (PIBID) – Shs 70 billion

The Presidential Initiative on Banana Industrial Development is another controversial investment by our dear leader. It is headed by Prof. Muranga. They want Shs 70 billion for their operations next financial year. The project has become a bottomless pit. I show the money that has so far gone there.

I will leave the table summarising the banana initiative and go to page 12, which is on DEI BioPharma Ltd.

We would like to inform Parliament that DEI proprietor, Dr Mathias Magoola, has requested for another bailout worth Shs 1.5 trillion. He was seen in Entebbe attending a Cabinet meeting that discussed the Budget. Like Mr Tugume, he has been asked to wait until an assessment of his controversial factory is done. I would like to thank the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for this. Do not be surprised when this request surfaces at some

stage during budget implementation, through a supplementary budget. These fellows are now attending Cabinet meetings. The ministers are here; let them deny. *(Laughter)*

On 17 April 2024, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development presented a supplementary budget. I want to show you how much money DEI has taken so far. He now wants Shs 1.5 trillion.

I am now going to the cost of borrowing because I told you about some of the beneficiaries of the Shs 33 trillion in this budget that we are going to appropriate for. You have heard their names. They are waiting for you here. On Monday, they will be in the banks.

Madam Speaker, we need to be very careful when allowing the Government to borrow huge sums of money to finance the Budget. It has huge implications on the health of our economy. One of those implications is interest payment, which has now hit Shs 46 trillion.

As a result of reckless borrowing, we have paid Shs 21.6 trillion in interest on money mainly borrowed from commercial banks and pension funds in the last four years. This Financial Year 2025/2026, we are paying Shs 11.4 trillion in interest and budgeted Shs 13.8 trillion for the next financial year. This will bring the total interest payments to Shs 46.9 trillion in six years.

Honourable ladies and gentlemen, our people are working for commercial banks that are foreign-owned. Below, you will see these banks. What we call domestic, are these fellows trafficking money?

Kindly go back to this table up here, which shows the interest that we have paid over this period. If you aggregate this, it equals the budget of a full financial year. In five years of our term in this particular Parliament, we have had only four budgets. The fifth budget is for paying interest.

I will go to another implication of borrowing to finance the budget - commitment fees.

Commitment fees have hit Shs 763.7 billion in the Financial Year 2026/2027. The NRM Government has budgeted for Shs 185.5 billion next financial year to pay for commitment fees. This is the money we pay on loans contracted but not yet utilised. In the last five years of our term in office, the NRM has spent Shs 329 billion on this.

When you add next financial year's commitment fees with the earlier one, you come to nearly Shs 763 billion. You borrow money, do not use it, then they charge you commitment fees and you lose Shs 763 billion.

When you are naive, you may be working for moneylenders without realising it. It is up to the NRM Government to prove that it is not working for moneylenders. These moneylenders are foreign. In mortgaging Uganda, the NRM Government must prove that it is not an agent of foreign interests. You closed Greenland Bank and Co-operative Bank and sold Uganda Commercial Bank. You replaced them with foreign-owned banks from which you are borrowing lots of money and paying obscene amounts in interest. Who are you working for, you NRM?

Wages and allowances

Madam Speaker, I invite you to look at this table on this budget. This table starts on pages 14 to 15. I have already made a reference to it. The public service employs 400,000 people and you have included Shs 14.1 trillion in the budget for their salaries and allowances yet you represent 45 million people.

How can you give Shs 14 trillion to 400,000 people? What will you tell the others whom all the ministers keep telling on the radio about the Parish Development Model (PDM)?

This is not the only money they have taken. The table below also represents other money:

- i) Welfare and entertainment - Shs 214 billion;
- ii) Special meals and drinks - Shs 536 billion;
- iii) Travel inland - Shs 1 trillion;

- iv) Travel abroad - Shs 207 billion;
- v) Fuel - Shs 514 billion; and
- vi) Donations - Shs 196 billion. There is money to buy musical instruments: Shs 800 million. Gas, firewood, and charcoal. We are going to spend Shs 14 billion to buy firewood and charcoal. Maybe we are going to burn the whole of Uganda. I invite colleagues to look at the table. I do not need to take much time. The reason I am doing so is that the minister will come waving a budget- agro-industrialisation, mineral development- but this is where the money is going. Manufacturing- you can look at the table on page 16: other items in the budget.

I invite you because you have been given huge documents. At the end of those documents, there are aggregated items on which we are spending money, but they have learned good language here; Agro-industrialisation, and you think that money is actually going there. I will jump pages 16, 17, 18, and go to page 19.

Uganda has spent Shs 5 trillion on Museveni in five years.

President Museveni has budgeted Shs 479 billion for his residence – the State House, next financial year. State House is one of the benefits extended to the President under The Emoluments and Benefits of the President, Vice President and Prime Minister Act.

The approved budget for the State House this financial year is Shs 588 billion, which was increased to Shs 967 billion through supplementary requests. State House has learned tricks. They request half of what they will spend in a year and keep increasing it through supplementary requests. The reason I have singled out the State House is that it is not even complying with the Public Finance Management Act.

If you look at their policy statement- policy statements are supposed under section 12 of the PFM Act to contain a vehicle utilisation report, but State House is embarrassed to provide this information. They are no longer providing it, yet it is a legal requirement. They

have removed the list of staff - the one we were sharing last year, where they had musician Catherine Kusasira, has been plucked off - yet the law says it must be there.

I propose that we decline to approve the State House budget until they comply with the law. This table shows you how much money we have spent, and I am saying we have spent more on the State House than on PDM in five years.

The NRM government has budgeted another Shs 1 trillion for the Parish Development Model (PDM). The Auditor-General in the December report said Shs 3.2 trillion had so far been spent on PDM by the close of the financial year. When you add this, it brings the total to Shs 4.2 trillion spent on PDM.

The programme, PDM, is supposed to get 39 per cent of Uganda's households from a subsistence economy to a money economy. Uganda has 10.6 million households. Each household is home to about four people. The PDM is therefore supposed to benefit about 14.8 million people.

We, therefore, need to note that in the last five years, we have spent Shs 4.3 trillion on State House compared to Shs 4.2 trillion on PDM, and then State House will go around the country, inspecting PDM and finding out why the people are not getting rich. 14 million people against the President and family. That is why he is swimming in money. Recently, you saw him splashing billions to *TikTokers* in a matter of seconds. Shs 100 million to each of the 400 NRM MPs that attended Kyankwanzi *mchaka mchaka* drills. Maybe someone should tell us where this Shs 100 million per NRM MPs *mchaka mchaka* graduates came from. In Kyankwanzi the emperor said, "I do not want to hear corruption in Parliament," and the beneficiary of Shs 100 million each laughed and ululated.

Financing the budget

I have finished the expenditure. Finally, I am looking at where the money will come from. The table summarises.

First, we will be raising money through taxes and other revenues. Petroleum, budget support, local revenue, domestic borrowing, and external borrowing. I am looking at the source of money and its implications before you say “aye”.

Taxing citizens out of existence

The NRM government wants to finance 52 per cent of the budget through local revenue, mainly taxation. The rest of the money, Shs 32 trillion, will be borrowed. Last financial year, Uganda Revenue Authority collected about Shs 29 trillion.

This table gives you the aggregate figures of what we will be raising through which tax. We have finished passing taxes. PAYE alone, and we have about 1 million Ugandans who are paying PAYE, Shs 7 trillion. I will jump page 21 and 22, and go to page 23. The first table, ending on top of page 23, shows you the type of tax and the amount of money, and the table below shows you how much money URA has been collecting. I will go to taxation.

Taxation killing business

As usual, the NRM has revised its revenue collection targets randomly. The target is to collect Shs 44.5 trillion in revenue, with taxes contributing about Shs 41 trillion. The NRM government tends to arrive at figures through guesswork. They can announce a figure of Shs 44.5 trillion from local revenue because they hear that in Kenya, the tax to GDP ratio is 18 per cent, while ours is still at 14 per cent. This Government lacks a comprehensive tax policy. We saw that when we were handling taxation.

I want you to listen to Hon. Matia Kasaija, those of you who are angry with me. He warned against this guesswork and I do not know why it is continuing. This is what he said, “In order to achieve our revenue potential, we will move away from ad-hoc annual tax policy changes. These piecemeal adjustments with little alignment to an overarching strategy have created a high degree of unpredictability and

uncertainty in our tax policy direction”. That is what Hon. Kasaija said but he continues to come every year.

We are opposed to some of these, which have been overtaken. I wish we had presented before the taxation Bills were passed.

Page 24, the World Bank. The World Bank Human Capital Development and Growth Review spoke about the impact of taxation on employment. Over 90 per cent of firms in Uganda are micro and informal, consisting mostly of self-employed household enterprises, while 28 per cent of adults own or co-own a new business. Uganda also has some of the highest business discontinuation rates in the world. Factors contributing to this include high tax rates, corruption, and low human capital among both owners and their workers.

Both the World Bank and the National Planning Authority report that of every four businesses started in Uganda, three will die before their fifth anniversary because of the high cost of credit and because of taxation.

I am urging you to stop approving new tax proposals because they have the potential to render our people jobless.

In this budget - I am trying to summarise.

Borrowing Shs 36 trillion to finance the budget

The money that we will be borrowing is in that table.

From the above, you can see 42 per cent of the budget will be financed by borrowing. I go to the last paragraph on page 24.

Bank of Uganda puts total public debt at Shs 124 trillion in its December 2025 report on the state of the economy. In its December Public Debt Statistical report, the finance ministry puts it at Shs 126 trillion. I may not have to read everything, but I want you to take note at least of the headnotes.

Domestic borrowing is killing the private sector

To finance the Shs 84.2 trillion budget, this ageing NRM government plans to raid the domestic financial market to borrow Shs 25.9 trillion. Of the Shs 25.9 trillion from domestic market and Shs 11.97 trillion will be used to directly finance the budget while Shs 13.9 trillion is redemption.

Let me make this very clear, the principal payment of money locally borrowed that will be due for payment next financial year is Shs 13.9 trillion. This is what the ministry for finance or Hon. Musasizi for that matter, has given all sorts of clan names such as security redemption, debt rollover, and refinancing. They do not want you to know that they have failed to repay the moneylenders. That is why interest payments are skyrocketing, as we will see later.

The Government's heavy borrowing from the domestic market has serious ramifications for our economic growth as it keeps interest rates high and crowds out the private sector, which relies on commercial banks for about 97 per cent of its credit.

Bank of Uganda, for example, in its December 2025 state of the economy quarterly report, reveals that in the first quarter of this financial year; July, August and September, credit supply in the country stood at Shs 5.8 trillion while demand was at Shs 8.2 trillion.

During this period, the National Resistance Movement(NRM) Government sought to borrow Shs 6.18 trillion. Mind you, the private sector has Shs 5 trillion in available funds, but they want to borrow Shs 6.18 trillion. Private businesses and the NRM Government fought over this limited credit supply. This scavenging of limited private-sector credit is killing the private sector.

Of the credit applications banks received, only 66.9 per cent were approved, as banks prioritised government securities, according to the Bank of Uganda.

The Central Bank noted cautious lending behaviour towards the private sector. Mind you, of the 15.8 million working population, according to the National Planning Authority, 13.3 million are employed by the private sector. Therefore, the limited supply of credit affects the jobs of 13.3 million people directly.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its latest assessment on Uganda notes that the Government debt now accounts for over 30 per cent of commercial bank assets, up from 21 per cent in 2019 and is still rising.

The table below, I do not have to read each and everything shows you sectors and how they have been accessing credit. On pages 27, 28 and 29 as I am running quickly to finish, you can see the sectors and their –

From the above table, we have seen that the outstanding private sector credit loans that are in private sector hands, is Shs 25.4 trillion. Compare this to the total outstanding government public domestic debt at 67 per cent.

This means that the Government accounts for 84 per cent of the outstanding private sector credit loans and the private sector is just at 16 per cent. Then they say this economy is private sector-driven. The ratio of domestic debt to private sector credit is worrying the Central Bank.

Bank of Uganda, on page 29 of its December state of the economy report, observes that private sector credit growth could be constrained by increased Government domestic borrowing, which could crowd out “private sector credit if interest rates rise in response, as well as global economic uncertainty and heightened credit risk concerns”. Dr Ezra Suruma, a senior presidential adviser, has, in his latest missive, warned that a country without capital should prepare itself to produce labourers. While other people will be investing in export production, you will be registering companies to externalise labour because we are all being turned into labourers. Uganda has more labour export companies than agricultural ones. If you observe in town here, other people export

products, while for us, we are exporting human beings.

Interest on debt, domestic debt, and finishing our money

The NRM Government will spend Shs 33.4 trillion on debt servicing next financial year, representing 40 per cent of the total budget.

The Bank of Uganda puts total budget - I do not have to repeat this. Let me go to page 31 for you to appreciate what borrowing the most domestically and borrowing from foreign sources means. The first table shows external debt.

Uganda's external debt is at Shs 57.6 trillion but the interest that we pay on that debt is Shs 1.3 trillion.

The domestic debt is at 67 per cent, and the interest we pay is Shs 12.5 trillion. So, anyone sensible would want to borrow externally. I will explain to you why NRM is running away from that. Below are the sources of borrowing.

Budgeting high-interest-rate payments, offending the law

The NRM Government has budgeted to pay Shs 12.4 trillion interest on domestic debt, which is offending the Charter for Fiscal Responsibility and therefore the Public Finance Management Act.

The Charter for Fiscal Responsibility sets 12.5 per cent as the threshold of interest payment to revenue collection. This should be about Shs 5 trillion. Instead, the NRM Government has included in the budget Shs 12.2 trillion for interest payment on domestic debt, representing 30 per cent of projected revenue collection. This offends the law. Honourable colleagues, can read the rest.

Domestic borrowing is causing unemployment

I have already referred to this. I do not have to overemphasise it.

NRM now wants to borrow from your mother

The NRM seems to have exhausted the domestic financial market. They are in the final stages of developing an app that will allow them to borrow from your mother in the village. They want operators of mobile money platforms to develop an app that will allow ordinary people to buy government securities.

All NRM innovations are about borrowing. They want to reach out and directly pick money from your grandmother's pocket. That is what this app means. Let the minister deny that they have not instructed those companies to develop it.

NRM brutality is affecting external funding

Parliament should take note that 13.5 per cent of funds required to finance the budget will be raised through external borrowing and budget support. The beauty of the external financing is that most of the loans obtained through this measure are concessional. Of course, there are semi-concessional loans like those of China and commercial banks. Below is a total of what they will borrow externally for the budget next financial year. I have already spoken about the dangers of our debt.

Let me go to the budgets. I will summarise this. We have been here for five years and passed five budgets. If you look at that table, those budgets represent the revised five-year budgets when you include all the supplementaries. We have appropriated Shs 324.7 trillion, but the actual money we have spent is Shs 269 trillion, representing Shs 55.3 trillion. So, in the five years we have been here passing budgets, Shs 55.5 trillion has not been available to spend. They just come and tell you a huge budget for you to be happy.

There is money for donations, but no money for ambulances, and the new curriculum

This Parliament must take note that the Budget Committee, since the recent events, has failed to recommend movement of money from wasteful and suspicious expenditure to critical

requirements. You needed to have been in the committee and seen the fidgeting of NRM MPs; they can't even touch a comma, because of what happened to Parliament.

As a result, for example, the Ministry of Health asked for Shs 60 billion to buy ambulances but has been given only Shs 40 billion. Therefore, some of your constituencies will have no ambulance. The ministry wants to buy 158 ambulances for your constituencies. The Ministry of Health also asked for Shs 20 billion for maintenance of ambulances, but it has been given Shs 10 billion. I saw the vice chairperson presenting and he is very happy. This means that in some constituencies, your ambulances will not be maintained. Maintenance is Shs 20 billion, they have given you Shs 10 billion and you are saying, "you clap". That is what the vice chairperson said. "Clap for Shs 10 billion".

Let us remove Shs 30 billion from State House, since the president has Shs 130 billion for donations, buy these ambulances, and maintain them for the rest of the country.

No money for the new curriculum

The National Curriculum Development Centre has asked for just Shs 6 billion to develop syllabuses of 32 subjects of A-level curriculum; assessment, guidelines and training of teachers, but only Shs 2.5 billion has been given. This is scandalous. Our children are being taught on guesswork because the development of the A-level curriculum has not been concluded.

The Uganda National Examination Board has asked for Shs 8 billion to train examiners on how to mark this new syllabus, but they have been given zero. What crime has Uganda committed against the NRM and its leadership? Already the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank are saying that children who are in school today, their productivity level will not go beyond 39 per cent. The world average is 50 per cent. Why are we condemning our children?

The trouble is that their children do not attend school here. We now ask you to review the

annex outlining the unfunded priorities. It comes as an annex. You cannot find Shs 6 billion for curriculum, but you have Shs 130 billion for donation, and the vice chairperson is asking NRM Members of Parliament to clap. Your children and the children of the people you represent are in secondary school with no money for the curriculum.

Look at the human resources in public health facilities. We have just lost a colleague here, Hon. Nakimuli. There are people who advised her to go to public facilities – collectively, we would like to determine whether it was negligence or incompetence.

Let us also think about the thousands of people we represent who go to these public facilities and find no human resources. The Committee on Health reported this scandal to this Parliament, and we discussed it in the budget committee, but NRM MPs have feared recommending the movement of money to finance these critical requirements. And please, I invite you to look - this table is from your committee. I saw the majority committee. Our work was to reconcile and consolidate. There is nothing they have consolidated in the main report. What they have done is actually to massage the budget.

In fact, in the future, this Parliament should not waste its time because they are not making any recommendations apart from passing the budget. I do not know why they are wasting your time. As soon as the Hon. Musasizi tabled the estimates, you should have said "aye". But we even went to a hotel to consolidate, and there was no consolidation.

Look at this table; the referral hospitals, and I will go through some of them because some of you who are clapping have health facilities with no human resource.

Entebbe, approved 1,195, but they have only recruited 260 and their human resources are at 21.8 per cent, but the vice chair says "clap".

Gulu - I hope there is nobody from Gulu who has signed the majority report and is clapping.

The hospital-approved staff are 1,273; field, 380. The hospital is operating at 29.8 per cent, and they are urging you to clap.

Fort Portal, the regional referral hospital, 1,157. That is the approved staff. The ones recruited so far are 295. They are operating at 26 per cent. They say “do not touch the budget” as if this budget is for one person. I do not have to read the entire list. Just look for your area before you clap and approve.

Now I will go to page 37 - I am about to finish. There are delayed health infrastructure projects. These ones are spread in your constituencies because there is no money to complete them, and they are asking you to clap.

The table on 38 is showing you these projects. There is no money to complete them. They are white elephants. And Hon. Isiagi and his vice chairperson are saying, “clap”. You can clap - this is Page 38, let us look at the outstanding arrears on Page 39.

I do not have to go through them because all this information came from the Committee on Health - you asked us to go and consolidate. However, they did not consolidate because they did not want to touch even a comma. I said “we are in trouble” because the man said do not touch our budget. So, I have helped you to consolidate. It is entirely up to you to pass or not.

This is a status and analysis of arrears because all these hospitals are in debt. They cannot pay electricity, pension, salary or water bills, and this information was brought to the committee for consolidation. Maybe, the Hon. Isiagi and his deputy - you should ask them after, to point to a particular page where they consolidated anything. The recommendations are there.

Human resources in public health facilities
This one has been repeated; forgive me.

The delayed health infrastructure on page 43

I do not have to repeat them because they have already captured them. I now want to go - so

these ones are repeated. Page 46, I have already referred to it. You can go to Page 48. I have just about two pages to finish.

Extractives industry development

The Hon. Musasizi was here. He said this is mineral development. In the Budget Framework Paper, Hon. Musasizi proposed a budget of Shs 1.6 trillion for extractive industrial development. Then, when he left, he removed it. What has been brought today for you to pass is Shs 435 billion. Not even what he brought in the Budget Framework Paper. And he says, “The NRM manifesto, as guided by the President, please clap”. Colleagues, you can clap.

I am concluding now - Page 48.

The UBOS, in their latest report on what they call multi-dimensional poverty, measures not only income but also people’s capacity to pay for hospital care if they fall sick, the number of years they are in school, and access to toilet facilities. This is how they have summarised Uganda - and that is my summary.

In Karamoja, people who are suffering from multi-dimensional poverty are 91 per cent. The vice chair comes from there, he says, “clap.”

In West Nile, people who are suffering from multi-dimensional poverty, who cannot go to school, have no access to toilet facilities, are 73 per cent. I am waiting to see if anyone from West Nile will clap. This is information from UBOS on multi-dimensional poverty because that is where we are after five years. So, the rest you can read about yourselves - Sebei, multi-dimensional poverty is at 67 per cent – these are people.

Busoga is at 59.9 per cent as usual – 59.9 per cent of Basoga are suffering from multi-dimensional poverty. No access to improved toilet facilities or energy for cooking - there are 11 parameters that they measure, not just income. So, as you pass the budget - finally, I want to draw your attention to one table, the last table, which is Annex 1.

This table has the details as they came from your committees, which you asked us to consolidate, but were never consolidated. There is a table I have skipped, but I will try to find it and share it. It has a human resource in public universities.

Busitema, where you send your children who then go to the Middle East to be maids, is operating at 10 per cent, and you are wondering - 10 per cent human resources. In all the universities, the average is about - Makerere, I think, is at 39 per cent – I will get the table and share it. This is what you asked us as a budget committee to go and consolidate.

But my colleagues were speaking to each other and asking, “So what do we do? - No touching.” As a result, they have brought you a fake report and are asking you to approve it. I now invite you to approve a report that has items of your constituencies. Madam Speaker, thank you for listening to me. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Ssemujju. All the statements that are unparliamentary, in this report, must be expunged.

You can now debate what is parliamentary. Yes, Hon. Basalirwa - He wants to go for *Juma* prayers first

1.06

MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I want to thank you and the Committee on Budget, and the authors of both reports- *(Interruption)*

MR SSEMUJJU: This report has been signed by me, the Hon. Dr Lulume Bayigga, and Hon. Karim Masaba. Just that simple clarification.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. But honourable members, we have been having discussions throughout from the Budget Framework Paper (BFP), ministerial statements, *etc.* Unless there is something that is really crucial. Hon. Asuman, is it there?

MR BASALIRWA: Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you. I have listened attentively to the reports. My biggest disappointment, from both the majority and minority reports, relates to a resolution we passed here. We did pass a resolution here urging the Government to consider sickle cell disease a public health emergency requiring focused budgetary support.

Madam Speaker, to put this matter into context, sickle cell disease is the leading non-communicable disease in the country. Seven million Ugandans are carriers, and if we are not careful in the next 30 years, our children and children’s children will have no people to marry or get married to. That is how dangerous and bad the situation is. That is why we agreed here - We did make - I was in the Budget Committee when the Committee on Health made a presentation.

If we do not invest in massive awareness and in providing drugs to the health facilities, it is going to be a very big crisis. Already in Africa, we are number three, and in the whole world, we are number five. So, I expected the committees to highlight this, especially in light of the fact that we are on record for having taken a resolution.

I would like to, at this point in time, Madam Speaker, urge my colleague, Hon. Musasizi, that in light of the resolution we took, there should be some commitment on this matter. AIDS, which stands at 6 per cent prevalence in the country and also has budgetary support from donors, will receive about Shs 250 billion. However, a disease that has a 20 per cent prevalence without any budgetary support has nothing.

Therefore, I would like to urge this Parliament that one of the issues we can address is to have some focus. Unlike AIDS, when a person dies of AIDS, that is likely to be the end; when somebody dies of sickle cell, the problem will remain on the earth because it is genetic. That is how dangerous and bad it is.

Madam Speaker, you have been singled out as a champion of the sickle cell disease. The other day, you were meeting activists, and they designated you as a champion of the sickle cell disease. It would really be very unfortunate that we, sickle cell activists and as this Parliament, do not make some commitment along those lines.

Madam Speaker, the committee is here, and the minister is also here. When they were in the committee, I remember the chairperson of the committee did propose monies to go to these health facilities through NMS. By the way, colleagues, your health facilities are no longer admitting people suffering from sickle cell disease. Why? They cannot admit them because there are no drugs. Once they are admitted, they have to be on drugs the rest of their lives, so they are saying, you better remain where you are.

The percentages in your respective places, especially the ladies, I want you to take very keen interest. These irresponsible men are abandoning marriages. They are leaving women with these children. Madam Speaker, in Amuria, your neighbour there, a man picked up his child, because he was frustrated, and took him to a swamp and killed him – *(Interjections)* - Yes, in Amuria. He killed the child because he was overwhelmed. The community went and looked for this man and they killed him. Now, the police are looking for the entire community for mob justice.

I thought since this Parliament made a resolution, we would really have some focus on that, Madam Speaker, and maybe the minister could make a comment on that.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister? - *(Members rose)*- Let the minister first respond to the issue of sickle cell.

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The matter Hon. Asuman is raising is pertinent and touches our lives. What I can say is that I need to get in touch with the Minister of Health and also the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health to find out the practical steps we can take.

Madam Speaker, as far as the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development is concerned, we are a support ministry. We support entities arising from their needs. Therefore, we must initiate this need. Parliament has already initiated the need. Now, we need to fast-track the need with the Ministry of Health with a view to providing funding in the near future. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. We need to make a follow-up with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, so that she initiates, and then it will go to finance. Hon. Rose, let me have the minister first, then I will give you.

1.13

THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (NORTHERN UGANDA) (Dr Kenneth Omona): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the Budget Committee and all the colleagues who worked very hard to process this budget from both sides of the House.

Madam Speaker, I just want to respond to two areas that were raised by Hon. Ssemujju in his minority report. First, he raises an issue of the rising debt and the percentage of the budget that will go to debt repayment.

Madam Speaker, as a House, we should appreciate this, because out there, when people hear it, they think the money borrowed by the country is just wasted. It is true that about 40 per cent of the budget will be spent on debt repayment, but I want to allay these fears.

First of all, Madam Speaker, the guidance of our Government is that most of the time, when we borrow, we should not borrow to consume. Indeed, most times, we borrow to invest in areas of production or in areas that will stimulate growth in the country. Much of our debts or borrowings went into investment infrastructure such as roads, railways, and electricity.

This, honestly speaking, if you look at the indices for growth and transformation, like Hon. Ssemujju was insinuating - for instance, in the multi-dimensional poverty, I do not

know where Hon. Ssemujju got his data from, but actually, from the last Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) data we have, multi-dimensional poverty has greatly reduced. The national average now is actually 33 per cent – *(Interjections)* - No, the percentage of the population that is qualified as multi-dimensionally poor. So, all these investments move towards improving the well-being of the citizens.

Madam Speaker, we will not say that this should worry us or it has gone into waste. We have these roads. We have this infrastructure in which we have invested. We have invested heavily in the generation of power that stimulates growth. We have made roads. We are paving roads. We are now going to invest in railways. This will help to increase production, make our products competitive regionally, make our urban centres effective, and also cause rural growth. This is the focus of our Government.

Finally, Madam Speaker, on the money given to some of the investment projects in the country. Again, this is very important. When we hear it out there, people think money is just being given out to people or crooks who are just eating money.

However, Madam Speaker, let me inform the House that the Uganda Development Corporation (UDC), which is a Government corporation, has key purposes for which it was established.

First, we want to invest in those investments which are capital-intensive but difficult for many private investors and yet they will create jobs and therefore stimulate production.

We also want to invest in areas that will increase employment to our people. In all this, there is no loss because in many of them, the Government has got shares – and, most times, preferential shares.

Madam Speaker, I also want to allay the fears – Hon. Ssemujju almost bastardised the Cabinet by mentioning the names of people who are coming to there. Cabinet can invite anybody that it wants to interact with.

THE SPEAKER: That was unparliamentary, and I said it should be expunged. So, it is not there.

DR OMONA: Yes, anybody can be invited, as a guest, to answer some questions. Therefore, this should not be looked at as if it is a bad thing.

However, I support the committee and thank all those who contributed to this debate. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Before I allow Hon. Ogwang, this House is on record on the issue of the burden of borrowing. As a House, we agreed that if we are borrowing money, let a feasibility study be done, first. Let us also do the designs. If we are borrowing money for the roads, do a feasibility study and the design before you get the money.

However, what our people are doing is that they borrow first, and then they do the rest later. That is what is causing us problems. We borrowed the money for Rural Electrification Agency and put poles everywhere, but no power is connected. Truth be told. Let us be fair to ourselves because we are the ones paying this money.

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, I do not know whether I qualify to be in the area that was expunged. I also need to make it clear to my brother, Hon. Ssemujju. First of all, we will miss you. I thank the people of Kira Municipality. *(Interjection)* We really wish you well.

THE SPEAKER: Are you thanking them for voting him out?

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, there is a reason I am bringing this forward. You know, I have tried to count, in the minority report, the number of times Hon. Ssemujju has mentioned the name “Museveni”. It is countless. Since he has no right to reply here, it is important that we come to appreciate the following.

The money, which is assumed -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ogwang, everything that he talked about – the rules are very clear: you cannot discuss a person who is not in the House. Do you get it? So, that is expunged.

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, I thank you for that. The reason I am bringing this is that, colleagues, we must understand that the President of the Republic of Uganda is the Fountain of Honour, who is meant, at all times, to be given support, to begin with, as an individual, but also as the Office of the President of the Republic of Uganda. That must be made clear.

Secondly, in performing his duties, he works on our behalf, including on behalf of Hon. Ssemujju, who might agree or disagree with him. Whatever money is appropriated to the Office of the President and State House is not for him as an individual. It to support in his constitutional mandate to govern Uganda.

I do not think we need to ask President Museveni, as a person, to go and sell his cows to run the Office of the President. For that matter, Madam Speaker, I want this to be categorical here that when we talk about the Office of the President, the country called “Uganda” has the responsibility to facilitate it for its full functioning. I thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: There is a point of order.

MR SSEMUJJU: Hon. Ogwang has mentioned the name “Museveni” and word “President” 10 times in one minute. Is he in order? *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ogwang is talking about the Office of the President. Truth be told, he is running a country. Those are the benefits for that office. They are benefits for the office. There is nothing that is exaggerated.

1.22

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Madam Speaker, I just want to make two points and urge Members to support the majority report of the Budget Committee, and also make

some corrections on the minority report. Hon. Ssemujju has mentioned the figures on multidimensional poverty and used only one part. I have just spoken to the Executive Director of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, who is the person who heads our authority.

The average burden of multidimensional poverty is at 27 per cent. The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development can actually bring these figures on Tuesday if you want, Madam Speaker, so that we correct this on the record. We have done so much to fight poverty. It would be wrong to suggest that nothing is being done.

What he has mentioned is what we call “incident”, that *–(Interjection)–* it is much more technical than what you think. When they come to your area and ask you, “Did you lose a person?” and you say, “Yes,” that is one item. That will record a big picture. However, if you really average all the factors involved, then it brings it down. So, that is one correction.

The second correction, Madam Speaker, is that we are making great progress regarding Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) *–(Interruption)*

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, this multidimensional poverty report was presented to the public and we were sent copies. Mine is here. *(Interjection)* We were sent copies. Are you not an MP? Should I carry yours?

THE SPEAKER: You lay the one that you have on Table.

MR SSEMUJJU: Can I raise the point of order and then you rule? Is Hon. Bahati with, no report - is he in order to dispute a report whose copy I can give him? It is also online. You do not actually need anyone to bring it.

THE SPEAKER: I am saying that if you have the report, lay it on Table. In the absence of the report, we will not be able to trust the figures.

MR SSEMUJJU: Each Member of Parliament was sent a copy.

THE SPEAKER: For me, I did not get it.

MR SSEMUJJU: Do I read for them?

MR BAHATI: Madam Speaker, regarding UDC – so, for the issue of the report, we have settled it. You do not have one.

Regarding UDC, Madam Speaker, we are making some good progress. It is true that the Auditor-General's report highlighted some of the areas, which we need to improve.

I want to tell you that investment in these projects takes time. The payback period - the break-even period – cannot take less than five to 10 years. For some of the projects that we are investing in, it is very hard to get profits in two years. However, there are areas which are doing well. For example -

THE SPEAKER: It is a long-term investment.

MR BAHATI: It is a long-term investment. For example – *(Interruption)*

MR OSHABE: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. The minority report quoted the Auditor-General, making statements that UDC is given money, but for specific projects. The minority report went ahead to mention projects such as Atiak.

I am a member of the public accounts committee. That came out in the Auditor-General's report – that UDC is curtailed. Whatever money goes to UDC is predetermined in terms of who is going to get money. I really do not think, Madam Speaker, that the honourable minister can come here, defend, out rule and claim that he is trying to undo what the minority report said; yet it is contained – that statement in the minority report was picked from the Auditor-General's report and placed in the minority report. Is he in order?

THE SPEAKER: You know, the honourable minister had not finished his statement. I do not know what he was going to say. Therefore, I cannot say he was not in order.

Honourable minister, please finish the statement so that we can be able to understand what you were saying.

MR BAHATI: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for protecting me so that I can finish my statement. I was saying that the investments in the Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) are long-term. You might not capture profitability in the short term.

For example, we have invested money in Atiak Sugar Factory. And remember, Members of Parliament, these monies are approved here. We invested them. They are still doing some work. You cannot expect Atiak Sugar Factory to make profits in two years. That is not possible.

Secondly, there are companies that are making some good progress. Look at where you approved resources for Fine Spinners Uganda. They made profits in one year, before closings.

In some areas, they are long-term. Look at the East African Medical Vitals, the company that we have been funding for manufacturing gloves; they are now making profits.

THE SPEAKER: There is also vaccines.

MR BAHATI: There are vaccines, they are making progress. So Uganda Development Authority (UDA) – talking about the flexibility you brought in in your argument; that sometimes we have ring-fenced projects and all that. We have now, as Parliament, as you can see in the report of the Chairperson of the committee, allowed capitalisation. So we are putting resources into UDC, and we allow them some level of flexibility to invest where they think they are making a good return. I can tell you that we are creating jobs and value. We are supporting the policy of income substitution and export promotion.

It is an institution that we should be proud of, not an institution that we should condemn.

I want to disagree with the minority report and give him more facts that sometimes when you are presenting facts here in the House, you

paint the whole picture. Do not just pick a few areas, which support your communication.

I sympathise with you because you are a communication *guru*. Maybe you did that for communication purposes. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Members, I want to thank the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Minister of Trade and Industry, who have agreed that they will not fund those institutions before they do due diligence on them and verify how they used the previous monies. Even the Hon. Ssemujju talked about that.

Isn't that true, that you will verify those companies before you give them money?

MR BAHATI: Madam Speaker, it is true. There is no company or organisation that we are going to fund on which we have not carried out a feasibility study and done due diligence, and we think it is not contributing to the four pillars of jobs, regional balance, import substitution, and the required quality of products that we have.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members in the VIP gallery, we have Hon. Arthur Kazoora, Member of Parliament elect for Ruhinda South County. You are most welcome, and thank you so much for coming to observe the proceedings.

Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology and National Guidance (ICT).

1.31

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE (Dr Chris Byaromunsi): I am not the Prime Minister. Hon. Namugga complained that I should speak last. I can still come last to answer your questions if you raise them.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I also add my voice to thank the committee for both the majority report and the report presented

by Hon. Ssemujju, which was not a minority report but just a critique of the budget.

If Parliament were an educational institution, maybe we would give him an honorary PhD in criticising the Budget because it appears he writes his report even before the Budget is presented in the House. I want to make a few comments.

One, countries all over the world borrow. It is not only specific to Uganda that we borrow. I invite you to read. Hon. Ssemujju usually presents us as if we do not read. But we all read. Just check, you can Google. Check the debt-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio for various countries and you see how they stand.

For instance, Kenya is at 68 per cent. Look at India, 80 per cent, China, 96 per cent, Canada, 112 per cent and Uganda, at 50.9 per cent.

The key question that has to be asked is, when we borrow, what does the money do? Yes. But also, another important point is that when you borrow, you must pay back. Therefore, when the Government budgets for paying back the loans, which we have borrowed, it is perfectly in order. I am sure if we were budgeting for zero payback, you would again be criticising the Government that we borrow, and we do not want to pay back. Therefore, the question of borrowing is not a big issue because everywhere in the world, countries borrow.

Now, how would you measure whether the money that we borrow is put to good use? Yes, you can pick some anecdotes and give some isolated cases. You are right that, as Parliament, we must have a keen eye and ensure that whatever money we borrow and we pass must be put to good use. That is a very important point.

I wanted to comment on the record of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) in terms of its performance. We look at the monies, which we borrow and pass to check whether the quality of life is improving in Uganda, because we are all here to serve Ugandans and to ensure that the quality of life improves.

You can measure this in two ways.

- (i) Through the naked eye examination. You look at the country; 20 or 30 years ago, is Uganda looking the same, or is it worse, or has it improved?

I am sure that Hon. Ssemujju may be shy about saying it, but even he knows that things have improved in many ways.

- (ii) The other tested method of measuring is through studies, which he likes to quote, like the one he wrongly quoted. Over the years, studies have been carried out. When you look at quality of life indicators - Hon. Ssemujju, please listen - We look at quality of life indicators. Those are the ones that measure whether there is progress or not. In the interest of time, I can quote just a few.

One, life expectancy at birth. That measures the quality of life: if you have a child today, how many years is that child expected to live? When the NRM Government came to power in the late 80s and 90s, this figure, because of HIV and AIDS and other challenges, had dropped to 43 years, which was very low.

However, from the studies you are quoting, this has now improved to 68 years in a record of 30 to 40 years. It is phenomenal. You can check. I know you are very scholarly. Check all over the world how many countries have been able to increase life expectancy at birth by those units in a small period of time.

You can look at mortality rates, people who die of preventable causes. Look at the infant mortality rate, which is a measure of how many infants are born alive but do not live to celebrate their first birthday.

In the early 90s, this figure was at 122 deaths per 1,000 live births. This means that out of 1,000 infants who are born alive, 122 would die before one year. This figure has now dropped to 28. You can check. These are documented.

Look at maternal mortality. Maternal mortality measures women who die as a result of pregnancy or childbirth-related complications. This figure, when the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Government came to power, was around 700. We measure it in terms of the deaths per 100,000 live births. It was about 700.

When we started measuring it in 1995, this figure had come to 506. Over the years, it has dropped to 506, 505, 435, there was a slight increase to 438, and now it is at 189 - *(Applause)* - you can compare with other countries.

There are many measures. Poverty. Let me just single out two. One is the percentage of Ugandans who are below the poverty line. The poverty line is defined by World Bank measures. In 1995, this figure was about 56 per cent. This has come down to 20.3 per cent today.

On the families which are in subsistence livelihood, the year before last year's census put the figure at 68 per cent. This has now come to 33 per cent - *(Interruption)*

THE SPEAKER: There is a point of order.

MS AOL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon. Chris was my Chairperson of the Committee on Health. We even visited an area where we got security personnel handling a baby. Hon. Ssemujju brought out very clearly, in the report, the issue of limited human resources in almost all the facilities. This makes it very difficult for us who call ourselves servant leaders to monitor because you see the challenges very clearly.

Is it in order for an honourable minister to stand and defend what is completely not right, instead of being very appreciative of what has been brought out to let our people also access better services? I thought that in a report presented by Hon. Ssemujju, he brought out the challenges very clearly.

Why can't you focus on the challenges instead of going on to say, "Yes, we're now okay?" If you are okay in your district, in the Acholi Sub-region, where we have a percentage of the poverty ratio at 63 per cent, we are not alright.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I need to be corrected. Hon. Chris was only providing statistics. He did not defend anything regarding human resources.

It is a fact that we need medical personnel in all hospitals. We need to do it in a phased way. Even Mulago Hospital here needs medics. At the same time, we have been debating this Bill for six months. Hon. Rose.

MS OBIGAH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is indeed true that this House has been debating the budget. We have debated it fully at the sectoral committee level and further, on the Floor of Parliament. All the issues were referred to the Budget Committee for harmonisation and consolidation.

Now that we have received the consolidated report from the Budget Committee, I beg to move that we get to supply the figures – (*Interjections*) - this is not a market. The day you respect yourself, you will be respected. Thank you – (*Interjections*)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members - Hon. Gorreth, why are you quarrelling? Let Hon. Chris finish, I give the Leader of the Opposition (LOP), and we go to supply – Hon. Gorret, come and chair this sitting.

DR BARYOMUNSI: The Rules say you should not quarrel with the Speaker - thank you, Madam Speaker. When my sister rose to give a point of order, I thought she was going to challenge what I was saying.

I appreciated Hon. Ssemujju for reminding us that we have a cardinal responsibility as Members of Parliament to scrutinise and ensure that the money which we pass is put to the right use. I was just saying that an impression should not be created that, under the NRM leadership, the money we have borrowed and

appropriated by this House cannot be shown for what has been done. I was just giving you how scientifically and technically we measure whether there is progress or not. I challenge anybody to countermand the figures I have given to this Parliament because these are on record.

However, I agree that we should be critical. Even the figures I have given do not show that we have reached perfection and that we are at zero. There has been improvement, but there is work to do. Therefore, you should appreciate that.

Lastly, I think we should appreciate that the State House is a Government department. The President's Office is a Government department. They should not be presented as if it is President Yoweri Museveni's house or home or the office of an individual. It is not true to say -

THE SPEAKER: The money that goes to the State House is used, like security, all those utilities, and feeding everybody who goes there. That is what happens.

DR BARYOMUNSI: The public is listening to this debate and we should not mislead them. When, for instance, State House budgets for maybe clothing or curtains, it is not for the President Museveni's home in Rwakitura. It is the State House and the State Lodges spread all over the country.

THE SPEAKER: If we are talking about the State House, why are we quiet about the money coming into Parliament for cars?

DR BARYOMUNSI: Absolutely. I just made that comment to remind the Hon. Ssemujju. I know he has *Museveniphobia* and he cannot present without criticising the President. We must appreciate that the State House, the President's office and all these offices are Government departments, which must be funded.

However, it is true that we must keep a critical eye on how the resources are spent wherever we have sent the money. I support the majority

report and request that Parliament approve it. Just take note of the minority report, but just leave it there -(*Laughter*)- Thank you.

1.46

MR PATRICK OSHABE (NUP, Kassandra County North, Kassandra): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Whereas I appreciate-

THE SPEAKER: One thing is, I respect all my Members of Parliament, but when you show me that you do not respect others, it becomes a problem.

MR OSHABE: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I am a member of the Public Accounts Committee of this House and among the things we reviewed that are very painful is the human resource in regional referral hospitals and public universities. The following financial year, they needed only Shs 85 billion. I know the President refused to let us touch his budget in one way or another, but I pray to this House, Madam Speaker, that if Shs 50 billion can be moved from one line - I do not know if Hon. Musasizi can tell us - so that these regional referral hospitals that handle our people can have the staff to help them serve the community.

The public universities, where our children go. Madam Speaker, at 23 per cent, they can never serve our people.

Madam Speaker, also the issue of the national curriculum. There is no way we are going to sit here and pass this budget as it is when these critical matters are not catered for. I, therefore, move a motion that this House considers, as we go to supply, moving at least Shs 50 billion to the regional referral hospitals and 50 billion to public universities, and Shs 6 billion required, Madam Speaker-

THE SPEAKER: No, tell me from where it should be moved.

MR OSHABE: Madam Speaker, we are going to supply, and there are so many budget lines, which we can look at. If we are honest with ourselves, even Hon. Musasizi can advise that the money can be moved to save the situation.

THE SPEAKER: Can we agree that we move that Shs 50 billion from the cars for Members of Parliament?

MR OSHABE: Whatever line, Madam Speaker, Parliament of Uganda has many lines if it is the best option.

THE SPEAKER: I am speaking of the cars for Members of Parliament. Anyway, the budget is here. Hon. Musasizi has a window of opportunity to solve those issues. It is in our interest that we have doctors. I even received a call from Dr Byanyima, and she needs Shs 9 billion. Hon. Musasizi, please let us know if you can have a window where we can address that even outside this budget. Then the curriculum. There are some crucial issues that you must consider in your 3 per cent.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, a budget is a medium-term expenditure framework of Government. What I am seeking today is going to take us for the next 12 months - from 01 July 2026 to 30 June 2027. What can be accommodated outside what I have presented now is where the question which one can ask is, if this expenditure is not incurred, is there anyone going to die? If the answer is yes, then we have a window.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Patrick, he has actually answered your question. He has a window because it is an emergency.

MR MUSASIZI: If someone is going to die, then there is a window; but if a university is going to continue teaching, then we can wait for the next 12 months and have a discussion. I am not a populist.

THE SPEAKER: But with the hospital?

MR MUSASIZI: If it is a hospital and patients are going to die, then we can consider it, but I am not going to tell you that, midway, I am going to give salaries to universities. I am not a populist, and I do not speak for cheap popularity.

MR OSHABE: Madam Speaker, we have Atiak Sugar, and if Ugandans do not take sugar from Atiak, nothing will happen. For once, allow us to pick money from Atiak Sugar and recruit health workers. There are so many projects the minority report has highlighted which we can do without, Hon. Musasizi, and instead provide health workers, provide lecturers for our universities, and provide money for the national curriculum. Please allow us to move that money.

1.52

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH (PRIMARY HEALTH CARE) (Ms Margret Muhanga): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. What I wanted to raise is actually a matter of a monkey asking the trees to be cut down, and in this case, cutting down on the money for MPs travels abroad and using it to pay doctors. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I want to respond to my friend, Hon. Oshabe, who decided to leave us and join the other side with all his brains. Madam Speaker, what Hon. Oshabe is proposing is that he would like us to eat seeds because if you say, cut Atiak Sugar, even when it does not exist in these numbers, but I want to use it as a principle.

Atiak Sugar is an investment that is intended to generate returns to this economy in terms of taxes, jobs, value addition, and improved exports, to mention but a few. Out of this intervention, we get the resources that we use to pay salaries for MPs, pay salaries for teachers, and meet all Government obligations.

Now you are suggesting that we stop investing in this economy and first pay salaries, are you going to sustain this expenditure? As if you are saying- assuming you are a potato grower in Rubanda - we are the leading Irish potato producers in this country, it is as if you are saying that we stop producing seed, sell only what we have, eat what we have, and then go back home and sit.

Hon. Oshabe, I want you to think strategically. I want you to think beyond what you see today, and see the economy of today and the economy of tomorrow. *(Mr Oshabe rose)*

1.55

MR EDSON RUGUMAYO (NRM, Youth Representative, Western): Thank you, Madam Speaker for the opportunity. In the UK, there is some semblance of honour. Recently, there is a gentleman called Tim Davie who was a General Manager of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). He resigned from his job simply because of a Panorama documentary that he presented, which construed some systemic bias. He left office this month, and it is because there is some honour in the United Kingdom.

Madam Speaker, in Uganda, there is no honour. That is why an honourable Member of Parliament can stand here in this Parliament and construe sentences that constitute systemic bias. We just simplify it and say, it is unparliamentary, and yet otherwise outside, this would even call for legal action. We simplify them and just say they are unparliamentary.

I joined this Parliament five years ago, and I have sat here every time we discuss the budget. I listen to both the majority and minority reports. Sometimes, the minority report sounds like a script of court jesters. Court jesters were professional people who were always hired to write scripts about kings and royal people who were caught in absurdities and embarrassments. That is what most times the minority reports have looked like.

I can point out some things. For example, the minority report presents what the President has always called public poverty, called *Nyeko*. The jealousy that we all have is that we should all remain poor.

The report raises questions that why should we pay Shs 11 trillion to staff or public servants? The same team from the opposition comes here and says hospitals across the country are understaffed. Basically, in principle, you are

questioning why the Government is paying the salaries of 400,000 public servants, yet the same people ask that why do we have understaffed hospitals.

Full of contradiction, Madam Speaker. That is agreeable that on the fundamental level, we have the public, and we want to accept public poverty.

Another thing that comes out of that public poverty, is the spirit of Government in funding Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) and other entities of Government and other businesses has always been good to spur economic growth. To invest in those avenues that private players cannot go into. The spirit has always been good.

Woe unto those who benefit from our benevolence as Ugandan taxpayers and remain unscrupulous, but the spirit of the Government has always been good. I urge us to continue in the same way that we do not eat the seed, like the honourable minister has been saying that we should plant and only harvest the revenues after.

If I continue in this angle - I will follow the invitation of my senior colleague, Hon. Ssemujju, whom I respect and have over time emulated. I belong to his constituency because I reside there.

There are good notes in this budget. This budget is going to fund the Standard Gauge Railway. We must all appreciate. This House should appreciate that we are going to allocate Shs 496 billion going to the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027 and all other opportunities that come with it, deviating from our norm.

You have seen the Members here arguing about universities. This budget is going to provide at least Shs 200 billion that is going to develop the infrastructure of universities and fund research, which is deviating from the norm. The Government of Uganda is now funding research. This, we should give credit. There are some good things here.

However, it would also be wrong for me not to mention some lessons we must learn from the criticism, which I earlier called a script of court jesters, from Hon. Ssemujju. There are some things we need to learn. For example, our people are interested in the demonstration of deliverables. If we presented it very well and said how many kilometres of roads are we going to cover on the Shs 1.38 trillion? It would be easy, maybe for our colleague to do that.

As such, how many health centres are we going to give out? Maybe, it would be best if our colleagues would appreciate the good spirit that the Government has in funding and pushing forward development.

I beg to submit. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Mudimi.

2.1

MR MUDIMI WAMAKUYU (NRM, Elgon County, Bulambuli): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank the Members of Parliament for going through this process. I am referring to Section 26 of the Public Finance and Management Act, (PFMA) Cap 171. Responses to natural disasters are to be funded from the Contingency Fund.

I listened to the main report and it indicated that the Contingency Fund had not used much of the money. The money for contingencies is for disasters. Some of us who come from disaster areas have been having issues. Normally, when a disaster occurs, it focuses largely on food and a few non-food items, and not the environment.

In this respect, Section 26(3), states that, "Natural disaster means an event that causes severe human suffering or material or economic or environmental damage, and which results in or is likely to result in the loss of essential services required to meet basic human needs and which cannot be responded with resources available from annual budget or sources of fund and create a compelling need for funding that is in public interest".

We normally report these incidents. Once a disaster occurs and you recall two years ago, we had severe disasters in Bugisu Sub region and part of Sebei. The infrastructure is completely damaged. When we asked for part of this money, they said no, money is meant for food and a few food items. We do not have roads or bridges up there. The law here talks about providing money under the same conditions. I implore the honourable Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development to use the same window in the future to help us finance some of these interventions. Otherwise, the region is in dire need. You see, the reason some of us survived to the next Parliament was largely because of that. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, Hon. Aseera is asking that originally, there was - can you ask?

2.04

MR STEPHEN ASEERA (Independent, Buhaguzi East County, Kikuube): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. Mine is about Bunyoro University. Originally, we had tabled in Shs 100 billion for Bunyoro University, which was reduced to Shs 87 billion in the Budget Framework Paper. I thank the Budget Committee for the elaborate report. From Shs 87 billion, it has now been reduced to Shs 12.5 billion.

We were given an offer of 100 acres free of charge, and I thank Dr Canon Wamani Henry, who offered us free land. Land with mature pine trees. Meaning that this university is not starting from scratch. I also thank the taskforce for the university. They have laboured so much to put in place all the requirements. The 11 policies are in place and the academic programmes are now 16, which are ready to kick-start the university. The transfer of the land title has been done. The architectural and structural drawings were fully done and approved by Kikuube District Local Government in the presence and under the leadership of our departed LCV Chairman, Mr Peter Banura (RIP).

Madam Speaker, I would request that we receive some consideration from the honourable

Minister of Finance to ensure that we start with at least three blocks, which will help us begin the university with about four disciplines. The people down there are basically waiting to see the university start.

I would like to thank my colleague, Hon. Asinansi Nyakato, and my other colleagues who have been talking about this. I request that we be considered because we are coming up with a green urban university. This is something we need to appreciate. Thank you so much, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Aseera, this issue came up when we were discussing the ministerial policy statements, but no one from Bunyoro was in the House to defend it, apart from me. It was stated that there was Shs 12.5 billion originally put up for ground-breaking, which has been done; the minister is here.

2.08

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Madam Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank you and all honourable colleagues, specifically the Bunyoro Parliamentary Group. This is indeed a Government commitment to construct a university in Bunyoro. We indeed appointed a Board. It is true they are on course working, as my colleague has just mentioned. They want additional money, but as of now, the allocation in the next year's budget is what is available.

I urge my colleagues to be patient because we will continue to work together to ensure we build that university, as per the pledge which was made by the President. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, it was a pledge, and I can assure you that it will be completed, since it has been started. Yes, honourable LOP?

2.09

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Madam Speaker, I normally like to give feedback, and as our leader, I am sure you do not mind receiving feedback. So,

allow me to first register a complaint to you, our leader.

Yesterday, you were at a birthday party; I saw news outlets report that you made an interesting remark. You said that in the 11th Parliament, there is no Opposition because you have swallowed it, and for the 12th Parliament, you said you are going to wallop it.

THE SPEAKER: That was already corrected before you came.

MR SSENYONYI: Madam Speaker, allow me to raise my complaint because I came here - I do not know what was said at that point. I found that problematic because we are here statutorily. That is why we have an entire Shadow Cabinet.

Madam Speaker, the problem with remarks such as those - we are now debating the Budget. Cabinet ministers and a couple of colleagues on the other side have been given room to speak.

My colleagues on the Opposition side have been struggling, but you are not giving them a chance to speak. The public out there might misconstrue this to mean that maybe this is what the Speaker meant by "I will swallow this Opposition." How? By not giving them room to air their views?

We need to be careful how we say things, but look, we are also here discussing the Budget together; this budget concerns all of us. It is not enough when the Leader of the Opposition speaks. These people also represent constituencies. The way we are allocating time to all Cabinet ministers and honourable colleagues in the NRM to air out their views on the Budget should happen for Opposition MPs.

At the end of the day, the majority will have their way, but the minority needs to have their say. I should give you that feedback, our leader, who is meant to be a neutral arbiter in these matters. Let me share my quick thoughts on the Budget as we progress.

Madam Speaker, this Lubowa Specialised Hospital has become a bottomless pit. We need

to stop, Ministry of Finance. We are throwing money into this bottomless pit. We were told that this project is the panacea to the idea of Ugandans going out of the country - medical tourism. You told us it would be completed in 2021; that was the first date. It did not happen. We were told 2022, then it was moved to 2024.

Last year in April, the Attorney-General of Uganda, Hon. Kiryowa Kiwanuka, said that Lubowa Specialised Hospital was going to be ready to kick off operations in June 2026. We are at the tail end of April 2026. June is around the corner. Between you and me, Lubowa Hospital is not going to be ready.

The Rt Hon. Speaker spoke about a structure; that when you move by the roadside, there is a structure. Yes, when we made a lot of noise, a structure came up, but that shell structure - brick and mortar - does not account for the nearly a trillion shillings that we have put in.

Madam Speaker, I made a statement here after trying to access that place, and was denied access. Honourable colleagues here are all talking about hospitals in their areas, medical facilities, and health centres IV. I asked, "Why don't we channel that money we are throwing at Lubowa Specialised Hospital to the health centres IV and referral hospitals in the different parts of the country? Why? It is because those are already in existence. They only need to be beefed up to deal with drug stock-outs and equipment issues. For this specialised hospital, we can wait until 10 or whatever years from today; it is not going to happen. We keep throwing money therein, but the completion dates keep being moved forward. Why are we doing this?"

Madam Speaker, together with colleagues on the Shadow Cabinet, we visited -

THE SPEAKER: What is the current completion date given?

MR SSENYONYI: But we have never gotten a report. I have been on this Floor numerous times asking for that. Madam Speaker, you promised twice so far that you would go with us to check; you have not.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you need to give us that information when you have it.

2.13

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH (PRIMARY HEALTHCARE) (Ms Margaret Muhanga): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will bring a comprehensive report, but right now, the hospital is at 75 per cent completion. I would also like to give information that the hospital is not the building. COVID-19 actually did halt operations there.

However, the hospital has equipment and a lot of other infrastructure put in place; it is not just the building. I was there last year. They are already training people to start working. The training rooms and beds are there; the wards are already up and running, but the issue is having all this equipment at once.

Remember, during the COVID-19 pandemic, manufacturers abroad were not working, and most of these things were being imported. So, we had a lot of time off work. I can tell you right now that I do not think we will end this year without that hospital opening. It will be up and running because most of the infrastructure and equipment are in place, and the human resource is available.

THE SPEAKER: You need to get a timeline and give it to the House.

MS MUHANGA: I will do that in less than two weeks, Madam Speaker.

MR SSENYONYI: Madam Speaker, the Minister of State for Health has said on the *Hansard* that the wards are up and running. I put it to you, honourable minister, that you are telling us a lie. Which people have been treated at that hospital? When you say “the wards are up and running,” what is a hospital ward? It means patients walk in and are treated. How many have been treated so far?

That is the challenge we have. She is giving us an update casually, yet we are supposed to be appropriating money. Why doesn't the Government want to be accountable?

Every year, you come here for money for Lubowa hospital, but you never give us an update. It is only when we insist that the Minister of State will rise and give some kind of casual update. Always give an update, so that we can believe whether this thing here is viable or not. But every year, you ask for more money. Each time you ask for money, we ask for an update and accountability, but you do not provide it, but you keep wanting more money every fiscal year. This is wrong -

THE SPEAKER: Where is Hon. Dr Ayume?

MR SSENYONYI: Let me proceed with my other concerns. I hope that the Government - because she is saying that she is going to bring a comprehensive report in two weeks - we are passing the budget today. So, against what do you want us to give you money for Lubowa hospital when we do not know what is happening there? We, who passed that budget, have gone severally and denied access to that place.

The Minister of Health, at one time, went to that facility, but she was denied access. The Minister of Health, who is your boss, was denied access, yet she is the one supposed to be supervising this project. You denied the Minister of Health and Members of Parliament who appropriate money, access, then why do you keep coming back for money? We need to stop playing around with taxpayers' money. As a person raising this issue, I reject that casual update from the minister.

We want a comprehensive accountability report about Lubowa Hospital because nearly a trillion shillings has been spent on it. Can that one trillion shillings be accounted for properly? Not saying there is a structure up and running. All of us have been involved in some kind of construction; brick and mortar are easy to put up. You brought the comprehensive report before asking for more money. We cannot shoot first and aim later. You first aim, and then shoot.

Hon. Henry Musasizi Ariganyira, I went, with colleagues, to visit a couple of these private companies that keep being given free taxpayer

money, and I, each time, brought a report to Parliament. Roko, Shs 263 billion so far. We understand they want more money. Roko, for the last donkey years, has been constructing the parliamentary chambers. Maybe it is also time that we get an update on what is happening to the parliamentary chambers? This is because the date has kept on shifting. The reason I am concerned about that is that this Parliament spends billions of shillings renting office space to MPs and staff at private facilities, Kingdom Kampala and so on. Why are we spending billions of taxpayer money to rent office space yet somebody was paid to build new chambers for Parliament? Why?

In addition to that, Roko was given more free money, Shs 263 billion. This was free money, apparently, to bail them out of the debts they were struggling with -

THE SPEAKER: On the issue of the parliamentary building, when we came in, we opted to terminate the contract with Roko because the work was not moving, and when that happened, Roko had already taken more money, so if we terminated the contract, we would be the ones at a loss. Therefore, what we agreed on, as a Commission with finance, was that we would not pay Roko. The money is being paid directly to the suppliers.

As we speak today, there was a change of design because of the bomb blast which took place here; we said we needed bomb blast-resistant glass. When that change of design came in, finance and the Commission agreed to pay directly to the suppliers. As we are here, they are roofing and putting the glass.

MR SSENYONYI: Madam Speaker, maybe that is all the updates that I am talking about because it is important that this Parliament and the public get to know how the money is being spent. I had not joined Parliament when I was following the story of the new parliamentary chambers. I was actually a journalist and so on, and the public also keeps following, and so, they are waiting with bated breath, when this structure is going to be completed?

Therefore, it is important that these updates get to happen so that as we appropriate money, we know what is happening. We went with colleagues -

THE SPEAKER: Actually, the construction of that building started when Hon. Peter Ogwang was a Commissioner. They are the ones who gave out that contract. We inherited the contract. Isn't it so?

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, first of all, I think we need to be thanked for coming up with the new chambers of Parliament -

THE SPEAKER: Before you go ahead, when you say that it will end the accommodation problem, that place does not have any accommodation. No offices - I am telling you. It only has two offices and committee rooms.

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, I am laughing with the Leader of Opposition on a question on which I want to say this. I want to confirm that the plan for us to have a new Chamber was made by the Parliamentary Commission(PC). In the original plan - of course, it is about nine years since I left the Parliamentary Commission as a Commissioner, but the original plan, to be honest, had a section of offices, committee rooms, a gym, and an executive cafeteria for Members of Parliament. I want to say that it is important, as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Commission, to take time -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ogwang Peter, my little brother.

MR OGWANG: Yes, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: You gave the contractor the design. That place has only two offices and committee rooms and a cafeteria.

MR OGWANG: Madam Speaker, these are matters, which we can still go back to the records because the Parliamentary Commission and Clerk's office have these records. These are not matters we are going to conclude in the House but I want to confirm that if the information I

am giving is out of context - but I remember I was the Chairperson of Finance and Planning in the Parliamentary Commission, but I also want to say that I implore your office to get back and look at the original design and plan of the new Chambers of the Parliamentary Commission.

THE SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition, please conclude.

MR SSENKYONYI: It looks like I have thrown a spanner in the works, but here we are, and that is why it is important for updates, because the original people who issued out the plan and contract are saying offices were catered for. Now, we are told offices are not catered for. It is confusing to us and to the public, yet we must not be in confusion because we are the ones appropriating the money. The money being appropriated is the taxpayers' money. Therefore, neither the taxpayer nor we should be in confusion; we must be aware.

Colleagues and I went to Inspire Africa Coffee Factory, where we have spent over Shs 180 billion. This is a private facility getting free taxpayers' money. I came with a report about Dei BioPharma, Shs 724 billion, Atiak Sugar factory, Shs 668 billion, and no sugar is being produced out of there, but we understand they want more money. Dei BioPharma, same story.

The Government told us, in response to the reports that I brought to colleagues, that for some of these companies, we are buying a stake. We asked the Government, "where are the shareholding certificates?" They did not have them. We asked for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) that had been signed. They were non-existent. How do you play around with money that is not yours like that? It is forgivable if it is your personal project and you are wasting money like that. You say you are buying a stake in a company, but you have not done valuation – valuation reports were not availed – you do not know the weight and the worth of that company. What stake are you purchasing?

The Attorney-General stood on this microphone and said: "We are working on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). We are going table them." That was about two years ago. The reports have never been tabled, but we keep coming back, asking for more money. This is not right.

That is why people always speculate and ask: "Who really owns these companies – Inspire Africa Coffee, Dei Biopharma, Atiak and Roko?" The way there is no prudence in how money is sent to those companies! Who owns them? Why do you leave room for all that speculation?

When Parliament was considering the Shs 723 billion for Dei Biopharma, the Government, again, told us thus: "We are buying a stake." We asked, but there were no valuation reports and an MoU. Madam Speaker, your guidance was – which I disagreed with, on record – that "let us pass the money, but the ministry for finance should not release that money to Dei Biopharma until they have done valuation and until there is an MoU".

I remember telling you, Madam Speaker, that once we passed that money, as Parliament, we become *functus officio*. You are not going to roughshod over ministry for finance to tell them "now, do not release the money", yet you have already given them an okay. For us, our role stops here. This is where our stopgap measure is. I said that we should wait because once we passed, we would not be able to follow up. As sure as day follows night, they gave them the money. They have not yet brought to this Parliament the valuation report, an MoU or shareholding certificate.

This Government is operating in contempt of this House. I do not know why. You keep coming back for more money. Why don't you do that due diligence? Honestly, we look shabby to the people out there. You are giving free money to a private company, saying: "No, it is not free. We are buying shares." Where is the shareholding certificate? It is not there, but every year you want more money for it. Surely?

As I come to a close, there is the issue of our debt burden – maybe tethering it to this, we have been asking: “Where should we find money for hospitals, health centres and so on.” Let us stop giving out this free money to these private entities and what has been given to them should be recovered.

The money given to Inspire Africa, Dei Biopharma, Atiak Sugar, Roko and Lubowa should be recovered so that we then deploy it to the health facilities that are struggling, and to the roads. That way, we shall lessen the borrowing that we keep doing. Hon. Musasizi keeps coming back, saying: “Now, we do not have money. We should borrow for this good project.” Stop this wasteful expenditure.

Finally, Madam Speaker, our debt burden is now over Shs 124 trillion. That is alarming, yet we keep borrowing a lot more. The challenge is that this money, many times, is borrowed and it remains lying on accounts, not utilised, yet the person you borrowed from is already asking you to pay interest. That is why a huge chunk of our budget goes to interest payment.

Whether you are utilising that money or not, for as long as you put pen to paper, the creditor begins to count. You have got to pay interest. You borrow, you are not ready to utilise it, and you are committing the taxpayer to paying heavy interest and all of these different things. That is part of the problem with our debt burden. It is not organised.

Hon. Chris Baryomunsi was juxtaposing our debt burden with that of other countries. The challenge with ours is that it is not orderly. You borrow when you are not ready to utilise it. Much of what is borrowed is stolen – that is, according to the Inspector General of Government. I see some of you are looking at me. It is not me saying that. It is a government employee. Shs 10 trillion is stolen per annum.

For these projects, money is borrowed and put there, but it is stolen, and we seem to be okay with it. We should not be okay with these things.

Therefore, as we consider this budget, we need to be thoughtful of, for example, the taxpayer and wastage. These are low-hanging fruits. When the Government keeps asking: “Now, where do we find money?” These are low-hanging fruits. Do not say that we did not tell you.

THE SPEAKER: Imam?

2.30

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luwero): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was very attentive when the chairperson was presenting the report. And I was challenged by two or three issues that I found difficult to comprehend. One of them is the issue of economic goals. We are all aware that it is economic goals that propel economic growth and development in a country.

The projection made in the report resonates to the fact that our economy is going to grow by 7 per cent. The report is talking about lots of dollars and, for this to happen, it means our people will have money in their pockets. The question is: does this mirror the pockets of our people?

Economic growth and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) should be a mirror to what happens or the standards of living for our people. The reality is that our people are suffering. Of course, I need to thank the minister for stopping this trade order. The GDP that we are talking about here is concentrated among the few people.

They just look at the figures – the total income of the country – and divide it by the total population - people in Katikamu South and Uganda at large are suffering. I would like to welcome the different priorities that are proposed in the budget, including agro mechanisation and the Parish Development Model (PDM). However, the question is: to what effect is that money going to be beneficial to our people and how is it going to lift the socioeconomic issues that are affecting our communities? Of importance is that any budget should make a meaningful contribution to our communities.

The second issue that was also difficult for me to comprehend is the domestic arrears performance – Government payables. We all know that there are a lot of invoices that are supposed to be paid by the Government to local businesses. As we speak, businesses have closed because the Government owes them money.

To my surprise, according to the new budget, I have seen a reduction on Government payables. The allocation is from Shs 1.4 trillion, down to Shs 317 billion. Now, what is going to happen to these people who are owed money? Their businesses are not functioning. We are expecting the economy to grow by 7 per cent, but our people are closing business day after day. I thought those are very pertinent issues that we need to look at, as Members of Parliament.

Lastly, there is the issue of our debt-to-GDP ratio. We are aware of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) report and how they are talking about the vulnerability of our debt level, near the risks and debt distress. We are aware that the biggest portion of this budget is going to be funded by external borrowing and internal borrowing. If we are continuously borrowing money to service debts, for how long are we going to be in this debt trap?

Most importantly, Madam Speaker, is the issue of domestic borrowing. We are borrowing money from the local markets, and that is where our business community is also borrowing money from. If the Government is borrowing from commercial banks and the business community is also borrowing from the same, it means we are going to congest our commercial banks. They are going to be overcrowded.

I wonder if those commercial banks will be willing to borrow to private individuals when the Government is coming to borrow from them. If I am a businessman, owning a bank and I have the Government on one hand and a private individual on the other, I will definitely run to the Government. We need to reduce on this domestic borrowing and look for better financing options.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you - (*Mr Achia rose*) - Committee chairman, I am going to allow you to give a rejoinder. Let us have Adyeeri.

2.35

MS ASINANSI NYAKATO (FDC, Woman Representative, Hoima City): Thank you, Madam Speaker, the chairperson of the committee, the shadow minister, and the Parliament of Uganda, for allocating Shs 12.5 billion for Bunyoro University.

Whereas I appreciate that, I would also like the Minister of Education to let us know when the motion for the establishment of Bunyoro University will be moved. Again, I would like to thank the Parliament for allocating monies for the expansion of Hoima National Referral Hospital, as we prepare for the African Cup of Nations 2027.

However, we have a funding gap in the maternity ward, which was put down in 2019, yet to date, there is nothing on the ground, and the space allocated to it is full of thorny grass and trees. I would like the Government, through the Ministry of Health - the state minister is here – recently, the State House Anti-Corruption Unit came there and attested to the fact that the Government had delayed in re-building the maternity ward.

Last financial year, the Agricultural sector was allocated Shs 1.83 trillion, where 70 per cent of Ugandans earn a livelihood from. This financial year, we have only allocated Shs 2.64 trillion, leaving a funding gap of 24 per cent.

Madam Speaker, just last year, we were here for the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), where the Government of Uganda committed itself to allocate 10 per cent to the agricultural sector, where the majority of Ugandans are self-employed, thereby reducing the burden on the Government to look for employment for our people.

As I finalise, I would like to call upon the Government to always honour its commitments. When you look at Vision 2040, the East African 2027 vision, you realise that we are committing ourselves to allocating at least 10 per cent to the agriculture sector. But when it comes to allocations, we are not making it to even 3 per cent. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson -

MR ACHIA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will just highlight three issues. First of all, I would like to agree with Hon. Ssemujju on a number of issues he mentioned, save for the fact that, Hon. Ssemujju, in presenting what we already discussed, for example, the low staffing levels in universities and hospitals, the way you addressed it was personal.

Otherwise, Madam Speaker, those issues are clear. We have had discussions and seen a trend. The only thing is that when you know where you have come from, you are inclined to appreciate what has happened.

THE SPEAKER: Where you are coming from, where you are, and where you are going.

MR ACHIA: Madam Speaker, I have been in this House since 2006. And I used to be the deputy chairperson of the Budget Committee. There were moments when we did not have money to do anything, and sometime in 2009, inflation went through the roof up to 29 per cent, and the country was in crisis.

So for me, when my friend and neighbour, Hon. Ssemujju, asks me, “Why should a Member of Parliament from Karamoja, the deputy chairperson and his brother Hon. Opolot ask us to clap,” it is precisely for that reason, because I have a bit of history on how far we have come.

To imagine that today, we are projecting a growth of 10.2 per cent, when we used to have negative growth - we used to have poverty eradication action plans here – we were talking about negative growth because there was nothing happening in Uganda, and it was painful. Even Members of Parliament then were paid Shs 2.4 million a month.

These days, we can afford to be given cars worth that amount of money that you guys know. We have come a long way as a country. I did not realise, my brother, that I, as a Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Budget, was making the development plan or a budget for Karamoja, and when you mentioned Karamoja, you kept insisting that “the poverty in your areas - there are no toilets”.

I think this budget should address itself to that and as a country we must address wherever poverty is; whether it is in Acholi, West Nile, Lango, Kampala or Kiteezi, it must not be - it will be uncouth of me, Madam Speaker, to propose a budget here that has 30 per cent of the resources going to Karamoja. I think that would be questionable.

THE SPEAKER: Not personalised.

MR ACHIA: Yes, there has been positive economic growth - and this budget is for all of us. Madam Speaker, a stable shilling is something to celebrate. If you take note of what is happening in the region and the rest of Africa, including bigger countries and economies like South Africa - for Uganda, which does not even have access to the sea, to withstand these external pressures from for example, the Ukraine war, and still maintain a stable shilling, consistently for the last 15 to 20 years means we are doing something right.

This also means more cash inflow is happening in this country. In this very report, we are funding, in the House, not only Hon. Ssemujju, but also our trade deficit - when I read the budget report last year, we had a trade surplus. Our trade surplus was positive. It was even more positive than that of our neighbour, Kenya.

We had never had more money than Kenya in many years. Now we have it. Our trade surplus in the current budget has narrowed by 15.5 per cent. We now get more money than we give out because the deficit has reduced. It has narrowed by 15.5 per cent in this budget. That means more exports of coffee, and many other things, including gold, and my brother knows

what we were discussing about gold yesterday and how we are not getting much in there.

We must speak positively about our reserves as a country. There was a time when we would sit in this House, and our reserves could only cover 1.2 months of imports, and if we did not get any more money, the money in the Bank of Uganda would actually cover - all the - to pay for imports, meaning we would have to pay in dollars in only one month and two weeks.

Now we are talking about our reserves in the value of Shs 5.991 billion, covering nearly five months, to a point that even if we do not get any dollars from outside, we can still be able to pay for anything we are importing, including oil. Somebody denied if we had our money locked in, maybe in New York, we would actually have money in the Bank of Uganda to pay this thing. This is something to be proud of, and as a country, we must be talking about it; we should celebrate.

Yes, there were issues that you raised and asked why we should talk about these other things of - yes, but why shouldn't I celebrate Shs 20 billion for new ambulances or Shs 10 billion for fuel? If you go to page 20 of the report, you will notice that it says that the Government has proposed an additional - (*Interjections*) - I do not know what page it was - (*Interjection*) - it is on page 25.

I said in addition to the proposed annual budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027, the Government has proposed an additional - on top of what is already there in the MTF - Shs 664.38 billion for the completion of roads, beside the Shs 1.2 trillion, they are giving another Shs 664.

The Government has proposed an additional Shs 45 billion for rural electrification. Based on the budget framework paper from this House to the Government, they have come back with more resources to support our recommendations, the one we did here in January and February. They have come with new resources of Shs 100 billion more for medicines in our regional referral hospitals. Why shouldn't we celebrate this?

THE SPEAKER: We should.

MR ACHIA: Beside what was at the base, an additional Shs 100 million is being given for medicines. That means the situation is moving progressively and becoming better. So, as my colleague has said, why wouldn't anyone celebrate that arts teachers - if our voters here -

THE SPEAKER: No, first of all, when there was a demonstration, we were all here making noise, but we are now saying, okay, the teachers have been given money, we should be grateful.

MR ACHIA: Yes, all of us in this House because it means, even my colleagues from this side, have worked so hard because they have been among the stronger voices, especially for the teachers, saying: "This Government is not doing things. Why are you supporting science teachers and not arts teachers?"

Hon. Ssemujju, you have done your good work. You should celebrate that the arts teachers are getting money instead of being disappointed. Arts teachers are going to be provided money to improve their things at a 25 per cent increment. That is quite big - (*Interjections*) - let me get the figure. He is asking how much. That means my colleague has no copy of this report.

THE SPEAKER: You go to the next point. He will look for it when he gets time.

MR ACHIA: Arts teachers will get Shs 1.16 trillion. That is awesome for the teachers, for science teachers and including other areas. It is something to celebrate, Madam Speaker.

As a member and the deputy chairperson of this committee with colleagues, we celebrate when we see Shs 2.264 trillion given to the component of agro-industrialisation. There is money for the National Bureau of Standards, which is at the centre of industrialisation. When you give money for certification, inspection, surveillance of fake products, and ensuring that it protects our health, gives us goods in our country, and makes our goods available for export for other people to consume, let us celebrate.

For us, from Northern Uganda, to hear that the Government has listened to us and is saying, "Let us restock -" Please, do not say something else - let us restock for the people in Acholi and Lango to get cows, Shs 100 billion. This is something we were fighting for. It is significant to say that the people of Acholi are going to get Shs 100 billion for restocking. Therefore, we should celebrate.

Yes, growth, revenue - just as all of us run our budgets in our households, I am sure even right now, there is something that we would have wanted to buy, but we cannot afford it because we have to prioritise certain things. This is the reality with the budget. We may not have put our case stronger on certain things, but let us celebrate what we have achieved.

My brother, economic growth, I even do not want to go into it, but you must know the sources of growth. If this growth in Uganda is coming from agriculture, and you want to get some money through that growth, you must participate along the value chain, either by planting those crops, or processing them, or transporting them.

Growth comes through participation. The United Arab Emirates is one of the richest growth, just with one product, oil. However, they have designed a mechanism on how they redistribute that growth. They tax certain people, collect money, and invest in healthcare, better roads, and so on.

Growth is happening. Yes, but we must also start discussing how this growth is produced. What are the growth poles of our economy? Is it tourism? We are talking about tourism, mineral, and so on. How do we participate to benefit from it? How you participate to benefit from the growth is a challenge, but it is happening. Maybe we should question how we are distributing that growth. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As the deputy chairperson with my colleague, Hon. Opolot Isiagi, we celebrate the progress that this Government has made in ensuring that certain things are being addressed, which

were not addressed many years ago. Growth is happening. The country's shilling is stable. More income is coming into the country. This is the image that we should celebrate, while highlighting the problems that Hon. Ssemujju has talked about.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, I put the question that the House approves the proposed Annual Budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Annual Budget, approved.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE FOR
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT VOTES 001 TO
029, 132 TO 135, 137 TO 139, 141 TO 148,
150 TO 159, 163 TO 170

THE CHAIRPERSON: I now propose the question that a total sum of Shs 18,560,353,792,000 be provided for under Votes: 001 to 029, 132 to 135, 137 to 139, 141 to 148, 150 to 159, 163 to 170, Central Government, as Recurrent Expenditure for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 18,560,353,792,000 be provided for, under Votes: 001 to 029, 132 to 139, 137 to 139, 141 to 148, 150 to 159, 163 to 170, Central Government as a Recurrent Expenditure for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, there are some slight corrections on the Vote numbers.

I now propose the question that a total sum of Shs 18,560,353,792,000 be provided for under Votes: 001 to 029, 132 to 135, 137 to 139, 141 to 148, 150 to 159, 163 to 170, 301 to 313, and then Votes 401 to 402 for Central government, as recurrent expenditure for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 18,560,353,792,000 be provided for under Votes 001 to 029, 132 to 135, 137 to 139, 141 to 148, 150 to 159, 163 to 170, 301 to 313, and Votes 401 to 402 for Central Government, as recurrent expenditure for Financial Year 2026/2027.

(Question put and agreed to.)

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE FOR
REFERRAL HOSPITALS VOTES 403 TO
VOTE 422

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Henry, is that okay? I now propose the question that a total sum of Shs 443,287,358,000 be provided for under Vote 403 to 422, for referral hospitals, as a recurrent expenditure for Financial Year 2026/2027.

I now put the question that Shs 443,287,358,000 be provided for under Votes 403 to 422 for referral hospitals as a recurrent expenditure for Financial Year 2026/2027.

(Question put and agreed to.)

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE FOR
FOREIGN MISSIONS, VOTES 501 - 538

THE CHAIRPERSON: I now propose the question that a total sum of Shs 382,731,888,000 be provided for under Votes 501 to 538 for missions abroad, as recurrent expenditure for Financial Year 2026/2027.

I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 382,731,888,000 be provided for under Votes 501 to 538, missions abroad, as a recurrent expenditure for Financial Year 2026/2027.

(Question put and agreed to.)

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, VOTES 601 TO
610, VOTES 701 TO 731, VOTES 801 TO
935

THE CHAIRPERSON: Is that okay?

MR OGWANG: Madam Chairperson, we are in tandem with what you are reading, but I have only one or two areas of concern. While we are looking at - for instance, now we have reached local governments, we are combining and reading the totals.

I am envisaging a situation where, within the totals, the figures can be altered for different local governments at the time of entry into the system, and this can cause us a problem in terms of the final budgeted figures, which go to different districts or areas, which were not approved, since the total remains the same in what we are reading.

Madam Speaker, we are dealing with appropriation here. I know we are trying to move out of looking at the details and only concentrating on the totals.

My view would have been - and I think this has been the precedence before - that we would read the figure of appropriation per district because it is a budget for that district and this is what used to happen. I thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, honourable minister - by the way, the Appropriation Bill that we are going to handle will have this schedule.

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me now help my brother, as an accountant.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable, receive the help.

MR MUSASIZI: These numbers called Votes, every Vote has an allocation. You cannot access this budget unless you refer to a Vote. When you call a Vote, it gives you the figure.

THE CHAIRPERSON: It gives you the figure.

MR MUSASIZI: A vote will give you a figure. And what we are going to do now - after we have passed this schedule, I will remove an Appropriation Bill, which will be passed both in clauses and the schedule, and the schedule

will be this one. Therefore, this annex is going to form part of the law.

THE CHAIRPERSON: This is an annex to the schedule.

MR MUSASIZI: Yes, which is going to be part of the law.

THE CHAIRPERSON: So, do not worry about Ngariam County.

MR MUSASIZI: The system has already captured; it is already in the system.

THE CHAIRPERSON: These figures are already in the system.

Hon. Musasizi, are you okay with the Votes? Honourable Leader of the Opposition, are you okay with the Votes?

I propose the question that a total sum of Uganda Shs 5,706,096,490,000 be provided for under Votes: 601 to 610, 701 to 731, 801 to 935, local governments, as recurrent expenditure for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

I put the question that a total sum of Uganda Shs 5,706,096,490,000 be provided for under Votes 601 to 610, 701 to 731, 801 to 935, local governments, as a recurrent expenditure for the Financial Year 2026 2027.

(Question put and agreed to.)

TOTAL RECCURENT EXPENDITURE
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/2027

THE CHAIRPERSON: I propose the question that a total sum of Shs 25,092,469,527,000 be provided for as total recurrent expenditure for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

I put the question that a total sum of Shs 25,092,469,527,000 be provided for as total recurrent expenditure for the financial year 2026/2027.

(Question put and agreed to.)

DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE FOR
THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/2027,
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, VOTES: 001
TO 023, VOTES 101 TO 120, VOTES 122
TO 129, VOTES 131 TO 139, VOTES 141
TO 148, VOTES 150 TO 151, VOTES 153
TO 156, VOTES 158 TO 159, VOTES 163
TO 164, VOTES 166 TO 170, VOTES 301
TO 313, VOTES 401 TO 402

THE CHAIRPERSON: I propose the question that a total sum of Uganda Shs 21,192,149,837,000 be provided for under Votes: 001 to 023, 101 to 120, 122 to 129, 131 to 139, 141 to 148, 150 to 151, 153 to 156, 158 to 159, 163 to 164, 166 to 170, 301 to 316 and votes 401 to 402 as a Central Government Development Expenditure for Financial Year 2026/2027.

I put the question that a total sum of Shs 21,192,149,837,000 be provided for under Votes: 001 to 023, 101 to 120, 122 to 129, 131 to 139, 141 to 148, 150 to 151, 153 to 156, 158 to 159, 163 to 164, 166 to 170, 301 to 313, and 401 to 402 as Central Government Development Expenditure for Financial Year 2026 2027.

(Question put and agreed to.)

DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE FOR
THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/27,
REFERRAL HOSPITALS, VOTES 403 TO
422

THE CHAIRPERSON: I propose the question that a total sum of Shs 79,039,552,000 be provided for under Votes 403 to 422, referral hospitals as development expenditure for Financial Year 2026/2027.

I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 79,039,552,000 be provided for under Vote 403 to 422 for referral hospitals as development expenditure for Financial Year 2026/2027.

(Question put and agreed to.)

DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE FOR
THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/2027,
MISSIONS ABROAD, VOTES 501 TO 538

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Henry, is that okay? LOP? I now propose the question that the total sum of Shs 59,492,920,000 be provided for under Votes 501 to 538: Missions Abroad, as development expenditure for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 59,492,920,000 be provided for under Votes 501 to 538: Missions Abroad, as development expenditure for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

(Question put and agreed to.)

DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE FOR
THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/2027:
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: VOTES 601 TO
610, VOTES 701 TO 731, VOTES 801 TO
935

THE SPEAKER: I propose the question that a total sum of Shs 740,988,549,000 be provided for under Votes: 601 to 610, 701 to 731, and Votes 801 to 935, Local Governments, as development expenditure for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 740,988,549,000 be provided for under Votes: 601 to 610, 701 to 731, and Votes 801 to 935, Local Governments, as development expenditure for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

(Question put and agreed to.)

TOTAL DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/2027

THE SPEAKER: I propose the question that a total sum of Shs 22,071,670,859,000 be provided for as total development expenditure for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 22,071,670,859,000 be provided for as total development expenditure for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

(Question put and agreed to.)

STATUTORY EXPENDITURE: VOTES 001, 005, 007, 130, VOTES 101 TO 108, 131, 133, 144 AND 145

THE SPEAKER: I propose the question that a total sum of Shs 37,227,602,957,000 be provided for as Statutory Expenditure for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 37,227,602,957,000 be provided for as Statutory Expenditure for Financial Year 2026/2027 for Votes: 001, 005, 007, 130, Votes 101 to 108, Votes 131, 133, 144, and Vote 145.

(Question put and agreed to.)

GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR 2026 2027

THE SPEAKER: I propose the question that a total sum of Shs 84,391, 743,343,000 be provided for as the grand total, that is, recurrent development and statutory expenditures, for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

I put the question that a total sum of Shs 84,391, 743,343,000 be provided for as a grand total of recurrent, development and statutory expenditures, for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

(Question put and agreed to.)

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

3.24

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move a motion for the House to resume and the Committee of Supply reports thereto.

THE CHAIRPERSON: and the Committee of Supply reports thereto on the proposed budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Chairperson, I beg to move a motion that the House do resume

and the Committee of Supply for the budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027 reports thereto.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the House does resume and the Committee of Supply for the proposed Annual Budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027, reports thereto.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, congratulations.

(Question put and agreed to.)

BILLS
SECOND READING

(The House resumed, the Speaker presiding.)

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 2026

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF
SUPPLY

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, you will recall that the Appropriation Bill was read for the first time on 1 April 2026 and referred to the Committee on Budget for consideration. Pursuant to Rule 159 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the Budget Committee considered the Bill and is ready to report. In line with Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I now invite the minister to move a motion to that effect.

3.26

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Budget Appropriation Schedule for Financial Year 2026/2027 amounting to Shs 84,391,743,343 and passed it.

3.30

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion that the Appropriation Bill, 2026, be read for the second time.

THE SPEAKER: 343,000.

MR MUSASIZI: I can repeat for emphasis. Madam Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of Supply for the Budget for Financial Year 2026/2027 has considered the Supply Schedule amounting to Uganda Shs 84,391,743,343,000 and passed it.

THE SPEAKER: Seconded? Okay, it is seconded by Hon. Bahati, Hon. Chris, Hon. Musasizi, Hon. Achia, Hon. Omona, Hon. Ogwang, Hon. Okasaai, Hon. Akello, Hon. Alanyo, Hon. professor, Hon. Walyomu, Hon. Margaret, Hon. Edakasi, Hon. Opolot, Hon. Mudimi, Hon. Patience, Hon. Linda, Hon. Flora, Hon. Stephen, Hon. Sowedi, and Hon. Kateshumbwa, Hon. Gabriel, Hon. Morris, Hon. Rugumayo and Hon. Opolot. Hon. Oulanyah also? Thank you.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF
SUPPLY

3.28

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion that the Report from the Committee of Supply for the Budget Schedule for Financial Year 2026/2027 be adopted.

3.31

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Bill seeks to authorise Government to spend from the Consolidated Fund the sum of Shs 47,164,140,386,000 and to issue out of

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the Report of the Committee of Supply with a total of 84,391,743,343,000 be adopted by this House.

the Petroleum Fund to the Consolidated Fund, a sum of Shs 1,442,635,343,348 only to meet the expenditure for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2027, and to appropriate the supplies granted. Madam Speaker, I submit for your consideration.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. The chairperson is ready to report.

3.33

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON BUDGET (Mr Remigio Achia): Madam Speaker, this is a report of the Committee on Budget on the Appropriation Bill, 2026 -

THE SPEAKER: I beg your pardon? Please report.

MR ACHIA: Madam Speaker, I beg to present the report of the Committee on Budget on the Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2026.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, please do.

MR ACHIA: Before I proceed, Madam Speaker, I want to lay, on the Table, the minutes of the proceedings of the committee and a signed copy of the report.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR ACHIA: This is a two-page report, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker and honourable members, on the 1st day of April 2026, the Appropriation Bill, 2026, was read for the first time and subsequently referred to the Committee on Budget for consideration in accordance with Rule 159(1) and (2) of the Rules of Procedure, the committee considered the Bill and wishes to report as follows.

The committee held consultative meetings and examined the Appropriation Bill to ascertain the consistency and accuracy of the estimates, as indicated in the schedule to the Appropriation Bill, against the resolution by Parliament on the same. Madam Speaker, we have just made that resolution.

The object of the Bill

As stated by the minister, the object of the Bill is to provide for the authorisation of public expenditure out of the Consolidated Fund, a sum of Shs 45,637,710,589,314 (only, to meet the expenditure for the year ending 30 June 2027 and to appropriate the supplies granted.

The legal framework

Article 156 (1) provides thus: *“The heads of expenditure contained in the estimates, other than expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund by this Constitution or any other Act of Parliament, shall be included in a Bill to be known as an Appropriation Bill, which shall be introduced into Parliament to provide for the issue, from the Consolidated Fund, of the sums necessary to meet that expenditure and the appropriation of those sums for the purposes specified in the Bill...”*

Additionally, under Section 13(1) of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171 states thus: *“Parliament shall, by the 31st day of May of each year, consider and approve the annual budget and work plans of Government for the next financial year, the Appropriation Bill and any other Bills that may be necessary to implement the annual budget.”*

Observations of the committee

Madam Speaker, Parliament, on 24 April 2026, considered and approved the estimates of expenditure of the Government for the Financial Year 2026/2027. Subsequently, in accordance with Rule 159(1) of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Budget proceeds as follows.

The committee, therefore, recommends that the figures as allocated per Vote, in the Schedule to the Bill should be replaced with the figures per Vote, as supplied by Parliament and contained in the Resolution of Parliament, dated 24 April 2026, as attached.

In conclusion, the committee recommends that the Appropriation Bill, 2026, be passed into

law, subject to the proposed amendments.
I beg to report.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. This is a direct -

MR ACHIA: Madam Speaker, in this Bill, the committee has an amendment to make to clause 2, which reads: “2. Issue of money out of the Consolidated Fund...” -

THE SPEAKER: We will look at it at the committee stage. The schedule is also going to be amended.

I put the question that the Appropriation Bill, 2026, be read for the second time.

(Question put and agreed to.)

BILLS COMMITTEE STAGE

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 2026

Clause 1

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that clause 1 stands part of the Bill.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 1, agreed to.

Clause 2

MR ACHIA: Clause 2: Issue of money out of the Consolidated Fund - the committee proposes to substitute the entire clause with the following: “2. Issue of money out of the Consolidated Fund: The Treasury may issue out of the Consolidated Fund and apply towards the supply granted to the Government for the service of the year ending on 30 June 2027, the sum of Shs 45,721,505,042,652 only.”

Schedule

The committee proposes to replace the amounts in Column 2 of the Schedule to the Bill with the following amounts supplied in Schedules A and B for the recurrent and development

expenditures, respectively, as attached. I beg to report.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable minister, are you okay with clause 2?

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Chairperson, I agree.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that clause 2 be amended as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3, agreed to.

Clause 4, agreed to.

Clause 5, agreed to.

The Schedule

MR ACHIA: Madam Chairperson, the committee proposes that we replace the amounts in Column 2 of the Schedule to the Bill with the following amounts supplied in Schedules A and B for the recurrent and development expenditures, respectively, as approved by the House earlier on. I beg to propose.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I put the question that the Schedule be amended as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

The schedule, as amended, agreed to.

The Title, agreed to.

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

3.43

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move a motion that the House resumes and the Committee of the whole House reports thereto.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the House resumes and the Committee of the whole House reports thereto.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(The House resumed, the Speaker presiding.)

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE HOUSE

3.43

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

DUTIES) (MR Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of the whole House has considered the Appropriation Bill, 2026 and passed it with amendments.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE HOUSE

3.44

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion that the report from the Committee of the whole House be adopted.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the report of the Committee of the Whole House be adopted by this august House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

BILLS
THIRD READING

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 2026

3.45

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg

to move a motion that the Appropriation Bill, 2026, be read the third time -

THE SPEAKER: Are you moving a motion? You need to “move that the Appropriation Bill...” It is no longer a motion.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the Appropriation Bill, 2026, be read the third time and do pass.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the Appropriation Bill, 2026, be read the third time and do pass.

(Question put and agreed to.)

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED “THE
APPROPRIATION ACT, 2026”

THE SPEAKER: Title settled and the Bill passed. *(Applause)* Congratulations!

3.46

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON,
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET (Mr Remigio**

Achia): Madam Speaker, I am rising to thank you for the guidance you gave us in processing the Budget for this year. In a special way, I would like to thank my chairman, Hon. Opolot Isiagi, for putting time aside to guide the committee, despite the fact that he was not feeling well. Mr Chairman, thank you for that.

I also would like to thank my colleagues, members of the Committee on Budget, and chairpersons of sectoral committees for giving us a lot of time. We have done this in record time, even though a number of our colleagues did not make it back to the House.

Madam Speaker, I would like to report that those Members who lost in the elections were there 24/7, participated in this exercise, and made contributions *-(Applause)-* including my brother, Hon. Ssemujju Nganda. I am grateful for the commitment and patriotism that the Members who participated exhibited in making this a success. Thank you. *(Applause)*

To you, Madam Speaker, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much, honourable members. I would like to thank all the Members. I would like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for giving us his timely alternative ministerial statements. I would like to thank members of the Committee on Budget, Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and all the other sectoral committees.

I also would like to thank the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; you have made us proud; we are very grateful. I must also say I am sorry that I had to use the stick and carrot approach to push you to meet the deadline. Thank you. *(Applause)*

3.48

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I take this opportunity, first of all, to thank you for guiding us through this process, which we started with you in January. It is now coming to the end of April, and we have passed the Budget for the next financial year.

Madam Speaker, I can stand to be corrected if I am wrong, but ever since the Public Finance Management Act came into force and defined the timelines for the Budget, you are the first Speaker to pass the Budget in the month of April. *(Applause)* Today is the 24th of April; we have passed the Budget, one month ahead of time. Thank you so much for being effective. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, the Budget is a process, which takes us nine months and at every stage, there are consultations with the President. I would like to thank the President for his guidance in this process from the start up to now when we have finally considered the Budget.

I would like to thank my colleagues in Cabinet, most especially those who were here today. Madam Speaker, if you realised, our colleagues

came in to debate - when Hon. Ssemujju brought a minority report. I did not labour to come here to explain and give answers. The synergy from my colleagues was enough to respond to the issues by Hon. Ssemujju and I am extremely happy. Thank you so much, colleagues.

I would like to thank the two committees: the Committee on Budget and the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development, for cooperating with the ministry every time we needed their support. I thank them for the sacrifice and for working ahead of time. I have been a chairperson before; I know what it means to work over the weekend in order to produce this work.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the ministry, I appreciate the Committee on Budget under the leadership of Hon. Isiagi and Hon. Remigio Achia, Hon. Amos Kankunda and his vice chairperson, Hon. Moses Aleper, together with their members, for the support they gave this work.

Madam Speaker, I cannot leave this Floor before thanking the team I work with at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. I would like to thank my boss, Hon. Matia Kasaija, for the trust he gave me to lead this process. *(Applause)* It is not only this year, but for the last five years we have been working together at the ministry, and he gave me the trust to lead this process of the Budget in Parliament. I would like to thank him for that, as well as our other colleagues, ministers of state, and in a special way, the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to Treasury and his team, because it is their output that becomes my input to this House. I appreciate them.

I would like to thank this side of the House; the side of Hon. Joel Ssenyonyi, the Leader of the Opposition. Your critique and criticism on many occasions have helped us to improve. *(Applause)* We have managed to move on to Lubowa Hospital because we wanted Hon. Joel to enter and see that work is moving. Indeed, when he goes there, he can tell the country that the Government of NRM is putting up something ideal for the country.

I would like to thank you, Hon. Ssemujju. I think this is the last time we are doing the Budget together. I would like to thank you for the support you have -

THE SPEAKER: Is this the last supper?

MR MUSASIZI: This is the last supper, Madam Speaker, because Hon. Ssemujju is not going to be part of the next Parliament. So, I must thank him for always bringing minority reports, which have not substantially changed the numbers. His minority reports, if you may recall over the years, have not changed the numbers in the Budget, but I would like to thank him for that effort of speaking for only the media consumption, without affecting the final decision of Parliament. Thank you, colleagues.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Henry, and we also thank the Whip for whipping your team, the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury (PSST), plus your team in finance. For the five years we have been here, we have not had a problem with finance. We are grateful for the support. We have worked well. Honourable acting whip while Hon. Obua was away, you did a good job. Shadow minister, we shall talk from out.

3.55

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Madam Speaker, on behalf of the whip and Government, we truly appreciate Members of Parliament for passing this budget.

Madam Speaker, as you know, I was a Minister of State for Planning for six years and went through this budget for six years. For the last five years that we have done budgets, this is the first time we have passed a budget that has been presented by the Government and agreed with all the figures presented by the Government without changing a shilling. We, therefore, appreciate that we have agreed together as Executive and Government. Thank you for all the effort you have put in. Thank you, Hon. Ssemujju, for the minority report and the issues they have raised, and to assure you that some

of the issues will continue to be addressed moving forward. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for your leadership.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, we still have business that is pending, not for today. Today, we are tired. We still have business that is pending, and because the Government Chief Whip has not told me when he is ready, whenever he is ready, we will call the House before we swear-in. I now adjourn the House *sine die*.

(The House rose at 3.57 p.m. and adjourned sine die.)