



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIFTH SESSION - 5TH SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Thursday, 31 July 2025

Parliament met at 2.30 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I welcome you to this afternoon's sitting. Today marks exactly 32 years since the coronation of His Highness, the Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II of Buganda as a king.

As you may recall, Kabaka Mutebi was coronated on 31 July 1993 upon enactment of the Traditional Rulers (Restitution of Assets and Properties) Act, 1993, which led to the restoration of the kingdoms in Uganda that had been abolished by His Excellency, Dr Milton Obote.

As Parliament, we join the kingdom and the people of Buganda, and the people of Uganda at large, by sending our heartfelt felicitations to His Highness, Kabaka Mutebi II. May his reign be an enduring one.

In the same vein, I want to take this opportunity to commend His Excellency, President Kaguta Museveni, and the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Government, for the restoration of the traditional and cultural institutions under his leadership.

The remarkable contribution of the Kingdom of Buganda in bettering the lives of the masses is a lesson to other traditional and cultural institutions, and we wish that all the other cultural institutions could emulate what the Buganda kingdom does.

In our culture, we say, "*Ssabasajja Kabaka awangaale*". (Applause)

Honourable members, you recall that this House designated Members to the sectoral committees on Tuesday, 29 July 2025. In the designation of Members to the committees, Rule 196(1) stipulates thus: "*The sectoral committee shall comprise not less than 20 members and not more than 40 members in a committee*".

My attention has been drawn to the following committees whose numbers violate the rule:

(i) Committee on Lands

The Committee on Lands has 19 members, which is short of the 20 members, meaning that the NRM party or NRM Whip should designate one more Member to the committee.

(ii) The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources has 42 Members, which exceeds the maximum number of 40 per committee.

I, therefore, request that the two members of the committee be withdrawn. These two should be withdrawn from the NRM side. The

Government Chief Whip should take note of that.

Honourable members, I will invoke Rule 26(1) of the Rules of Procedure to vary the Order Paper to accommodate the laying of papers from the Auditor-General. I wish you nice deliberations.

2.05

MR GEOFFREY KAYEMBA-SSOLO (NUP, Bukomansimbi South County, Bukomansimbi): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I join you and the people of Buganda in celebrating the 32 years when our king, Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II, is guiding and leading Buganda. You see, Buganda is for all people who stay in Buganda. That is why we call it “*obuganda*”, though some of you do not want to take *amakula* to Mengo.

THE SPEAKER: No, we have been taking.

MR KAYEMBA-SSOLO: Some of them – I have never seen Hon. Kankunda Amos do so.

THE SPEAKER: No, we have been taking and we appreciate what the kingdom does in Buganda here and the whole country.

MR KAYEMBA-SSOLO: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I want to thank all the people of Buganda, especially the Kabaka, for guiding us, particularly we the young leaders, when he advised us to join elective politics in order to serve our areas. We have done it effectively.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker and all the people; *Ayi Ssabasajja Kabaka, wangaala*.

THE SPEAKER: We also want to ask you, the young leaders, to support the kingdom in its development and growth. Yes, Member from Masaka?

2.08

MR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimaanya-Kabonera Division, Masaka City): Thank you, Madam Speaker. We want to appreciate

your message as we celebrate the 32 years of the reign of Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi. We also want to appreciate you so much; you as the Speaker, I have seen you a number of times, visiting the seat of Mengo, coming with full support. I know the many times that you have been there, you have represented this Parliament.

The reign of Kabaka Mutebi, for us who come from the Masaka area, which is Greater Buddu, has added value to us. He has ably contributed to the health sector. Recently, he built for us a health centre in Nyendo-Mukungwe, Masaka City, and has built others in Mityana and other parts of the Buganda region.

His Highness Kabaka Mutebi has been very instrumental in his leadership in promoting coffee farming. You know that the Buganda Subregion is one of the major subregions in terms of coffee production in this country.

His Highness Kabaka Mutebi and his administration have been very instrumental in the education sector. In Masaka city, we host one of the biggest campuses for Muteesa Royal University. We want to join the entire nation and the Kingdom of Buganda to celebrate his reign. Long live Kabaka Mutebi.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much for those kind words for the kingdom. As Parliament, we will continue supporting the kingdom. You will find that most of the brilliant leaders here have gone through the kingdom. When you look at Hon. Mpuuga and Hon. Sseggona, they both worked at the kingdom. Yes, Hon. Gyaviira?

2.09

MR GYAVIIRA SSEMWANGA (NRM, Buyamba County, Rakai): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Allow me to join you in congratulating *Ssabasajja* Kabaka, *Cuucu, Magulu Nyondo*, Mutebi II, for attaining 32 years in power, reigning very well in our kingdom.

As you know, Rakai District was affected by HIV/AIDS in the early 1990s. We want to thank the Kabaka of Buganda for being part

of the champions advocating for the reduction in infections and for those with HIV to live positively in a better way. We thank *Ssabasajja Kabaka* for the message and the Kabaka Birthday Runs that have been contributing so much to the health sector. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. There is an in-law to the kingdom here.

2.10

MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri): Madam Speaker, I want to thank you. As you have rightly stated, my first wife, Namakula Faridah, is a Muganda. I, therefore, join the people of Buganda in extending my deepest appreciation and congratulations to the Kabaka and the kingdom upon attaining 32 years since he was coronated.

Similarly, I want to thank you, Madam Speaker, and this Parliament for always being steadfast in fraternising with Buganda and the kingdom, as far as their demands are concerned, and even other kingdoms. I am aware that Buganda still has outstanding demands from the central Government, just like other kingdoms, and this Parliament has been at the forefront of encouraging the Executive to try as much as possible to meet the demands of the people of Buganda and the kingdom and other areas.

Madam Speaker, if the Executive and central Government undertook to compensate and pay these kingdoms, there is a lot that they are going to do in terms of social, political and economic development. So, as we mark 32 years of the kingdom, we must also undertake to ensure that the Executive fulfills its obligations.

Finally, Madam Speaker, we thank the Kabaka and the Buganda Kingdom for demonstrating that we can actually use culture and tradition to engender an agenda for development. When you look at what has been happening in Buganda generally, the different programmes such as *Emwanyi Telimba*, CBS PEWOSA Uganda, and others, we can only say, “*Ayi beene tusensebuse*”.

Madam Speaker, we need to understand that what is happening in Buganda can be replicated in other kingdoms. In fact, I want us – those of us from other kingdoms – as a prince from Busoga, we enjoy a very cordial relationship between Busoga and Buganda. We should be replicating what is happening in this kingdom; borrowing and taking the very good lessons, especially in terms of socio-economic transformation, to our subregions. It is possible for us to do what is being done here. Since we all live here, we have been accommodated; the Baganda have welcomed us, the king does not segregate, we are all happy here, even those from other areas come and contest in this region, and they are voted for, which is not easy.

Madam Speaker, one time Mr Ngoma Ngime went to contest in Mbarara but did not succeed. Those are things we should be learning. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Ngoma Ngime just lost the election. Honourable members, it is a fact that the kingdom has done a lot in terms of health, education, and leadership training; they have done a lot.

As the Parliament of Uganda, we will continue supporting the kingdom, and in the 11th Parliament, I can assure you, we have been doing whatever we are supposed to do. We have fulfilled several pledges that we made, and made sufficient compensations to the kingdoms. Next item?

LAYING OF PAPERS

(I) THE REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON A FORENSIC AUDIT ON THE ALLEGED IRREGULAR PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES BY NTUNGAMO DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT FROM 2019/2020 TO 2021/2022

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to Rule 188 (4) of the Rules of Procedure, I will invite the Parliamentary Commissioner to lay, on the Table, a report – we have a Parliamentary Commissioner Emeritus. (*Laughter*)

Honourable members, we will look at matters of national importance during the Prime Minister's Time. Yes, go ahead.

2.14

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay, on the Table, the Forensic Audit Report on the Alleged Irregular Payment of Salaries and Allowances by Ntungamo District Local Government, from 2019/2020 to 2021/2022 financial years. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Government Chief Whip. The findings in this report are criminal in nature. I am referring this report directly to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID), and we want to get a report on the actions taken within one month.

(II) THE SPECIAL AUDIT REPORT
ON REVENUE MANAGEMENT AND
ACCOUNTING AND AVIATION FUEL
MANAGEMENT AT THE UGANDA
NATIONAL AIRLINES COMPANY
LIMITED FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS
2021/2022, 2022/2023 AND 2023/2024

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to Rule 187(3) of the Rules of Procedure, I hereby invite the Parliamentary Commissioner Emeritus to lay the report.

2.16

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay, on the Table, the Special Audit Report on Revenue Management and Accounting on Aviation Fuel Management at Uganda National Airlines Company Limited for the Financial Years 2021/2022, 2022/2023, and 2023/2024. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 8(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the report stands referred to a specialised investigative agency of the Government, given the technicality and the sensitivity of the aviation aspects.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF
PARLIAMENT TO APPRECIATE HIS
EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, FOR THE
CLEAR AND PRECISE EXPOSITION OF
GOVERNMENT POLICY CONTAINED
IN THE ADDRESS ON THE STATE OF
THE NATION TO PARLIAMENT ON
THURSDAY, 5 JUNE 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, before we go to the motion, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have head teachers of Church of Uganda-founded schools of the Diocese of Kigezi, Kabale District. Where are you? They are represented in Parliament by Hon. Catheline Ndamira, Hon. Bahati, Hon. Nicholas Kamara and Hon. Wilfred Niwagaba. Join me in welcoming them. (*Applause*) You are most welcome, and thank you for coming.

Honourable members, as you recall, His Excellency, the President, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, delivered the State-of-the-Nation Address on 5 June 2025, and pursuant to Rule 10(4) of the Rules of Procedure, he was heard in silence.

Pending the debate of this House on the address of that day, we alluded that this debate would be allocated time. The motion would be presented to the House on Thursday, 29 July 2025. I undertook to allot time for the debate on the President's State-of-the-Nation Address.

To pave the way for debate, we will have a motion presented and seconded, then wait for a response from the Leader of the Opposition on the State-of-the-Nation Address. We will then give time for debate of both reports; the one from the motion and from the Leader of the Opposition. I would like to call Hon. Faith Nakut to move the motion.

2.19

MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak): This is a motion for a Resolution of Parliament to appreciate His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, for the clear and precise exposition of Government policy, contained in the State-

of-the-Nation Address to the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda on Thursday, 5 June 2025.

The motion reads:

“WHEREAS Article 101(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, requires the President to deliver to Parliament an address on the state of the nation at the beginning of each session;

AND WHEREAS His Excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, in compliance with Article 101(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, delivered the State-of-the-Nation Address to Parliament at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds on Thursday, 5 June 2025;

AWARE that in his address to the nation, His Excellency, the President informed the nation that the Uganda shilling was still the most stable currency in the whole of Africa and highlighted that during the past 12 months, the Uganda shilling had appreciated by 6.1 per cent and therefore, the inflation was under control, given that Uganda experienced Africa’s second lowest inflation rate in the past decade;

FURTHER AWARE that His Excellency, the President highlighted that the economy had remained strong and resilient, as evidenced by the International Monetary Fund rankings that ranked Uganda seventh amongst the fastest-growing economies in the whole world, and noting that the size of Uganda’s economy had been projected at Shs 224.9 trillion, equivalent to \$60.4 billion, by the end of June 2025;

RECOGNISING that His Excellency, the President informed the nation that over the last 10 years, the Government had injected over Shs 8.03 trillion in strategic wealth creation initiatives, including the capitalisation of Uganda Development Bank, the Parish Development Model, Emyooga, Youth Livelihood Programme, Small Business Recovery Fund, Agricultural Credit Facility, Youth Venture Capital Fund, Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme, the INVITE project, the GROW project and Uganda Development Corporation, among others, which have boosted economic performance;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that His Excellency, the President, noted that the wealth- and job-creation initiatives have enabled low-income earning Ugandans to be part of the money economy, which has enabled Uganda to attain a middle-income status with a GDP per capita of \$1,263;

APPRECIATING that His Excellency, the President further noted that the percentage of the population still trapped in subsistence farming had changed from more than 90 per cent in 1986, to the current figure of 33 per cent;

COGNISANT of His Excellency, the President’s emphasis on Government strategy to increase the size of the economy tenfold to \$500 billion by 2040 and in this strategy, he highlighted a blueprint for rapidly expanding Uganda’s economy in a transformative, sustainable and inclusive manner under the four sectors below:

- (a) Agro-industrialisation;*
- (b) Tourism development;*
- (c) Mineral development, including oil and gas; and*
- (d) Science, technology, and innovation;*

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Parliament expresses gratitude to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, for his clear and concise exposition of the State-of-the-Nation Address, delivered to the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds, Kampala on 5 June, 2025.”

I beg to move. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much, Hon. Faith Nakut, for moving the motion. Is the motion seconded? Okay, it is seconded by Hon. Silas Aogon, Hon. Akol, Hon. Okupa, Hon. Alanyo, Hon. Ayoo, Hon. Abeja, the Front Bench, that is the Government Chief Whip, Hon. Aceng, Hon. Gen. Katumba Wamala, Hon. Nambozo Wamala, the minister in charge of veteran affairs, and the whole House.

MS NAKUT: Madam Speaker, can I speak to this motion?

THE SPEAKER: Please do; speak to your motion.

MS NAKUT: Thank you. Madam Speaker, during the presentation of the State-of-the-Nation Address by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, he highlighted key milestones achieved in the transformation agenda of our country.

I will certainly not spend a lot of time explaining everything that he highlighted; I will highlight about five items that, in my view, give reason as to why he is worthy of the appreciation.

1. Peace and security of persons and their property. It is worth appreciating the work done to secure Uganda from criminal elements. The President of Uganda highlighted the work done in enhancing the capacity of the national security agencies over the years, therefore making Uganda the most secure place to live in when you compare us with our neighbours. You can tell, by the number of refugees that are housed in our country, that Uganda is safe.
2. On the issue of the economy, His Excellency, the President, highlighted the sustained stability of our currency and the rapid growth of our economy that has placed Uganda in seventh position of the fastest growing economies. This, too, is worth appreciating.
3. On the fight against poverty, His Excellency the President explained in depth the interventions that have contributed to the reduction of poverty nationally from 20 per cent to 16 per cent in just four years. If you compare 1986 to now, it is a shift from 80 per cent to 16 per cent through the interventions like PDM, GROW, *Emyooga* and all the others that I had mentioned. All efforts to offer a dignified life to Ugandan citizens is worth the gratitude.
4. On business, job creation and revenue growth, His Excellency, the President highlighted the investments to support

small and medium enterprises, for example, through the Small Business Recovery Fund, the Agricultural Credit Facility, the Youth Venture Capital Fund, the UWEP, the INVITE, among others. These interventions increased Uganda's participation in production and trade. More Ugandans are into business now, thereby increasing national revenue, which has grown from Shs 5 billion in 1986 to Shs 31.9 trillion as of today.

5. On energy, His Excellency, the President explained the growth in the volume of electricity megawatts from 156 megawatts in 1986 to 2,052 megawatts now. In addition to that, it is worth appreciating the stabilisation of fuel prices that arose from the decision to allow the Uganda National Oil Company to participate in the importation of fuel for Ugandans. These efforts improved the mobility and trade in our country. This is worth appreciating.
6. On mineral development, with the wisdom of the President of the Republic of Uganda, he also explained how the restriction of export of unprocessed minerals had attracted investments into the mineral sector; for example, the opening of gold refineries, cement factories, clinker factories, processing of iron ore in our country, therefore creating job opportunities for our citizens. All these things were explained in depth, including the improvement of our agriculture and agro-industrialisation sector.

I am not going to name them all because you attended the State-of-the-Nation Address. I could go on and on, but allow me to express gratitude to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, not just for the great speech and the content therein, but also significantly for the work done and that he continues to do to make Uganda a home we are all proud to live in; the Pearl of Africa. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much, Hon. Nakut. Can we have a secondment from Hon. Dicksons Kateshumbwa, the MP of Sheema Municipality?

2.32

MR DICKSONS KATESHUMBWA (NRM, Sheema Municipality, Sheema): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker and honourable colleagues. I wish to join my honourable colleague in seconding this motion, and I would like to highlight a few points that I would like the House to take note of.

In 1986, our economy was \$3.92 million. In the State-of-the-Nation Address, the President highlighted that our economy is going to be projected to be equivalent to \$60.4 billion.

This is a tremendous growth that we have witnessed under the leadership of His Excellency, the President. We have also seen that Uganda is one of the countries that is growing at a very fast rate, and the projections for the next financial year show that Uganda is expected to grow at 7 per cent. This is as a result of the steady economic progress and policies that His Excellency has spearheaded over the years.

He highlighted that the Government, over the last 10 years, has injected over Shs 8 trillion in strategic wealth creation initiatives, and these, honourable colleagues, we are aware; the Parish Development Model, the *Emyooga*, the Youth Livelihood Project, Small Business Recovery Fund, the Youth Venture Fund, UWEP, INVITE, GROW Project, and UDC, among others. We have seen that through these projects, money has directly gone to the people at the bottom of our society, and we appreciate the President for that vision. We have people who have touched a million shillings for the first time in their lives, and they have given stories of how that has transformed their livelihoods.

Madam Speaker, in 1986, the revenue collection in this country was Shs 5 billion. The President highlighted in his speech that at the end of June 2025, we expect to have collected almost Shs 32 trillion.

This effort is a result of sound economic management principles that have enabled the growth of industries, which has grown our

economy to attract foreign direct investment, which in result gives us a revenue base, so that even with threats of withholding external funding, Uganda can meet its recurrent costs and survive.

On tourism development, the tourist receipts were valued at \$1.4 billion in the calendar year 2024, from \$562 million in 2020.

This again is as a result of very robust enablers that the Government has put in place to enable tourism development in this country that includes peace and security, to not only make sure that our visitors are safe, but also other enablers like infrastructure- like the efforts that the Government has put in- for example, under the watch of His Excellency, the President revived Uganda Airlines, and now we fly direct to some of the markets where we have never flown or where we last flew many years ago, including London Gatwick, Mumbai, Dubai, among others.

We have seen the expansion of Entebbe International Airport. We have seen the construction of Kabalega International Airport and a couple of local airstrips that have been renovated, like Kisoro Domestic Airport, among others. The visitor entries into the national parks grew by 5.4 per cent in 2023, and all this gives us comfort that we are going to continue seeing tourism as one of the priority areas that enable our economy.

On the issue of regional integration, our President has been a champion of regional integration in East Africa, emphasising the need for us to remove all trade barriers, and as you have seen, the President was in Nairobi yesterday to try and unlock and sign a couple of MOUs to ensure that we have free flow of business and trade in the region. Most of our exports are going into the region; in Kenya, South Sudan, DRC. Being a champion of regional integration, the President continuously emphasises the need for Ugandans to take advantage of these markets by being productive.

Therefore, our country is safe in the hands of the President. Our economy is safe. Investors are coming.

Yes, highlighted the challenges, and we acknowledge the challenges. However, for what he has done, and for the efforts that the Government has put in, and the promises that have been made, we do appreciate His Excellency, the President, for continuously addressing the nation and giving us the strategic vision and guidance as we move into the future. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Kateshumbwa. We will have another secondment from Hon. Avur Jane Pacuto, the district woman MP of Pakwach.

2.38

MS JANE PACUTO (NRM, Woman Representative, Pakwach): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker and honourable colleagues. I rise to second the motion to thank the President on his State-of-the-Nation Address delivered to the country on the 5th June 2025.

I wish to take this opportunity to commend His Excellency the President on his State-of-the-Nation Address, and allow me to address my mind in the area of inflation. In the State-of-the-Nation Address, the President stated that the Ugandan shilling is the most stable currency in the whole of Africa. During the past 12 months, it has appreciated by 6.1 per cent; inflation is therefore under control, and Uganda has experienced Africa's second-lowest inflation rate in the past decade. Madam Speaker, this is not a mean achievement, and I commend the President for his visionary leadership.

Price stability is very crucial for our economy because a healthy economy fosters predictability, encourages investment by both local and foreign investors and supports sustainable growth. Not only that, but it also allows individuals and businesses to make informed decisions about spending, savings and investment while also promoting social and financial stability.

More to that, Madam Speaker, it reduces uncertainty, which is crucial for investment

in our country by foreign investors because it predicts the future purchasing power of money, and encourages long-term growth.

Price stability also helps to lower interest rate premiums, making it more attractive for businesses to borrow and invest in productive ventures in the country. It also promotes social and financial stability, and price stability ensures that money maintains its value over time and that for us to have achieved this, as a country, is not a mean achievement and therefore, we need to commend the President highly.

Why price stability is important for our economy is that it improves tax system efficiency, for it allows reduction in the distortion caused by inflation in the tax system, which is crucial for resource mobilisation, much needed by our economy to mitigate the fiscal deficits.

Madam Speaker, allow me to speak to the area of exports. In the President's State-of-the-Nation Address, he pointed out that in the last financial year, exports received from merchandise trade increased by 26 per cent to \$9.3 billion. The value of total merchandise exports amounted to \$1,198.86 million in May 2025, which is 36.8 per cent higher than \$876.4 million recorded for the same period of the previous financial year. Again, we need to commend the President for this.

Why are exports very important to this economy? I thank the President for the growth of exports as stated in the State-of-the-Nation Address.

It should be noted that exports are crucial for Uganda's economic development as they drive growth through increased output productivity and access to larger markets. Exports also generate foreign earnings, which are vital for funding imports and supporting various sectors of the economy, as we see time and again.

It further leads to technological spillovers, resource allocation and job creation. Madam Speaker, you will note that for many of our manufacturing industries within our economy,

for example, the cosmetic industries, they employ a good number of our women and youth. It is reported that 2.13 million Ugandans are employed in the cosmetic industry, with a significant proportion of whom are women and youth, who are the biggest portion of the population of Uganda. Therefore, we would like to thank the Government of Uganda for creating a conducive environment where people can invest primarily for exports.

Exports also help us to mitigate the balance of payments deficits that we experience in our country. This supports us in strengthening our economy and shilling. For those commendable achievements under the leadership of His Excellency, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, I wish to commend and second the motion. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Avur. We all appreciate what is happening in the economy. We have a stable economy, peace. When you look at the development that is coming up, it is out of the exports that Hon. Avur is talking about. The cosmetic industries that they are talking about are services, and they are creating jobs. We thank the President for the wealth creation through *Emyooga* and the Parish Development Model (PDM). Hon. Grania?

2.46

MS HOPE NAKAZIBWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mubende): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me to join you and the rest of the Members in congratulating and wishing His Highness, the Kabaka of Buganda, Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II, on the 32nd Coronation Anniversary. We appreciate him for the development strategies that he has laid out for our country, Uganda.

Allow me to join the seconders and the mover in appreciating His Excellency, the President, for the State-of-the-Nation Address that was delivered on 5 June 2025.

Madam Speaker, as we speak, you are also one of the things that we can appreciate His Excellency, the President, for, as a result

of affirmative action. As women, we have achieved so much in terms of leadership; the Prime Minister, the Vice President and most of us, the women Members of Parliament. (*Applause*) I would also like to join –

THE SPEAKER: The men are not clapping.

MS NAKAZIBWE: The men should clap for us, Madam Speaker. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Wanzala, you are not excited.

MS NAKAZIBWE: It came as a result of affirmative action.

THE SPEAKER: Those are our family issues. Yes, go ahead.

MS NAKAZIBWE: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for your indulgence. I join the mover, seconder, and the whole House in appreciating the President for the many things that he has done, but I want to pay my attention to the agriculture sector. He has supported the growth of the agricultural sector in a number of strategic products like dairy, fish, coffee, and maize.

As elaborated, we have seen a significant growth in the production of milk from 2.5 billion litres in 2018 to 5.7 billion litres in 2024.

The President has also, through his Government, been able to secure markets, most especially in outside countries like Algeria, Nigeria, and many other countries, to mention but a few.

Madam Speaker, out of these foreign markets, we have been able to get earnings of about \$285.4 million as of 2024, compared to a small amount that was secured as of 2015. That is not a mean achievement within that period.

I also appreciate the President for ensuring markets for our production as a country. For example, when you look at the BENNI Foods factory, which was recently commissioned, it processes 10,000 litres of milk per day, and it

helps our farmers to get a market for their milk products.

Madam Speaker, in the fish department, we have 658,000 metric tonnes of –

THE SPEAKER: There is a procedural matter.

MS NABBANJA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My procedural matter is that today, the Front Bench of the Opposition is empty – (*Laughter*) - is it procedurally okay for us to move when the frontbench is not here?

THE SPEAKER: The Front Bench has only one minister. That is, the Chief Opposition Whip. We have the Chairperson of the Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE) and the able Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances and Implementation. They asked for permission to be away. They have gone to celebrate the Kabaka's coronation. We can continue without them. Can you summarise, Hon. Grania

MS NAKAZIBWE: Thank you. Madam Speaker, protect me from Hon. Asuman - allow me to bring to the attention of the House and the whole country that we are producing a lot of fish, and this has supported our 12 fish processing factories. It has also created jobs for our youth and the rest of the people who are working in those factories because the Government has gazetted fish breeding grounds.

Madam Speaker, there is an enabling environment for the private sector in fish production in this country. This has attracted a number of investors in that field. When we talk about coffee, right now, we are producing 8.2 million 60-kilogramme bags as of 2024, compared to what we previously produced in 2022, which was 7.8 million bags.

That comes as a result of improvements in the coffee varieties that are climate and pest-resistant in this country. That has been done by this Government, which is headed by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda.

As we speak, we are producing big quantities of maize, which have increased from 3.4 million to 5 million metric tonnes, as of 2024. The value of the export of maize has increased from \$63.5 million to \$195.3 million. That is not something small, and so we appreciate His Excellency, the President, for supporting the growth of our agricultural sector.

For that reason, I want to join the mover and the seconders in seconding and appreciating His Excellency, the President for the clear and precise State-of-the-Nation Address.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I want to thank the mover and all the seconders for all those kind words that they have said about His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, and for his address to the nation on the state of affairs of this country; where we are coming from, where we are and where we are going.

We will require a response from the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament to the State-of-the-Nation address before we can open a debate on the Floor. I have been reliably informed that the Leader of the Opposition will be ready within one week to respond. After that, we shall allot time for the debate because the rules allow us to give him time to respond. Based on that, we will now go to the next item.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF
PARLIAMENT TO AUTHORISE KABALE
REGIONAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL TO
SUBLEASE FIVE ACRES OF ITS LAND
TO KABALE UNIVERSITY, PURSUANT
TO SECTION 32(6) OF THE PUBLIC
FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT, 2015

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, Section 32(6) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, requires the Accounting Officer to secure authorisation of Parliament before pledging or otherwise encumbering the land or any other asset on his or her Vote. And pursuant to Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the Minister of Health will move a motion to that effect.

However, it must be very clear that as Parliament, we do not have the power to sell land. In a previous sitting where we had another approval, we were only doing what the law requires of us as Parliament. The other procurement processes are done by the accounting officer. Ours is basically to give authorisation. That is where our role stops.

Therefore, this perception that Parliament has started selling land is not correct. We are acting according to the law, that is, Section 32(6) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015. Honourable minister? Okay, there is a procedural issue.

MR AKOL: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. For the last two and this is the third day, I have been requesting your office to present a very important issue on the outbreak of cholera –

THE SPEAKER: Is it a procedural matter on what we are presenting now? Hon. Akol, as a senior leader in the House, do you want to smuggle in – yes, honourable minister.

2.59

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Dr Jane Aceng): Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a motion for a Resolution of Parliament to authorise Kabale Regional Referral Hospital to sublease five acres out of its land to Kabale University.

The motion reads thus:

“WHEREAS Kabale Regional Referral Hospital is a public hospital and the registered proprietor of land comprised in Volume 3119, Folio 24, situated at Kabale City;

AND WHEREAS Kabale University is a public university operating and offering various academic programmes, including medicine, with a medical school currently housed within Kabale Regional Referral Hospital;

AWARE that Kabale University, on 8 August 2022, requested Kabale Regional Referral Hospital for a sublease of five acres of land

out of Kabale Regional Referral Hospital land to enable the university to expand its teaching space for the Faculty of Medicine;

NOTING that Kabale Regional Referral Hospital Management Board in its sixth sitting held on the 16 September 2022 approved the request to allocate the university five acres of land for expansion of the Faculty of Medicine to comprise operating theatres, specialist clinics and patient wards for oncology, neurology, orthopaedic surgery, as well as lecture theatres to create a befitting medical school at Kabale University;

FURTHER NOTING that the Ministry of Health approved Kabale Regional Referral Hospital’s Management Board decision to sublease five acres to Kabale University for expansion of its teaching space;

RECOGNISING that Kabale University secured initial funding of Shs 3 billion for the desired medical school expansion from the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in the Financial Year 2022/2023;

APPRECIATING the role that Kabale University Medical School plays in closing the medical professional gap by training medical professionals within the Kigezi subregion in the south-western Uganda districts of Kabale, Kanungu, Rubanda, Rukiga, Kisoro and Rukungiri;

NOTING that the statutory requirement for parliamentary approval under Section 32(6) of the Public Finance Management Act, CAP 171, for Kabale Regional Referral Hospital to encumber its land through subleasing it to Kabale University;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Parliament authorises Kabale Regional Referral Hospital to sublease five acres out of its land to Kabale University for the expansion of the Faculty of Medicine to comprise operating theatres, specialist clinics and patient wards for oncology, neurology, orthopaedic surgery, as well as lecture theatres.”

I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Seconded by Hon. Tony, Hon. Wanzala Mutebi, *Olympian*, the Prime Minister, the Government Chief Whip, Dr Okaasai, Hon. Nambozo, Hon. Huda, Hon. Rose, Hon. Olanya, Hon. Edakasi, Hon. KubeKETerya, Hon. Isaac, Hon. Sarah, by this whole side including Hon. Gerald, Hon. Acrobat, Member for Masindi, Col Nakesa, Lt Col Dr Alanyo, Dr Ruyonga, Hon. Angura and Dr Ayume, the chairperson. Doctor, can you justify your motion?

DR ACENG: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Our regional referral hospitals act as teaching hospitals for the universities and therefore, we work together to expand the hospitals to offer comprehensive teaching to our students.

Therefore, allow me to additionally inform this august House that the request before us today of authorising Kabale Regional Referral Hospital to sublease five acres of its land to Kabale University, which is a public institution of higher learning, is not just a matter of land; it is an investment in the future of health care delivery, medical education and regional development in Kigezi subregion and beyond.

Kabale University, through its School of Medicine, is a key partner in the provision of specialised health care services, medical training and research, and as you heard, several facilities will be constructed on the said land, including facilities for neurology, oncology and many others.

We are all aware that the regional referral serves a catchment population of 2.4 million people across the districts of Kabale, Kanungu, Kisoro, Ntungamo, Rubanda, Rukiga and Rukungiri, and these people have different ailments just like any other region, and therefore deserve specialised services as well.

The hospital also receives cross-border referrals from the neighbouring countries of Rwanda and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Therefore, the increasing demand for specialised care in these areas necessitates

infrastructure and human resource development that cannot be achieved by the hospital alone and within the existing infrastructure.

It is important for us to note that currently, the university is operating within a repurposed and dilapidated former outpatient department at Kabale Regional Referral Hospital, which was initially marked for demolition. Therefore, as the Ministry of Health, we fully support this sublease to enable the establishment of a functional and expanded medical school and a hospital that can offer better teaching and services.

It will also go ahead to enhance research output, improve retention of health workers in the region and promote sustainable medical education closer to the communities in need. This also presents us with an opportunity to strengthen our national health system through strategic collaboration with the academic institutions.

Madam Speaker, I therefore thank this House for the support that they are granting not only to the university but also to both the health and the education sectors. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. It is multi sectoral; there is education and health. Basically, it is for the expansion of the medical school and furthering the research for the university. Seconders Dr Ruyonga and Dr Ayume?

3.01

DR JOSEPH RUYONGA (NRM, Hoima West Division, Hoima City): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to second the motion for resolution of Parliament authorising Kabale Regional Referral Hospital to sublease five acres out of its land to Kabale University as moved by the minister.

Madam Speaker, the partnership between Kabale Regional Referral Hospital and Kabale University School of Medicine aims to improve health service delivery to a population of 2.4 million people in the districts which have been mentioned like Kabale, Kanungu, Kisoro,

Ntungamo, Rubanda, Rukiga, and the rest. The catchment area goes beyond the borders of Uganda. We have part of Rwanda and eastern DRC.

Kabale University School of Medicine contributes to hospital service delivery through training specialists in surgery, urology, orthopaedics, dermatology, neonatology, radiology, ENT, ophthalmology, obstetrics and gynaecology. Therefore, there is a dire need for teaching, laboratory, and office space.

Currently, the university is housed in a squeezed Outpatients Department (OPD) which the minister has alluded to.

Madam Speaker, Kabale University requested for the five acres, and both parties agreed. We request that this motion be passed and land be granted for the expansion of the university. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Authorisation for the sublease be granted. Yes, Dr Ayume? I am looking for another doctor.

3.08

DR CHARLES AYUME (NRM, Koboko Municipality, Koboko): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to support the motion. A university and a medical training facility have a symbiotic relationship where both of them benefit. The university does the teaching, but the hospital benefits from the extra human resource of the lecturers and the students during training. Therefore, to have these training facilities housed on the premises of the hospital benefits the hospital in terms of the interns who will be trained from there, the nurses, pharmacists and all the specialists that the minister has mentioned. I therefore support this motion.

Personally, I have been to that hospital. When you are driving out, to the left you will see what appears to be a medical training facility in a dilapidated building, as has been mentioned by the minister and I think we queried the quality of doctors who will come out of that dilapidated building. So for me, anything that improves

the infrastructure where these medical students will be trained is very welcome.

Most importantly, Madam Speaker, I would like to salute the always steadfast Minister of Health that she has done it in a very transparent way. It could have remained in the boardroom of Ministry of Health but she took it a step further to bring the clarification to the floor of Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: No, the law does not allow her to do it in the boardroom of the ministry. *(Laughter)* What the law requires under Section 32(6) of the Public Finance Management Act is that it comes to the Floor.

DR AYUME: Madam Speaker, I was just underscoring the fact that she has done it in a very transparent way and followed the law because we have seen, in the past, where things like that have been smuggled.

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, based on what Hon. Ayume is saying, we know most of the land belonging to the Government has been given out in a private way - in the boardrooms. We want the Committee on Lands to investigate, especially the pieces of land in Kampala.

We would like the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development to investigate the land that has been given out without authorisation of Parliament. Thank you.

DR AYUME: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Sarah, followed by Hon. Tony.

3.11

MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support the motion. However, you will note that our regional referral hospitals are actually challenged in terms of space and infrastructure.

When you look at Kabale Regional Referral Hospital, as we speak, it still remains a 100-bed facility despite being a regional referral hospital that is supposed to serve close to 2 million people - I think that is the regional referral hospital. Certainly it would have been better for the regional referral hospital to have its facilities but because of challenges of finances, it is okay for Kabale University to actually acquire this land so that they can put up the building, since they have the resources.

This facility, once constructed and completed, will go a long way in enabling the people within the region and beyond to actually get specialised services in a conducive environment because as we talk about quality health and tertiary care, we need the human resource, which is lacking in most of these regional referral hospitals.

From what we have, Madam Speaker, most of the regional referral hospitals have less than 30 per cent staffing and therefore, rely on the universities to provide services to the population. As such, people within the region will be able to benefit from the tertiary care, specifically utilising the university facility and the university staff.

As I conclude, I urge the Ministry of Finance and this House that as we plan for next year's budget - it is actually a shame for us to speak about regional referral hospitals and the staffing is just 30 per cent with some at 24 per cent - we need to increase funding so that they can be able to recruit the many doctors that they are unable to recruit as we speak. Madam Speaker, I support the motion.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon Sarah. Hon. Tony?

3.13

MR TONNY AYO O (NRM, Kwanja County, Kwanja): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to support the motion that Parliament authorises the Ministry of Health, through Kabale Regional Referral Hospital, to sublease five acres of land to Kabale University for expansion of the medical school.

THE SPEAKER: It is actually the other way around.

MR TONNY AYO O: Kabale Hospital to sublease five acres to Kabale University for expansion of the hospital medical school. First of all, having the teaching university together with the hospital provides proximity, which is closer and makes operation very easy and I think we should support this.

This is self-explanatory because it is Government to Government and investing in the future of health in the country. However, I only have one concern; that the framers of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 realised that land is of high value and any piece of land in the country that is going to be disposed of or subleased must be known by the whole country and Parliament because it is of high value.

I would, therefore, like to know whether Parliament and the committee have done due diligence - and good enough we now have the Committee on Lands. We would not want to handle it in Parliament when the committee has not gone out to confirm whether the five acres exist because we can sit here and approve and then you find out that they have spoken of five acres and yet even the ministers for health and education may not be aware that it is 10 acres and some people have apportioned the other five acres amongst themselves.

That is why I think the committee should go and confirm that it is five acres, we have seen them so that later on, we do not get back into issues on the land. That is my only simple concern on this but I support the motion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: As we said, since this was a multi-sectoral issue concerning health and the Committee on Education and the Committee on Health did an oversight and found out what you are talking about, the Committee on Health has already done that. Yes, honourable Local Government.

3.16

MR MARTIN MAPENDUZI OJARA (Independent, Bardege-Layibi Division, Gulu City): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I support the motion but would like to use the same opportunity to seek clarification from the Honourable Minister of Health. About four years ago, His Excellency the President wrote a letter directing that a specialised medical facility be established in Gulu and several letters, including from the First Lady, have been written and sent to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Unfortunately, it looks like there is an attempt to frustrate the President's good intentions. It would be good that the honourable minister clarifies the fate of this specialised medical facility that should be established in Gulu City. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you will make a clarification on that, but for now, I am putting the question that the House authorises Kabale Regional Hospital to sublease five acres of its land to Kabale University. This is pursuant to Section 32(6) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 on Asset Management.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, can you make a clarification on what Hon. Mapenduzi - Dr Bhoka, wait.

DR ACENG: Madam Speaker, allow me to thank Hon. Mapenduzi for this question -

THE SPEAKER: There is a procedural matter.

DR BHOKA: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to raise a procedural issue related to the same regional referral hospital. When the Committee on Health made a visit to the hospital, the board and management raised a pertinent issue related to land grabbing, especially in the northern parts of the hospital land. Would it be procedurally right for the honourable minister to allay the

anxiety of this House that the land is safe? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Is what we are talking about related to the land grabbing?

DR BHOKA: Madam Speaker, on the one hand, the hospital is leasing land. On other hand, the board and management is saying their land is being grabbed by neighbours.

THE SPEAKER: The same land?

DR BHOKA: The same land of the regional referral hospital.

THE SPEAKER: The five acres or the additional land?

DR BHOKA: I am not sure whether it is part of it or not. That is the clarity we seek from the minister.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, let us not mix issues. What the honourable minister is asking for is sub-leasing five acres. On the issue of grabbing of the land, I do not think the minister is the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development. Do you have any information about the grabbing? Go to the microphone.

DR ACENG: Madam Speaker, I do not have any such information.

THE SPEAKER: The accounting officer is a custodian of those assets. He must take charge of the property and must protect the land that belongs to the Government. Why should a minister from here be the one to oversee? That is why we have these committees. You should be able to find out what is happening. How much land is there? How is the land protected? Next item? Now the issue of honourable - First respond to what -

DR ACENG: Madam Speaker, allow me to thank Hon. Mapenduzi for this question. It also gives me the opportunity to clarify to so many people because a lot of social media propaganda is moving on that I blocked a specialised facility.

Madam Speaker, on 12 July 2023, I received a letter from His Excellency the President, together with a proposal from an institution called VAMED that was interested to design, finance, and build a 324-bed capacity specialised modern teaching hospital in Uganda. The President thought the hospital should be built in Gulu University and he directed that the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and Sports work together with guidance from Attorney-General, and enter a memorandum of understanding with VAMED Engineering to construct that facility.

Accordingly, Madam Speaker, Gulu University confirmed availability of land worth 20 acres in writing to the Ministry of Education and Sports. Another letter from the Office of the Vice Chancellor, Gulu University, also confirmed the same.

Madam Speaker, I wrote to the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development on the 3rd of October submitting the proposal from VAMED. In my letter, I asked him to receive the proposal from VAMED and I requested him to facilitate the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding as directed by His Excellency the President so that we could begin work.

Madam Speaker, on 23 November 2023, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development wrote back to me, and I request to read his letter. The heading is: *“Proposal by VAMED to design, finance and build a 324-bed capacity specialised modern hospital in Uganda.”*

He says, *“Honourable Minister of Health, I acknowledge receipt of your letter on the above subject matter. Whereas the proposal is appreciated, its financing mechanism would require Government to acquire an additional commercial loan. The implication is that this will worsen the debt service to revenue ratio, which is already above what is contained in the Charter for Fiscal Responsibility.”*

In light of the above, this is to recommend that the signing of the Memorandum of

Understanding is deferred until the debt service obligations have reduced to manageable levels and local revenues increased.

By copy of this letter, the Attorney-General is informed accordingly.”

That was the letter of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Subsequently, Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister, as well as the Chancellor of Gulu University, also wrote to me. I responded to them and attached the letter of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

I wrote back to him asking whether the situation had changed and whether we should proceed. The response is that the situation has not changed. Therefore, it is not me blocking that facility. Until the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development gives me a go-ahead, my hands are tied.

I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, when you got the letter from the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, did you have an engagement with the stakeholders for them to understand what could have gone wrong? You needed to go to Gulu and tell these people the position.

3.26

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Madam Speaker, the Chancellor of Gulu University is the Rt Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda. We held a meeting in Gulu in the presence of many people and stakeholders. We had meetings in my office where we involved everybody. We are looking for a concessional loan so that we can handle that project.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ojara, you have heard the response. When the minister wrote a letter, he talked about a commercial loan. Maybe we should have looked for a concessional loan that could have helped us. Maybe next time,

we should look for a cheaper loan for us to be able to have the facility. Rather than going for a commercial loan, let us look for a better concessional loan.

MR MAPENDUZI: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. Actually, I am hearing this for the first time, and it is my prayer that indeed, as you put it, the honourable minister needs to engage further and have interactions with the key stakeholders.

The President made very clear pronouncements in his letter. This is not just about Gulu University. When you look at the President's letter, it is not a facility only for Gulu University. It is important that we are engaged and informed on these matters. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Health, I have seen what was written about you. It was all over that you blocked it. It is just prudent enough that you go and talk to the population. You can talk to the population in their language and tell them that they should not lose hope. They will get it next time. Thank you, next item.

STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT
BUSINESS FOR THE SUCCEEDING
WEEK, 5TH TO 7TH AUGUST 2025,
PURSUANT TO RULE 28 OF THE RULES
OF PROCEDURE OF PARLIAMENT

3.28

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Madam Speaker, I move under Rule 28 of our Rules of Procedure to submit the following Business for the succeeding week from 5th to 7th August 2025.

Number one-

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I want to make a correction on the rule that you are quoting. The rule is 29(1).

MS NABBANJA: Rule 29

1. The Building Substances Bill, 2022
2. Magistrate's Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Prime Minister. As I informed the committee members, we expect all the Bills to be on the Floor in one week.

Hon. Minister for Health, you have a matter. Just stay a bit to respond to it. Next -

BILLS
SECOND READING

THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS
BILL, 2024

THE SPEAKER: Looking at the time, it is not yet 4.00 p.m., and because the Prime Minister is very strict, she will have Prime Minister's Time when it is 4.00 p.m. So, can we first look at the next one? *(Laughter)*

3.30

MR DAN KIMOSHO (NRM, Kazo County, Kazo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The reports came to this House, and the presiding officer, then the Deputy Speaker, requested for some advice from the Attorney-General on the same. That advice has not come through. Therefore, harmonisation has not happened and we will keep waiting on the Attorney-General for that, then the report will be tabled. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, how long does it take for us to harmonise just one item on a Bill? Can you help us and have it harmonised so that we can look at it on Tuesday?

Yes, procedural matter.

MR KIBALYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This Bill has been there for long. You come tomorrow -

THE SPEAKER: Over six months.

MR KIBALYA: I would request, through your office, Madam Speaker, to direct the Attorney-General to come, even if it requires tomorrow or Monday.

THE SPEAKER: The Prime Minister is here, and I have already told her. That is her minister, not mine. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, can we have this Bill harmonised and brought to the House?

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, I undertake to do the same.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. So, we expect the Bill in the House next week. Next item -

PRIME MINISTER'S TIME

3.32

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Madam Speaker, we received questions from a number of Members.

1. Hon. Stella Atyang, the Woman Representative, Moroto, raised an issue that the X-ray in Moroto Referral Hospital, scanning machines, and newly constructed oxygen plants in Moroto Referral Hospital are non-functional.

Her question is, when will the Ministry of Health help to repair, replace the scanning and oxygen machines and also functionalise the newly constructed oxygen plant at Moroto Referral Hospital?

My response:

Madam Speaker, the contract for the maintenance of X-rays and the ultrasound was awarded and the spare parts ordered for.

The imaging equipment was repaired and made functional on 15 March 2025. Furthermore, the Government, through the Ministry of Health, procured a new X-ray machine, which has already arrived at the Ministry of Health stores. It will be installed in the next two weeks.

Madam Speaker, the old oxygen plant was repaired and is now functional, as I have already told you. The Government is in the process of procuring an adequately sizable transformer and voltage power stabiliser under the Ministry of Energy in order for the high-capacity oxygen plant to be made functional.

The current oxygen plants in Mbale, Soroti, and Lira are functional, and they are able to produce over 500 cylinders of oxygen per day, which can be supplied to Moroto in case of any high demand.

2. Hon. Akugizibwe Aled Roland (MP, Buruli County, Masindi District)

The Ibaralibi-Alimugonza-Kitanyata Road (24.4 km) is in Buruli County and connects two sub-counties of Pakanyi and Kiruli, running through 11 villages.

This road was recommended by Masindi District Local Government to be worked upon by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) under the Agricultural Cluster Development Project (ACDP) in 2018.

The road has five major chokes and as such, is totally impassable and so far, eight people have died on this road by running water. Seven years down the road, it has not been fixed and the district does not have the resources to work on this road.

That he has raised the issue of this road on this Floor more than thrice, but nothing is forthcoming.

His prayer is that MAAIF should come and work on this road so that people in this area can enjoy like other Ugandans, bearing in mind that a road is one of the main enablers of development.

Madam Speaker, my response is that the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, through ACDP, contracted M/S Doramine Enterprise to work on specific road chokes for both Kiryandongo and Masindi Districts.

The contractor commenced works in Kiryandongo District but due to its limited financial capacity, they did not complete the works as required.

Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries has consequently decided to procure another contractor and

works will commence any time from now. They are currently mobilising equipment, and staff accommodation has already been started.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Tebandeke, the Member of Parliament, Bbaale County, is number three.

They have been concerned by Emart Technical Services regarding the cancellation of UMEME meter connection applications before the respective applications were connected to the power grid within a reasonable period.

That some accounts, for reasons including UMEME delays, operational inefficiencies, all changing policies, were cancelled before the applicants were connected to electricity. In many cases, according to him, these applicants were not refunded their connection fees, leading to a public outcry. His questions are four.

1. What led to the termination of these connections?
2. Will the affected applicants be refunded or considered for reconnections under a different arrangement?
3. What steps is the ministry taking to ensure transparency and prevent similar occurrences in the future?
4. How does this impact Uganda's electrification goals, especially for underserved areas?

Madam Speaker, my response is that the application process for new meter connections was upgraded to a digital system, allowing customers to apply online. Wiremen assist with entering customer details to ensure accuracy.

Once an application is submitted – (*Mr Akol rose*) – In the Prime Minister's time, there was no procedure. The law is clear. Please sit. He wants to slap me. (*Laughter*)

THE SPEAKER: Please allow the Prime Minister to finish then –

MS NABBANJA: Yes, that is the procedure.

THE SPEAKER: He wants to make a maiden speech. (*Laughter*)

MS NABBANJA: You know, newcomers also. (*Laughter*)

THE SPEAKER: That is a joke.

MS NABBANJA: It is. Madam Speaker, once an application is submitted, a work order reference number is automatically –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Akol had an issue over cholera. Where is Dr Aceng? That is why he was standing.

MS NABBANJA: We can mobilise. Let me request the Government Chief Whip to bring –

THE SPEAKER: There is an emergency.

MS NABBANJA: Yes, you are right, Madam Speaker. The Government Chief Whip is going to connect.

Once an application is submitted, a work order reference number is automatically generated and sent via an SMS and payments and updates are communicated through this automated system, ensuring transparency.

I can confirm that Uganda Electricity Distribution Company (UEDCL) will process connections for applicants who met regulatory requirements under UMEME without requiring additional payments for inspections or pre-loaded units.

Affected customers are notified that their applications are still under consideration and that the Government is committed to improving the connection processes to achieve universal electricity access, as outlined in the electricity connection policy.

Question number four came from Hon. Mourine Osoru, MP, Arua City. She raised an issue on the absence of city road equipment in Arua City.

Madam Speaker, my response is that the Ministry of Works and Transport prepared a proposal for equipping the new cities and other urban authorities with road units capable of

earthworks and bituminous works, including road patching.

Phase three of the proposed equipment purchase is pending approval of funds. Once these funds are approved, the city road equipment will be provided.

I got another question from Hon. Dorothy Nyakato, Woman MP, Kitagwenda District. That in Kitagwenda District, lack of health centre IIIs has resulted in poor delivery of health services to the community.

Her question is, can the Ministry of Health intervene with immediate effect and upgrade health centre IIs to health centre IIIs to save lives?

My response is that Government has so far established over 414 health centre IIIs in the last five years. There is still a balance of over 500 subcounties and town councils without health centre IIIs. Plans are underway to identify funds to ensure that the facilities are provided. Most of the subcounties without health facilities or health centre IIIs were created in the last five years, making the gap a bit wider.

Number six, Hon. Atima Jackson Lee, MP, Arua Central raised an issue on the delayed replacement of asbestos roofs of Mvara Secondary School in Mvara ward which causes airborne related diseases.

Madam Speaker, my response is that the Minister of Education and Sports is preparing the U-Learn Project; a World Bank supported intervention to rehabilitate facilities in traditional schools. Mvara Secondary School is among the targeted beneficiaries under this arrangement. The asbestos roofs at the school will be among the designated areas for replacement.

Number seven, Hon. Betty Namboozee Bakireke, MP, Mukono Municipality, raised an issue on the various charges taking place in the education system that lack a well-laid-out communication and sensitisation programme,

which has left stakeholders stranded, in addition to the unregulated school requirements, which have forced parents to abandon education altogether.

My response is that I acknowledge the concerns raised regarding communication on changes in the education sector. To address this, a communication strategy was developed, and implementation is ongoing.

In collaboration with the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, the Ministry of Education and Sports is utilising various media platforms, including radio, television, print media, social media, and the Uganda Media Centre to disseminate key information.

Additionally, the Ministry of Education and Sports continues to engage stakeholders through regular media briefings to ensure clarity on policy matters.

Madam Speaker, we remain committed to enhancing communication and stakeholders' engagement and welcome any feedback to further strengthen our efforts.

For the unregulated school fees, charges and requirements, we are in advanced stages of providing regulations in this regard. Once approved, these regulations will reinforce our position against these exorbitant requirements, which we have continuously communicated through circulars.

Madam Speaker, the issue of our brother seems to be urgent. I still have a number of questions, but I request the minister to give an answer to a colleague.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you for being considerate. Hon. Akol?

3.47

MR ANTHONY AKOL (FDC, Kilak North County, Amuru): Madam Speaker, I have forgiven the Rt Hon. Prime Minister for intimidating me. *(Laughter)* It is not the first time; she has refused even to take photos with me several times. *(Laughter)* I have to raise this.

I have a matter of national importance, and it touches the lives of the people in my constituency. I have been following up on this case from Tuesday up to today. There has been an outbreak of cholera in my constituency –

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister, do not allow taking a picture with Hon. Akol. Please. *(Laughter)*

MR AKOL: Madam Speaker, from 2 July 2025 up to now, the reported cases are 143. So far, 11 people have died in Elegu Town Council in my constituency.

I visited the area, and the team was very frustrated because they lacked a lot of facilities to rescue the situation. They do not have finances, and there is a lack of medical supplies in place. Apart from that, the area has inadequate staffing, but above all, there is no medical facility in place.

In 2020, the Government started building a health centre III in Elegu Town Council, but up to now, the construction is not finished and it is not operational.

My very important prayers are for the Ministry of Health to immediately pronounce itself on this outbreak because people are suffering. People are worried about the water sources that need to be tested because they are not sure whether this problem is coming from piped water or the other sources of water in the area.

There is a need for a treatment centre to be set up in place immediately. The health facilities in this area need more staffing, especially in Bibia Health Centre III so that they can rescue the situation.

We also want to understand why the construction of Elegu Health Centre III has not been finished and why it is not operational up to now.

Madam Speaker, the situation is bad, and I thank the Prime Minister for giving me the opportunity to raise it. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, and thank you, Hon. Akol. Dr Jane Ruth Aceng -

3.50

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Dr Jane Aceng): Madam Speaker, allow me to thank the Honourable Member for the question, and we hear his cry, but allow me to inform honourable colleagues that cholera is a sanitation issue, and sanitation is not a Ministry of Health issue alone, it is multi-sectoral, including the people of Elegu. We only come in to control when a disease has broken out.

My teams have been on the ground in that area, and the water testing is being done by the Ministry of Water and Environment. We work in collaboration; they do the water testing. However, water is also a challenge in that area.

The supplies he is requesting for were already dispatched, because this outbreak is coming to nearly two weeks; it is not a new thing, and it will be controlled soon, it is not a scare for us.

For the issue of the health centre III, I need to follow it up and find out why construction stalled. I cannot remember off-hand, but I will do that.

I reassure him that we shall control the outbreak, but also appeal to him to continue talking to the people because cholera is an oral-faecal issue; hand-mouth-faeces. They need to wash their hands. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. They need to wash their hands, boil the water that they are drinking, and make sure that sanitation is good enough. As leaders, let us communicate with our people. However, since people are dying, you need to come in and support those who are already sick, to make sure that we do not get more deaths. Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, before I answer my question, I would like to inform Hon. Akol that I have never feared taking a photo with him. After our interaction today, we

can go and take as many – (*Laughter*) – in any place of his choice.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Prime Minister, that is an open invitation.

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, he is too tall, so for people who are short like me, when you take a photo with him, you look like a dwarf. (*Laughter*) In brief, he should prepare a stool. Thank you so much.

Madam Speaker, I have another question from Hon. Veronica Nanyondo, the District Woman MP of Bukomansimbi. Her prayer is that there is an effect on the implementation of the new lower secondary school curriculum on primary school leavers. Can the Government update us on this matter?

My response is that at the moment, primary school leavers transition from the knowledge-based curriculum to competence-based curriculum in secondary school, under the revised lower secondary school curriculum.

The process of revising the primary school curriculum to make it competence-based has already commenced to harmonise curriculum designs across primary and secondary level education.

Once this is complete, the learners will be introduced to competence-based teaching and learning from primary school and progress with it to secondary education.

I got another question from Hon. Ronald Balimwezo Nsubuga, MP for Nakawa Division East. He says that Uganda has very many experienced *jua kalis*, but they have no industrial parks and have continued to operate in a domestic setting, with very high electricity and water domestic tariffs.

This is something that has crippled their businesses, yet they compete with investors who operate in Government industrial parks.

These investors in Government industrial parks have always been incentivised in the form

of tax exemptions, low electricity and water tariffs. This makes it harder for the *jua kalis* to compete favourably with them in the same market. His prayer is; When is the Government going to set up *jua kali* industrial parks?

My response is that in this principle, for all Ugandan investors - if they all go through the Uganda Investment Authority, industrial parks have been designed with spaces specifically planned for setting up Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), which cater for *jua kali* artisan activities.

SME parks of 20 acres have been planned in all the operational industrial parks of Namanve, Soroti, Kasese, SINO-Mbale, and others. The Uganda Investment Authority also acquired the Mbarara SME Park of 12 acres that has been handed back to Gatsby Group, the SME artisans from Mbarara.

The Government's vision is to develop new industrial parks in phases, depending on the availability of resources in Gulu, Nebbi, Arua, Madi-Okollo, Yumbe, Pader, Paidha, Dokolo, Rukungiri, Isingiro, Oyam, Lira, Hoima, Buliisa, Kisoro, Kakumiro, Nakasongola, Luwero, Nakaseke, Mubende, Mityana, Masaka, Kabale, Bushenyi, Tororo, Rakai, Kamuli, Kween, Busia, Soroti, Gomba, Kayunga, Kyegegwa, and Iganga, where land has been mobilised by districts and already offered to Uganda Investment Authority for industrial development to foster innovation and equitable, sustainable industrial growth.

Madam Speaker, the major infrastructure, for example, workplaces with shared common user facilities such as production equipment, showrooms for Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to use as they sell and grow their businesses, will be constructed within the said industrial parks.

10. Hon. Lucy Akello, the District Woman Member of Parliament for Amuru, raised an issue on the lack of radiologists in the regional referral hospitals like Gulu, Soroti, Mbale and others.

Madam Speaker, my response is that it is true. A number of regional referral hospitals lack substantive radiologists for the reason that the Government has not been able to attract radiologists to some hospitals. Efforts are being made by the Ministry of Health and Government to ensure radiologists are recruited for all regional referral hospitals.

However, in addressing this gap, the Government has established a national tele-radiology centre at Mulago National Referral Hospital where all the images are transmitted for review, interpretation, and reporting back to the respective hospitals for further management.

Madam Speaker, I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Prime Minister. Hon. Ocan?

4.00

MS BETTY AOL (FDC, Woman Representative, Gulu City): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was in Lacor Hospital recently for their celebration. They questioned me on the CT scan machine. This was a pledge from the President right from, is it 2019?

Hon. Ojara tried to correct me that it was in February 2020. It is also close to 2019.

It was pledged in the presence of the minister for finance, and it is almost six years down the road. Why the delay? You know, if this CT scan is in Lacor Hospital – the one at Gulu Regional Referral Hospital fails us all the time, probably because of these radiologists, or sometimes it is completely down — yet it is also still a new facility. Why? Our people have to be referred to Mulago National Referral Hospital all the time?

Mulago is too far from the north and for poor people. Why is it that this presidential pledge is not being fulfilled? According to Lacor Hospital, they said it costs Shs 1.9 billion. Hon. Mapenduzi, has corrected me and said it is Shs 1 billion. Even if it is Shs 1 billion, I believe that if this pledge is fulfilled, it will help Lacor

Hospital to help the people better. Why is the delay? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, I will remind the President about this pledge. I request the Member to put this in writing, so that I can put a cover letter and remind *Mzee*. He will fulfill, you know, he is a responsible President.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Mutebi and Hon. Rwemulikya?

4.02

MR NOAH MUTEBI (NRM, Nakasongola County, Nakasongola): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

In 2019, the Government of the Republic of Uganda bought land for a number of villages in Nakasongola. I have been raising this issue to Parliament, the President, the Ugandan Land Commission and the Ministry of Lands. What is pending is after the Government's sinking in or putting in billions of money, the villagers, the community members are waiting to get their land titles.

Ever since 2019 to date, the titles have not been forthcoming. I want to pray that the Prime Minister, the Government of Uganda, goes to Nakasongola and explains to the community members. When I was traversing the area during campaigns, there was a question: "Where are our land titles?" I want to appeal to you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, that you direct the Ugandan Land Commission and the Government to go to Nakasongola and explain this.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, allow me to use this opportunity to direct the Ministry of Lands to go to Nakasongola together with the Ministry for Luwero- Rwenzori-

THE SPEAKER: The Minister of Lands has just walked out.

MS NABBANJA: Together with the minister for Luwero-Rwenzori, so that that issue is handled.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, and I want to guide you, Members, and refer you to rule 43(4). When you are giving oral questions, you have to be precise and concise. Do not give us the history. It is the rules, Hon. Wanzala.

4.05

MR IBANDA RWEMULIKYA (INDEPENDENT, Ntoroko County, Ntoroko): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker for the opportunity.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I think you know the issue of floods in the Ntoroko District. Since 2019- you also visited Ntoroko and saw people living in IDP camps. Terrible situation; no schools and roads. The last time I was here, you asked us to present the document of those people who were willing to sell pieces of land so that the office of the Prime Minister buys these pieces of land to relocate and resettle these people.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the situation of these people really- These people are living like- I do not know how I can compare. If you see the lives of these people living in camps, they are not like Ugandans. We have been on it since 2019.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, when are you buying this land to relocate and resettle these flood victims? It has really taken a very long time.

Madam Speaker, during the campaigns, it was very tough for us to go in these camps and talk to these people. They never wanted to hear anything from the Government and us leaders. It has become ugly. I do not know what you are going to do, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. When are you buying this piece of land and relocating these people? I want to thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Rwemulikya.

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, the floods of Ntoroko took place in 2019. You and I were not yet in these offices. But when we took over, I want you to appreciate that we have been supporting that community. We failed to get land where to relocate these people.

The only land that was available was for Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) land. The laws do not allow us to gazette even one kilometer. We needed eight kilometers. Therefore, we opted to buy land from those people. The land those people have, when they did due diligence, it was in wetlands. Some of the land was worse than where they were. We would put people there, and then they would also again submerge.

Madam Speaker, the issue of Ntoroko is quite complex. The only land that is raised is that of the Uganda Wildlife Authority. We will just waste money buying that land. Yesterday, we had a meeting involving your leaders from your district. The Resident District Commissioner (RDC), the LC5 Chairperson, and the Chief Administrative Officer were there.

The president directed that we look for this land in 2020. So, we have been able to construct new health facilities, and you are aware. It is not that we have not been concerned. My office has tried. We even have the money, but the challenge was, should we again buy land in a swamp? That has been our challenge.

Maybe, since we are supposed to bring this issue to Parliament because it is Parliament with the powers to degazette, we degazette part of Semuliki, and then maybe, settle people there. It is complex and you know it.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Gerald. Hon. Acrobat_

4.08

MR GERALD NANGOLI (NRM, Elgon North County, Bulambuli): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you recall that in Bulambuli, we have the issue of landslides survivors who were relocated to Bunambutye Resettlement Camp, late last year.

To date, these people have not been helped. As I speak, they are in a miserable situation, especially the first 29 families that were relocated around the 27th of November 2024. The land is there, the two acres for those families. You assured us last time in your meeting that Shs 10 million is also available for them, to resettle and construct small structures.

To date, these people have not been helped. They have not been given money. We have called the officers from the office of the Prime Minister. Prime Minister, to date they have not been helped. Can the people of Bulambuli be updated on the status?

Ms NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, on Monday this week, the Cabinet was informed of the same through my office. The challenge we have been having is almost the same as the one in Ntoroko.

Hon. Mafabi identified land worth 18,000 acres, but that land is encumbered. That land is owned by another company. Amaro is an Indian company, but that land also was given to Masdar. Masdar is supposed to construct a solar plant. We know that almost half of that land is a swamp.

On Monday, the Cabinet resolved that a team from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development - and I believe they went there yesterday - should go to Bulambuli, have a look at this land and if there is an area where we can settle people, then we start the resettlement exercise.

We appreciate and know that the conditions those people are living in are not the best. Living in a camp with a family, with everything, is really something that one cannot recommend to a human being, but we have no alternative, as we speak.

The Government gave me Shs 50 billion. We have the money. We want to pay these people as we give them the land. We had come up with a resolution that maybe we could give them cash, but the Cabinet said, no. We have to get land and relocate these people, with the Shs 10 million.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Acrobert_

4.11

MR ACROBERT KIIZA (Independent, Bughendera County, Bundibugyo): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I also thank the Rt Hon. Prime Minister for the good response to questions raised.

My issue is about the state of the road from Bundibugyo to Fort Portal. The president was in Bundibugyo-

THE SPEAKER: We have scheduled a debate on Tuesday on issues of roads and we said we cannot discuss issues of roads without having the finance minister here, because the Minister of Works and Transport said the problem he has is that the finance ministry has not yet released the money. Why don't you reserve that for Tuesday?

MR ACROBERT KIIZA: Much obliged, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Anybody with an issue on roads, reserve it for Tuesday, so that we can be able to handle it that very day.

MR ACROBERT KIIZA: Madam Speaker, would you therefore, allow me to - since the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development is here, I have issues regarding stranded -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Lucy, Hon. Abed and Hon. Mwijukye. Ask one question and go.

4.13

MR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimaanya-Kabonera Division, Masaka City): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the Government borrowed money to improve the connectivity of electricity to our people. We mobilised our people, they did the wiring for their Houses, they paid the dues, but when they go to the electricity offices, they are asked for an additional Shs 100,000. This is obtaining everywhere in Masaka area.

I am asking the Prime Minister, and I know the minister is here; why are the people in

the offices of electricity charging our people another extra Shs 100,000? They have done the wiring. You promised them no pole, one pole, and they have been waiting forever.

When is the electricity going to be supplied to these homes? In addition, that Shs 100,000 that is being charged, is it a directive from your ministry that they should charge another Shs 100,000?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Energy, I thought it was only happening in my district. I am happy it has come from another place, and what happened in my own district, they were collecting money from people, saying that it was facilitation for the people connecting power.

When I reported it to the Mbale office, they said no, it was a mistake. Just know that it is happening. Hon. Okaasai - is it still on energy? Honourable minister, just hold on and you will respond at once.

4.14

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. In Terego, you have poles flying, but they have not stepped down the power for people to use. Every effort to request the UEDCL team to step down power so that the youth and homes can use it, have become futile.

Therefore, I am asking the Minister of Energy - Terego being one of the refugee-hosting districts, what has happened? Why hasn't power reached the refugees yet the money was allocated? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, we have so many places where the poles are installed and electricity is not connected. You may need to address most of the things on issues of electricity. Yes, Hon. Silas.

4.15

MR SILAS AOGON (Independent, Kumi Municipality, Kumi): Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. In my constituency,

we were lucky to get connections in 2017. Unfortunately, because of vandalism, they removed the wires from sections of these connections to the tune of more than, maybe, three kilometres.

Specifically, there is a school called Kelim Primary School and a centre called Freedom City. They have no power because of that - from 2017 to date - because of vandalism. What is the ministry going to do?

Three days back, I was in that area and the people were pleading with me, saying, "You are our leader and Member of Parliament; what is the Government going to do to resolve this matter?"

THE SPEAKER: The minister comes from the same district.

MR AOGON: Yes, the minister comes from the same district and they said to me, "Your brother and elder is with you, what is the problem? Can't you ask him for a solution?" I am here to ask, sir, what are we going to do?

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you have a very good minister in Hon. Okaasai. *(Applause)* Hon. Okaasai - yes, Hon. Okot?

4.17

MR JOHN OKOT (NRM, Agago North County, Agago): Thank you, Madam Speaker. We are neighbouring Kitgum District, Otuke, Pader but all the nearest trading centres and subcounty headquarters that are neighbouring us are connected with power.

When you go to Laita and Lumoi, both in Omia Pacwa, Wol in Lugungu, Okwadoko, which borders Lagoro, and then you go to Aywee Garagara -

THE SPEAKER: What is the issue?

MR AMOS OKOT: The issue I am raising is that the closest district -

THE SPEAKER: Be precise and concise. What is the issue? Is it on connection of power.

MR AMOS OKOT: Yes, Madam Speaker. The point I am trying to bring home is that the closest subcounty and trading centre to our subcounty and district are connected to power. However, Agago, being the closest, has been left out, yet some years ago, money was borrowed for these power connections' completion.

This question goes to the minister in charge of electricity and the minister in charge of northern Uganda. Why are you leaving Agago in the dark? When are you going to complete that work? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, if you start bringing a preamble instead of going straight to the point, I will cut you off.

4.18

MR RAUBEN ARINAITWE (Independent, Isingiro West County, Isingiro): Thank you, Madam Speaker. In my constituency, I have hard-to-reach areas where they had erected poles, so that they could provide solar power. That was even before I came to Parliament. The poles have been there for more than six years, but the solar panels are not there. Those areas specifically are Kagabagaba and Rubagano in Isingiro West.

People have now started vandalising the poles because they have been there for more than six years. Honourable minister, I do not know whether you are thinking about that solar project for the hard-to-reach areas. Thank you.

4.19

MR ALFRED EDAKASI (NRM, Kaberamaido County, Kaberamaido): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mine is also about electricity in Kaberamaido town and generally Kaberamaido. Honourable minister, remember you promised to transfer us to a more reliable line. I am requesting that you expedite that because what we have now is not serving the purpose –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Kayemba-Ssolo, stop pointing at my Prime Minister.

MR EDAKASI: We are losing one of our biggest investors who has equipment in Kobulubulu because of power. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

4.20

MR GEOFFREY KAYEMBA-SOLO (NUP, BUKOMANSIMBI SOUTH COUNTY, BUKOMANSIMBI): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. In Bukomansimbi where I come from, especially the area where I was born in Kassebwera Parish, we have never received a single pole for the time that the NRM Government has been in power.

I would like to ask you, honourable minister, you promised us, when I came to your office –

THE SPEAKER: Actually, the problem is getting a leader like Hon. Kayemba-Ssolo who has failed to make sure that power is there. That is the problem, not the NRM Government. *(Laughter)*

MR KAYEMBA-SOLO: Madam Speaker, I came to your office and you wrote a letter, referring me to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. The chief whip also wrote the same letter to the ministry to assist the people of Bukomansimbi. Where will the people of Bukomansimbi get a leader like me? *(Laughter)* So, I would like the minister to tell me when we are getting power?

THE SPEAKER: The people of Bukomansimbi should have a leader who will make sure that the services are delivered. Hon. Tom Bright? Let us get people's questions.

4.21

MR TOM BRIGHT (NRM, Kyaka Central County, Kyegegwa): Thank you, Madam Speaker. On the issue of power; in Kyegegwa Town Council, there are areas called Buteera and Muhangi. Electricity passes through the villages, but there are no transformers. People have been complaining; they tried to riot and cut down the trees, but we told them to relax, that the minister is going to work on them. When will you provide the transformers for our area, so that people can get light? Thank you.

4.22

MS BETTY AOL (FDC, Woman Representative, Gulu City): Madam Speaker, I remember a survey was done in Gulu City for extension of power to all other parts of Gulu City which did not have electricity. That was in 2022; we are now in 2025. What is happening? Transformers are a big problem; our people cannot buy transformers. Thank you.

4.22

MR ANDREW OULANYAH (NRM, Omoro County, Omoro): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am happy to hear that some people have some poles. We have a whole subcounty that is in the dark – Orapwoyo.

We have also made several requests to the minister on transformers for some strategic trading centres and a health centre III. We have Malaba, Te Olam, Kocuna and then Loyo Ajonga Health Centre III. We need some transformers to help our people. That is our request. Thank you.

4.23

MS ZUMURA MANENO (NRM, Woman Representative, Obongi): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. When my colleagues are talking about transformers and money being collected from people during connectivity, in Obongi, I am still pleading that we want to see an electricity pole in the whole district. *(Laughter)*

Madam Speaker, through you, to the Prime Minister, when are we seeing an electricity pole in Obongi District? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. *(Hon. Nambeshe rose_)* Yes, a procedural matter?

MR NAMBESHE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. From the look of things, there are a multiplicity of concerns on poles and matters of electricity. From the rules, the requirement is that during the Prime Minister's time, she should be concise and precise in her responses.

Wouldn't it be procedurally accurate, like you did with the Minister of Works and Transport, to

require the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development to come with a comprehensive response to all these concerns?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, I know all these questions have got you off guard. You may not understand which area has poles or which district has transformers. Is it possible for you to get a report on what has been done in which district, what is going to be done, in relation to the money which was given to you? Can you bring that report to the House and we debate it? *(Applause)* Let us hear from the minister.

4.25

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (ENERGY) (Mr Sidronius Okaasai): Madam Speaker, I would wish to start from where you ended. This requires a comprehensive report which will take us –

I have actually tried inviting the Members of Parliament and I tell them what is planned for their districts. We usually give what lines have been done in your district, what lines have been planned and where we have surveyed but do not have money. It will be very difficult to bring that huge report here.

But I have always given Members of Parliament, when they come to office, a comprehensive submission for their districts, except for vandalism because this is unpredictable. It is a crime and we are fighting that vice.

However, for cases which happened a long time ago, we have asked UEDCL to intervene in those areas. For example, Kelim can be covered under UEDCL because we got some little money during the time of the Umeme buyout where we can rectify some of those critical areas, especially where there are transformers.

On transformers, they come out in two forms. There is rapid development in our country. For example, in Masaka, the demand for electricity - because of mushrooming structures everywhere, yet the transformers are

of lower voltage and those ones can easily be replaced so long as they are not blown up. If a request is made specifically that in this area, the power is dim, we can now easily remove the small transformer and bring you a bigger transformer. We do not lose anything and there is some little funding which we have under UEDCL, where we are buying new transformers for replacement because of the rapid development of our country.

So we can actually take those ones on a case-by-case basis. We now have regional offices; you do not have to come to headquarters. You can make a request. Recently, in Kumi for example, they got some transformers in areas where there was rapid development. You can make that request and we take care of it.

Now Obongi, with stranded lines- stranded lines are our priority. We are actually going to provide transformers for those stranded lines and string them.

However, stranded lines are of two types. There are certain lines which were constructed by politicians and we do not have a record of them. Therefore, for those, we are going to look for new money.

However, for the lines where there was a project, we are actually going to take them up. Obongi is our priority. Obongi, is about 13 kilometres and we are actually going to provide connected electricity to Obongi, possibly before the general elections. *(Applause)*

Yes, we are going to do that. The President was recently there and he gave a directive- we are going to deliver power to Obongi. So Obongi, you are on top of our priority.

Bukomansimbi, we carried out a survey, Madam Speaker. You sent him and we carried out a survey of Bukomansimbi. Some of the areas- but not every village is going to be connected to electricity. We are going to focus mainly on schools, and health centres. It is very difficult and very expensive for us to take power to every village. We have not yet reached there.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister-

MR OKAASAI: Then for the charging, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, it is illegal for anybody to charge Shs 100,000 for connection of electricity. That is illegal. If you can report such a person, we can actually follow that case. There is free connection. You only pay money for inspection which is Shs 41,300, which will enable us to track where the survey has been done, and the house where it is, and we shall connect you once you have paid the said Shs 41,300.

There is no further charge. Madam Speaker, I am your neighbour and I am going to take it up to look for those areas where people are being charged Shs 100,000 for connections.

THE SPEAKER: And the areas where there is no power. Thank you. *(Laughter)*

MR OKAASAI: Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The Minister will give us a report in relation to power. Yes, honourable from Bugiri.

4.31

MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to find out from the Prime Minister when the implementation of the USMID programme in Bugiri Municipality is commencing.

Madam Speaker, I am aware that there is government support to municipalities, which extends to constructing tarmac roads and street lighting for municipalities; it is a special government programme. It has been implemented in other municipalities, and I would like to find out when it is coming to Bugiri, because as you are aware, Bugiri is the first important town as you enter Uganda from the other side of the country. So, it is an embarrassment for it not to be benefiting from the municipality.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Asuman, the financial year has just started. That money was budgeted for.

MR BASALIRWA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. That is why I am asking; when is the implementation commencing, and that is the commitment- because, each financial year, I raise this matter and my *jajja* should come on the Floor and face the people of Bugiri. *Jajja*, you come on the Floor and face the people of Bugiri.

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, my *muzukulu*- I think things are not doing well there. We are going to implement the USMID project as and when we are ready.

4.33

MR MAURICE KIBALYA (NRM, Bugabula County South, Kamuli): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Maurice?

MR KIBALYA: Madam Speaker, we had the programme of the vaccine for the Foot and Mouth Disease, including the tick disease. It is an issue that has remained in words. The other time we even had a programme of appropriating money; the Minister of Agriculture was here, and he was saying that we are importing vaccines. By now, I thought Uganda was to begin manufacturing. In some of our areas, cows are dying. Therefore, as the Prime Minister is here, we need to know so that we find a way forward.

THE SPEAKER: We are manufacturing, yes.

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker and honourable members, the NRM government has supported our scientists, and they have developed an anti-tick vaccine, which is now available.

We also partnered with our sister countries, and we brought in vaccines. I will just have to investigate, using the relevant offices; the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries, to find out why they have not come to Kamuli. Nowadays, talking about that is really-

THE SPEAKER: Olympian, Hon. Bua.

4.35

MR JULIUS ACON (NRM, Otuke East County, Otuke): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I think the matter I am raising is the issue of schools. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I would say the “issue” because if I use the word “matter”, it could be a different thing. *(Laughter)*

So, the issue I am raising-

THE SPEAKER: Who is Hon. Atkins? *(Laughter)*

MR ACON: So, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we are aware in this country, there are parts of the country, like northern or eastern, you know, there are parishes without primary schools. There are those communities that are willing to construct a school, but they lack some of the materials. Therefore, can we identify those communities or parishes, for example, I have Ajur in Ogwete, in Otuke, or Gotojwang, where these parishes are really too big, and highly populated.

Can we identify these kinds of parishes and give them roofing materials, so that kids can go to school? This is my appeal.

THE SPEAKER: He has a donation as an Olympian, so he wants to contribute to his country. Olympian, what you can do is write to the Prime Minister, giving that offer.

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, you will realise that we have a policy as the Government to have a primary school in every parish, a secondary school in every subcounty, and a technical school in every constituency. There is a lot of work we have so far done, and I want to assure everybody in this House that the NRM Government is committed to putting a primary school in every parish when we have the money.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Akol?

4.38

MR ANTHONY AKOL (FDC, Kilak North County, Amuru): Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Bua, what I told you to do still stands. Kindly put it in writing and give it to the Prime Minister. You can also give us a copy.

MR AKOL: Madam Speaker, the issue I am raising is about the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF IV). I am aware, the World Bank approved NUSAF IV to start in July. I have talked to the Chairperson of the National Economy, and nothing has been presented to the Parliament for approval. As subregions that are supposed to benefit from NUSAF IV are suffering. We have been together with the Members of Parliament from West Nile, Acholi, Lango and Karamoja (WALK), and I am being questioned. We want to find out from Madam Speaker when the loan is going -

THE SPEAKER: From the Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

MR AKOL: From the Rt Hon. Prime Minister, when is the loan going to be presented to Parliament for approval? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, I chair the committee that approves loans for the Government. We are done with all the processes. The paper is ready for Cabinet consideration, and then we shall bring it to the Floor of Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Eric, Hon. Francis, and Hon. Emmanuel? I am giving those who have not said a word at least.

4.40

MR ERIC MUSANA (Independent, Buyaga East County, Kagadi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you started a good campaign in making sure that people receive their land through systematic land

demarcation, and this has been moving, especially in the lost counties of Bunyoro. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the project has now stalled, and the people of Kitemba and Buyaga East Constituency are asking me how far and what is going on.

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, when they talk about lost counties, you truly sympathise, because that is where I am. As I speak, I do not own a land title. Colleagues, we have absentee landlords. The Government offered to pay for these land titles, but some of these people died long ago, and we do not know where the land titles are.

Therefore, that is a challenge, but when we get the land title from the absentee landlords, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, through the Ugandan Land Commission, has been paying for these land titles, and then we do systematic land demarcation and give those land titles to the actual sitting tenants.

It is quite a complex matter, and it is not that the Government has failed to do it. It is only that identifying people with these land titles has become a little difficult. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Francis?

4.42

MR FRANCIS MWIJUKYE (FDC, Buhweju County, Buhweju): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Government authorised nursery bed operators and farmers to supply tea seedlings to farmers in Buhweju, and this process, at some stage, was coordinated by the Prime Minister. We had said they would be paid in one financial year, and this was 2022. They have been requesting payments since then. Some of them had taken loans, and they have been arrested by many moneylenders, and now they are asking. I think around June, the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development said they were going to be paid before the end of the last financial year. They are asking when this payment is coming.

Madam Speaker, since you are involved, I am sure you can help us get this payment.

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, I want you to remember that that was during the Financial Year of 2023/2024, and the Government promised to pay in 2024/2025 and 2025/2026. We have been able to pay some people or some companies. We are paying in a phased manner. Let them be patient; they will be paid. Government *tenyaga*. (*Laughter*)

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Elijah?

4.44

MR ELIJAH OKUPA (Independent, Kasilo County, Serere): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Last week, while interacting with Soroti University and Soroti Referral Hospital, it was brought to our attention that despite Soroti District and the university offering 50 acres for a teaching hospital, there are proposals to move a teaching hospital 30-40 kilometres away from the university.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, can you reign over this? That concern was brought to us by the university and Soroti Referral Hospital because it is going to become both a referral hospital and a teaching hospital for the university. Therefore, why would someone moot the idea of moving it out of the university and Soroti Referral Hospital?

THE SPEAKER: Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, I have some scant information on the same. I request that my brother furnish me with the necessary documentation so that we can act accordingly. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Miidi Komol_

4.46

MR JOSEPH KOMOL (NRM, Dodoth North County, Kaabong): Thank you, Madam Speaker. For record purposes, Komol Joseph Miidi is my name.

I rise on a matter of food shortage in Kaabong District. In my constituency, a lot of land was not opened, and no harvest has been realised. As a result, for the one month I have been in the constituency, I have made a lot of contributions to burials, and over 10 people have died. By yesterday, three people had died in three sub-counties.

Madam Speaker, people do not have an alternative; it would have been selling a goat or a cow to buy food that comes from Mbale. However, some families cannot afford. As a result, these are the families that have been affected.

A kilogram of maize - traders from Mbale come with lorries of food. A can of maize that contains three kilograms is sold at Shs 7,000, and people line up, if you came to my constituency; the way I saw it, people line up, and those who do not have are the ones who have been victims of death.

My question to the Prime Minister is, what is going to happen in such a situation since people are nearly dying every day? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: There is a disaster in Kaabong.

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, through the Ministry for Karamoja Affairs, and the minister is here - Kaabong is in Karamoja. We usually support them with food. Let me ask him, very early in the morning tomorrow, to go to the ministry concerned, and then we will see how to start supplying food to Kaabong.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. It may not be Kaabong alone. Honourable Minister for Karamoja Affairs, if you can look at all the other districts, please do.

4.48

MR STEPHEN ASEERA (Independent, Buhaguzi East County, Kikuube): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. Currently, we are in the process of renewing our national identity cards (IDs), countrywide; however, in my constituency, we are having challenges.

Some of our people are being charged money, especially those who want to make changes to their national IDs. It has become a general concern. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I would like to get clarification on this –

THE SPEAKER: How much are they charging them?

MR ASEERA: Between Shs 20,000 and Shs 50,000.

THE SPEAKER: For a new identity card?

MR ASEERA: Not only new. Even those who are renewing, Madam Speaker. Thank you, very much for this.

THE SPEAKER: Even those who have already renewed, how long does it take for one to get the ID?

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, I received a similar complaint from my constituents. And we laid a trap using the police and arrested a few. In my district, it has died a natural death.

They were not giving our people forms and would tell them that the forms were over and they needed Shs 10,000 or 20,000 to go and photocopy. Whenever they identified that these people looked like *Abavandimwe*, they would say, “You are not supposed to get it, but we are helping you; pay Shs 100,000.”

Therefore, we only need to be vigilant as leaders, but I would also request that the Minister of Information, Communication Technology (ICT) and National Guidance give the country –

THE SPEAKER: Information.

MS NABBANJA: I can see that it is almost everywhere. He will give a statement and guidance so that the country can be helped. *(Applause)*

MR AKOL: Madam Speaker, there are two issues on this particular issue of National Identification and Registration Authority

(NIRA)-the charges they are talking about apply when you have lost your identity card. That is when you are supposed to pay Shs 50,000.

In a situation where you are replacing, there is no payment. The question at hand is that people cannot afford to pay the Shs 50,000, and many are failing to replace their national IDs. That is another issue on renewal, which is very important. That the Prime Minister has to deal with. Thank you.

4.52

MS JOSEPHINE BEBONA (NRM, Woman Representative, Bundibugyo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, Nyahuka Market was going to be constructed under the Third Markets and Agricultural Trade Improvement (MATIPIII). The feasibility study and architectural designs were done. The ministry officials came to the ground. Almost everything on paper and all the studies were done. However, we are wondering why the project is not commencing. When will the market project start to be constructed? Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, I request that the Member put it in writing so that I can direct it to the responsible minister.

4.53

MR ISAAC ETUKA (NRM, Upper Madi County, Madi-Okollo): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. Madam Prime Minister, in the Financial Year 2023/2024, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development allocated Shs 900 million for Anyiribu Health III.

Since then, the construction of the health centre has never started and has never been reflected in the subsequent budget. When is the actual construction of the health centre starting? Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, some of these questions need to be written so that I can get accurate answers.

THE SPEAKER: Madam Prime Minister, thank you for spending over an hour answering questions. The House is adjourned to Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.

(The House rose at 4.54 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 5 August 2025 at 2.00 p.m.)