



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION - SECOND MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2023



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

THIRD SESSION - 2ND SITTING - SECOND MEETING

Wednesday, 4 October 2023

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

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, are you now settled? I welcome you to today's sitting. Remember, yesterday, I told you that I have a list of colleagues who were ranked low in participating in Parliamentary activities. The unfortunate bit is that most of them said that they do not catch our eye, and that we do not give them space yet, I know most of them do not attend Plenary sittings.

Today, I have seen two Members, who have come in. If they stand up, I will give them affirmative action. *(Laughter)*

Now, instead of reading out names - because some called me pleading - I am going to write to them individually to come and represent their people. Do not depict the presiding officers as - among all people, why wouldn't we pick you? By the way, some attend, but they just follow the proceedings, but those ones are at least better than those who do not come.

Therefore, I encourage all of you to participate in the proceedings of this House so that you

can represent your people. Let me tell you, honourable colleagues, if you think being in a constituency and working alone will bring you back here, I can tell you, you are mistaken.

The day your opponent goes to the constituency and says, "This person that you voted to go and present our issues has never spoken" and has evidence, I am telling you, you will start on a very wrong footing.

So, try to speak; at least greet the Speaker on the Floor because the people do not know about content; they would only know the times you have spoken. I would like to give you the opportunity to express yourselves. So, senior Members of Parliament, when you stand up and sometimes I skip you, and instead pick those who have not been seen many times, know that we are doing affirmative action.

Yesterday, I agreed with the Minister for Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs that she would update the House after meeting with colleagues who had raised the issue of faecal floods. So, Government Chief Whip, I hope the minister is around because I will be calling her to update the House.

While we were concluding yesterday, I reminded you that we are all part of this House and we would like to help facilitate Government business in a timely manner. Therefore, I request the honourable colleagues on the frontbench - and some of you are doing it very well - to cooperate with us to process Government business.

On matters to do with action taken as well as resolutions of Parliament, especially on accountability, and the minister wants to bring a one liner and say things like, “I reported back”, Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, I want to put you on notice that it will be difficult for me and my colleague to process the budget for that ministry.

That is our weapon. It is our last card and we have decided to start evoking it. If Parliament finds accountability issues, recommends action to be taken, and the Executive side does not do so, Parliament will not appropriate more money to an entity with questionable officers.

Therefore, the ball is in your court, but that is how we want to do it. Our biggest prayer is that we do not reach that level. I am very sure we will cooperate, work together and ensure we do not reach that level.

I hope my message has been taken in good faith because having honourable colleagues make resolutions in vain does not, in any way help, in as far as fulfilling our oversight mandate is concerned.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, this afternoon, I received a petition from the West Nile Cooperative Union Limited on the issue of payment for their tobacco. We have discussed this issue over time. We have agreed, but they are not receiving money. So, honourable Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperative, this is not a petition I will refer to the committee for now.

I am referring it to you for consideration. Update the House in 30 days and if you do not take any action, I will invoke the committee to look into it. Otherwise, I want to first give you a chance. So, I will pass it on after the sitting so that indeed, you can work on it.

Honourable colleagues, I also received a petition from our creative industry members, led by their Chairman, Mr Eddy Musuza, commonly known as Eddy Kenzo. They met me this afternoon, but I have assigned Hon. Nyamutoro to present the petition so that I

can guide on how it is going to be handled thereafter, by the House.

I will later on amend the Order Paper to allow Hon. Nyamutoro to present the petition, on behalf of our friends in the music industry. They are in the public gallery, but I will read out their names, after I have received the list so that we can recognise their presence.

For now, allow me to just pick five issues on national importance. I have seen very many issues presented here, but I will focus on emergencies. Like I guided, every Thursday, I will give two and a half hours to Members to raise issues that relate to their constituencies, and I have already informed the Prime Minister about that.

She will be here with the ministers. *(Applause)*
We shall give you enough time to raise your issues and ensure that they are responded to.

I will start with Hon. Christine Kaaya - I have not communicated things that need - my issues were very clear. I have given the petition to the minister. The other petition will be presented by Hon. Nyamutoro. Now, what do you want to react to? *(Laughter)*

Honourable colleagues, I urge you not to add fuel; let us keep using water. Those who were not here yesterday do not know this. Yes, Hon. Christine Kaaya.

2.26

MS CHRISTINE KAAYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Kiboga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to remind you that tomorrow is World Teachers’ Day. I am a daughter to teachers.

Based on the cries and challenges of the teaching profession in Uganda, it is of urgent importance that the minister at least shares with us a statement, first of all, to recognise this profession as an important one. *(Applause)* However, to also show us a plan from the ministry, concerning the teaching profession. This is because for a very long time, teachers have been sharing with us some of their challenges.

So, we should use this opportunity, probably today or tomorrow, to get a statement from the minister regarding the challenges met by this profession. We should commemorate their day and entice them. That way, we will inform them that Parliament thinks about teachers.

Thank you, Mr Speaker. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable member. Yes, honourable minister.

2.28

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank my sister, Hon. Christine Kaaya, for raising this very critical matter. Indeed, teaching is a noble profession. We love our teachers; many of us are teachers. It is also true that 5 October 2023 and every year, is designated as International Teachers' Day and it is celebrated worldwide. Uganda values that day seriously. Tomorrow, we will have national celebrations.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, do not make a statement in that form. We always receive statements. So –

DR MORIKU: Thank you, Mr Speaker –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, first listen to me. I will guide that if you have a statement, come and I will give you space. I can even amend the Order Paper today and accommodate that statement.

DR MORIKU: Mr Speaker, the statement is being worked on. I pledge to bring it here tomorrow and present it on the Floor. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is what the Member wants. Honourable colleagues, a Member wants a statement so that we can debate it.

Accordingly, I urge ministers that if you have any international day to be celebrated and you

want to present a statement about such a day on the Floor of Parliament, just know that we give such statements priority on the Order Paper. The purpose is to make them be part of Government business. So, always come in time.

Yes, Hon. Biraro. Okay, point of procedure, from LOP.

MR MPUUGA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Talking about special days that are internationally recognised; Sunday, 1 October was International Older Persons Day. And I am expecting the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to seek space on the Order Paper to debrief this House on the status of older persons.

When we were processing the ministerial policy statement for the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development this financial year, there were very curious issues and the ministry seemed clueless on how to progress.

When we offered the alternative, we thought we had enabled a very disabled entity to really pick up, including failure to find resources to finance the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment programme.

Mr Speaker, would you, now that she is sleeping on the job, order the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development to come and debrief the House on the status of older persons, and how have they handled the issues that were raised at the consideration of their ministerial policy statement for this financial year. This is because they seem to be clueless about it, now that the minister and the entire entity seem to be sleeping on duty.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the Opposition. I also observed that and I was concerned. As a practice on how we are going to move forward, if the Government in power is not able to give a statement, I will then be allowing the Opposition, under Rule 53, where the Leader of the Opposition is entitled to make a statement, to deliver such statements.

Government Chief Whip, my hands also get tied. You have an international day and spend Government resources on it. It is Parliament that appropriates such money, but you do not bring here a statement, so that Members debate it and also come on board. Going forward, what do you think we should do, Government Chief Whip?

2.32

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Mr Speaker, the standard practice normally is that the minister comes to Cabinet with a statement or an information paper, before that minister proceeds on the Floor.

Just like you are aware, on 9 October, we will be celebrating our Independence Day. The minister in charge of the Presidency has written to you, requesting for space on the Order Paper for tomorrow to brief the country, through Parliament. That is normally the standard practice and we will inform ministers or MDAs to normally respect that practice; that after Cabinet, they should come to Parliament. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I had allowed Hon. Biraro. Just before Hon. Biraro comes in, even for days that are already covered, for example, the day for the older persons, please, let the minister prepare a statement. I am giving space next week so that we can discuss their issues.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, do you agree that the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development brings a statement? Next week, I will also appoint a date for debate on the one for International Youth Day, which we deferred.

2.34

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukiah Nakadama): Mr Speaker, the Minister in charge of Elder Persons will bring a statement here, since we had our day while we were still on recess. He is going to present a statement on the Floor of Parliament. Thank you.

MR OGUZU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. You guided that the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development should comply with a statutory requirement by bringing a report to this House to highlight how all local governments are complying with the Physical Planning Act. However, to-date, this report has not been submitted. I, therefore, seek your indulgence to invoke your powers so that the Prime Minister can liaise with the responsible minister. We need to know to what extent these local governments are complying. Otherwise, we are destined to develop slums in this country, and I do not know who is going to pay the price.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you are here. Any update for the House? Honourable colleagues, on Tuesday, we will have a statement from the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development on the status of the electricity sector. She promised that issues related to electricity will be discussed on Tuesday. I will be here.

2.35

THE MINISTER OF LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (Ms Judith Nabakooba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. “Oguzulee” for the concern –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is called Hon. Oguzu Lee, not Hon. Oguzulee. *(Laughter)*

MS NABAKOoba: Yes, Hon. Oguzu Lee. Mr Speaker, I pledge to this House that next week, we shall submit the report, as required.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Good. Thank you. Honourable colleagues, let me go back on track. Okay, point of procedure.

MS OPENDI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Yesterday, I raised an issue concerning a sewerage challenge in Rubaga Division. You sent the Minister of Education and Sports together with a team led by the Chairperson of the Committee on Education and Sports to the field with instructions to report back today.

Mr Speaker, wouldn't it be procedurally right to allow them to report to the House and we find a way forward. However, the Minister of Lands -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Opendi, take your seat. Just let it pass. Hon. Opendi, you came in just a minute after I had addressed that matter. Yes, Hon. Ephraim Biraaro.

MS OPENDI: Accept my apology, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is the point I started with, honourable member; they are going to report.

2.37

MREPHRAIM BIRAARO (NRM, Buhweju West County, Buhweju): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Last year, in the months of September and October, heavy rains ravaged the country and most of the roads were destroyed, and reports were brought here on the Floor of Parliament.

Buhweju West County and the whole of Buhweju inclusive, reported this issue to this House as a matter of national importance. However, to-date, no action has been taken in Buhweju at all. Roads like Kilembe, Ekiha, Nyamihera and many others were cut off and communities have never connected ever since.

Mr Speaker, we are again into the same season after a year and so, my prayers are:

1. That this House compels the Government to go to Buhweju and fix some roads so that communities can be reconnected;
2. That the Ministry of Works and Transport provides culverts and Bar Reinforced Concrete (BRCs) to replace those that were destroyed by the rains during that season. I beg to pray.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, honourable minister.

2.38

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) (Mr Fred Byamukama): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank my Honourable colleague for reminding us about the matter. I am going to get in touch with him to get further clarification and information so that we can find ways of how to solve that problem.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you have a station in Mbarara. The Member has just given information, and so, I expected you to say that you were going to direct the manager of your station in Mbarara to go and assess. Don't you think that is better, or you are working on it?

MR FRED BYAMUKAMA: Mr Speaker, the reason I insist that I need to contact my colleague is to verify the claims. This problem was nationwide and we have worked on a majority of problems in that category. I am also wondering why we have not tackled their part, hence I will get in touch with him to further verify and see where the problem is.

In case they were missed out due to one reason or the other, we have capacity at the regional mechanical workshop and the force account. Just recently, half of the Shs 1 billion was released. So, we can meet, harmonise and solve that problem. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chairperson, Committee on Physical Infrastructure - before the committee chairperson come in, do you have a procedural matter, honourable member?

MR WAMBEDE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Following on what Hon. Fred Byamukama has said that he will get in touch with Hon. Biraaro, but the problem is the same in Mbale.

For a year now, we have had meetings with the Prime Minister, and she promised Shs 220 billion for roads, but nothing has happened.

Therefore, for the Minister to say that he will get in touch with only a person from one region yet other regions are suffering the same, is not a good thing.

We have submitted all these roads and bridges to the Ministry of Works and Transport, but nothing has happened. Therefore, would it be procedurally right for the minister to say that he would only move with one person other than the entire nation? I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleague, before I make my comment, let me first allow the chairman of the committee to say something.

2.42

MR DAN ATWIJUKIRE (NRM, Kazo County, Kazo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. I chair that committee, but every time we interact with the ministers and the technical team, they are very clear that they do not have money.

The Mbarara mechanical workshop had three excavators, but they are all broken down. They said that it is only one that is able to move, but it would also need Shs 16 million, which the workshop does not have. That applies to the other mechanical workshops in the country.

Those mechanical workshops are just white elephants. I am wondering why my senior here, I do not know whether it is the spirit of cadreship - he cannot tell this Parliament the truth.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, that is not the spirit of cadreship. Cadres tell the truth.

MR ATWIJUKIRE: Mr Speaker, I would like to be on record that as we head for these heavy rains, it is going to be worse for everyone. Therefore, we should not be cosmetic about this. The honourable minister should not give blanket statements; this is something that we should interrogate. If they need support, they should state it to the country and we support them.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, on Wednesday next week, I need you to give a statement showing your capacity and preparedness to handle emergencies that are coming. I have very many

issues. Hon. Nyakikongoro for example has a bridge that has issues, and very many others.

So, how prepared are you so that we stop wasting time about it if you do not have resources. Otherwise, the message you are giving us now shows that you have money, but what the chairman of the committee found from the assessment with the committee seems that you are not doing well. Leader of Opposition, would you like to say something?

MR MPUUGA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I submit with a lot of empathy to my honourable brother. I submitted to the House a catalogue of issues for which Members raised concern and they got no responses.

This issue was number 19. It was raised on 25 April 2023 by Hon. Francis Mwijukye, it is being brought back by the Hon. Biraaro. There are over 50 issues here and they are going to continue being recycled because the frontbench prefers that they fizzle out.

Therefore, would it be procedurally okay, with your kind indulgence, that in your time after this House, you kindly get hold of this document and call minister by minister, as a roll call of perpetual absentees, to come here and answer for their duty.

A sacred document of the House called the Order Paper is being congested because there are people sleeping on duty and we are recycling business.

May I, kindly, ask you to indulge the Order Paper to call them because the matters you are calling, on their responses, may not answer these questions. There are several issues on environment, corruption, infrastructure and they are not answering them – and they believe they will fizzle out. May you, kindly, guide on how we should deal with these issues now that this is a property of the House, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, LoP, for that information. Already, the Clerk is instructed to comb through the *Hansard* and pick all these issues. I was told that - I think

they should be ready by tomorrow. Then, after we have got all these issues, we will have a meeting with the Leader of Government Business, the Government Chief Whip, the Leader of the Opposition and the Clerk and ensure we create enough space on the Order Paper for ministers to respond to all these issues. Or, even the Prime Minister can take them on, under the Prime Minister's Time, and we have them sorted out. What Members need are answers.

Of course, it is really absurd for a Member to ask a question and they get an answer after six months. That is not only a failure on the part of the Executive, but also on our part as the leadership of the House. If a minister does not respond, then, we shall come and say, "so and so has deliberately refused", but they should not fail because they have always responded to these issues.

Clerk, ensure that, indeed, all these issues are finished so that maybe on Friday, I can have a meeting with you and the leadership on both sides and we see how ministers can quickly – maybe some have forgotten about these issues. We do all these together, honourable colleagues; we handle them together. *(Members rose)*

Honourable colleagues, we are going to be on procedure until 4.00 p.m. Let us just conclude. I am pushing all the other issues to tomorrow. Oh, there is one issue. Hon. Nakimuli, I pushed your and Hon. Christine's issues to today; I have remembered. For the rest, I will do them tomorrow. I will give you enough time tomorrow, honourable colleagues.

2.40

MS HELEN NAKIMULI (NUP, Woman Representative, Kalangala): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. I rise on a matter of national importance regarding a disaster that happened in Kalangala. On the 2nd Day of October, that was Monday, we had a heavy downpour and 78 people lost their property, including houses and different belongings such as crops and animals. This was in Mwena Landing Site in Kalangala Town Council.

Mr Speaker, a total of 34 females, 25 males, 11 children and eight elderly people were affected.

My prayers are:

1. For the Prime Minister's office to go on ground and assess the level at which this has affected our people; and
2. Secondly, for the very first time in the history of Uganda, for Kalangala to get relief items, because we have never got any from this Government –*(Interjection)* Yes, relief items. I represent Kalangala; I know what I am saying.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a loaded statement, saying Kalangala has never – anyway. Hon. Prime Minister, is it true that Kalangala has never received any relief items? *(Laughter)*

2.50

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Mr Speaker, we have to check our records to ascertain whether Kalangala has never received any relief items, but sorry for what happened. We are going to send our team on the ground to assess what really happened. After the team has come back, we will handle the issues that need urgent attention. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I have received four chits here. You are even bold: you tell me to give you an opportunity because tomorrow, you will not be here. *(Laughter)* Can you imagine? This democracy has taken us far. You are giving me notice. *(Laughter)*

I really understand the issues you might be having, but as long as Parliament has not assigned you duties anywhere, I expect you to be here when I am here. Otherwise, whom am I going to address? *(Laughter)* Will I run the business alone? Yes, Hon. Muzaale, point of procedure.

MR MUZAALÉ: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Before we went for recess, the issue was raised here to do with the feedback, especially on resolutions passed by Parliament on accountability reports. I had expected that the Prime Minister would use this recess to organise that report so that we could know how far and what actions have been taken on these reports or resolutions. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, honourable member, we are working on it – and this is related to what we just talked about a few minutes ago. Before I put anyone to task, I first put my officers to task to get me information. Then, when we go to a meeting, I say: “I need A, B, C and D.” So, we are working on it and we are going to work with the Prime Minister; they will come.

2.53

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In respect of what Hon. Muzaale has said, we have reports from accountability committees that are considered by the House and we are asked to produce Treasury Memoranda. The period given to us normally, by law, is six months, within which we must report back to Parliament on the actions we have taken.

Mr Speaker, I wish to inform the House that we have always complied with this provision. However, there are other reports where you direct us to report within a given period, say, one week, two weeks or so. Here, on many occasions, we have fallen short of complying with your timelines.

I wish to implore Members and your staff that when they are analysing, emphasis should be more on directives that require us to report within a given timeline without necessarily focusing on the Treasury Memoranda because on that one, we always comply. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Musasizi, you are right and we talked about this yesterday. Action-taken reports, provided for under Rule

220 of the Rules of Procedure are very clear: The Auditor-General’s reports processed by committees are the only ones where we need Treasury Memoranda and, indeed, in six months, you have always complied. The reason you comply, you know. *(Laughter)* You also know that others – your partners such as IMF – are always putting you under pressure. Like you have whispered, IMF is always putting you under pressure.

However, other reports, which IMF does not even know about are also critical to this House. So, for those reports, we do consider periods depending on the urgency of the matter. If the matter is very urgent, we usually sometimes give one or two weeks though usually, we do three months, depending on how urgent the matter is, but we are going to sort out all these.

However, on Treasury Memoranda, we are up to-date. The finance ministry has done its job. I think Hon. Musasizi just wanted to put that on record.

2.55

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT (NRM, Woman Representative, Kumi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I raise on a matter of urgent national importance regarding the digital x-ray machine at Atutur General Hospital, which has taken over five years without repair. We started following up on this machine in 2018.

As leaders of Kumi, we have made efforts to go to the Ministry of Health and yet, the information we were given is that the machine can only be repaired by a regional workshop. When we went to the Ministry of Health, we were given information that the contractor was procuring spare parts from abroad. However, up to date, the people of Kumi District are suffering. We do not get x-ray services neither do we get scanning services in Atutur General Hospital. I would like to find out what the Minister of Health is doing about this matter. My prayers are as follows:

1. That the Ministry of Health treats this as an urgent matter and have the machine repaired as soon as possible;

2. That if the ministry cannot have it repaired, let a step be taken to procure a new machine for Atutur General Hospital; and
3. That those who caused a lot of mess, that to-date the machine is not repaired, should be brought to book because we do not need to play around with Government resources. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, honourable minister.

2.57

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH (GENERAL DUTIES) (Ms Anifa Kawooya): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to appreciate the Member's concern. The Member says that from 2018 - it is unfortunate if that is the case.

I have been to most hospitals where we have been doing a lot. I am aware that there are some x-ray machines that we procured, but which do not have spare parts. And if the one at Atutur General Hospital is one of them, I take it upon myself to follow up on this matter and have action taken. We shall work with the honourable member to ensure something is done urgently. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Let me have the Minister for Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs report to us on their field visit and after we shall go to the petition.

2.58

THE MINISTER FOR KAMPALA CAPITAL CITY AND METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS (Ms Minsa Kabanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. A question was raised yesterday regarding some schools. This morning, we sent a team of technical people to those schools, but by the time I left office, they had not yet come back with a report. I promise to report tomorrow after receiving the written report.

The Committee on Public Health and the one on Education and Sports have been there, but they are not yet back from the field.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: But they are here; the Chairperson, Committee on Education and Sports.

MS KAWOOYA: No, I meant the KCCA group.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Chairperson, Committee on Education and Sports -

3.00

MR JOHN TWESIGYE (NRM, BUNYARUGURU COUNTY, RUBIRIZI): Mr Speaker, as the Minister for Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs has put it, and as you remember, honourable colleagues, yesterday, a matter concerning the contamination of water sources in Kampala due to the release of sewerage during heavy rains, reported on the two schools, that is St Kizito Secondary School and St Anne's Primary School Kabowa in Rubaga and the need for the Ministry of Education and Sports and Kampala Capital City Authority to investigate the matter, was raised and briefly discussed.

The speaker guided that the chairperson and the deputy chairperson of -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, you are not making a report. The report is from the minister.

MR TWESIGYE: I went with a team of three members from the committee and Hon. Sarah Opendi who raised the matter. We were joined by the representative of Kampala Members of Parliament, that is, Hon. Aloysius Mukasa, and we made an on-spot assessment.

Our brief findings were: one, we established that the problem is much bigger than what was brought to the Floor -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, I do not want you to give a report, because that report should be given by the minister. I want the one who will take action. I just wanted to confirm that you went there.

Honourable colleagues, tomorrow is not far. Uganda is not ending today. Kampala is not closing today. Honourable minister, please, come tomorrow. Are you listening to me? Just come tomorrow, like you have requested, and present a response.

MS KABANDA: Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, is a delegation of pupils and teachers of Kyanvuma Primary School from Luuka District. They are represented in Parliament by Hon. Stephen Kisa and Hon. Esther Mbayo. They have come to observe proceedings of this House. Please, join me in welcoming them. Please, stand up.

We equally have students of Global College Mayuge and Mayuge Hill Secondary School. They are represented by Hon. Aggrey Bagiire and Rt Hon. Rukia Isanga Nakadama. They have come to observe proceedings of this House. Please, join me in welcoming them.

Honourable colleagues, again in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation of artists, under Uganda National Musicians' Federation. They include the following: Idrissa Musuuza also known as Eddy Kenzo; Sheebah Samali Kalungi; Joseph Mayanja a.k.a Chameleon; Walukagga Shafik; Nabawanuka Lydia commonly known as Lydia Jazmine; Carol Nantongo; Hanson Baliluno; Lucas Sam Lubyogo, that is Levixone; Kiggundu Bruno; - Hon. Kayemba should be near me because he knows all their names – *(Laughter)* - Raymond Joseph Mugerwa; Lilian Mbabazi, who is the secretary and chief petitioner; Chris Banina; Magada Isaac; Okori Moses Buju, that is Coco Finger; Kankunda Rose, that is Nina Rose; Lwanga Sulaiman; - Hon. Kabanda, unfortunately, I do not have their numbers to share with you. *(Laughter)* I see some of you are very excited; they did not include their numbers on the list - Mutebi Ramadhan; - Hon. Kayemba, you have to keep reminding me of their stage names - Hon. Kayemba has all their numbers - Anne Kansiime; Fred Sabbata, our historical; Kasagga Julius - I have known the

average age of this Parliament, from the way you welcomed Fred Sabbata. *(Applause)*

The others are: Peterson Ssali Mugisha Richard; Kalumba Michael; Martin Muhumuza - those who said Banyankore cannot sing – *(Laughter)* – we have a representative; we even have albums. We have George Kigozi a.k.a Geosteady; Odora Denis - he is a clear confirmation that the Japadhola can sing - we are yet to get a Musoga - Ntege Emmanuel Isaac - the Basoga musicians are in Parliament - Sentongo Emmanuel; Hon. Rachel Magoola - our very own who does good work; Ssewanyana Malcolm James a.k.a Sewa Sewa; Luyonga Uzair; Muhumuza Anthony - I think the Banyankore are dominating this list.

Then there is Geoffrey Odhiambo - the Basamia are well represented - Othieno Daydrick; Agaba Ezra; Layeng Fortunate Agrey; Kayuza Solomon; Segujja Madil; Lokutan Alex; Mander Kennedy; Jurua Joseph; Kyobutungi Charity; Amodoi John Bosco; Awor Zulaika; Babirye Halima; Atwine Amon; Mugwanya James Robinson; Mamawenge Jennifer; Owere Phillip; Kukiriza Drake James; Ongom Jimmy and Mubiru Vincent.

Honourable members, we also have in the Chambers, Hon. Geoffrey Lutaaya – *(Applause)* – and the manager of many musicians, Hon. Ssolo Kayemba. *(Applause)*

Honourable colleagues, as I indicated earlier, we have their petition. Yes, Hon. Nyanzi, do you have a procedural matter?

MR PATRICK NYANZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As you were calling out responses from the front bench, I remembered that before we closed for recess, the issue of Government availing resources to the Higher Education Students Financing Board came on the Floor. The Third Deputy Prime Minister promised to liaise with Government and return to this august House with a response.

Why I am particularly concerned is because universities have opened, but our capable, yet disadvantaged learners are still stranded in

villages. Would it not be procedurally right that as other ministers bring responses, the Prime Minister is also asked to update this House on that matter?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I have already guided how we are going to move, but this is an urgent issue. Instead of disturbing the Rt Hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, have you provided money for this? We have students who are stranded.

3.10

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

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, for the last few days, I have been involved in providing money to various votes. I need to go and find out whether this is one of the votes to which I have supplied money.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, tomorrow, update us on this. Clerk, call the next item, which is a petition.

PETITION BY THE UGANDA NATIONAL MUSICIANS FEDERATION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Nyamutoro. I chose Hon. Nyamutoro because she is the National Female Youth Representative. I can confirm that she has a bright future.

3.11

MS PHIONA NYAMUTORO (NRM, Youth Representative, Female): Thank you. Mr Speaker, the House has not applauded that. Hon. Chemaswet has requested that I start by requesting you, Mr Speaker, to allow him to see off Sheebah as she leaves. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is important is for us to give an opportunity to Sheebah to first see who Hon. Chemaswet is before we – *(Laughter)*– Hon. Chemaswet, you can come in. *(Laughter)*

MS NYAMUTORO: Mr Speaker, allow me to start by laying on the Table -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of procedure?

MS KABASHARIRA: I am sorry to interrupt my young sister. The point of procedure I am raising is that there has been some history about Hon. Chemaswet.

One time, we were in some place in Kyankwanzi and he “carried” one of the female ministers - I do not know where he was going to take Hon. Bigombe. Therefore, is it procedurally right to allow Hon. Chemaswet, with that history, to follow Sheebah? *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kabasharira, since I am not sure of Hon. Chemaswet, I never made a ruling, and so, let us proceed. I will not be culpable in any way.

MS NYAMUTORO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to first lay on the Table, a copy of the petition by the Uganda National Musicians Federation. I beg to lay.

Mr Speaker, the petition reads: *“The petitioners are citizens of Uganda and members of the Uganda National Musicians Federation, an umbrella body that is geared towards promoting, protecting and development of the music industry in the country;*

The petitioners are alive to the fact that since the enactment of the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act in 2006, some aspects of the law have been outdated in light of the advancement of technology and emergence of international practices that have changed the nature in which the copyright operates -”

Mr Speaker, as a result, it is very prudent that this law is revised as soon as possible. In 2006, I was in primary school and today, as a Member of Parliament, it simply means that for decades, the industry has never sought refuge.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, can you read the petition.

MS NYAMUTORO: Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, since the petition was given to you, just read it. No, please honourable, handle the petition; do not listen to strange voices.

MS NYAMUTORO: “...The petitioners are not just contributors to the creative industry, but also the economy and with the existing legal framework for distribution of revenue collected from call-back tunes, which disadvantages the artists as most of the revenue benefits the telecom companies rather than the artists who should benefit more from their work;

The petitioners aver that in order to encourage creativity and innovation, and as a way of growing the creative industry, the following proposals ought to be considered by the Executive and Parliament while amending the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act:

- (a) *The Revision of charges for call-back tunes to ensure a fairer split of the revenue collected from the call-back tunes ...”*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, you should study the mood of the Speaker. Do not think that I cannot hear. Please, go on.

MS NYAMUTORO: “...in the percentage of 60 per cent to be retained by the artists and 40 per cent to be remitted by both the Government and the telecom companies;

- (b) *Imposition of a copy levy on the devices used in the reproduction of copyright protected works to be shared equally between Government and holders of copy rights and neighbouring rights registered under this Act;*
- (c) *Imposition of strict measures against broadcasters who use pirated content because it undermines the intellectual property rights of the artists hence causing a negative effect on their livelihood. Your petitioners recommend a fine of not less than Shs 5 million to*

be paid by a person who is convicted for infringing the copyright of an artist;

- (d) *Embracing digital era needs to be embraced relating to the protection of the rights of artists in the digital domain fostering innovation in digital content creation and facilitating fair compensation for the online use of copyrighted works;*
- (e) *Adequate capitalisation of collective management organisations in order to empower CMOs to carry out their duties such as licensing, collecting royalties and enforcing the legal framework on copyrights;*
- (f) *Establishment of a clear and transparent structure for the CMOs that incorporate a high level of accountability including regular audits and reporting mechanisms to ensure that royalties are distributed fairly and rightfully to the owners;*
- (g) *Registration and regulation of all third parties including telecom aggregators who are involved in the distribution and dissemination of the copyrighted content;*
- (h) *Requiring broadcasters to dedicate 90 per cent of airtime to Ugandan music as a way of promoting local content and supporting the development of the industry in the country;*
- (i) *Encouraging the use of Ugandan models, actors and actresses and artists in the advertising, promotion, influencing and endorsement of products by companies in Uganda and developing Ugandan publishers, through the imposition of higher charges of publishing licenses for non-Ugandans, as a way of empowering the local creative industry, provide employment opportunities for local content and help build a distinct national identity in advertising;*
- (j) *Requiring aggregators of licensed Ugandan intellectual property to be domiciled in Uganda as a condition for*

operating to ease accountability since they will be subjected to the country's legal framework on the copyright law.

Now, therefore, your humble petitioners have a main prayer that seeks your indulgence to task the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, and all relevant authorities, to amend the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act, 2006 and incorporate the above proposals." I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I know this is a matter that a few members have been following, but you cannot stop members of the public from petitioning - rule 30 is very clear - at any time because they do not know what you are doing inside here; they are not privy. *(Applause)* - oh! I would like to inform our visitors that you are not supposed to clap. I think they were not briefed by our protocol team. You appreciate at heart. I know the Attorney-General has been making strides. Honourable Attorney-General, would you like to comment on this?

3.22

THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL (Mr Jackson Kafuuzi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Indeed, after a given period, the laws require to be sieved and updated. I do understand our musicians' concerns. Our chambers have been working on this law, but we welcome the petition. We shall work with the committee and see how to improve it to accommodate their interests. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Attorney-General, I refer the petition - I want us to handle it in two ways. One, there are issues, which are low hanging fruits for our music industry. These people are losing a lot of money especially to the telecoms. These ringtones being used are benefiting some people, yet some of the musicians are earning zero. If you are to wait for around six months or so of processing a law, they are losing revenue. It is like you having your own business just leaking because someone is taking proceeds out of your business and you are not taking anything.

They have aggregators and I know that industry very well. I have ever owned a business in that line so I know it deeply. You find a song for which you pay Shs 1200, the artist gets Shs 70 while some get zero.

What I would like to do is: on the issue of the law, honourable Attorney-General, I will give you the petition, but on the issue of content for musicians that is being used by others who do not pay the musicians, yet those using that content are earning, I want the Committee on ICT to handle and report back to this House within 30 days.

Hon. Kayemba, would you like to say something?

3.24

MR GEOFFREY KAYEMBA (NUP, Bukomansibi South County, Bukomansimbi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. On 21 July 2022, my comrade Hon. Hilary Kiyaga was given leave by this Parliament to process the amendment of the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Bill, 2006. However, the Uganda Law Commission took it over. We are now approaching one and half years without any feedback from them.

My prayer is that the Attorney-General's Office handling this should speed up and expedite because the thieves are stealing yet the industry is suffering. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, you can see why the artists are petitioning - all this period - Attorney-General, what is the problem?

MR NIWAGABA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to give this information. The enforcement body of this particular law is the Uganda Registration Services Bureau. Therefore, referring this matter to the Committee on Information, Communication, Technology, and National Guidance, in my view, may not give us proper results.

However, there is also wide literature in respect of case law, in regard to ringtones. As we wait

for whichever committee or the Attorney-General to amend the Act, I invite fellow artists to consider using the courts of judicature to get remedies. Otherwise, the enforcement authority is the Uganda Registration Services Bureau.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Niwagaba, what we are saying is simple. I have interacted with these people; the artists in other countries are earning billions out of ringtones, but here they are not.

The committee responsible is the Committee on Information, Communication, Technology, and National Guidance. When people come here to petition and they need our help – we shall handle it in a two-way approach, so that the Committee on Information, Communication, Technology, and National Guidance interacts with these agencies that are utilising the content, but are not paying. URSB is under the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, but it can also appear and show us the challenges.

In the meantime, the best cure, Attorney-General, is for us to have the Law.

PROF. MUSHEMEZA: Mr Speaker, sometime back, I raised a matter of national importance and you were in the Chair. One of the issues I raised was that very issue on the call-back tune expenditures, copyrights and even money on deceased person's mobile money account.

Mr Speaker, you referred the matter to the Committee on Information, Communication, Technology, and National Guidance. I appeared before that committee as the first witness and I am aware that the process is going on.

Therefore, are we procedurally right to refer the same matter to the Committee on Information, Communication, Technology, and National Guidance, when it is being considered?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, honourable, we are proceeding very well. There is no problem with adding more information. The

committee might be handling the issue when none of these artists has appeared before it or one group appeared and the other did not. You may also appear as an individual.

Honourable colleagues, I have a petition and it is signed by 109 artists. We cannot ignore their voices by saying that we are handling the matter internally. What we should do is to refer the matter to the committee as an addition to what they are handling; they should listen to this petition. *(Applause)*

3.28

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This morning, we were looking at innovations in this country, and honestly, I want to mention that we could not proceed because of the lacuna in the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act, 2006.

I honestly want to agree with you that this should have been done yesterday, and I promise you my back; I will be able to go to the Committee on Information, Communication, Technology, and National Guidance to listen –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why give me the back? *(Laughter)*

MS OBIGAH: It is a Terego way of saying, "I will give you my support" because in Terego, we carry babies on our back. There is nothing big about that. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. You know we have a national leader who said, "I will put my behind." *(Laughter)* Now, this one is "putting the back."

Leader of the Opposition, you have your Member; let him say something. Yes, Hon. Bashir.

3.29

MR BASHIR KAZIBWE (NUP, Kawempe Division South, Kampala): Thank you, Mr Speaker –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: But Hon. Namugga, you are a shadow minister of everything. *(Laughter)*

MR KAZIBWE: On the matter of the artists, we understand the pain they go through, and we appreciate the brick they add onto our nation building. As a Member of the Committee on Information, Communication, Technology, and National Guidance, I assure the artists present today, on behalf of others, that we are going to leave no stone unturned in ensuring that the rights and efforts of our musicians, and others in the arts industry, are catered for and respected.

I inform the House and the artists present that as the Committee on Information, Communication, Technology, and National Guidance, we expect to meet these brothers and sisters tomorrow to forge a way forward and see how best the arts industry can prosper in Uganda.

3.30

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Mathias Mpuuga): Much obliged, Mr Speaker. Like Hon. Kayemba -Ssolo observed, on 21 July, this House graciously offered leave to Hon. Kiyaga to proceed with a Private Member's Bill. He was seconded by Hon. Rachel Magoola, one of the most prominent artists in this land, to go on with the amendment.

Of course, the process, like you are aware, of a Private Members' Bill has inordinate challenges that we encountered. However, we were able to have meetings with the Law Reform Commission, which under the law, is supposed to move these amendments in earnest, but they were sleeping on duty.

We had a meeting with the Law Reform Commission, the Office of the Solicitor-General, and URSB. The issue we had with URSB was that, even before we amend the law, like you observed, Mr Speaker, there are low-hanging fruits. The issue of enforcement came to bear that URSB is sleeping on duty in as far as enforcing the basics is concerned. So, enforcement is the challenge and a problem.

However, Mr Speaker, this is not the challenge. Two weeks ago, I received a copy of a notice from the Solicitor-General, inviting me for another stakeholders' meeting of the same law.

Therefore, would it please you to give the Office of the Attorney-General timelines to clear all pending consultations, so that the Member can finally move the Bill, including the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, which was consulted to notify Parliament, if they have any reservations regarding granting a Certificate of Financial Implication?

What is very strange is that I see Government chasing hawkers and street vendors in the name of looking for small revenues. This industry is a hundred times bigger than the many small things that are occupying the Government to get revenue. I wish you had an idea.

What happened to the imagination from the Government? They are looking for small trinkets for revenue when they have an obvious industry that can support the Government. Mr Speaker, I beseech you to give these Government entities timelines. That is the best answer for the industry.

We cannot legislate endlessly when we have people losing time, momentum and motivation to create. It is not about artists alone; it is about writers, poets, comedians and everyone.

Mr Speaker, this House needs to give timelines, which we shall go on to monitor religiously, to ensure that they delve upon this Bill. I so pray.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I totally agree with you, Leader of the Opposition. Attorney-General, where is the problem?

3.34

THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Jackson Kafuuzi): Mr Speaker, I do understand the Leader of the Opposition's concern about the delay, but if we are to make a law that satisfies the interests of everyone, we have to do the requisite research. We have to be critical and meticulous at whatever we are doing.

Anyhow, I want to inform this House that we are on the right track. I can probably file a report specifically on this particular law in the next two weeks.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. What I have observed is that there is a working relationship now. I do not know whether you are making progress on it or not, but let us give ourselves 30 days. However, the mover also slept on the job. The reason is that if Government does not give you a certificate of financial implications, according to our rules, after 60 days, we deem it to have been issued.

Otherwise, Government should come out and say, the law you are bringing is in contravention of Article 93 of the Constitution and has a charge on the Consolidated Fund or not. Otherwise, once you have gotten leave of Parliament, you come here for the first reading. Sometimes, they wake up; it has happened before.

I appreciate the fact that the Office of the Attorney-General, the mover and the LoP are coordinating, and I hope to get a very clear update within 30 days. Everyone is anxious and we are waiting for that law so that we can unlock the potential of this very critical sector. Hon. Nyamutoro, do you have anything to add?

MS NYAMUTORO: Mr Speaker, the LOP elaborately spoke my mind on the issue of timeframe. Allow me to thank you, Mr Speaker, for your pertinent concern on this issue. I am certain that history will take pride in your leadership because the talent sector is the only avenue that we have to answer the unemployment question. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: When I retire, that is where I am going. So, I need to fight for the sector. *(Laughter)* Honourable colleagues, many of you will join me.

Hon. Oguzu Lee had suggested something to me; that when they appear before the committee, they should appear in the regions so that it is not just a Kampala affair. I will detail that in the terms of reference when I am forwarding the petition. Thank you.

Honourable colleagues, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have Speakers from some of the western region districts. They include the Speakers of Rwampara, Kiruhura, Kazo, Ntungamo, Sheema, Ibanda, Hoima, Bundibugyo, Buhweju, Kagadi, Kakumiro, Rukiga, Mbarara, Kikuube and Kasese. They have come to observe how we are running the House and they will be advising the Deputy Speaker, later on, on how to run the House better. Thank you for coming, friends.

MS OPENDI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Now that we have Speakers from different districts, although they are from Western Uganda, some time back, in August, I raised the issue of the Ministry of Local Government failing to give stamps to the LC 1 chairpersons and this problem is still prevalent.

The minister pledged to follow it up with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to ensure that they have the necessary resources and take the stamps to the LC 1 chairpersons.

We extended the term of office for the LC 1 chairpersons and they are working. However, these chairpersons do not have stamps, which are key to doing their work. The procedural issue is, is it not procedurally right for the Minister of Local Government to give us an update on these stamps for the LC 1 chairpersons? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Local Governments? Even if the Minister of Local Governments is not here, he had pledged to ask for money from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, did you give them money for the stamps?

The Minister of Local Government is here. I hope you heard the question, honourable minister. She is always here with us.

3.40

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Ms Victoria Rusoke):

Thank you, Mr Speaker. We had the first batch of requisitions from local governments that did not have stamps. We ordered and gave out the stamps.

There is a second batch and I promise that we shall assemble those requests to the printing press and distribute them accordingly. I take it seriously, sir.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, these people are working. When?

MS RUSOKE: Mr Speaker, the first batch took us a month and a half. I promise to do everything possible to ensure that within one month, we deliver.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. So, in one month, you will come back and update us.

LAYING OF PAPERS

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
TOURISM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY
ON THE DUE DILIGENCE OVERSIGHT
VISITS ON THE PRE-EXPORT
VERIFICATION OF CONFORMITY (PVoC)
SERVICE PROVIDERS IN DUBAI AND
INDIA PURSUANT TO RULE 34 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, you can see that Hon. Chemaswet left a long time ago to lay a trap. *(Laughter)* Hon. Chemaswet, I need you in the House. *(Laughter)* If anything happens to Sheebah, we are sure it is not Hon. Chemaswet. He was here, and we all witnessed. Chairperson, Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry -

3.42

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY (Ms Catherine Lamwaka): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the report of the sectoral Committee on Tourism, Trade and

Industry on the due diligence oversight visits on the Pre-Export Verification of Conformity commonly known as (PVoC) service providers and general goods in Dubai and India. I also beg to lay the minutes of the meetings that processed the report.

Mr Speaker, I am aware that I have very little time. The report has been uploaded and I believe that Members will be able to read through it.

Pursuant to Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure regarding reporting to the House by committees, I will go straight to the introduction of the report. Article 90(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Rules 156, 159, 187 and 189 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament enjoin committees with the authority and powers to, among others, research, investigate and carry out oversight functions with respect to ministries, departments and agencies under their purview and make appropriate recommendations on them.

It is against this background that some Members of the sectoral Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry carried out oversight visits on some of the newly procured Pre-Export Verification of Conformity, commonly known as (PVoC), service providers in general goods in Dubai and India to establish their capacity.

The oversight visits were conducted from 23–29, 2023. The delegation comprised 12 Members of Parliament; six Members went to Dubai and six Members to India. The details of the membership are in the report and Members can go through it.

Mr Speaker, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards is a Government agency established by an Act of Parliament; the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) Act Chapter 3(27). It became operational in 1989 and falls under the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives.

The role of UNBS is formulating, promoting and enforcing the use of standards in the protection of public health safety and

environment against dangerous counterfeit and substandard products and ensuring fairness in trade and precision in industry through a reliable measurement system.

Where necessary, UNBS draws samples of products for laboratory testing to see if the products meet the critical minimum requirements of Uganda National Bureau of Standards or approved international standards. UNBS then issues a certificate of conformity. Once the product does not have the required standard, UNBS –(*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, you came to my office and I briefed you. I referred you to Rule 34, but you are reading the report. Just touch on the recommendations because for such a field visit report, I will have to give Members time to read it and then, I will appoint a date for debate. Just give a few highlights of the findings and recommendations.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: Much obliged, Mr Speaker. I was just on the background for Members to appreciate - I will proceed as per your guidance.

I would like to encourage Members to read the details of the report as I proceed to the committee findings and recommendations.

The findings are elaborate because in the report, the committee was able to look through the capacity of all service providers contracted and I want to inform the House that the service providers procured by UNBS are six in number:

1. Helmsman Quality & Technology Services Co. Ltd (HQTS);
2. Bureau Veritas (BV);
3. Intertek;
4. Societe Generale De Surveillance (SGS Gulf Limited);
5. Quality Inspection Services Inc. Japan (QISJ);
6. TUV Rheinland.

The committee assessed the capacity of these companies and in our report, we elaborated

them case-by-case. However, Mr Speaker, allow me to give details on one company which had serious issues; HQTS.

Based on the findings of the committee, both in Dubai and India, in terms of the capacity of HQTS to the task that was assigned to them and also their physical presence in the country; they are supposed to ensure that they inspect goods and services coming to Uganda, the committee observed that there was a lot lacking.

On return, the committee invited the UNBS to respond to those issues and thereafter, the committee came up with specific recommendations, case-by-case, on these six companies that were contracted.

Specifically, on HQTS, the committee observed that the eligibility criteria required for a successful company to be contracted was not followed in the pre-qualification process by the technical evaluation committee while giving out this contract.

The committee also observed that HQTS did not have an office in India, Dubai and even Uganda, which are all mandatory requirements.

The committee submitted a recommendation that UNBS should terminate the contract with HQTS.

The committee recommended that the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) should investigate the circumstances under which HQTS was awarded this contract because it was awarded fraudulently.

I request Members to look through the report in detail as I summarise general findings and recommendations -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, that is enough. Do not mind, Members are going to read. Honourable colleagues, I am going to -

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: Mr Speaker, I have laid the report and copies of the documents. I beg that the report be received for onward procedures of adoption.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Chairperson, for the good work. *(Applause)* Colleagues, the difference between other reports and field reports is that the rules treat them differently when you are presenting.

She was prepared to present the full report, but I made her present just a few highlights. However, Madam Chairperson, well done. Let Members read and in two weeks' time, let us have a debate on this matter.

We also deferred the debate on cell culture; the report from the Committee on Science and Technology. I am still proceeding –*(Laughter)*– Ensure that it is captured; I do not want us to lose focus. A report comes, I guide that we are going to have a debate and then we do not have it. That means that, that report is not adopted by the House. We should have a debate in two weeks' time and we conclude those reports. Hon. Macho, do you have a procedural matter?

MR MACHO: Mr Speaker, I would like to appreciate the way you are guiding the House. I rise on a procedural matter regarding the report that has been read by the chairperson. As we speak, it is the mandate of the Ministry of Trade to regulate service providers that handle pre-inspection of vehicles that are coming into the country.

However, due to infighting at UNBS, we do not have a service provider. Vehicles are stuck in Dubai, India, Japan and even at the borders. As a result, I suspect vehicles with health hazards might be entering the country.

Mr Speaker, I believe that since Minister Ntabaazi is here - They declared through UNBS and handpicked the company that the Chairperson has just talked about and yesterday, we heard that the same company was given a monopoly. We have very good companies; two that were doing a very good job like Energy Assessment Agency (EAA) and we were satisfying the market -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, do not take that route.

MR MACHO: Therefore, I pray and request that the minister who is here and who has slept on the job, as of today, should, together with the Leader of the Opposition, give a statement. Why do we have a monopoly and why do we have vehicles piled up in Dubai, India and Japan when EAA and the other company were doing a good job? Why do you have the company that the chairperson has just talked about, which company has failed, and yet yesterday it was given the monopoly to work as a service provider?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Macho, you seem very updated on these matters. *(Laughter)* Honourable colleagues, when we are debating, we should not leave room for blackmailers to go out and blackmail us that so and so is pushing for this company. That is why we are very cautious; we leave the procurement to be done and come in, in case there are problems.

There is a statement that you used; “that the minister is sleeping on the job.” That is a heavily loaded statement so, honourable minister, prove that you are not sleeping on the job so that Hon. Macho can withdraw that statement.

3.54

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (TRADE) (Ms Harriet Ntabaazi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the House for giving me this opportunity. My friend Hon. Macho knows that I am one of the people who have been pursuing him because he is a cross-border trader. We have our own issues at the border; he is not a smuggler, but a cross-border trader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We understand.

MS NTABAAZI: We have been passionately working on trade together, he is simply making a joke in Parliament. Of course, I am among the top-most performing ministers in this country. *(Laughter)* Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since Hon. Macho has confirmed that it is a joke, it is not

good for jokes of that nature to remain on the record of the *Hansard*. So, Hon. Macho, be courteous to your colleague.

MR MACHO: Mr Speaker, being a cross-border trader, my sister, Hon. Ntabaazi, always harasses us and I was joking. I would therefore like to withdraw the statement. However, she should tell us why there is a monopoly. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Beyond that, he raised salient issues. Please respond to Hon. Macho.

MS NTABAAZI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. You had guided and the reason why I remained seated is because I thought we would come back in two weeks. However, the matters at the border are critical.

Uganda National Bureau of Standards has been summoned to my office twice. This matter came to my attention and because they had taken a procurement, as UNBS, they were the same people to take the second procurement. It is not the Ministry for Trade directly.

We have guided them – because there was a matter before the PPDA Tribunal in which it was determined that these people should go back and procure at least two companies, not one. *(Applause)* The guidance was given and I am going to be on top of things to see why UNBS is not taking guidance from the tribunal. I would like to tell you that this matter will be resolved.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

3.57

MR MOSES KAMUNTU (Independent, Rubanda County West, Rubanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry for the good report. For the last two weeks, we have seen in the media that a lot of money, to a tune of Shs 60 billion, for gorilla and chimpanzee tracking disappeared under the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA).

Mr Speaker, you are aware that all the tourism roads are in bad shape yet money is disappearing. It seems the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry is not aware of this irregularity and fraud. The Prime Minister has not even mentioned it.

I come from Rubanda where 90 per cent of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is found and we have no roads. Every day, we push trucks carrying -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the issue, honourable member?

MR KAMUNTU: The issue is that this committee should investigate the fraud that is happening under UWA and come up with a report because it is a serious issue.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, sometimes you are unfair to us. We were on the issue of motor vehicle tracking and UNBS but now the honourable colleague – There are clear ways. Hon. Kamuntu, you did not come to my office to raise that matter and I denied you.

There is a procedure on how we handle these matters. I have been following up on that matter; I have personally read about it and it is a very salient issue. However, the issue is in the way you have brought it up. There is a way we bring business in the House.

Since it is a matter to do with public funds, honourable minister, I see you on top of your game. Would you mind updating us, if it will not jeopardise investigations?

3.59

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Mr Martin Mugarra): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Kamuntu for raising the matter. It is, indeed, true. Unfortunately, this leaked to the press as a result of internal investigations that were already ongoing under the ministry and UWA.

Tomorrow, we will be putting out a statement and I will share it with Parliament.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You see, Parliament does not go to search for statements in newspapers. If there is information you feel should come on the record – You see, this is a national record even for a thousand years from now. It is used by researchers and all kinds of formal bodies and it is formal information, compared to newspapers. Therefore, would you like to update the House on this investigation?

MR MUGARRA: I can give a simple explanation here, but if need be, I will come before the House tomorrow and give a statement on this matter.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do so tomorrow. Thank you. Hon. Kankunda, did you want to say something on this matter of PVoC?

4.00

MRAMOS KANKUNDA (NRM, Rwampara County, Rwampara): Thank you, Mr Speaker. You can see that the focus of the report is more to do with the providers of the service. As a reminder, the backdrop to the reason why these providers were chosen was the inability or lack of capacity of UNBS. When we decided, as the Government, to pick on these providers, the purpose was to build the capacity of UNBS.

I would like to request that the committee goes further to investigate the capacity of UNBS and whether we should continue to have this capital flight to people who are not even helping us, since we see other substandard products entering the country. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will come in the debate when we are concluding. We need to first read the report, debate it and then you can propose an amendment and we give further assignments.

However, honourable minister, it seems you are having a lot of issues regarding motor vehicle tracking, which generates money on your side. It is not you as an individual, honourable minister. I mean UNBS generally.

I even saw the letter of your minister asking – You had stopped the process and UNBS went ahead and extended for one firm and left out another firm. You now ask yourself: if you said the procurement process had a problem and these two firms were both part of the problem you have identified, what are you basing on to choose one company and tell it to continue and ask the other company to wait?

I thought that if they are all affected, they should all be affected. Either you stop all of them or say, “No, we have extended for both of you as we conclude on the process.” It is deemed to look like you have already concluded on this company; that for it, it is okay.

Honourable minister, you need to pay further attention on this matter. Please update us on this issue of UNBS on Tuesday as there are issues with it.

I have a good example. A company says it is producing this product and UNBS says, “No, you cannot call it this name; it is misleading.” Okay? Then, they allow foreign products with that same name to come into the country. In the process, what happens is that customers come looking for a specific product, let us say, “Medicated Handwash”. You allow foreigners to bring in a product called “Medicated Handwash”, but when Ugandans try to do it, you say, “No, that is misleading. You cannot produce Medicated Handwash.” Then, you leave the market to foreigners.

Ugandans are producing most of these products, but the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) is not supporting them. This is a very big problem. When I read the minister’s letter where they were allowing - A minister even pleaded with UNBS saying, I do not know which power they have. By the way, they can make a minister plead.

If I am a political head and you are the Executive Director of UNBS and you do not listen to me, I fire you. If the President decides to fire me, well and good, but I fire you. Otherwise, why are you a political head? A political head is about to run to Parliament for

help over supervising your own agency. Leader of the Opposition -

4.05

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Mathias Mpuuga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the chairperson for the report and I hope and pray that once the debate is concluded, Parliament will supervise the action taken. The reason I am raising the issue of action taken is because we have handled other issues that are pending parliamentary decisions yet the actors still go on.

We have not left the controversy around the digital number plates. The Minister of Internal Affairs says the procurement is fraudulent while the Minister for Security says all is okay. However, in between, the Parliament, as the arbiter and protector of public interest, has not taken a decision on the matter.

Mr Speaker, in the meantime, the actors outside the realm of Parliament are still progressing. I pray we do not return here to do a post-mortem on the same, but at least, a minister raised a red flag to say you people are superintending over outright fraud on digital number plates. It is on record.

On 15 August 2023, Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi raised a matter about another entity secured and procured fraudulently called SICPA in South Africa, working on behalf of Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) without a contract. The Speaker ordered the learned Attorney-General to produce that contract before Parliament on 17th. Today is effectively 4 October, 2023.

Mr Speaker, are we doing justice to this space? I think these are the kinds of happenings that give actors with intention to defraud the motivation to go on. If you do not undertake citizen arrest in this space, the fraud will not stop.

I am kindly seeking for indulgence over these matters that linger around Parliament because the actors outside the Parliament believe Parliament will talk about it and then forget. It really breaks our energy and kills

the motivation of this House from doing its oversight duty. I pray.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, on the issue of motor vehicles, we gave the minister 30 days from when I received that petition. In fact, there is a petition which came to the committee and the petition had been given to around 10 agencies. The 30 days have elapsed and therefore, the Minister for Security should report back to the House on how he has handled the petition.

Attorney-General, regarding the same, there are more issues that Members raised on the legality, for example, money for fines which is already gazetted to be for the Road Fund. You go and sign with someone that he will take it away then you ask yourself, is the signature a contractual signature above the law? If it is not conforming to the law, how is it going to be implemented? Money for fines should go to the Consolidated Fund and to the Road Fund. What was the basis of saying someone can use it to pay for digital number plates?

I need the Minister for Security to come next week and give an action-taken report in terms of the petition which he received because I stopped the Committee on Physical Infrastructure until the minister has given further guidance.

Attorney-General, we shall also need to be guided on the issue of classified procurement. I will discuss with the Leader of the Opposition and see how best to handle them because if it is classified, but now on the floor of Parliament and every detail is being put here, is it still classified?

We need to look into issues so that we handle them in the right way. Regarding SICPA, you were supposed to lay - What happened, Attorney-General?

4.10

THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Jackson Kafuuzi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I remember that we committed to lay and we may have delayed for one reason or

another. Allow me time and I pledge to do it on Tuesday next week. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Next - Sorry, minister. Did you want to say something?

4.11

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (TRADE) (Ms Harriet Ntabaazi): Mr Speaker, the ministry is not going to deny that there are no challenges in UNBS because we would be lying. The change in leadership was because there were challenges. As we talk, we have an acting Executive Director who has just replaced the former one, Mr Ebiru.

What we are going to do, as a ministry, is to cause a meeting, I think, with the Board, because it is supposed to oversee the implementation of some of these actions. The Chairman of the Board is insisting that EAA is not credible enough and that a country can have one company to inspect, like Tanzania and Kenya that have one company each. He gave me that example and told me Uganda can also have the same.

My argument was, let it be on good terms and well procured because if these two companies expired at the same time and you have not carried out another exercise of identifying new companies then the two should have an extension. I am saying if that is done, there would be no cause for us to argue here. The procurement would have taken place and they would say, you do not qualify or you qualify, in a free and fair manner; as simple as that.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, we do not want to be involved in the procurement; how many companies you want to give. It is you to assess and we shall come in to do oversight. If we find you gave one company and it is not doing the job well then we will come and make recommendations. If we find you gave three and they are doing well or one company is doing well, well and good. What we need is to see things moving very well. Let us stop it at that.

MS NTABAAZI: Most obliged.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Next item.

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL
ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF
NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY FUND
(NSSF) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH
JUNE, 2023

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Commissioner -

4.14

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements of National Social Security Fund (NSSF) for the year ended 30 June 2023.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Commissioner. The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises) for consideration and report back.

REPORT OF THE DELEGATION OF
THE COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND
INTERNAL AFFAIRS ON A STUDY
TO EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY ON THE REGIONAL
SECURITY MATTERS

4.15

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Mr Wilson Kajwengye): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the delegation of the sectoral Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs on a study tour to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) on regional security matters from 18 to 23 September, 2022 in Arusha, Tanzania.

The delegation was led by the then Chairperson, Hon. Nyakikongoro and the able team. The report has been uploaded. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, please, read the report. I will appoint the date. Clerk, you will guide

me when we shall be ready for debate after looking at the business we have.

Rule 34(3) says I shall appoint a date, so I will do that. I would like to know if the statement by the Minister of Education and Sports is ready. Is it uploaded? Can I confirm that? I will amend the Order Paper to allow a statement on the World Teachers' Day.

STATEMENT ON WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

4.17

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving us the opportunity to present a statement to Parliament on World Teachers' Day.

World Teachers' Day is celebrated worldwide on 5 October each year to recognise the pivotal role that teachers play in shaping the lives of our young generation. It is an international observance day that was created by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to show appreciation for the vital contribution that teachers make to the education and development of nations.

It was created in 1994 to commemorate the signing of the 1966 UNESCO/ILO recommendation concerning the status of teachers, which is a standard-setting instrument that addresses the status and situations of teachers around the world. This day is dedicated to raising public awareness of teachers' issues to enable recognition of their special value in our lives.

Teachers constitute one of the largest national human resource dedicated to nurturing a young generation and we look to them to guide our children in their quest for education. Teachers are frontline participants in education reform and are therefore critical to successful quality schooling worldwide. They therefore deserve to be recognised and valued. We commend all Ugandan teachers for their devotion to providing hope in our children for the future of this nation.

Our Government is committed to providing quality education to all and teachers are critical ingredients in this process. Sustainable Development Goal Four requires us, as a nation, to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote life-long learning opportunities for all targets. We rely on our teachers to move this agenda forward as we ensure that every child in this country has the opportunity to exercise his or her right to access affordable education of equitable quality.

The Ministry of Education and Sports, in collaboration with the teachers' unions, is organising the day's celebration nationally on Thursday, 5 October. The theme for this year's Teachers' Day is, "The teacher we need for the education we want: A global imperative to reverse teachers' shortage".

The celebrations will be held at two levels as follows: the national celebrations will be held at Kololo Independence Grounds and this will be presided over by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda as the chief guest.

District celebrations will be held in every district and municipality in this country as has always been the case each year on 5 October. It should be noted that all teachers, both public and private, will be celebrating.

The general public is therefore informed that teachers countrywide will be celebrating their day on Thursday, 5 October 2023 and for that matter, they will not be expected at their schools. A circular has already been sent to all chief administrative officers and all schools.

The purpose of this brief is to inform you, Mr Speaker, honourable colleagues and the public about the day and to invite you to join our teachers in this celebration.

Before I sit down, I beg to lay on the Table a circular for World Teachers' Day that was sent to the Chief Administrative Officers and all district leadership on 28 September 2023 to allow our teachers to celebrate this day. I beg to lay and thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. I will allow debate of 30 minutes and Members shall use two minutes each. We know the teachers here - Now everyone is claiming to be a teacher. I wish you could be honest like Hon. Opendi who said, "and mothers".

Let me start with Hon. Nyakikongoro, Member for Kamwenge, Hon. Mamawi, Member for Bungokho, Member for Masaka and Member for Otuke. Honourable colleagues, let me first handle affirmative action.

Honourable colleagues, if you already spoke today, be it a greeting or raising a point of order, know that your chances are very limited. I am going to allow two minutes each.

4.24

MS ROSEMARY NYAKIKONGORO (NRM, Woman Representative, Sheema): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity. I also thank the minister for bringing this statement which we have been yearning for.

I would like to congratulate the teachers for the good job they are doing. Mr Speaker, we are all products of teachers. When we insisted that some of us were going to participate in these celebrations, we had a cause because teachers have their issues and as their representatives in Parliament, we cannot miss out on participating in their activities.

However, it is colliding with parliamentary sittings and I do not know how we are going to handle that. We would not want to be as if we are dodging Parliament yet we want to go and celebrate with the teachers.

When we were doing Parish Development Model (PDM) rounds, we noted that there were some teachers who had applied to be beneficiaries, but they were stopped because they are earning from the Government. When you compare the peanut money that they are getting in terms of salary, especially the arts teachers, it is terrible. They cannot do any other business. We were told that they got money in

their SACCO, but most of the teachers have never accessed that money.

I would like to know from the minister if that money was released to their SACCOs and if indeed those SACCOs exist so that teachers can go there to get money rather than being tossed between PDM and other facilities of the Government.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Kamwenge -

4.26

MS SYLVIA BAHIREIRA (Independent, Woman Representative, Kamwenge): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I would like to thank the minister for her paper that treasures teachers.

Tomorrow being Teachers' Day, we are all happy for them because "We are because they are". The Parliament is because teachers are there. The nation is because teachers are there. I take this opportunity to congratulate them.

How I wish this day was treasured more than it is. We have been invited to go and participate in the national celebrations at Kololo tomorrow where His Excellency is the chief guest, but we have not tested for COVID-19. Some of us are very passionate about teachers and if we were invited in time, we would have taken COVID-19 tests and been there physically because we are what we are because of teachers. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Mamawi -

4.27

MR JAMES MAMAWI (NRM, Adjumani East County, Adjumani): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the minister for being proactive and bringing this report to the House in time. We are all teachers in one way or another, but teaching being a profession, I would like to thank all the teachers and congratulate them on the work they are doing in this country.

While we commemorate the day, we must not forget about the welfare of teachers. Most

times when I talk about this, it raises a lot of issues that we have talked about in this House, but still remain a challenge. My prayer is that much as there are challenges, let the issue of welfare for teachers be taken very seriously and with time, we need to look at these issues one by one.

As we celebrate the day, we are hurt that we have a sitting tomorrow. There are other international days which are highly respected in this country and I wonder why we are not respecting the National Teachers' Day. We would like to join our teachers so that they are happy.

Therefore, I request that we have a solution for this. Even if it is not tomorrow, but in future, let the Parliament accord teachers the respect they deserve. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, Parliament has accorded them respect by amending the Order Paper to accommodate a statement. The Executive should do their work if they want to, but it is not a public holiday. You cannot blame Parliament, yet you are a Member. Do not play politics on the Floor by saying, I went and accused Parliament that they should take teachers seriously. Honourable, this is not acceptable.

4.29

MR ROBERT WANDWASI (NRM, Bungokho County South, Mbale): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I thank the minister for the brief report that he has given in this House. However, I know, "The nation is because we are". I am a teacher.

We know very well and it is a mandatory requirement that teachers have to study to a certain level. For example, it has been published that teachers have to study up to degree level, for both nursery and primary teachers. Mr Speaker, I have two concerns regarding this.

We have created budgets for Human Resource Development in other dockets. I happen to have worked in local governments where we heard that chiefs are given support in terms of human

resource development because it is mandatory; they have to grow and develop in their line of professionalism.

It would have been good if the Ministry of Education and Sports raised or created a budget line to be supported by this Parliament so that we begin apportioning some money to the ministry to help teachers upgrade, given the fact that their earnings, as we all know, are moderate and may not support them to go further in professional development. If we could create that and give the Ministry of Education and Sports some funds, that would aid teachers in terms of human resource development in their docket.

Secondly, now that —(*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, have discipline.

MR WANDWASI: Most obliged, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have a standard. You are even on the microphone when — Hon. Wandwasi has been an active Member; he is not on his maiden speech. I know you are passionate, but I want to give other colleagues a chance. Thank you. Hon. Kibaaaju.

4.31

MS NAOME KIBAAJU (NRM, Sheema County North, Sheema): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I also join my colleagues in congratulating our teachers on celebrating their day. However, I have a problem with the teachers, especially in my constituency of Sheema North. Most of them were interviewed and they passed the interviews to be deployed in various schools, but they have not been deployed. Therefore, I wish to request —(*Interjection*)— the minister to come with a statement because they are harassing us in the constituencies.

They say, "We were interviewed, we are qualified, we were told we passed the interviews, but up to now, we have not been deployed." That is my humble request to the Minister of Education and Sports. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, I hope you are noting these issues. Honourable colleagues, I will come back - Before Hon. Sekabira, Hon. Davis Kamukama then I will come to Hon. Sekabira.

4.33

MR DAVIS KAMUKAMA (NRM, Bunyangabu County, Bunyangabu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join hands in thanking the Government -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a maiden speech, isn't it?

MR DAVIS KAMUKAMA: No.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: If it is not a maiden speech then you do not have special time.

MR DAVIS KAMUKAMA: To recognise the teachers for their hard work. I grew up with a single parent who is a primary teacher and I am here because of her efforts.

As we celebrate World Teachers' Day tomorrow, I would like to request the Government to consider incentives for acting primary head teachers and the retired. I pray that Government increases their salaries because it has been so low and whenever they increase their salary, it is just peanuts. I pray that Government brings a motion on salary increment because we shall support it. I beg to submit.

4.34

MR PHILLIPS LOKWANG-ILUKOL (NRM, Napore West County, Karenga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank the minister for the elaborate and precise statement on the teachers' celebration tomorrow.

However, there is a question of hard-to-reach areas and I urge the Government to consider allowances for such areas. I happen to be from Karamoja and there are schools in areas that are difficult to reach. The Government had introduced hard-to-reach allowances for these hardworking Ugandans who are helping us to be who we are in this House; there is nobody that has not passed through a teacher.

All of us here are proud of our teachers and we thank them. I want to wish them a fruitful celebration. Thank you very much.

4.35

MR DENES SEKABIRA (NUP, Katikamu County North, Luwero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am seeking clarification because the Government pledged to have at least a secondary school in every subcounty.

I want to give an example of Butuntumula Subcounty, which has over 100,000 students that are supposed to sit for 'O' and 'A' level exams, but it does not have a seed school. This makes it very difficult for the teachers to move to other subcounties in the secondary schools where they have been deployed.

I therefore seek clarification from the minister when Government intends to fulfil its pledge of constructing as many schools as possible in all the subcounties. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, if you see me trying to dodge your face, know that yesterday I picked you. I am trying to see to it that other colleagues also speak. If given a chance, I will pick you.

4.37

MS JULIET KAKANDE (NUP, Woman Representative, Masaka City): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I also add my voice to thank the minister for the report that has shown that teachers play a very important role.

During such celebrations, the challenges faced in various sectors are normally forwarded to the education ministry. I call upon the honourable minister to address the many challenges faced by teachers. We usually talk about them being paid less money, but there are also other challenges like being overworked.

For instance, in many primary schools, you may find the number of teachers always corresponding to the number of classrooms. That means that they are also overworked; they do not get sick, they cannot get maternity leave and so many other things.

In view of the upcoming celebrations, I call upon the ministry to always make sure that such challenges are catered for so that room for teachers to work effectively is created. Thank you very much.

4.39

MR BENARD SEKYANZI (NRM, Budyabo County, Nakasongola): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank the Minister of Education and Sports for the wonderful statement she has made before the House.

By the way, I am a teacher as well as a clinical officer, but I started out as a clinical officer. I would like to tell this august House that -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Which one did you finish?

MR SEKYANZI: Teachers are heroes because it is in this profession where you just teach and there is no inlet apart from salary. That is why I praise Kenya where teachers are paid highly; more than any other civil servant. Even in Uganda, I urge our teachers, especially the primary school teachers -

After teaching, they just wash their hands, go home and wait for their salaries. It is not like these other jobs where you have other earnings - you are aware of that. Therefore, I request the minister to look into that. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, the inlets we recognise in Parliament are official inlets, which are salary and allowances. However, when you say, "we are aware", honourable, we are not aware of other inlets. I want it to be on record.

4.41

MS VERONICA NANYONDO (NUP, Woman Representative, Bukomansimbi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and the minister for the statement. I also commend the teachers for the great work they are doing for the country.

The theme of the day: "*The teachers we need for the education we want*" is a great one. Thank

you for that. However, honourable minister, if we analyse the theme, how do we achieve what we want? What education do we want?

When we look at the distance that teachers cover to reach the schools they teach - For us who come from faraway areas in the villages, we know that they reach school when they are tired. What education do we expect them to give our students?

Secondly, most Government schools do not have staff quarters. Why don't we look into that? We need them in each Government school so that the teachers sleep at school in order for them to deliver the education we want Uganda to have.

I have a few prayers, Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, in debating, we do not have prayers.

MS NANYONDO: Honourable minister, I think we should also look at the ratio of teachers to learners if we are to achieve the education we want in Uganda. Thank you.

4.42

MS SUSAN ABEJA (Independent, Woman Representative, Otuke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to add my voice and appreciate our minister for the statement. Based on the theme of this year's celebration, like my colleagues have also mentioned: "*The teacher we need for the education we want*", honourable minister, I think this does not apply to districts like Otuke.

When you say, "the teacher you need", I notice that other teachers are being motivated with an allowance for working in hard-to-reach areas. One time, on the Floor here, I raised my issues; that my teachers were not being motivated, but in the districts surrounding mine, the teachers were being motivated. Hon. Veronica has just talked about this.

We have a technical school in Otuke and the teachers there do not have where to sleep, but you have employed them. At times, you do

not find the teachers in school because when they sleep far away from the school, they do not have transport and so, they do not reach in time.

If teachers are being motivated, please, let it be uniform motivation across the country. Thank you.

4.44

MR ALED AKUGIZIBWE (Independent, Buruli County, Masindi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the minister for the statement and I congratulate my colleague teachers because I am a teacher by profession; I practiced.

We are going to celebrate World Teachers' Day at a time when we have primary schools that have five teachers. You can imagine Primary One to Primary Seven with only five teachers and the teachers teaching in turns. "Let these ones first go and play as I teach others." I would like to request the Ministry of Education and Sports to improve on the human resource in these primary schools.

There is also a policy of having a primary school in every parish. I would like to assure you that in most of the parishes in Masindi, we do not have primary schools.

In conclusion, we are going to celebrate World Teachers' Day when the issue of the Students' Loan Scheme is still hanging in balance. Most of our students did not make it on Government Scholarship and their parents do not have the money. The issue was discussed in the House and resolutions were made, but nothing materialised. I pray that the ministry equally works on the Students' Loan Scheme. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, we agreed that the minister would update the House tomorrow. Hon. Phyllis Chemutai and then Hon. Komakech. I pick Kyotera, Hon. Mayanja, Hon. Ssekitoleeko, Hon. Mapenduzi and Moroto.

Yesterday, Hon. Mapenduzi hijacked another Member's time. They shared the two minutes so I have allowed him so that he can share the two minutes with Hon. Muwuma. *(Laughter)*

4.45

MS PHYLLIS CHEMUTAI (NRM, Woman Representative, Kapchorwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the minister for the report she has given us. I also thank the teachers for doing tremendous work for this country. I am a teacher by profession and I know what it means to be a teacher.

One of my concerns is about delayed promotions for teachers. Some teachers have served in acting positions for more than 10 years. When new schools are opened, opportunity is given to the sitting teachers while the ones in the old schools are not considered.

I would like to thank the Government for the enhancement of the science teachers' salary. They earn Shs 4 million, but the taxation is so high. That is the complaint they are raising. They tax them Shs 1.2 million per *—(Member timed out.)*

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

4.47

MR CHRISTOPHER KOMAKECH (Independent, Aruu County, Pader): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for the wonderful statement. I also want to thank you for amending the Order Paper to allow the minister to present the statement.

It is so painful to bury a teacher who has not died of an ailment, but in an accident. In the last six months, we have buried 10 teachers in Aruu County due to casualties attained on their way to work. It is high time Government reinstated the norm of constructing houses next to schools so that teachers do not walk long distances to reach the schools.

The theme for tomorrow's celebration speaks of the teachers we need. Mr Speaker, there is a scientific finding that was published stating that the ages that are crucial for anyone who wants to learn are from one to nine years. It is so unfortunate that currently, our country does not consider teachers in kindergarten. If we do not invest more money in the teachers who train our children at the learning stages and we invest more money on those who are going to impart cramming, we are still going to lack. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the time.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Lukwago -

4.49

MR JOHN-PAUL LUKWAGO (DP, Kyotera County, Kyotera): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I too wish to thank the minister for coming up with this report. As Parliament and as Ugandans, I wanted us to make a deeper reflection on the theme for tomorrow's World Teachers' Day celebration.

I am a little confused about "this teacher we need". Maybe it would have been better if the minister highlighted to Parliament the kind of teachers Uganda needs. In Kyotera, I have teachers who first make *chapatis* for sale and then run to class as well as those riding boda bodas. Is this the kind of teacher the country needs? Maybe it would have been better to paint for us a picture of that teacher in the minister's statement.

Otherwise, I congratulate the teachers on their day and as a country, we are here to witness what the Government has to offer in showing its appreciation that teachers are part of us and we cannot do without them.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

4.50

MS KENNY AUMA (UPC, Woman Representative, Kwania): Thank you, Mr Speaker and the minister, for the statement. All of us are here because of teachers. If the teachers had not done what they did, we would not have been here.

As Members of Parliament, we have teachers who walk from their villages to go and teach. We should embrace staff quarters within the schools so that the teachers do not walk long distances to teach our children.

As the Government of Uganda, we need to give teachers good teaching conditions. When you go to a school, you may not find the head teacher because they do not have staff houses within the premises of the school. This is a matter that the Government of Uganda has to work on such that we have teachers staying within the premises of the school for the better Uganda that we want. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Mayanja -

4.51

MR ALLAN MAYANJA (NUP, Nakaseke Central County, Nakaseke): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. Article 40 of our Constitution talks about economic rights. Article 40(1) states that, "Parliament shall enact laws to ensure equal payment for equal work without discrimination."

Recently, I visited Wakyato Seed School in my constituency and found out that the head teacher earns Shs 1.6 million while a junior teacher earns Shs 2.8 million because the junior teacher is a science teacher. Do you see the discrimination in salaries?

Madam Minister, we need to ensure that this discrimination is settled. This Parliament is on test because Article 40(1) of the Constitution says that Parliament shall enact laws so that such issues are settled. In some schools, science teachers have their own staffroom and the arts teachers also have theirs. Do you see the quagmire in our schools that needs to be settled?

Secondly, about infrastructure, in Nakaseke, you find schools in Kanyare, Wakyato and Kirinda with almost 600 students and without enough desks -(Member timed out.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ssekitooleko -

4.53

MR ROBERT SSEKITOLEEKO (NUP, Bamunanika County, Luweero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable Minister of Education and Sports, as we celebrate the World Teachers' Day tomorrow, there is a lot to reflect on. Tomorrow, you are going to spend on either drinks or eats in Kololo or wherever we shall be. However, there is a teacher who is waiting to take his or her child to school, but they have not yet paid school fees and yet they are teaching our children.

They are working under pain; a teacher, will move to the district headquarters for five years, after serving as a classroom teacher, looking for pension which he is not getting.

As we are here, we also need to take note that teachers through their system of operations, now have a new curriculum with its own challenges.

I would wish that we do not celebrate tomorrow, but just go to Kololo, pray for teachers and brainstorm on how to make education better in Uganda compared to what we have.

This is because the situation which we are headed to is not good for teachers, children who do not eat and parents who send children to school without pens and books. Thank you.

4.55

MR LUKE KYOBE (NRM, Luuka North County, Luuka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We need to know that teachers are the main determinants of the next generation including the next leaders.

In most cases, they spend more time with these youngsters, who believe in them more than they believe in us, the parents.

As the current leaders, we need to motivate teachers in order to shape the next generation, including the leaders. Teachers take that profession as a last resort, but love it because they are holding our next generation and leaders. Thank you.

4.56

MR MOSES OKOT (FDC, Kioga County, Amolatar): Thank you, Mr Speaker-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable members, please listen to the shadow Deputy Speaker without interruption. *(Laughter)*

MR MOSES OKOT: Thank you, Mr Speaker and the minister who did present this report. When my profile was uploaded, it became a public document and that is to the effect that I am a son of a teacher, raised by a teacher and then, prior to becoming a Member of Parliament, I taught law.

Today, I would like to borrow my submission from the *locus classicus* book by Robert Kiyosaki; *Rich Dad Poor Dad*, specifically the dictum of "Risk is the new safe, safe is the new risk."

It was safe then, to be a teacher and it was risky to be a businessman and the rest. But today, many of our teachers have found it very risky to be a teacher because it is a profession of paupers. And we have made it so because we promote less or demotivate our teachers.

Members of Parliament, we made the Trade Unions Act, but when teachers choose to advocate for their rights, do we, as members of Parliament, give them enough buffer when they are threatened by the Executive and the forces that come hard on them? And they are forced back into class.

We have two classes of teachers; the science teachers *vis-à-vis* the arts teachers – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Mapenduzi.

4.58

MR MARTIN MAPENDUZI (Independent, Bardege-Layibi Division, Gulu City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join my colleagues in thanking the honourable minister, but we should not forget to talk about the inequalities that have been created in our education system.

During the COVID-19 period, a decision was taken for our children to study online. I am sure you are aware that a majority of our children, especially in the rural areas, were not able to study online because of the situation we understand.

Even now, as I speak, there are parts of this country where children from primary one to primary three share classrooms because they do not have enough facilities.

We have allowed our education system to create the kind of inequality that favours the rich. When you look at the results of the Primary Leaving Examinations, Uganda Certificate of Education and Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education, the children who study in urban centres and come from rich families perform better.

The Ministry of Education and Sports should spend more time addressing this. How are we going to have these children fit in a competitive environment if we are not putting in place the things we need?

We need to care more about the children from rural areas, otherwise we are creating a situation where they will not be able to contribute effectively because we are not doing what is needed.

Honourable minister, as we celebrate tomorrow, we need to do a lot more in putting in place the infrastructure needed, but also in providing the resources. I visited one primary school when I was the chairman – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Moroto.

5.00

MR FRANCIS ADOME (NRM, Moroto Municipality, Moroto): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I would like to thank the minister for her presentation.

Three months ago, I presented a document, which was spelling out all the challenges that teachers face especially in Karamoja Sub-Region.

It is very clear that Karamoja is one of the most remote areas in this country and it reflects in the education sector, if you look at the schools, especially Government-aided schools.

We still have a big challenge of teachers who have nowhere to sleep; so, they walk distances, almost 10 to 15 kilometres and this has highly affected them.

Secondly, most of them are not on the payroll and they teach because they are trained and have sympathy for the students. So, it is very important for us to focus on such areas to see how to give more support in terms of providing amenities that can support.

Where the country is headed, we are always talking about sciences. And some of the scholarships given by the Government mainly target students who have studied sciences.

How do we get this kind of students if we do not even have facilities? In Moroto, we do not have laboratories or anything; so, these students are faced with a lot of problems. However, we would have to mainly look at the facilities for the teachers in terms of infrastructure. If you go to Moroto High School – which has produced very many leaders in this Government – you find almost 3,000 students sharing one pit-latrines – they line up – it is a bit difficult. Even water – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Bataringaya, Yeri, Kiryandongo then Museveni.

5.02

MR BASIL BATARINGAYA (NRM, Kashari North County, Mbarara): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I also thank the Minister for the report she presented.

First, we have a problem with the capitation grants. A hungry teacher cannot teach a hungry child. The Ministry should look into the increment in the capitation grants, because I was a councillor at a district.

When you calculate, a child gets about Shs 300 per day, which cannot even buy a banana; so,

I would like them to consider the capitation grants.

Secondly, the facilities like accommodation for the teachers, and lastly, the private teachers; our universities output very many teachers. I have seen so far that we should fight shortage of teachers, but in Uganda we are not short of teachers; we are short of recruiting those teachers and paying them handsomely. Let us think of how to deal with this situation. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Yeri.

5.04

MR APOLLO YERI (NRM, Tororo Municipality, Tororo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for the report. Mine is on the qualified teachers. We have very many qualified teachers, but they are jobless. What can we do about this situation? Every year, more and more qualify. *(Microphone went off.)* So, the Government should do something. There are some people trying to sabotage me here. *(Laughter)* We have to do something so that these teachers can be employed.

I want to thank *—(Interjection)—* you are interfering with my - We have to thank the private school owners for investing in schools. They have really done a lot. They are employing these teachers who are not qualified, but Government is not doing *—(Interjection)—* please, wait for your time. *(Laughter)* I have said they are not employed. *(Laughter)* The qualified teachers are not employed. *(Laughter)*

5.05

MS HELEN KAHUNDE (NRM, Woman Representative, Kiryandongo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I congratulate the teachers on their day and wish them fruitful celebrations.

During the recess, I moved to different primary schools within my district and the Grade III teachers in my constituency are worried that most of them – I was informed that 200 of them have not been able to benefit from the in-service programme to upgrade their level of education.

They request that the Government should help them to achieve this. They have not been able to upgrade because of the limited salary that they get. The secondary school teachers, especially those of the lower secondary, are facing challenges in implementing the lower secondary school curriculum, which was envisaged to provide hands-on practical skills to the learners. The Government does not offer adequate instructional materials to implement this very important curriculum.

Therefore, even if Government enhanced the salaries of the science teachers, most of them are still teaching theories in practicals. Government should review whether the reviewed curriculum is achieving the intended objective.

Further to that, Mr Speaker, our teachers are working under very poor conditions. Apart from the lack of housing facilities for them, most of their schools lack electricity and water. Toilet facilities – as one honourable member has observed, our teachers are sharing latrines with the learners; there is no privacy and this *—(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

5.07

MS SYLVIA NAYEBALE (NRM, Woman Representative, Gomba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for the statement made. Honourable minister, I request the Government to deliberately start making payments to those schools that it has taken up as government-aided schools. It has been a challenge in places where Government took up schools. Recently in my district, we had one of our private individuals who came back and closed the school as the term was going to start because the Government did not commit to its payment.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, as we celebrate Teacher's Day – I thought Hon. Sarah would hint on it – it would also be very good for the Government to deliberately apprehend those teachers that push our children, especially the young girls, into bad acts. What is done these days is that when a teacher is got molesting

or doing something bad to a child from this school, they are transferred to another school and they move with those bad manners and habits.

I think Government should start apprehending these teachers. When they find in the records that you have issues of being a molester or having engaged in sexual assault, they should withdraw your teaching licence.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I guided you several times that: Do not listen to voices on the side because they take you off track. It can be a tactic for an honourable colleague to disorganise you. Also, our *Hansard* will look bad. You see, the only voice recorded is that one on the microphone. Someone will think: Was this man quarrelling with himself? (*Laughter*) This is because on the record, they are not recording submissions of the colleague who is on the side. Also, when an honourable colleague is submitting, let us not interrupt because, at least, if any of us is interrupted, we can go off track.

5.09

MR WILLIAM MUSEVENI (Independent, Buwekula South County, Mubende): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My issue is on salary disparities, especially between the science teachers and arts teachers. The teachers are bothered. You can see the ministry is quiet, but the issue is very serious among teachers. They are complaining bitterly. So, tomorrow, as we celebrate their day, the main celebrant will be the President, who increased the salary for science teachers. Let him also solve the issue of salary for arts teachers. They are doing the same job. They are doing a lot to this nation. They are going through the same situation. Let their salary also be increased and we have peace and the sector moves well –(*Interjection*) Protect me, Mr Speaker; I am becoming another victim.

Mr Speaker, that is my major issue. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Waako? Oh, my Woman MP is a teacher – Mitooma. Yes. So, Hon. Waako first and, then, Hon. Bashiisha.

5.10

MS PEGGY WAAKO (NRM, Older Persons' Representative, Female): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I also join my colleagues in thanking the minister for the statement she has just presented to us. Actually, I am what I am because my mother was a teacher. Otherwise, I wouldn't have studied. So, I respect teachers so much.

Mr Speaker, our teachers are the most disadvantaged persons; they are the lowest-paid civil servants. I remember that in the past, around the 60s and 70s, the districts used to give out bursaries to the pure students and those pure students, who got bursaries then, are now the professors and the "big people" in the country. How I wish Government could also start a scheme for these teachers – for their children – to get bursaries because they earn very little money. If their children were to get bursaries, it would assist them.

I wish to submit. Thank you.

5.12

MS JULIET BASHIISHA (NRM, Woman Representative, Mitooma): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am also congratulating teachers, especially the primary school teachers. When I was doing my master's degree, I did a thesis on the challenges of primary school teachers and their services. What I found out is long and I cannot discuss it here. However, I want to give some of the challenges they are facing now, especially the primary school teachers.

Tomorrow, when you go to all those celebrations, you will find that primary school teachers are the only ones in the celebrations, despite the low salaries they are getting. I was a secondary school teacher; I know the privileges.

I am not saying that secondary school teachers are happy, but they are better. Do you know

that there are some teachers who work part-time in five schools and are secondary school teachers, something which a primary school teacher cannot do?

There are some teachers in secondary schools who supply the schools with stationery. A primary school teacher cannot. Unfortunately, there are those who are earning Shs 550,000, honourable minister. Many of them are earning that. There is a school, Mr Speaker, in your constituency, called Kibungo Primary School. The head teacher has a small mattress and sleeps in the office. I was there last year.

Lastly, there is a big challenge – I am actually bringing a petition. I have already talked to the Minister of Public Service. When I was still a teacher, I would get my per diem; out-of-station allowance. But now, twice, there are schools in my constituency, which have been taking children for music, dance and drama (MDD).

Last year, they were in Kyotera. This year, they were in Hoima for seven days; five teachers, but they received not even a single coin. I am the one who gave them some money for supper. I am bringing a petition – let these people have out-of-station allowance, because I used to get it. Teachers are all teachers; let us not discriminate against primary school teachers. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kaaya?

5.15

MS CHRISTINE KAAYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Kiboga): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and thank you, for giving the matter that urgency it needed. Thank you, honourable minister for the urgent statement.

All of us in our respective professions are looking at teachers to instil environmental management practices in our children, and all of you in your respective professions are praying that teachers instil these practices.

Mr Speaker, we would like to use this day to appreciate teachers. We would like to see the ministry appreciating teachers at different

levels. Different teachers at different levels face different challenges. If you interface with teachers in the technical institutes, you will wonder; they have a lot of challenges.

We commemorate the day, the challenges they face and the President was not happy with their lamentations, yet, I feel, this is the day for bringing out these issues such that they give you work and decisions on the plans ahead.

I am also calling on all of us here; many of us are parents, but when we go schools, we mind about the welfare of children, and little is checked as far as teachers' welfare is concerned. Very many teachers have upgraded, but their salaries are not upgraded.

You find that very many teachers' payrolls are in another school and on-site teachers are in other schools and the respect for the on – *(Member timed out)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since you are the one who raised the issue, and you made us get the statement, conclude.

MS KAAYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker for the additional time. I have also observed the issue of payrolls. You find that teachers allocated on a certain school payroll are not existent in that school, and when the time for payment comes, these teachers' pay allegiance to the head teacher of the school where their names occur and appear and you find that the respect exacerbated by the challenge of arts and science teachers, becomes very eminent.

Mr Speaker, on the issue of seed schools which have been established by natives, for example, Rwamata Seed School: Natives have suffered with these schools for the last three years, looking out for children, but when Government is taking it on, there are no promises for retaining any teacher, regardless of whether members of Parliament have approved some of these teachers. They do have the necessary requirements, but Government is promising to advertise all posts, no consideration for native teachers, yet they have the required professions.

I encourage all of us to advocate that some of our native teachers are incorporated in these schools, not to bring alien faces in the districts when we also have educated ones. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable member.

Colleagues, according to Rule 52(2) of the Rules of Procedure, *“A statement made by a minister may be debated provided that such a debate shall not exceed one hour.”* We have used one hour; your rules stop me. I cannot do much about it but I have identified you; we have the one for fuel coming up, another interesting and critical one, which I want us to debate. I know the faces: Hon. Noeline and Hon. Byarugaba. So, colleagues, I am going to give you a chance to do that. Here, the rules stop me. I cannot do much about that. Leader of the Opposition? Hon. Noeline, you will forgive me. I am going to give you an opportunity on the next one.

5.19

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Mathias Mpuuga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I appreciate my shadow minister for the alertness that aroused the minister’s curiosity to finally say something about Teachers’ Day.

Secondly, the theme of the day must have been chosen by a politician, not a teacher. The theme that says: “The teachers we need for the education we want” must have been a choice of a politician. If you had asked the teachers to choose the theme –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The politician who is a teacher. *(Laughter)*

MR MPUUGA: I am not so sure, probably some politicians prompting her for the theme. The teachers could have chosen differently; maybe something like; “The Government we need and the appreciation we deserve” - something like that. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, I spent three years at the school of education, two years in post-graduate school

of economics and four years in law school. So, education was my first love and I am a son of a teacher. This is a no-thank-you profession, to which all of us must feel a huge duty to promote and protect.

In the yesteryears, to be able to speak to the people and they listen, you were either a teacher, a lawyer or a religious leader. But these days, teachers have been relegated to the backyard, which comes from how politicians treat them.

With your indulgence, I challenge the minister, that before we consider her next policy statement, she should come out and clearly articulate to the House, the plight of teachers because discrimination is affecting the quality of education and we know it. No education system is better than the quality of the teachers. Take an example, Mr Speaker, when somebody works in the ministry and enters with a diploma, and upgrades to a degree, they get promotion. So, you are either a head teacher or deputy, or a classroom teacher. Why have you not thought outside the box about the teaching profession like other careers?

I challenge the minister to go and read our Alternative Policy Statement on education. Before you become a government, pick some ideas that can keep this country going so that we do not inherit a dead, discriminated sector. Look at it; we are offering very good counselling for you, please pick the counsel and restructure this sector properly.

Mr Speaker, I congratulate teachers on their day and I hope all of us in our communities, speak well about them, protect them from attack, from all manner of people; Resident District Commissioners (RDCs) who are half-baked attacking teachers; you really wonder. It is our duty to protect teachers in our work here in Parliament for the good of this country because the nation is because of the teachers. Thank you. I congratulate the teachers for their work.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, LoP. Honourable minister, you have two minutes.

You do not need to go through each and every issue.

5.23

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Allow me, first and foremost, to appreciate you for the great respect you have accorded our teachers by amending the Order Paper to allow Members to contribute all this time. This is a sign that Members of Parliament cherish and love our teachers. Indeed, our teachers are heroes. Thank you, Members, for your contribution. *(Applause)*

Secondly, I may not be able to respond to all these issues like you said, but I request that we receive these contributions. These have been very constructive contributions that are useful to shape the teaching profession and the ministry as far as issues of the teaching profession are concerned. So, we will receive this abstract and at an appropriate time, we shall respond to some of them where need be.

Having said that, allow me to highlight two issues: First, the teaching profession, as the Ministry of Education and Sports has indicated several times, is under reform because this is a noble profession. We want this profession to be standardised and valued. Indeed, as many have said, this is a profession that has shaped the nation.

Mr Speaker, we have made reforms. One of them is the national teacher policy which will come on the Floor of Parliament at an appropriate time.

One of the critical issues which has been talked about is salary. I may not say much but concerning the SACCO, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development can give us a better position. Otherwise, we are aware that Shs 20 billion was a presidential pledge for the private teachers through the Microfinance Support Centre. I wish the finance ministry could respond because all of us are looking at this money reaching the intended beneficiary.

There are quite a number of issues ranging from recruitment, deployment and hard-to-reach areas. Mr Speaker, I may not respond to all these, but allow me to receive this contribution as I said and at an appropriate time, we will certainly give a response to some of them in this House.

By and large, this has been a voice for our teachers. It was loud and clear; a lot of appreciation. Members have pointed out where there is need for correction. I would like to thank you, Members.

I wish the teachers were following this discussion – Some of them certainly are trying to follow on TV and others. We would like to wish teachers a very happy celebration. Thank you and may God bless you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chairperson of the committee, you will follow up these matters. Honourable minister, I have one issue: Can you speak about the deployment of the teachers you recruited?

DR MORIKU: Mr Speaker, these are teachers for secondary education; they were recruited last financial year. We recruited over 3,000 teachers and half of these were deployed. Those who were recruited received their letters of appointment; however, they could not be deployed because of shortage of finances.

This financial year, there was an allocation – I do not have the figures – but half of them are already deployed. Some are still not deployed because the finances cannot allow it. I would like to pledge that I will get correct information because it has been in a stepwise manner. The recruitment was not all-at-once deployment because of resource constraints.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next week, you will update the House.

DR MORIKU: Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Next item?

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES AND
IMPLEMENTATION ON GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCE TO STABILISE FUEL
PRICES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, this fuel issue is a general one; so, we shall allow the debate to accommodate the current issues since we have the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development here. He will answer some of your questions about the fuel sector.

Hon. Ssekitooleko is representing the chairperson. You have 10 minutes to present the report.

5.28

MR ROBERT SSEKITOLEEKO (NUP, Bamunanika County, Luwero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay the report of the Committee on Government Assurance and Implementation under rule 34. Under Rule 34(2), I will give a brief of the report.

This is the report of the Committee on Government Assurance and Implementation on Government assurance to stabilise fuel prices. I beg to lay. I beg to lay the minutes of the meeting of the Committee on Government Assurance and Implementation.

This report is already uploaded on Members' iPads. I will use limited time to give space for discussion.

Mr Speaker, I am representing the committee chairperson who has other duties. Under rule 179, this committee is entitled to –

1. Record and scrutinise the assurances, promises and undertakings given by any minister, the Prime Minister, President and Vice President in the House from time to time;
2. Monitor and evaluate the fulfilment of Government assurances;

3. Exercise –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, we know the work of the committee; so, go to observations and recommendations because it is Parliament which created the committee.

MR SSEKITOLEEKO: Much obliged, Mr Speaker.

Findings

The committee observes that the current management arrangement of the national strategic fuel reserves at Jinja Storage Terminal (JST), through a joint venture between UNOC and the consortium has been characterised by several devastations and inconsistencies from the original agreement highlighted in the committee's findings. This raises concerns and may comprise UNOC's ability to effectively execute its mandate.

The committee further observes that under the current management arrangement, the National Strategic Fuel Reserves at JST are primarily used by the Government of Uganda, through UNOC and the consortium, to do business (trade in fuel).

The committee recommends that a forensic audit be undertaken by the Auditor-General into the management and operation of the JST with the view of ruling out the possibilities of fraud and mismanagement of funds provided by the Government of Uganda to UNOC, the revenue that accrues from bulk purchases by the Government of Uganda and the revenue remitted by the consortium.

A report in respect to this should be submitted to Parliament within three months from the time the committee report is adopted by Parliament.

The committee observes that Government's intervention to tackle escalating pump prices by addressing challenges associated with the import routes alone have not been able to stabilise pump prices. Also, whereas the Government of Uganda recognises the

National Strategic Fuel Reserves as being vital to the stability and normalisation of the fuel retailing prices through cushioning the market from sudden price escalations, no funds have been allocated towards stocking the Strategic Fuel Reserves at the JST.

The committee recommends that the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should allocate funds equivalent to 30 million litres of fuel in the budget for Financial Year 2023/2024 to facilitate stocking of fuel reserves at the JST. Else, Government should admit its failure to stabilise fuel prices and withdraw this assurance as provided for under Rule 180(1) of the 2021 Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

In conclusion, the Government pledged to stabilise the retail of fuel prices through a number of interventions which have up to now failed to tackle the problem. The Government also recognised that the National Strategic Fuel Reserves contribute to stability and normalisation of fuel retailing prices through cushioning the market from sudden price escalations but no funds by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to stock the fuel reserves at JST. Instead, the National Strategic Fuel Reserves at JST are mainly used by UNOC and the consortium to trade in fuel with OMCs across the country.

In general, the Government of Uganda has failed in its responsibility to maintain the National Strategic Reserves as required by Section 35 of the Petroleum Supply Act, 2003, hence compromising the stability of the country's petroleum supply. As a result, Ugandans continue to endure high pump prices, one year since Government promised to arrest the problem.

The committee duly established that the Government assurances to stabilise retail fuel prices has not been fulfilled, as described in the table below.

Status and timeliness of the Government Assurance.

a) Assurance – To stabilise retail fuel prices

b) Status of implementation – Not fulfilled

c) Time lag – One year.

I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Ssekitoleeko, for your maiden report; well done. (*Applause*) Honourable member, when you were presenting the report, for the record, I just want it to be cleared, you referred this report under rule 34, but it should be rule 179. Rule 34 is about field visits and this was assurance under rule 179.

Honourable Minister, I would like you to make a clarification on a simple matter before we can open the debate so that we are well guided.

5.38

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (ENERGY) (Mr Sidronius Okaasai):

Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I would like to appreciate the report as presented by the committee. However, I want to point out a few things and clarify to inform the debate, such that we talk from an informed point of view:

1. Uganda operates a liberalised downstream petroleum market, where pump prices are determined by the forces of demand and supply, as guided by the Petroleum Supply Act, 2003, this bylaw, and Petroleum Supply General Regulations, 2009, with amendments of 2012 and 2018.

Being a net importer, Uganda petroleum product prices are subject to global market prices and these are fundamental issues. As a country, we are receivers not producers; we are not suppliers either. Therefore, we are actually price takers.

2. Uganda is currently supplied with petroleum products through Malaba, Busia, Mutukula and through Lake Victoria with products loaded from Kisumu Oil Jetty in Kenya over Lake Victoria using a barge that discharges the products into Mahathi Infra terminal in Kawuku near Entebbe.

3. We have continued over time to engage with Kenya and Tanzania, through which we import our petroleum products and that monthly discussion, has assured us the continuity of supply.

This is very important and we have had these incidents where the fuel supplies to Uganda are threatened and the ministry actually intervenes to ensure the stability of it. Therefore, we should emphasise that we need to have fuel coming into Uganda.

The country has also been well supplied in the various routes of Kenya and Tanzania. I would like to point out that we have established an association of the oil marketing companies in Uganda. They are not operating as individuals; they are now operating as an association and the supply is influenced by the association and also the prices are checked through the association and we are partnering with them as a ministry.

Furthermore, I will give you examples of how we are stabilising the fuel prices. The highest price of petroleum products – we witnessed it in July 2022, where the fuel prices went as high as Shs 6,590 for petrol and Shs 6,313 for diesel prices.

The Government through the ministry has actually been bringing this price down and by December 2022, we managed to bring the prices of petrol from that high Shs 6,000 to Shs 5,379. This shows that we are actually impacting and checking on the prices and bringing them down; and diesel was Shs 5,582. These prices continued coming down and the lowest we have ever registered, since the spike of fuel prices, was in July 2023, when the prices were as low as Shs 4,970 for petrol from over Shs 6,000. So, it is erroneous for us to say the Government has failed in its obligations of checking the fuel prices.

I will also give you an example: I will tell you how the fuel prices have actually moved across the region in the recent past; in Tanzania, Dar-es-Salaam, Mombasa and then Kampala. Then, you will be able to see what Government is doing about this. The prices I am going to quote

are actually converted into Uganda Shillings, but I can also tell you the prices in the various countries, and various points.

On 15 September 2023, the fuel prices, for example, petrol in Dar es Salaam was an equivalent of Shs 4,889. If you look at what was in Mombasa, it was the equivalent of Shs 5,305. As you come towards the border of Uganda, you would actually realise the prices were going higher. In Nairobi, the price was Shs 5,060 (equivalent to Uganda shillings). When you get to Eldoret, the price was Shs 5,391, but when you come to Kampala, the price was Shs 5,000.

The trucks from Kenya –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Conclude, honourable minister.

MR OKAASAI: The trucks from Kenya actually come with empty tanks and fuel from Uganda to make the return trip. So, it means we are checking the prices.

Mr Speaker, I think the report is erroneous. It is not that Government has failed to check the prices; the Government is doing everything possible to ensure a constant supply of fuel. We are also checking the prices of fuel and we are competitive in the region. I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, the tricky part of it is how you start and then how you conclude. You first showed that these are global issues, and you are not in control. Then after, you showed us that you are the one who has brought the prices down. I think that is what causes confusion in between. Nonetheless, thank you; this is a very good update.

Now, honourable colleagues, such a report is for information purposes. You cannot make a resolution and say that Parliament resolved that Government has failed to stabilise fuel prices. Which action would you take on such a report? So, let us debate with the view of not blaming anyone, but of making proposals. On top of what Government has done, what do

we think it can do? That is a debate that adds value, not a debate of blaming.

Hon. Tom, you are a member of the committee. I will allow you to give information because you have been here for a long time. I will first pick those that have not spoken and have been here. Use two minutes each.

5.40

MS NOELINE KISEMBO (NRM, Woman Representative, Kibaale): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I thank the Committee on Government Assurance for their report. The issue of raising fuel prices is a legitimate concern and it affects all the citizens of this country. When fuel prices rise, they trigger the rise in prices of most essential commodities because of increased transport costs.

In this, it is the farmers who suffer most, and this is the category of most of the people we represent in this House. We have experienced an increase in prices of soap, sugar, and other essential commodities because of increased transport costs. Unfortunately, when this happens, the prices of farm produce remain relatively stable.

This means the farmer will be denied the limited household income that they can use for other things, since they are spending so much on essential commodities.

So, I want to ask the Government; is it not possible to make deliberate efforts to expand the fuel reserves? This is so that when we have such shortages, Government comes in to improve the supply of fuel in order for the prices not to escalate. I thank you.

5.50

MR NATHAN BYANYIMA (NRM, Bukanga North County, Isingiro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like the minister to address himself to the current taxes on fuel all over the region. Our taxes are low. Kenya was almost striking because their taxes are high. Our fuel prices are still high, looking at the taxes.

We are saying that when you look at the prices all over Kampala – even the whole country – you will find that Shell and Total have high prices. They claim that they have better fuel. Aren't we supposed to have good fuel in Uganda? Aren't we supposed to have regular fuel? We are supposed to have good fuel.

At the same time, I know Shell and Total have overhead costs because they have big offices; they have MDs and retail managers, while some of these people bring fuel. However, the most important thing is the tax that we have on fuel. I think it is for the Government – If the tax that we have on our fuel was being put to good use – for instance, the 10th Parliament put Shs 100 on fuel, and the money should have gone to maintenance of the roads, but you denied the roads the money. So, we are not benefitting from that increase in prices because people are managing.

However, they are now coming to a stage where they are not able to manage.

Some of us who have been in the army normally say, "Failing to take a decision at a decisive moment is criminal." We shall be criminals very soon because we cannot serve the people we have. The people cannot manage. They are desperate all over because of this fuel business and cannot run businesses.

We cannot break even in the transport sector; so, what will happen in the future? I would not like the Government to have excuses. We are supposed to take care of the people's interests and ensure people live within their means.

5.52

MS HELLEN WANDERA (NRM, Woman Representative, Busia): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mine is on supply and demand. I think while the prices are escalating, there is a high demand compared to supply.

Secondly, I am going to talk about competition. While we have these prices increasing – I come from the border and sometimes, I sleep in Kenya and in the morning, I return to Uganda. So, I know the prices of fuel both in Kenya and

Uganda. I think the problem is also competition since these are privately-owned fuel stations.

Just like my brother said, there is a problem with consumer perception; some people prefer particular fuel stations like Total and Shell. For example, I fuel my car from either Total fuel stations or Shell fuel stations. You find that their fuel prices are very high, but we still prefer them for having better quality fuel compared to other fuel stations.

Finally, I request that we put in place laws and regulations, governing the fuel prices in Uganda. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kazini?

5.53

MR FRANCIS KAZINI (NRM, Buhaguzi County, Kikuube): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity; Hon. Ssekitoleeko for the statement and; honourable minister for the updates.

Fuel prices are affecting every Ugandan, including us the leaders. Some of us have even failed to access our constituencies because of the long distances that require much fuel.

However, I would like to advise that:

First, the Government should at least reduce taxes on fuel operators so that they can also reduce the price.

Secondly, it is only in Uganda where fuel stations sell their fuel at different prices. There are districts with limited fuel stations; they take advantage of no competition and sell their fuel at a price they determine.

The Government should put uniform prices for fuel countrywide. With that, we can do better. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us give honourable colleagues who have not spoken chance to speak. Honourable member, here we use a microphone. *(Laughter)*

5.55

MR ENOCK NYONGORE (NRM, Nakaseke North County, Nakaseke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the report on fuel prices.

My question is that much as we appreciate that some of these factors that are raising fuel prices in Uganda could be foreign or global, in this particular case, I want to understand if it was a global one, they should get us statistics from other countries. If it is not, then other factors like refining, profit distribution, marketing or taxes – I would like the minister to attribute the increase on the listed factors, so that we understand more about this hike in the fuel prices. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

5.56

MR MAXIMUS OCHAI (NRM, West Budama County North, Tororo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. I would like to thank the committee for the report presented and the minister for the statement in response.

My point is on the impact of fuel prices on inflation. You said that this report is for information purpose, but when I look at it, I do not see the extent to which it is informative. How I wish this report delved into economic analysis of inflation.

We all know that low and stable inflation is good for growth and therefore, income and poverty reduction. High and escalating prices are bad for growth. Can the minister, therefore, give us additional information, to prove what he says that our fuel prices are stable – so that we are able to know whether we have any economic gain after these managed fuel prices? I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I saw the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Treasury giving the economic outlook and the latest inflation figures, showing that Uganda has been the best in the region. What we are left with is translating it into direct impact on

the people because if inflation in Kenya for example, is at nine per cent, but their lending rates are at 12 per cent and inflation in Uganda is at three per cent and our lending rates are at 20 per cent, it is a huge mismatch. These are the issues we need to look into. Hon. Timuzigu? Who is ready? Honourable colleagues, I am going to give all of you chance.

5.58

MR MICHAEL TIMUZIGU (NRM, Kajara County, Ntungamo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank the chairperson who presented the report and the minister who indicated that Uganda is doing well.

However, I would like to mention that fuel is a strategic resource. With lower prices of fuel, business people make profit and that profit inspires them to remain in business and even start more business.

Honourable minister, we need to do more than that so that we have a better environment for business, well knowing that our country is landlocked.

Lastly, the recommendation on page 15 that the Government should give Shs 330 million for 30 million litres – it is a good recommendation, but I would like to add that the Government should consider fuel to be a strategic resource for Uganda. We are a landlocked country and we use a lot of fuel to transport our commodities from Mombasa to Uganda and the entire country.

I beg to submit, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

6.00

MR RAUBEN ARINAITWE (Independent, Isingiro West County, Isingiro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would also like to thank the chairperson of the committee for the report and the minister for the statement.

First, my concern is on the quality. I think we get all our petroleum products from one source. However, when you go to different fuel

stations, they have varying prices. So, I wonder whether the quality is different or the same.

Secondly, I would like to know from the minister; we have our reserves in Jinja Storage Terminal. When fuel prices are high in the world, why don't we use our storage terminal to stabilise our fuel prices?

Lastly, I would like to talk about electricity and solar. When you compare the entire population, very few people use them for light at their households. Most of them use kerosene. So, whatever we are talking about, we are not mentioning kerosene. Regarding the reserves, you are recommending 20 million litres of diesel and 10 million of petrol. We are not considering kerosene which is used by many poor people in our population. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Rauben, I would like to give you information. The quality of fuel is not the same. I fuelled my car in one of the best fuel stations and it failed to ignite.

We all know that. Honourable member, that is not how they behave in Parliament. *(Laughter)*

Honourable minister, how is this happening? Why are some companies very clear; either Shell fuel stations or Total fuel stations, beyond that trouble? I was with one minister; he fuelled his car, but that very moment, the engine warned him about little fuel. However, there are some companies making fuel out of burning tyres. Yes, they burn tyres, make fuel and supply to companies.

One of them is my neighbour at one of my facilities in Matugga. It took the intervention of NEMA; people around had petitioned me because people would wake up in the morning with black stuff in their noses.

You complain, but no one wants to touch them; you hear about someone big they would say; "It belongs to so-and-so in Government." However much I complained.

I run a factory nearby, but by morning all products are black, people breathing in fuel – just here in Matugga on Nkoma Close.

I became tough and that is when NEMA came in and closed them – some Chinese company. These old tyres that you see, are burnt, they make fuel out of it and then they go and blend it in petrol stations.

So, if he has around 60 litres of clean fuel and he blends it with 40 from dirty fuel, yet he has a government licence, as an investor. And when you complain to Government officials nothing is done, that is why we have bad fuel. Honourable minister, it is going on.

I am told that there is another one in Jinja. So, honourable minister, I can volunteer to drive and show you the place because even NEMA knows it; this is not just street talk.

Honourable members, I am first picking colleagues who have been here with us and have not spoken and then after, I am going to do a round of you. There is a lot of jam outside; so, I am going to give you enough- we can be here doing Government business. *(Laughter)* We have refreshments in the canteen in case you are-

6.05

MR ABRAHAM ISAMAT (NRM, Kapingiri County, Ngora): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the honourable minister for the report and more so thanking him for outlining the factors that have caused the increase in the price of fuel.

However, it is important to note that this particular issue we are discussing is critical for the survival of our economy and its stability. If the fuel issue is not handled properly, we are going to be in a crisis.

In my area, access to service delivery is now a big problem. I would like to appreciate MPs who have so far- out of their own good hearts given ambulances and others.

However, even with those ambulances that are helping our communities, accessing health services is a big challenge because even before they put fuel in the vehicles, people do not have money.

And then also, movement of goods has become very expensive. And so, all these issues impact on our lives –*(Member timed out.)*

6.07

DR JOSEPH RUYONGA (NRM, Hoima West Division, Hoima City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to also appreciate the Committee on Government Assurance and the minister for trying to explain what is happening about the fuel prices in this country.

In this Parliament, we complained about the raising of school fees in private and public schools, but we did not try to analyse the causes.

Now, it is coming up here that the prices are still very high and there is no way the private schools can reduce the school fees.

However, we have fuel reserves, but there is no stock. If we do not plan, we shall continue having this problem. Those fuel reserves which are in Jinja should always be stocked with fuel.

And I think those people dealing in fuel are doing very good business because whenever I go to Hoima, in almost every year, they are constructing a new petrol station. In other words, we have fuel in plenty, but we are failing to control the prices. I beg to submit.

6.08

MR TOM BRIGHT (NRM, Kyaka Central County, Kyegegwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Much as we talk about prices, there is also an element of hoarding. Many businessmen may hoard the fuel in order to make a fortune.

The ministry needs to start inspecting and checking out those who are hoarding fuel. For example, you can go to Jinja and find fuel, but they will tell you the fuel is not for the Government, but for a businessman; what does

it mean? There is somebody who is making abnormal profits behind our expenses. Thank you.

6.09

MR ANDREW OULANYAH (NRM, Omoro County, Omoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rose up on a point of concern because for all the different sectors where Government has keen interest, we have intervened – Whether it is private or public.

For the issue of fuel, we cannot have an arm's distance and say, "No, this one is a private player." We need to step in as Government. I want, in a very respectful way, to call our minister to order. We cannot distance ourselves from intervening as Government.

We cannot wait for the prices to come down; even if it means cutting down the taxes, let us do it. Let us do something so that it has a ripple effect on the whole economy. Thank you very much.

6.10

MS CATHELINE NDAMIRA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kabale): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also appreciate the report by the minister on fuel, but I would also like the minister to interest himself on the disparity of fuel prices. I do not know how quality is being handled in Uganda because the moment you go for the cheapest price, then you face challenges.

Minister, why is it that in Uganda, prices are not the same? Shell has its own, Total – and then, there are some other petrol stations, which you cannot mention here. Do we have a regulatory body that is regulating the prices in our country?

I think that we are being suffocated and especially Masaka to Mbarara; I think these people are targeting Western Uganda. I do not know why, because the moment you go to that area, petrol stations are like shops now.

Do you have a regulatory body to regulate these business people on prices and quality of what

we are supposed to be taking in as a country? Thank you.

6.12

MR BASHIR LUBEGA (NRM, Mubende Municipality, Mubende): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also add my voice to the issue of quality of petroleum products. But specifically, I would like to underscore the issue of adulteration of petroleum products.

Mr Speaker, when the price of kerosene is low, for example, you even find trucks by the roadside – like if you come to Mubende – and people are siphoning fuel. They also add kerosene or diesel to petrol. Do you know what that means? People who know some elementary mechanics know what paraffin does to rubber. It goes into your ignition system and burn all the rubber seals and everything and you can lose your vehicle.

So, is the minister also interested in that area, where petroleum firms and dealers adulterate the products? Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Opendi?

6.13

MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to appreciate the committee and to note that this report arose out of the Government assurances – a statement made by the minister on the Floor, assuring us of the commitment in handling the challenge. However, I note from the report that the minister's statement does not give us the efforts the Government has made in dealing with the challenge, but rather –(*Interjection*)- I am looking at the uploaded statement, which was signed by Hon. Nankabirwa. What the minister focused on was telling us about the stable supply. Yes, the supply has been stable, but you are not giving us the means or what the Government is doing to resolve the issue of the increase in prices.

I note that the minister attempted to indicate that the pump price or the prices per tonne at

the international level increased from four per cent, for petrol, to eight per cent per tonne.

However, what I would like to state is that the issue of fuel reserves cannot be overlooked. It is something that we must focus on and have in place, Uganda being a landlocked country. Our forefathers who planned for that knew that Uganda is landlocked and we cannot afford to do away with it.

Lastly, I would like to agree with the committee that if Cabinet made the decision to give \$30 million to UNOC to have a reserve –(*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You know, honourable member, we have timelines set for everyone. Hon. Kabanda, Hon. Kahonda and then, Dr Bukenya.

6.15

MR DAVID KABANDA (NRM, Kasambya County, Mubende): Thank you, Mr Speaker –(*Members rose*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, why the panic? You are the people who want to speak and run away. (*Laughter*)

MR KABANDA: Mr Speaker, mine was on the issue of reserves and it was mentioned by Hon. Reuben. So, I am covered.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kahonda?

6.16

MR DONONZIO KAHONDA (NRM, Ruhinda South County, Mitooma): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committee. However, I find the minister's statement wanting. Other than the reasons he has given, for the general increase internationally, he has not given us the local factors associated with the increase in fuel here in Uganda. Honourable minister, I expected you to clarify on that.

Hon. Bright has talked of hoarding. We have had this experience, even with other

commodities and at the end of the day, the prices are increasing day by day. This is because the Government tends not to have control over this.

Mr Speaker, if there is a lacuna in the law, we need to cure it. We have got the petroleum authority, but I do not know its work. We have the Petroleum Supply Act, 2003. Probably, we need to revisit the law and cure this.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, you referred to one of the Chinese companies that burn tyres, but there is also another Chinese company in Maya, on Masaka Road, that buys used oil. They get fuel, especially diesel, and supply it to the fuel stations. As a result, vehicles, especially the powerful ones, cannot ignite. We need to cure this and the minister should actually guide this country in addressing these concerns. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kahonda, the petroleum authority which we created has the role of monitoring and regulating oil exploration. It is to do with the new oil sector, not to do with prices. The minister has an arrangement under his ministry – maybe he can elaborate better on how they control this.

However, the issue of reserves is a very serious one because you can have a stable supply, but we have ever been beaten. Remember? Once beaten, twice shy. So, the issue of reserves, honourable minister, needs very serious attention.

Dr Bukenya?

6.18

DR MICHAEL BUKENYA (NRM, Bukuya County, Kassanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity. I would like to thank Hon. Ssekitoleeko for the report and I wish to inform you of the issue you have just talked about. In my other life, I am a pastor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: When did you become one? (*Laughter*)

DR BUKENYA: You just did not know. Apparently, the Bible – Matthew 25:1-13 – talks about the 10 virgins who were waiting for the groom. Five were prepared, while the other five were not. So, the five missed the wedding when they had gone to look for fuel by the way, surprisingly. This is a very Christian Government – the NRM Government – but it does not learn from the Bible. The minister intentionally dodged talking about the strategic reserves – not referring to the other 10 virgins in the Bible. I would like to task the minister, through you, to come and talk about the strategic reserves as we finish our debate.

Secondly, I also have relatives in Rwanda. I know it is a small country. Recently, I visited and saw that the fuel prices are the same from border to border, but here in Uganda, in Kampala alone, every station – even if it is owned by the same company by the way – charges its own. If a company is called “Byanyima” – because I do not want to mention the other name. If it is called “Byanyima Nathan” - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, honourable colleagues, you have seen when you are a pastor and at the same time a gynaecologist, you discover verses on virgins in the Bible. *(Laughter)*

Hon. Muwuma, Hon. Mariam Naigaga – *(Member rose)* – but shadow minister, why do you panic so much? Is Parliament going away? I cannot close such a topic without a shadow minister contributing – and you should come at the end.

6.20

MR MILTON MUWUMA (NRM, Kigulu County South, Iganga): Mr Speaker, I want to, first, agree with one of the recommendations made by the committee to do with additional funding. However, I feel that the issue of having a forensic audit is not going to help in any way and I request the House that it is not adopted. It will not help in what we are trying to solve.

Mr Speaker, I heard the minister, attentively moreover, saying, “Yes we are operating a liberalised economy, it is true, but we shall not liberalise Ugandans.” Fuel is a basic necessity and a commodity that we need. So, when you say you cannot do much as the Government and then say that the Government has done a lot; honourable minister, you are hitting yourself in one way or another.

However, help the Ugandans by addressing the issue of monitoring what is happening in the fuel sector. You have done a lot in energy, but on the issue of petrol and diesel, you have totally left Ugandans in the hands of crooks.

This morning, I moved from Mukono and passed by over 12 petrol stations – *(Laughter)* – Mr Speaker, the prices at these petrol stations differed so much, implying that the ministry has totally left Ugandans to whomever it may concern, as far as fuel prices are concerned. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Naigaga. On the issue of forensic audits, honourable members, I had warned you earlier on because I had a meeting with the Auditor-General. A forensic audit costs more than one billion for each that we order. What is funny is that the Auditor-General does not have that money in the budget; so, he has to go to that agency or MDA to raise the money to be investigated. They then say that they do not have it in their budget.

We have many forensic audits that we ordered and they are idle, so for it to be a forensic audit, we should have done an extremely thorough investigation and found that the issues are beyond our reach. We shall not do it the way we have done with many other issues. We should only make decisions and resolutions which are implementable.

Of course, during appropriation, we shall have to appropriate money to the Auditor-General for forensic audits in case we need some because we cannot avoid them. However, on such a matter, really? No way.

6.25

MS MARIAM NAIGAGA (NRM, Woman Representative, Namutumba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am a member of the committee and I want to give information, as you guided.

On 5 September 2023, the same minister, my brother, Hon. Okasaai, presented a report on the fuel crisis in this country, which we debated and the issue of the fuel reserves was the main action point. The Speaker guided that you come up with an action to put regional fuel reserves in this country.

Mr Speaker, as we moved around as a committee, we noted that the Jinja fuel reserve that we have as a country was rented out. The fuel in Jinja fuel reserve is owned by private people. The Government is not in charge, unlike the Prime Minister who has always assured Ugandans that they are in charge. Mr Speaker, that is the information I wanted to give.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable. Yes, Dr Opio.

6.26

DR SAMUEL OPIO (Independent, Kole North County, Kole): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank the Committee for the report.

Our fuel reserves were constructed in the seventies, with a capacity of 30 million litres, when the daily consumption of fuel was very low. Today, our daily consumption is 6.5 million litres of fuel per day, meaning the reserves can only last five days; that is about a week. In other words, what we have as fuel reserves is too small to stabilise prices. It may address shortages for a short time, but it cannot address price stabilisation.

The US, last year, released reserves for a period of six months, and they were able to stabilise prices of fuel and reduce them by a thousand shillings. So, we need to expand it.

Lastly, we need to come up with innovations. Honourable minister, last time you came up with innovations of energy-saving bulbs with

the high prices of electricity, and energy-saving stoves. Why don't we think of energy-saving vehicles in form of electric vehicles? It has been shown that it is 70 per cent cheaper to fuel an electric vehicle than a petrol or diesel-run vehicle. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

6.27

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join the rest in thanking the committee.

For some of us who drive very far, the fluctuating fuel prices have become a nightmare. Indeed, my car has got an engine knock twice from the funny petrol stations we have in this country. This is because when you take off, you can only put a hundred litres and they cannot take me up to Terego. So, you have to fuel on the way and you find the wrong fuel.

What is happening to this country? Do we have the right people who take measures to see to it that you Ugandans have value for money? The prices of fuel keep increasing on the way, and by the time you reach Arua, you find a totally different price.

If we had a train going up to Terego, even if it stopped in Pakwach, we would be grateful. What is happening? We do not have cable cars. When we go out of this country, we learn nothing, come back with nothing, and we still say that we are capable of running this country.

Drastic steps must be taken by this Parliament, to have real value for money. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you have been talking electric; how are we prepared with charging stations for electric vehicles, from what Dr Opio has said?

Hon. Oguzu Lee.

6.29

MR DENIS OGUZU LEE (FDC, Maracha County, Maracha): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The issue of fuel prices, I am sure is an issue for everybody in this House and the people of Uganda.

I want the minister to tell us about Uganda's energy transition plan. Brief us on how you want us to transition from fossil fuels to clean energy where we will not have these issues.

Tell this country how you are working with the finance ministry to strengthen the Ugandan Shilling, such that it is stronger against the US Dollar and can be able to fix some of these things.

During CHOGM, we invested through the Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) and we were able to provide facilities. Tell us how you are working with UDC to ensure investment in strategic areas like the fuel reserves, and how you are taking advantage of the public-private partnership to address this problem.

Brief this country on how you intend to take advantage of what other people are doing, in instituting a stabilisation fund, such that when prices are high, the fund can cushion, and when prices are low, something is added and there are always resources to fix those problems.

Honourable minister, I come from West Nile and my constituency borders the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Their fuel is Shs 3,300. You think you are raising money through taxes on fuel, but Ugandans are smuggling from DRC and you are losing all the tax.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, these are really good questions, but they cannot fit in the debate. When you ask for a transition policy – you have questions of this nature, I want to give them space on the Order Paper. Rule 42 of our Rules of Procedure; questions to ministers.

The minister needs to come here and explain in detail because these are questions, he needs to

consult his technical team on so that they can work out very good answers.

Honourable colleagues, if you would take advantage, I could give you space on the Order Paper because they sound very brilliant, and that is what we should be doing.

6.32

MR FRANCIS KATABAAZI (NUP, Kalungu East County, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committee for the report. I also thank the minister for the responses. The minister said they have done a lot to stabilise the prices, but I would like to know: how did the prices go up?

I remember there was a story of trucks at the border when the fuel price was Shs 3,200 and then it shot to Shs 6,000, and the reason was COVID-19 restrictions. From Shs 6,000, it has never come down to Shs 3,200 again. This means something funny happened. In fact, I suspect monopolistic competition that these companies enjoy have turned out to be cartels; they sit and say "Let us fix the price at this amount". This has been transfused into other economies around East Africa.

I am a member of the Committee on Defense and Internal Affairs and I had an opportunity to visit Somalia with the committee, but the pump price in Somalia is equivalent to Uganda Shs 1,400. The Somalis get fuel from Yemen. I would like to propose that the Government of the Republic of Uganda talks to Somalia. Maybe this is the reason we have very many Somali fuel companies here. There is a very big catch – *(Member timed out.)*

6.34

PROF. ELIJAH MUSHHEMEZA (Independent, Sheema County South, Sheema): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Recently, Parliament adopted a commission on competition, but the Executive rejected it. Of course, this commission would have also worked for consumer protection, but we missed that opportunity. After the Executive insisted, we settled for a technical committee under the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperative.

My advice is that in the short run, we prompt the President to assent to that law so that we can have that technical committee effective and empower it. In the medium-term, we also bring the Bill on consumer protection. This technical committee which will serve for both the competition law and the consumer protection will be empowered to crack down on these malpractices we have been pointing out. This will help us deal with these malpractices.

I also advise that we carry out a comparative study. The honourable minister pointed it out very briefly - sometimes we find it is not true; we just hear that Rwanda is cheaper. Let us have a detailed comparative study and we dismiss this notion that prices are different elsewhere. We cannot avoid issues of demand and supply and that is why I commend the issue of the reserves.

Mr Speaker, if the Uganda National Oil Company is controlling the reserves and the issue is supply, then we should release our reserves and deal with the matter of supply so that the demand can be balanced with supply. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Mushemeza and I am glad the Government never took the risky step of subsidies. Countries that went for subsidies are struggling and have choked their economies; they have tried to cancel the subsidies, but the impact has become even worse.

Hon. Mushemeza has guided very well. If we are comparatively within the range in the region - and - this is an issue we can tackle in the region, not only in Uganda which we think is isolated.

6.37

MS SYLVIA NAYEBALE (NRM, Woman Representative, Gomba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committee and the minister. The majority of my colleagues talked about financing the national strategic oil reserve and that exactly is where my point is.

Mr Speaker, under that point, there are two issues that I think are very pertinent. One is the reserves and two is that there is a point the ministry has deliberately ignored, though it was agreed upon by the Cabinet to be financed.

My question to the minister is why they did not put energy in financing the jetty pipeline system to connect the terminal to Lake Victoria and therefore, connect Uganda to Kisumu? Mr Speaker, as long as we have trucks coming in and bringing in fuel, there is no way we can avoid the issue of hoarding because Uganda will not have its own that is coming in and it will not be directly connected. Remember, Hon. Opendi said Uganda is landlocked.

When the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry visited that place, the people there indicated to the committee that we need to connect that jetty pipeline from Uganda to Kisumu so that we can have fuel flowing in. Cabinet accepted and tasked the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to give the UNOC \$8 million. But Mr Speaker, to our surprise, the finance ministry and energy ministry only gave Shs 12 billion to UNOC to do in trading and they did not prioritise the reserves and the construction of the jetty. Mr Speaker, this will leave us hanging and hoarding cannot be avoided.

Lastly, you talked a lot about quality, but this has perplexed –(*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, this is a very critical information. We shall need an answer. Hon. Nayebale's head was getting perplexed so let her take a break.

6.39

MS ROSEMARY NYAKIKONGORO (NRM, Woman Representative, Sheema): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Among the long-term issues I expected the minister to talk about is the long-awaited oil of our own country. The country has been anxious. Everyone thinks about our oil. We talk about stabilising the economy - it is our oil coming, but people are

asking when our oil is coming in so that we do not pay high prices of oil.

Perhaps, the minister should address Parliament about the status of the oil refinery and oil processes in Bunyoro region so that we are aware when we are getting our own oil.

We have continued to lament on this. So, I would like to ask, when are we getting our own oil in Uganda?

6.40

MR ALBERT LOKORU (NRM, Tepeth County, Moroto): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committee for the report. I also thank the minister for his statement. From the look of things, it is like we are constrained by external factors, as alluded to by our minister.

The question here is: how do we strike a balance now that we need fuel in this country without straining our poor people? Imagine a situation where you wake up and find the price of a litre of fuel has increased suddenly without any information.

Mr Speaker, UMEME usually informs the public about its planned shutdown, but in this case, the price of fuel has continued to rise as we observe. Is there a way the ministry can regulate this abrupt increase in the price of fuel? That will help our farmers -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The ministry should do a forecast.

MR LOKORU: Yes. Thank you very much.

6.41

MS SYLVIA BAHIREIRA (Independent, Woman Representative, Kamwenge): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the oil market, I get very impressed when I see some of our local oil companies trending in the market.

However, it is a pity to find that of late, the companies that are really coming so much, like Rubis and Stabex, originate from Kenya. You

sometimes find Ugandans buying fuel from those fuel stations rather than our own such as Bam among others.

Therefore, if we want to walk the talk of “Buy Uganda Build Uganda” (BUBU), we need to boost our own, here. It is not that the quality is bad, no.

We discussed it with the Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives here about the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), the oil in our own companies is also good, but we need to sensitise our people as MPs, that we need to walk the talk of BUBU. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Hon. Naye bale, regarding issues of quality by the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) is under your Committee on Tourism, Industry and Trade. What did you discover?

MS NAYEBALE: Yes, Mr Speaker. However, when we went there, I was perplexed, but the time.

We noted that UNBS does not have the capacity to verify across the country first of all, they were understaffed and the other financial year, they were given a budget, but they still lack capacity and professionalism, to do evaluations so that we have quality fuel.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kahonda-

MR KAHONDA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. When I was a member of the Committee on Public Accounts; we travelled to Busia and Malaba. One of the reasons that took us there was the issue of fuel.

We were so surprised when we interacted with UNBS at the border when they told us that their role there is on the volume of fuel, not quality. We presented it as a committee and it is on the record of Parliament. That is information I would like to share.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: HON. Kibaaju and then Hon. Francis Adome.

6.44

MS NAOME KIBAAJU (NRM, Sheema North County, Sheema): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the minister and also sympathise with him and indeed, Ugandans, because of the escalating fuel prices. Some of these are inevitable.

However, I would like to know why there are mushrooming petrol stations all over the country. Who is licensing them?

Secondly, these petrol stations are built in residential areas and it is so scary to see people who live around those places with oil and petrol tanks. You should be interested in these issues.

Thirdly, Uganda is experiencing a lot of traffic jam every day; most people are stranded on the roadside because they have run out of fuel for the day. People budget for the day's fuel, but at the end of the day, it runs out.

What is the next stage? They go and get a jerry can and run to the petrol station. It is a very dangerous practice for our country to see people running around with small jerry cans of fuel. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, it is even worse when you are a young gentleman and you are courting someone- It happened to my friend who was proposing to a potential girlfriend and he ran out of fuel –*(Laughter)*- I do not know whether Hon. Francis Adome survived this. I have grown up with him.

6.46

MR FRANCIS ADOME (NRM, Moroto Municipality, Moroto): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I thank the Minister for informing us about the stable supplies which is quite encouraging. However, I have noticed that we have a big challenge when it comes to regulation. If we have fuel supplied and we cannot regulate the dealers, then it does not make sense, given the fact that if you move from one place to another, where you expect fuel price to be higher, again, you find it low. Where do these people get fuel yet they go through these systems?

As a Government, we need to be extremely strict, because we seem to be in a situation where there is a clique of people who are managing these prices of fuel. These are people who are above what we debate here and that is why we are not in a position to bring them to book. It would be better to focus on that because if we do not regulate, we shall keep playing the same.

The worst bit of it is that Ugandans are suffering because they have no other option but to go for that smuggled and adulterated fuel. That is why we have problems with cars, accidents and all. You find some of this fuel is mixed with many chemicals that affect engines and at the end of the day they get problems.

As a Government, we have good plans, but implementation and enforcement are a problem.

We also talked about moving away from charcoal burning. Are we considering things like taxes on gas, so that we encourage the gas industry? We face challenges internationally where prices are determined for us, but we should mainly focus on the domestic aspects that we are in control –*(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me allow about six colleagues and we conclude.

6.49

MS JULIET NAKABUYE (NUP, Woman Representative, Masaka City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We all know how influential fuel is towards other goods and services in terms of prices.

The increase in fuel prices in Uganda has become regular. It has become a culture that whenever fuel prices rise, the minister comes and says that he is not in control of the forces of demand and supply. However, he should be wise to find solutions for it.

I am very sure that Government has some areas where it can influence prices. For instance, Government is in position of reducing taxes that are levied on fuel, such that prices do not

go so high to the extent that our people cannot afford it.

When it comes to quality, I am very much frustrated. Hon. Nayebele has talked about the inefficiency of UNBS as far as detecting the quality of fuel is concerned. Normally, when you go to petrol stations, you always find the tag of UNBS. You assume that the petrol station has been monitored and the quality they are giving you, is good – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Conclude, honourable.

MS NAKABUYE: It is very dangerous if we lose trust in UNBS. If they cannot tell us exactly what they found out, it means they do not monitor. They just give tags to different petrol stations, maybe without monitoring and verifying them. That will bring a problem, that Ugandans will not be sure even about the other sectors where they do verification. I thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

6.51

MS LINDA AUMA (Independent, Woman Representative, Lira): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Minister for the statement. However, I expected him to come up with an immediate medium and long-term plan to address the escalating fuel prices within the country because it has led to high costs of living. People cannot afford products because the fuel prices have gone up.

Secondly, I do not know whether the minister has been engaged in price negotiation to stabilise fuel prices so that it is affordable to all Ugandans. That is what I would like the minister to clarify. Thank you.

6.53

MR BENARD SEKYANZI (NRM, Budyabo County, Nakasongola): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank our minister for the statement he has made. Mine is to plead to him;

I request that you kindly make an effort to at least tell the House what you have done to see that prices reduce - and what things have failed. However, how can you just come on the Floor – *(Laughter)* - some of us did not move with our families this side, by the way. We go to the constituency every Friday and Saturday - the weekend – but right now, we cannot go home; we have become like Hon. Kabanda; abandoning our families. *(Laughter)*

We request you –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Hon. Sekyanzi, for the record, did Hon. Kabanda abandon his family? Is that what you are saying? *(Laughter)* No, please, there is a record of Parliament. Hon. Kabanda is single, so withdraw that statement. He has never abandoned the family.

MR SEKYANZI: He is single. I would like to withdraw the statement of abandonment. I thought he abandoned them because he has been single for a long time. *(Laughter)*

Our minister, I was asking Mr Google here - I looked up – *(Member timed out.)*

6.55

MR CHRISTOPHER KOMAKECH (Independent, Aruu County, Pader): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the committee for the work they have done. I would like to reserve my gratitude to the minister for one reason; the normalcy with which he reads his statement does not portray the rate at which the country wants to grow.

It is a norm in Uganda that the further you move away from the urban centre, the further the basic needs and social amenities get to our people. I will give you an example of Pader. Pader basically operates on fuel. How? To access water when electricity is not there - which most times is the case - we use petroleum energy. When the prices go up, the locals cannot access clean water.

Honourable minister, you know this very well. We have been to your office several times.

Leave that alone; to access a medical centre - Some of us used our money for the vehicles to buy ambulances because we carry diseases to other constituencies.

So, to carry a patient from one niche to another, you travel almost 40 kilometres and that costs us fuel. People are dying; people are getting sick.

Honourable minister, let us handle this issue of fuel price difference in the country with utmost respect. Otherwise, we are going to lose more lives. I raise this, especially in regard to my constituency and other constituencies that are away from the urban areas. Thank you.

6.56

MR JOHN-PAUL LUKWAGO (DP, Kyotera County, Kyotera): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the chairperson for this report.

First, as someone who plies the southern route, I feel a little constrained to appreciate the minister's report. When you state that there are two routes, the Kenyan route, which is 80 per cent and 20 per cent coming from the southern route - that is Mutukula - I actually feel sorry for myself and the people who know what is on the other side of the road.

If we are to ever address the challenges of hiking fuel prices, we need to have a holistic approach to how our economy is being run. If we do not address the service gaps - because we hear very well that it is a liberalised sector; anyone can do anything. However, I am inclined to think that the Government is part of the problem, creating unnecessary demand.

Why do our people move? People are moving to other hospitals because they cannot get hospitals close by. People are moving for better education because they do not have the right schools in their areas. So, we need to have a holistic approach to address this issue, of course as we address other issues.

Lastly is on the issue of a laissez-faire approach to how things are being run in this country. If you say that - *(Member timed out.)*

6.58

MR ALLAN MAYANJA (NUP, Nakaseke Central County, Nakaseke): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. My concern is about the decision made by the Cabinet to finance the National Strategic Oil Reserves, but it was not implemented. Honourable minister, we need clarification on this; are you the one who is not doing your job to follow up? What could be the challenge?

Secondly, honourable minister, you said that you do not have control on the price increase because we are in a liberalised economy. Who is in charge of this price increase because you cannot just wake up when the price of fuel has increased? Our common people are suffering in the villages. They are using kerosene, also known as paraffin. It is expensive.

Remember, these people do not have electricity; they are in darkness. They are using paraffin so that they can survive at night, but the prices are too high. We need thorough intervention, specifically on kerosene, for our common person. Thank you.

7.00

MR LUKE KYOBE (NRM, Luuka North County, Luuka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We need to note that fuel is key in almost all the day-to-day living of Ugandans. Without controlling the price of fuel, it determines the cost of production; it also determines the end products and the infrastructure.

So, without looking at the cost of fuel, honourable minister, this means the prices of the rest of the commodities will go up and the standard of living, including anything we can look at, will be very high for an ordinary Ugandan and everybody.

I pray that the Government comes up with a way of controlling the cost of fuel and it will lower the cost of the rest of everything. Thank you.

7.01

MR BASIL BATARINGAYA (NRM, Kashari North County, Mbarara): Thank you, Mr Speaker, again for the opportunity. Thank you, honourable minister, for the statement and the committee for the report.

We are talking about fuel prices versus the cost of living. Who is affected? It is the schools. We have talked about no increase on school fees here, and yet food prices and scholastic materials are going up. How do we expect them to be funded? Therefore, we need to work on fuel.

Two, as Members of Parliament, there is no decrease in the distances we cover to our constituencies yet the fuel price has almost doubled. Mr Speaker, the fuel you are paid may not be enough to take you up to Mbarara. So, how will you superintend over your constituency in Mitooma? It has become a very serious issue that needs attention.

Three, the citizens who use taxis, *boda-bodas* and other public transport - this will ultimately affect the performance of the PDM. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Chemutai and then Hon. Kaaya?

7.02

MS PHYLLIS CHEMUTAI (NRM, Woman Representative, Kapchorwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committee for the report as well as the minister for the responses. I come from an area where cattle have been stolen by cattle rustlers and the only method that we use for cultivating land is by using a tractor.

Therefore, to open up large land in our area, the whole region of Sebei, we use tractors. Two years ago, the cost of cultivation per acre was Shs 60,000. Right now, because of the increase in fuel prices, the price has gone high. It is oscillating between Shs 120,000 and Shs 150,000 per acre.

Given the poverty that is still looming in our areas, this one may not be afforded by many farmers. Therefore, I call upon Government to continue working hard to ensure that the fuel prices go down so that our Parish Development Model programme and other programmes in production, may not be affected badly. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Christine Kaaya?

7.04

MS CHRISTINE KAAYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Kiboga): Thank you, Mr Speaker, the minister, for the statement and the committee for the report. Together with the Committee on Natural Resources, we visited Tanzania and saw a number of demonstrations because we want to reduce the demand for fossil fuels.

We have also demonstrated some technologies like producing fuel from the *jatropha* crop; this was demonstrated in Luwero and it worked. The use of electric cars and natural gas is also possible. All these are demonstrated in the East African countries. I beg that we borrow a leaf.

At a time in the Committee on Natural Resources, we were informed that the honourable minister is responsible for issues to do with electricity, Hon. Nankabirwa, for oil, and then the other one for minerals.

Probably, the line minister would give us the long-term proposals because the short-term proposals and solutions do not have a chronology of actions to be taken; we need to move step by step. If we agree that let us reduce by doing this, we need to see this.

All fuel companies have reserves. However, where they establish them is the question. Nobody is monitoring the safety of the people around those fuel reserves and they also do not want the line ministers to know that they have them, but all of them have fuel reserves.

Probably, if we have *-(Member timed out.)* As a country, if we have to make fuel reserves that

can produce 6.5 million litres, let us see how to go Public-Private Partnerships under this arrangement and work with the reserves by the different companies to ensure that we are safe, aware that in the case of any challenge, we can depend on the private sector reserves. I thank you.

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

7.06

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Mathias Mpuuga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the committee for the report, particularly Hon. Ssekitoleeko, for standing in for the leadership of the committee to author this report. There have been extensions of gratitude to the honourable minister. I do not know for what, but I have heard. For being present, I thank you. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, Hon. Okaasai is a very good man and he understands the banter, he has no problem. There are global interventions in what we plan. Unfortunately, there is no global Government, so, we only have the Government of Uganda. If the Government surrenders its sovereignty to global forces, that Government is on the verge of disappearance.

The local market for petroleum products is a small oligopoly market controlled by two powerful players controlling 70 per cent of the market. The rest can only follow what the two powers determine. Unfortunately, the Government seems to have surrendered responsibility to these two powers.

The whole idea of controlling prices was the main thrust of the report. It has nothing to do with stopping prices from changing, but remaining within a manageable realm.

When the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is reporting on economic indicators and performance, they normally give an indication of underlying and overhead inflation. Normally, overhead inflation includes the price of petroleum.

This has a very huge impact on the economy because it times a lot. The backward and forward linkages with other sectors, is so expansive, which is why no Government should abdicate the impact of petroleum.

First of all, petroleum products are a serious security matter for the country. If you wake up and you are a Government and you have no reserves, you are in trouble.

I remember I was part of the Ninth Parliament that demanded that the Government retrieves and recaptures to manage the reserves in Jinja. We even offered money, in one of the financial years in the Ninth Parliament.

Honourable minister, the questions raised here is why you allowed private actors to solely manage the reserves? You went into a consortium arrangement and in two years, you amended the consortium agreement;

One, to extend the period from 10 years to another five years. Would you like to share with Parliament the motivation for extending the period from 10 years to 15 years?

Secondly, in one year after the agreement, you again added an addendum to delete a clause that required that these private actors actually maintain 40 per cent of the reserves. Thereafter, you make it an objective and a duty of the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC). What happened to that obligation?

Thirdly, the committee is demanding for accountability over fuels that are sold out of these reserves. Do you have a plan for maintaining strategic reserves for the country so that even when prices oscillate, they oscillate within a manageable range? That is the objective. The reserves are a buffer.

The Government has to get out of the box, you cannot run the Government by cram work, as you are running the private sector. A policy mix is what serious Governments do in the face of a very serious matter that impacts the performance of the economy.

So, go and implore your team-the Prime Minister is here, there is nothing irregular with the Government going for a policy mix in this sector because it has far-reaching implications on the performance of the economy. If the Government is going to be run based on liberalised economy-

Even the US, the high priest of capitalism, interferes in the key strategic sectors to make sure the economy remains buoyant and that the forces that disfigure the economy into this equilibrium are managed.

So, a policy mix can be proposed and we leverage on this very volatile sector until the first drop of oil is obtained. It must find you grounded in terms of policy and in terms of management. Otherwise, the oil will come and the Government can flow with the oil into the sea. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, are you running the sector by cram work? Or you are doing it process by the process?

7.12

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (Mr Sidronius Okasaai): Mr Speaker, my friend, the Leader of the Opposition, is always provocative. He gives a sort of insight which if internalised, is something that we could work upon. LOP let us discuss and see how we can have that mix. However, I will try to answer the questions that have been raised.

I will start with the fuel reserves, which is a major issue of contention here. In the submission that we made to the committee, we actually said, that we need \$30 million to create a reserve that will run this country for only five days, which would provide a buffer.

It is not a buffer on pricing because if you used the reserve to provide a buffer, it means we are going to lose money. If you maintain the price when the global prices of petroleum products have gone up, you will actually be losing money.

So, our emphasis is, can we guarantee the supply? Supply plays to check the prices because there will be no hoarding. The prices normally go up when there is no supply and the private sector now hoards petroleum products and that creates artificial prices of petroleum products and so, we can guarantee that one.

The mix which the LOP is talking about is what we are trying to implement. In our reserve, we have about seven million litres, which can only run this country for two or three days.

We have created a mix where some of the reserves which Hon. Christine talked about; she is a Member of the Committee on Natural Resources and we have put the two together. While we have seven million litres for the Government, the 42 million litres is from the private sector. When you put those together, it is 147 litres plus this one will take us for 10 days to ensure the supply and there is no hoarding.

In normal situations, in 10 days, for example, during the Kenya elections, within 10 days the situation would have normalised and then the fuel would continue flowing. That is how we managed to go through the crisis which we had because of that mixed approach to creating the reserves.

We budgeted for \$30 million, but that money was not released. So, to answer the question, to the satisfaction of the members; that was what we thought of as a ministry and it was approved by the Cabinet.

So, we do not have the reserve that we would desire as a ministry. We plan, but it goes beyond us to get the money to provide for the reserves which you are talking about here.

We have a strategy to provide energy. I do agree that any development of any country or household is hinged on the energy consumption of that household. We would wish to move everybody out of charcoal into clean energy, but it takes time.

As a strategy to get this one out and to immediately address the rising prices of petroleum products.

We emphasise continuity and assuring the supply to control hoarding because if we allow hoarding, it will cause higher prices than what we have now –(Interruption)

MR MPUUGA: Thank you. We are discussing price oscillations and you are assuring supply, which is very okay. Have you captured what component of the pump price comes with the fuel marking so that you can share it with the House? Because fuel marking has been marked out as a void in the pump price.

MR OKASAAI: The fuel marking and its contribution to the fuel pricing - I would refer you to the regional pump prices which I submitted. Although we mark our fuel, the contribution of fuel marking to the prices is negligible statistically. It does not really matter because I gave you the prices in Nairobi which are higher than the prices in Kampala -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, how much do you charge per litre - marking? That is all he -

MR OKASAAI: I do not have those figures, but I will provide them. Number two, in our immediate strategy, is actually educating the population under such circumstances.

We have got to check how we travel and how we use fuel. Where you have got four cars in the house, use one. Or even use public means for travel -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, let us talk about what we know we can do. There are some things we shall mention for purposes of going on record.

MR OKASAAI: Honestly, I am telling you - then the intermediate is, we have got to develop our own oil and gas systems in the country. We shall only get control of the prices of fuel if we produce our own fuel. So, let us focus on how we get our first oil out. But I cannot give that strategy now.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, we need to move on. (*Members rose*) No, we are late. We cannot conclude this issue today. Honourable minister, conclude.

MR OKAASAI: Allow me to conclude. Just as Hon. Christine said, developing biofuels and promoting fuel blending would actually reduce our reliance, which would trigger increased fuel for agricultural produce because we would get the biofuels out of maize, sugar cane and even cassava. That would enable us to give the farmers the benefit of their production by increasing the prices of their products.

Intermediate, just like Hon. Christine said, is by moving to e-mobility. For this one, we have got to emphasise and support the development of our electric buses like the Kiira EV. As a country, we should focus on that. This will enable us to reduce our fossil fuel consumption and then rely on what we can produce, as a country, rather than relying on imported products – and we shall be able to contain the prices. Honourable colleagues –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, honourable minister, on that one – charging stations?

MR OKAASAI: On charging stations, we are carrying out a study. As we develop e-mobility, we are also working on how we shall put charging stations. Currently, for the e-motorcycles, the proprietors are actually having a battery, which is interchangeable over a period of time.

If one battery runs down, we shall have a place within the locality, where we can go and exchange it. In case of the cars, we have got to establish a robust system to provide charging stations all over the urban and rural areas; this blends well with our strategy on electrification.

Finally, honourable colleagues, I know what we are pushing for. I would recommend that we do not look into subsidies because the experience of the countries that went into subsidies – it has actually taken them into a very deep economic hole. Let us not attempt to go into subsidies. Let us manage the supply and ensure that there is no hoarding.

The quality of petroleum products is not the responsibility of my ministry, but Uganda National Bureau of Standards. Somebody talked about it, but that one is not my responsibility. We can address that with the minister for trade.

Finally –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, it is not your responsibility, but you should be concerned that your product is being adulterated. That is why you mark it – marking is your work. So, you should be concerned.

MR OKAASAI: I am extremely concerned and I will take it up with my colleague, the minister for trade, to emphasise the quality across the divide.

The LoP talked very well. Monopoly is one other thing we, as a ministry, are trying to minimise by allowing small oil marketing companies. This is to reduce the monopoly of Total and Shell. These other small companies are checking on the prices.

If we can address the issue of quality – where you can get a product at a small oil marketing company at the same level of quality as at Shell and Total – then, we would have achieved in checking the prices across the board. This is because the small ones are, most of the time are cheaper.

The ideas which have been brought in the House – if we could put our heads together, the committee's report was very good, but we have got to jointly work out a strategy because it cuts across the various programmes of the Government.

Once the price goes up, the farmers are affected, like my sister said. I thank you for this opportunity, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I already guided on how we are going to handle this. I will not put a vote on it, but there are critical issues, honourable minister, which you have picked

and they will continue coming. So, I need you to look at them seriously.

House adjourned to tomorrow at 2 o'clock.

(House Rose at 7.26 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 5 October 2023, at 2.00 p.m.)