



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

THURSDAY, 23 JANUARY 2025



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA
IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FOURTH SESSION - 4TH SITTING - THIRD MEETING

Thursday, 23 January 2025

Parliament met at 2.19 p.m. at Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I welcome you to today's sitting. We shall be handling all matters of national importance during the Prime Minister's Time.

I received the statement from the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs on the ongoing voter verification exercise, which was supposed to be presented by the Attorney-General, who, unfortunately, was called by the President and is in Mayuge. Therefore, we shall do this on Tuesday. However, the statement is ready. Next item.

ADDENDUM TO THE PROPOSAL
TO BORROW UP TO € 162,445,694.1
FROM THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK
OF CHINA (CEXIM) TO FINANCE THE
DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL PARKS
(POWER SUPPLY TO INDUSTRIAL
PARKS AND POWER TRANSMISSION
LINE EXTENSION)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chief Opposition Whip - is your submission on what I have communicated?

2.23

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr John Nambeshe): Oh yes. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

The voter verification exercise is shrouded in all manner of controversies, and therefore, it qualifies to be a matter of urgent public importance. I would implore, seeking your indulgence, Mr Speaker, I would implore your office to consider – now that the statement by the minister has been applauded – I would implore you to give a directive to another minister because I can see some on the Front Bench - to table this statement. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Rule 52 of our Rules of Procedure allows a debate on such statements, and I promised Members that we shall debate. Now, I do not know how we shall hold the minister who has not written the statement accountable in terms of debate and how we shall have a rich debate. You see, it is very important. This is beyond debate. We should also have commitments out of the questions the Members will bring.

On Tuesday, it will be the number one item after my communication. Thank you.

2.24

MR PAULSON LUTTAMAGUZI (DP, Nakaseke South County, Nakaseke): Mr Speaker, the voters' verification exercise is very important. We have the Deputy Attorney-General. Since this matter is very urgent, we

would have dealt with it since we do not have enough time on it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, we have time. Let us do this on Tuesday. I know how urgent it is.

Honourable colleagues, I urge you to first verify your – Hon. Luttaguzi; please take your seat. You cannot keep crisscrossing.

Where is the Front Bench? I suspend the House for 20 minutes to have the Front Bench here.

(The House was suspended at 2.25 p.m. for 20 minutes)

(On resumption at 2.36 p.m., the Deputy Speaker presiding_)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us resume from where we stopped. Minister for Finance.

ADDENDUM TO THE PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO € 162,445,694.1 (EURO ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR ONE CENT) FROM THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF CHINA (CEXIM) TO FINANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL PARKS (POWER SUPPLY TO INDUSTRIAL PARKS AND POWER TRANSMISSION LINE EXTENSION)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the minister finish this. This is just laying papers.

2.36

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a proposal to borrow up to £162,445,694.1, equivalent to \$178,276,661.7 from the Export-Import Bank of China, to finance the development of industrial parks, specifically power supply to industrial parks and power transmission line extension.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. This is referred to the Committee on National Economy for processing in consultation with the relevant sectoral committee.

Honourable colleagues, I had allowed three procedural matters. Let me start with Hon. Mwijukye.

MR MWIJUKYE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The human rights issue of prisoners has come up here many times. This House is the ears and eyes of the public. We cannot continue to debate as usual, as if we do not know that the rights of Ugandans in prisons are being infringed upon.

The issue of Dr Besigye has come up here many times. Pictures of Dr Besigye looking frail are awash in the media and out there. Therefore, as Parliament, we need to be seen to do something to decide on this issue.

As a matter of procedure, Mr Speaker, I do not know whether we can use our powers - we have a parliamentary committee on human rights - to understand exactly what is happening in Luzira Maximum Prison with respect to Dr Besigye and other prisoners. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Atkins, yesterday, raised the issue of Dr Besigye and I confirmed today that the Attorney-General had received the *Hansard*. I talked to him and he confirmed that on Tuesday, he will be ready to come and respond to the issues as they were raised.

Yes, Hon. Basalirwa.

MR BASALIRWA: Mr Speaker, I thank you. There are two issues here. When Hon. Ssemujju raised the issue of the arrest of Dr Besigye, the kidnapping in real terms, the Government undertook to come and make a statement, and that is the statement, Mr Speaker, that you are referring to. The Attorney-General was here yesterday, and he said he would make the statement today.

The issue being raised by Hon. Francis Mwijukye is very different. It is about the rights of prisoners, specifically Dr Besigye. You recall that the Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Gen. David Muhoozi, was here giving an explanation, which, in our view, was very unsatisfactory.

Mr Speaker, Hon. Mwijukye has been to Luzira Maximum Prison as a political prisoner. I have been to Luzira as a political prisoner. Hon. Ssemujju, there, has been to prison as a political prisoner. A good number of us, this side, have been there as political prisoners. What is happening now in Luzira, of subjecting Dr Besigye to cage discussion - you are this way, there is a cage on that side - is completely alien in Luzira. Anybody who has been there knows.

Mr Speaker, the issue we wanted to understand is whether there is a policy shift as far as visiting and interacting with the prisoners is concerned, especially with regard to Dr Besigye. That is the issue, that perhaps, and not the Attorney-General, but the Minister of Internal Affairs should come and state whether there is a policy shift. This is because, since time immemorial, we have been going to Luzira, we have been there as prisoners, and we have been interacting with the people who come to visit us, not in a caged form, but in a free environment.

Mr Speaker, if Dr Besigye dies in prison, God forbid, it will send out a very bad signal to this institution that something happened, we were around, and we did not speak out. I would not like it to be under your tenure that a leading opposition politician, who, by the way, as we celebrate 39 years of the NRM, is one of the people who brought this Government to power, is dying under the regime he facilitated to come to power. It will be very unfortunate.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, you can do us a lot of service if you authorise the necessary committee of Parliament to visit Luzira and undertake an investigation on this matter, and come and report.

Parliament would have discharged this obligation. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Leader of the Opposition.

2.43

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Mr Speaker, it is good that now, we have the Government present. I was in the office attending to a couple of engagements, but I was following. My space was not vacant. The Chief Opposition Whip was present and the rest of the team. That is how governments operate. It is very important that we be that organised. Yes, specific ministers or the Prime Minister might be away, but the Government should take Parliament seriously.

When I saw the adjournment for 20 minutes, I was disappointed that for the umpteenth time - because we have done this several times - you get disappointed and frustrated that the Front Bench is vacant, and you suspend the House.

Now that the Government is back, Mr Speaker, I do not want to think that the Attorney-General and the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs are trying to dodge these critical issues that we are raising about human rights violations. The Deputy Attorney-General was here yesterday; he told us he had written to Parliament to get information on the concerns raised about Dr Besigye and was meant to give us feedback. Now, they are all absent.

Mr Speaker, the Government is now present, and it is the one detaining Dr Besigye. The Government should be answerable to this issue. What happens if the Attorney-General is called again, next week on Tuesday, to the State House or wherever for an urgent I don't-know-what? Does the Government not remain present? This is because the Government is here and it is represented, and they should be answerable to these issues.

Mr Speaker, we were here paying tribute to Hon. Ssegirinya, and we raised concerns about how this House let him down. He was denied bail; we raised those concerns, and the presiding officers told us that those were matters of court. We said, but the man was sick. Eventually, he was granted bail. He was rearrested outside prison. We brought the

matter here. As presiding officers, you told us that the matter was in court. We let the man down. He eventually died because we could not stand up for one of our own.

Mr Speaker, are we waiting for you to announce to us that Dr Kizza Besigye, former - you know, because he was in the Constituent Assembly - former minister and all these different things, then you tell us to stand up, observe a moment of silence to pay tribute to him. Are we waiting for that? On Tuesday, one of the concerns about Dr Kizza Besigye was food. The last time we checked, they had denied him food from his family and he had concerns because he is entitled to that. Any day that passes by without these issues being addressed puts his life in jeopardy. Are we waiting for that very critical time when tables have turned, and then we are here saying all manner of things like, "Rest in peace?"

Mr Speaker, we have let down very many people. Let us not let down Dr Kizza Besigye as well. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ssemujju.

2.46

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): Mr Speaker, when we are talking about matters of rights, I see no appetite from the National Resistance Movement (NRM) to participate. *(Laughter)*

The other day, you saw how Hon. Akamba was arrested and grabbed - not even like a chicken thief. The tendency, from my experience here, is for our colleagues from the NRM to think that violations are limited to us. I told you here at the beginning of this Parliament, I was in B2 in Murchison Bay Prison where the former Vice-President, Gilbert Bukenya, Hon. Jim Muhwezi and Hon. Mike Mukula, Vice-Chairman of NRM, had been residents.

You need to understand how President Museveni works. Many of you - and one by one - will find yourselves in prison. *(Laughter)* You can sit here comfortably because they are

talking about Dr Besigye because he is in the Opposition. Dr Besigye whom we are talking about was the one who treated Museveni. President Museveni nearly died in Luwero but Dr Besigye treated him and this is how he is paying him. This is how he will pay you; you can pretend - *(Interruption)*

MR NIWAGABA: Thank you, Hon. Ssemujju, for giving way. When we were passing the Public Order Management Act, that time, I remember the architects thought it was going to apply to Members on this side. However, as fate would have it, the architects of that law were the first victims.

MR SSEMUJJU: Thank you very much. In fact, I was grabbed from here and dragged by the police for protesting. Hon. Amama Mbabazi complained here and asked why I was not taken to the disciplinary committee of Parliament. I saw him on Television being grabbed by the collar in Jinja. Therefore, this is a very serious matter. When rights are - that is universal.

Mr Speaker, I raised here the issue of Dr Besigye being kidnapped from Nairobi, where he had gone to attend the book launch of Hon. Martha Karua. It was in November. Two months later, the statement has not been brought.

Hon. Mwijukye raised the issue of continuing to violate his rights, even when he is in prison. The Attorney-General has been summoned. I do not know where his deputy has gone and all these good people are just looking at us. Why are you in the Government if you have no value to Parliament? That they come to raise issues.

I saw Hon. Nankabirwa here when she was the Government Chief Whip. For every matter you raised, she would excuse herself for five minutes and she would answer. Today, they are all seated. Wait for your day.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, first, I would like to clarify. It is very unfortunate that we give you a platform on the Floor of Parliament to speak, and then you use it to accuse Parliament that you do not speak. Who speaks for Parliament? It is you.

Secondly, I do not know whether you want me - Okay, I think we can pick Hon. Akol to go and raid Luzira and pick out a person on behalf of the Parliament of Uganda. Then, it goes on record that Parliament did it. You know? Oh, sorry, not Hon. Akol. He is a dangerous one and we should not involve him. *(Laughter)* I will send Hon. Zaake instead of Hon. Akol.

Honourable colleagues, I remember the time of Hon. Ssegirinya, which you have talked about, Hon. Mpuuga came here and presented a compelling case and we sent a committee.

Therefore, I want to clarify for the Attorney-General. We gave an assignment to the Attorney-General and Finance on the National Development Plan IV. Their meeting was today. He briefed me because they have issues, which we raised here that must be concluded upon. It is the Deputy Attorney-General who was sent to meet the President over some matters.

However, what I am going to do, since they are coming on Tuesday to present a statement with regard to what Hon. Atkins talked about yesterday, I have consulted with the Chairperson of the Committee on Human Rights. Let the Committee on Human Rights go and visit Dr Besigye tomorrow. *(Applause)*

They should make a report, which should be presented on Tuesday. This will ease our debate on both the Government's statement and the report of the committee.

Hon. Nankabirwa - Honourable colleagues, I hope that settles us for now. Let us send a committee there tomorrow and report back on Tuesday.

2.51

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Ruth Nankabirwa): Mr Speaker, I have stood here to really apologise on behalf of my colleagues who were not available when the House started. We will try as much as possible to make sure that we get more coordinated such that at least every ministry is represented in the House.

Secondly, I have listened to my colleagues who, in their submissions, were hitting on a matter that, "supposing Dr Kizza Besigye dies", I just want to stand here and declare that we are going to pray - *(Interjections)* - Yes, we pray for Dr Kizza Besigye. I seek your protection -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you are on record. The rest are not on record.

MS NANKABIRWA: Okay. I am just standing here as Canon Dr Ruth Nankabirwa to declare that we shall pray that God protects Dr Kizza Besigye and that justice be done unto him. I am going to speak to my colleagues. I have listened to what my colleagues have raised such that come Tuesday, a satisfying answer will be given to this House regarding Dr Kizza Besigye's plea. I wanted to be on record that we will pray. God forbid, because I have listened to the Leader of Opposition talking about "supposing he dies" God knows what will happen, but my prayer is that Dr Kizza Besigye is safe and that justice is done.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, Chairman, Committee on Human Rights, I think you have picked what the Members raised. Your focus tomorrow will be limited to the detention condition because they said he was denied his rights. They have put special conditions on him and all that. We want to know whether Dr Besigye is not being held under conditions that are similar to other procedures that are used in the prison. Thank you. Hon. Mpuuga, do you have a procedural matter?

MR MPUUGA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on procedural issues because I did not want to convolute the debate that has been concluded. As a matter of reminder to the House, the time you gave the Minister of Defence and Internal Affairs, these two ministers, to come and report on the missing 18, has since lapsed. The time was given in November. May you compel them to report next week on the same matter so that we can handle them concurrently?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sure. Next item? Hon Atkins?

MR KATUSABE: Mr Speaker, Sir, I really thank you for your leadership because leadership is the ability to identify a problem and prescribe a solution before it becomes a crisis.

This morning, somebody was following up on what I and other colleagues have been raising - This morning, there is a Member here - for privacy, I am not really going to mention her name, she had a chance to get to Luzira Prison. I am meant to understand that Dr Besigye had a health condition yesterday, and he was throwing up blood.

I appreciate that the committee and the leadership of the committee will go to Luzira Prison tomorrow, but I want to be sure because everything else can wait but not life. I want to be sure that when the committee membership go to Luzira, they will find my President, Dr Besigye, alive.

It does not matter, I want, Mr Speaker, if it pleases you that you provide leadership that a medical team recommended by Dr Besigye's family go check on my president in Luzira so that we have the assurance that the committee membership will find my leader alive. Mr Speaker, I appreciate your leadership. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, we are seated in positions of responsibility and power but there is where we stop; my authority here stops somewhere. I do not think I have the authority to order that doctors recommended by the family should go, and - I think what we have done, honourable colleagues, the Committee on Human Rights has both opposition and the ruling side.

I have hope - Dr Besigye has survived a lot and I do not think he will just die tonight. Let us pray for him. We all wish him the best and the best we can do is to ensure that our committee goes there tomorrow. Whatever they find, we shall be in touch with the committee and the leadership of the government. If there is anything urgent which the committee finds,

they will link up with me immediately and we shall interlink with the Executive to see which action can be taken.

Colleagues, on this matter, I request that we go - but it is a matter that I have ruled on.

MR SSEMUJJU: Mr Speaker, my fear is that your ruling seemed to limit the Committee on Human Rights. When Counsel Eron Kiiza was dragged and beaten, I was happy when I saw the tweet attributed to Hon. Fox and I am only praying that you do not limit them. They need to look at all the issues surrounding this matter. If you get lawyers beaten the way - and he was very angry in his tweet - can you allow them to go beyond just the prison in accordance with the rules, such that they deal with all these issues?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You see, you are going to open it and the committee will request for 45 days or 30 days. We have an urgent matter which you have brought here. You have said Dr Besigye is caged, you have said Dr Besigye is denied food from his own people and medication. You have said this is contrary to prison procedures and we are saying, "no, let the committee go and verify that quickly." Then if the committee finds they need to go beyond that scope, they will come and report back here on Tuesday and we can allow them to go beyond. Yes, Hon. Sseggon, finally.

5.59

MR MEDARD LUBEGA SSEGGONA (NUP, Busiro County East, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am very happy with your guidance and I am not revisiting that. I only want to join Canon Dr Ruth Nankabirwa in prayer that people who behave inhumanly come back to God. *(Laughter)*

Number two, Mr Speaker, with regard to the issue raised by the Hon. Mathias Mpuuga of the missing 18, I was again happy with your ruling and guidance but being a slave of the law, I just wanted to invite you to find pleasure in revisiting and make the order more positive and instructive, because your answer was sure sure and in the rules there will be difficulty

on the part of Dr Nankabirwa, who is going to communicate with her absent or ever delinquent colleagues and also for the *Hansard*. May I invite you to direct that the ministers come here on Tuesday and bring a report on the missing 18, some of whom we understand have lost their eyes, one has lost his limb and if I am telling a lie, let them be produced with their eyes and limbs. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sure, sure. (*Laughter*) Let the minister come on Tuesday, so that we can handle these issues and we have them out of the way since they are interrelated. Sure, sure. (*Laughter*)

MOTION THAT THE HOUSE RESOLVES ITSELF INTO A COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY TO CONSIDER A SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE NO.1 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 156(2) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, SECTION 25 OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT 2015 AND RULE 153 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Finance.

3.02

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to move a motion that the House resolves itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No. 1 for the Financial Year 2024/2025 pursuant to Article 156(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, Section 25 of the Public Finance Management Act 2015 and Rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament. I beg to move, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? Hon. Nankabirwa, Hon Remigio, Hon. Rwamirama, Hon. Solomon, Hon. Nandutu, Hon. Alenyo, Hon. Julius, Hon. Obigah Rose, Hon. Joanne Okia, Hon. Susan

Amero, Hon. Emmanuel Ongiertho, Hon. Musana, all of you and the whole NRM side. Honourable Minister, would you want to speak to your motion?

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker and colleagues, the Supplementary Expenditure Schedule 1 for the Financial Year 2024/2025 amounts to Shs 1.051 trillion, which is 1.46 per cent of the approved budget for the Financial Year 2024/2025. The supplementary was issued for;

1. Re-voting of funds for the World Bank-funded projects of Uganda Inter-governmental Fiscal Transfer and Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID);
2. Shortfalls on wage and salaries.
3. Critical government policy commitments that cannot be postponed
4. Expenditure on peace and security, international commitments, as well as supporting the economy, fostering economic recovery.

Mr Speaker and Members, the Supplementary Schedule 1 for Financial Year 2024/2025 will be funded from;

- i) Additional non-tax revenue, not tax revenue;
- ii) Additional borrowing;
- iii) We have already committed external financing in our framework.

Mr Speaker, I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you honourable minister. The Chairperson of the Committee on Budget, kindly, present your report.

Yes, procedural matter, Shadow Minister of Finance?

MR SSEMUJJU: Mr Speaker, the substantive chairperson of the committee is not around. The vice chairperson is steering the committee. The procedural issue I have is that, as he comes here to make a presentation, he also appointed a vice chairperson who is now chairing the

budget committee continuing with the Budget Framework Paper.

I am a member of the Committee on Budget; when we are presenting here, I think it is irregular for the committee to continue transacting business yet the same committee is presenting a report before the House. The challenge is that members who want to contribute or follow cannot be in two places.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think that, indeed - Chairperson, do you have any meeting of the committee going on? The committee should be here to present their report.

MR ACHIA: We had broken off for lunch. I think I have to check if some members are in there.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: In case there is any ongoing meeting, let all members come here.

MR ACHIA: Okay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Clerk coordinate that as you continue presenting the report. We are not privy to what the committee is doing outside, so thank you for alerting us.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
BUDGET ON SUPPLEMENTARY
EXPENDITURE, SCHEDULE NO.1 FOR
THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

3.05

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON BUDGET (Mr Remigio Achia): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for that guidance. I have here the report of the Budget on Committee on Supplementary Expenditure, Schedule No.1 for the Financial Year 2024/2025, dated January 2025.

Before I go to the report, I beg to lay on the Table the minutes and documents related to this supplementary expenditure that we have been processing.

Mr Speaker, on 19 December 2024, the minister of Finance presented to Parliament a supplementary expenditure number one of

2024/2025 amounting to Shs 1.05 trillion, as highlighted in the table below.

It consists of a sum that is less than 3 per cent of the legal limit of the total approved budget of Shs 72.136 trillion for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

The total supplementary expenditure request constitutes Shs 0.74 trillion in terms of recurrent expenditure and Shs 0.308 trillion in terms of development expenditure.

Mr Speaker, the methodology is the usual one. The stakeholders we interacted with include the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and all the accounting officers of MDAs seeking approval of the supplementary therein.

The legal framework is as per Article 156(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, which states that;

- “If in respect of any financial year, it is found -*
- a) that the amount appropriated for any purpose under the Appropriation Act is insufficient or that a need has arisen for expenditure for a purpose for which no amount has been appropriated by that Act;*
 - or*
 - b) that any monies have been expended for any purpose in excess of the amount appropriated by 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 down before Parliament within four months of the money being spent.”

The above article is operationalised under Section 25 of the Public Finance Management Act, as amended, which states as follows:

- “1) The total supplemental expenditure that requires additional resources of and above what is approved by Parliament shall not exceed 3 per cent of the total approved budget for that financial year without approval of Parliament.*

2) *Where funds are expended under subsection 1, supplementary estimates showing the sum spent shall be laid before Parliament within four months after the money is spent.*

Furthermore, Regulation 18(5) (6) and (7) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2016 provides also as follows:

“(5) Parliament may approve a supplementary appropriation or the Minister may approve a supplementary budget, as the case may be, where the supplementary expenditure is unabsorbable, unavoidable or unforeseeable.

(6) *For the purpose of this regulation -*

(a) *“unabsorbable” means an expenditure that cannot be funded through virement;*

(b) *“unavoidable” means an expenditure that cannot be postponed to the next financial year through virement; and*

(c) *“unforeseeable” does not include any expenditure that was foreseeable by the vote at the time of preparation of the budget of the vote or an expenditure that should have been included in the budget of the vote.*

(7) *Any expenditure, which is in excess of the appropriated budget of vote and which is not in accordance with this section shall be treated as loss of public funds as provided for under Section 79 (1) of the Act.”*

2.0 Source of Funding

Mr Speaker and colleagues, according to Rule 153(2) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the supplementary estimates presented to Parliament shall clearly spell out the source of funding for the supplementary request for which you vote.

Table 2 shows the sources of funding for this supplementary. It is from additional external financing, escrow- accounts in Stanbic Bank, local revenue, local government, NTR and others.

Committee observations and recommendations

Part one is funded supplementary (Shs 97.263 billion)

1. Vote 003 - Office of the Prime Minister

The Committee observes that Shs 12.635 billion was requested by the Office of the Prime Minister for the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP), whose implementation ended on 30 June 2024, but was given an extension to enable beneficiary institutions to complete the activities that were pending. Unfortunately, this money was swept back at the end of the financial year. We had approved this money but we are voting it back. Accordingly, the World Bank released funds for the completion of the project in order to meet the deadline of October 2024.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 12.635 billion to Vote 003 - Office of the Prime Minister for this purpose.

2. Vote 007 - Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

The committee observes that Shs 24.102 billion was requested by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs for the completion of the first phase of the construction of the Justice Law, and Order Sector House in Naguru.

The Committee was informed that in order to complete the first phase of the construction, the institutions, which will be housed therein, resolved to contribute funds from within their budgets to ensure timely completion by December 2024.

These institutions include the Directorate of Public Prosecution(DPP), Judicial Service Commission (JSC), Law Reform Commission (LRC), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Tax Appeals Tribunal, and budget support to the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS). These institutions contributed a total of Shs 19.049 billion, and an extra Shs 5.035 billion was contributed by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

The Committee, therefore, recommends approval of this money, Shs 24.102 billion, to Vote 007 - Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs for that purpose.

3. Vote 012 - Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development needs Shs 25.577 billion.

The committee observes that Shs 25.577 billion was provided for external financing for the Competitiveness and Enterprise Development Project, which officially closed on 3 November 2024 and the World Bank disbursed funds for completion of the project. So, even here, we are voting back that money.

The funds support adjudication and demarcation of land, registration and issuance of land titles, design and rollout of the Land Valuation Management Information System, enhancement and rollout of the National Land Information System, establishment of Operating Reference Stations and the Uganda Geodetic Reference Framework, and construction of an additional floor at the National Land Information Centre.

The committee recommends approval of this money, Shs 25.577 billion, to Vote 012 - Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, for the above purpose.

4. Vote 013 - Ministry of Education and Sports: Shs 1.531 billion

The committee observed that during the finalisation of the budget for the Financial Year 2024/2025 and following the approved policy on the management of all education institutions at the college level, it was agreed that these institutions should be centrally managed by the Ministry of Education and Sports.

However, during the finalisation of the budget, the wage budget of Shs 1.531 billion of Nakawa Vocational College, which was under KCCA, was not transferred to the Ministry of Education and Sports. This has, therefore, necessitated a supplementary of the equivalent amount to the ministry to be funded from the

existing allocation under KCCA. So, we are moving money from KCCA to the Ministry of Education and Sports.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 1.531 billion to Vote 013 – Ministry of Education and Sports for the above purpose.

5. Vote 119 - Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB): Shs 872.52 million

The committee observes that URSB is a member of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO). ARIPO has provided budget support to URSB, equivalent to Shs 872.52 million, to support activities related to strengthening intellectual property rights.

The committee recommends approval of this money to Vote 119 – Uganda Registration Services Bureau for the above purpose.

6. Vote 141 - Uganda Revenue Authority (URA): Shs 15 billion

Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues, the committee observes that URA requires Shs 15 billion for the full and final out-of-court settlement of matters between Mr John Imaniraguha, Fuelex (U) Ltd and URA. This will be paid from available garnished funds in Stanbic Bank.

The committee recommends approval of this money for the above purpose.

7. Vote 311 – Law Development Centre (LDC): Shs 6.48 billion

The committee observes that commencing from Financial Year 2024/2025, the Government will implement a new policy in which LDC will have two intakes. In order to implement this policy and provide for the second intake to cater for 1,643 applicants in January 2025, LDC will require Shs 6.48 billion, which will be raised through tuition forecast at Shs 9.858 billion.

This has necessitated a supplementary expenditure of Shs 6.48 billion to cater for the cost of running the institution including wages, salaries, allowances and operational expenses.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 6.48 billion to Vote 311 - Law Development Centre.

8. Vote 312 - Uganda Management Institute (UMI): Shs 2.816 billion

Committee observations

a. During the finalisation of the wage bill for Financial Year 2024/2025, UMI received an additional allocation of Shs 1.328 billion for harmonisation of salaries of public universities. However, the additional allocation was inadvertently captured under Vote 311 - Law Development Centre (LDC). As such, there was need for the transfer to enable UMI fully harmonise salaries for its staff; and

b. During finalising of the budget for Financial Year 2024/2025, UMI was allocated gratuity amounting to Shs 5.107 billion. However, due to variations in the time of contract commencement, the actual gratuity requirement is less than the allocated budget. Given that the Vote is projecting a shortfall on emoluments to Associate Professors who are not on the payroll, the Vote requested for a transfer of Shs 1.487 billion from gratuity to allowances to cater for emoluments of part-time Associate Professors and also clear outstanding employee obligations during this Financial Year 2024/2025.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 2.816 billion to Vote 312 - Uganda Management Institute.

9. Votes ranging from 601-935 - Local Governments: Shs 8.250 billion

The committee observes that various local governments realise additional local revenues that require them to seek a supplementary

expenditure approval. The details are in Annex 1. There are a number of districts and local governments therein.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 8.25 billion to Votes 600 to 935 local governments, as highlighted in Annex 1.

Part II: Supplementary that requires additional Government of Uganda funding and totals to Shs 953.345 billion

10. Vote 002 - State House: Shs 234.75 billion

The committee observes that Shs 234.75 billion is required by State House for classified expenditure.

The committee recommends approval of this money to Vote 002 - State House.

11. Vote 003 - Office of the Prime Minister: Shs 4.4 billion

The committee observations are as follows:

i) Shs 2 billion to cater for shortfalls in the Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) Secretariat activities such as the conference scheduled for April 2025, presentation of the SDG progress reports and other thematic reports, and strengthening localisation and popularisation of SDGs and Agenda 2063;

ii) Shs 2.4 billion for activities leading to implementation of Executive Order No. 3 of 2023 to be implemented under the Northern Uganda Rehabilitation Programme. Honourable colleagues, Executive Order No. 3 of 2023 was issued to implement the anti-cattle rustling efforts in North and North-eastern Uganda, mitigation of damage to the environment by the charcoal business and the damage caused by the Ba-lalo.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 4.4 billion to Vote 003 - Office of the Prime Minister.

12. Vote 006 – Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Shs 488.205 million.

The committee observes that Shs 488.205 million was required by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for contributions to the Commonwealth Secretariat. This was to ensure Uganda honours its commitments to the Commonwealth Secretariat and enable Uganda's effective participation in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which took place in Apia, Samoa from 21 to 26 October 2024.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 488.205 million to Vote 006 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

13. Vote 008 - Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development: Shs 6.311 billion

The committee observed that Shs 6.311 billion was required by the minister for Operational Shortfalls for Uganda Telecom Limited (UTEL) which is a requirement for the administrator to release the land titles to facilitate the financial closure of UTEL investor.

The Committee recommends approval of Shs 6.311 billion to Vote 008 - Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

14. Vote 016 - Ministry of Works and Transport: Shs 50 billion

The committee of the Shs 50 billion was required by the ministry for the completion of rehabilitation of the Tororo - Gulu Railway Line Project (Meter Gauge Railway).

The committee recommends approval of Shs 50 billion to Vote 016 - Ministry of Works and Transport.

15. Vote 018 - Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development: Shs 4.882 billion.

Committee observations:

- i) Shs 3.038 billion is required to meet the shortfalls for hosting the Ateker Reunion

festival, which took place in Soroti. The funds were to cater for accommodation, and the attendant facilitation of the VVIPs invited to the festival;

- ii) Shs 1.292 billion is required to meet statutory expenditure and operational expenses, expenditures for subventions under the ministry, such as Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE), Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP), Uganda Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) operations of the National Women's Council;

- iii) Shs 551.601 million is required for contribution to the Commonwealth Youth Programme. This was to ensure Uganda's commitment to the programme and enable effective participation in the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM), which was held in Apia, Samoa, in October 2024.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 4.882 billion to Vote 018 - Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

16. Vote 020 - Ministry of ICT and National Guidance: Shs 11.33 billion.

The committee observes that Shs 11.33 billion is required in order to facilitate wage requirements and operational shortfalls for Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC). UBC was not provided funds in the budget for the Financial Year 2024/2025 for these wage requirements and operational shortfalls.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 11.33 billion to Vote 020 - Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, as subvention to UBC.

17. Vote 023 - Ministry of Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs: Shs 7.36 billion.

The committee observed that Shs 7.36 billion is required to facilitate the operations of the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Affairs GKMA Urban Development Project with detailed designs for roads and markets and

the coordination of the metropolitan fiscal planning in GKMA.

The committee recommends approval of this money to Vote 023 - Ministry of Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs.

18. Vote 106 - Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC): Shs 10.4 billion.

The committee observed that Shs 10.4 billion is required for operational shortfalls such as NSSF and contractual allowances, fixed costs, complaints management, research and civic education.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 10.4 billion to Vote 106 - Uganda Human Rights Commission.

19. Vote 107 - Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC): Shs 2 billion.

The committee observes that Shs 2 billion is required for shortfalls in the counterpart funding for Uganda country coordinating mechanism for the Global Fund (UCCM) for awareness creation activities.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 2 billion to Vote 107 - Uganda AIDS Commission.

20. Vote 130 - Treasury Operations: Shs 53.119 billion.

The committee observes that Shs 53.119 billion is required for promissory note obligations on completion of Lubowa Hospital.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 53.11 billion to Vote 130 - Treasury Operations Lubowa Hospital.

21. Vote 131 - Office of the Auditor-General (OAG): Shs 3.245 billion.

The committee observes that Shs 3.245 billion is required for post-retirement benefits for the former Auditor-General.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 3.245 billion to Vote 131 - Office of the Auditor-General as retirement benefits for the former Auditor-General.

22. Vote 146 - Public Service Commission (PSC): Shs 4.4 billion.

The committee observes that Shs 4.4 billion is required for the implementation of Rationalisation of Agencies and Public Expenditure (RAPEX).

The committee recommends approval of Shs 4.4 billion to Vote 146 - Public Service Commission.

23. Vote 158 - Internal Security Organisation: Shs 19.616 billion.

The committee observed that Shs 19.616 billion is required to cater for outstanding domestic arrears over three financial years from Financial Year 2021/2022 to date.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 19.616 billion to Vote 158 - Internal Security Organisation.

24. Vote 301 - Makerere University: Shs 8.856 billion.

The committee observes that Shs 8.856 billion is required to cater for living out allowances for government-sponsored students.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 8.856 billion to Vote 301 - Makerere University to pay living out allowances for government-sponsored students.

25. Vote 515 - Uganda Embassy in Japan, Tokyo: Shs 800 million.

The committee observes that Shs 800 million is required for rent shortfalls. The Embassy shifted to a better premise following a directive by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, but the rent requirement was higher by Shs 800 million.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 800 million to Vote 515 - Uganda embassy in Japan, Tokyo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, in the end, what matters is the money we shall supply. My record is as good as the record.

MR ACHIA: 26. Wage shortfalls – Shs 194.241 billion.

The committee observes that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development received additional requests to meet wage shortfalls for both Central and Local Government Votes (see Annexure 2 for details). This followed the Auditor-General's report on the special audit of the payroll, presidential directive to announce the wages of scientists and other critical requirements.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 194.241 billion to various Central and Local Government Votes as highlighted in Annex 2.

27. Funding for Non-Tax Revenue enhancement: Shs 152.98 billion.

The committee was informed that the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development reviewed the Non-Tax Revenue (NTR) performance of various MDAs and noted that provision of Shs 152.98 billion to these MDAs will enable those Votes to collect Shs 400 billion to support the budget. Of this, Shs 152.98 billion; in addition, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has made the attainment of NTR revenue projections a requirement in the performance contracts of accounting officers for the Financial Year 2024/2025. The Votes are summarised below:

The committee recommends approval of Shs 152.98 billion to various Central and Local Government Votes for the purpose of helping them to enhance and collect more Shs 400 billion to support the budget. The details are in that table.

Number 28: National Water and Sewerage Corporation - Shs 14 billion

The committee observes that a number of government institutions owe the National Water and Sewerage Corporation arrears for water supplied by the institution.

In order to support National Water and Sewerage Corporation operations ensure service delivery and also reduce the stock of arrears for water, Shs 14 billion has been provided to vote in the health sector and Ugandan Prisons, as summarised.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 14 billion to votes as highlighted in Table 5 below:

To pay for water for:

1. Mulago Hospital – Shs 6 billion
2. Jinja Referral Hospital – Shs 4 billion
3. Mulago Specialised Neonatal Hospital – Shs 2 billion
4. Uganda Prisons Services – Shs 2 billion

Total – Shs 14 billion.

29. Votes 601 to 935 – Local Governments: Shs 170.168 billion

The committee observes that:

- i) Shs 143.989 billion were unspent funds in the Financial Year 2023/2024 for the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers (UGIFT) reform. The details are in Annex 3. This is mainly for the construction of seed secondary schools, upgrade of health centres II and health centres III, water projects and micro-scale irrigation projects. Annex 3 has the details.
- ii) Shs 26.179 billion was for re-voting of USMID unspent balances that were returned to the Consolidated Fund at the closure of the Financial Year 2023/2024. The details are in Annexure 4.

The committee recommends approval of Shs 170.168 billion to various Local Government votes, as highlighted in annexures 3 and 4.

In conclusion, I request the House to approve this Supplementary Expenditure under Schedule 1 for the Financial Year 2024/2025, totalling Shs 1,050.6 billion as outlined in tables 6 and 7 below and detailed by Vote in the supply schedules A, B, and C of the proposed supply schedules. I beg to report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, committee chairperson, together with your committee. I am made to understand that you have a minority report.

MR ACHIA: Mr Speaker, sorry for that omission. I should have laid on the Table the minority report, which is part of the report on this supplementary expenditure. This was submitted by Hon. Ibrahim Nganda.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssemujju, kindly, come and table your report – I do not usually see you starting to report from the corridors.

3.38

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am Ssemujju Ibrahim. That is the name I am known by and referred to in Parliament. “Nganda” is my father, who died recently, so you do not have “Ssemujju Ibrahim Nganda” in Parliament, but “Ssemujju Ibrahim.”

Mr Speaker, just for emphasis, the Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No. 1 amounting to Shs 1 trillion was laid on the Table on 19th December and referred to the Budget Committee. This supplementary schedule is in respect of the current financial year whose budget was Shs 72.130 trillion, which we approved. We are now revising it. You, Parliament, therefore, are being asked to increase this budget to Shs 73.181 trillion this afternoon.

Mr Speaker, we urge you not to approve this request for the following reasons:

1. Chaotic and unrealistic budgeting.

Honourable members, in all his reports to Parliament, the Auditor-General has extensively reported on total budgets passed, total warrants issued – “warrants” means just the release - by the Minister of Finance, planning and Economic Development and the actual revenue realised to finance the budget.

In the last Financial Year, 2023/2024, for example, this Parliament approved a total budget of Shs 52.737 trillion. You were asked to revise it through a supplementary request to Shs 61.669 trillion, which you did.

The Auditor-General on page 38 of the report that was presented to you, Mr Speaker, says that only Shs 50.172 trillion was warranted, which means what was released by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development - they asked you to revise the budget to Shs 60 trillion. Part of the release was air. Why?

The actual money that was available for spending was Shs 48 trillion. This means that there was no money to finance the budget that you passed, as Parliament, of Shs 52 trillion. Yet, we were asked to revise it to Shs 61 trillion. A total of Shs 11.498 trillion was not warranted by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Even what they claim to have released, they did not have money to finance it. That is why the actual spending was Shs 48 trillion. As a result of this, arrears continue to accumulate, and they are providing, almost perennially, in every budget, only Shs 200 billion to clear these arrears.

In the recently released report, the Auditor-General has put the figure of arrears to Shs 13.814 trillion, which is never usually included in the public debt. It increased from Shs 10.5 trillion the previous year. With each approval you make here, you know you are committing the country and injuring suppliers because, in the end, Hon. Musasizi will supply air.

You, therefore, as Parliament, have a duty to curtail this insatiable appetite for supplementary budgets. You do not have the money to finance

the budget as approved, and then you are asking Parliament to revise it upwards.

2. Non-compliance with the law.

Mr Speaker, section 25(6) of the Public Finance Management Act outlines the criteria for supplementary budgets specifying that supplementary request expenditure should be as the Committee said. We only disagree with the recommendation. You cannot say you read what the committee chairperson has read and then at the end you say, "Approve". It must be absorbable where the expenditure cannot be funded through virement - the committee chairperson noted that - unavoidable where expenditure cannot be postponed to the next financial year, and unforeseeable where expenditure was not foreseeable by the vote at the time of budget preparation or should have been included in the original budget.

Mr Speaker, these criteria suggest that supplementary budgets are intended for unexpected and critical expenditures that could not have been anticipated or planned during the budget process. This supplementary seeks to finance activities that should have been budgeted for or can be catered for in the next budget, which we are now processing. There are many things. You have heard about festivities in Teso, Lubowa, CHOGM - the whole list.

As Parliament, you are under obligation to begin checking every request against the law and then see if it fits. That test, my committee failed. That is why I am here to alert you.

On page 326 of the Auditor-General's report, the Auditor-General says, "Supplementary funding amounting to Shs 2 trillion was not warranted, defeating the purpose for which the funds were appropriated".

Even when they come here to ask for a supplementary, they do not have money for it. I will come back to this. Last financial year, all the money passed as supplementary, there was no money to finance that supplementary. Then he asks- how do you know? - I am saying, Auditor-General, be attentive.

Mr Speaker, the Public Finance Management Regulations (Amended), 2016, Regulation 18(1), outlines the procedure for seeking supplementary budgets, including justifications that demonstrate urgency, necessity, and compliance with legal and budgetary frameworks, while Regulation 18(2) requires Ministries, Departments, and Agencies to justify why the expenditure could not have been reasonably foreseen or accommodated within the approved budget.

Many of the entities being given money in this supplementary do not meet the criteria as illustrated in the Public Finance Management Act and I have given examples, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, human rights, treasury operations, etcetera.

The Auditor-General on page 23 of his recent report notes; Regulation 18(2) of the Public Finance Management Regulations requires that an accounting officer who intends to spend money as supplementary expenditure shall request the minister's approval in writing.

The Auditor-General said, "I noted that 185 entities received supplementary funding worth Shs 382 billion for pension and gratuity expenditure in the Financial Year 2023/2024 without any written requests from the accounting officers. The committee is aware of this. We were supposed to have had another meeting with the finance minister, which did not happen, only to meet my colleagues signing a report.

Lubowa Specialised Hospital

This supplementary seeks to give more money to Lubowa Specialised Hospital being constructed by that wonderful Italian friend of President Museveni called Ms Enrico Pinetti Mirano. Money to Ms Pinetti in this supplementary, which is Shs 53.119 billion, is being requested by Vote 130, Treasurer Operations, which is a vote primarily for debt servicing.

Honourable members, the Government signed a Promissory Note Purchase Agreement in

December 2018 with the Minister of Health as the implementing agent. You are aware that since then, this Pinetti issue was removed from the Minister of Health. It is under the Office of the Prime Minister.

Africa Export-Import Bank, Trade and Development Bank, and Barclays Bank Limited, among others, to fund the project up to the tune of \$379.7 million. Parliament approved this funding and execution modalities in March 2018. Since then, the government has paid Ms Pinetti or Lubowa Shs 476.4 billion.

I do not have to go through the details of how money has been paid to Ms Pinetti. Today, the government has redeemed seven promissory notes with a total value face of \$133.6 million, reflecting a financial performance of 35.2 per cent of the total project cost of \$379 million.

The Auditor-General's report on treasury operations for the year ending June 2023- last year's report, highlighted concerns that, although the owner's engineer issued milestone certificates based on progress reports from the contractor, the engineer faced restricted access to the construction site. Even the engineer who should be there to do your work cannot access the site.

This limitation undermines their role in safeguarding the interest of both the Minister of Health and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The audit further revealed that the milestone certificates were primarily based on contract-submitted reports. Ms Pinetti constructs, then she writes, finance ministry - pay me, work has reached here, and Hon. Musasizi runs to Parliament, please pay.

The Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government), in its review of the Auditor-General's report, observed that the government failed to conduct adequate due diligence on the agreements and the project overall, raising doubts about the validity of the payments relative to the work completed.

The committee was unable to verify the progress of work at the site due to repeated obstruction

by the project developer, Ms Pinetti. In light of these issues, there is a significant risk of financial loss for Ugandans. You have already put in Shs 476 billion. Now, you are being asked to please add, and then some colleagues are about to add.

It is recommended that the project be halted until a special audit report is completed and Parliament deliberates on its findings. *(Applause)*

State House

The State House wants Shs 234 billion classified expenditure. This financial year, we passed a total budget of Shs 452.2 billion for the residence of the President and his dear wife. President and his wife because all their known children are now adults who are not catered for by the law on Presidential Emoluments and Benefits Act- these are issues of law, even if you want to be emotional about them. The law states who should benefit. State House is a creation of this law. It is a home for things like sleeping and not working. That is why the Office of the President is established. The occupant of the State House is expected to wake up every day and go to the President's Office to work. He is not expected to turn himself into an extension worker, supervising sugarcane growing in Busoga and poultry farms in Bunyoro, taking photos behind heaps of eggs.

The occupants of the State House are requesting Shs 234.75 billion, *(mbu)*, it is classified expenditure. That the *-(Interjection)-*listen, that Shs 81.6 billion, you gave them in the current budget as classified expenditure has been exhausted. In the budget, you gave them Shs 81 billion. Now, the Shs 81 is finished. They want Shs 234 billion classified. Shs 234 billion, will bring the total State House budget to Shs 686.6 billion, just by halfway through the financial year.

Remember, this is just the first supplementary request, for this financial year. Last year, we processed three supplementary requests, bringing the total State House budget to Shs

802 billion. If you honourable colleagues, especially from NRM, allow this request, it will mean that you have given the occupant of the State House Shs 315 billion in classified expenditure.

This residency is the only one in the world. Mind you, you will never know how this money is utilised. They account to themselves when it comes to classified expenditures *-(Interjections)-* I will respond to you when I have finished. There is absolutely no doubt in our mind that part of this money is for a campaign and the rest is for personal use.

Someone should tell me, what classified thing does our President do in State House? Even if it were to be there, does it cost Shs 315 billion? State House uses classified expenditure as a trick to increase its budget. Last financial year, take note; Parliament approved the total budget of Shs 421.9 billion for State House, which they increased to Shs 799.8 billion through three supplementaries. The total supplementary request for State House was Shs 456 billion, bigger than the budget that you had actually passed for them. The supplementary was bigger than the budget.

Classified expenditure, which is security, should be requested by the defence, police, ISO, and ESO. This is one way of enriching the occupants of State House. Can you imagine these fellows are swimming in money while the country's road network continues to deteriorate? In Mulago, the intensive care unit has 27 beds, but only 15 are working; there is no money to recruit staff, but the residence has-

Mr Speaker, the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), keeps asking, "What do you know?" Now listen. The Chief of Defence Forces, Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, has already called Members who sit on the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs clowns and idiots. He also called a Member of this House, the immediate Deputy CDF, Gen. Elwelu, a buffoon.

We need to examine how we conduct parliamentary business. This is for you. If they throw a supplementary like this that does not comply with the law and you pass it, they will

reward you by calling you idiots and clowns. It is entirely up to you. I beg to move, Mr Speaker. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a vintage, Hon. Ssemujju. Thank you, honourable. Colleagues, we will have a debate which starts now - Vice-Chairperson PAC, DP, UPC, FDC. Yes, I have picked you, honourable colleagues. The ones I have picked, please, I will start with you.

3.57

MS DORCAS ACEN (NRM, Woman Representative, Alebtong): Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committee for a very clear report and agree with some of the recommendations. I would like to dwell specifically on Votes 601 to 935, which is on local governments, about Shs 170.168 billion, whereby Shs 143.989 billion was unspent funds in the Financial Year 2023/2024 for UgIFT.

Mr Speaker, in Alebtong District, which I represent, we benefited from similar funding and re-voting, which was part of unspent funds for the previous financial year. That went towards the upgrade of Health Centres II and III.

Recently, we commissioned Adwir Health Centre III, which provides maternal services, and supports women and children. I, therefore, would like to support the recommendation from the committee about the unspent funds for UgIFT and also for USMID. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Acen.

3.58

MR EDDIE KWIZERA (NRM, Bukimbiri, Kisoro): Mr Speaker, thank you very much. It would be good when some Votes are losing and others are gaining, maybe it would be good to practice to know which Votes are gaining if these are not additional resources.

Another issue I want to raise is that when the Government is bringing these issues, we passed a loan of \$636 million for the scale-up project under electricity. Recruitment

and procurement were done but there is no counterpart funding of Shs 65 billion. Why didn't the Minister of Finance, Planning and Development find it in their own wisdom to provide for the Shs 65 million, such that now this scale-up programme takes off instead of giving it to Pinetti's business? I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr Bhoka –

3.59

DR GEORGE BHOKA (NRM, Obongi County, Obongi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I rise to support the request on three grounds. The first is on the DRDIP projects. My constituency is a beneficiary of that. We have a bridge with a budget shortfall of close to Shs 800 million. This will go a long way in bridging that gap.

Secondly, in the health sector, we have a number of health facilities that have been recommended for upgrade by the UPDF Engineering Brigade, unfortunately, because of a delay in the release of funds, the works have not commenced. I also believe this supplementary budget will go a long way in providing the resources for the UPDF brigade to be able to start work.

Lastly, I have a seed secondary school, Gopele. Work has stalled for the last about six months because of, again, money that has been swept back. The re-voting of this money will go a long way in ensuring that work commences and is completed in time. I submit, and I, therefore, support the report. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Herbert and then Hon. Norman Ocherero.

4.00

MR HERBERT TAYEBWA (NRM, Kashongi County, Kiruhura): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the chairperson of the committee for the good report. When you go through the submission of the committee, whereas the law requires a supplementary and other factors are considered, in the submission, you would actually see that none of what they submitted was not foreseen. None was not foreseen.

All that I read and went through was foreseen. I want to urge Parliament that there is a tendency by the Government to bring in the budgets what is non-priority and leave priorities so that when they bring what is priority here, we see it as an emergency, as a requirement and pass it under supplementary. Therefore, we need to scrutinise when we are passing these budgets.

Secondly, there is Shs 6 billion meant for the administrator of Utel. We interrogated the administrator of Utel because I am on an ad hoc committee investigating POSTA. He told us that the administrator is only required to take assets, not liabilities.

Now, if the administrator is only taking up assets and not liabilities, why do you require supplementary? - to go and pay what? We need actually to further understand why this Administrator is requiring Shs 6 billion, yet he was supposed to only take assets of Uganda Telecom, not liabilities. One of those liabilities was a payment for POSTA which they have not paid. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Colleagues in the public gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation of Karuguzza Development Radio Listeners from Buyanja East County in Kibaale district. They are represented by Hon. Matia Kasaija, Hon. Emely Kugonza, and Hon. Noline Kitembo Basemera. They have come to observe proceedings of this House. Join me in welcoming them. (*Applause*) Thank you. Hon. Norman Ocherero –

4.03

MR NORMAN OCHERO (NRM, Labwor County, Abim): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This House did pass a budget for this financial year within its powers. We all remember very well that when the budget was passed, technically, I do not know what to call it, but technically, we were requested to adjust it or to change priority, which we did. We lost a lot of vital investments in critical areas. All of us remember that these are areas that cater for the health of the citizens of this country and education, which is prime. We removed the money. When I heard about the supplementary, in my dream, I thought they

were going to cater for those areas that were removed. That is what I thought about.

Secondly, our colleague has made it clear that the supplementary budget is to cater for the unforeseeable yet when you look at it, you notice that they were seeable. Not so? Now I am asking, those who sit in the supplementary budget meeting, who is in their mind? Whom do they think for? Is it for the people of Uganda?

Mr Speaker, I have a hospital in my district built in 1969. It has enjoyed systematic decay. Since then, it has been successfully decaying. The ceiling boards are made of thorns. Year in, year out, I hear of a supplementary budget for Pinetti - we are giving that money. In a hospital where I come from, mothers are operated upon under thorns – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Namugga -

4.05

MS GORRETH NAMUGGA (NUP, Mawogola County South, Sembabule): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I just want to remind colleagues that I am a former Shadow Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology in the alternative government and currently, the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government).

This is an opportunity for Parliament to deeply think about how we handle budgets, more especially in the line of implementation or execution. This has been a query in the reports of the Auditor-General for the last five years.

I stand to support the minority report that we do not pass this supplementary budget, Mr Speaker. Reason one is that when you look at the execution of the budget for this current financial year, that is at Shs 72 trillion - we have made a projection of Shs 57 trillion under the Budget Framework Paper for next financial year, meaning that the budget is now reducing from Shs 72 trillion to Shs 57 trillion.

The Auditor-General clearly indicated the performance of the Financial Year 2023/2024;

the physical performance or actual performance was at Shs 48 trillion. This means that we still operate an unrealistic budget. We still have deficits under budgeting.

I call upon colleagues – this is the time we have, the time is now to look into the budget and bring to shame, Hon. Musasizi and team because their confusion is now making us to be called “clowns” by Gen. Muhoozi and team; it is because that is what we are! We cannot pass such a supplementary where we have been given an opportunity; this House has the mandate to appropriate.

Now, Mr Speaker, to go back to the issue of domestic arrears, they have allocated some money to National Water and Sewerage Corporation, and some money to the Internal Security Organisation. That is close to Shs 14 billion and the other amount is close to – when you look at – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, you do not allocate yourself time.

MS NAMUGGA: I am sorry, Mr Speaker. I request for a minute.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You do not request when you are on the microphone. I do not want us to be clowns because you have said we are clowns. *(Laughter)*

MS NAMUGGA: Mr Speaker, when you look at the stock of domestic arrears that has accumulated from Shs 10.3 trillion to Shs 13.8 trillion, you notice that we need an explanation from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, on how they intend to reduce the stock for domestic arrears because the private sector is very frustrated. You are here authorising money to Lubowa Hospital yet we were denied access to it. You are talking about a financial performance of 35 per cent, you do not talk about the physical – how much has been executed physically versus the financial performance.

I would like to urge you colleagues to not pass this supplementary. This will be an indicator to

the people out there that this is a Parliament that is serious and not clowns as said by Gen. Muhoozi, the Chief of Defence Forces. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Amero.

MS AMERO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was actually reacting to what my colleague said; I am not a clown in any way. This is not a parliamentary language. I was reacting to her and you saw my reaction before I could stand up to say anything. I beg that she withdraws that statement.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the record has to be put clearly. If one considers themselves clowns, they cannot declare the whole House to be a house of clowns. But you can accept that you are a clown, if you want.

MS NAMUGGA: Mr Speaker, I did not say that we are clowns. I said if we pass the supplementary budget - that is what I said, so, if we do not pass it, we shall not qualify. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think what the Member is saying is that if we pass the supplementary budget, she will be a clown because she can only speak for herself. Okay? This is a matter of how you assess yourself and you determine. Hon. Okot?

4.09

MR PETER OKOT (DP, Tochi County, Omoro): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. At times, I get surprised. Last year, we were told that Government has stopped all MDAs from putting money in the budget for the construction of their offices because the Government is planning, and is already in the process of putting up a one-stop centre in Bwebajja.

Now, hearing in the supplementary budget that monies have been put under the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to construct a building in Naguru to house some MDAs; probably, we need clarity over whether the

Government has backtracked on that mega plan of Bwebajja so that it is open for MDAs to start budgeting.

Secondly, we hear that Arts teachers are going on strike if monies can be put into such things. We would have loved to hear - because there is a looming strike of Arts teachers - that money has been put aside to sort out some of these problems. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Santa?

4.11

MS SANTA ALUM (UPC, Woman Representative, Oyam): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. While there may be very valid reasons to support the supplementary budget in certain situations, the frequent use can be abused. As we can see from this report as presented by the chairperson today and the minority report by a Member, Hon. Ssemujju, I want to believe that as a Parliament we should not support this supplementary budget because it is non-compliant with the law. When you look at the criteria and the justification for the supplementary budget, they do not meet the call for this supplementary expenditure.

Look at issues like Lubowa Hospital. Look at the contribution to the Commonwealth and so many others. Mr Speaker, we are the institution responsible for passing laws. We have passed laws here; the laws, which clearly state the criteria for the supplementary budget and if this is not meeting the law that we passed, then what are we doing, as the institution responsible for passing laws?

Mr Speaker, I want to urge the House; I want to propose to this Parliament that for once, let us put the minister and the committee, which is supposed to do work for us, to dissect every issue to consider the needs of Ugandans, and then we pass this supplementary budget. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Aol?

4.12

MS BETTY AOL (FDC, Woman Representative, Gulu City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to support the minority report. I equally want to ask this: in supplementary budgeting, how do we include development expenditure? I thought this development expenditure should be foreseen because these are foreseeable things. Why should we put them there? Yes, I need this Standard Gauge Railway - I actually needed it yesterday for our people but we cannot include it in a supplementary budget.

Look at this classified expenditure. Are we really working for the people down there or we want to work for a small population of Ugandans while the big population looks on? The ministers should really spare us a little.

When we go to public health facilities - this even makes me think about how Hon. Bernadette Bigirwa, a former Member of this House, died yet she was a movement supporter. She died in Mbarara Hospital because there was no power. Probably if there was power, she would have been operated on in good time to save her life, in the 7th Parliament. Yes, I was not in Parliament, but I got to know that very well.

When it comes to social services, we are all affected equally, especially those regarding health. When you go from Mulago Hospital to health centres II, public – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition.

4.14

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I noticed that you picked some colleagues. I was waiting for them, but you have summoned me.

Mr Speaker, the Government needs to get organised. It is good that the Prime Minister has finally walked in. We are in the budgeting process, currently. There are things that are a priority to you as the Government. Bring them now during the budgeting process. I do not

know why you want to bring them through supplementary budgets, which are unforeseen, unexpected, and emergency situations of sorts.

Supplementary budgets should contain things like the Kiteezi disaster and Bududa landslides because they are unforeseen, and emergencies that have happened. We would understand. However, the issue of a classified State House expenditure, why don't you plan for it? Clearly, supplementary budgets continuously get to be abused.

For Lubowa Hospital, Mr Speaker, the Government keeps taking Parliament for a ride. You do not want Parliament to establish what is happening at that site, but you keep coming back to Parliament for it to appropriate money for that site. Why? Why do you want to keep using Parliament? Each time we tried as Parliament - I went there with colleagues - we were denied access. The committee went there; it was denied access. I remember, Mr Speaker, you were still the Government Chief Whip, I believe. You were one of those denied access. The Minister for Health was denied access to that place. What is there? What exactly are you doing there that you want to hide away from us, yet you want us to keep appropriating money for it?

Mr Speaker, I remember the Speaker of Parliament, when I raised these issues after going there with colleagues, said that she was going to request you to go to Lubowa Hospital and then come back to Parliament, and fill us in on what was happening. Maybe, you might know because we are constrained to keep passing money for a project we do not understand, do not know about, and the Government does not want us to supervise. It is not right.

Finally, Mr Speaker, as the Government prioritises these classified expenditures and so on, and so forth, maybe, it would make sense if this supplementary budget was about domestic arrears. We have many Ugandans who have accorded services and products to the Government, but it has refused to pay. That money is over Shs 10 trillion.

People's businesses are closing. They have acquired loans so that they can do business with the Government, but the Government does not want to pay them. I do not know why you keep consuming these services and products, yet you do not want to pay. Maybe, bring us supplementary budgets about that because we should be more interested in Ugandan business persons whose businesses are crumbling, their houses being sold - people are dying because of pressure because the Government does not want to pay them. Why?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the Opposition.

Maybe for the record, I went to Lubowa Hospital. Yes, I am sorry I forgot to tell you this. Honourable colleagues, the work - in fact, I have gone there twice - the work is very impressive, now. I have used the word "now." I saw that the Committee on Presidential Affairs visited. What I am going to do is request the Prime Minister to arrange for the Leader of the Opposition to also go there. This is because - let me finish reporting what I saw - when I went there, I even had to interact with the young people who are working there. 700 people are working 24/7, even on Sundays. On one day, I visited on a Sunday, and on the other day, I visited on a Wednesday.

The contractor, Tecnovia Construction Company, told me that by the end of this April, they would have finished all the structural works. I am reporting and it is very important to me. Rt honourable, I request that you arrange for the Leader of the Opposition to visit that place with his team - Let the Prime Minister first finish.

4.19

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, Happy New Year. Mr Speaker, you have been spot on. We can arrange for the Leader of the Opposition and other colleagues to visit. The work is 61.8 per cent complete, physical. I am reliably informed that all the equipment that is supposed to be used in that hospital is already manufactured and procured.

The staff who are supposed to work in that hospital are still undergoing training in Italy. Colleagues, the contractor, as he has said - I have been there once - Tecnovia is an international contractor. They are working day and night.

I request that we give them the money so that we complete this in April. I am being sincere to you. You are going to go there - *(Interjections)* - I have never. I am a staunch Catholic *-(Laughter)* - you know that I call a spade a spade. You know that when it comes to the truth, and only the truth, I will tell it to you. I am being sincere to you. Let us support the contractor so that by April, we have the hospital.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Madam Prime Minister, I will be linking up with you - this is administrative. Leader of the Opposition, I will link up with the Prime Minister and we arrange for you to visit the facility.

Yes, procedural matter, Hon. Ssemujju?

MR SSEMUJJU: Mr Speaker, the procedural issue I have, I raised it. When the Speaker said the Deputy Speaker would go to Lubowa, I asked her - because she is protected by the rules, and cannot debate - how would the Deputy Speaker present a report?

We signed a contract and the Minister of Health was supposed to represent Uganda. Dr Ruth Aceng, a medical person, and her team went there but they were chased. The contract was put under the Prime Minister, Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, who I respect, but she is not a medical person.

The Auditor-General told you that the engineer had been denied access - *(Interjections)* - I am saying the Auditor-General. We are basing on the information provided by the engineer for Enrica Pinetti.

Mr Speaker, who do we believe? Can we be told why the Ministry of Health - because I was in this Parliament when we adopted this resolution and we said the Ministry of Health

would represent us – it was chased away. Now, the Prime Minister has said that she is a Catholic and she went there. Did we ask you to go and represent us?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Prime Minister, before you take up the Floor, honourable colleagues, what I can admit, and it is an open secret, is that there were problems. Okay? By the time they even shifted to the Prime Minister, they wanted someone more authoritative. We must admit there were problems. However, the progress that has been made in the last six months is quite right, Prime Minister. You need to showcase it to the Members. If Members really - because there is nothing - now, even if you are around Zana, you just see the whole building.

Therefore, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, showcase the good work you have managed to do since you took over.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I feel that Hon. Ssemujju should be educated that I am the Leader of Government Business in Parliament under Article 108. I am not an intruder in this House. I represent even you, Hon. Ssemujju – *(Interjections)* - yes, I am not quarrelling, but I thought I should educate my brother. You know, we are close. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, it is an open secret. I am going to go with my brother. Should we go there tomorrow? *(Interjections)* It is not possible to go there today -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you can do it next week.

MS NABBANJA: Let us do it on Tuesday next week at 10.00 a.m. We should be there.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is very good progress. Thank you. Yes, honourable minister for finance.

On Tuesday, next week, we shall have a grand joint tour. I think you need to go together from here so that you make a convoy. Do not meet like you had no programme; you go straight.

4.25

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to take this opportunity to appreciate the Committee on Budget for considering our motion and recommending that the House passes it.

I also thank Hon. Ssemujju for taking time to critically analyse our proposals, line by line. Mr Speaker, I want to respond to two main areas:

One, the compliance/requirements of the law - the law is very clear, as has been explicitly stated, that for an item to qualify for supplementary expenditure, it must be unavoidable and unforeseeable; mainly these two.

We have run through these budgets together for quite some time. If I reduced every item in this budget to these two tests - If you do not pass one, you will go on two and pass. If you do not pass on unforeseen and you subject it to the unavoidable, you will pass – *(Interjection)* - sorry, when Hon. Namugga was speaking, I was attentively listening. Unavoidable items are those, which occur in the financial year that cannot wait for another financial year and unforeseen items are those at the time of budgeting, which did not come to your attention but have arisen in the course of budget execution.

Some Members are even concerned and want to put me to an extent of telling them what classified is. Classified is classified. In our lines, they appear as one-line items pending.

Lastly, under Section 24 of the Public Finance Management Act, they are provided for. My last point is, State House, for the purposes of budgeting and planning, is not a residence. State House is an entity of the Government with functions and a mandate, which is clearly stipulated. There are a number of activities and functions, which are implemented under State House and whose budget is passed by this House – *(Interruption)*

MR SSEMUJJU: Mr Speaker, I thank Hon. Musasizi. The State House is created by the law on Presidential Emoluments and Benefits Act. Can you tell us the mandate the State House has for you to give it money in the law?

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My motion and mandate here are not guided by any other law apart from the Public Finance Management Act. Whatever I am doing and the response I have given complies with the law, which governs me in doing this work. State House is a Vote. Mr Speaker, I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable minister -

MR MUSASIZI: I think it is fair that I comment on domestic arrears too. Mr Speaker, it is true domestic arrears have been growing over the years on two accounts:

1. Failure of the accounting officers to control them; entering into contracts when there is no budget; and
2. Our inability to raise all the required funds to finance the arrears.

What have we done? First of all, the Shs 10 trillion is stock, which is not verified. The verified arrears are about Shs 2.8 to 3 trillion. Every year, we crystallise by Shs 200 billion in the budget. The current significant arrears under the road works - we are talking with the Ministry of Works and Transport and very soon coming up with a solution of settling the most critical arrears under works. The figure is about Shs 500 billion.

Mr Speaker, I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister, honourable members, committee chairperson and the shadow finance minister.

Honourable members, I put the question to the motion that the House resolves itself into a Committee of Supply to consider Supplementary Schedule No.1 for the Financial Year 2024/2025 pursuant to Article

156(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, Section 25 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and Rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, I propose a question that the sum of Shs 571,225,165,419 be provided to the various Central Government votes as supplementary recurrent expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025. I now put the question that, the total sum - let me first put a question. Okay, Hon. Ssemujju.

MR SSEMUJJU: I am seeking guidance; I thought we were going to deal with this supplementary, vote by vote.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Really? Honourable colleagues, we have been doing supplementaries; I will not be able to go vote by vote. These votes are very clear. You can give your answer, which is a yes or no. You have that power and I will take heed of that.

I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 571,225,165,419 be provided to the various Central Government votes as supplementary current expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: I now propose the question that a total sum of Shs, 133,113,383,291 be provided to the various Central Government votes, as supplementary development expenditure, for Financial Year 2024/2025. Yes, point of procedure.

MR BASALIRWA: Mr Chairperson, I want to thank you. We are supplying but procedurally, I would like to seek your indulgence on this matter. It is procedurally right for us to supply what is not evidently on record as pronounced from you? When it comes to supply, every vote and figure must be mentioned and a decision has to be taken. That is what supply means. It is not right, the way the finance minister wants to insinuate, that we can make an omnibus supply. You are creating a constitutional dilemma. This is supply and that should be the operational word. It is safer for us to err on the side of mentioning figures because it is supply.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, honourable. Honourable colleagues, I do not reinvent anything, I have been here and I have checked the *Hansard*; this has been done here on several occasions; you have been doing it this way. I am not reinventing anything. When you are saying that I am changing what? No. Please, honourable colleague, it is unfair for a Member to come here and insinuate that what I am doing is out of practice of what you have been doing. Let me guide this way: if you have any issue with any of the blocks, you can raise it as an amendment and I put a question to it.

MR BASALIRWA: Clarification.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Clarification is when there is someone on the Floor but there is no one on the Floor. *(Mr Ssemujju rose_)*

Hon. Ssemujju, do you have an amendment on the development expenditure of the Central Government?

MR SSEMUIJUU: Mr Speaker, you will - there is a colleague here who is behaving - you know I did agriculture, animals -

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Honourable, you are on record and now you are bringing rumours.

MR SSEMUIJUU: Yes, I am on record. Animals, when they are in heat period, they behave the way she is behaving.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Honourable, that is an unparliamentary language.

MR SSEMUIJUU: I have not said her; I have said animals.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: No, you said there is a colleague who is behaving - *(Laughter)*

MR SSEMUIJUU: Mr Speaker, I have an amendment.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: No, let us first clear that one.

MR SSEMUIJUU: I withdraw. I am sorry.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

MR SSEMUIJUU: Mr Speaker, let the Member take comfort, I have said, sorry and withdrew it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Hon. Ssemujju.

MR SSEMUIJUU: I have two amendments, Mr Speaker, that we do not approve the money for Luboowa and money for the State House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I put a question that Hon Ssemujju's amendments be adopted.

(Question put and negatived.)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Honourable colleagues, I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 133,113,383,291 be provided to the various Central Government votes as supplementary development expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: I propose that a total sum of Shs 100,964,508,422 be

provided to the various Local Government votes as supplementary recurrent expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

Honourable members, I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 100,964,508,422 be provided to the various Local Government votes as supplementary recurrent expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: I propose a question that a total sum of Shs 175,166,569,200 be provided to the various Local Government votes as supplementary development expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

Honourable members, I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 175,166,569,200 be provided to the various Local Government votes as supplementary development expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

STATUTORY VOTES - RECURRENT

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, I propose a question that a total sum of Shs 70,139,325,920 is provided to the various statutory votes as supplementary statutory recurrent expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 70,139,325,920 be provided to the various central government votes as supplementary statutory recurrent expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

TOTAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: I propose the question that a total sum of Shs 742,328,999,761 be provided to the various votes as supplementary recurring expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

Honourable colleagues, I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 742,328,999,761 billion be provided to the various votes as supplementary current expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/25.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: I do not know why you are voting even before I –

TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

THE CHAIRPERSON: I propose a question that a total sum of Shs 308,279,952,491 billion, be provided to various votes as supplementary development expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 308,279,952,491 billion, be provided to the various votes of supplementary development expenditure for Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025, RECURRENT AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: I propose that a grand total sum of Shs 1,050,608,952,252 billion be provided to various votes as supplementary recurrent and development expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

Honourable members, I now put the question that a total sum of Shs 1,050,608,952,252 billion, be provided for as the total

supplementary recurrent and development for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

4.47

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Chairperson, I beg to move a motion that the House do resume and the Committee of the whole House reports thereto.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable minister, it is the Committee of Supply.

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Chairperson, I beg to move a motion that the House do resume and the Committee of Supply reports thereto.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, I now put the question that the House do resume and the Committee of Supply reports thereto.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(The House resumed, the Deputy Speaker presiding.)

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

4.47

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of supply, has considered the Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No.1 for the Financial Year 2024/2025 and passed it with no amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

4.48

THE STATE MINISTER FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, I beg to move a motion that the Report from the Committee of Supply be adopted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable members, I now put the question that the Report of the Committee of Supply be adopted by this House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Congratulations, honourable minister; and congratulations, chairperson of the committee, and honourable members. Honourable minister, I appreciated your statement thanking Hon. Ssemujju for analysing in detail, your submission regarding the supplementary budget proposals.

It is very important that we take the report he submitted, pick the critical areas he raised, and look into them as they are likely to come up in the next budgeting cycle.

Honourable colleagues, I thank you for addressing this issue. Next item. I think we should do Prime Minister's Time so that we can address the concerns, which Members have.

STATEMENT BY THE RT HON. PRIME MINISTER ON GOVERNMENT BUSINESS OF THE SUCCEEDING WEEK 28-30 JANUARY 2025 PURSUANT TO RULE 28 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

4.50

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, I move under Rule 28 of our Rules of Procedure that requires me, as the Leader of Government Business in Parliament, to make a statement in this House regarding the Government Business of the succeeding week.

I am, therefore, submitting the following business for the succeeding week:

1. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bill, 2024;
2. The Animal Disease (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
3. The Labour Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2024; and
4. The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) (Voluntary Contributions and Benefits) Regulations, 2024.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Right Honourable. Next item.

PRIME MINISTER'S TIME

4.52

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, we received a number of questions but one of them came from Hon. Moreen Osoru, district woman representative for Arua City. Her question is: what is Government's plan to end the vice of confiscating people's national identity cards as security for loans by money lenders?

Mr Speaker, my response is that the growing practice of confiscating national identity cards as collateral for loans by moneylenders violates the rights and dignity of our citizens. It also poses a serious threat to national security and social stability. The National Identity Card is now a critical document that serves as proof of identity, nationality and citizenship.

It is essential for assessing a wide range of services. However, there has been a disturbing increase in the number of reports where moneylenders are taking these vital documents as collateral for loans. This illegal practice leaves the borrowers vulnerable and deprives them of their most basic identification document thereby leading to further financial and social marginalisation.

Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues, when a National Identity Card is confiscated, it severely limits an individual's ability to participate in various livelihood activities. Without their IDs, citizens cannot open bank accounts, receive Government services or even verify their identity in various circumstances when the situation warrants.

This practice disproportionately affects the most vulnerable members of our society, including the poor, elderly and uneducated who may not fully understand their rights or the legal implications of surrendering their IDs in this manner.

Mr Speaker, the confiscation of national IDs by moneylenders opens the door to exploitation and abuse. Individuals who find themselves unable to repay their loans are often subjected to harassment, intimidation and further financial extortion. This cycle of exploitation exacerbates poverty and undermines efforts to foster social and economic development in our communities.

The Government is committed to protecting the rights of all its citizens and ensuring that the National Identity Card retains its intended purpose as an enabler for easy access to services, not exploitation. To address this issue, Government has undertaken the following measures:

1. Legal framework

As you are aware, there are various laws, including the Constitution, that create special or specific rights, as well as obligations regarding this subject. Article 29(2)(c) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda

provides that every Ugandan shall have a right to a passport or other travel document - in this case, a National ID - which is also a recognised travel document and therefore, nobody has the right to deprive a holder of a National ID of the same.

Section 77(b) of the Registration of Persons Act, Cap 332, provides that a person who, without authority, deprives or dispossesses a holder of his or her National Identity Card commits an offence, as you all know.

Further, Section 77(e) of the Registration of Persons Act, Cap 332 provides that a person who unlawfully keeps or takes possession of an identity card that belongs to another person commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding 48 currency points, which is Shs 960,000 or imprisonment not exceeding three years, or both.

Section 69(3) of the Registration of Persons Act provides that an issued National Identification Card remains the property of the Government. A money lender, therefore, has no authority to deprive or dispossess a person of his or her National Identity Card.

In a bid to enforce the above provisions, the Government has further enacted the Tier 4 Microfinance Institutions and Money Lenders (Money Lenders) Regulations, Statutory Instrument No. 08 of 2018, which explicitly prohibits the demand or acceptance of a National Identity Card as collateral for any money advanced to a borrower as a loan.

Mr Speaker, therefore, any money lender found in violation of these laws and regulations is in breach of the law and if convicted, is liable to suffer severe penalties, including the revocation or non-renewal of their operating licences, payment of fines and imprisonment.

2. Upgrade of the National Identity Card by introducing digital IDs.

Mr Speaker and honourable members, you are aware that the National Identification and

Registration Authority (NIRA) is in the process of upgrading the National Identity Cards by rolling out digital or electronic identity cards (e-IDs). One of the advantages of the introduction of e-IDs is that it will combat the troubling practice of confiscating National Identity Cards as collateral for loans by money lenders. The introduction of e-IDs will reduce dependency on physical cards for identification purposes.

With digital verification, citizens will be able to authenticate their identity using electronic means such as mobile apps or online platforms. This planned shift reduces the risk of physical IDs being used as collateral since digital identity verification does not require the physical handover of the card.

The Government is cognisant of the fact that the majority of its citizens do not yet have access to internet and smartphones to enable the immediate implementation of a universal digital ID system. However, when this happens, it will be the ideal solution to decisively deal with this challenge.

3. Public awareness campaigns

The Government is undertaking nationwide public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about their rights and the dangers of surrendering their National Identity Cards as a collateral. Government agencies such as NIRA, Uganda Police Force, and the Uganda Microfinance Regulatory Authority (UMRA) have undertaken several media engagements to create awareness in the public about illegal acts of misuse of a National Identity Card as collateral.

4. Strengthening oversight and enforcement

The Government has stepped up enforcement of the law by arresting and prosecuting persons involved in this illegal practice. For example, in Lira, it was reported by the police in the North Kyoga region that operations conducted on 5 August 2024 within Lira City targeting money lending companies recovered 149 National Identity Cards. This helped us to engage and inform the public on the same.

5. Engagement with stakeholders

The Government - like I am doing now - will continue to engage with key stakeholders, including Parliament, financial institutions, other political leaders, civil society, and community leaders to ensure a collaborative approach to ending this practice. This will include dialogue and consultations aimed at identifying and addressing the root cause of this issue.

Mr Speaker, confiscation of National Identity Cards as security for loans is a deplorable practice that must be stopped immediately. The Government is fully committed to protecting the rights and dignity of our citizens by ensuring that their National Identity Cards retain their integrity and remain in their possession, and are used only for their intended purpose.

To achieve this, citizens themselves must cooperate by avoiding this illegal practice as much as possible or reporting to authorities to retrieve the confiscated National Identity Cards.

Question 2 is from Hon. Noman Jimbricky Ocheri, Abim District. He says that Abim Hospital was constructed between 1969 and 1971 during the Obote 1 regime and enjoyed decay up to date. The hospital is dilapidated to the extent of becoming non-functional.

Every time the government allocates money to its renovation, it is made at the tail end of the financial year and gets caught up and swept back to the consolidated fund before being utilised.

His questions are two.

1. Why is Abim Hospital the only one in the country that suffers from budget cuts and its money swept back into the consolidated fund?
2. Who decides which hospital takes the first call on the releases?

My response: Abim General Hospital was constructed in the 1970s and like any other

general hospital that was constructed during that period, it needs serious renovation of its infrastructure and expansion to cater for the increased population and demand for health services. The estimated cost of renovating and expansion of this hospital is about Shs 40 billion.

However, the Government has been allocating funds for critical infrastructure renovation of these hospitals and Abim General Hospital received Shs 2 billion for uplifting key service delivery units to improve service delivery. The funds were extended to the District Local Government but, which failed to provide accountability and the IGG took over the issue of investigation.

Additionally, the Ministry of Health has submitted to the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) a project proposal to renovate/refurbish all general hospitals in that category. The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has committed to mobilising funds to undertake these capital-intensive projects in the medium term.

3. Hon. Dr George Didi Bhoka (MP, Obongi Constituency)

There is a persistent border conflict between Obongi –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Prime Minister's Time permits no interruption to the Prime Minister and no clarification; Only the Leader of the Opposition has a right of reply. That is how you designed rule 41 under your rules.

MS NABBANJA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The other question is from Hon. George Didi, Obongi Consistency and he said that there is a persistent border conflict between Obongi and Yumbe districts that has been raised on this Floor of Parliament as an urgent matter of national importance without action taken by the Government.

Prayer:

What steps has your office taken to fast-track the sustainable resolution of the border conflict between Obongi and Yumbe Districts, among other similar districts border conflicts in West Nile that have resulted in the loss of lives, property, and disruption of service delivery and livelihood of citizens in the affected communities?

My response: Rt Hon. Speaker and honourable colleagues, the Government constituted a Task Force comprising of technical officers from the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development to study and resolve all border conflicts in local governments.

The Ministry of Local Governments is in the process of mobilising resources to conduct a border survey and the opening exercise of all conflicting Local Governments including the boundary between Obongi and Yumbe District.

Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues, this exercise is planned to be implemented by the end of this Quarter.

4. Hon. Kamuntu Moses (MP, Rubanda County West, Rubanda District).

The Batwa group of people were evicted from their ancestral land in the forests in 1991 for wildlife conservation. Since then, they have suffered severe socio-economic challenges, including displacement, poverty, malnutrition, lack of access to education and healthcare. According to the 2022 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS), 40 per cent of the children suffer from malnutrition, and only 20 per cent of the population have access to healthcare services.

The report indicates that 70 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line, while 60 per cent of the households experience chronic food insecurity and 17 per cent of the women are illiterate. These indicators reflect the urgent need for government intervention.

Prayer:

Can the Government update this House on when it will bring health facilities closer to Batwa to increase access to health care?

My response: Mr Speaker, Uganda has a number of indigenous people (IP). For example, Batwa, Ik, and Benet, among others. The Batwa live in the districts of Kanungu, Kisoro, Ruban, and Kasese, along the forested border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Batwa population is approximately 6,700 as of 2022 according to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics.

A study done in Kanungu District shows that the proportion of Batwa with geographic access to the nearest health facility by walking within 30 minutes is 44 per cent increasing to 90.9 per cent within 60 minutes (1 hour) and to 100 per cent within 120 minutes (2 hours).

The most geographically accessible Batwa settlements are Buhoma, Byumba, Kitariro and Kahere. Using all modes of transport, the residents of the above four settlements could reach their nearest terraced facilities within less than 10 minutes. This accounted for only 41.7 per cent Batwa's geographic access coverage.

The residents of Batwa settlement of Rulangara, Bikuto, Kebiremu, Mukongoro and Kihembe could reach their nearest health facility within less than 60 minutes (one hour) in a scenario combining all modes of transport.

The above findings are crucial for health managers, especially at the local level for planning healthcare outreach services and health promotion campaigns notably in Kanungu District and similar regions where populations live in hilly and inaccessible terrain.

The table below shows the subcounties where Batwa are residents and health facilities where they can access services. As clearly shown in the tables above, these areas are well-serviced with health facilities.

Mr Speaker, a multi-sectoral approach is, however, needed to address the social and cultural barriers to enable the Batwa people services and reduce poor health outcomes.

5. Hon. Kiiza Kenneth Nyendwoha (MP, Bujenje County) says that the Hoima-Kinyara-Kafu High Voltage Power Line is a planned electricity transmission line designed to connect the high voltage substation at Kabaale, Buseruka Subcounty, Hoima District, to another high voltage substation at Kafu-Nakasongola District.

The power line traverses Kinyara Sugar Works in Masindi District, providing critical infrastructure to enhance power supply. This power line project aims to:

- i) Connect the region to the Karuma Hydroelectric Power Station (600 MW) through the substation at Kafu, improving grid reliability in the western region;
- ii) According to him, is to support co-generation at Kinyara Sugar Works, increasing energy production from 14 MW to 45 MW;
- iii) Evacuate power from Hoima's oil fields, including the proposed 100-megawatt natural gas-fired Nzizi Thermal Power Station, and
- iv) Supply power to the Hoima metropolises, including the Uganda oil refinery, the Kabaale-Hoima International Airport, Hoima City, and the Uganda terminus of the East African crude oil pipeline.

His prayer is that the Hoima-Kinyara-Kafu 220 KV High Voltage Power Line was initiated to significantly enhance the electricity supply in Uganda's western region and support critical infrastructure projects in the oil and energy sectors. However, the project, according to the Member, remains incomplete despite the strategic objectives outlined above. Could I provide clarity on the reasons for these delays and share an updated timeline for when the project will be completed?

Mr Speaker, my response is: The project developer is Dott Services, who is currently undertaking the feasibility study for the transmission line and its associated substations that is at 95 per cent complete. A draft report was submitted in May 2023, followed by a revised version on 15 March 2024.

The revised study is under review by the Uganda Electricity Transmission Company to ensure it meets the required technical and financial benchmarks. This review process is critical to confirming the viability and alignment of the project with the national energy goals.

In parallel, the project is undergoing appraisal under the Public Investment Management System and is currently at the pre-feasibility stage. This appraisal aims to ensure the project aligns with the national investment priorities and delivers value for money, a key consideration for infrastructure projects of this magnitude.

The delays in the project implementation are attributed to these ongoing negotiations and feasibility study and reviews. The Government remains fully committed to addressing these challenges and accelerating the implementation of this critical infrastructure to enhance electricity access.

Question six came from Hon. Dr Ayume, Member of Parliament for Koboko Municipality. He said that in 2023, the Uganda Organ Donation and Transplant Act, 2023 was enacted, and that there is currently a backlog of over 100 patients who need kidney transplant services. According to him, Mulago Hospital has the capacity for kidney transport while Lubaga Hospital for liver transplant services. The only limitation is the appointment and operationalisation of the Organ Transplant Council.

His question is: when will Government constitute and operationalise the Council in order to save lives and limit medical tourism, especially for those who cannot travel abroad for transplant services?

My response, Mr Speaker, is that the Uganda Human Organ Donation and Transplant Act, 2022 was assented to by the President on 15 March 2023. To operationalise this law requires a seven-member Human Organ Donation and Transplant Council appointed by the honourable minister responsible for Health to superintend over a number of functions, for example:

- i) Regulation, organisation, and supervision of all national human organ, tissue, and cell donation, and transplant activities;
- ii) To regulate designated transplant centres and approved banks, enforce such standards as may be prescribed by the Minister for Designated Transplant Centres and Approved Banks;
- iii) Investigate any complaint of breach of any of the provisions of this Act or any other applicable law;
- iv) Inspect Designated Transplant Centres and Approved Banks periodically for examination of the quality of transplantation and the follow-up medical care to persons who have undergone transplantation and persons from whom organs are removed; and
- v) Oversee the national waiting list, etcetera.

Mr Speaker, the budget requirement to effect the establishment of this Council is Shs 7,297,185,357. Out of this money, Shs 5 billion was requested this financial year by the Ministry of Health. When these funds are released by Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the Uganda Organ Donation and Transplant Council will be constituted. Seven members have since been identified for consideration by Cabinet and appointment.

Hon. Bwiire Sanon, Member of Parliament for Bulamogi's question is that in this past festival season, the urban settings in Uganda have faced different series of crime, which are termed as "urban crimes" and that these rose by 10 per cent as reported in the newspapers. These are caused by gang activities, theft, illicit trade, assault, pickpocketing, robbery and cybercrime that target financial systems

and dealers. A couple of these stem from high youth unemployment, poverty and drug abuse, especially in urban settings. His question is: what is the Government doing to assure Ugandans of their safety?

My response is that safety of people and their property is more crucial for growth and development. The Government of Uganda is prioritising institutional reforms with a main goal of improving peace and security of people and their property. This is being done by investing more in socio-economic intervention areas and technological advancement. The specialised anti-crime units with advanced forensic tools are being beefed up with more advanced machines.

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (CID) and Chieftancy of Military Intelligence (CMI) are more equipped with better trained personnel in both covert and overt intelligence information gathering and processing.

Additionally, the public is being sensitised continuously to report any suspicious activities around them through the Uganda Police Force Initiative of crime reporting Programme. There is also enhanced coordination and the fight against corruption in security enforcement entities so that these criminals face the law.

Mr Speaker, the Government has further established better technologies such as Urban Closed Circuit Television Networks that have reduced crimes in towns, and cyber security infrastructure is also being expanded to curb cybercrime.

The last question is from Hon. Agnes Kirabo, the Youth Member of Parliament, Central. She says that the teachers who are soon to be recruited by the Government to seed schools have been threatened not to ask for transfer, hence denying them their right to be transferred.

It should be noted that some teachers do request for transfer due to health conditions, others due to having served in hard-to-reach and hard-to-live areas for a long time, but the education ministry has denied them that opportunity. Her

question is: why should Government frustrate these teachers' mobility, yet some may have genuine reasons for a transfer?

My response is: it has been a culture that any teacher would ask for a transfer with justifiable reasons beyond social reasons to other work stations at least after serving two years in his or her current station. However, the Government has new guidance that the new teachers to be recruited will be required to serve in a school for at least five years in a new station before asking for a transfer.

The Government is soon recruiting a new set of secondary school teachers and in their appointment letters and posting instructions it will be clearly stated that they will work for at least five years before asking for a transfer. The purpose of this new procedure is to allow stability of teachers in schools to avoid continuous mobility, which affects the effectiveness of teaching and learning.

Secondly, it will enable smooth monitoring and supervision of teachers to support especially the seed secondary schools that are often deserted by teachers after accessing the Government payroll. Thank you. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister; very detailed answers. I know we will discuss and work it out so that no answer should exceed one page. The details are very good for us, and not to burden you so much and save some time for oral questions.

Honourable colleagues, before you stand up, there is one item I want us to sort out quickly. It is a very short compliance issue; around one or two pages - Item number seven -

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF
PARLIAMENT SEEKING APPROVAL TO
AMEND SCHEDULE 2 OF THE ANTI-
MONEY LAUNDERING ACT, CAP.118

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: After the honourable minister, we are coming to the oral questions.

5.27

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This Motion is moved under Rule 55 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament and it reads:

“WHEREAS Parliament enacted the Anti-Money Laundering Act, Cap. 118 to provide for the prohibition and prevention of money laundering, the establishment of a Financial Intelligence Authority and a Financial Intelligence Authority Board to combat money laundering activities;

To impose certain duties on institutions and other persons, businesses, and professions who might be used for money laundering purposes to make orders about proceeds of crime and properties of offenders;

To provide for international cooperation in investigations/ prosecution and other legal processes of prohibiting and preventing money laundering;

To designate money laundering as an extraditable offense;

To provide for procedures relating to suspicious transactions and other related matters;

AND AWARE that Schedule 2 to the Anti-Money Laundering Act, sets out a list of accountable persons to enable the combating of money laundering;

NOTING that Section 42(2) of the Anti-Money Laundering Act provides that the ministry responsible for finance may, by statutory instrument and with the approval of Parliament, amend the list of accountable persons in Schedule 2 by deleting from the list any person or category of persons not being used, and not likely to be used in the future, for money laundering purposes;

AND WHEREAS the ministry responsible for finance proposes to amend Schedule 2 relating to accountable persons to remove

Non-Governmental organisations, churches, and other charitable organisations or Non-Profit organisations (NPOs) as required by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and to enable risk-based supervision of Non-Governmental organisations, churches and other charitable organisations or Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) under the Non-Governmental Organisations Act, Cap. 109;

COGNISANT that the minister responsible for finance, in accordance with Section 142(3) of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, consulted the Board of the Financial Intelligence Authority, which agreed with the minister's proposal to amend the Schedule 2 relating to accountable persons to remove Non-Government Organisations, churches, and other charitable organisations or Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs);

NOTING that the minister responsible for finance, in accordance with Section 142(3)(b) of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, by notice in the Gazette, gave the persons to be affected by the proposed amendment at least sixty days' notice to submit written representations to the minister and no such person submitted any representations to the matter;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by Parliament that Schedule 2 to the Anti-Money Laundering Act be amended with the approval of Parliament in accordance with Section 142(2) of Cap. 118, to remove Non-Governmental Organisations, churches, and other charitable organizations or Non-Profitable Organisations (NPOs) as required by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)."

Mr Speaker, and honourable colleagues, I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the Motion seconded? (*Members rose.*) Okay, it is seconded by Hon. Basalirwa, Hon. Okello Geoffrey, Hon. Itungo, Hon. Nankabirwa, Hon. Rusoke, Hon. Fred Byamukama, Hon. Huda Oleru, Hon. Luttaguzi, Hon. Tom Isingoma, Hon. Mwijukye and Rt Hon. Prime Minister. Thank you.

Honourable minister, do you want to justify this Motion?

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker, briefly, following the removal of Uganda from the Financial Action Task Force grey list in February 2024, Uganda was required to delist Non-Government Organisations, churches, and other charitable organisations from Schedule 2 of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, CAP. 118.

In March 2024, the Financial Action Task Force noted with concern that Uganda needed to ensure that oversight of Non-Profit Organisations is risk-based instead of classifying them as obligated entities or accountable persons. This position was also emphasised by the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group, what we call ESAAMLG.

Mr Speaker, it is upon this background that I invite colleagues to support this motion so that we are able to comply with the FATF requirements and avoid the risk of returning Uganda to the gray list. I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. This is very straightforward. Colleagues, I now put the question at the Motion for the Resolution of Parliament seeking approval to amend Schedule 2 of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, Cap 118 as presented by the minister be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Motion, adopted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Congratulations, honourable minister. Now, go and finish your task. We do not want to be accused of not helping you quickly.

PRIME MINISTER'S TIME

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have resumed the Prime Minister's Time. Let us hear from Hon. James Mamawi, and then Hon. Jackson Atima.

5.34

MR JAMES MAMAWI (NRM, Adjumani East County, Adjumani): Mr Speaker, I want to thank you so much. Yesterday, you ably responded to the issue I wanted to raise quickly –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have only one minute.

MR MAMAWI: I want to thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I come from a refugee-hosting district, and we have a lot of challenges in refugee settlement as far as law enforcement is concerned. There are a number of police officers who are taking care of our refugees and we request that if you add the number of police officers in all settlements, we shall be very grateful. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, today we had a meeting with the Uganda Police Force on the same and we are going to handle it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Atima, but straight to the point.

5.35

MR JACKSON ATIMA (NRM, Arua Central Division, Arua): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I have this issue - I will never sleep over this issue if I do not get good answers from this House and the Government. The state of the road from Nebbi to Arua is so perturbing. Yesterday, I raised it. It had no good answer from the person who represented the Government.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the road section from Nebbi to Arua City, that is Kamu Kamu in Kuluva, Ochoko, Arivu, Bondo and Uleppi, is in a very sorry state. It needs urgent intervention from the Government. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, my question is, can you direct the Ministry of Works and Transport to undertake immediate spot-filling to avert motorists, travellers, and business communities from accidents and theft of cargo as the Government looks for a long-term solution?

Secondly, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, can you direct the Ministry of Internal Affairs to support Uganda police with the new patrol vehicles and increase the personnel to patrol that – (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister –

MS NABBANJA: The Ministry of Internal Affairs is directed to provide a patrol car on that road section and the Ministry of Works and Transport is also directed to undertake physical maintenance on that part of the road; that is Nebbi-Arua.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Rose Obigah, Hon. Sarah Opendi and then Hon. Balimwezo.

5.37

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you Mr Speaker. Yesterday I raised an issue of illegal gold-mining in Terego. Odupi and the Ore River is totally contaminated. We have Chinese miners there, and my people are being exploited. Can I get an answer from the Government on how these Chinese reached Terego without documents that permit them to be in Terego in the mineral place? They are busy terrorising the people of Terego and Yumbe. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister for Energy and Mineral Development, the Prime Minister has given me permission. When I say minister, we move quickly.

5.38

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Ruth Nankabirwa): Thank you very much. Kindly, send me the name of the Chinese company so that I can follow up.

Secondly, I will send the minister of state to come to the ground and also talk to the people. However, I would like more details so that I can cross-check with the information that I have to know whether their license is authentic or it is not.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Sarah Opendi and Hon. Balimwezo.

5.39

MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As we speak, there is paralysis at the Malaba border point - that is the border between Uganda and Kenya. Malaba is in Tororo District. It is said that the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) uniforms were being imported in the country. Unfortunately, when the people contacted URA, they stated that they did not know about these uniforms. The person who was responsible was a Kenyan national who was later arrested and brought to an unknown place here at the Centre.

The people in Kenya, around the border, have blocked the border point. There are no vehicles moving from Uganda to Kenya and for us, that is a concern because we are now worried about children – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You know, we have one minute, and we want another question. The question now.

MS OPENDI: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, are you aware of this matter? If so, can you resolve this matter in the shortest time possible so that the trucks can move?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Rt Hon. Prime Minister -

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I am aware. Under BUBU, the Government contracted one of our service providers to provide uniforms for URA. Now, instead of making these uniforms from here, he wanted to import them from Kenya. This is a deal; we have arrested all those involved, including one police officer from Kenya, and other technical people from Uganda.

We took them to court, they took a plea and were released on court bail. The road is now open and I can authoritatively report that the business is back to normal. You know, the Kenyan police and other people from Kenya

were trying to, I think, protect their own. However, they have since known that this was an illegal activity, the bales that had been hidden in some houses somewhere have also been confiscated. We shall crack on all of these illegal activities.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us hear from Hon. Balimwezo and then Hon. Luttamaguzi.

5.41

MR RONALD BALIMWEZO (NUP, Nakawa Division East, Kampala): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me way. Rt Hon. Prime Minister Kampala-Jinja Expressway is one of the most bankable projects that Uganda has. For over eight years, the PAPs have not been paid, despite the fact that during the debate on the budget, the Minister of Works and Transport, through the Attorney-General, told this Parliament that all the money for compensation of the PAPs was available.

As we speak, the PAPs cannot do renovation of their structures, they cannot construct toilets and, therefore, they are using flying toilets which may result in a disease outbreak. We are worried about the circumstances in which our PAPs live. When are you - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the Minister of Works and Transport is here if you want.

MS NABBANJA: Now that my younger brother is here, he might have an authentic answer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, when are you paying the Project-Affected Persons for Kampala-Jinja Expressway?

5.41

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) (Mr Fred Byamukama): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. We have some money to pay the PAPs but I am requesting the honourable member to be patient. Let us go through this transition

from Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA). When we have the money meant to be on the Vote of UNRA on our accounts, we shall probably pay by the 15th of next month. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Luttamaguzi -

5.43

MR PAULSON LUTTAMAGUZI (DP, Nakaseke South County, Nakaseke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I no longer sleep very well in my constituency of Nakaseke South due to the presidential pledges. Since you are going to celebrate 39 years of NRM, I want you to update us on these pledges to the people of Nakaseke. The supply of electricity to the people of Kikubampanga where the President used to sleep, the people of Kitanswa, the people of Lukabala, Kisimula, and Kibale.

Secondly, he pledged an ambulance to Semuto Health Centre IV.

Thirdly, he pledged to rehabilitate Kakonda Primary School, where he used to sleep when he was still a rebel.

Lastly, the gravelling of Lugogo Road which connects the district of Nakaseke to Luwero. Please, I want to know the update on those.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I want my brother to have good sleep tonight. He will go to sleep very well because I have the answers. *(Laughter)*

I know the number of pledges that are being implemented right now, and you know this. Yes. Luwero-Butalangu Road is almost 52 per cent complete. Please clap. *(Laughter)*

We are currently rehabilitating and making sure that we complete Luwero Hospital – using the Army Brigade. Clap. *(Applause)*

For electricity, I know under the scale-up project, Hon. Nankabirwa can give you an update. Things are moving.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ambulance?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, 49 per cent of all the commitments of Government we made to the people of Uganda during this *kisanja* are complete. 39 per cent others are almost complete.

This year, I must be sincere to you, honourable members; the NRM Government is going to perform above 84 per cent. You know that the ambulance is coming.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. The Woman MP of Nakaseke has information to share. She is your Woman MP, Hon. Luttamaguzi.

MS NAJJUMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wanted to give information on the ambulance that was pledged by His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for Semuto Health Centre IV. It was delivered; it is there. Hon. Luttamaguzi, that ambulance is there. I can even give you the pictures. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Luttamaguzi, clap. *(Laughter)* Honourable colleagues, this is very easy to verify. The Woman MP is saying the ambulance is there. – It is up to you; the people of Nakaseke know. Yes, honourable minister?

5.47

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Ruth Nankabirwa): Mr Speaker, the NRM Government has been implementing these pledges. In general terms, let me inform my colleague and the House, that at least, we can talk about 60 per cent electricity access in the entire country. Remembering where we came from when we had only 100 megawatts by 1986, we have worked on the generation.

The people of Kikubampanga will get this power like we have been doing, like we have just supplied to the people of Sambwe and the rest. Please, hold on. We are coming and we shall bring this electricity.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Luttaguzi, clap. (*Laughter*) Today is Hon. Luttaguzi's day.

Hon. Mudimi, Hon. Najjuma and Hon. Joanne Okia -

5.48

MR MUDIMI WAMAKUYU (NRM, Elgon County, Bulambuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you recall, it has been two months since we had the disaster in our place and a number of infrastructure got damaged – bridges and roads. There is a specific bridge, which connects most of the sub-counties of Elgon County – five of them, which was washed away.

I have talked to the Ministry of Works and Transport. They said they do not have a budget, but we have a provision under Sections 26 and 27 of the Public Finance Management Act – the Contingency Fund. Is there a way the Government can fix that bridge under the Contingency Fund? The cost of goods has doubled and the *wananchi* are suffering.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The minister responsible for roads – I saw the Prime Minister trying to see whether you are attentive.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I want to appreciate that those people need support. I was there myself; I remember walking nine kilometres to reach that place that he is talking about. I want to request Members to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of those people who lost their dear lives.

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

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, we have done the following so far: We have been able to relocate a big number of families from that area.

Secondly, the Ministry of Works and Transport and my office are in touch to see how best we can reconstruct the infrastructure that got washed away, especially that bridge he is

talking about. We are in advanced stages; the feasibility study and designs have already been done.

I would like to inform my brother that we shall look for money at whatever cost so that you can have access because five sub-counties are many.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. You have a procedural issue, Hon. Basalirwa?

MR BASALIRWA: Mr Speaker, I want to thank you. My *Jajja*, the one I love so much, the Prime Minister, did authorise and direct us to observe a moment of silence, which is perfectly okay as human beings.

However, just for purposes of procedural clarity, a Member on the Floor can only seek for a moment through the Speaker and it is the Speaker to authorise. We do not want to set a bad precedent that tomorrow, I will come and say, "Let us stand up for a moment of silence" and do it anyhow. I needed procedural clarity so that your powers are not usurped by my *Jajja* there.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. You know, Hon. Basalirwa is a president of a party; he fears that his powers might also be taken that way.

I think we should clarify further, because when the Rt Hon. Prime Minister while raising it, she looked at me.

I told you, colleagues, sometimes, we communicate by sign language – (*Laughter*) So, I should have notified you. For most of you, we have been communicating by sign language. I should have notified you that she wanted, through the Speaker, but your point is valid. Thank you.

5.54

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. There are telecommunication companies that give out mobile telephone lines in people's names, using people's IDs, when the owners are not aware.

Today, I went to Crested Towers, that MTN centre and a lady had come to replace a mobile telephone line. She was informed that there is another mobile telephone line in her name, yet she was not aware. What is the Government doing about that issue, because it is a security threat? Some people will be arrested when they are not aware.

The Government should take note of that and act accordingly. Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Prime Minister? (*Members rose*) Colleagues, you know that during the Prime Minister's Time, we do not have additional questions.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, it is true, and I have got complaints that people's mobile telephone lines have changed ownership without the consent of the owners. I now direct the Minister of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance to take charge and make sure that the mobile telephone lines of Ugandans are not just changed out of the blue.

I request that you allow him to report thereafter.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Prime Minister. On top of what you have said, this is a very big cartel, which we should not just take at face value. We should assign the Committee on Information and Communications Technology to investigate this matter deeply.

There was a time when nearly all our SIM cards had been hijacked. Many Members sent messages that their SIM cards had been hijacked, and then the criminals who are still roaming around, do this and they say, "Send me mobile money." We said that all numbers, which are not registered should not be active. I do not know why they continue to do that.

I see in other countries Parliaments interrogating telecommunication companies. Yes, the executives of telecommunication companies appear before Parliament, and the public even appears and registers cases.

Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, remember I told you of the issue of someone who was harassing me about online loans. The public is waiting. Up to now, people are still crying. I still receive messages.

Prime Minister, there are applications online; they submit your name as a loan guarantor. When you download it, it asks you for a guarantor, and it does not verify. Therefore, I can put in your telephone number. After that, they give you money and when you do not pay, because their business is too risky, they use the method of harassment.

Some people have committed suicide in India. I read a report that in India, the applications harvest data from your phone. They access your pictures and your contacts and then threaten you. They have pictures of you naked, and if you do not respond, they send them to your parents, neighbours, and everyone. That is how they demand for money.

I have raised it. Honourable minister, I do not know if you have called these people for a meeting on the report you promised; it is a serious matter. People are doing badly; they have even sold land because they fear being embarrassed.

There is one thing I followed on social media, and I am going to tell my team to compile the information and give you a report. They said; "You will do nothing about it because it is powerful people who take this money."

Hon. Naluyima?

MS NALUYIMA: Mr Speaker, thank you so much. I had registered the same item. What happened is that one of us in this building used those loan applications, and yesterday, they sent messages to many of us informing us that we are guarantors. They went ahead to get a police-headed paper and put that person there. Later on, when I checked out the number that was used to send a message saying I am a guarantor, and that I owed them money, and that they would go ahead to deduct it from my mobile money in case I did not meet

those expenses, it was not registered. I also forwarded that telephone number, which was not registered. We still ask to this day: Why should we have such things going on? Why are numbers not registered? What is the Uganda Communications Commission up to when we still have numbers that are not registered, in circulation? They disturb many of us. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Timuzigu?

5.58

MR MICHAEL TIMUZIGU (NRM, Kajara County, Ntungamo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Under those circumstances, you know all our telephone numbers are on the Parliament website, and they are very easy to access. Since we are politicians, these telephone numbers might be used by those people who want us to be guarantors. We are at a very high risk because our contacts are online. We need to do something as quickly as possible so that all of us do not fall victim. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us conclude this matter because we are just – Hon. Opendi, I wanted to give a chance to others.

Since I have already directed the Committee on ICT to investigate this matter – honourable minister, I do not know the one for these loan applications.

5.59

MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

What we have not focused on is the regulation of these online money-lending applications. There is no regulation – (*Interjections*) – Is it there? If the regulation is there, why is it not being enforced? In the regulations, why shouldn't somebody first be consulted?

If you need a guarantor from the banks – if I went to a bank now, the bank would actually ask somebody to physically guarantee me for a loan. However, online, anybody puts your number and that is it. If there are regulations –

honourable minister for finance, who is saying there are regulations - then there is a gap in the regulations.

Maybe, Mr Speaker, we should ask the minister responsible for finance to actually go and revise these regulations, or even amend the law so that they tighten some of these loopholes that exist.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Katabaazi?

6.00

MR FRANCIS KATABAAZI (NUP, Kalungu East County, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My case is that somebody borrows money from my account without my consent, and then when you load money, it is deducted. Messages read that “*Wewole* has collected this much”, then another one reads that “Quick loan has collected this much,” when you have never borrowed at all. It is a very dangerous thing. I have lost a lot of money. I have a lot of proof of that because my record can be printed from Airtel.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. When they tell you that; “We shall access your mobile money and deduct the money you guaranteed without knowing,” this is what happens. Honourable minister for finance, I do not know what you have done. I cried out to you.

6.01

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

We instituted an investigation. I need to check whether they have concluded the report and report back to you. However, these are illegal platforms. The legal ones are regulated. The National Payment Systems Law created an avenue for all these payment platforms to be regulated. What is happening is illegal. It is being done outside the existing law.

Mr Speaker, I am also a victim – not for money, but someone abused and attacked me sustainably. This was done left, right and centre, until I reported and the number was investigated. To find this was a registered number being used by someone I know, but registered using an identity card of a non-existing person; a forged ID. You can imagine, we are all in the same boat.

Mr Speaker, on the payment platforms, let me follow up and report back to this House next week because it is long since you brought this matter to our attention. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I will really be glad to see the action being taken because some people are dying. However, on the abuse, Rt Hon. Prime Minister and colleagues, we are going into the election period; a lot is going to be done to you. What we usually call “saddling” is going to be tougher. You have names and people are going to use your names.

Recently, I woke up and saw some lady running a video with my photos on the internet that I was sleeping with some celebrity lady in town. It was around 7.00 a.m. She appeared to be seriously breaking the news. I found out that she does that because she is hiding in Canada. She is on *TikTok*. My wife was the first to send it to me. She talked authoritatively about someone whose number I do not have and someone whom I have never spoken to. She has also talked about another Member of Parliament here. I sent a message to one of our colleagues whom she talked about and told him that he had also been added to the list. *TikTok* pays and people are desperately looking for content.

There is someone called “*Ssenga Acid*”. She attacks people in Luganda but she is a Mukiga from Kabale. I must now follow her. We cannot allow this nonsense to continue because you are hiding in Canada. One day they will visit Uganda and the law will be applied here. You cannot just go on destroying people’s families.

It is not only me; I am told many people have encountered this. You cannot go on destroying

people’s families because you are safe in Canada and then they pay you; you run content and adverts are being run on your page. You make money by destroying my name, reputation and you think we shall keep quiet. I think we have to go for these people. We cannot allow this nonsense to continue; we must report to the police to ensure they are investigated. Some of these things are annoying. We have been patient but to come and put someone on me because you want to run content and make money is very unfair.

6.06

MS JOANNE OKIA (NRM, Woman Representative, Madi-Okollo): Thank you, Mr Speaker –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I had already allowed Hon. Joanne Okia, Hon. Basalirwa, Hon. Nangoli and Hon. Christine.

MS OKIA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Madi-Okollo District is grappling with low staffing levels – the lowest in the country at 33 per cent. There was a ban on recruitment and the Shs 250 million that was meant to recruit staff in that financial year was swept back.

Now, a few districts with higher staffing levels were approved to continue recruiting and their wage was returned, but not for Madi-Okollo.

My question is, because there is a correlation between the staffing level and education level, even in the schools – Right now, PLE results have been released – (*Interjections*) - They have been released. It will be a great miracle for Madi-Okollo at 33 per cent staffing level to compete with anyone in this country.

My questions are:

1. The same way we have done with Shs 1 billion road equipment and Parish Development Model funds to all districts, can’t Madi-Okollo get staffing like other districts so that we can actually compete and also give service delivery?

2. The Shs 250 million which was swept back, can it be reverted back to Madi-Okollo? Can we be allowed to start with that as the Government plans to put us at the same level at – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister? The Minister for Public Service?

6.08

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE (Ms Mary Mugasa): Thank you, Mr Speaker and the Prime Minister, for giving me this opportunity.

The ban was lifted for those who have the wage bill and recruitments are ongoing. We are now going to take special interest in Madi-Okollo and make sure we help them to recruit as well, if they have the wage bill. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Basalirwa?

6.09

MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I thank you. When the Constitution was enacted, in Article 129, there was a provision to establish *Khadi* courts to enable the Muslim community to deal with matters of divorce, inheritance, marriage, succession and guardianship.

In the legislative agenda of the Government, since the 10th Parliament, this matter was raised and there was no commitment. The Parliament continues to pass laws on succession; there is now a Marriage Bill and Muslims are being excluded because the Constitution envisages a special law for them.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, when is the Government coming up with a *Khadi* courts Bill to enable Muslims to address issues of personal Muslim look?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: I request that my grandson, who I expected to be in Busoga to welcome his colleague, the President – he is here.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Welcome his colleague. *(Laughter)*

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I request that he puts that in writing so that I can give him a better answer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I had already picked Hon. Nangoli – Okay, Hon. Christine Nakimwero?

6.10

MS CHRISTINE KAAAYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Kiboga): Thank you, Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, if you know you have programmes out and want to speak and go, we shall not work in that way. The more I see you putting me under pressure, the more I push you at the back so that we can be together here. Yes, Hon. Christine?

MS KAAAYA: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. My question goes to the Prime Minister. My urgent matter concerns the weather forecast. I request that, at least, every three months, the Prime Minister orders the line minister to share with us the weather forecast for the upcoming months so our people plan well.

Otherwise, rumour has it that there are serious rains coming soon and people should prepare to utilise the first rains but Parliament is not aware of that and they are at the forefront of sharing such information with their electorate. I am just requesting, if it is possible, for you to direct our line minister to always share the weather forecast at the beginning of the three months. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Like how we ask you for business for the succeeding week, we are about to ask you about the forecast for the succeeding month.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, this is a very good question and I would request my sister to give me this question in writing, so that I can come here with all the information that is required. Secondly, so that our public can also benefit from this question. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, what I pick from Hon. Christine is that, please, keep updating us monthly because even if you give us for now, and tell the ministry, we can always give them space to always give us an update in terms of weather forecast, especially when we are in the planting season.

MS NABBANJA: No problem, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Opio Samuel, Hon. Abdulla Kiwanuka, Hon. Isingoma.

6.13

MR SAMUEL OPIO (Independent, Kole North County, Kole): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon Prime Minister, I thank the Government for commencing the construction of Akii-Bua Stadium to host AFCON. It came as a Christmas gift to the people of Lango.

However, the hosting of AFCON by Akii-Bua Stadium is also premised on the upgrade of Gulu Airfield to an airport and the construction of the Corner Ayer-Corner Aboke-Icheme-Bobi Road, which is the shortest route connecting Gulu City to Lira City. However, we have just two-and-a-half years, and these processes have not begun. I just wanted to know when that upgrade of Gulu Airfield to an airport and construction of Corner Ayer-Corner Aboke-Icheme-Bobi Road is going to start. Thank you.

6.14

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) (Mr Fred Byamukama): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. It is true that it is the same project but our road and the airfield are being delayed by the supervision consultant and we believe that three weeks from now we shall have finalised the issues we have with him and then

the contractor can go to the site. Thank you very much.

6.14

MR ABDALLAH KIWANUKA (NUP, Mukono County North, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the district called Mukono, where I come from, there is gazetted land for forests. This land has seriously been encroached on under the protection of armed officials.

I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether the Government has given up on this land, so that we can also encourage our people to come and settle on it. It has severally appeared in the press, several petitions have been made; people have created freehold titles, Government is only protecting some special people with guns; our people are landless. Should we encourage our people to also come and settle on this land under the Namyoya Forest Reserve?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I will interact with my brother. Please, do not mobilise people to go and take over the forest reserve.

We have been cancelling titles and we continue to cancel titles in our forest reserves. Whenever you see a freehold title in Buganda, you know that is fake. Either that is Government land that was titled, or whenever you see, if it is not a *Mailo* title, in Buganda here, just be skeptical.

Recently, they wanted to sell us our Government land here for a KCCA dumping site. When I saw that this was a freehold title, I told KCCA to go slow because we know that these freehold titles are always titled on our Government land or forests. Eventually, they discovered that this was a forest and I request that you give me more details. We shall handle it and we are here to do that.

6.17

MR PATRICK ISINGOMA (Independent, Hoima East Division, Hoima City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Hoima City, which I represent in this House, is grappling with a very big problem of lack of road equipment and this problem has been ongoing for the last four years. We have been singing about this

problem; I have shared with my brother, Hon. Musasizi and even my younger brother, the minister of state, I have shared it with. When this list of supplementary came out, I was expecting to be surprised with a provision for procurement of a road equipment for Hoima City.

Mr Speaker and Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I want to know today from the powers that be: Is there any intention of procuring road equipment for the 10 cities because the problem is not only for Hoima? *(Member timed out.)*

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, you are aware that last year, we provided new equipment to the new districts. All the new districts now have new equipment. Next is the cities. Currently, I know there are procurement processes ongoing between the Governments of Uganda and Japan directly. Be patient and vote wisely. *(Laughter)* For the NRM.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Julius Tusiime, Hon. Chelangat Simon, Hon. Acrobert Kiiza.

6.19

MS JULIUS TUSIIME (Independent, Rwampara East County, Rwampara): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, in Rwampara District, we have been faced with a strange disease that is affecting our banana plantations and it has affected their quality in taste and even in appearance; they appear a little rusty and brown. This has affected the price of these bananas and the livelihood of our people.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we request that you send a team to ascertain what disease this is and also provide a long-term solution because this is the second month it is happening.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, we have production officers across the country in all districts and I believe Rwampara has one. I am of the view that we get a report from those technical people from Rwampara, then I will direct the Ministry of Agriculture to handle this quickly.

6.20

MR SOLOMON CHELANGAT (NRM, Too County, Bukwo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Kapchorwa-Suam Road is towards its tail-end, and that work is supposed to end by June of this year. However, before the mainstreaming of UNRA to the ministry, there were some activities that were supposed to be done, for example, the construction of the main market at the border of Suam.

Secondly, compensation for these people who were affected by the project during the construction works and also, there are some local suppliers who supplied some building materials to the contractor but they have not been paid to date. Our fear is when this project now is concluded, what happens with our – *(Member was timed out.)*

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I want to assure Ugandans that during the transition from UNRA to the Ministry of Works, during this process nobody will lose in any way. The other day I got people from Mubende some of whom had their land titles still held by the UNRA. We have put a clear process that the Ministry of Works and Transport will handle as – because that is why we have some staff of UNRA who are currently under the Ministry of Works. The people of Suam will also be handled in the same way. Can I request the minister – if there is anything you can add to my submission?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kiiza Acrobert, Hon. Nebanda, Hon. Maj (Rtd) Anthony Okullo.

6.22

MR ACROBERT KIIZA (Independent, Bughendera County, Bundibugyo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. In the years 2017 and 2020, the Government grant-aided Sonko Secondary School and the Bukonzo Seed Secondary School in Bundibugyo. To our dismay, to date, these two Government-aided schools have never been considered for construction. They are operating under dilapidated wooden structures.

My prayer, Mr Speaker, I want to request - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is noted from your submission. Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Thank you. Mr Speaker, the Member from Bundibugyo is a very close friend of mine. He is one of those who have never spent a week without stepping in my office. Let us handle this at that level, involve the minister of education – we shall handle that. We have handled so many things.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Nebanda and Dr Anthony Okullo.

6.24

MS FLORENCE NEBANDA (NRM, Woman Representative, Butaleja): Rt Hon. Prime Minister, it is that time of the year and schools are resuming very soon. I understand the Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) results are already out. There is a growing concern about the fees structure and the Government has not clearly come out to state how to handle the matter.

This is causing anxiety among us and I believe all of us are parents and have been victims at some point. In secondary schools, both Government and private schools have been presenting different structures for school fees.

Can the Government create a fee structure – it is creating a big concern because those who have good results cannot afford to join school. Can the Government come out clearly on that matter, please?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister. The school fees policy – last time we were told that the Government had drafted one but it stopped.

MS NABBANJA: This is a tough one because the Government liberalised the economy. I request the Member to put this in writing so that I can give the country a better answer next week.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Dr Okullo?

6.25

DR ANTHONY OKULLO (NRM, Lamwo County, Lamwo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am up again to report a problem of deaths in my constituency. I reported this last year but it has gone out of hand now with a cholera outbreak in Agoro Subcounty – in my constituency – over the past two weeks. We know the problem is poverty. The President commissioned a dam in Agoro but it is non-functional. My prayer is that two more dams be constructed to help the community in Agoro Subcounty, in Paloga, in Potica and in Lokum East. The reason for the cholera outbreak is just that there is poverty, ignorance and of course, disease –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your question, honourable member?

DR OKULLO: My prayer is that – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the dams need to be constructed.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, Cholera is an urgent disease that needs to be tackled. A dam may take a lot of time to be constructed. I think what we can do is; the department in the district and the Ministry of Health will go on the ground so that we can save lives, first, then construct dams later. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ezama, Hon. Ronald Akugizibwe and Hon. Phillis Chemutai.

6.28

MR SIRAJI EZAMA (NRM, Aringa County, Yumbe): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The Government of Uganda received a grant from Japan to construct and tarmac a road from Yumbe Town Council up to a river called Ore.

It has now been two years but this project has not taken off. I would like to know from the Prime Minister, what is happening. Why is the road not being constructed?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister?

6.29

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) (Mr Fred Byamukama): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. We are aware of the matter, as the ministry. There are some obligations we must meet as Government in order to get the grant.

We are discussing this matter with the Ministry of Finance and they are promising to sort this out. Once it is finished, we shall be able to receive that grant and utilise it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: And to expedite. Hon. Akugizibwe?

6.29

MR RONALD AKUGIZIBWE (Independent, Buruli County, Masindi): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. To the Prime Minister, my issue is about the establishment of Bunyoro University. This has been here for some good time. We were promised that come the next academic year, it will be operational.

To my dismay, looking at the budget estimates for the coming financial year, it is under the unfunded priorities. My prayer, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, is that, at least, the Government should get money for Bunyoro University bearing in mind that Bunyoro is the only sub region that does not have a university.

MS NABBANJA: I thank my brother, Hon. Aled Akugizibwe. We have our Runyoro name; he is called “Akasojo Kato” - that “*Akasojo kato kacumita*” meaning he is very sharp and bright.

Mr Speaker, Bunyoro University was provided for in this current budget. The National Council for Higher Education has provided us with a report.

We were supposed to ground-break the construction in November last year, but we had issues of land. He is aware. Together with the Ministry of Education and Sports, we have drawn a roadmap so that we can use the Army Brigade to construct the university. Currently, the President is in touch with somebody who

claims to own the Government land. Very soon, this issue will be put to rest and the construction will start thereafter.

As for next financial year’s budget, I am being sincere to you, we shall prevail and the money will be provided.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, since we considered Busoga and Bunyoro universities at the same time, you can also give an update on Busoga University.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, Busoga University had managerial issues when they handed over that university to the Government, but these have since been sorted. They have a budget of Shs 10 billion which will be implemented; we are implementing Busoga and Bunyoro universities at the same time.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Phyllis Chemutai?

6.32

MS PHYLLIS CHEMUTAI (NRM, Woman Representative, Kapchorwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to report to this august House that on the 3rd of this month, Kapchorwa Municipal Market was gutted by fire. There was a lot of destruction on property and goods of the vendors, as well as infrastructure. It is estimated that the losses can amount to Shs 2 billion.

The market vendors are now in a dilemma and confused on what to do because they are not eating. There is no food because their main income was coming from this business. They lack where to sleep because some of them are being evicted from their houses.

My prayers are –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I just need a question. Very sharp; no long story. Hon. Chemutai, what do you want the Government to do, in the form of a question?

MS PHYLLIS CHEMUTAI: The question is: These people need to be compensated. They need to be given relief food. They need a modern market to be constructed. They also need the Government entities to go to the ground and assess the property lost. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, when are you doing all this? *(Laughter)*

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I have been to Kapchorwa Market myself. Of course, they had a problem when their market was burnt. I request the Member to get in touch with the Ministry of Local Government, so that we can budget for that market.

We also have a project that is almost ending; the one that is under the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development. I am also going to make sure that I join her as an advocate, so that the market is reconstructed. As for relief, that one is under my docket. We shall ensure that those people are supported with relief food. As for compensation, I need something written so that we can handle that.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. We are concluding with Hon. Sekyanzi, Hon. Kirumira, Hon. Muloni, Hon. Kalwanga and Hon. Ssenyonyi. Hon. Katabaazi, you spoke; I cannot give you twice.

6.36

MR PATRICK BINGI (NRM, Butemba County, Kyankwanzi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. You called out "Sekyanzi" and I am Nyanzi, so I got confused but thank you for the opportunity. Rt Hon. Prime Minister –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I noted the question from Hon. Herbert Tayebwa came to my office. He came to the office for his question.

MR BINGI: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the front page of the *Daily Monitor* newspaper of 13 November 2024 analysed the problem of school drop-outs, indicating that 1.8 million learners enrolled in Primary 1 in 2012. That

same cohort was followed up to Senior Six in 2024. Only 140,000 were able to register for Senior Four. These drop-outs should ideally be scaled if we are to address the problem of unemployment.

If the policy of the Government is to have a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) per constituency, there are no TVET institutions in the two constituencies in Kyankwanzi District, yet we have a number of unemployed youth. What is the Government's plan to help us with this problem?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, that is why people vote for Museveni. He has been – *(Interjections)* – Yes, he has constructed skilling centres. You are aware; you are also happy. *(Laughter)* Internally, you are happy.

Mr Speaker, the President has come up with skilling centres across the country so that we can absorb our children who drop out of school. This must be supported.

Secondly, we also need to come up, as leaders, and see how best we can prevail over the situation. This is not a good situation because the Government has been able to provide Universal Primary Education and Universal Secondary Education, but our children continue to drop out of school because of illegal fees in our schools.

Therefore, the leaders present here, together with the local leaders and school administrators should stop illegal charges in our Government-aided schools. The drop-out rate will definitely reduce. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kirumira -

6.39

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luwero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In 2022, we had land grabbers in a certain parish and worked together with the line ministry and the RDC. A directive was passed that no further arrests were supposed to be made regarding that particular land.

However, last week, the councillor of Nsanvu, Mr Mayega, was arrested by one Tabora, on grounds that he got in touch with the Inspector General of Police (IGP). The IGP ordered the DPC of Luwero and as we speak now, the councillor of Nsanvu is in detention on grounds that he participated in chasing away land grabbers in Nsanvu Parish.

My question to the Prime Minister is whether the directive of the ministry and the RDC in charge of Luwero District does not hold any water, in regard to the action of the IGP. Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, there are legal provisions on how one can seek redress so that action is taken. The President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni issued a directive that people should not be evicted from their land and this stands.

So, come to my office, I will prevail over this and make sure that this councillor is assisted. But also, in Luwero – is that Luwero? In Luwero, we have been helping communities, especially those who face this. This problem is happening in most parts of the country but more especially in areas around Buganda. We are also investigating the circumstances and why.

We request the councillor to always report this, instead of handling it himself. That will help him, otherwise taking the law into his hands is also illegal. Way forward? I am going to get in touch with him. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Muloni -

6.41

MS IRENE MULONI (NRM, Woman Representative, Bulambuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I thank the Rt Hon. Prime Minister for standing with us during the disasters in Bulambuli and for her commitment to ensure that our people are safely and quickly resettled. We look forward to quickly securing the land so that our people can be resettled.

The families of the other additional nine bodies that were recovered, the families are also eagerly waiting for support from His Excellency the President towards the funeral arrangements. While all this is going on, we have the challenge of new connections in Bulambuli, I raised this but I did not get a satisfactory response.

People who applied for a new connection in May last year up to now remain unconnected and we are wondering; is it that Umeme does not have meters? Is it that the free connection policy is not being implemented? Is it on hold? Is it because the transition of Umeme handing over to the Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL) is imminent? The same question but still – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister -

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, when we had a problem in Bulambuli, the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni Tibuhabwe, directed that Shs 50 billion be given to the Office of the Prime Minister to handle the relocation exercise. I want to happily report that Shs 50 billion was given to the Office of the Prime Minister on Monday and we have started all the processes as per the directive of the President. Then for electricity, I request the minister to come in. We have a very good President.

6.43

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Ruth Nankabirwa): Mr Speaker, the World Bank facilities come with conditionalities that are annoying. This project of \$638 million is one of those that was surrounded by conditionalities by the World Bank. We took time to establish the project implementation unit because we had to wait for a “no objection” from the World Bank on the people, Ugandans and engineers qualified whom we had put on the project implementation unit. The good news is that everything is set and in areas where Umeme operates, it was directed to begin connections.

There are Umeme networks and it is doing short connections. In areas outside Umeme, we had a problem with contracting the companies, most of which the Government had to pay. The Government owed them money so the Cabinet took time to authorise the payment to those companies until after the Auditor-General audited and everything was set. The project implementation unit is in place, the Umeme short network connection is done. I know colleagues are concerned also about the long connections that are beyond five kilometres and 10 kilometres going to facilities.

That will require the Government of Uganda money; so we have to put our eyes on the budget to find out how much money we have put in the budget to facilitate these long connections with Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP).

Hon. Irene Muloni, we are connecting in the Umeme network. The meters are there for those who want meters. I know the suppliers; the meters are in the store. I will only check with the Managing Director (MD) to find out whether they have any other problems. Otherwise, we need to fast-track now that we lost time and I understand what Members of Parliament (MPs) are going through; so we are going to fast-track this.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, I have a situation in my constituency, where the project you are doing – I think it is a development bank – whatever it is; it seems to have a last mile connection in it, and it is an area of Umeme. Umeme says, “No, you have given them meters too.” So Umeme refused and said they are the ones to connect meters yet your people are saying, “No.” The project has meters and we were thinking maybe we wait until when the concession of Umeme ends and we get electricity. However, I request you to call your engineers and ask them about that incident and you have it sorted. Umeme can clear or you as a ministry, allow whoever has meters to move in quickly.

MS NANKABIRWA: Mr Speaker, I am going to follow this up and the good news is that we are progressing well on the natural retirement of

the Umeme concession. Come the 1st of April, UEDCL is going to take over, the Electricity Regulatory Authority has issued a license for UEDCL to take over Umeme’s network.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: My problem is oversupply; each one says we have meters to give you and no one wants to give the other space. Why can’t they decide to take to other areas where they do not have?

MS NANKABIRWA: I am going to take it up.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly, help us. Hon. Kalwanga and Hon. Sserubula Stephen.

6.47

MR DAVID KALWANGA (NUP, Busujju County, Mityana): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have a direct question in line with education and it is connected to my sister from Butaleja.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we are in the period of taking back our children to school, but there is a serious outcry over private investors where the challenge is they are overtaxed and this has caused a trickle-down effect on school fees. Can we be helped, as Members of Parliament? This is because we are like the Alpha and Omega of everything; so it is becoming a burden to us. Can you, the Prime Minister, help us see how to resolve this issue?

We have a ground tax that is charged on every building, local tax, National Social Security Fund (NSSF), Pay as You Earn (PAYE), property tax, and operation tax; all of them are going back – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Finance?

6.49

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The taxes being referred to, some of them are taxes and others are fees, but all that is done in accordance with the law. There is nothing we are doing that has not been approved by this

House. When a Member mentions NSSF, it is a payroll obligation – *(Interjection)* Yes, but this is not a tax; it is your money. When you mention ground rent, yes, this is an obligation, but it is not a tax charged by us; that is a local government matter.

Mr Speaker, the next financial year – I have said many times in the public; we are not going to introduce new taxes in the coming financial year. Therefore, to allay your fears, those taxes, which they have been paying, I want to imagine that it is PAYE and income tax for those who earn good profit. I want to imagine that you remain the same and you should allay their fears that the Government’s tax environment is favourable to enable them do business. We do not impose taxes to close people’s businesses.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Sserubula - Hon. Kalwanga, have you not been coming to get onto a microphone without my permission? And number two, during Prime Minister’s Time, there is no clarification. Honourable colleagues, rules do not allow you to cross the Floor any time you want; you are calling each other as if you have a party around. I hear a Member calling another, “Come here,” and the other one is complying. No, that is not how Parliament is run. If you want to cross the Floor, I can declare your seat vacant and tomorrow we have a by-election.

MR SSERUBULA: My question to the Prime Minister, Mr Speaker, is how the Government assesses priorities for different regions. I come from Buikwe District. In Greater Mukono – those are districts of Kayunga, Buvuma, Buikwe and Mukono – we do not have a public university. Recently, we heard about the issue of the prison being transferred from Luzira to Buikwe.

When I talk about seed schools in Buikwe, we only have one called Isugu, out of the 15 subcounties we have in the whole of Buikwe District. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, our request is also to consider Buikwe District regarding the seed schools, as other regions have also been considered. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Thank you very much, my brother. The policy of the Government is very clear. We do not provide universities in every district. I know there is Uganda Christian University, Mukono. It is not a public university but people can use that facility – *(Interjections)* – I am being sincere to you. This Government is moving steadily.

You are aware that Uganda Christian University, Mukono is a private one. However, Mukono is under Buganda. Buganda has Makerere, Kyambogo and Nakawa. We have very many within this subregion. I know that with the continuity of the NRM, I believe we shall have even universities in districts. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Two, on seed secondary schools, the policy of the Government is that we have a public secondary school in every subcounty. I will provide the statistics of Mukono because I have them and all other areas, in case you need information, to see how far we have gone.

However, with the steady progress of the NRM under the wise leadership of President Yoweri Museveni, we shall handle most of these issues, one by one until all the districts are covered.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable member for Kashongi? We are concluding, Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

6.54

MR HERBERT TAYEBWA (NRM, Kashongi County, Kiruhura): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Ruhumba-Kashwa Road, a 31-kilometre national road, passes through my constituency. The road is impassable with gullies and big potholes. Actually, the small cars cannot go through that road. My engagement with UNRA station manager in Ibanda and the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Works and Transport, have not yielded any fruit. My people are engaging me that I go and

lead a demonstration so that the Government can only see from the demonstration.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, can't the Government immediately grade the road? We know we are not able to upgrade to tarmac because the Government has always told us there is no money, but grade through the road so that people can get where to pass. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those of us who come from Kigezi, sometimes, when you do not want to fight, you come threatening by saying, "Hold me so that I do not hit him." (*Laughter*) So, Hon. Herbert is saying, prevent him from demonstrating.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, let me use this opportunity you have given me to direct the Minister of Works and Transport to go and maintain that road, for the good of our people.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I am concluding with Hon. Katabaazi.

6.56

MR FRANCIS KATABAAZI (NUP, Kalungu East County, Kalungu): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mine are two. One –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please. Only one.

MR KATABAAZI: Okay. One is about Kamuwunga Landing Site, which is going to be upgraded into a port with a grant from the Egyptian Government. We were there but there is no element of compensation of the people. We find it unfair that the Government has not provided for it. I know the Egyptian Government has given us the grant but I need something from our Government so that these people are not just chased because they are going to be evicted without any compensation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister for Works.

6.57

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) (Mr Fred Byamukama): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

We have interacted with the honourable colleague over this matter. He is very well aware that in Uganda, there is no one who has a mandate to own a lake and the land surrounding lake shores. Maybe, it is until we bring it to Parliament and it amends the law that we can be able to pay those people. Should we proceed and pay them, you will blame us when we come here.

Mr Speaker, I have not been able to get money or request for it because these people are within the required metres where someone is not supposed to be neighbouring the lake. In actual sense, they are on the shores of the lake. Thank you.

6.58

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Prime Minister, in one of her responses, told us that this Government has a habit of fulfilling its promises. She gave us a glowing figure. I kept wondering about the yardstick she uses. I want to ask based on that. There are promises that you people have made, which have turned into lies to the people of Uganda.

In 2015, you promised, as the Government – you were not in Government yet, but you are now; so you should respond on their behalf. You promised free sanitary pads to all girls in this country in 2015. I did not know that was a *kiwani* – meaning a lie. When are you going to fulfill that promise, as the Government?

You promised – I am following up on the promises because you gave us a score of something like 60 per cent. You promised an ambulance system in this country. You have not fulfilled that. When Members try to ensure that through the budget process, as the Government, you refuse saying that you want to focus on other things. Therefore, Members have to buy ambulances on their own and so on.

There are many that I could ask about but let me ask those two for now. When are you going to deliver on the promise of free sanitary towels and that of an ambulance system?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, that is the reason I told you that 16 per cent of our commitments are not yet fulfilled because of money. I am being sincere to you. With the mandate our Ugandans continue to give the NRM, we shall fulfil all the promises, including sanitary pads. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank you, honourable colleagues. You have done a wonderful job. It is 7.00 p.m. Rt Hon. Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

Honourable colleagues, we can sit here even up to 9.00 p.m. but you have to consider the Prime Minister. She has answered over 30 questions, which is very impressive.

I thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, because if we followed the rules, you could have reached a point and say, “No, this is what the rules say; I am going away,” but on Thursdays, you always give us enough time. I appreciate you.

Honourable colleagues, I cannot pick all of you, but I hope next time, you will get an opportunity. House adjourned to Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.

(The House rose at 7.01 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 28 January 2025 at 2.00 p.m.)