



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2026



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIFTH SESSION - SPECIAL SITTING - THIRD MEETING

Wednesday, 22 April 2026

Parliament met at 2.00 p.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, we gather here this afternoon, with heavy hearts, as we bid eternal farewell to our distinguished honourable colleague. Sunday, 19 April 2026, will go down in history as a tragic day in which we lost a remarkable legislator, friend, unifier, talented athlete, colleague, and friend to everybody in this Parliament, Hon. Helen Nakimuli.

The pain, grief and sorrow that we have endured individually and collectively remain a permanent wound whose scar will live with us forever. Since the death of Hon. Nakimuli, the public has been sharing some of her iconic works, and it is evident that she has been a very impactful leader in various aspects; notably in politics, community development, advocacy, sports, livelihood, and gender issues. Hon. Nakimuli was an impactful leader.

Honourable members, the meaning of legacy in this context is a long-term consequence of one's service in life. We all aspire to leave a positive legacy like the one Hon. Nakimuli has left. *(Applause)* Given the extent of her legacy, one may imagine that she has been a Member

of Parliament for a long time, yet she has only served one term. Being a friend to all workers in Parliament, right from the sweepers up to all Members of Parliament, both in the Opposition and Government, is what Hon. Nakimuli was.

Honourable members, you may fondly recall the number of victorious trophies that we got in this Parliament in the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) games, which were won by Hon. Nakimuli. *(Applause)*

I request that those trophies be laid on the Table for this Parliament to appreciate the contribution Hon. Nakimuli has made to this House and to East Africa.

My attention was drawn to her community empowerment initiative long before she became a Member of Parliament. The fruit of her transformative leadership is evident in Kalangala District, which she ably represented as a Member of Parliament, the sports fraternity, and the Orthodox community, where she was a faithful believer. It is against this formidable leadership foundation that the deceased had secured an election for the 12th Parliament. Hon. Nakimuli has been a Member of the 11th Parliament, and she is also a Member-elect of the 12th Parliament. Unfortunately, she has not been able to see the 12th Parliament. It is a painful thing considering all the struggles that she went through. We will miss her if we get to the 12th Parliament.

Hon. Nakimuli's legacy teaches us that it is not about how long we live in this world, but how impactful our lives are. You may live longer, but have no impact. However, you can live for

a short time with a great impact like that of Hon. Helen.

I urge all of you to emulate Hon. Nakimuli's inspirational and transformational leadership so that your impact lives longer after you. While Hon. Nakimuli belongs to the National Unity Platform party, which is in the Opposition, she cultivated cordial relationships across the political divide. *(Applause)*

Personally, when I lost my mother-in-law the other weekend, Hon. Nakimuli came and stayed overnight in Buyende District. *(Applause)* She was such a compassionate and down-to-earth lady. When she debated, she did so with evidence. Hon. Nakimuli was not confrontational; she was a calm girl whom everybody admired. Ask yourself how many people admire you. She was admired because of what she was doing.

While we dedicate today's sitting to pay tribute to Hon. Nakimuli's remarkable legacy, I urge you to keep her legacy alive by upholding the values that she stood for. She was a selfless, dedicated, compassionate, transformational and charismatic leader. She believed in unity, togetherness and practiced Ubuntu.

As we send off Hon. Nakimuli, I urge you to pray for ourselves. This is the seventh Member of Parliament that the 11th Parliament has lost. Today, it has happened to Hon. Nakimuli; tomorrow, you do not know who it will happen to. May the Lord safeguard all of us as we serve people on this earth.

We relay our heartfelt condolences to His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the leadership and Members of Parliament, the bereaved family, the people of Kalangala, the Orthodox fraternity, the sports fraternity – especially in Parliament – the National Unity Platform party and the people of Uganda at large for the loss of such a young, energetic and dedicated lady.

Hon. Helen Nakimuli is gone, but her light still shines upon us – and, in a special way, on the people of Kalangala. She is survived by

one daughter, Malanie - where is she? She is there and is in Senior One at Kibuli Secondary School.

One thing we need to tell you is that you must keep your mother's legacy alive. She is gone, but she left you behind. You must keep that name alive. The God we serve is the Father of orphans; He will see you through. As Parliament, we will ensure that we keep in touch with the family.

We have just had a meeting with the parents. We received the post-mortem examination report about the death of Hon. Nakimuli. I have heard stories all over, but the post-mortem report has been handed over to the parents.

We have also had an extensive meeting with the medics – and the Leader of the Opposition was involved. So, all the information is there. I request Members that as we pay tribute, let us pay tribute with dignity. Let us not bring politics or accusations because that is not who Hon. Nakimuli was. Let us give our friend, sister, and colleague a decent send-off. May the good Lord Rest Hon. Nakimuli's soul in perfect peace.

On behalf of Hon. Nakimuli – if there is anybody whom she ever hurt in this world, as she goes to be with the Lord, forgive her.

I would like to recognise the presence of the Vice-President. *(Applause)* I would also like to recognise the presence of the Deputy Speaker. *(Applause)* I also recognise the presence of *Majegere* -*(Laughter)*- the Prime Minister. *(Applause)*

Thank you for coming.

I also have a condolence message from the East African Legislative Assembly, signed by Dr Siranda. We will pass the letter on. We also have a letter from the Democratic Party, signed by Dr Siranda, as the Secretary-General. We also have a condolence message from the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue, also signed by Dr Siranda. Thank you so much.

We also have a message - I think we will continue with the messages as they come.

(Entrance of the late Hon. Helen Nakimuli.)

The Uganda National Anthem

The East African Community Anthem

Laying of Wreaths

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, thank you so much for laying the wreaths to our departed. In the VIP gallery this afternoon, we have the immediate family members of the late Hon. Helen Nakimuli.

We have Fr Christopher Walusimbi, who is the dad. Father, you are most welcome. We have Ms Irene Nampala, the sister.

You are welcome. We also have Mr Nicholas Ntege, Mr Photius Ssekabira, both brothers of the late, and Ms Melanie Namirimu, the daughter of the late. They are here to observe the proceedings.

In the VIP gallery this afternoon, we have the following members of Parliament-elect, who are here to support:

1. Hon. Bernadette Chandia Kodili, from Moyo District;
2. Hon. Esther Acom from Serere District;
3. Hon. Lydia Mutende Wanyoto;
4. Hon. Peace Tibyaze from Jinja District;
5. Hon. Betty Nakisita Mpongo from Namutumba District;
6. Hon. Ismail Kasule from Hoima West Division;
7. Hon. Topista Acamfua, Zombo District;
8. Hon. Sarah Itungo Masereka from Kasese District;
9. Hon. Annet Birungi, Workers' Representative;
10. Hon. Harriet Ntabazi of Bwamba County;
11. Hon. Arthur Atuhairwe Kazoora from Ruhinda South County;
12. Hon. Sylvia Katooko Damba from Kibuku District; and
13. Hon. Adrine Katusiime from Sheema District.

They are here to witness today's proceedings in paying tribute to the late Hon. Helen Nakimuli, and they are all most welcome.

We also have the Members of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA). We have Hon. Dr Gerald Siranda Blacks and Hon. Veronica Kadogo. We will continue to introduce you as we receive notifications.

I also want to - we have members from the National Unity Platform (NUP) in the VIP gallery. We have Dr Lina Zedriga, acting party president and Ms Jackline Tumushabe, Deputy Party President. We also have Mr Davis Lewis Rubongoya, Ms Katana Benjamin, Ms Sarah Muwonge, Mr Buwembo Habib, Ms Nabatanzi Faridah, Mr Rover Alex and Ms Nalukwago Judith. They are here to follow the proceedings.

Also in the public gallery, we have members of the Uganda Volleyball Federation led by the federation president, Mr Sadik Nasiwu Zaid. They are in a delegation, and they are many.

We also have students from Kibuli Secondary School, where the girl is studying. You are most welcome. Thank you so much for coming.

I have condolence messages here. I have also seen Hon. Rose Akol; she is there. Thank you so much. I have a condolence message from His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and attached to it is Shs 20,000,000.

We have a contribution of Shs 10,000,000 from the Buganda Parliamentary Caucus. Allow me to hand over the monies to Hon. Kirumira Hassan so that he will be accountable.

I would like to request that the contributions that we are making go towards the support of the child. The Parliament of Uganda will take the responsibility of all the burial expenses, and I am saying 'all'.

I have a contribution from Hon. Anita Annet Among, "AAA", of Shs 10 million. I have a contribution of Shs 5,000,000 from the Rt Hon. Thomas Tayebwa.

I also have a contribution of Shs 1,000,000 from the Government Chief Whip. It was sent to Hon. Ssekabira, who, in turn, gave the money to Hon. Kirumira.

I also have a condolence letter from the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Orthodox church, sent to the Speaker, and I will still give it to Hon. Kirumira.

We also have a condolence message from Kibuli Secondary School. Allow me to read this one. It is addressed to the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda. The reference is Namirimu Melanie Suubi - Senior One, and it reads: *“We express our heartfelt condolences to the Parliament of Uganda for the loss of the Member of Parliament and mother of our student, Melanie Suubi, Senior One, Hon. Helen Nakimuli.*

Namirimu Melanie Suubi is a student in our school in senior one. School name, Kibuli Secondary School, and her account number is...” They have put the account number. So, they are indirectly saying that here is your child.

I have a condolence message from the Parliamentary SACCO. I know we are all friends with the Hon. Nakimuli, aren't we? I would like to thank you for turning up in big numbers; the House is full.

I would like to thank you for loving Hon. Nakimuli. Hon. Nakimuli has left us with a flower. Hon. Nakimuli is not dead; Hon. Nakimuli has left a daughter behind.

On receipt of that letter, we thought twice, I, together with my family, decided that under our school, to pay the school fees up to Senior four. We have paid the fees, and here is the receipt. The money was paid in by Hon. Kirumira himself, up to Senior four. This was done under the Bukedea Comprehensive School and the Anita and Magogo Foundation. *(Applause)*

Honourable members, a problem with one of us is a problem for all of us. Today it is happening to Hon. Helen, tomorrow it could happen to

any of us. Any reaction to my communication? There is no reaction.

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF
PARLIAMENT TO PAY TRIBUTE TO
THE LATE HON. HELEN NAKIMULI,
FORMER WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE,
KALANGALA DISTRICT**

THE SPEAKER: The Rt Hon. Prime Minister will move the motion to pay tribute to the deceased.

3.07

THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Madam Speaker and colleagues, I move under Rule 58 of our Rules of Procedure, a motion for a Resolution of Parliament to pay tribute to the late Hon. Helen Nakimuli for her distinguished service to the nation.

Madam Speaker and Members, the motion reads:

“WHEREAS Parliament of Uganda received with profound sorrow the sad news of the demise of Hon. Helen Nakimuli, Woman Member of Parliament for Kalangala District, which occurred on Sunday, 19 April 2026;

AND WHEREAS Hon. Nakimuli served the people of Kalangala District and the nation as Woman Member of Parliament from 2021 until her demise, and in that capacity, discharged her duties with commitment and diligence whilst steadily championing the interests of her constituents;

AWARE that Hon. Nakimuli diligently served the people of Uganda in different capacities, including as a Community Development Officer of Kalangala District Local Government (from 2013-2020), a Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (from 2021-2023), and a Shadow Minister for Information, Communication, Technology and Anti-corruption (from 2023 until her demise);

FURTHER AWARE that Hon. Nakimuli distinguished herself as a hard-working and vocal legislator who remained firmly committed to the welfare of island communities and consistently drew the attention of Parliament and the Government to the peculiar social service challenges affecting the people of Kalangala District. She relentlessly advocated for improved transport infrastructure, especially improved ferry services, quality education, and healthcare access for the people of Kalangala District, which comprises 84 islands;

RECOGNISING that Hon. Nakimuli was a humble, cheerful, and compassionate leader and an ardent advocate for social justice, women empowerment, girl-child education, improved livelihoods, and the fight against HIV/AIDS in Uganda, whereupon she served as the President of the Community-based approaches to HIV/AIDS Volleyball Club;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that Hon. Nakimuli was widely known among her constituents as Mama Kalangala, a testament to her enthusiastic leadership spirit and a passion for closeness to the people she represented. Her approachable leadership and her unwavering commitment to the socio-economic transformation of her community, as she consistently brought to the forefront the particular challenges faced by vulnerable persons living in hard-to-reach island communities;

APPRECIATING that Hon. Nakimuli was a passionate sportswoman who was, at the time of her death, the Captain of the Parliamentary Volleyball Team. She utilised sports as a platform to promote teamwork, mentorship, discipline, solidarity, and service both within Parliament and among the communities she served;

FURTHER APPRECIATING that Hon. Nakimuli was an eloquent, courageous, approachable and compassionate leader who was committed to unity and consensus building and reached across party lines on matters she considered to transcend partisan interests

and rendered distinguished service to her constituents and the people of Uganda with dedication and patriotism;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved as follows:

- 1. Parliament collectively conveys its deepest condolences to the bereaved family, relatives, friends, the people of Kalangala, the members of the National Unity Platform (NUP) and the nation as a whole for the loss of a distinguished and exceptional daughter of Uganda;*
- 2. Parliament takes cognisance of the diligent service that Hon. Helen Nakimuli has rendered to the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, the Kalangala community and the people of Uganda. Madam Speaker, I beg to move.” (Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. Seconded? Okay, it is seconded by the Vice President, the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Lukia, Hon. Obua, Hon. Leader of Opposition, Hon. Wamala, Hon. ICT, the Northern Region, Hon. Kasolo, Hon. Ogwang, Hon. Balaam, Hon. Esther Ayakun, Hon. Diana, and Hon. Ssekikubo.

I want put it on the record, numbers – seconded by Hon. Christine, Hon. Solo, Hon. Jona, Hon. Ssewungu, Hon. Derrick, Hon. Hassan, Hon. Karim, Hon. Ethel, Hon. Nakato, size-mate – Adeke -(Laughter) - Hon. Juliet, by the whole House. Thank you so much. Prime Minister, would you love to speak to your motion?

3.15

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Madam Speaker and honourable members, this is my justification: we are here today, to remember and bid farewell to an extraordinary colleague and friend.

On Sunday, 19 April 2026, we received the sad news of the demise of Hon. Helen Nakimuli, the Woman Representative for Kalangala District in the 11th Parliament of Uganda, at Alexandra Medical Center, Kitante Road, Kampala. Today, we grieve her loss and we hold in our hearts and prayers, her family.

Madam Speaker, the late Hon. Helen Nakimuli was a great parliamentarian. She loved and respected Parliament and was, for five years, one of its finest debaters. She was a woman of great contrast: exceptionally formidable during debate, and admirably kind in private. The late Hon. Helen Nakimuli was one of the most vibrant people you could ever hope to meet and someone I was lucky enough to know closely.

Madam Speaker, the outpouring of tributes we have seen in these past few days shows the impact of her leadership. While in the 11th Parliament, the late Hon. Helen Nakimuli dutifully served on the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, and the Committee on Information, Communication Technology and National Guidance. She served as Shadow Minister for Information and Anti-Corruption. She loved sports and was the captain of the Parliamentary Volleyball Team. Through these positions and many other leadership platforms, she was a voice of compassion and stood for her people.

Madam Speaker, she was caring, eloquent, principled, and wise. Hon. Helen brought people together, as it was typical of her determination to reach across party lines on issues that she felt were more important than party politics. *(Applause)* Thank you. Above all, she was filled with love for the people and saw the best in them. Her enthusiastic spirit helped to give her determination and focus in politics. She was driven every day of her life by her passion for the great causes she believed in to help uplift people, especially children, women, the poor, and the oppressed.

The late Hon. Nakimuli was a relentless campaigner for healthcare access, transport infrastructure, especially improved ferry services, equality, human rights, Government subsidisation of boat engine taxes, and the provision of fishing nets. The Government will continue to support development programmes in Kalangala District.

I wish to convey my gratitude to the President of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, and also

thank you, Rt Hon. Speaker, for according this distinguished and gallant citizen of Uganda a special recognition in her honour through the consideration of this motion before the House now.

The Government of Uganda extends its deepest condolences to the bereaved family, relatives, friends, the people of Kalangala District, the members of the National Unity Platform (NUP), and the nation as a whole, upon the passing of this distinguished daughter of Uganda.

May the Almighty God bless and receive the soul of Hon. Helen Nakimuli, in eternal peace. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. Before we proceed with the secondment, in the VIP Gallery, we have Hon. Alice Alaso Asianut and Hon. Winnie Kiiza. They are here to support us in paying tribute to a lady like them. Thank you for coming. *(Applause)* Seconder? Yes, Leader of the Opposition.

3.22

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to our departed colleague, the Hon. Helen Nakimuli, Woman Member of Parliament for Kalangala District, a dedicated servant of the people, and a member of the National Unity Platform.

Hon. Nakimuli passed away on 19 April 2026, at Alexandra Medical Centre, where she had gone to undergo a surgical procedure. In fact, she drove herself to the medical facility, an indicator that she was not worried. I equally spoke to her that same morning at about 9.00 a.m., as we had been planning a meeting for Members of the Opposition in Parliament in regard to the impending sovereignty Bill, which meeting was due the next morning on Monday the 20th. Tragically, she did not make it out of the theatre.

This is not just a moment of grief; it is a moment of profound concern, and we hope that

all answers will be provided. This is not about apportioning blame prematurely; it is about restoring public confidence. As we pursue these answers, honourable colleagues, we must also confront the broader realities of our health sector. For many Ugandans, access to safe and quality health care remains uncertain.

Incidents such as these deepen public anxiety and highlight systemic weaknesses in patient safety, regulation, and service delivery. If this can happen in a controlled medical environment, then we ought to ask ourselves: what safeguards exist for the ordinary Ugandan in less resourced settings?

Hon. Nakimuli has been awaiting taking the Oath in just a couple of weeks to serve a second term in Parliament, having earned the trust and confidence of the people of Kalangala District one more time.

That renewed mandate was a testament to her dedication, her connection to her constituents, and the faith they had in her leadership. Kalangala District, which she represented, is one of the most unique constituencies in our country, an archipelago of over 80 islands spread across Lake Victoria, commonly known as the Ssesse Islands.

Representing such a constituency requires exceptional commitment. It demands navigating geographical isolation, limited infrastructure, and the distinct socioeconomic challenges faced by island communities. Yet, Hon. Nakimuli embraced this responsibility with quiet strength and consistency. She ensured that the voices of her people, often physically distant and politically marginalised, were heard within this House.

In the Shadow Cabinet, she has been serving as the Shadow Minister for Information and Anti-Corruption, a role she diligently executed for close to two and a half years. In this capacity, she stood firmly on the side of transparency, accountability, and responsible governance. She approached oversight with seriousness and clarity, contributing meaningfully to discussions of public accountability and the management of national resources.

On the Floor of Parliament, she challenged the deployment of the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) soldiers on Uganda's lakes by the Fisheries Protection Unit, arguing that the army was complicit in illegal fishing and that criminalising vulnerable fishermen was unjust. She criticised the unit for confiscating equipment, confusing fishing communities with contradictory directives and politically motivated messages, and insisted that these communities needed real investment in boats, in nets, storage facilities, and training, together with practical support, not just harassment.

Her contribution to this institution extended beyond legislative work. She served as our lady captain of the Parliamentary Volleyball Team, and under her leadership, our team recently secured another gold for Uganda at the East African Community Inter-Parliamentary Games. (*Applause*) This was not just a sporting achievement; it was a reflection of leadership, discipline, and the spirit of teamwork that she embodied. No wonder we are all here in numbers. (*Applause*)

Those who had the privilege of working closely with the Hon. Nakimuli will remember her as calm, composed, and purposeful. Her work spoke for itself. She engaged thoughtfully, listened attentively, and contributed with intention. Even in her final days, she never stopped holding the Government to account.

Her final submission on the Floor of this House was on 15 April 2026, last week, just four days before she died. She was questioning the Government's preparedness regarding our sports facilities ahead of a Confederation of African Football (CAF) inspection, now that Uganda is set to host the African Cup of Nations 2027 (AFCON) alongside other East African countries.

She was still pressing for details, still demanding accountability. Even at the end, Hon. Nakimuli was working and holding the Government accountable, which was her cardinal duty as a Member of Parliament.

It is particularly painful that her young life has been cut short at a time when she was just about to begin a renewed chapter of service under her second term. She had more to offer, more to build and more to contribute to this nation.

Her passing is a loss to her family, the people of Kalangala, the National Unity Platform, this Parliament and, indeed, Uganda as a whole.

As we mourn her, we must also honour her, not only with words, but with action. Honouring her means strengthening our systems so that no Ugandan loses their life the way she lost hers. It means recommitting ourselves to the values of accountability, service and integrity – values that she held dear. We owe it to her, we owe it to her family and we owe it to the people of Uganda.

On behalf of the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, I extend deepest condolences to her family, her constituents in Kalangala District, her party, NUP, all colleagues in this House and the country at large. We stand with you in grief and in the pursuit of justice and truth.

May the Almighty God grant us strength during this difficult time and may the soul of Hon. Helen Nakimuli rest in peace. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Can we be brief, so that a number of Members can speak? Independents? Let us first hear from the Independents.

3.31

MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO (Independent, Kampala Central Division, Kampala): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Honourable colleagues, esteemed gentlemen and ladies from all sides of the House –

THE SPEAKER: I want to show you how Hon. Nakimuli was a unifier. The whole secretariat of the National Resistance Movement is also here. *(Applause)* There is Dr Nekesa, honourable - the whole secretariat is here. Thank you so much for coming, and this is the spirit we want in Uganda. *(Applause)*

MR MUHAMMAD NSEREKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Dear honourable colleagues, we gather today with heavy hearts to honour and celebrate an extraordinary life of a young lady, a beacon of hope and strength to many.

Born in 1985 - just recently - you can witness her here in a casket. Who knew? Neither her, her parents nor her family and it could not even have fallen into the ears of those who elected her to represent them. Hon. Helen has left far too soon for many who had hope in her, transitioning from this world just days ago, following a surgery.

As we stand together in this solemn moment, let us reflect on the legacy that she leaves behind and the impact that she has had on each one of us. What does this remind us of, honourable members? It is that just like she was, always entering here wearing a smile, like an unfolding flower, just like her name, “Nakimuli”, blossoming to fill the world with a sweet aroma. We should always remember such moments when someone walks into your path and at least shakes your hand.

I request that we do this, as a gesture. Turn to your neighbour and say: “I really would like to say, I love you today” – not the real “love” of love, but love in the name of God.

Members of the NRM, turn to Members of other political parties such as NUP and wave, and say: “We are really one and together in the name of the Almighty God”. Hon. Helen, that is what you stood for: unifying all aisles in this House. It is not usual that we act like this in this House, but it is something that God calls upon all of us to do. As our prayer tells us, we are here for the service of humanity and not for our benefit.

Hon. Helen was not only a Member of Parliament, but she was also a great champion, and an honourable public servant whose dedication and passion knew no bounds.

In the five years - more or less - that we spent with her in this august House, she exemplified a spirit that was built on patience, love and dignity. She walked to everyone, even when

she differed on certain matters and always expressed her feeling towards you, all in the name of the people she wanted to represent and make better.

In her multi-faced character, the one where she would smile - I remember when there was humiliation of a woman and all the women in Parliament stormed out to go there, she said: "No; this is beyond. I will stand for the girl child and the woman." That was the zeal and character in her. She would express her disappointment, but also remain respectful.

As you lay there, Hon. Helen, I bear witness that, indeed, you were one of those who have always been in the House, performing their duties with dignity and respect.

Dear honourable colleagues, just like Hon. Helen, we must remember that in this world, we are all travellers and at such a time, our departure note will be called upon. None of us knows the time, and this is what God has hidden from us. Imagine if God had made us aware of the real time to come, I do not think we would live comfortably.

Just imagine if you knew that you were going tomorrow – I am not talking of Hon. Omona; please, do not worry just because I am looking at you. (*Laughter*) I imagine if you knew your date of departure, you would definitely sit down and not be comfortable.

As I wind up, I send my special condolences to the family. I heard the speech of a father who was belled with pain, yet strong enough to call upon the deliverance of God. The daughter, who is my old girl at Kibuli Secondary School - I was the head prefect of Luwangula House. Two years ago, your mum came to attend the sendoff of my late father, but I have no doubt that we will do everything to pay her back for this golden heart that she had.

As we reflect on the legacy of our late sister – Hon. Helen, as you lay down there, let us say something about you. You were good. You were courageous. You stood as an all-round representative who Kalangala must be proud of. (*Applause*)

You did effective representation for your constituency. You were here as their advocate and you definitely served your party proudly and your country with honour. May your soul rest in eternal peace. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, in the VIP Gallery, we have;

1. Hon. Amb. Barbara Nekesa Oundo;
2. Dr Rosemary Nansubuga Seninde;
3. Hon. Emmanuel Dombo;
4. Hon. Zaituni Driwaru;
5. Hon. Juliana Auma; and
6. Hon. James Tweheyo.

Thank you for joining us and you are always most welcome. Can we have the sports chairperson? No, let us first have the Vice President.

3.39

HER EXCELLENCY THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA (Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Alupo):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. On behalf of the people of Katakwi District, the NRM Party, the Government, and my family, I would like to extend sincere condolences to the family of the late Hon. Helen Nakimuli.

Hon. Helen Nakimuli was a friend to all of us. She was indeed an active Member of Parliament whose actions were very visible in committee work, in the debates on the Floor of Parliament and on the ground.

I visited Kalangala once and she was physically present to receive me. (*Applause*) Hon. Nakimuli was a leader whose objective was the interest of her people. She did not have a lot of time for trivialities. Hon. Nakimuli would always reach out to any leader but with a reason for solving the problems of her people.

It has already been said that Kalangala is a unique constituency. When I went there, she told me, you have come only to the mainland. Many of us here know that where we are now is the mainland. However, when you are in

Kalangala, they tell you that this is the main island. There are many millions of islands. One time, she told me how she nearly drowned while taking children or a patient from one island to another in a boat.

To speak on an occasion like this when we have lost a young legislator whom I met many times in the Orthodox Church – I met her at St Nicholas three times, Jinja Orthodox Church once, Gulu Orthodox Church once, when I would go there to articulate messages of His Excellency the President. She was a very committed Christian. *(Applause)* She was not only a Christian by word but by action and she was extremely respectful. She would call me “Mum” when receiving me in the church. She knew the history and the culture of the Orthodox Church deeply. She was always with Hon. Ssekikubo. When he was not present, she would be uncomfortable until Hon. Ssekikubo arrived. When you find Hon. Ssekikubo before she arrives, he would also be uncomfortable until Helen arrives.

Madam Speaker, the Orthodox Church and indeed the Christian faith have lost a committed Christian. I am glad, Madam Speaker, you have given me an opportunity to pay tribute to her. I thank you for extending support to the young girl.

Madam Speaker, I am willing to make a contribution to support the young girl who is in senior one, if the clan allows. *(Applause)*

I would like to call upon that child to be strong, because there are many orphans out there, including myself. *(Laughter)*

Madam Speaker, my dad died when I was a second lieutenant. I was relatively young. In Africa, a parent, even at 100 years, is still a parent, and you cannot compare. Therefore, look up to us who are orphans. We will give you a platform, the guidance that you need, role modelling, and mentor you to the logical conclusion.

May the soul of the late - Nakimuli means flower. I used to joke with her and ask, “Which

flower are you? Are you a rose, a sunflower or a lily?” She would say she will unveil the name of her flower at an appropriate time. She has not done it. May her soul rest in eternal peace. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Vice President. Today, we unveiled the roses for her in memory of her name. Minister of Information, Communication Technology (ICT) and National Guidance?

3.45

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE (Dr Chris Baryomunsi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to support the motion moved by the Rt Hon. Prime Minister to pay tribute to our fallen sister, Hon. Helen Nakimuli. On behalf of the people of Kinkizi East and the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance – As you may be aware, she shadowed me, and we always made fun. She would say, “How can I shadow this huge man?” Even when we are of different sizes, we worked well as a Government minister and a shadow minister.

I would like to convey our condolences to the members of the family, parents, the people of Kalangala whom she represented in this House as a Member of Parliament, the members of the National Unity Party and the Opposition, where she belonged, and to you, Madam Speaker, and colleagues in this Parliament.

When I served in the Parliamentary Commission with Hon. Dombo, who is seated in the VIP Gallery, one of the challenging issues that used to confront us was drawing the budget of Parliament. We had to budget for how many Members of Parliament would die in that year. We would indicate four or five, but would be scared that we would probably be part of those four or five. I am saying this to encourage Members that death is there and at any time, God can call us.

Madam Speaker, I came close to Hon. Helen when the Archbishop of the Orthodox Church died in September 2021. She had just come to

Parliament, and I was coordinating the funeral arrangements together with the Vice-President and Hon. Ssekikubo. She has been a Member of this House, but I was close to her, an active shadow minister, especially in the committee.

I could use many descriptions to characterise her but in brief, she was, as the Vice-President said, a strong believer in the Orthodox faith, committed, social, intelligent and respectful. I could use many attributes.

Working with her as the Minister of ICT and National Guidance and her as a shadow minister was very good and we had meaningful engagements. How I wish our relationship to that effect would define how we relate in this country between the Government and the Opposition. Madam Speaker, we related respectfully and she always made very meaningful contributions and gave us a lot of advice as we run the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and National Guidance.

Madam Speaker, I have been following the debates and commentaries on social media regarding how she died. There are many unanswered questions, as the Leader of the Opposition said. This morning, I spoke to the Minister of Health - I thought she would be in the House - who told me that she has instructed the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council to carry out an investigation and produce a report to tell Ugandans what exactly happened.

I later spoke to Prof. Joel Okullo, who is the chairperson of the council. He confirmed that a team of doctors from the council was carrying out the investigations. They visited Alexandra Medical Centre and are conducting an analysis regarding what happened. A report will be produced.

A post-mortem examination has been carried out by six expert pathologists at Mulago National Referral Hospital, including those from the Uganda Police. A report has been submitted to the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council, which will be part of

the general report, as they investigate. At the earliest, this report will be made public. Family members signed the post-mortem report. I got this confirmation from the Executive Director of Mulago National Referral Hospital.

All of us are in pain by the way she drove herself to the hospital and was brought back dead. Therefore, the assurance I am giving to the honourable members is that once the report has been completed by the Ministry of Health, working with the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council, all these questions will be answered through that report.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, I would like to make a comment to Ugandans that there is a strange behaviour that has come up where a section of Ugandans celebrate people's death and wish those who are alive to die. As the minister responsible for national guidance, I call upon Ugandans to remain with the Ugandan culture. Even when we are in different political persuasions or different in many ways, let us remain human and desist from celebrating death - (*Applause*) - especially in the advent of social media.

Ugandans should not push us to have strong regulations for the social media space because it is being misused as many people are using it irresponsibly. I would like to sound it out to Ugandans that even when we do not agree politically and we are different, let us maintain dignity and respect each other, especially in times of death. Let us not wish anybody to die or celebrate any person's death.

I pray that the good Lord receives our sister and rests her soul in eternal peace.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, for your information, as Parliament, we have received the report. Together with the Leader of the Opposition, we have discussed the report with the person who operated on Hon. Nakimuli. She did not make it out of the theatre, which was a private, not a Government facility.

Honourable members, we give you insurance; please, go to the Government facilities. State minister for sports.

3.53

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)

(Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you, Madam Speaker. As a Member of Parliament for Ngariam County and on behalf of my family, I would like to begin by extending condolences to the bereaved family of my sister, Hon. Nakimuli, and the people of Kalangala District.

It is on record that the last time I appeared before this House was last Wednesday, when I presented a statement regarding a matter the Leader of the Opposition had requested in line with our preparedness for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), 2027.

Honourable colleagues, the late, as we all know, had a passion for sports. She was an athlete and one who played many disciplines of sports. Those who attended the East African Community Inter-Parliamentary Games can bear me witness. *(Applause)*

If you all recall, the late got injured on the netball court and twisted her leg during the competition, which was in Kigali, Rwanda. However, that did not stop her from representing the Parliament of Uganda. Let us clap for her. *(Applause)*

I am happy that my honourable colleague, the Shadow Minister for Sports, is here. In line with the discussion we had concerning our preparedness for AFCON, we had agreed to visit Hoima City Stadium this Friday and look at other attendant training facilities we are working on, including a visit to Kabalega International Airport. We are doing this because it is in line with the observations that my sister had raised on the Floor of this Parliament.

It is unfortunate that today, as Uganda hosts the team of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) together with the Pamoja countries here in Kampala, which meeting started this morning up to now, I had to excuse myself to

come and pay my respects to our dear fallen sister.

Honourable colleagues, I have been here for some time. I am happy we are all here to pay respects to our departed sister. She has left us with a living flower. We are good at making speeches but what do we leave with the flower that our sister has left us with?

It is my humble appeal, honourable colleagues - in the Ninth, 10th and 11th Parliaments, we did it. If we truly believe in the love of our sister, why don't we contribute, as Members of Parliament, to support the family of our departed honourable colleague, particularly regarding the education of the daughter? *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, it is my humble appeal that the Parliamentary Commission deducts a direct fee from each one of us, the 529 Members of Parliament, to contribute to the education of our late sister's daughter who is here. I request that we deduct Shs 500,000 from each of our accounts. *(Applause)*

I bring this up because as a sportswoman, the late gave her life to support and carry the flag of the Parliament of Uganda in the sports fraternity in the East African Community. This helped in widening, deepening and strengthening the East African Community integration. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Those who are against it, please stand up. I want those before I call for secondment. I first want those against. Honourable members, do you know why I am asking those against the motion to stand? When we asked for a deduction for Hon. Oulanyah, you were the same people who made noise, saying that you were forced.

Is the motion seconded? Seconded by Hon. Obua - by the whole House.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that Shs 500,000 be deducted in favour of the education of the late Hon. Helen Nakimuli's daughter.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: The Clerk to Parliament should deduct Shs 500,000 from the 529 Members. Let us hear from the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sports Club, then I will come to the minister emeritus of sports.

4.01

MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support the motion moved by the Prime Minister to pay tribute to the late Hon. Helen Nakimuli. On behalf of the Parliamentary Sports Club, which I lead, I wish to extend our deepest condolences to you, the entire House and the family upon the loss of Hon. Nakimuli. She was one of the Executive members of the Parliamentary Sports Club, which is the biggest fraternity in Parliament.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Nakimuli had the biggest influence in the sports club because she played in all disciplines. In 2021, she came to the football pitch and wanted to train with us in football because she said she had played football in her early life. She went to tug-of-war and we advised her to concentrate elsewhere. I recall she also went to athletics and was very good at basketball, volleyball, and netball. There is no doubt about it.

Madam Speaker, when we talk about the Parliament of Uganda winning accolades in the East African Community Inter-Parliamentary Games, Hon. Nakimuli played a very big role in that achievement and we are here to testify to it. The trophies that we have laid on the Table today are here partly because of the immense contribution of Hon. Nakimuli. Every year, she participated in a discipline, be it the ladies' volleyball, basketball and netball. If we were not number one, then we came second, and these are the trophies that reflect or attest to that achievement. *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, I am not sure that the 12th Parliament will have a player as active and ambidextrous as Hon. Nakimuli. Being able to play all disciplines - we will wait and see - but she was a rare talent, and I think for us at

that level, we are really very grateful for her contribution.

She was very passionate about women's football, and in our last meeting, she proposed that the parliamentary games should also have women's football. No wonder, I recall when Uganda hosted the African Nations Championship (CHAN), at every Ugandan game, she was always in Namboole. Hon. Odur and Hon. Kayemba-Ssolo, with whom we watched these games, know. In fact, she was among the few women Members of Parliament - if not the only one - who religiously attended those games in Namboole. So, we shall always remember her for that.

As I conclude, Hon. Nakimuli was very passionate about health. The Prime Minister talked about that aspect. When Parliament was urging the Government to recognise sickle cell disease as a public health concern, she was among the people who stood up to support that idea because she had been a sickle cell health activist. We will also remember her for that cause.

Finally, Hon. Nakimuli was a decent person; very decent, disciplined, social and courteous. These are not common traits, especially these days where indecency and discourteousness are the order of the day. We should continue to emulate those values if we want to make a very good contribution to our society.

I wholly associate with the motion that was moved by Hon. Ogwang which was good poetic justice because the late supported every initiative in Parliament, especially those regarding contributions. By passing that motion, we have repaid her well and I want to thank Hon. Ogwang and MPs for ensuring that we have consensus on that aspect.

Madam Speaker, the issue you raised of some people saying that they were forced - we had an opportunity to discuss that issue here, and as a matter of fact, it is colleagues who were not in the House at that time who later addressed the press and said we were forced. However, the nature of parliamentary business

is by collective responsibility, whether you are around or not.

First of all, we are all duty-bound to be here. If Parliament makes a resolution and you are not here, it is better that you accept being bound by that resolution. It is really very unfair for one to go out on radio or TV and claim they were compelled into these resolutions. I think it is important for us to have that respect.

In conclusion, I would like to suggest that a practice be adopted by this House that in the event of the death of any one of us, a deduction of Shs 500,000 is made. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, we cannot pass that because this Parliament is not going to be the next Parliament. We may have different cultures in different parliaments. Most of us are leaving and the ones who will come may say, that was a decision you made at your time. Therefore, we cannot make a decision for the next Parliament. Hon. Obua? Honourable members, let us make it brief.

4.07

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. My submission will be restricted to Hon. Helen Nakimuli, the sportswoman, because she distinguished herself as a nationalist and a patriot in all her submissions on the Floor.

Madam Speaker, whereas she passed on, as the former team Captain of the Parliamentary Volleyball Club, I equally served for 10 consecutive years as the team Captain of the Parliamentary Football Club, bringing nine trophies in the 10 years. We only lost once.

I would like to salute members of the Parliamentary Sports Club because this morning, as the body arrived, we exhibited the highest degree of solidarity and I was reminded of the wise words of the late Mandela on sports. He said, *“Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite the people.”*

If there is something that united the late Hon. Helen Nakimuli with Members of the 11th Parliament, it was her multitasking in sports. Madam Speaker, modern public administration emphasises multitasking. Also, modern sports, emphasises utility players and the late Hon. Nakimuli was a utility player. A club will buy you knowing that whereas you can play the wing, you can also play backwards and you will be called a wingback. That is in football.

We are talking about the late Hon. Helen Nakimuli’s participation in different sporting disciplines. I witnessed in one day, one person playing three different sports. In the morning, volleyball; in the afternoon, basketball, and in the evening, netball. *(Applause)* I pay my last respects to her and describe her as a star performer and a utility player in all sports disciplines.

I remember at one point, because my niche is in football, when athletics was just introduced, the Parliament of Uganda did not have a team for short relays. The coach had to drag myself, Hon. Odonga Otto, Hon. Ogwang and Hon. Bagoole for the short relays. We participated in the short relays yet the following day, we had a football competition. The four of us were also partly utility players in a way. That was the time, in 10 years, the Parliament of Uganda lost in football because the four of us had participated in a discipline that we had never participated in. You can imagine the late Hon. Nakimuli in one day could play three different sporting disciplines.

We talked about her injury. Even at the time the late Hon. Nakimuli got injured, the injury was planned by her opponent. That is a fact; it was planned. I know of a country that planned to injure her. She knew about it and it came to pass. That is the person we are paying tribute to.

I feel convinced that just as my brother, Hon. Ogwang, has moved the motion - let that be the minimum. I may be willing to contribute more than that. May a paper be processed for those who wish to contribute more than the minimum to sign? Madam Speaker, I am

willing to contribute Shs 1 million towards the education of that young girl.

Madam Speaker, if a paper will pass for those who are contributing, Shs 500,000 should be the minimum. However, for those of us who are willing to go beyond, another paper should pass. Today it is me, tomorrow it is someone else. Today it is Hon. Nakimuli, tomorrow, it is another person. It may be Hon. Ssolo, who is the shadow –(Laughter)- Rest in peace, our hero. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, let us be brief. Hon. Ssekikubo?

4.13

MR THEODORE SSEKIKUBO (NRM, Lwemiyaga County, Ssembabule): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through your Chair, Madam Speaker, allow me on behalf of the family of Rev. Fr Christopher Walusimbi, the Orthodox Church in Uganda and the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy to convey sincere appreciation towards you, Madam Speaker, Members of Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition and the National Unity Platform, the Government, all the staff and the public out there; the voters, the people of Kalangala and Uganda on this tragic moment.

Madam Speaker, it is hard to stand here to imagine that one of us is lying there and has departed from us. It is painful to know that she was a first timer, but surprisingly, she caught up well; she had fallen in, and her immense contribution is far beyond any imagination. I thank her for that.

Thanks to colleagues who have made it possible across the political aisle here. Thank you. I thank you, Madam Speaker and Members. You did not let us down because we are few. We were two. She is gone, and in May, I will also be gone. You can imagine the void that remains here.

Imagine she had won a very bad election in the history of this country. She had scraped through. She had no petition. She was awaiting her swearing-in. That is life.

I will not delve into a lot of things, but I was touched by the Leader of Government Business. She spoke so well. She appreciated the character, the steadfastness, and the candidness with which Hon. Nakimuli spoke and I was surprised. It means that even on this side, Members are just worried; once you stand firm and you speak well, even the Government recognises your contribution. (Applause)

Madam Speaker, she paid glowing tribute, so it does not mean that really in this Parliament, you must say, “Aye” because you want to be good. She spoke well. She did. I thought the President would not come down to this situation, but, Madam Speaker, you have given us a message from the President. (Applause) She was part of the Opposition, but I thank the President for his message. It is good. When you are the father of the nation, you must do that, and it is a good example.

I thank the Opposition for the solidarity. I thank you, members of the Opposition, for nurturing Hon. Nakimuli. You did not take her away from us. She remained a Ugandan. She remained a member of the Orthodox Church. She remained strong. Even if we have differences, you groomed her in a way that she was much appreciated.

Thank you very much, Gen. Katumba Wamala. You were not in Kalangala, but your presence was felt. The enormous contribution you made, and the offer you have made for the islanders to come to the mainland and attend the burial of their representative, is commendable. (Applause) You touched me.

Lastly, may God be kind to her. One last thing, Madam Speaker, I heard from Dr Chris, who is a doctor by profession, that there are things that must be explained. How does someone drive in without the formal procedures of receiving a patient? You had her admitted, checked on everything before you operated on her. Where are the procedures in this country?

Even in our health centres, you do not just walk into the theatre. There must be measures. What are the qualifications of these doctors? We must

get an explanation. Look at the qualifications of those handling our lives.

We have lost her; we will never get her. I took note of that, and I think the investigation should look into these people. Once you are under anesthesia - I thank you. I rest my case.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, all those questions are going to be answered. We have had a series of meetings and the Leader of the Opposition is involved in each of them and we have questions that we want them to answer.

The Government has taken the responsibility; we want that answered. Today, it happened to Hon. Helen, but next time, it can happen to another person. Hon. Karim, you have one minute.

4.20

MR KARIM MASABA (Independent, Industrial Division, Mbale City): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I join you and the rest of the Members of Parliament in mourning our dear colleague, Hon. Helen Nakimuli. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

I take this opportunity to thank you, Madam Speaker, and the entire Parliament for standing with the family. I thank the Leader of the Opposition and the Secretary General of NUP, because those were mainly the first people who got in touch with the family when we received the information, and they have been available throughout this journey.

I have heard a lot being said about the medical condition, postmortem, and all that. I request that we give it time because I was present. I was among the first people at Alexandra Medical Centre, and I moved with the body to Mulago. I was present during the entire postmortem, and I saw everything. There were about six or seven doctors who told us that it was inconclusive. So, they had to remove some of the small parts to carry out further tests in other laboratories and they requested for time such that they could get –

THE SPEAKER: Those results are also out.

MR MASABA: Alright. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: There is only one result left.

MR MASABA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Most of us were in shock. I was in shock. I have never been there and I could not believe it. However, if the results are out, I think it is up to the family to share with us or not. Let us not anticipate and talk about things we do not have much knowledge about.

Lastly, I thank my colleague, Minister Ogwang, for the motion. We have all been in sports together with Hon. Hamson Obua and we saw the contribution of Hon. Nakimuli. Hon. Obua, I remember during the games in Arusha, when something happened during - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Odur?

4.22

MR JONATHAN ODUR (UPC, Erute County South, Lira): Thank you, Madam Speaker. From the onset, I want to state that I fully adopt the motion moved by the Rt Hon. Prime Minister and the Leader of Government Business. I also strongly associate myself with the submissions of the Leader of the Opposition and the motion for amendment made by the honourable minister of sports.

Madam Speaker, when I was a member of the local government accounts committee in the 10th Parliament, I first saw Hon. Nakimuli when we met a delegation from Kalangala who had appeared before us in Masaka. When she joined Parliament, I had the privilege of serving with her in the shadow cabinet, and I fully agree with many of her attributes that have been mentioned here.

By way of paying tribute to her, I want to share a short story of what transpired between her and I. Our dear friend outside this House, Hon. Eng. Moses Magogo, invited me courteously to watch a game at Namboole Stadium. As a friend, the same invitation was extended to

Hon. Helen. Madam Speaker, at the VIP lounge at Namboole Stadium, I was seated with Hon. Hamson Obua, Hon. Peter Ogwang, Hon. Nakiwala Kiyangi and one of the FUFA vice presidents. A lady came into the VIP room and Hon. Nakimuli caught my head and said, you are not allowed to look at her and she ensured that I looked the other way.

Madam Speaker, at that point, I wanted to tell Hon. Obua in Luo that we were not allowed to look at the lady. I was afraid that Hon. Obua would look at her. (*Laughter*). Hon. Peter Ogwang was very busy - Let me make it short. Hon. Helen successfully teased me, yet I am not easily teased. However, I had to find a way so I asked her something since I knew she loved photographs. I told her it would be a very good opportunity for her to take a photograph with that lady. She said, "Okay, come and take the photo".

Madam Speaker, then I had the opportunity to make eye contact with that lady. (*Laughter*) In her honour, Madam Speaker, I would like to lay - I did not ask questions who the lady was, but this photograph I took at Namboole that day - Hon. Obua and Hon. Peter Ogwang were present. I do not know who this lady is, but I pray that the daughter who is up there can get inspired and also grow and be very courteous and respectful like this lady. May her soul rest in peace. I beg to lay, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Balaam, Hon. Kasolo and then Hon. Wamala.

4.25

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR GENDER, LABOUR, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFFAIRS) (Mr Balaam Barugahara): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Let us use one minute.

MR BARUGAHARA: I would like to, first of all, begin with a verse in the Book of Psalms 11:7. It says, "*For the Lord is righteous, He loves justice; the upright will see His face*". Hon. Helen Nakimuli has stood as a dedicated

Member of Parliament. The few interactions I had with her here were that she constantly represented her people with commitment and purpose.

Madam Speaker, she was known for her integrity and accountability; actively participated in law-making and continued to prioritise the needs and interests of her constituents. She served as a committed leader who focused on public service rather than personal gain, working closely with her community in Kalangala to promote development and improve the lives of the poor people there.

Hon. Nakimuli was not transactional. I made several attempts to transact with her to join the NRM, but she did not allow it. I told her I would find more time to transact with her.

Madam Speaker, she was not transactional.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you and your family for paying our little girl's school fees up to senior four.

Madam Speaker, allow me to convey heartfelt condolences from my colleagues and leaders of the Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU) led by our Chairman, Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF).

Madam Speaker, I will conclude with John 11:25. It says, "*I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even though they die.*" Rest in peace, our sister, Hon. Nakimuli of the National Unity Platform. Thank you.

Madam Speaker, just a second. Hon. Stella Isodo of Ngora, sometime back passed on and left five children. They are not doing well. Last week, I received a member of the family in my office to support her family. I want to appreciate Members including myself, who have allowed a deduction of Shs 500,000.

However, Madam Speaker, can we also consider, if possible, supporting the late Hon. Isodo's family because she was also a player. (*Applause*) She was a Member of Parliament from the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC).

I beg, Madam Speaker, that you allow the deduction of another Shs 500,000 from the MPs earnings for the late Hon. Isodo's family as well. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, there is a contribution of Shs 10 million from the mighty National Resistance Movement (NRM) party, with a condolence letter signed by Hon. Richard Todwong. Thank you very much, NRM.

4.28

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

(Mr Haruna Kyeyune Kasolo): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, allow me to register my heartfelt and deepest condolences to you, the august House, the Leader of the Opposition, the people of Kalangala, Greater Masaka, and the entire Uganda.

Madam Speaker, because of time, I want to inform this august House that Hon. Helen Nakimuli was all-round. In fact, she was a member of the Opposition, but you could not believe that she was indeed in the Opposition. However, she stood on the principles of her party.

There are colleagues from the Opposition side who do not want to associate with ministers of the Government, even when their people yearn for development. *(Applause)*

However, Hon. Nakimuli would not do that. I remember a day when I went to Kalangala. I was received by Hon. Nakimuli and Hon. Kabusu, and we spent two days there. I received their requests and I worked on them. There are colleagues who have approached me and asked, can you give me this in private? Hon. Nakimuli was exceptional.

Madam Speaker, allow me to also ask for one important thing from the Leader of the Opposition and my colleagues. Hon. Nakimuli deserves a decent send-off. Tomorrow, we are all

ready to go to Luweero. However, this business of Ugandans trying to threaten the mourners – *(Interjection)* - yes, because I witnessed this in Kalangala Town Council yesterday when you attempted to stop the Resident District Commissioner from delivering his message.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, this body is for the Parliament of Uganda. I would like us to give Hon. Nakimuli a dignified send-off. That is why you see members of the National Unity Platform (NUP) on this side, and of NRM on that side. We must respect our colleagues. I pray that there is nothing that is going to happen. I am going to be there personally. I am going to bury Hon. Nakimuli. I am a Ugandan. She was our Member of Parliament, and she is our property. Gen. Katumba Wamala and Hon. Kirumira.

4.32

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to pay condolences to one of our own.

Madam Speaker, for us in Kalangala - and I want to correct the impression which was created that in Kalangala, there were issues - we are like one family. We are a small community; we know each other - *(Applause)* - we are there for each other. I think the Members of Parliament who went to Kalangala yesterday, when they were giving tribute to Hon. Nakimuli at the district, saw this.

All the RDCs were there, the Government was there and nobody was harassed. That is the spirit of Kalangala and that is how we have been operating. Hon. Kabusu is here. Yes, we may have differences in political opinions but we do not hate each other. I want that to be corrected.

Madam Speaker, the late Hon. Nakimuli has been an asset to the islands and the communities there. She was a person who dedicated her life to serving her community. You would find her getting into those small canoes, risking her life for the sake of the community. One time, she

was in an incident when her boat got stranded in the middle of the lake, and she was rescued by the RDC, who had to send spark plugs for the boat engine because it had a problem. All that was in the service of her people. She has been there to serve her people regardless of the political differences.

She was young in political experience, and I used to call her my daughter because she used to come to consult me in my office. If NUP finds a problem, I do not know. She is not the only one, Hon. Kabuusu, too.

Our problems on the islands affect all of us the same, so we work together as a team. She was beyond the political divide. She was about service for our people. Transport was an issue she always emphasised to me, and I feel like I owe her because the ferry for Kyamuswa Subcounty has not yet materialised, much as we have a ferry working in Kyamuswa now.

I would like to thank Parliament. When we move in this life on our life train, we find so many people. Some leave and you do not even notice that they have left. Hon. Nakimuli has left and every one of us has noted. When I walked in here and I saw how full Parliament was, I said yes, she was young, she has served one term, but for Kalangala, she has been a star and we shall terribly miss her.

Madam Speaker, just to inform you, another problem has happened to us. I think you may know the late minister, Hon. Monica Azuba. She passed on yesterday, so we have another Member who used to sit on this Bench who we are going to burry on Saturday.

THE SPEAKER: Sorry.

GEN. KATUMBA WAMALA: I want to end by confirming to the people of Kalangala that the Government has provided transport at a reduced rate. The ferry will stay in Kyungu for the whole night, in Bukasa, leave in the morning for Lutoboka, and from there it will go to Nakiwogo at a reduced rate of Shs 20,000 instead of Shs 40,000. That will be the charge.

Therefore, the people of Kalangala should be able to come and attend the burial of their own.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. God bless her and may her soul rest in peace.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. For the remaining speakers, you have one minute. Hon. Zaaake, you are going to speak after Hon. Hassan Kirumira.

4.37

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luweero): Thank you. Madam Speaker, death has robbed us ruthlessly -

THE SPEAKER: I wish I were you, I would have requested the late's body to go to the National Unity Platform (NUP) office early, but since we want to speak -

MR KIRUMIRA: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for that guidance. We are all aware that Hon. Helen Nakimuli has been part and parcel of our lives and I would understand why each Member would want to say something because it is Hon. Nakimuli lying here. We all know her smile and how she touched all of us; it would be understandable to know why each one of us would want to say something.

Nonetheless, I also join my colleagues to condole with both the immediate and extended families of Hon. Helen Nakimuli for this loss and pray to God to accept her in heaven for the good she has given to us.

Madam Speaker, as we eulogise, the most pressing issue was the educational right of Hon. Nakimuli's daughter. I want to categorically thank you and this august House for the steps you have taken to ensure that Hon. Nakimuli's daughter attends the best education that her mother would have wanted her to attain. *(Applause)*

We are all aware that paying school fees is one of the biggest issues for any parent. Now that it is handled, we have to thank you and this august House for that mileage.

Madam Speaker, this death has hit all of us so hard, but I can imagine what the president of the National Unity Platform is going through in exile. People who are close to us – (*Member timed out.*)

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Zaake.

4.40

MR FRANCIS ZAAKE (NUP, Mityana Municipality, Mityana): Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is so sad that we lost one of our own. I was lucky that I was among the few or many who have been very close to the late Hon. Helen Nakimuli. When she was going for the operation, she sent me a message that read: “Honourable, pray for me. I am in for an operation.” Even during this time of sending her off, I wish each one of us could pray for her soul.

I had the opportunity of being in Kalangala District from Monday to Tuesday. The people of Kalangala District have many questions. I am lucky that at least we have received a response that some of those questions will be answered. How I wish these questions were answered as soon as possible, because the people of Kalangala District and some of us believe that there is something wrong.

We need those questions to be answered. We need to know how that operation was done so that the people of Kalangala District can send off their own, *Mama* Kalangala District, in the most befitting way. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Zaake. Honourable members, much as we may not belong to the same political party, some of us were very close to the late Hon. Helen, to an extent that we slept on the same bed when she came to my village.

Therefore, it is our responsibility to make sure that we get to know what happened. Now, if you want more information - we even met with the doctor who operated on Hon. Nakimuli today. This is to show you that we are following every step and we want to find out what happened.

We have even extracted the pint of blood that was given to her. We want to know if it was the right blood. Were they the right people who operated on her? What happened? Was it an act of God? We are following that up. We are not doing it by ourselves, but we are doing it together with the Leader of the Opposition and the family.

Hon. Ssekikubo is there. He will tell you how we have not slept since the demise of the Hon. Nakimuli. We had a special bond with her. We have our group here, “Team *Gumite*.” Hon. Ethel is another one on that team.

4.43

MS ETHEL NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. On behalf of the people of Wakiso District and on my own behalf, together with my family, allow me to convey our condolences to the people of Kalangala District, you, the Parliament of Uganda, and everyone, especially the late’s family.

As the person that Parliament sent to lead the team to Kalangala District, allow me to convey their appreciation and condolences to the Parliament of Uganda; they made it clear in their council sitting. They made several requests, and through the right channels, the council resolutions will be forwarded to the Government of Uganda. Hon. Kabuusu and the entire team will attest to this.

Madam Speaker, we witnessed the kind of transport means in Kalangala and we also request that this be amongst the gifts given to the late Hon. Nakimuli’s people as she lies here. Let us improve transport means in the islands. It is not these usual times we are here; the other one is different. When the ferry leaves you, that is all.

Finally, she was my captain in the volleyball team. Allow me to say that it is high time we rethought games and sports in this country. It was part of their requests in Kalangala District that we establish a sports recreation centre in Kalangala District. They will groom many of the young Nakimuli’s and we shall see many in this country. I thank you.

4.45

MR MOSES KABUUSU (FDC, Kyamuswa County, Kalangala): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I take note of the little time we have.

To be brief, while we attended the council meeting where the district leadership of Kalangala paid tribute to the late Hon. Nakimuli, the district council and all the congregation requested me to thank you and Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, for having given the late Hon. Nakimuli the opportunities to speak. Due to this opportunity, she ably spoke and articulated issues affecting the islanders.

Madam Speaker, they also asked me to request Parliament - this time, I request to move a motion to amend the motion of the Prime Minister to include a prayer they requested; this specifically touches the Youth and Women's Skills Development Centre that Hon. Nakimuli had thought of building for the community.

Two years ago, Hon. Nakimuli started a process of building a youth skilling centre. Many youths in our islands have not been to school and so, the young children have grown and have not gone to school. Therefore, those young children are not employable. The only way to make them useful in society was to establish a skills centre. She had acquired a storied building plan approved. She had also acquired land from the Buganda Kingdom.

If she were to live and serve the next term, she would build that skilling centre. So, the council resolved, and Madam Speaker, I do report –

THE SPEAKER: Bring us the council resolutions.

MR KABUUSU: Yes, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Then, we will discuss the council resolutions.

MR KABUUSU: Madam Speaker, finally, there is a seed secondary school being built. It is called Bubeke Seed Secondary School, and it is at the foundation level. We thought, as leaders of Kalangala, that the Government

should agree, and we have that school renamed “Helen Nakimuli Memorial Seed Secondary School”.

THE SPEAKER: Bring us your resolutions, and we will take action on them. *(Applause)*

MR KABUUSU: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Okay. Hon. Mpuuga?

4.48

MR MATHIAS MPUUGA (NUP, Nyendo-Mukungwe Division, Masaka City): Much obliged, Madam Speaker. Allow me, in a minute, to convey my sympathies to Parliament, especially the Speaker, the family of Fr Walusimbi – very close to me; he visited me in the LOP's office then, with her daughter in tow. We did exchange pleasantries and a lot of banter. I am very sorry about the loss.

Madam Speaker, our sister was different. She leaves lessons eternal to us. Our corrosive politics need reflection. That is why, across the aisle, everyone would say: “Well, she was a leader.” I remember in 2023, she came to me to request whether she could speak to the Prime Minister about a very serious matter in the constituency.

I told her: “There is no problem. The Prime Minister is not the problem; she is just overwhelmed. Go and speak to her about the problem.” I think they moved on well. So, her amiable character should be able to give us some eternal education about how we should relate with each other, even when we immensely disagree.

For your service to the islands, we thank you, Helen. For those who intend to join politics - Madam Speaker, her journey to Parliament began from Masaka City, in a delegation she led from the islands to meet me at my humble residence in the city because she wanted to run as a DP candidate.

So, DP, I am sorry I denied her the chance to come to you. I told her to come to NUP, which I do not regret. In one, two, three years, she had

made a point. Helen, rest in eternity. You did your part. We will follow suit. Those you left, Kalangala people, where you see something done, she was a humble but very audible voice. She did not have to shout to make a point. That was very important. Rest in eternity, sister. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

4.51

MR ROBERT MIGADDE (NRM, Buvuma Islands County, Buvuma): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I had a long attachment with Hon. Helen. We went to the same Advanced Level school where she was head girl and I was the chief justice. That school had a students' court, so student cases were referred to the students' court. The school was St Augustine's College, Wakiso.

Also, personally, I work with many MPs from fishing communities. However, to be sincere, there are not many MPs from the fishing communities who understand fisheries issues as Hon. Nakimuli did.

So, as MPs from the fishing community, we have indeed lost a voice. However, I am also happy. I have listened to the Prime Minister and the Vice-President. They really understand what Hon. Helen and we, MPs from the fishing community, always raise here. That is a good thing.

Our prayer is that the best way to send off Hon. Nakimuli is to actualise her prayers. Madam Speaker, I know you are going to be the Speaker of the next Parliament. My prayer, therefore, is that I will move a motion, specifically requesting the House to dedicate a sitting to debate the plight of hard-to-reach areas, specifically the islands.

That is the only way the Government and this Parliament can really understand.

You have heard Gen. Katumba Wamala say that you even have to subsidise people going for the burial. If you do not, they will not attend the burial. The same thing applies to those going

to health facilities. Therefore, my request is that when that time comes, you accord us the opportunity.

Hon. Helen, rest in peace.

THE SPEAKER: True. Thank you. Actually, we should take our next sitting to Kalangala so that we get to understand.

4.54

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE (NUP, Mukono Municipality, Mukono): Madam Speaker, thank you. I associate myself with the kind words that have been spoken by colleagues who have spoken before me.

I would like to add just one thing. Madam Speaker, in Nakimuli, remote Kalangala ceased to be remote. Every time, through her debate, we would think that Kalangala was just here in Kampala Central. She was, agreeably, the best this Parliament could give Ugandans. In her, we saw what Uganda had in what we call the "rural parts" of this country.

I would like to thank Rev. Walusimbi and the family. I would like to thank NUP. This is because, through those two entities – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Speak.

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE: Madam Speaker, thank you. We have seen that we have very many able people in our villages. What remains is to give them the opportunity to be seen.

Lastly, our colleague here, whenever she would get a chance, she would contribute passionately about health. It is a bit absurd that she has been let down by the same system.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. We would also like to thank the people who would give her a chance to air out the concerns – because she would not air them out without – *(Applause)*

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE: I thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for being a kind Speaker who has given opportunities to people

like Hon. Nakimuli and I to be heard. Thank you very much. I wish you well. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Flavia.

4.56

MS FLAVIA NABAGABE (NUP, Woman Representative, Kassanda): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Today, Hon. Helen Nakimuli makes her final journey in Parliament. She has been very humbly and happily walking through these corridors, the Lobby, and within this very House to debate most of the time. The last time we saw her was on Wednesday last week –

THE SPEAKER: It was on Thursday.

MS NABAGABE: It is a pity that, today, she makes her final journey, not to debate, but instead we are honouring her. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Madam Speaker, I am an old girl of Hon. Helen from Our Lady of Good Counsel SSS, Gayaza. From Senior One to Senior Four, I was with this lady here. We were together. The sportsmanship you are all talking about was cultivated largely from Our Lady of Good Counsel SSS, Gayaza. She was part of the pioneering teams of so many sports clubs we had in the school. Team - *(Member timed out)* - Just a minute. Team Molten, basketball, volleyball, badminton, basketball, and the rest.

Today, I am paying my respects to the woman who is lying here in honour of the sisterhood that we have built across time.

She has been a great fighter for women's rights, and as a chairperson of the Women's League in the National Unity Platform, I really appreciate her efforts towards the people of Kalangala, the women and girls. She has contributed immensely to their gender issues and I appreciate her very much.

Helen, as a friend, as a sister, as a mother, lying here today, we appreciate you for the service cutting across political divides, across religious

and political affiliations, but most importantly, for using your voice strongly to speak truth to power. Thank you very much. May your voice always be a reminder that even the loudest of voices will at one point come to – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Chairperson, Catholic Chaplaincy.

4.58

MS LUCY AKELLO (FDC, Woman Representative, Amuru): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me to bring condolences from the people of Amuru. Helen, in heaven, you will no longer have the title of honourable, but you are a daughter of God.

Madam Speaker, I want to say that on Sunday at 9.51 a.m., Helen sent me a message wishing my mother a quick recovery because my mother was hospitalised. When I reached Gulu, I received the news that Helen had passed on.

When I showed the message to my mom, she was really devastated. Helen, I am here to bring my greetings from my mom, who was discharged from the hospital yesterday. Thank you for praying for her although I did not know that you were sick.

Madam Speaker, today I woke up and I bumped into – *(Member timed out)* - I bumped into this documentary of a great saint who died at the age of 15 years; Saint Carlo Acutis. On 12 October 2006, Fr Macellino, who gave him the last blessing, asked him whether he was afraid of death, and this is what the 15-year-old boy said on his deathbed. He said, "Are you afraid of going home after a long journey? Are you afraid to meet somebody you love so deeply?" That is how I see death. It is going home to meet Jesus.

I remember in one of the clips of Hon. Helen, she even talked about death. She said, "We should not fear death..." and I could not get a better documentary – *(Member timed out)* – to remember Helen by, apart from watching this one of Saint Carlo Acutis.

Rest in peace, my sister, and continue to pray for this great country called Uganda that you sacrificed for. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

5.01

MR HENRY KIBALYA (NRM, Bugabula County South, Kamuli): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon. Helen was a super brand as evidenced by the speeches of today. Helen's body is leaving this place to go to NUP offices, go to her home in Namungoona, then tomorrow church and Luweero. The rest of us could have speeches in all those areas.

I move a motion that we close the debate for Hon. Helen and have her body move decently to all those places.

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? Honourable members, in respect of the party that Hon. Nakimuli was representing, we want the party to honour Hon. Nakimuli in their offices, and then the body goes home. Are you seconding the motion? Stand up if you are seconding. *(Members rose_)* Seconded. I put the question that we close the debate and the body moves to the next destination.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable members, I now put the question that the Parliament of Uganda pays glowing tribute to the late Hon. Helen Nakimuli, the former District Woman Member of Parliament of Kalangala District and the shadow Minister of Information and Anti-Corruption, with amendments from Hon. Ogwang.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: We will extract the resolution and relay it to the family, but one thing I can promise the family is that we will follow this case to the letter. We will not continue burying people over anybody's negligence.

The East African Community Anthem

The Uganda National Anthem

(Exit of the late Hon. Helen Nakimuli.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, before I adjourn the House, I invoke rule 26(1) and vary the Order Paper to allow the minister, Hon. Obua, to lay on the Table the Corrigenda for the Financial Year 2026/2027 that will form part of our Appropriation Bill this week.

LAYING OF PAPERS

CORRIGENDA TO THE DRAFT BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/2027

5.09

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table, under the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the Corrigenda to the Draft Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, just for avoidance of doubt, I have heard a section of people saying that we are going to pass the Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026, today, tomorrow, or whichever day. We shall give you sufficient time to make the consultations. I have only put all the items that we must dispose of on the Order Paper.

The committee has not even started. I want to assure you that all the stakeholders will be heard in that committee. I just want to allay your fears about the allegation that we have smuggled in the item and that it is going to be passed.

I am going to see the body off. I adjourn the House to tomorrow, at 10.00 a.m.

(The House rose at 5.11 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 23 April 2026 at 10.00 a.m.)