



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION - FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA
IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIRST SESSION - 2ND SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Thursday, 28 May 2026

Parliament met at 2.51 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker, Mr Jacob Oboth, in the Chair.)

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I welcome you to this afternoon's sitting. It is our maiden sitting as the 12th Parliament in these Parliamentary Chambers. I take this opportunity to thank you all for participating in the first sitting of the 12th Parliament, which was held on Monday, 25 May 2026, during which you elected me and Rt Hon. Thomas Tayebwa as your Speaker and Deputy Speaker, respectively.

On behalf of the leadership of the 12th Parliament, I appreciate your decision to place your trust in us, and I undertake to serve you diligently, fairly, and equitably. The call to leadership is a call to service and stewardship, not a pursuit of privilege. As your Speaker, I bear a profound obligation to elevate and empower all of you to effectively execute your mandate of representation, oversight, legislation, and appropriation. I urge you to remain steadfast and committed to your roles and responsibilities as legislators by always being available and adequately preparing for parliamentary work.

I also call upon you to exercise modesty and humility at all times, even when the microphone goes off, as we strive to realise a people-centred Legislature. *(Laughter)* As the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Commission, I will ensure a favourable environment for evidence-based legislation and responsiveness to the aspirations of the masses that we represent.

Honourable members, I am in receipt of communication from His Excellency the President Gen. (Rtd) Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, in exercise of his authority under Articles 108(1) and (2) and 108(a)(1), 111(1), 113(1), and 114(1) proposing various individuals to the Cabinet. This sitting will, therefore, consider, for approval, the appointment of the Vice-President and the Prime Minister, pursuant to Articles 108(2) and 108 (a)(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995. For both positions, the approval of this House is by simple majority.

In addition, the House will approve the designation of Members to the Appointments Committee in line with Article 90 of the Constitution and Rules 163(1), 164, 165, 167, 168, and 173 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament. We apologise for the mishap. I thank you all for this afternoon and for your faithfulness. When I was going out and the microphone did not work, I asked you all to stand up, but I am glad I came back and found you were still standing. Thank you very much. *(Laughter) (Ms Betty Namboose rose)*

Procedure before we begin anything? Hon. Nambooze is my Member of Parliament in Mukono Municipality.

2.57

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE (NUP, Mukono Municipality, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: I have been told that on the first and second rows, you may not be able to access the microphone because there was a short circuit. Somebody pressed the microphone.

MS NAMBOOZE: Mr Speaker, I refer to Rule 9 of our Rules of Procedure, which provides that:

1. *“Every Member shall, as far as possible, have a seat reserved for him or her by the Speaker.*
2. *The seats to the right hand side of the Speaker shall be reserved for the Leader of Government Business and members of the ruling party.*
3. *The seats to the left hand side of the Speaker shall be reserved for the Leader of the Opposition and Members of the Opposition party or parties in the House.*
4. *The Speaker shall reserve seats for the Independent Members and other categories of Members.”*

In circumstances where there are challenges, Mr Speaker, rule 9(5) provides that where the Speaker determines that it is not practicable to comply with the seating arrangement in sub rules (2), (3), and (4), the Speaker may permit a Member to sit on either side of the Speaker.

Noting, Mr Speaker, that you have not permitted anybody to sit contrary to the rules, I want, first of all, to welcome the Members who have crossed to the Opposition because, Mr Speaker, I did not hear you welcoming people and allowing them to sit on this side.

Having said that, even where people are allowed to have a free sitting, the front and the second rows on either side shall be preserved

for the substantive ministers and the shadow ministers.

Mr Speaker, the procedural matter I want to raise is that I have been sitting down - I do not have a seat. I see several Members on this side having occupied these seats even before you came in. Would it not be procedurally okay for you to guide us on the issue of sitting before we proceed, to make sure that each one of us is properly accommodated? I beg to move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Betty Nambooze. That guidance will be when we have the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) on one side and the Leader of Government Business on the other side. *(Applause)*

I understood what Hon. Nambooze raised and my ruling is saying that we still do not have the Leader of the Opposition, and neither do we have a Leader of Government Business. Why don't we start reconstituting the House? Let us go to item three. Let us have both leaders, and we will solve most of the procedural issues here.

MOTION SEEKING PARLIAMENTARY
APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT
OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 108(2) OF
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC
OF UGANDA

THE SPEAKER: As the mover comes, honourable members, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have guests of Her Excellency Jessica Alupo, the Vice-President designate. They have come to witness the parliamentary approval of her appointment as the Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda. Please, join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)*

Also, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have guests of the Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, the Prime Minister designate. They have come to witness the parliamentary approval of her appointment as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda. *(Applause)*

Please, the mover?

3.02

PROF. EPHRAIM KAMUNTU (NRM, Sheema County South, Sheema): Mr Speaker, my name is Ephraim Kamuntu, and I represent Sheema South Constituency in this Parliament.

I am humbled, Mr Speaker, to have the singular honour and privilege of moving a motion for a resolution of Parliament, approving the appointment of Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Rose Alupo Epel, District Woman Representative, Katakwi District, as the Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda. *(Applause)*

I am moving this motion under Article 108 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure of this Parliament.

“WHEREAS Article 108 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda provides that there shall be a Vice-President of Uganda appointed by the President, with the approval of Parliament by a simple majority;

AND WHEREAS under Article 108(4) of the Constitution, a person qualifies for appointment as Vice-President if the person possesses the qualifications prescribed for the Office of the President by Article 102 of the Constitution, being that the person is a citizen of Uganda by birth, is a registered voter and has completed a minimum formal education of Advanced Level standard or its equivalent;

AWARE THAT His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda has, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Article 108 of the Constitution, appointed Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Rose Alupo Epel, District Woman Representative, Katakwi District, as the Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda;

FURTHER AWARE that Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Rose Alupo Epel was born on 23 May 1974 and is a mother, a commercial farmer, a Pan-Africanist, a self-driven, humble, down-to-earth lady, a result-oriented and output-focused person who prioritises and allocates

more time to the performance of her duties and attains results;

NOTING THAT Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Rose Alupo Epel is a determined scholar who believes in continuous learning through both informal and formal settings, and possesses the following education qualifications, which make her eminently suitable for appointment as Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda:

- a. Currently pursuing a PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies at Makerere University;*
- b. An honorary doctorate degree from the Islamic University in Uganda on 20 December 2025;*
- c. An Honorary PhD in Science awarded by Shenyang University in China on 27 May 2015;*
- d. A Master’s Degree in International Relations and Diplomatic Studies from Makerere University from 2010 to 2013;*
- e. A Master’s degree in Management Studies from Uganda Management Institute from 2009 to 2010;*
- f. A Bachelor of Arts Degree (with honours) in Political Science and Religious Studies from Makerere University from 1994 to 1998;*
- g. A Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration and Management from Uganda Management Institute;*
- h. Uganda Advanced Level Certificate of Education from Ngora High School from 1992 to 1994;*
- i. A Uganda Ordinary Level Certificate of Education from Kangole Girls School from 1988 to 1991; and*
- j. A primary school certificate from Apuuton Primary School, Katakwi, from 1981 to 1987.*

NOTING THAT Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Rose Alupo Epel is a patriot who served in the Uganda People’s Defence Forces and retired at the rank of Major, and attended the following army courses:

- a. Officer Cadet Course at Jinja Military Academy, intake 05 Long – not short – (Laughter)- from 1998 to 1999;*

- b. *Counter Intelligence Course at the School of Military Intelligence and Security, intake 1/00/01 (Katabi); and*
- c. *Technical Surveillance: Kitante/Kololo intake 1/00/02 in 2001.*

FURTHER NOTING that Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Rose Alupo Epel has served her country with dedication and distinction in the following capacities:

- a. *Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda from June 2021 to May 2026;*
- b. *District Woman Representative, Katakwi, in the Eighth Parliament, Ninth Parliament, 11th Parliament and now in the 12th Parliament;*
- c. *Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Sports from 2011 to 2016;*
- d. *Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs from 2009 to 2011;*
- e. *Deputy Chairperson, Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs from 2006 to 2009;*
- f. *Member of the parliamentary Committee on Government Assurances from 2006 to 2009;*
- g. *Staff Officer, Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence, Kitante, from 2001 to 2005;*
- h. *Staff Officer, Chieftaincy of Operations and Training, Bombo Military Barracks, from 2000 to 2001;*
- i. *Instructor in charge of female trainees, Singo Military Training School from 1999 to 2000;*
- j. *Voluntary teacher, Katakwi High School, in 1994;*
- k. *Vice Chairperson, Uganda National Students Association (UNSA), Ngora High School, 1993-1994.*
- l. *Volunteer teacher, Usuk Secondary School in 1992;*
- m. *Deputy Head girl, Kangole Girls' Secondary School in 1991;*
- n. *Deputy Head girl, Apuuton Primary School in 1985.*

RECOGNISING that Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Alupo Jessica Rose Epel has been recognised as a transformative leader, a patriot, and has received the following awards for her dedicated

and distinguished service in Uganda for the people of Uganda:

- (a) *Excellent Order of the Pearl of Africa, the Grand Commander during the International Women's Day celebration in Katakwi in 2022;*
- (b) *Golden Jubilee Medal, 2013, during Women's Day celebrations in Nakasongola on 8 March 2013;*
- (c) *The Pearl of Africa Award, 2012, at the International Conference Centre, Kampala;*
- (d) *The Eastern Region Women Achievers Award in September 2012 by Uganda Christian University;*

FURTHER RECOGNISING that Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Alupo Jessica Rose Epel has ably, with distinction and dedication, represented His Excellency the President of Uganda at national and international events and has represented Uganda's interests very effectively, negotiated resolutions and addressed some of the following bodies:

- (a) *United Nations General Assembly in New York,*
- (b) *The XVII Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa (BRICS) Leaders' Summit (Heads of State) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.*
- (c) *The 39th Ordinary Session of the African Union Heads of State and Government, Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, in February 2026.*
- (d) *The 9th Edition of the Future Investment Initiative Forum, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in October 2025.*
- (e) *The World Government Summit, Women in Government Forum, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2023.*
- (f) *The 24th Common Market for East and South Africa (COMESA) Summit at the Heads of State and Government on the 7th-9th October 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya.*

APPRECIATING that Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Alupo Jessica Rose Epel is an accomplished author who has used her time to research into major issues affecting the well-being of the people of Uganda, and through this effort, she has published the following publications:

- (a) *Uganda and integration of East Africa: A case of selected Member States*". Source: Makerere University (2013);
- (b) *Employee Motivation and Employee Performance in the Telecommunication Sector in Uganda. A case study of MTN*. Source: Uganda Management Institute.
- (c) *The Plight of Refugee Women in Uganda*". A case study of Kiryandongo Refugee Camp, Kiryandongo District. (Source: Makerere University.)

COGNISANT that the appointment of Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Alupo Jessica Rose Epel as Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda is subject to parliamentary approval as required by Article 108(2) of the Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that: Parliament, in accordance with Article 108(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, approves the appointment of Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Alupo Jessica Rose Epel, District Woman Representative, Katakwi District, as Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda".

I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is seconded by Hon. Nabbanja, Hon. Echodu, Hon. Frank, Lt Gen. Sam Okiding, supported by the whole UPDF and the entire House. The mover, Prof. Kamuntu, you have already justified, so let me call your seconders.

PROF. KAMUNTU: Thank you, Mr Speaker – (Interruption)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, let me hear the point of procedure.

MR TEBANDEKE: Mr Speaker, I appreciate the mover of the motion. I also give due respect to Her Excellency Hon. Jessica Alupo, for the tremendous work done -

THE SPEAKER: The procedural question -

MR TEBANDEKE: Mr Speaker, it diminishes my sense, given all that has been said, whether or not we should go contrary to our rules. Rule 86(3) of our Rules of Procedure says,

"In determining whether a discussion is out of order on the ground of anticipation, the Speaker shall have regard to the probability of the subject matter in anticipation being brought before the House within a reasonable time".

Mr Speaker, whatever has been brought in the motion -

THE SPEAKER: Which rule are you referring to?

MR TEBANDEKE: Rule 86(3). Mr Speaker, the rule is against debate in anticipation of any motion before the House. So, whatever has been discussed here, that is the trips, the representation, the academic papers - there is no evidence laid on the Table that it is credible.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, should we continue to debate in anticipation? Isn't it procedurally right that you accord us a reasonable time so the mover of the motion can present evidence of whatever is being discussed, and then this House recommends and approves not in abeyance?

THE SPEAKER: I think the rule you cited is misplaced and irrelevant. We are not debating in anticipation. If you were to raise that, you should have asked for it from the Communication from the Chair. I am the one who said I have received communication from the President. Please, Hon. Kamuntu.

MR TWINAMASIKO: Mr Speaker, Rule 88 of the Rules of Procedure is about the dress code for Members of Parliament in the House.

Mr Speaker, there is a Member seated in the second row who is not wearing a necktie. (Interjections) It is Rule 88 of the Rules of Procedure. It is a suit, not a Kaunda Suit, Hon. Tumwebaze. And you are not the Speaker. I am raising the matter with the Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, what is the point of order?

MR TWINAMASIKO: Is it in order for an honourable member of Parliament to come to the House without being properly dressed up as the Rules of Procedure state?

THE SPEAKER: You have now informed the Member. Let us go on. We are still going through orientation and induction. *(Laughter)* Thank you for inducting him.

MS NAMEERE: Mr Speaker, I am raising a motion under rule 61; Point of Privilege *-(Interjections)* – It is very important. Her Excellency Jessica Alupo is a big inspiration to millions of girls out there. However, in this document and under the motion being moved, she is being referred to as honourable. She is supposed to be referred to as Her Excellency; this is important. I am kindly requesting, Mr Speaker, that the mover of the motion refers to our most powerful woman as Her Excellency. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Order! Honourable mover, continue.

PROF. KAMUNTU: Thank you, Mr Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: Can we have order in the House?

PROF. KAMUNTU: Honourable members of the 12th Parliament, permit me to give justification for the nomination of the Vice-President.

Mr Speaker, in accordance with Article 108(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, *“The President shall, with the approval of Parliament by a simple majority, appoint a Vice-President.”* This constitutional requirement ensures that the appointment carries both Executive authority and parliamentary legitimacy.

The nominee, Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Alupo, embodies the qualities and experience befitting the high office of Vice-President. Her appointment merits parliamentary approval, and I want to give reasons why this should be so.

1. Proven leadership in the Government

Mr Speaker, she has served as Vice-President since June 2021 and I want you to know that she is the second female Vice-President in the history of this country. *(Applause)* Let us admit it; for the President to be reappointing her for the second term shows that she has been tried, tested, and found worthy of being a Vice-President of this country. *(Applause)*

2. She has been a Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Sports, and a Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs. These roles demonstrate her ability to manage complex portfolios and deliver results.

3. Look at her legislative experience. She has been a woman Member of Parliament for Katakwi District across multiple parliaments. She has been a Member of Parliament for the Eighth, Ninth, and 11th Parliaments, and now for the 12th Parliament. Tell me how many have done this. She has consistently represented her constituents and contributed to the national debate, ensuring a strong link between the Executive and Legislature.

4. Just look at her military and security background. Her service as a staff officer in military intelligence and as an instructor at Singo Military Training School reflects discipline - and discipline is really important - resilience and a deep understanding of national security, vital attributes for a Vice-President.

5. Her academic excellence. She holds multiple advanced degrees, including a Master’s degree in International Relations and Diplomacy, a Master’s in Management Studies, and has received a string of honorary doctorates awarded in recognition of her performance. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Peace and conflict studies, underscoring - this is the point - the commitment to continuous learning and conflict resolution.

6. Now, on regional and international engagement, I want to point out that she has addressed global platforms – (*Interjections*) - and this is the point - National recognition -

Mr Speaker, let me give personal attributes.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu?

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, with due respect to one of the senior members and ministers of Uganda, I have seen from Obote I and Obote II, Hon. Ephraim Kamuntu has moved this motion very well, and given us a soft landing for passing the motion for the Vice-President, who is well-known.

However, he is being repetitive. Is he in order to continue repeating what he said before, spoiling the good soup he had prepared before yet we want to have a good debate that will see this gallant lady getting her position without the former UPC member continuously telling us more about what he said before. Is he in order, Mr Speaker?

THE SPEAKER: I think the honourable professor was doing that for emphasis. However, the honourable member is saying they are ready. Why can't you conclude?

PROF. KAMUNTU: Mr Speaker, in conclusion, I want to give personal attributes which were not – (*Interruption*)

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, by approving the appointment of Hon. Jessica, as she is commonly or fondly known by Parliament, in fulfilling the constitutional mandate, you will also have endorsed a leader of proven competence, integrity and dedication to the service of this country.

Her track record, which I have enumerated, speaks volumes about her capacity to lead this country. Mr Speaker, fortunately, the person I am speaking about is right here before you. She is a fit and proper person to be the Vice-President of this country at this material time in our history. I beg to move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Since we have new Members of Parliament, I would request the nominee to just rise up to be seen by those who have not seen – because Hon. Prof. Kamuntu was saying she is right here and the person being referred to is - (*Major (Rtd) Alupo rose*) (*Applause*) Thank you.

Can we have the seconders? Hon. Minsa Kabanda, Hon. Catherine Lamwaka and Hon. David Calvin Echodu. You have two minutes each as Members are already ready to –

3.33

MS MINSA KABANDA (NRM, Kampala Central Division, Kampala): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think you all know Hajjat Minsa Kabanda, the MP for Kampala Central, who is in front of you.

In fulfilment of Article 108(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, the President has appointed the Vice-President, whose assumption of office requires the approval of this august House.

Today, we are called upon not only to uphold the Constitution but also to affirm our collective commitment to effective governance and national stability.

The nominee before us, Hon. Major (Rtd) Jessica Rose Alupo, is a leader of proven competence, integrity and dedication. Her record speaks for itself. She has served this nation with distinction as Vice-President since 2021 and prior to that, as Minister of Education, Science and Technology and Sports, as well as the Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs.

In Parliament, she has represented the people of Katakwi District across multiple terms, contributing to legislation and oversight with diligence and patriotism.

Her background in the military and security sector, including service in military intelligence and as an instructor in the Single Training School, equips her with discipline and resilience, qualities indispensable for

leadership at the highest level. Academically, she holds advanced degrees as Hon. Kamuntu has stated.

Hon. Alupo has carried Uganda's voice to the world stage, addressing the United Nations General Assembly, the African Union, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), BRICS, and other international forums. She has been recognised with national honours, including the Excellent Order of the Pearl of Africa, Grand Commander and the Golden Jubilee Medal, affirming her contribution to national development and women's empowerment.

Mr Speaker, approving this appointment is not only a constitutional duty but also a vote of confidence in a leader who embodies humility, teamwork and dialogue. It is a step towards continuity, stability and effective coordination of government business.

I, therefore, urge this House to give its full approval to the appointment of Hon. Major (Rtd) Jessica Rose Alupo as Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda so that she may continue to serve our nation with legitimacy, authority and dedication. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Lamwaka Catherine, MP, District Woman Representative of Omoro. You have two minutes.

3.36

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA (NRM, Woman Representative, Omoro): Mr Speaker, I rise to second the motion that has been moved for a resolution of Parliament approving the appointment of Hon. Major (Rtd) Alupo Jessica Rose Epel, District Woman Representative Katakwi District as Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda.

Mr Speaker, a lot has been said about the great lady and leader we are speaking about today, by the mover of the motion. I stand before you to second this motion and to ask us all to exercise our constitutional mandate that Hon. Major (Rtd) Jessica Rose Alupo Epel be approved

as Vice-President of Uganda, as proposed by His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni Kaguta.

As we are aware, Hon. Major (Rtd) Jessica Rose Alupo Epel is a prominent Ugandan politician and a former military intelligence officer who has served diligently and was the Vice-President of this great Republic of Uganda from 2021 to 2026. She is best known for her historic leadership roles. Her trail-blazing career as a high-ranking female official in this country, and her extensive military and educational background, speak for themselves. This is a distinguished leader.

Dear honourable members, before her political career, she served – as I conclude, Mr Speaker, Hon. Major (Rtd) Jessica Alupo Epel, the Woman Member of Parliament of Katakwi, is a woman of noble character.

I fully associate myself with the motion that has been raised to approve her as the Vice-President of this great nation. In her, there is a God-fearing woman, and we are sure of the future of this country. In her, we are sure of her complementary role to the President of the Republic of Uganda, leading Uganda toward a high-middle-income economy. I beg to move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Echodu, you have two minutes.

3.39

MR CALVIN ECHODU (NRM, Soroti West County, Soroti City): Mr Speaker, I stand to second the motion for parliamentary approval of the appointment of Hon. Major (Rtd) Jessica Rose Alupo Epel as a Vice-President in accordance with Article 108(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

The nominee embodies the qualities and experience befitting this high office. She is a humble, result-oriented leader, a Pan-Africanist, a mobiliser of communities, and she embodies the values of integrity, teamwork and dialogue.

By approving this appointment, Parliament will not only fulfil its constitutional mandate but also endorse a leader of proven competence, integrity, and dedication to the service of Uganda. Her track record assures continuity, stability and effective oversight of the Executive. I beg to move. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I now want to put the question, and I want to guide that to determine the simple majority, we shall use a show-of-hands, row by row, not by voice voting. Let the Clerk get his people ready.

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, I agree to your decision, but we have a challenge. That is why, at one time, I wanted to raise a procedural matter. We have Members in the gallery. I do not know how they will represent their voters. It is something new that I have seen in this Parliament. I pray that they come down and continue standing just as others are doing, rather than being guests in the gallery.

THE SPEAKER: That issue of space is everybody's problem and concern. I tell you that there is hope. In the next five years, we should have our Chambers completed. *(Applause.)*

I know that we have Members of Parliament in the public gallery due to space constraints. That is a genuine concern - Another procedural matter?

MR NSAMBA: Yes, Mr Speaker. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Why are there more procedural matters coming from this side than from this side?

MR NSAMBA: Mr Speaker, it is because the other side is eager to run through without following certain procedures. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, my name is Patrick Nsamba Oshabe. I represent the people of Kassanda North. I am rising on a procedural matter. This is a motion that has been presented to this House. My expectation is that after the

motion and the secondment, there is a debate on the matter. However, I rose on a procedural matter because I noticed you went directly to putting the question, yet not all Members may agree with the motion. Are we proceeding well if you do not allot time for the debate of this motion? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: This is my ruling. When the mover was moving the motion, there was a complaint on this side that we are delaying the approval – *(Applause)* - I did not want the Speaker to be accused of delaying this process.

However, if you, Hon. Nsamba, have an objection to the motion, move. You can debate and say what you have to say. The word of caution is that you should restrict yourself when it is an exercise in futility - *(Laughter)* – Honourable member for Wakiso?

3.44

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The position we are about to get as a country is key. At the end of it all, much as you are going to put the question, you will find that it is likely to be a consensus.

That aside, given that I am a shadow Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development designate, I comfortably rise on matters of women. Mr Speaker, now that you have assured us that you have already got and seen the academic papers, may you also assure us on the matter of birth and citizenship of the person we are talking about. Elsewhere, we have been seeing some names of people who have got dual citizenship. For us to get clarification and go through this question well, we also request you to assure us about all her qualities so that we are comfortable.

THE SPEAKER: I appreciate your concerns, as a Member of Parliament. This House would be glad for you to counter the motion. They have moved a motion indicating she is a Ugandan and studied in Uganda. If you have contrary information, bring it.

3.46

MR PATRICK NSAMBA (NUP, Kassanda County North, Kassanda): Mr Speaker, debate in this House should really not be about those who are against. I know there are many Members out there who have nice words to say about Hon. Jessica Alupo.

When Hon. Ssewungu came out to complain about the time issue, he was saying that ample time should be provided for debate. Mr Speaker, having said that -

THE SPEAKER: Was that in this Parliament?

MR NSAMBA: Yes, that is what Hon. Ssewungu said.

Mr Speaker, having said that, it looks like you have only accorded the opportunity to those who want to travel a futile lane, as you have described it. I want to say one thing: that the Vice-President -

THE SPEAKER: You have my permission to say two things. *(Laughter)*

MR NSAMBA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. These are the two things you have permitted me to say. The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda establishes the Office of the Vice-President and clearly sets out its roles.

The nominated person served as a vice-president in the previous term. The people who brought the motion here denied us the opportunity to understand the constitutional achievements of the person nominated. Much of the motion and the justifications were about this person having been a class monitor somewhere and having attended this course or that.

What the people of Uganda want to hear, Mr Speaker - *(Interruption)*

THE SPEAKER: There is a point of order here.

MR OPOLOT-OKWALINGA: Mr Speaker, my name is Opolot-Okwalinga Simon Peter, representing Kanyum County.

Mr Speaker, is the honourable colleague in order to start lying to us that the seconder and the nominator mentioned anything to do with a class monitor anywhere? Did we not hear that - *(Interjections)* - trying to demean the person of the Vice-President?

THE SPEAKER: This is to all honourable colleagues as we undergo induction and orientation. I must apologise for giving you permission to say two things. I am sure the second one is not what you were prepared to say.

This is because, on the record, there is no mention of a class monitor. Honestly, I thought as you rose, you would - He is a senior Member of this House. I thought your submission would be substantive enough, either for or against. However, listening to him, I do not know whether he is for or against.

Why don't you allow the question to be put so that we have a Vice-President? I also have this side. Would you be - because by the time the leadership of any organisation fronts a person, like the Leader of the Opposition, if he is to be designated - The Speaker is talking. Come and sit near - *(Laughter)*

Hon. Nsamba, I thought you had concluded.

MR OSHABE: Mr Speaker, I had not concluded. Actually, I had just started. Mr Speaker, I raised my matter based on the Constitution. I do not know why my friend, a senior colleague, only heard the example of the matter I raised. I do not know why.

THE SPEAKER: Because that is what was - *(Hon. Babirye Kityo rose_)* Do you have a point of order?

MS BABIRYE KITYO: Thank you so much. Mr Speaker, my name is Sarah Babirye Kityo. I am the Member of Parliament for Bukoto County East.

Mr Speaker, the honourable member is a senior colleague; I think this is his third term. He was here when Her Excellency, the Vice-President,

was appointed as Vice-President. She has been here for some time, and he is aware. He did not raise any matter of nationality. Is he, therefore, raising such a matter in order to do so, or is he just deliberately wasting the time of this House? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Nsamba, I think we have dragged on this matter for too long. There is consensus that the Vice-President nominated by the President of Uganda has attracted broad support. Why don't we vote by row? If you are not in favour, you can withhold your vote.

MR NSAMBA: Most obliged, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Can we put the question and those in favour beginning this side, row by row? First row here. The clerks, kindly count.

(Members voted by a show of hands.)

THE SPEAKER: Those standing, you can first hold on. I will take another count.

(Voting by show of hands continued.)

THE SPEAKER: If you are in the public gallery and you want to vote, please come down.

(Voting by show of hands continued.)

THE SPEAKER: We are voting for the approval of the Vice-President, just in case you just came in. There are those who have just come; Hon. Cissy Namujju and the group, Hon. Musasizi, Hon. Engola and the Member representing Busia Municipality. Show the hand. It is not anything that we want; there is a winner or a loser. It is just a requirement for a simple majority for those who are present, which I know has already been superseded.

(Voting by show of hands continued.)

THE SPEAKER: I know Hon. Ronah is in the public gallery. I can see Hon. Faith, Hon. Catherine Achola, Hon. Charity, Hon. Brenda, and Hon. Nangoli from Mbale. There are several. This is overwhelming. Hon. Betty Aol,

Hon. Nsegumire, as well as Hon. Amelia. She has -

(Voting by show of hands continued.)

THE SPEAKER: We want to have those who have not raised their hands. Those against- we could also find out because you may - Let us know. Let us begin with those who are against on this row.

(Voting by show of hands continued.)

THE SPEAKER: Those who abstained are four. Those against are 18, and those who voted for are 325. *(Applause)*

So, the motion is carried. Congratulations, Your Excellency, the Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda. *(Applause)*

Next item.

MOTION SEEKING PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 108A(1) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THE SPEAKER: The mover, Hon. Jane Ruth Aceng Oceru, Woman Representative, Lira City. You have about five minutes.

4.05

DR JANE ACENG (NRM, Woman Representative, Lira City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like, first of all, to start by congratulating you, and the Deputy Speaker, upon ascending to that chair, and also congratulating all the Members for swearing in successfully.

As you have said, Dr Jane Ruth Aceng is my name, the Woman MP of Lira City, and I rise up to move a motion for a resolution of Parliament approving the appointment of Hon. Nabbanja Robinah, District Woman Representative, Kakumiro District, as the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business in Parliament, under Article 108A(1) of the Constitution of

the Republic of Uganda, and Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament:

“WHEREAS Article 108A(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda provides that there shall be a Prime Minister who shall be appointed by the President with the approval of Parliament by a simple majority from among Members of Parliament or persons qualified to be elected Members of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS under Article 108A(2)(a) of the Constitution, the Prime Minister is the Leader of Government Business in Parliament, and is responsible for the coordination and implementation of Government policies across ministries, departments, and other public institutions, and performs such other functions as may be assigned to him or her by the President or as may be conferred to him or her by the Constitution or by law;

AWARE that His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda has, in exercise of powers conferred upon him by Article 108A(1) of the Constitution, appointed Hon. Nabbanja Robinah, District Woman Representative, Kakumiro District, as Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business in Parliament;

NOTING that Hon. Nabbanja Robinah possesses the requisite qualifications for appointment as Prime Minister as set out in Article 108A(1) of the Constitution, since;

- (a) she is a citizen of Uganda, having been born on 17 December 1969 at Kamusenene, Nkoko Town Council, Kakumiro District;*
- (b) she is a registered voter in Kakumiro District, and*
- (c) she completed a minimum formal education of advanced level standard and obtained the following academic qualifications:*
 - i) She is a PhD student of Public Administration specialising in monitoring and evaluation from Nkumba University;*
 - ii) She holds a Master’s of Arts Degree in Monitoring and Evaluation from Nkumba University, Entebbe;*

- iii) She has a Bachelor’s degree in Democracy and Development Studies from Uganda Martyrs University;*
- iv) She holds a Diploma in Democracy and Development Studies from Uganda Martyrs University;*
- v) A certificate in Audit Management from ESAMI, Arusha, Tanzania;*
- vi) Certificate in Policy Formulation and Management from the Islamic University in Uganda;*
- vii) Certificate in Leadership Skills and Management from Uganda Management Institute;*
- viii) Certificate in Leadership, Economic Management and Transformation from NALI, Kyankwanzi;*
- ix) Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education from St Edward’s, Bukumi Senior Secondary School, and;*
- x) Uganda Certificate of Education from St Edward’s, Bukumi Senior Secondary School;*

FURTHER NOTING THAT Hon. Nabbanja Robinah has the necessary experience to execute the duties and functions of the Office of the Prime Minister, having held the following key positions of responsibility in the Cabinet, Parliament, and in the Local Government of Uganda, including:

- a. Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda and Leader of Government Business from June 2021 to May 2026.*
- b. Minister of State for Health (General Duties).*
- c. Parliamentary Commissioner in the 10th Parliament.*
- d. Treasurer of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Parliamentary Caucus in the Ninth Parliament.*
- e. Woman Representative, Kakumiro District, from 2011 to date.*
- f. Resident District Commissioner (RDC) for 10 years, serving in the districts of Pallisa, Budaka and Busia.*
- g. Deputy Resident District Commissioner (Deputy RDC) Pallisa District.*
- h. District Councillor representing the people of Nkoko Subcounty in Kibale District*

Council and Secretary for Health and Gender, Kibale District.

RECOGNISING that on 14 June 2021, Parliament approved the appointment of Hon. Robinah Nabbanja as Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business, a position she has held for five years;

FURTHER recognising that during her tenure as Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business, Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja;

- a. oversaw exemplary performance in the discharge of Government business before the 11th Parliament, as evidenced by the following achievements:*
 - i) five legislative programmes were presented.*
 - ii) 82 per cent of the total Bills indicated in the legislative programme were introduced.*
 - iii) 96 per cent of motions were submitted.*
 - iv) 99 per cent of the Prime Minister's questions were responded to.*
 - v) 95 per cent of questions to ministers were responded to.*
 - vi) 97 per cent of questions for oral answer were responded to.*
 - vii) 93 per cent of Ministerial Policy Statements were presented.*
 - viii) 98 per cent of action taken reports by ministers on the resolutions or recommendations of Parliament were tabled, and*
 - ix) 100 per cent of Treasury Memoranda were submitted.*
- b. has been a pioneering and inspirational leader, since she is the first woman to hold the position of Prime Minister in Uganda. (Applause)*
- c. received global recognition and was declared the "2024 African Female Leader of the Year Award" from the African Leadership Organisation, and the "Global Women Leadership Award" in New York for advancing socioeconomic development and gender equality in Uganda.*

- d. oversaw the efficient and timely execution of Government programmes, which contributed to a reduction in national poverty levels.*
- e. coordinated the Government COVID-19 response initiatives, including the COVID-19 relief cash to the listed vulnerable Ugandans. (Applause)*
- f. coordinated Government Poverty Reduction Mechanisms, including the Parish Development Model (PDM).*
- g. led and coordinated the Government response to natural disasters and helped in securing and allocating financial and other assistance to high-risk, disaster-prone districts.*
- h. has been a hands-on mobiliser, known for her active, grassroots-oriented approach, and she has been widely praised for travelling directly to rural communities to monitor Government projects and ensure disaster relief reaches intended beneficiaries. (Applause)*

COGNISANT that the appointment of Hon. Robinah Nabbanja as Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business in Parliament is subject to parliamentary approval as required by Article 108A(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Parliament, in accordance with Article 108A(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, approves the appointment of Hon. Robinah Nabbanja as the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business in Parliament."

I beg to move. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? It is seconded by Hon. Angura, the Vice-President, Hon. Okwi, and Hon. Baryayanga.

This side, Hon. Frank, Hon. Kasaija – "Money has come" -(Laughter) Hon. Kavuma. This side, Hon. Fungaroo, Hon. Wakida Patrick, Hon. Joan Achom, Hon. Owino Nicholas, Tororo County North, Hon. Akol and the whole House.

Can you justify briefly? This House is ready to make a decision; do not delay.

DR ACENG: Mr Speaker, the justification for approving Hon. Robinah Nabbanja as Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business is centred on her proven track record of strict Government oversight, extensive administrative experience, and grassroots mobilisation. She has steadily built an impressive public service resume, as elaborated in the motion that I read.

She has pursued a rigorous academic trajectory, from foundational studies in democracy to advanced monitoring and evaluation. This has equipped her with the exact analytical, policy, and oversight skills required for executive governance.

Hon. Nabbanja has extensive executive and legislative experience, having served as Prime Minister of Uganda since 2021 and in the Parliament of Uganda since 2011 to date. This extensive tenure has given her direct insight into the socioeconomic needs of rural communities. Her other roles as Minister of State for Health (General Duties) and as a Parliamentary Commissioner in the 10th Parliament, among many others, have provided her with vital management and hands-on administrative experience.

Hon. Nabbanja's consistent performance in the 11th Parliament solidified her role as the Leader of Government Business. Through regular attendance at the House, she provided direct accountability, added legislative inquiries into service delivery, and maintained crucial coordination across Cabinet ministries.

During the mandated Prime Minister's Time, she regularly responded to oral and written inquiries regarding national policy and service delivery. She also promptly responded to pressing national issues raised by Members of Parliament. Through her effective Cabinet coordination, she ensured that ministries remained answerable to the electorate and the Legislature.

Rt Hon. Nabbanja, as the former Prime Minister, has had a marked proximity to the grassroots. She brought the Office of the Prime Minister closer to the rural population – (*Applause*) – by frequently taking services and relief directly to the vulnerable communities to ensure equitable distribution. The specific example here is when she made telephone calls directly to follow up Government mobile money transfers to urban workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. (*Applause*)

She has also championed grassroots poverty-alleviation programmes, such as the Parish Development Model, aimed at wealth creation. Additionally, the Rt Hon. Nabbanja has been employing a hands-on approach of directly monitoring local governments and touring remote projects. This strict and close on-the-ground oversight approach to Government business has ensured that public funds are actually used for community development.

Her unannounced site visits and village-level farmer mobilisation campaigns have led to greater accountability and better value for money. This compelling track record demonstrates that the Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja is uniquely qualified and stands out as the ideal choice for the position of Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business. I beg to submit. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Can we have the seconders? Hon. Dennis Namara? I think you will do one minute, if possible.

4.22

MR DENNIS NAMARA (NRM, Buyaga West County, Kagadi): Thank you, Mr Speaker and honourable members. My name is Dennis Namara, Member of Parliament, Buyaga West constituency in Kagadi District.

Mr Speaker, I rise under Rule 62(1) and (2) of our Rules of Procedure to second the motion seeking parliamentary approval of the appointment of Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja as the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business, 2026 to 2031, for the following three reasons:

1. Rt Hon. Nabbanja's leadership has been central to Uganda's socio-economic transformation. She has had an outstanding focus on strategic targets, geared towards household transformation from a subsistence to a monetised economy. Her leadership championed anti-poverty flagship initiatives, most notably the Parish Development Model, which contributed to reducing poverty levels across the country;
2. Rt Hon. Nabbanja has great experience in international and regional leadership. Her capacity to guide international policy is validated by her chairing of the United Nations Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, among many other international involvements, and lastly; and
3. Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja is an astute hard worker. That is why in our area of Bunyoro, she is locally referred to as "a bulldozer, chair, machine leader" – (*Applause*) – because there is no challenge of the local person that she cannot solve. She is a woman of valour, a pinnacle and epitome of political tranquility. She does not circumlocute around challenges of the common man while executing her work, but rather, circumvents them with absolute precision. Rt Hon. Nabbanja is not a political demagogue – (*Laughter*) – in the way she executes her work, but rather a true stateswoman of our time.

Mr Speaker and honourable members, these proven capabilities clearly show why the Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja is the right choice of the Republic of Uganda to be approved by this Parliament as the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business.

I beg to submit. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Hon. Esther Davinia Anyakun, District Woman Representative, Nakapiripirit.

4.25

MS ESTHER ANYAKUN (NRM, Woman Representative, Nakapiripirit): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable colleagues, my name is Esther Anyakun, and I am the Woman Member of Parliament from Nakapiripirit District in Karamoja. I join my colleagues to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, together with the Deputy Speaker and all Members here, for joining the 12th august House.

Mr Speaker, I am here to make justification for the motion seeking parliamentary approval of the appointment of the Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja as Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business.

I would like to second the motion by anchoring it on the highlighted key achievements and high-profile international honours that the Rt Hon. Prime Minister Nabbanja received while in office from 2021 to 2026. That is the Global Inspirational Leadership Award 2024 as an African female leader of the year 2024. This is a very inspirational achievement for all prospecting women under this roof and in the country.

These prestigious global honours demonstrate that Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja's tenure of Prime Minister was not only impactful, but also marked a notable international recognition and leadership which spans major global platforms and multilateral organisations.

This award not only elevated Uganda's global standing but also demonstrated her effective leadership. She made significant international strides by amplifying the voices of the Global South and championing sustainable development.

Consequently, it is evident that the Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja possesses executive qualities that are needed to excel as Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business.

Honourable colleagues, I worked with Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja under leadership and she is a superintendent of hard work in this country. (*Applause*)

She has interpersonal skills; that one is “Pro Max”. She is intrinsically motivated. I think we heard what every speaker said here. She moves, and she will leave you behind. You either follow her, and she will always lead.

Rt Hon. Nabbanja is a very kind-hearted person. I have worked with her, and she is a very reliable and dependable leader.

I beg to second the motion that we all support Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja to be our next Prime Minister and we work with her. Thank you so much. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Before I call the next seconder, in the VIP Gallery this afternoon, we have Hon. Godfrey Kiwanda Suubi, Chairperson of the National Consultative Forum for Political Parties and Organisations, and Hon. Paul Musamali Mwasa, Member of the East African Legislative Assembly. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House.

In the Public Gallery this afternoon, we also have Hon. Patricia Ayoo Elubu, Deputy Speaker, Soroti City. She is represented by Hon. Joan Acom Aloba, Hon. Moses Attan Okia and Hon. David Calvin Echodu. Please make them welcome. *(Applause)*

The next seconder is Hon. Senior Counsel, Frederick Ruhindi, MP Nakawa Division East constituency...

4.31

MR FREDRICK RUHINDI (NRM, Nakawa Division East, Kampala): Mr Speaker, on a rather selfish note, I thank Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja for giving me this maiden speech in this Parliament, after 10 years. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, I stand to second the motion that Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja be appointed as the Prime Minister of Uganda. *(Applause)* Much of my texts have been captured in the submissions of the mover and those who have seconded before me, and I have nothing useful to add. *(Laughter)*

Suffice to say one thing: Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja is a versatile, effective and an emotionally intelligent Prime Minister. She knows how to handle public affairs, and that is one of the greatest challenges we have in the management of public affairs in our country.

I think that with her guidance, as Prime Minister, this country will move yonder. I beg to move. *(Applause)*

MR SPEAKER: I see Hon. Ssewungu, Hon. Fungaroo and Hon. Paul Mwiru.

4.32

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu County West, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. When you see us abstaining or not supporting, we are insulating somewhere. Remember the death of Lazarus? Jesus went there and the sister of Lazarus said: “If you had been around, maybe he would not have died.” We are supporting the motion. I thank you for the work, but we also have to give facts about the Prime Minister.

First of all, you are among the Prime Ministers I have been with since I came to Parliament who have their phones always on when they are called, which is good. However, prevail over the ministers. That is also your role. We have been having parliamentary sittings, where the Speaker gets in the House, and the Front Bench is empty. In the committees of Parliament, you invite the ministers and wait for them, but they do not appear. That is the work of the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business.

Integrate the work that you do outside and in Parliament as the Leader of Government Business. That will help us to perform well, as Members of Parliament. You, the designated ministers, respect the Prime Minister.

As you move with your name “*Majegere*”, let us see the *majegere* on the ministers of the Government. They are supposed to do their work. Here, sometimes we come but the Prime Minister and the ministers are not around.

We had the Rt Hon. Amama Mbabazi here. I know that with your coordination with the Speaker, you can come at any time during the House. There are serious issues that are supposed to be managed and presided over by the Prime Minister. At 2.00 p.m., you may not be around, but at 4.00 p.m., be here so that we can move on. However, we only wait for Prime Minister's Time and the moment it is done, it is the end of the day.

Therefore, Madam Prime Minister, if you go through - do not be happy that you are already through, because these Members can turn around, as I have spoken. *(Laughter)* However, as I conclude, my humble prayer –

THE SPEAKER: The minute is done.

MR SSEWUNGU: Most obliged, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Fungaroo?

4.34

MR KAPS HASSAN FUNGAROO (FDC, Obongi County, Obongi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I congratulate you -

THE SPEAKER: Welcome back.

MR FUNGAROO: Thank you. I am back, after five years. We are making permanent records for generations to come. Therefore, it is very important for the views of Members, particularly those who are deemed to be sitting on the Opposition side, to be captured when supporting such a motion.

On behalf of the people of Obongi, whom I represent and, on my behalf, I would like to say that I support the motion that Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja be approved by this Parliament as our Prime Minister. *(Applause)*

This is for the reason that, being a Prime Minister, if you take it to the simplest level of leadership – even at the school level – you are the head of other leaders: head girl or head prefect. You are supposed to be the supervisor and mobiliser of these people whom you are leading.

Being the Prime Minister of a country that has been in existence for some time means that there were other Prime Ministers before you, and, therefore, you carry forward the work of the Office of the Prime Minister from your predecessors. This is where I come with a testimony.

When Rt Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda was the Prime Minister, there were issues which were handled – *(Break in recording)*- him as the Prime Minister and Gen. Moses Ali and I, as the people of West Nile, on the issue of Koboko-Yumbe-Moyo Road being tarmacked, supported by the World Bank. There were some issues which were not captured properly. When she came, I personally went to her office. I thought she was going to say, “Those issues were for *Ndugu* Rugunda; let them be for that time”.

Offices are continuous. I found it nice that Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja touched buttons here and there, and our issues were streamlined very fast. *(Applause)* Now, our road is being done. Even for the gaps which were in the design, she promised that she would cause those gaps to be closed in the process of completing the road, to serve all the refugee-hosting districts in West Nile.

Therefore, I second her being approved here as the Rt Hon. Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda. I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Paul and then Hon. Malende. Can we do one minute each?

4.37

MR PAUL MWIRU (NUP, Jinja South Division East, Jinja City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I congratulate you upon your election as the Speaker, and I want to say that I concede – adding on what happened in Kololo. *(Laughter)* I pledge my commitment towards serving in this House.

Mr Speaker, I rise to underscore the difference between the approval of Parliament under Article 108A and Articles 113 and 114. I want to say that when the Vice-President and

the Prime Minister are appointed, the whole House approves the Vice-President and the Prime Minister, but when other ministers are appointed, under Articles 113 and 114, they are approved by the Committee on Appointments.

My understanding is that the Vice-President and the Prime Minister have a greater duty to conduct themselves in a manner befitting those offices. Term after term, the Office of the Prime Minister has been faced with a number of scandals, one after the other.

I want to say to my grandmother here that, for the office in which you are, we are tired of seeing that taking place. When you are approved by Parliament, take it seriously. You should not be having programmes where you buy *mabaati* when there are no structures. That is what tempted your colleagues to go with the *mabaati*. There were no structures, and the *mabaati* were there.

Therefore, I emphasise only that you have a greater duty as the Prime Minister to manage your team so that they actually know what they are supposed to do. How on earth would a Member of Parliament appointed as a minister end up where our colleagues ended up? It is the duty of the Prime Minister.

We are here to support the motion, but we want you to know that we are alive to what you are supposed to do as the Prime Minister.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Mwiru, thank you for conceding. I hope it was a fair game. Hon. Malende?

MS MALENDE: Mr Speaker, I am Shamim Malende, the District Woman Representative for Kampala.

Mr Speaker, Article 108A(2)(a) says, “*The Prime Minister shall be the Leader of Government Business in Parliament and be responsible for the coordination and implementation of Government policies across ministries, departments and other public institutions.*” Clause (2)(b) says, “*...and may*

also perform any other duties or functions assigned by the President or in line with the Constitution or the law.”

I carry with me here the voices of the people of Kampala regarding the issue that we are handling now. There is a public outcry that when our honourable colleagues are given these positions – they could actually be very good leaders, but sometimes they do not have the power and the authority to decide on issues affecting their ministries. That is a very serious issue. I have heard my colleagues here, imploring the Prime Minister and other persons to ensure that they do due diligence, supervise ministers and all that. We all know that is very important.

Mr Speaker, my procedural issue is: Would it not be procedurally right for the Rt Hon. Nabbanja to come and confirm to this House that, despite those challenges that are being cited by the public, like lack of power, lack of authority, that she is willing to take on the mantle when approved by this House, even when those challenges may still exist? You have a big office.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. After the approval, she will make a statement. Right now, she does not have a locus as a nominee.

Hon. Alenyu and then my brother. Can we have just about four more people on this side? Honourable member – I may not know the name – Hon. Ocen, then Hon. Kirumira, Hon. Betty Aol from Gulu, and the Member for Amuru.

4.43

MR MARSHALL ALENYO (Independent, Jonam County, Pakwach): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to congratulate the Vice-President. In support of the nomination of the Prime Minister, I am Hon. Marshall Alenyu. I represent the people of Jonam County in Pakwach and I am an Independent.

Mr Speaker, if you go into your office, when the people of Jonam were sent away from their Palango land across the eastern part of

Pakwach, they lost their land. Up to now, all those women you see running with fish and *onang-nang* used to stay across Pakwach.

The then Prime Minister, the late Rt Hon. Prof. Apolo Nsibambi wrote a directive about the people of Jonam going back to their land. I want you, in your next term, as the Prime Minister of this beautiful country, to look at that directive. I support your nomination. Thank you very much. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: I think you have all the reasons to support and he has already given the task. One minute each. When you are really – Now I want those who are opposed because we want to put the question. We need to not just save time, but be relevant for the record.

4.45

MR GEOFFREY OCEN (UPC, Kioga North County, Amolatar): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Ocen Geoffrey, Member of Parliament for Kioga North County in Amolatar District.

Mr Speaker, I associate myself with the motion moved. As a member of the Uganda People's Congress, when I was the District Chairman of Amolatar District, and at the time when the district was being submerged by the water levels of Lake Kyoga and Lake Kwana, the Rt Hon. Prime Minister visited the district. (*Applause*) We spent the whole day visiting the local community that suffered in the district.

As a Member of Parliament, I want to state that the Rt Hon. Prime Minister had an illustrious career spanning over two decades with an impeccable and unblemished record. If we give her another chance, I strongly believe this country will move to another level. I associate myself with the motion moved.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Kirumira? That was in support and if I had stopped – We have heard from the Independents, we have heard the NUP, we have heard UPC. There is FDC. If you are opposed to the motion – because this is a very popular motion. Yes, Hon. Kirumira?

4.46

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luweero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This august House has just passed the Protection of the Sovereignty Act. It is a baby law that was assented to by the President a few weeks ago, and I doubt the ink has dried. Hon. Naluyima brought something here on the Floor, questioning the appointments and the bona fide citizenship of the people who are being appointed.

While I am privy to the information that the Rt Hon. Prime Minister is a native of Kakumiro, by extension, her office carries ministers. It would be prudent for this House to profile our Cabinet ministers, including the Prime Minister, their area of birth, and where they come from, such that we protect our country in light of the Protection of the Sovereignty Act that this House passed.

THE SPEAKER: Which provision is that?

MR KIRUMIRA: Section 2 of the Protection of the Sovereignty Act requires that we protect our country from foreign agents. Foreign agents –

THE SPEAKER: Does it say when we are approving the Vice-President and Prime Minister?

MR KIRUMIRA: My point is that while we are approving the Prime Minister and by extension the ministers, we need to be privy to the information of their background; where they come from because this is our country. We have just passed a very important law, that is, the Protection of the Sovereignty Act, and so we need to protect our country from foreign agents. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Point noted. Yes, and that is why we are doing it in an open plenary. If you have any contrary view that the Prime Minister is not a native of Uganda, please bring it forward. I am being moved to – PFF is the last one.

4.49

MS BETTY AOL (PFF, Woman Representative, Gulu City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to join the voices which have congratulated you and your colleague, the Deputy Speaker. And I would like to congratulate all the ministers in the making. It is just two or three days that you will all be ministers.

I was very happy when I saw the list of ministers, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister. I am very passionate about women also being given space. Even when we are weak somewhere, we can be supported. Our capacities can be built.

For now, the nominated Prime Minister has a proven record of working very hard. She has worked very hard. I have never seen a Prime Minister who jumps on a motorcycle. This one can jump on a motorcycle if things become very difficult. So that is it. This is because she wants better for the people of Uganda. So, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I am here to support your appointment as Prime Minister.

THE SPEAKER: If PFF, a new party, can support, then UPC, the oldest party, supports. FDC vibrant, ANT supports, NUP supports. So, DP –

4.52

MS LUCY AKELLO (FDC, Woman Representative, Amuru): Thank you, Mr Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: Oh, there is DP. Let us hear from you, Amuru and then DP, you are the last. Just in case, Hon. Mao told you something else. *(Laughter)*

MS AKELLO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. This being my maiden speech, allow me also to congratulate you upon your successful election.

Allow me also to congratulate, especially the team on the Front Bench there. I feel very happy seeing many women being appointed. I pray that you all succeed during the approvals *-(Interjections)-* Somebody is saying the boy child, but it is 50/50 now. I thank you.

Mr Speaker, I am in support of the Motion. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you have worked for this, and it is just right and fitting. As a Catholic, we always say “it is right and fitting”.

I pray for you. The last time you were in Amuru, it was not a nice experience. I pray you come to Amuru to peacefully finish what you started, and that is the issue of the Apaa land conflict. You are a mother; you are a woman. We have women dying daily because there is no hospital. The only Government hospital in Apaa was closed. Children cannot be immunised. So as a mother, I implore you to work on this and come and finish it. Otherwise, I second the Motion.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Okot, DP, the last one, please.

4.54

MR PETER OKOT (DP, Tochi County, Omoro): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity to congratulate you upon your resounding election as the Speaker of this House.

Mr Speaker, I join colleagues to second the appointment of the Rt Hon. Prime Minister. Much has been said about the Rt Hon. Prime Minister. But I just want to confirm one thing – her humility.

In the last Parliament, I served on the Committee on Presidential Affairs, which was tasked with investigating the Karamoja iron sheets saga. My chairperson, Hon. Jesca Ababiku, wrote to the Prime Minister, inviting her to come before the committee. She did respond, writing back that she is coming before the committee.

It equally took the humility in Hon. Ababiku to write back to her, “*Rt Hon. Prime Minister, please, we are coming to your office.*” So, I felt that she did not use her position as Prime Minister to look down upon the committee chairperson. She could have chosen to say, “I am the Prime Minister. How dare you summon me to your office? Come to mine.”

But she showed humility and agreed to come before the committee, and the able chairperson

saw it necessary that the committee should go to her. So, I think she is the right person for that office, given her humility. *(Applause)* Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. That is a valid point, not only to her. Honourable members, let us all be humble. The world is yearning for humble leaders who care about their people.

It is my time now to put the question, and we shall apply the same methodology for a resolution of this Parliament approving the appointment of Hon. Nabbanja Robinah, District Woman Representative of Kakumiro District, as the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business in Parliament.

(Members voted by a show of hands.)

THE SPEAKER: That is Busia Municipality, then Gomba. The camera man, please give space to Members.

Okay. Fifth row. Those standing, do not vote. You will vote differently. The team of Hon. Cissy Namujju.

I hope you counted the two votes: Hon. Ochai and the colleague. Their suits are almost the same; you would think it is one person.

Those standing here. Hon. Amelia Kyambadde is somewhere there. I can see Hon. Ssentayi, Hon. Freedom, Hon. Paula Turyahikayo, and Hon. Kiyonga – have you seen them? Hon. Cissy Namujju, Hon. Emaju, the Senior Counsel. Somehow, I can see just the hands and know.

Okay. Have you counted the other side, Hon. Bagiire and group? Hon. James Kaberuka, and Hon. Ofwono Opondo – he says he is the MP for the elderly, but not for the old.

We come to the other row, where Hon. Patrick Obura is, Maj. Gen. Ssemwanga, Hon. Kateshumbwa and the group. Hon. Akello, there.

Okay. The middle one, from Hon. Frank Tumwebaze, the whole row up to Hon.

Asinansi Nyakato, the former candidate for Deputy Speaker. She is from Bunyoro. She has voted “Yes”. Just for the record, Madam Prime Minister, she is supporting you.

We can go to Hon. Mapenduzi, Hon. Machika, Hon. Achola, Hon. Alex, Hon. Harriet Ntabazi, Col Knight Ikiriza, Hon. Nathan Byanyima. There is somebody else there I cannot see. Have you counted them?

We can do the first row here. Hon. Ssenyonyi is perpetual – the Speaker is only taking note. Alliance for National Transformation has one MP and is voting positively.

Second row, we are done. Third row. Those standing, do not. Dr Batuwa, do not raise your hand. Mbale, Hon. Fiona Nakku. There is a hand on the other side. Clerk, are you seeing? Where are you beginning from? Are you done?

Fourth row. Hon. Mutonyi, Hon. Ngabirano, MP representing Buhweju, Hon. Martin Drito, welcome back.

The last row. Yes, Hon. Okot, Hon. Otim, Hon. Sarah, I cannot see the rest. Hon. Molly Kamukama, and then the Woman MP for Mbarara City, that is Hon. Charity Kibaaju.

Okay. Those standing there: Hon. Aogon, Hon. Emmanuel, Hon. Opio, Hon. Charles Ngabirano, and Hon. Kinobere. Have you counted those ones?

Hon. Betty Aol – there are two standing. Hon. Akol has not voted. Okay. The Uganda People’s Congress – already counted. MPs in the Gallery, we acknowledge you with a lot of difficulty.

The corridor here. Hon. Lokii, Hon. Sam Engola. Apparently, he could not get a fitting seat. *(Laughter)* Have you counted this one? Okay.

Hon. Cissy Namujju’s team is back there. Clerk, this problem must end. We should find a solution. Everyone is elected to sit comfortably in the House. The voters are looking for their MPs, and they cannot see them.

Those against the motion? There are only three.

First row, those against? Let us do it properly. Second row, those against? Third row, those against? Fourth row, those against? Fifth row? Standing over the other side? Standing this way? In the middle? The back door? The back there? The first row here? Second row? Third row? Fourth row? Fifth row? The MP representing Butebo. Gallery, zero. *(Applause)*

Those abstaining, you have your right. Hon. Ssewungu, you voted “Yes”. *(Laughter)* Do you want to make an invalid vote? There are only two abstentions.

At least, this vote is better than what we went through at the Kololo Ceremonial Grounds. This is faster than the other one, which had a lot of stress. For this one, you can see who is voting for you properly. *(Laughter)* Unless you are not sure -

(Voting by show of hands continued.)

THE SPEAKER: The motion for approval of Hon. Robinah Nabbanja as the Prime Minister and Leader of Government business stands as follows: those who abstained were two, the *Nays* were six, and the *Ayes* were 320. *(Applause)* Therefore, the motion is carried.

Congratulations to the Rt Hon. Prime Minister – *(Applause)* - at an appropriate time, both the Vice-President and you should prepare to thank your voters, later on. Next item?

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF
PARLIAMENT TO VARY THE TOTAL
NUMBER OF CABINET MINISTERS
AND OTHER MINISTERS UNDER
ARTICLES 113(2) AND 114(2) OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
UGANDA

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister and the Leader of Government Business.

5.11

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, I move a motion for a resolution of Parliament to vary the total number of Cabinet Ministers and other ministers under Article 113(2) and 114(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

“WHEREAS Article 111 of the Constitution provides that the Cabinet shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister and such number of ministers as may appear to the President to be reasonably necessary for the efficient running of the state;

RECOGNISING that under Article 111(2) of the Constitution, Cabinet is mandated to determine, formulate and implement the policy of Government and to perform such other functions conferred by the Constitution or any other law;

AWARE that under Article 113(1) and 114(1), Cabinet Ministers and other ministers are appointed by the President with the approval of Parliament;

NOTING that Article 113(2) of the Constitution provides that the total number of Cabinet Ministers shall not exceed 21 except with the approval of Parliament;

FURTHER NOTING that Article 114(3) of the Constitution provides that the total number of other ministers shall not exceed 21 except with the approval of Parliament;

REALISING that for the efficient running of the State, His Excellency the President has determined that there is need to increase the total number of Cabinet Ministers from 21 to 30 and the total number of other ministers from 21 to 51;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by this Parliament that the total number of Cabinet Ministers provided for under Article 113(2) be increased from 21 to 30, and the total number of other ministers provided for under Article 114(3) be increased from 21 to 51.”

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? It is seconded by Hon. Anifa, Hon. Abigaba, Hon. Ssentayi and Hon. Fadhil; Hon. Isiagi, Hon. Angura, the honourable member representing Mubende District, and Hon. Amos Lugoloobi. Hon. Logose of Butaleja District, Hon. Pex, Hon. Jay Shyam and the whole House; except for a few of my neighbours here – (*Laughter*) – Hon. Nambooze, Hon. Ssenyonyi, Hon. David Kalwanga and the honourable member from Kassanda.

Can you speak to your motion?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, this is my justification. The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda under Articles 113 and 114 empowers the President, with the approval of Parliament, to determine and vary the number of Cabinet Ministers and other ministers. This flexibility was deliberately embedded to ensure that the Executive remains responsive to the evolving needs of our nation.

Let me talk about the constitutional basis. Article 111 mandates that the President shall determine the number of ministers reasonably necessary for the efficient running of the state.

Article 113(2) and 114(3) cap the Cabinet and other ministers at 21 unless Parliament approves a variation. Parliament has historically varied the number of ministers in every session since the Sixth Parliament, establishing precedent and continuity.

Let me talk about the population and administrative growth. Uganda's population has grown from 20 million in 1995 to 45.9, approximately 46 million, according to the 2024 census. The districts have expanded from 39 to 146, creating new governance demands, as the per capita increase in ministerial portfolios is necessary to match service delivery needs and ensure equitable representation.

Let me talk about the change in Government priorities and the new programmes. Government priorities have evolved to address

poverty eradication, wealth creation and inclusive growth. Flagship programmes such as the Parish Development Model (PDM), the *Emyooga* initiative and climate resilience strategies require dedicated ministerial oversight to ensure effective implementation.

Specialised portfolios are needed to coordinate cross-cutting programmes, monitor Government performance, and guarantee accountability at the grassroots level.

Mr Speaker, under service delivery and efficiency, more ministers allow specialisation, clear mandates, and stronger oversight.

Expanded leadership has coincided with improved indicators: poverty reduction, increased life expectancy, and reduced mortality; dedicated portfolios for emerging priorities such as digital transformation, climate resilience, and regional integration, as well as special interest groups such as the elderly, ensure tailored policy responses.

Mr Speaker, this motion is not about numbers alone. It is about efficiency, accountability, inclusivity, and alignment with Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan IV, as you all are aware.

While concerns about cost and duplication have been raised, Uganda's governance demands are unique, and the Constitution provides for this adaptive approach.

Now therefore, I move that this Parliament approves the variation in the number of Cabinet ministers and other ministers in accordance with Articles 113 and 114 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, so that the Government may effectively meet the socio-economic aspirations of our people.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Do we have a seconder? Hon. Kafuuzi- That is in anticipation. He is a Member of Parliament for Kyaka South County, Kyegegwa District. Hon. Kafuuzi.

5.21

MR JACKSON KAFUZI (NRM, Kyaka South County, Kyegegwa District): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Permit me to congratulate you upon assuming your role as Speaker of this House.

Permit me also to take this opportunity to congratulate Her Excellency the Vice-President, the Rt Hon. Prime Minister, and the honourable members of Parliament for making it to this House.

Mr Speaker, this is the justification for the motion for variation:

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda provides clear guidance on the composition of the Cabinet. As the Rt Hon. Prime Minister has said, Article 111 establishes that the Cabinet shall be composed of the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister, and such other ministers as may appear to the President to be reasonably necessary for the efficient running of the State.

Articles 113(2) and 114(3) set a baseline of 21 cabinet ministers and 21 other ministers, commonly known as Ministers of State.

However, it explicitly allows Parliament to approve any variation beyond those numbers. This means that the framers of the Constitution anticipated evolving governance needs and deliberately vested Parliament with the authority to approve the adjustments.

The legal principle of variation

The operative words are “reasonably necessary” and “with the approval of Parliament”. This establishes a dual safeguard: the President proposes based on governance needs, and Parliament exercises oversight to ensure the variation is justified.

Each Parliament must approve anew. Past approvals lapse with the end of Parliament. This ensures accountability and prevents automatic inflation of cabinet numbers.

Practice and precedent:

Since the 6th Parliament, variations have been approved to reflect Uganda’s growing administrative and policy demands.

The 12th Parliament now considers a fresh variation, consistent with constitutional practice and precedent.

This is not a departure from the law, but its faithful application. Parliament is exercising its constitutional mandate to balance the Executive’s flexibility with accountability.

Legal justification for the current variation:

Uganda’s governance challenges, decentralisation, new flagship programmes, and specialised policy areas fall squarely within the meaning of “reasonably necessary”.

Approving this variation affirms Parliament’s role as the constitutional check to ensure that cabinet size is not arbitrarily but legally sanctioned.

Honourable members, the principle is clear. Cabinet numbers are not fixed. They are varied by law through Parliament to meet evolving national needs.

As you all know, we have gone through an election where a new mandate has been given to the Head of State and all of you. The Head of State traversed the country, explaining a manifesto that Ugandans have approved; therefore, he needs a team to implement it. It is our mandate as Members of Parliament to approve the variation.

Therefore, I second this motion that Parliament approves the variation in the numbers of Cabinet ministers and other ministers in accordance with Articles 113 and 114 of the Constitution so that the Government can effectively meet its socio-economic operations. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Patrick Oshabe, what is the procedural issue?

MR NSAMBA: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for allowing me to raise this procedural matter.

I was in both the 11th and 10th Parliaments. However, in the 11th Parliament, the Prime Minister came here and convinced the House about a Government programme on rationalisation, and we went through a rigorous process of rationalising so many agencies.

The Prime Minister convinced the country that it is the right way to go, and that the Cabinet and the President agreed that they needed to cut down on expenditure, because of the large number of Government agencies.

Mr Speaker, among the things we expected -

THE SPEAKER: The procedural issue.

MR NSAMBA: I am coming, Mr Speaker, kindly allow. We are here, the same Prime Minister who would have moved within the Constitution, because the Constitution gives 21 Ministers. In the wisdom of rationalisation, the same Prime Minister cannot come to this House and try to increase beyond this.

Any variation-if the objectives of rationalisation were to be achieved, then any variation should be that, probably, this time round, the Prime Minister is before this House to cut down the number of ministers as were presented in the previous Parliament.

Are we proceeding well by sitting here, having gone through rationalisation where so many ministries were downgraded and merged, yet the Prime Minister tries to come here, trying to increase the number of ministers, only to go through the same process of rationalisation. Thank you. Are we proceeding well?

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Prime Minister, are there ministries that have merged or downgraded, and you are coming back here to reactivate them? Can you be on record?

MS NABBANJA: Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. The number of Ministers and Ministers of State who have been carrying

out duties is the same as the number we have brought. We have not changed, we have not. Rationalisation was because we were having ambiguity and duplication. I want you to remember that UNRA was doing the same work as the Ministry of Works. We are here to present the same number we had in the last Parliament. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Nambooze. One minute.

5.32

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE (NUP, Mukono Municipality, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand here first of all to congratulate Hon. Nabbanja, who has just been approved by this House. I hope she will use this time to tell us where John Bosco Kibalama is.

I also stand here to oppose the Motion on one ground. Since we gave ourselves this Constitution, this country has never at any one time attempted to try out this particular article. We should think about what the framers of this Constitution intended when they decided to limit the number of ministers.

I guess that the idea was to limit top leaders from using appointments to patronise this country. The Prime Minister has stated that they want to address the governance gap created by population growth, yet today we have more districts. In that direction, therefore, we have more local leaders. Any governance gap that has been created can be fixed by the local leaders. We also know, Mr Speaker, that the President has already designated some colleagues here to be ministers.

Coming to this House after designating and announcing ministers clearly shows we are being treated as a rubber-stamp Parliament.

I appeal to colleagues that, for the first time in the history of this country, let us stay this Motion and try out the number of ministers as given in the Constitution. After all, the world has now opened up to more technology, and more roads have been constructed. We have more local leaders and more Members of

Parliament. There is no reason to justify that every subject is supervised by a minister. With rationalisation, we intended to stop the duplication of services.

Here, we have ministers for regions. What is more duplication than having a minister to serve just a region, that this is a minister for Buganda, this is a minister for Busoga. (*Hon. Amany rose*)

THE SPEAKER: There is some information this way. Would you want to take it?

MS NAMBOOZE: Only to emphasise, Mr Speaker, that you know, by saying this, I am representing you because I am your area Member of Parliament. (*Laughter*)

THE SPEAKER: Isn't that blackmail? (*Laughter*)

MR NAMANYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Cohen Amany. I am raising this information to my colleagues. What is being brought here is a provision under Article 113 and under Article 114. The issue of rationalisation does not come into play when we are talking about ministers. It is only when we are talking about departments in those ministries.

Hon. Nambooze raised an issue, saying that the framers of this Constitution saw fit to create a special provision in the same Constitution. The special provision of the Constitution uses the word "shall", but it goes ahead and creates an exception to that provision.

That is why Hon. Robinah Nabbanja has raised the issue under that provision. To come here and tell us that this is wrong, I think we are going in one way or the other, misfiring on the issue that is before this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I want to tell my colleagues that we are dealing with an issue of raising numbers under a Constitutional provision. The framers of the same Constitution saw fit to establish the separation of powers. They have given us that power under the Constitution. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Otim. Please, it is important that we represent all voices. One minute for you.

5.38

SGT (RTD) BERNARD OTIM (NRM, Maruzi North County, Apac): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand here to support the Motion as moved by the Rt Hon. Prime Minister, for this reason. Before becoming a Member of Parliament, I had been frequently following events in this House.

Among the key events I followed was that this very Parliament, with some Members, including the senior Hon. Nambooze, passed a Motion approving the same number of Ministers who had served the country successfully.

Secondly, Hon. Nambooze, if I am not mistaken, was a shadow minister whose mandate was similar to or in the same lane as the mandate that the Prime Minister seeks us to approve now. The issue is, why should we take the country into cycles? It is a common saying that "you cannot eat your cake and have it".

In the last Parliament, the same people passed the same motion. Why should it be passed? The only issue should be that as we pass it now, equity is equality. The people of Lango Subregion voted overwhelmingly for NRM and President Museveni, with 84 per cent, but they received only four appointments. So, let us pass it, but we need more appointments. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I think he is validating the motion, but he also wants more added. People want more. Hon. Paul Mwiru, you are the last on this matter.

5.39

MR PAUL MWIRU (NUP, Jinja South Division East, Jinja City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to oppose the motion, based on Articles 113 and 114. The framers of the Constitution clearly left the numbers the way they are in this Constitution. The Government has not moved to amend these provisions but has left them the way they are, leaving it up

to this Parliament. This means that it is this Parliament which knows that this country is recovering from the effects of COVID-19.

When you look at tax collection in this country and the cost of governance, it is important that, as leaders, we recognise that these ministers are policymakers. Actually, when we reduce the number, it is in their interest that we will find more money for service delivery.

I have looked at *–(Interjection)–* one of the appointed ministers is looking at me; Mr Speaker, I seek your protection. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: In front of you? Save for the two – the Vice-President and the Prime Minister, I cannot see any minister.

MR MWIRU: Mr Speaker, it is about the cost. We are saying that we have been coming here all this time and getting this resolution. For today, let us maintain the numbers as they are in the Constitution and see how it how it works out, so that if it does not work, we shall base on that next time to do the adjustment. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I heard somebody asking, “When is the next time?” *(Hon. Omara: Motion, Mr Speaker.)* There is a motion, Hon. Omara?

5.41

MR PAUL OMARA (NRM, Otuke County, Otuke): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Given the fact that you have given Members sufficient time to debate this motion, I would like to move under Rule 61(1)(n) that we now close the debate, so that you can put the question. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Let me first process that motion. Is the motion seconded? *[Honourable Members: Yes.]*

Okay. Can I now put the question to the motion that the debate on this matter be closed and the question be put?

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: I now want to move the motion for the resolution of this House to vary the total number of Cabinet ministers and other ministers, under Articles 113(2) and 114(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, before we go to one of the last items of designation of Members, I would like to report that notification has been given to us from the National Unity Party – [Hon. Betty Nambooze: “Platform”.] It is a platform. Forgive my tardy ignorance; I thought it was a party.

The National Unity Platform is giving notice to this Parliament for the designation of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and the Chief Opposition Whip. The letter reads:

“I write to inform you that in accordance with Section 8(1) of the Administration of Parliament Act, 2006, the party - not the platform - has elected Hon. Joel Besekezi Ssenyonyi, Member of Parliament for Nakawa West constituency, as the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

Similarly, the party - not the platform - has nominated Hon. Paul Mwiru, Member of Parliament for Jinja South Division East constituency, as the Chief Opposition Whip, in accordance with Section 15(1) of the Administration of Parliament Act, 2006.

Signed by David Lewis Rubongoya, Secretary-General of either the party or platform – (Laughter)- but NUP.”

So, I am required under Section 8(3) to give you notice that a person elected Leader of the Opposition under this section shall take office upon a formal announcement by the Speaker. I hereby announce Hon. Joel Besekezi Ssenyonyi as the Leader of the Opposition. *(Applause)*

Hon. Ssenyonyi, the new Members may not know you. If I described you, you may think I am insulting you. *(Laughter)* This is Hon. Joel Besekezi Ssenyonyi, the man who will oppose from this side. *(Laughter)* Please show him some love with applause. *(Applause)*

There is now a formation of Government on both sides. The Chief Opposition Whip, who had already started his work by opposing everything –(Laughter)- is Hon. Paul Mwiru. (Applause) Congratulations to the two of you. You now know what they were doing; whether the thing is good or bad, oppose.

Right now, we will move to the next item as we conclude this sitting today. On this matter, under the Administration of Parliament Act, there is actually no debate or taking a vote. You can imagine. (Laughter) Next item.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO
STANDING COMMITTEES (COMMITTEE
ON APPOINTMENTS) IN ACCORDANCE
WITH RULE 165 OF THE RULES OF
PROCEDURE

THE SPEAKER: This is the time to get the designation of Members to the Standing Committee on Appointment, in accordance with Rule 165 of the Rules of Procedure. We asked the NRM party - not platform - the National Unity Platform, FDC and all the parties represented in this House, and they have submitted names. So, let the Prime Minister read the names of her people. We have asked the independents to express their interests, and those interests are being designated by my good self and – Hon. Joel, are you ready? The Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

5.48

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, allow me to present the Members who will represent our side on the Appointments Committee:

1. Hon. Akumu Catherine Mavunjina.
2. Hon. Avur Jane Pacuto.
3. Hon. Awor Betty Engola.
4. Hon. Birungi Annet, Workers Representative.
5. Hon. Byibesho Sam, Kisoro Municipality.
6. Hon. Challa Elma Kapel, Youth Northern Uganda.
7. Hon. Gashaija Shyaka Steven, Entebbe Municipality.
8. Hon. Katushabe Ruth, Bukomansimbi.
9. Hon. Kisa Stephen Bakubalwayo, Luuka South.
10. Hon. Kitanywa Sowedi, Busongora County North.
11. Hon. Kiwanuka Keefa, Kiboga East County.
12. Hon. Lanyero Christine Awany, Nwoya District.
13. Hon. Linda Irene, Fort Portal City.
14. Hon. Mafabi Asha Nabulo, Sironko District.
15. Hon. Nagujja Judith, Buvuma.
16. Hon. Nakut Faith, Napak District.
17. Hon. Ndeezi Alex, PWD Central.
18. Hon. Ntale Nsereko Madina, Kawempe Division North.
19. Hon. Nyeko Johnson, Lamwo County.
20. Hon. Opolot Okwalinga Simon, Kanyum County.
21. Hon. Rwakimari Beatrice, Ruhaama County.
22. Hon. Rwakoojo Robinah Gureme, Gomba West County.
23. Hon. Tumuramyie Genensio, Kashongi County. Welcome back, our brother.
24. Hon. Twalla Fadil, Tingey County.
25. Hon. Wembabazi Beatrice, Hoima District.
26. Hon. Maj. Gen. Kinalwa James, UPDF.
27. Hon. Okot Peter, Tochi County.

THE SPEAKER: I think you will stop there. You are going beyond Kisumu.

MS NABANJJA: I thought, as the Leader of Government Business in Parliament, I would read for everybody, but now that you have guided, I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: The UPDF have a whip, and one person will be there and the Maj. Gen. James Kinalwa will be represented. Opposition? I hope that with time, when we behave in good politics, we shall change the nomenclature of opposition to minority and majority at one time, requiring a constitutional amendment.

5.53

MR PAUL MWIRU (NUP, Jinja South Division East, Jinja City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I proceed to nominate members of the Opposition based on their political parties.

People's Front for Freedom (PFF), Hon. Betty Aol

Forum for Democratic Change, Hon. Lucy Akello.

The Democratic Party, Hon. Okot Peter.

Uganda People's Congress, Hon. Dr Eunice Otuko Apio. (*Mr Okot rose*)

I seek your indulgence to pronounce the name of my Hon. colleague, Hon. Okot Peter, for the Democratic Party. (*Laughter*)

THE SPEAKER: You had said Akot, meaning a female.

MR MWIRU: Much obliged. For the National Unity Platform, we have:

Hon. Joel Besekezi Ssenyonyi, as a member,

Hon. Mwiru Paul,

Hon. Amaniyo Sheilah Draville

Hon. Ssewungu Joseph Gonzaga.

For the Alliance for National Transformation, Hon. Ismail Kasule is the designated member. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: The Independents, we have:

Hon. Acom Esther, District Woman Representative Serere, Independent. At least I know the two, and forgive me when I mix them up. I am only two days old, but at least I know Hon. Acom Esther, Serere.

Hon. Akoth Angela Nzokire, District Woman Representative, Tororo, Independent.

Hon. Kinobere Herbert Tom, Kiboko County. Please, members, want to know you.

Hon. Ongiertho Emmanuel Jor, Nebbi Municipality.

Of course, the committee is only constituted when we have the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

I put the question for the approval of the designated members. I thought so.

Leader of Government Business.

I put the question that the names that have been read be approved by this Parliament as designated members of the Standing Committee on Appointments.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: The first meeting of the Appointments Committee will be on Monday at 10.00 a.m. in the Speaker's boardroom. Keep time and come and serve the nation. VP and PM, it is your time to thank your voters. I do not know whether you have a reception for us. (*Laughter*)

5.58

THE VICE-PRESIDENT (Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Alupo): Thank you, Mr Speaker and distinguished Members of the 12th Parliament. Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr Speaker, upon your assumption of the Chair as the Speaker of the 12th Parliament. (*Applause*) In the same vein, I congratulate the Deputy Speaker, Rt Hon. Thomas Tayebwa. (*Applause*)

I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Joel Ssenyonyi, upon assuming the office of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament. (*Applause*) Also, I congratulate my brother, Hon. Paul Mwiru, upon assuming the office

of the Chief Opposition Whip in the 12th Parliament.

Honourable colleagues, I stand here today with humility and profound gratitude to the Almighty God, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.

In the book of Prophet Isaiah 60:22, it is written: “*When the time is ripe, I, Yahweh, will quickly bring it out.*” I acknowledge the hand of God in my appointment as the Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, allow me, quickly, to thank the people of Katakwi District for trusting me, yet again, to serve them as the Woman Member of Parliament for Katakwi District. *(Applause)* I promise them that I will exercise my mandate as their Member of Parliament and serve them diligently.

In connection with that, Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues, I thank the appointing authority, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, for trusting me yet again by appointing me for the second time to serve the people of Uganda as the Vice-President. *(Applause)*

I do not take it for granted, Mr Speaker. I assure him and all the people of Uganda that I shall serve with utmost dedication, patriotism and loyalty, giving undivided attention to all matters of national importance that come before me during my tenure. For it is again written in the scripture, in the Gospel according to Luke 12:48, that when someone is given a great deal, a great deal will be demanded of that person. And when someone is entrusted with a great deal, even more will be expected of that person.

Honourable colleagues, I thank you for the trust and confidence in me, which you have just demonstrated by approving me unanimously. *(Applause)* I am exceedingly humbled, and I say thank you to all of you, colleagues.

In service to the people of Uganda as the Vice-President, I promise you that I will not abuse your trust and confidence. In the execution

of my mandate, however, Mr Speaker, I request for the support and warm working relationship from each and every Member of this House because when we work as a team, we accomplish our assignments very fast, very well and very easily.

It is written in the book of Psalms 133:1 that: “How good, how delightful it is to live as brothers and sisters altogether.”

As I come to the conclusion of my statement, I call upon all of us, Members of this House, to envisage the Uganda with the GDP of \$500 billion, but connect all the grassroots masses whom we are leading to this economy.

For instance, Mr Speaker, if we were to ask ourselves: where do we go from here? The response was given in Kololo on the day of your election. The visionary leader, His Excellency the President, guided that our destination is our villages, our cells, our wards, our parishes, our divisions, our subcounties, our counties, our districts, municipalities and cities, to oversee the poverty alleviation programmes of the Government.

Let us unite and embrace financial inclusion, that is, moving all the 33 per cent of the households which are currently outside the money economy into the money economy.

This is not to say, Mr Speaker, that these Chambers will be empty. No! We can balance our tasks. This is also to say that, Parliament – and, Mr Speaker, please, empower us, as Members of Parliament, to do our oversight role and responsibility in the grassroots. *(Applause)* It is to the masses that we belong, and from the masses we came from, and to the masses we shall return at an appropriate time. *(Applause)*

Finally, Mr Speaker, I say this on a light note. You have been one of our own in the Cabinet. In fact, while in the Cabinet, we enjoyed your deep sense of humour. You had always, in your characteristic style, stimulated discussions with your tickling choice of words, openly sharing your knowledge and wealth of experience for the benefit of all.

Nevertheless, this is equally a very important arm of Government, where we shall still be benefiting from your wealth of knowledge and experience. We are looking forward to a Parliament where we shall speak less and act more and where we shall focus on the interests of the masses rather than the identity of the masses.

Mr Speaker, I personally have no doubt that you will steer this House very ably with dignity and decorum. In short, I am saying I have high expectations of you. *(Applause)* I pledge total cooperation with you and all Members of Parliament of this House.

I hasten to add that, dear Members, let us always stick to what unites us rather than what divides us. *(Applause)* The opportunity has been bestowed upon us by the people of Uganda to serve them, especially bearing the vision of wealth creation and job creation. Let us endeavour to do our level best and, in all that we do, let us do it in accordance with the law and our Rules of Procedure.

It is again written in the book of Proverbs 29:18 that: “When there is no vision, the people get out of hand. Happy are they who keep the law”.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to make this maiden speech. I am very happy that all Members of this Parliament understand the Rules of Procedure deeply, which is why Hon. Ssewungu has not interrupted me as I make my maiden speech. *(Laughter)*

Honourable members, I thank all of you for your kind attention. I have said all this, For God and My Country.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you for those very kind words. Leader of Government Business? Have you forgotten that you are the Leader of Government Business with a fresh mandate?

6.08

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Can we keep it short?

MS NABBANJA: Yes, I will try. Your Excellency, the Vice-President, and honourable members. First and foremost, I thank the Almighty God for the gift of life and the opportunity given to me by His Excellency Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda, to continue serving the people of Uganda as the Prime Minister. *(Applause)*

I receive my reappointment with humility and great gratitude to His Excellency for the trust and confidence placed in me, yet for another term. I do not take this for granted. My reappointment, Mr Speaker, is not just a personal milestone but an important responsibility to advance Uganda’s socio-economic transformation, emphasised by His Excellency Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda. I commit to coordinating the entire Government to realise this vision.

Mr Speaker, join me in congratulating His Excellency Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni upon his recent overwhelming electoral victory and swearing in as the President of the Republic of Uganda for this five-year term, that is, 2026-2031. *(Applause)* I strongly believe that under his able, wise and visionary leadership, we will protect and build on our collective gains for nationwide socio-economic transformation of our people during this new term and beyond.

Honourable members, join me in congratulating the Speaker, the Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda, the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, the Deputy Prime Ministers, the honourable ministers, and all of you, honourable members, on your recent victories and swearing-in for this five-year term.

Allow me to once again in a special way, congratulate my brother, Hon. Besekezi, the Leader of the Opposition for that renewed mandate *-(Applause)* - and your Chief Opposition Whip, my grandson. You know he told you that he is my grandson. The Chief Opposition Whip -

On behalf of the Government of Uganda, I commit to continue building on the strong foundation already in place by effectively leading a robust service delivery team, both political and technical that responds to the needs of our people by strengthening the link between the Executive and Legislature, and by ensuring continued availability of Government business in this Parliament and making sure that the ministers regularly attend and provide timely responses to Parliament.

Mr Speaker, the priorities of the NRM Government are very clear as outlined in the National Development Plan IV and the 2026/2031 NRM Manifesto, aimed at wealth creation, improving household incomes and expanding our economy from an estimated \$68.4 billion by the end of June 2026 to \$500 billion by the year 2040.

Mr Speaker, this growth will be anchored on strategic investments in our ATMs, which are: Agro- industrialisation (PDM, *Emyooga*, et cetera), Tourism development, and Mineral development, including oil and gas, science, technology, innovation, and creative industry development.

In addition, the Government will invest in enablers for the ATMs to deliver on planned growth. These enablers are:

1. Peace and security, which is a prerequisite for economic stability.
2. Infrastructure development. Here, I am talking about the Standard Gauge Railway, roads, electricity, and the metre gauge rehabilitation, water, sanitation, and environmental conservation.

Honourable members, health, education, information communication technology, electricity generation, transmission and distribution, industrial parks and free zones, administration of justice, law and order, effective legislation and oversight -

Mr Speaker, effective management of climate change, environmental and natural resources, and disasters as they occur. Fellow leaders,

Ugandans expect quality services from us. We can effectively serve our people through proper implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Government interventions. I want to reassure you that this will enable us to achieve better results with even limited resources.

Mr Speaker, leadership is a gift from God. I know that the role of the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business in Parliament requires commitment, patriotism, teamwork and sacrifice. I, therefore, request your continued support and prayers as we embark on this journey together.

Mr Speaker, I recommit to continuing to serve our people to improve service delivery and socio-economic transformation.

To the people of Kakumiro District and the greater Kibaale, thank you for electing me to the Ninth, 10th, 11th and now the 12th Parliament.

In conclusion, I once again thank you, Mr Speaker and Members, for approving my reappointment as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda. In the same vein, I appreciate His Excellency the President for the trust and confidence placed in me. I pledge continued commitment, collaboration, and teamwork during the “No corruption, no more sleep” term of office, as our country takes a qualitative leap into upper-middle-income status. For God and My Country. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I see the Leader of the Opposition. He wants to oppose your statements. *(Laughter)* Today, he is going to congratulate you.

6.17

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, I will begin with a slight clarification. The party that has renewed my mandate is called the National Unity Platform. That is the name of the party. You kept referring to it as the National Unity Party. I appreciate your interest in matters related to my political party, sir.

THE SPEAKER: Actually, the letter refers to it as the party.

MR SSENKYONYI: It is a party.

THE SPEAKER: Okay.

MR SSENKYONYI: Yes, it is a political party, but its name is National Unity Platform (NUP).

THE SPEAKER: So, it is the NUP party. *(Laughter)*

MR SSENKYONYI: Mr Speaker, again, to comfort you and the honourable colleagues, I am not really here to oppose anything and everything. No. My duty and the duty of colleagues on this side is to keep the Government in check. *(Applause)* I invite colleagues to join us in doing this duty, doing the same, executing this mandate because keeping the Government in check is for the good of each one of us.

Mr Speaker, I am sure one of these days Members will raise matters of national importance. They will tell you about the poor roads in their areas of representation, Government officials stealing money that is supposed to trickle down to their people, bad hospitals, and they will tell you about all these many different things. As we keep the Government in check, it is for the good of all of us, and we shall happily continue to do it.

Mr Speaker, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister have been approved by this House. We all did not vote for the both of you, but you have been approved. Our hope is that you will serve everybody. This is because that is what service delivery is supposed to be about: that you will extend services to everybody, that your offices will be accessible. We are going to bother you a great deal. Please get ready. Whether it be knocking at your offices, whether it be here on the Floor, we shall not come to your home. She has said at home, but no, we shall not come. Here in the Parliament, please get ready because it is important for that to happen.

On our end, we will keep you in check. Please, you should be happy about that. It should not be a bad thing. When we keep you in check, we are saying, "Do better here, improve here, do this the right way, as it should happen."

We will keep bothering you about all these many different things, service delivery, you know, political prisoners - that is a song we have sung, and we are not going to keep quiet. There are people who are rotting in jail, five, six, seven years, and they have not had their day in court. That is wrong, wrong, regardless of how it happens.

By the way, the same has happened to some people on the National Resistance Movement (NRM) side. Regardless of who it happens to, it is wrong. These are things we shall not keep quiet about, so get ready.

Mr Speaker, I did not vote for you to become Speaker because I had a candidate - *(Interjections)* - No, I am saying it publicly.

THE SPEAKER: But your candidate voted for me. *(Laughter)*

MR SSENKYONYI: I do not know about that, but I want to believe that of the 60 votes he got, one of those was his.

I will tell you what, Mr Speaker, I want to salute you, especially for your remarks after you took the Chair of the Speaker, when we were still at the Kololo Ceremonial Grounds. *(Applause)* I, for that moment, felt at ease. I hope I will continue to feel that way. Here is why I felt at ease:

Your speech had three critical elements that excited me. Number one, you promised to be a Speaker even for those who did not vote for you, like me, and that is imperative. You have become a referee for all of us. Our hope is that you will be ready to blow the whistle when there is a hard tackle, rather than being the one tackling us. *(Laughter)* That gave me comfort, Mr Speaker.

You promised, in your remarks, a corruption-free Parliament. That excited me. You have our support in ensuring this, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, you promised that Parliament is supposed to be open, and so the media is supposed to be welcome here. I want to express my appreciation because, on that one, you took immediate action. I was told that the Nation Media Group accessed Parliament today. They were barred from accessing Parliament for months, and that is wrong.

My appeal to you, Mr Speaker - I am saluting you publicly for the remarks that you made - kindly actualise the remarks that you made. That is my humble appeal to you. Sometimes we say things, and then we do not actualise them.

My hope is that you will actualise the remarks you made, and that we shall all feel comfortable being in this House. I should feel at ease to stand up and object to something, and I know I am not going to be vilified - and by me, I mean several colleagues, that nobody is going to be vilified for having their school of thought. That is why we are all here. We all have different schools of thought.

Mr Speaker, I have been Leader of the Opposition for two and a half years in the 11th Parliament. Leader of the Opposition, by law, is part of the Parliamentary Commission. I have not, I did not attend even one single Parliamentary Commission meeting. How can that be right? This is because I was never invited.

Mr Speaker, when I made a lot of noise about this issue, subsequently, there were about two or three invitations that came to my office. How did they come? The Office you are occupying now approves whenever a leader of the Opposition is going - even if it is out of town - for official duty. One of those times, I think we were going to these entities we were overseeing in Amuru, Inspire Africa Coffee in Ntungamo. I was on my way there when I got a call from the Office saying a letter had arrived from the Parliamentary Commission and that it was happening in 30 minutes. *(Laughter)*

Yes, some people might say I got invited about three times. Yes, but I was on the way out of town for official duty, and the Speaker's Office knew. These things have got to change. Let us observe the law. Let us do right as is expected.

Finally, Mr Speaker, you have seen the quandary we are grappling with here. We do not have adequate space. This Parliament, I am told, was made for about 80 people when it was constructed. We are now 529 Members. When you add the ex-official Members, we shall be 550-plus. Now that we have opened the space and said we can have many more ministers, we are waiting.

Mr Speaker, there are new Chambers that have been under construction for donkey's years. It is something I have discussed here on the Floor of Parliament. The same amount is appropriated every financial year. Why has that place become a bottomless pit for money? Why do they not finish constructing that place, so that Members do not sit on their laps? It would be a different thing if somebody was saying there is no money available, but money is passed here.

At one time, I said, look, can we stop passing this money? The money is appropriated; work does not happen. Meanwhile, Parliament spends billions of shillings to rent office space for Members and staff. Why?

Mr Speaker, we are trusting you to fix these issues. I am glad that you talked about them ably. We are looking forward to working with you. We are looking forward to all of us enjoying our space here, supporting what we feel is right to support, objecting to what we feel we should object to, and who will benefit: the people of Uganda out there. I thank you and congratulate us all. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We have to conclude at this point, but it is good to talk about these things over. To have this Parliament work, we have to start with a functional Parliamentary Commission, and then have the committees work. The work has started today. Within two weeks, the Clerk

will give me a status report on that building, including what needs to be done and when it will be completed, and I will report here.

The Business Committee has to work. We are going to do what they call a factory reset. *(Applause)*

Thank you very much. But before we adjourn, Hon. Matia Kasaija, please stand up so we can recognise you. He turned 82 today. *(Applause)* Happy birthday.

(Members rose and sang a birthday song.)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Our best wishes. Many more returns. Does he want a drink? *(Laughter)* And I know that the economy is now – *(Laughter)*

The House is adjourned to 4 June 2026 at 2.00 p.m. at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds.

(The House rose at 6.28 p.m. and adjourned until 4 June 2026 at 2.00 p.m. at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds.)