

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION - SECOND MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2026

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIRST SESSION - 7TH SITTING - SECOND MEETING

Wednesday, 14 October 2026

Parliament met at 2.44 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 once again to today's sitting. I have been notified that the Minister of Health has organised a high-level engagement at Speke Resort Munyonyo on 15 October, starting at 10.00 a.m., to discuss national preparedness and response to Ebola and other emerging public health emergencies.

This engagement specifically invites Members of Parliament from high-risk border districts, which include: Kampala, Moyo, Lamwo, Adjumani, Obongi, Yumbe, Koboko, Maracha, Terego, Arua, Madi-Okollo, Zombo, Nebbi, Kiryandongo, Buliisa, Hoima, Kikuube, Rubirizi, Isingiro, Kanungu, Rukungiri, Kisoro, Rubanda, Kabale, Ntoroko, Kabarole, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge, Bunyangabu, Bundibugyo, Kasese, Kitagwenda, Busia, Tororo, Kyotera, Wakiso and Mukono. I strongly urge honourable members from these districts to attend this important engagement.

Honourable members, Parliament is also hosting this year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on 23 October 2026, here at our premises. This is a good time to reflect on how far we have come as the 12th Parliament and how far we still have to go on our journey. We shall also use this opportunity to renew our faith in God, thank Him and seek guidance and wisdom as we embark on our roles.

I will adjust today's Order Paper to enable the Government Chief Whip to designate our newly elected colleague, Hon. James Pilli Leku of Adjumani West County, in accordance with Rules 195 and 165. I thank you. *(Hon. Ssenyonyi rose_)*

THE SPEAKER: He has a smaller issue. I do not know when he started doing the smaller issues.

2.49

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Mr Speaker, I thank you for your communication. You have talked about stakeholders' engagement vis-à-vis Ebola. Now that you have mentioned it, I hope the Government can really calm the country down.

There have been concerns. Uganda was declared Ebola-free, but every once in a while, concerns still come up. The US just extended its restrictions against Uganda for another 30 days, and we said, "What is happening?"

The other day, Kenya declared an Ebola death. They said the victim first went through Uganda by road and then by air. I said, "Now, why are they bringing Uganda into the picture?" But maybe they were telling their story.

So, that sends a bit of shock here and there. We hope the Government can assure us that it is on top of things and that all is well, because there are concerns locally and internationally, hence all these travel restrictions.

The second and final issue is the outcry over charcoal. In May 2023, a directive was issued banning the entire processing and eventual sale of charcoal. Now, that has been reinvigorated.

We have seen pronouncements saying that any cars moving around with charcoal, even if it is for domestic use, if you are also found selling charcoal by the roadside, you are going to be arrested. That has caused a lot of alarm among the public. Maybe the Government needs to provide clarity.

First, we agree with the Government on conserving the environment and protecting our forest cover, which has become depleted over time. That is why, for a long time, we have been asking, "Can we protect our forest cover?" Sometimes, we hear that powerful people are encroaching on Mabira and so on, and we say, "Government, what are you doing?" On that issue, we agree.

However, when Government issues such directives, it must follow up with action. How aggressively are we making it possible for ordinary persons to access alternative sources of energy?

The Government issued this directive three years ago. So, within these three years, what has Government done to say, "Let us try to make these alternatives available cheaply to Ugandans before we can heavily crack the whip"?

Mr Speaker, according to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2024 survey, 87 to 94 per cent of Ugandans use charcoal and firewood. I dare say that maybe even 95 per cent of the Members of Parliament in this House use charcoal in their homes. I have seen one or two people protesting. Well, it is possible that in your home, you might have access to alternative sources because you can afford that. However, we have to be sensitive. Many Ugandans cannot afford them.

Mr Speaker, the canteen here that feeds MPs has used charcoal for many years. They bring that charcoal at night and on weekends. So, when I saw a Member - I will not mention the Member protesting, I said, "At home you might be okay, but the food you eat here at the canteen is cooked using charcoal."

The point is that the Government needs to address this alarming situation because people are worried. The economy is struggling on many fronts. The dollar rate is high, fuel prices are high, and boda bodas are worried. They are saying, "We have heard there is a proposal to slap us with taxes." Many things are not in good shape.

So, we need to address this situation. We want to save and conserve the environment, but are we availing these alternative energy sources before we come out and crack the whip on literally everybody? Otherwise, it becomes a challenge, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Government?

Actually, I think it is true that Parliament not only uses charcoal, but a lot of it. *(Laughter)* So, you tell us how you are going to implement that.

We do not just use charcoal in the kitchen; I even know the number of bags, and it is staggering. It is over 60 bags of charcoal for Parliament. It can be verified. But I am speaking, as you know -*(Laughter)* - not that I derive any sense of pride in that, but it demonstrates the magnitude. Government?

2.54

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Ruth Aceng): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will respond to the issue of Ebola, and the minister for energy will respond to the issue of charcoal.

First, allow me to thank you for mobilising the Members to attend this important meeting on Ebola. It is true that Uganda was declared

Ebola-free, and we are free, and we remain free. Our challenge is the border we share with the DRC. The border is porous and long. There is no boundary at any one point, and that is what scares the Western countries. They imagine that anybody can walk in at any time.

What they need to realise is that we have systems in place, using our village health teams, to detect any foreigner who comes in. We are working hard to ensure that the country remains safe.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to make appeals for them to consider that: one, we are Ebola-free; two, we have systems in place. In the history of Uganda, we have never exported any Ebola case to any country. That needs to be considered. *(Applause)* We try our best to ensure that all those who are exposed, either contacts or cases, are contained and kept under quarantine so that they do not move.

Unfortunately, we had that case of a Kenyan moving through the country and moving out, which was beyond our control because he was in transit. He never stopped anywhere. The purpose of you mobilising the Members from these border areas is, first of all, to be appraise them of what is going on in their constituencies.

Secondly, to also provide them with information so that they know what to tell their constituents, especially about people from the DRC moving into the country, so that we keep safe. This is very important for our economy.

For the second question on charcoal, let me allow the minister for energy to respond.

2.58

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (MINERALS) (Ms Phiona Nyamutoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I used to use charcoal, but I want to confess that since joining the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, I stopped. I am one of the converts, and I would like to utilise this opportunity to call upon colleagues to join us – *(Interruptions)*- Mr Speaker, I beg to be protected.

THE SPEAKER: You are protected. Let us listen to the convert.

MS NYAMUTORO: I have since repented of my sins, and it would only be right that this House joins us in preaching the gospel against the use of charcoal across the country. The ministry continues to promote alternative energy sources including liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), electric cooking, ethanol, and biogas. The Government also instituted a specific tariff for cooking to support adoption of using electricity.

As part of oil and gas production, LPG will be produced from both Tilenga and Kingfisher projects. We hope that this will help in improving access to clean gas. The ministry continues to distribute free LPG cylinders and accessories to stimulate the use of gas as an alternative energy source.

As concerns have been raised, the key bottlenecks have been the initial cost of the cylinder and accessories, the perception around the safety of gas, and cultural barriers.

Through the Clean Cooking Unit of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, we continue to sensitise the public in this regard. Mr Speaker, if you allow, you could allocate us time to present a more comprehensive report on our work plan regarding what the Government is doing to promote alternative cooking methods.

THE SPEAKER: You have not addressed the issue of the ban. Do you think the Government has done enough to ensure the ban will not harm our population? Have you distributed enough gas cylinders? Does every place have them?

MS NYAMUTORO: Certainly not enough, Mr Speaker. The comprehensive report will detail what we have covered and the work plan for the remaining distribution areas. I was very categorical in my response in regard to what the ministry is doing.

THE SPEAKER: I think she is not addressing the ban, but she has offered to bring a comprehensive statement.

MR SSENYONYI: Mr Speaker, I am sorry for being insistent. The ban is ongoing, and we appreciate the steps that are being taken, but again, the liquefied petroleum gas penetration is about 2 per cent, and then, while the kit is free, people eventually have to pay for the gas going forward. For many households, they cannot afford this.

As we wait for the statement, I do not know when it is going to come; the ban is on, and people are going to be arrested. I think they are going to arrest everyone in this country. The challenge is also that the people meant to arrest, UPDF and police officers, also use charcoal in their barracks and homes. That means, between now and when the statement comes, there might be unnecessary chaos. We want to treat that chaos.

THE SPEAKER: I think this is the whole-of-government; not just a ministry, because those who are going to enforce – Government, what is your response? We shall have an opportunity to discuss this.

DR ACENG: Mr Speaker, as you clearly said, this is a sensitive issue. We have to eat, and the people out there have to cook their food and eat. As you have said, it is a whole-of-government approach, and we need to approach it in a phased manner. We cannot stop it outright. We will have dialogue through the office of the Leader of Government Business with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to map a way forward so that it is addressed step by step.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, that is a sensitive matter; we agree. We cannot be satisfied by – The Government Chief Whip has spoken as a leader, and said we can only do this in a phased manner. Let us agree on giving the Government time. Next week, you will come and tell us – because you have not spread out the electricity. In my constituency, if I want to be local, I do not know anybody who has received a gas cylinder. I think I am the only one with a gas cylinder because I am the Speaker. The minister will give us the statistics of how much you have distributed.

MS NYAMUTORO: Much obliged, Mr Speaker. We are glad to note that you are an advocate of clean cooking.

THE SPEAKER: I am a good cook who enjoys cooking where there is no smoke, and gas provides us with an opportunity. By the way, what we need next is not just distributing cylinders. We want to see Uganda developing a pipeline of gas connecting to houses, just like it is for electricity and national water, with all the safety precautions and metering.

Honourable minister, come back next Wednesday. However, what do we do in the interim? Hon. Amanya?

3.06

MR COHEN AMANYA (NRM, Igara County West, Bushenyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This Parliament passed a law on charcoal, stating that it can only be for domestic use. There is no law that suspends that provision.

Therefore, in the meantime, let people use charcoal. When the minister brings a statement –*(Interjections)* – I seek that this Parliament directs that the status quo is maintained, not to have people arrested, affecting everyone in the economy. We have not suspended the law under the Act, so charcoal can only be used for domestic purposes. *(Applause)*

MR OLANYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. When His Excellency the President issued an executive order, he stated clearly that massive tree cutting in Northern Uganda must stop. This was after we, the leaders from Acholi sub-region, raised the matter.

However, the President stated that those who are cutting trees in smaller quantities for home use must continue, stopping the cutting

of hundreds of hectares of trees and shea nut trees which are being destroyed. Those implementing do not know their role; they are doing the opposite, yet the President was very clear.

Mr Speaker, let the minister give the directives. Our people cannot avoid using charcoal because it is the only means of survival in this country. If we stop charcoal, our people will not survive. Therefore, the use of charcoal in small quantities should be allowed -

THE SPEAKER: What is the procedural issue?

MR OLANYA: The procedural issue I am raising is that let the Government and the minister read the Presidential Executive Order. They will then come to the Floor and direct Parliament well. Without understanding the executive order, you cannot stop the use of charcoal.

Finally, I would like to raise an issue on the districts that were read –

THE SPEAKER: It can only be "finally" if you were speaking about procedural matters. However, I cannot deduce any procedural matter you have raised, because you are speaking generally. Hon. Olanya, let us be kind to one another.

My guidance is that the Government comes back next Wednesday on the issue of the ban and the extent of the performance by the ministry. Between now and Wednesday, let us first suspend the enforcement. *(Applause)*

I do that not because I support charcoal, but because I know how difficult it will be for the enforcers, starting with Parliament. I do not want to see Members of Parliament being arrested. The Prime Minister will harmonise and come up with a comprehensive report on the ban and coverage on the use of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

We have used about 30 minutes. Honourable members, let me guide you on this. I love to keep time and be here at 2:00 p.m. because some of you come here at a quarter to 2:00 p.m. and sit. It is not fair for the Speaker to come late as if I am not prepared. However, some honourable members who come and ask for just a minute, you make me appear very small, yet I am big. *(Laughter)*

If you are late at any function, you cannot have the clout. I come 30 minutes late because of you, Members of Parliament. Going forward, I will not see people beyond 12:30 p.m. *(Applause)*

On matters of national importance, my office and the Clerk must share with the Prime Minister, the Government Chief Whip, and the Leader of the Opposition, just for a follow-up before 11:30 a.m.

Therefore, if you bring your matter beyond that time, we will consider it the following week to keep things in order. If it is past 11:00 a.m., do not come. Are we not the ones who make the rules? Starting tomorrow, do not come to see me for one minute after 12:30 p.m. I need to prepare. Even eating is part of the preparation.

I would like to pick a few Members here. The first person was Hon. Kiconco Katabaazi Patrick. Hon. Nambooze, according to the list, you are No.11.

3.13

MR PATRICK KATABAAZI (NRM, Rukiga County, Rukiga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance on the issue relating to the deceptive recruitment of Ugandans into the Russian-Ukraine war. I use the example of a 43-year-old man, a resident of Kitojo Rwamucucu, Rukiga District, who was working as a boda boda rider. He was enticed by the promise that there were jobs available in Russia.

He came to Kampala and was asked to get money for the ticket. He sold his property and got a ticket to Russia. When he got there, he was forced into a military contract, went to Ukraine and ultimately was captured on 7 July 2026, reportedly by the 63rd Mechanised

Brigade near Donetsk in Ukraine. International media has reported this young man›s story, and some clips are circulating of him pleading with the Government of Uganda to rescue him. He is an example of the many young people captured in this war.

Mr Speaker, I would like to make the following prayers:

1. The Minister of Foreign Affairs to investigate this report and come before this House to make a statement. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I think the Government has noted. Hon. Moses Mayanja, Member of Parliament for Busiro.

3.15

MR MOSES MAYANJA (NRM, Busiro County North, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: How do you pronounce the name of your constituency?

MR MAYANJA: Busiro North.

THE SPEAKER: Because I heard Hon. Sseggona was –

MR MAYANJA: Busiro East. He is my neighbour.

THE SPEAKER: Yeah, but some Jopadhola did not know how to pronounce it. He used to say he is a member of "Busiru." *(Laughter)*

MR MAYANJA: I am from Busiro North, sir.

THE SPEAKER: Please go ahead.

MR MAYANJA: Mr Speaker, I rise to raise a matter concerning two tragedies that happened this week in my constituency. One was the collapse of the bridge on the Gobero-Masulita-Kiroro Road, which is 19.3 kilometres long. The bridge collapsed because of the flooding of the River Mayanja on the 11th of this month, and it has disrupted access to services like health centres and schools; one of which flooded, and its collapse has interrupted business.

The second one is the death of three children belonging to Grace Nakalema, who drowned on the 11th as well. They drowned in Nonve Forest Pond that belongs to the National Forestry Authority (NFA). This pond has claimed many children because they go there for swimming and they end up losing their lives.

My prayer is that the Minister of Works and Transport will intervene immediately regarding the bridge that has disrupted business and access to services. Then, for the single mother who lost three children – these children used to collect plastic containers for survival. Currently, she has no means of living. I also wish the minister for gender would help the family. I beg to submit. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Government? The ministry for works and then ministry for gender as well.

3.17

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Mr Fred Byamukama): Mr Speaker, on the issue of the collapsed bridge, it is true, and it is not the only one. This week we have had very many incidents of bridge collapses. Some of them are on our national network while some are on district roads, but we have dispatched teams to assess these problems to determine the quickest intervention.

Considering that his area is close, I will inform our teams to give it priority. Tomorrow, they can reach there and come up with interventions to restore passages as we plan how to replace the bridge. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: And please make one prayer. Do not make God listen to many things.

3.18

MR ANDREW KALUYA (NUP, Kigulu County South, Iganga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance over the mismanagement of funds by the Uganda National Students Association (UNSA).

The Uganda National Students Association is a statutory body mandated to represent students and promote responsible citizenship. It is funded through annual students' contributions of Shs 2,000, Government subventions, and donations. UNSA reportedly received quarterly Government subventions of up to Shs 15,131,700 in the Financial Years 2021/2022 and 2022/2023.

Alongside membership fees and donations amounting to Shs 55,400,000 in 2021, Shs 1.78 billion in 2022, and Shs 2.08 billion in 2023. However, concerns persist over the accountability and auditing of these funds.

Furthermore, constitutional amendments adopted by July 2022 were reportedly not registered with URSB, contributing to leadership disputes. UNSA also lacks clear guidelines on salaries, allowances, and reimbursements, raising concerns over discretionary expenditure, weak financial controls, and possible mismanagement of students' contributions.

Mr Speaker, my prayer is that the Minister of Education and Sports present to Parliament a comprehensive statement on the collection, management, and utilisation of UNSA funds from 2021 to date, including student membership contributions, Government subventions, and donations.

May the Auditor-General also undertake a specific forensic audit of the UNSA financial operations? Lastly, may the Ministry of Education and Sports also institute a robust financial management and accountability framework for UNSA, with clear guidelines on expenditure, salaries, allowances, procurement, and mandatory annual financial reporting. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Education?

3.21

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to begin by thanking the Shadow Minister of Education and Sports. I have received the letter from the Inspectorate of Government (IG) dated 7 July 2026, and from the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports, on the subject matter, which the Shadow Minister of Education and Sports has just read here.

I want to confirm that, as of yesterday, the acting minister and we at the ministry discussed this matter and clearly agreed to implement all 14 recommendations of the IGG report as a Ministry of Education and Sports. What I want to plead and beg my colleague is to allow us to implement and follow up on the recommendations of the IGG to the letter because it addresses all the issues Hon. Kaluya has just mentioned here. Thank you.

It will also help us to address all the issues which have been raised regarding the Uganda National Students Association. I am a proud member of UNSA myself, and I am sure most of the colleagues here are members of the UNSA. Therefore, what we need is my former district chairman and head prefect of my former high school, Soroti SS, Hon. Attan.

I would like to add that we are all concerned about the quality, the calibre, and the way the association is moving forward. I also want to thank my colleagues Hon. Phiona Nyamutoro, Hon. Okot, and many others who have personally followed up on these issues, in line with the mismanagement at the UNSA secretariat. So, we want to pledge that we will get to the conclusion of the matter. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Attan, you may need to stand up because I saw my honourable sisters who may want to know who this is. So, that is Hon. Attan from Soroti. I saw some people were breaking their necks. Hon. Tom Aliti, your matter was here about the land suspension, and the committee is handling it. We expect the report.

We will not allow you to speak because it will be the same response regarding the suspension. Hon. Patrick Okello Ogut, Member of Parliament for Aswa? And by the way, one minute to rise.

3.24

MR PATRICK OKELLO (DP, Aswa County, Gulu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on the issue of rising tensions over unclear administrative boundaries that are affecting service delivery and governance.

In Gulu District, Aswa County, there has been a long-standing dispute between Amuru and Gulu districts over the boundaries. The then Minister of Local Government, Hon. Raphael Magyezi, went on the ground, and on 15th of July last year, he had a meeting with the leadership of the two districts and directed that the status quo be maintained until such a time when the Government pronounces itself on such boundaries. However, the issue has escalated because there is a big market there, and there have been reported cases of fights between the leadership.

Mr Speaker, when we had Presidential elections and for Members of Parliament (MPs), the status quo was maintained. However, when elections for Local Councils (LCs) came, the leadership of Amuru District decided to create another administrative area: two villages within Gulu District. Now we have two LCs with two stamps from Amuru within the same jurisdiction where Gulu District has the matter.

I pray that the Minister of Local Government gets on the ground and resolves this issue because people are having problems with the administration of services in those locations. This issue is not only in my constituency; it cuts across the country. I pray that they come on the ground and address this issue. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Local Government? Government should –

3.26

THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Jackson Kafuuzi): Mr Speaker, I have listened to my colleague's concerns, and I think it is not the first time those concerns have been brought here. If I remember correctly, in the 10th Parliament, there was another border concern between Amuru and Adjumani. There was another border issue involving Apac. As he has prayed, we are going to liaise with the Minister of Local Government to see that this matter is comprehensively dealt with. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ivan Kyeyune, Hon Bingi Patrick and Hon. Ssentayi, your matters are about charcoal ban. So, the same answer. Hon. Samuel Acuti?

3.27

MR ACUTI OPIO (NRM, Kole North County, Kole): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance on the 30 per cent tax deductions on the Shs 250,000 monthly pay of district councillors in Kole District and several other districts.

Mr Speaker, currently the district councillors in Kole receive Shs 250,000 per month. The Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) threshold is Shs 335,000 per month. However, they are earning less than this pay threshold and they are being taxed 30 per cent of it. When you go to the subcounty councillors, they receive Shs 35,000 per month, but this is not subject to any taxation. The local councillors the same; Shs 10,000 per month is not subject to any taxation.

We have checked with the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) at the district level, and they have maintained that this 30 per cent has to be deducted because this is considered secondary employment. Mr Speaker, there are irregularities in the implementation of this.

My prayer is that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development clarifies this tax deduction. The district councillors help us in our oversight roles. Taxing that little Shs 250,000 per month, I believe, is unfair and irregular, considering it is being applied, *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Government?

3.28

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng): Mr Speaker, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development will come and clarify when he returns. But

there is a minister of finance emeritus; maybe he can help us.

THE SPEAKER: I think, let Hon. Matia enjoy his retirement. Yes?

MR PAUL MWIRU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am rising under Rule 52 of our Rules of Procedure, particularly Rule 52(1), which requires ministers to attend the House and respond to questions. I am fortified by Rule 52(4), which is to the effect that it shall be disorderly conduct of a minister to fail to answer questions.

Mr Speaker, you informed this House that when matters of national importance are raised earlier, you communicate to the line ministers or to the Government Chief Whip, who communicates to the line ministers. What is actually happening here is we are being told that we are going to inform the minister. Yesterday, you raised the same issue, but I see no remedial action taken.

I am wondering, Mr Speaker, whether it would not be procedurally right that once a minister fails to answer a question, is not present, we name him under Rule 52(4) so that they take this business of Parliament seriously. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I am aware that the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development – because every minister – there are several who are out of the country – they notify the Speaker. That is why I will not name and shame a minister who was able to notify me.

However, should you raise a matter of a minister who is within but without Parliament being notified, then we can invoke the rules as required. But for the Minister of Finance, I know he went with some members of Parliament for a World Bank engagement. But also, the Government Chief Whip, today you are better than yesterday. Hon. Adrine from Sheema?

3.31

MS ADRINE KATUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Sheema): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter regarding the loss of life and property in Kabwohe Town, a busy town in Sheema. On 6th October, a trailer rammed into pedestrians and vendors, killing three people instantly and injuring so many who are now hospitalised. We have talked about this road for so long: Mbarara-Kabwohe-Ishaka Road. It has really consumed a lot of people, and so many lives have been lost. We have mentioned it several times.

It is my prayer today that the Minister of Works and Transport tells us exactly what is happening. Also, it is my prayer that these people who lost their dear ones - *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Works and Transport? I raised the same question here when I went to –

MS ADRINE KATUSIIME: Mr Speaker, there is another prayer, kindly –

THE SPEAKER: Please, you do not pray when the Speaker is speaking. *(Laughter)* You must have finished already to pray. But the minister is here to answer. Do something there. And then the Catholic parish there – They are a very productive parish. They are doing a lot of agriculture; there are so many institutions. They ask for, I think, three to four kilometres; give them, let them feel the Government. Minister of Works and Transport?

3.33

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Mr Fred Byabakama): Mr Speaker, your directive regarding the church; we have taken it on and we are going to implement.

On the issue raised by the honourable member, it is true that on the 6th of this month, a box-bodied truck rammed into cars which were parked in the town and it damaged eight of them before it rammed into the building. Three people lost their lives, and two were

injured; they are in hospital. We do condole with the families of the deceased; it is not our own making that we make people die. We are trying as you have rightly said, to finalise the procurement to work on this road and we shall automatically enlarge the major-

However, for this very issue, the preliminary findings show that the truck itself was *Ganyegenya.* I mean the truck failed to brake; it was in poor mechanical condition, and the driver lost control. As we work on the road and widen it, we also request support from the Members of Parliament.

When we come up to implement road safety, we need to move as a team. That is how we brought the idea of chasing away similar trucks from Kampala and other areas around the country. However, you see a Member of Parliament – I will not quote any – coming up as if we are in a fight.

So, we request your support: all those cars, taxis, trucks, and vessels which are in the form of *Ganyegenya* with mechanical conditions should get off the road to reduce accidents as we also work on our roads. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation of students from the School of Law, Kampala International University, main campus. They have come to observe the proceedings of the House. Please join me in welcoming them to the Parliament of Uganda. Thank you. *(Applause)*

We do not know what kind of prayers you are making while you are watching but we join you. The Members of Parliament (MPs) of those students, stand up so I can get to know you. Hon. Mulyanyama Ali and who else? Now all the lawyers are standing. Hon. Bright Amooti, are you also- from the Western branch? But may God answer all your prayers. Honourable colleagues, we have Hon. Betty Nambooze Bakireke.

3.36

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE (NUP, Mukono Municipality, Mukono): Thank you Mr Speaker. I want first of all to thank you for actualising your pledge to cut the budget of your office to finance committees. We thank you. A report shows that in the first 100 days of this Parliament; every district of Uganda was visited at least by a committee of Parliament on duty. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, as we were moving around, we had workshops and seminars and retreats in various hotels. It was during that period that a number of our young people working in the hotel industry, in different hotels in Uganda, approached us with complaints that: one, that they are grossly mistreated in favour of foreigners who work in that industry in Uganda.

Mr Speaker, it was noted that these are paid between Shs 75,000 and Shs 80,000 per month, and that any position that requires a manager, even if it is a manager in charge of restrooms, that person must be a foreigner.

I also represent an area with a number of industries today, but most of them are now issuing notices of retrenchment. They are saying we are going to retrench workers because of the economy.

The other matter is about sexual harassment of our people, including reports of homosexuality against workers in that industry.

My prayers, Mr Speaker, are that, may it please you, on top of a statement from the minister about the incidents in our hotels and industries, this House also mandates the line committee to make an investigation into this and more matters affecting our people in the hotel industry.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, we are getting our people from the neighbouring countries telling us that they are being sent back home, but for us we have kept our borders wide open and people have come into Uganda. In my area specifically, I have people from Southern Sudan and even

Sudan-Khartoum. They are buying houses – *(Member timed out.)*

3.39

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Ms Susan Nakawuki): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and Hon. Betty Nambooze. The issues you have raised are very pertinent, but some of them really could be a subject of investigation.

Mr Speaker, Uganda has been renowned as one of the most hospitable countries in the world. At the same time, it is one of the signatories of the East African Community treaty, which provides, under Article 104, the right to establishment and free movement of labour. It is upon this background that many people, especially from our neighbouring countries, have been considered greatly in the hotel industry, and that has entirely been because of the skills they possess.

We also have a protocol on free movement of persons and labour, and also, we are required under the treaty to come up with common policies when it comes to employment. At the same time, Uganda went ahead and removed the requirement to pay when acquiring work permits. All those people who are working in Uganda and are foreigners are required to get a work permit before they work anywhere.

However, maybe we need to also come up with more stringent terms; for example, in Kenya, for a work permit to be issued to a foreigner, there must not be any Kenyan with the capacity to do that job.

In the hotel industry, honourable members, I want us to agree that some of our neighbours have really gone ahead because they have invested heavily in training institutions when it comes to the hospitality industry.

As Uganda, we have come up because, as I talk, we have a fully-fledged Uganda Hotel and Tourism Training Institute in Jinja; it is operational, up and running.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you should have just responded to the issue of foreigners because these are some of the proposals from the ones who are being mistreated. I think that is the issue.

MS NAKAWUKI: Mr Speaker, the issue of mistreatment I had actually not drawn my attention to that. We are going to engage with the Uganda Hotel Owners Association, discuss it further and then come up with a report. It is an issue that requires investigation. We shall engage Hon. Nambooze to give us at least some of the people she engaged with, so that we get more information, and we know where to look. Then we will come back with a report.

THE SPEAKER: Much better. Thank you, honourable minister. Then we have Hon. Wanyenya Shafiga MP, Bungokho North; you have one minute and will be followed by Hon. Wabusani.

3.43

MS SHAFIGA WANYENYA (NRM, Bungokho County North, Mbale): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I rise on the issue of Mbale-Bufumbo Road, which has become very life-threatening.

Just on Monday, we had some parts of Kuwait Trading Centre where a vehicle had failed to move and locals came trying to push it so that it can be able to move. As they pushed, it moved backwards and crushed one of them. Unfortunately, his leg was totally crushed, and it was amputated yesterday at Mbale Regional Referral Hospital.

Mr Speaker, my prayer is to the Ministry of Works and Transport that this road be worked on, especially these dangerous spots of Jewa Town Council through to Bufumbo SS. There is also Naruduku leading to Wambewo Trading Centre and up to Lusamenta Trading Centre. These are very dangerous points.

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Works and Transport?

3.44

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Mr Fred Byamukama): Mr Speaker, this is a small stretch of about 14 kilometres. I am going to instruct my people to work on the entire stretch. I expect them to report by this weekend. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Now, that is the kind of response- you have proved that you are the Minister of Works and Transport. Next is Hon. Wabusani.

3.45

MR STEVEN WABUSANI (NRM, Bushigai County, Bududa): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter related to the collapse of bridges. There are three bridges which collapsed during the last season's downpour. These are bridges which connect one subcounty to the other: Nalwanza, Bushigai Town Council, Shazowu Bridge on Bunatsami and then Bushika Subcounty. The famous one is the one which connects Manafwa and Bududa District.

Although the minister had already mentioned the one which connects Manafwa and Bududa, Mr Speaker, as we prepare for El Niño, we do not know what could happen because we do not have any footpaths. We pray that the honourable minister comes in, sends a team, makes an assessment and ensures that people get – *(Member timed out.)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister?

MR FRED BYAMUKAMA: Mr Speaker, I know about the bridges and I dispatched a team two weeks back. They visited those bridges. They came back on Monday. I request the honourable colleague to give me time to look into the report and see what is possible.

Before I leave the Floor, I would like to be clear about the road for the honourable member. They will report next weekend to maintain the murram, not tarmac. I saw her telling me "tarmac". I cannot provide tarmac in three days, but I am going to ensure we maintain the murram the way it is so that it is motorable. I would like to be on the record. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Tebandeke?

3.46

MR CHARLES TEBANDEKE (NUP, Bbaale County, Kayunga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, and the National Secretariat for Patriotism Corps, directed that all the senior six vacists should have a mandatory six-month training on patriotism and ideological training programme at the National Leadership Institute (NALI) in Kyankwanzi.

Cognisant of Article 17, Mr Speaker, I note that it is the duty of all able-bodied Ugandans to undergo military training for defence and territorial integrity. Aware that some of our students have physical and health-related challenges, I need to be updated by the Government to explain to the public to what extent it is ready to effect this programme.

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs? Government Chief Whip, you should choose who answers.

3.48

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (DEFENCE) (Ms Grace Akifeza): Mr Speaker, Hon. Ogwang is going to handle.

THE SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you. How I would have loved to hear your voice more, but it is okay. *(Laughter)*

MS AKIFEZA: I greet you, Mr Speaker. How are you? *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Order. I will give the minister the answer. Hon. Ogwang proceed.

3.49

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, I beg to be protected. I congratulate you and my honourable colleague. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, allow me to go straight to the subject matter which has been asked by Hon. Tebandeke. First, I want to thank him for quoting the constitutional provision.

Secondly, I would like to acknowledge that the National Leadership Institute is for all of us, the people of Uganda.

Thirdly, if you want to know the level of patriotism, and how all great nations across the globe defend their territorial integrity and their national existence, it is through undergoing compulsory military training.

For that purpose, Mr Speaker, what has been holding us back is a question of resources to implement this specific provision. Now that the resources are available, as a minister responsible for our children, specifically those at school, I support it.

Also, I would like to call upon all of us that time is now to appreciate the fact that we must love our country. We might differ in opinion, but there is only one country, which is our country. Therefore, it is important that we begin to anchor and inculcate in our children the need to love Uganda by undergoing compulsory military training. I thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Whatever Hon. Ogwang said is true and – No, it is not about the youth. This is about a constitutional provision. If you are not comfortable with that, move for an amendment. In fact, lack of money made some of us not go there; so that is why we do not know what is happening there.
Hon. Namara, you are the last on the matters of national importance.

3.52
MR DENNIS NAMARA (NRM, Buyaga West County, Kagadi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to move on a serious point of white-collar criminality that is being meted onto our gullible and unsuspecting members of the public by the insurance companies.

Mr Speaker, some of the insurance companies enter into a scheme with Ugandans and I have some complaints from them. They tell you that you are going to save with them for five years. However, when you save as a Member of Parliament, for example, and you are thrown out by the court after one or two years, they will not give you any of what you have saved until you have made three years.

Now, when you look at the amount of money someone is going to lose- it is over Shs 300 million for some of the members, for example, Members of Parliament. Most members of the public have lost a lot of money. I therefore pray that the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development directs the Insurance Regulatory Authority to take action and stop this criminality that is going on. Mr Speaker, I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Government?

3.53
THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng): Mr Speaker, the prayer is well taken and Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development will be informed.

THE SPEAKER: On what is the Point of procedure, Hon. Nambooze?

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE: Mr Speaker, the procedure of this House is that the Government side is led by the Leader of Government Business, who happens to be the Prime Minister. The whole of today I have been seeing the Honourable Prime Minister Kiyonga seated here quietly, enjoying himself as the Government Chief Whip continues to struggle with Government business when her work is to whip members, and then the Head of Government Business is here. Is it procedurally okay for Hon. Kiyonga to continue sitting here and abscond from duty without official leave? Mr Speaker, I beg that you rule that he takes charge of the front bench.

THE SPEAKER: I think, Hon. Kiyonga, as you said, we are proceeding well. He is fully in charge; that is why he is smiling. Next item.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE SIZE OF THE RAILWAY RESERVE

THE SPEAKER: Minister of Works. The Minister will be responding to an issue from yesterday, right? Okay.

3.55

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Mr Fred Byamukama): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I have brought a comprehensive statement, but I will summarise it. Yesterday's question raises other issues of public concern. This statement concerns the size of the railway land reserve. I submitted a copy to the Clerk's office, and they can display it for members to read.

Mr Speaker, during the Sixth Sitting of the Second Meeting of the First Session of the 12th Parliament on Tuesday, 13th October, which was yesterday, you directed my ministry to present a statement on the size of the railway reserve. During the 10th cabinet meeting held on 28 September 2026, concerns were raised about encroachments on railway land reserves, which have affected the implementation of meter gauge railway rehabilitation programmes.

Accordingly, on 29 September 2026, I issued a directive to Uganda Railways Corporation to immediately evict all encroachers and demolish all illegal structures within the railway reserve. Uganda Railways Corporation is a statutory corporation established under the URC Act, Cap 216, with the mandate to construct, operate and maintain railway and marine transport services for the carriage of goods and passengers within and outside Uganda.

Under the Act, the corporation is the registered proprietor of various parcels of land held under freehold, leasehold, sub-lease and *mailo* tenure, formerly belonging to the East African Railways and Harbours Administration and the East African Railway Corporation. These properties were vested in URC pursuant to section 95 of the Uganda Railways Corporation Statute number 13 of 1992, now incorporated under Cap 1, 216 of the laws of Uganda. The corporation's land holdings extend across several regions of the country and comprise railway reserves, station lands, operational facilities, residential estates, workshops and property required for railway operations and future development.

The corporation owns a total of approximately 20,807 acres within its entire network. Of this, approximately 10,983 acres are located at various railway stations and estates within the network, while approximately 9,823 acres comprise the railway line reserve land across the entire network.

According to the National Physical Plan Act, Standards and Guidelines, paragraph 6.13, a 60-metre railway reserve corridor width, that is, 30 metres on either side of the railway centre line – 30 metres to the right and the left-hand side from the centre line – is provided, which is mostly in line with the existing railway reserve land registration records.

These pieces of railway reserve land are situated in most of the districts in Uganda along the existing railway line network. You can see them there. That is the Kampala-Malaba, Kampala-Port Bell, Kasese, Kampala-Kasese, the Busoga Loop, that is Kakira-Kaliro, which the honourable member talked about yesterday, and the Tororo-Gulu-Pakwach.

On 1 November 2006, the Government of Uganda, pursuant to the provisions of the Public Enterprise Reform and Divestiture Act, Cap 98, concessioned the commercial operations of Uganda Railways Corporation to Rift Valley Railways (Uganda) Limited (RVR) for a period of 25 years.

Under Schedule Two of the Uganda Concession Agreement for railway freight services 2006, railway land and associated railway estate assets were made available to the concessionaire for purposes of railway operations. However, URC retained ownership and registered proprietorship of the assets.

Prior to the concession, a substantial portion of the corporation's railway land remained relatively intact. However, during the

concession period, encroachment progressively increased across operational railway reserves, station lands and other corporation property. The situation was particularly pronounced along sections where railway operations had declined or ceased, creating opportunities for unauthorised occupation, the construction of permanent and semi-permanent structures, cultivation, and other incompatible land uses, as I show above with evidence.

By the time URC resumed direct management and operation of railway assets in 2018, encroachment had spread across significant portions of the railway network, including areas occupied by the people the Honourable Colleagues mentioned.

Consequently, the corporation inherited a substantial land administration and recovery challenge characterised by long-standing occupants, disputed boundaries, overlapping land interests, irregularly issued titles, and numerous land-related court cases.

The corporation has extended various assessments and enumeration exercises to establish the extent of encroachment across the railway network.

Based on consolidated estimates currently available, approximately 28,487 encroachment cases have been identified across railway corridors, station land, and isolated properties.

The distribution is summarised below:

We have Kampala-Mukono with the highest number of encroachers, about 4,354. The next one is Namanve-Malaba, with 9,989. The Busoga Loop they talked about yesterday has 715. The data is there. The total number of encroachers we have is 28,487.

These people have been coming over time; when we try, there is always political intervention and other things, even when we have clear information about our title and our land.

The Busoga Loop represents one of the railway corridors where encroachment has significantly affected the integrity of railway infrastructure and prospects for restoration of railway services. The corridor is covered by railway land comprised of leasehold Volume 211, Folio Northern Busoga Loop, Jinja-Malaba main line and Tororo-Amugo sections. We have attached the evidence to the document we gave the Clerk to prove that this land belongs to us.

The railway line originates from Jinja Railway Station and traverses Shauriyako, Mutai, Kakira, Luzinga, and Mbulamuti. From Mbulamuti, the network branches towards Namasagali and through Kamuli, Namaganda, Namwendwa, Kaliro, and Nsize. It is there.

Following the decline of railway operations along this corridor, the sections of the railway reserve became vulnerable to encroachers and vandalism. In all sections of the reserve, rails and sleepers were removed, and portions of the former railway formation were converted into access roads and occupied by permanent and semi-permanent developments. The corporation has identified approximately 715 encroachment cases along the Busoga Loop, as I earlier told you.

Of particular concern is the section around Shauriyako village immediately after Jinja Main Station, where permanent developments have been established within the railway reserve. For example, the picture below, I took it myself – *(Interjections)* – Yes, taken at Mufumbira B Cell Zone, Mufumbira A Division, Northern Division in Jinja City, belongs to a politician who is even seated here. *(Laughter)* At an appropriate time, if the Speaker allows me, I can table the evidence that we collected with the help of the Railways Police.

THE SPEAKER: You proceed; we shall know the Member even without you. *(Laughter)*

MR BYAMUKAMA: The Speaker has known –

THE SPEAKER: From how they react.

MR BYAMUKAMA: The photo I am showing you there belongs to a Member of Parliament who is seated here. We have an investigated report by the Uganda Railways Police. The second photo you see there, is the same property with other neighbours. That is where the railway was passing. You can see that the building is new and you can even see other neighbours. So, whenever we talk about eviction –

THE SPEAKER: Are you saying that is not at the boundary but within the railway line?

MR BYAMUKAMA: Yes, Mr Speaker. We have said that if you have been following the report, you may have noticed that when we handed over the operation to RVR, most of these railway lines became dormant and people used that opportunity, they vandalised and built property there.

When you see such structures; they are in the middle of the railway line, which was vandalised in which the Government had invested a lot of money. We have even gone ahead to borrow from African Development Bank and other funders. We need to revive the railway line to reduce the cost of commodities in the country. We need to get the cargo off the road to reduce congestion on the road as well as the time we are wasting burning fuel.
When you put the cargo on rail, the cost of transportation becomes low and eventually the prices of the commodities in the market will go down.

URC has previously undertaken engagements involving relevant security agencies and occupants. During these engagements, some occupants claimed that their occupation had been authorised through allocations by State House. However, the corporation has not yet been presented with any documentary evidence substantiating these claims.

The continued occupation of the corridor presents a significant obstacle to the restoration of railway operations and future investments. This is particularly important given the interest expressed by prospective railway users, including Kiira Motors, whose industrial and logistics activities could benefit from restored railway connectivity.

The recovery and protection of the Busoga loop should, therefore, be prioritised as a strategic intervention supporting rail restoration.

Under the 4th National Development Plan, that is 2025/2026-2029/2030, under the integrated transport infrastructure and service programme, the Government of Uganda has identified several interventions in the railway subsector, including:

i) The construction of the Kampala-Malaba Standard Gauge Railway Line;
ii) The rehabilitation of Tororo-Gulu Meter Gauge Line; and
iii) The refurbishment of the Kampala-Malaba Meter Gauge Line.

Meanwhile, we shall also come to those other lines. I have indicated them ahead there.

For the safe implementation of this project, the right-of-way corridor should be clear from any encroachers prior to the commencement of these works and future operations.

Preparatory activities for the construction of Kampala-Malaba Standard Gauge Railway are ongoing, under the limited notice to proceed arrangement.

Prior to the Cabinet concern of 28 September 2026, Uganda Railways Corporation had already initiated land recovery process for most of its encroached land, that included boundary opening, resurveying and title migration exercises across the railway network. The objectives were to:

i. Reestablish and demarcate railway boundaries;
ii. Identify overlaps and encroachment, like how we have identified these ones;
iii. Migrate titles to the National Land Information System;

iv. Cancellation of illegally created titles; and
v. Protect land required for current and future rail operations.

A total of 63 stations and properties across western, eastern, and northern lines have been resurveyed, processed and secured.

Out of the land recovery exercise, the corporation identified a total number of 20 illegal titles created in addition to the Uganda Railways Corporation mother titles. The process of cancellation has been initiated and is ongoing because these titles were created some time back in the 1980s, but someone comes in 2000 creates a title within another title. This is high level of impunity, which we cannot allow.

Uganda Railways Corporation has prioritised Phase V of railway reserve boundary marking activity with precast concrete marker posts for the Tororo-Gulu Railway Line, that is under this Financial Year 2026/2027.

Eviction of encroachers

In addition to surveying, the title protection and litigation, the Corporation has undertaken direct enforcement measures to recover encroached railway land.

Eviction operations have been undertaken along sections of the Kampala-Mukono railway corridor, particularly in areas where encroachments pose risks to rail operations, safety and infrastructure developments. URC continues to address newly reported encroachments to prevent the establishment of additional permanent interests on operational railway land.

The corporation has continued to respond swiftly to any newly reported encroachment to prevent the establishment of additional permanent developments:

i) Preparation and issuance of eviction notices to illegal occupants of the railway land. Those are the activities being undertaken;
ii) Consolidation of existing encroachment records and identification of priority locations;
iii) Preparation of eviction schedules covering railway corridors and station lands;
iv) Stakeholder sensitisation and engagement with affected communities. That is how even the people were able to know that we are evicting them because we are sensitising them; and
v) Coordination with the relevant security and enforcement agencies.

The corporation has adopted a phased approach to facilitate systematic enforcement starting with the Kampala-Kasese corridor: That is the western railway line, the Busoga Loop, that is Kakira-Kaliro, Tororo-Gulu corridor, the Kampala-Malaba, Kampala-Port Bell and Kampala-Kyengera and associated stations.

In view of the above, the exercise is intended to secure railway land, to support the ongoing rehabilitation and restoration efforts and ensuring operational safety.

The Standard Gauge Rail and Meter Gauge Rail have a lot of shared corridors. This exercise will greatly reduce on the cost of land acquisition for the SGR project. The Government also intends to reduce impunity that is hindering its good intentions of providing cheap and affordable means of transport for both cargo and passenger.

As I finish, Mr Speaker, we have seen, for example, like a 40-feet container, those days, before Meter Gauge Railway came in, to get it from Mombasa up to Kampala, on road, even up to now, it costs US$3,600.

However, with the coming of Meter Gauge Railway, one will be able to bring a 40-feet container loaded to full capacity at US$2,380. That is a saving on the cost of transportation. Now, with the coming of Standard Gauge Railway, the price will go down to US$1,600.

However, I wish to note that we have a loan we acquired for the Kampala-Malaba Railway Line where we have encroachers along Namanve

from Kampala. It was a requirement for ADB that we give some ex-gratia compensation to these encroachers. That is the arrangement of the loan. We are working on it, however, the cost needed was Shs 91 billion to pay these people - I see my sister, Hon. Nambooze, is pleading with them - we are studying that because we realised that Shs 91 billion might be inflated. We are studying it and once we conclude, it is the mandate of Government to provide that budget.

However, even the people there are incited by politicians. They have gone ahead to invite other people to encroach on that corridor and should that continue, because we identified these PAPS, then we shall have no option, but to respond to them and evict them.

Honourable members, we highly request for your support to ensure that we restore and own back our railway land. *(Applause)* This railway land was gazetted and secured some years back. If a Member of Parliament here owns railway land, vacate peacefully and voluntarily, before we come. *(Applause)* We should also explain to our voters the cost of transportation of these commodities, which go through this line.

The Government of Uganda has lost a lot of money for these projects. It is very costly to build a meter-gauge railway. You find us shielding these people and then tomorrow, I will bring you a budget of about Shs 1 trillion to compensate them, yet some people in Bushenyi, Pakwach or Nebbi need a tarmac road.

Therefore, these people should get off the railway land, and we use that money to do other things at the Ministry of Works and Transport. Mr Speaker, I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Muyonjo? Please, this matter is not up for debate again.

4.14

MR HUSSEIN MUYONJO (NUP, Jinja North Division, Jinja City): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I greet you; how are you? *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: For you, I will tell you I am fine. *(Laughter)*

MR MUYONJO: I would like to thank the minister for the comprehensive report that he has tabled. Many people have built houses on that land, mainly along the Busoga line that he is talking about.

The then Minister of Works and Transport, Gen. Katumba Wamala, visited the area and engaged the locals. He clarified to the locals that the Busoga line does not fall under the gazetted land of Uganda Railways Corporation. Actually, in his statement during the meeting, he told the people on that line to liaise with Busoga Kingdom to see how they can live on that land.
Before –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Gen. Katumba is still a minister in Government. Some of us were with him. Are you sure of what you are saying?

MR MUYONJO: Yes, I am sure.

THE SPEAKER: I watched the news on television while he was there. I saw the buildings. I think let us not go into where we – If it is a question of misinformation, which the Member is now talking about, then we need to harmonise because you did not bring that up yesterday. What was before us yesterday was how many metres it was in width – Let me guide: Today, the minister is very clear, on page 3, that the total reserve is 60 metres: 30 metres from the centre of the railway on one side and 30 metres on the other side. That is now clear, apart from what we heard of the 50 or 100 metres.

If there was any agreement between the people on the Busoga line and Gen. Katumba, that is another matter.

MR FRED BYAMUKAMA: Mr Speaker, when you speak the truth, it sets you free. The property in the photo I have showed you on page 7 in that report is for my honourable colleague who is raising this matter. The honourable member would have come to the

ministry to present his case, and if he owns a title, we would sort his matter out. I can table the evidence if you want it; the property belongs to him.

Therefore, if he has a personal matter, he should bring it to the ministry, and we handle it, rather than confusing the entire public. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Order! Order! I have Hon. Muyonjo holding the Floor. The minister has made very serious allegations. What *sayest thou*?

MR MUYONJO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me bring the minister up to speed that Government has been issuing titles on that land. In the meeting and engagement with the then minister, Gen. Katumba, he specifically stated that it is 15 metres on both sides to make 30 metres. The current minister has now come up with 60 metres. When was the new survey taken, and did they involve and engage the community, Mr Speaker?

THE SPEAKER: So, is the house there yours or not?

MR MUYONJO: Yes, it is mine, and it is okay. *(Laughter)* Actually, when I –

MR MWIRU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Given what is transpiring here, I seek your indulgence that my Member brings a statement of personal explanation for reasons that a statement of personal explanation –

THE SPEAKER: Can we listen? Order!

MR MWIRU: Mr Speaker, I seek your indulgence that, under our rules, my Member brings a statement of personal explanation in which he will give details of what we are talking about, so that it does not look the way it is looking.

With the way we are moving, it looks like we are going to trade words, yet he does not have the capacity to present every documentation now. I move that he presents a statement of personal explanation. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Can I guide on that? *(Members rose_)* Order! Can we sit down and listen? Please, I am not going to give you opportunity. Hon. Paul Mwiru has raised a procedural matter, which I want to guide on.

Whereas the honourable member in question has casually said the house is his, and there is no problem with that, the rules provide for him to explain because you may misunderstand him. Any Member of Parliament trades on what they call "reputation"; it is a name. We may say, "This one has built on railway land…" The rules give you the opportunity to come and explain how you acquired it and all that.

Therefore, we shall give you the opportunity – Please, I am guiding but you people – I do not want to embarrass anybody here. Let us go forward as the 12th Parliament. We are a civil Parliament known to play by the rules. The minister is also itching to say something, but I am still guiding.

In view of this, a personal statement will suffice. However, since the previous minister said this and another one said that, I want to refer this matter to the Committee on Physical Infrastructure – *(Applause)* – so that all Members of Parliament with issues take them up from there.

The terms of reference will be: First, to find out the contradictions, including the measurements. They will even go to the Busoga Loop line and interact with the residents. We shall give them some 30 days to do that. The minister will have a great opportunity – No, I do not handle interim. I am not issuing orders here.

MR BYAMUKAMA: Mr Speaker, I accept and take your advice. Honourable colleagues, we are ministers who serve you and the public. When you bring your issue properly written and with evidence, we can review it and advise you, but not against the law. What I have presented here is a statement from the Government side.

Mr Speaker, I take your advice and we shall go to the committee. However, I should also bring it to the Floor that if people have their personal problems, it is very dangerous to come to the

House and say, "On behalf of 1,000 people…" For example, my colleague Hon. Mwiru, your Mwiru Holdings is also built in the middle of the railway line. I have this evidence and will lay it on the Table.

THE SPEAKER: Can we have order? Order! Honourable members, can we resume our seats? Can I have all Members of Parliament sit? If you know you are a Member of Parliament and you are in this House, resume your seat. I want to know who the Members of Parliament here are, or we have some night dancers. *(Laughter)* I warned ourselves. Whereas you, honourable minister, may be privy to a lot of information, you – Please; I am a human being. When you over-press me, I get pain.

Minister of Works and Transport, we had not finished. I had just ruled on Hon. Muyonjo – also known as *Swengere* – the honourable minister said, "I'm not done yet," and again unleashed.

For the record, let Hon. Paul Mwiru say something. However, if what the minister said is also true, because it is a question of evidence, we cannot do that now. That will be before a committee of Parliament. Hon. Paul Mwiru – I cannot close that debate without asking him to say something.

MR MWIRU: Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to respond to what my colleague has raised. In this country, there is a way people acquire land. It is well laid out in the law.
Secondly, and most importantly, he has raised an allegation about my company. I think the best way to deal with this matter is two-way. First, to allow me to make a personal statement about the same, with details about what he has raised. Secondly, to allow me appear before the committee so my company can show what it owns, and the Uganda Railways Corporation can show what it has.

They have raised this matter with the Commissioner for Land Registration. The Commissioner asked for your title, which you did not have. I have a title I did not apply for but bought from someone who actually held it. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I seek two fora to conclude this matter. A personal statement to explain what is being raised, and an appearance before the committee with the minister so we can resolve this matter. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The prayer for – *(Hon. Ssewungu rose_)* - Please, let me do this work. The prayer is for time to make a personal statement. I told you, Members of Parliament, that you are not riding on your money or your level of education. What brings you here is not where you were born or your clan; it is your name and reputation.

Therefore, anything that touches that, the drafters of the Rules of Procedure foresaw it. A Member is entitled to make a personal explanation. That is a right under our rules.

The two Members who were mentioned – Honourable minister, if you have others, do not read them now. The only problem will be if the other name he has is that of the Speaker. *(Laughter)*

As I had already ruled and guided, the two Members will appear, not as accused persons, but those whose names have been mentioned. The committee will report back to this House.

4.30

THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Jackson Kafuuzi): Mr Speaker, you mentioned something that I found intriguing; that in the event his list is longer than the two Members that we know, the other colleagues may not make personal statements because they have not been named.

THE SPEAKER: I was still continuing.

MR KAFUUZI: Oh, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I was going to advise the minister to give all the names – *(Applause)* – even if they include the Speaker. Do you have any other names, or do you want to bring them –?

MR BYAMUKAMA: Mr Speaker, I have been advised to be a disciplined politician. Since you have guided us to go to the committee, I will provide the remaining names there. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The committee will have the liberty to invite the individual Members. That is sorted. Next item. Uganda Railways, we need the trains on those rails so people do not take the land.

MR SSEWUNGU: Point of procedure.

THE SPEAKER: Procedure on what? I have ruled on that. Next item.

RESPONSE BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS ON A MATTER RAISED CONCERNING STUDENTS SENT AWAY FROM LUBEGA INSTITUTE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN INGANGA

THE SPEAKER: Statement by the Minister of Education and Sports –Hon. Peter Ogwang, I hope you will not mention any name.

4.32

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, since it is the order of the day, maybe, with your permission, I can also go there. However, let me restrain myself and go straight to the statement.

I wish to make a statement on a matter of national importance raised in this House on 13 October 2026 concerning students sent away from Lubega Institute of Nursing and Health Professionals in Iganga after the discovery of forged bank payment slips.

From the outset, let me say that the ministry shares the concern of honourable members. These are young people preparing to serve in our health system, and the House is right to ask how their studies came to be interrupted. Honourable members are entitled to a full account of what happened, of the actions taken, and of where matters stand now.

Background

In June 2026, the institute found that the fees it had receipted did not match the sums credited to its official bank account with Stanbic Bank. On verification, the bank confirmed that some of the payment slips presented by the students had been forged. The institute then examined every slip presented between January 2025 and June 2026 and found that 80 students were affected.

According to the institute's management, the students had allegedly entrusted their fees to an individual who offered to make payments on their behalf but who instead issued forged slips showing sums higher than those actually paid. The money, in short, never reached the institute's account.

Actions taken

The institute management disciplinary committee considered the matter on 4 September 2026. The same matter was considered by its top management on 7th September and by its Board of Governors on 8th September. On the Board's guidance, it was reported to the Police on 9th September for investigation.

Two meetings followed on 11th September and 1st October, bringing together the institute management, the affected students, their parents and the Police. Students and parents were given the opportunity to explain how the payments had been made, and the arrangements were agreed for settling the outstanding fees, so that the students could return to their studies.

I wish to be clear on this point: The institute maintains that none of the 80 students was suspended or expelled. They were asked to return home with their parents to settle the outstanding fees because the money represented by the forged slip had never reached the institute's account. The action taken was under the institute's fees payment policy and its students' disciplinary regulations.

The institute further indicates that parents facing financial hardships were permitted to

pay what was owed in instalments while their children continued with their studies.

The current status of the affected students

Of the 80 students identified, 15 had already completed their courses, and 65 are continuing students. At the time of making the institute report, nine of the continuing students had cleared their fees and resumed their studies, and the remaining 56 were in the process of doing so under the agreed arrangements.

The institute states that each of them may return, receive counselling and resume studies once the agreed arrangements are met and that no fixed date for their return has been imposed.

Police investigation

According to the institute, two principal suspects were apprehended on 7 October 2026 and have been arraigned in court on charges relating to forgery, uttering false documents and impersonation. Those proceedings are ongoing, and the House will understand that it would not be right for me to comment on them further.

The police took part in the meetings with the students and their parents, at which arrangements concerning the principal suspects and the other affected students were discussed. Decisions on prosecution and any formal arrangements for the witnesses, rest with the investigating and prosecuting authorities.

Conclusion

This case engages two principles that must be held in balance; the right of every student to education and a duty of accountability, integrity and compliance with the regulations of our institution.

The ministry will continue to engage the institute to satisfy itself that the agreed arrangements are applied fairly, that the continuing students are enabled to resume their studies and that the matter is resolved in cooperation with the police and the other relevant authorities.

The ministry remains committed to safeguarding access to education and to ensuring that disciplinary and administrative measures in our institutions are applied fairly, transparently and in accordance with the applicable regulations. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the minister was clarifying the statement made about the institution by Hon. John Musila while raising a matter of national importance. I do not know what the Member says, but this does not attract any debate. After the Member, I am going to guide. *(Member rose_)* Please, I know you have an appetite for talking. *(Laughter)*

4.38

MR JOHN MUSILA (NRM, Bubulo East County, Namisindwa): Mr Speaker, I appreciate what the minister has presented and, within one week, for having made due diligence to go there. I spoke as a Member of Parliament on behalf of the plight of the students of this country who go out and may want to join the employment system of this country. *(Text expunged.)*

The Minister of Education and Sports knows all institutions operate under the Education Act, 2008 – *(Interruption)*

MR TEIRA: Mr Speaker, Parliament is a House of record. First and foremost, Hon. John Musila is a parent at Lubega Institute of Nursing. Number two, Hon. John Musila is among the parents who have been victims of this very circumstance. Number three, Hon. John Musila has paid school fees as of today to clear the balance that was purported to have been paid before. Is the honourable member in order to go around in circles, avoiding the facts?

Hon. John Musila took back his student last week. The victimisation is that, having raised the matter on the Floor of Parliament, the administration needed to have a discussion with him at a personal level. What he did was to take his student to the school, dump him there, and disappear without a discussion. Is the honourable member in order not to put the facts clear on the Floor of Parliament?

THE SPEAKER: Before I rule. What do you want to say?

MR MUSILA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. There are those who want to ring-fence a crime, but they should know that my being a parent there started over 10 years ago; it is not recent. Two, being a parent at Lubega Institute is not a matter that I should not be an MP and cry for the plight of the parents in this country.

I wish he had all the evidence – I wish to lay this document on the Table; it is not a forgery. The children paid, the bank accepted, the school cleared them; all clearances are here. I pray that I lay this.

THE SPEAKER: Procedure, Hon. Counsel Cohen?

MR AMANYA: Mr Speaker, my name is Amanya Cohen. I move under Rule 100 of our Rules of Procedure, which talks about circumstances where a Member cannot take part in a discussion of any matter before this House in which the Member has a direct pecuniary interest unless the Member has declared.

The honourable member has just declared. Under Rule 100, Mr Speaker, is it procedurally right for the Member to continue having a discussion on a matter where he has an interest? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: There was procedure, and I want to guide in the form of a ruling. We have had enough, and what is before us is adequate. Members of Parliament, whether you are a minister or a Member of Parliament, revise Rule 100. It will save you. A person without interests is a person who is in the casket. As long as you are alive, you have interests.

The drafters of the law knew that that would be the case. You are mandated to declare. In fact, even from the previous one of the railway, if those Members had declared – You declare and say, "I wouldn't take part, but I have this interest" so that people who are assessing you, judge you accordingly, because when later on they discover that you have interests, what would be their imagination?

Hon. Musila, the statement you made before about that institute, I will ask that it be expunged from the record of Parliament. We commend Hon. Ogwang, for the good job he did within a short time. *(Applause)*

Let us revise our rules. If you have an interest, the law does not say you should not have interests, but declare. Like I did the other day, you heard me declaring from the chair, when a certain matter was raised here, I asked where you wanted me to be because where you have interest, you are already compromised. That is settled.

Let us go to another item, but the record should be straightened so that whatever inflammatory statement made by Hon. John Musila is expunged from the record of Parliament.

LAYING OF PAPERS

I. TREASURY MEMORANDUM ON THE REPORT OF PARLIAMENT ON THE REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024 - CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT AND TREASURY OPERATIONS, VOTE 130

THE SPEAKER: As the minister comes in, there was a Member from Pakwach who said, "Pakwach also borders DRC; why did you leave out Pakwach among those that should attend the Ebola meeting?" I will use the powers that I have to amend my own communication to include Pakwach. Pakwach is a place of leopards. Yes, honourable minister on laying of papers?

4.48

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Pursuant to Section 51 of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap 171, and in accordance with Rule 230 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I hereby lay before this House the Treasury Memorandum on the report

of Parliament, on the report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2023/2024, the Consolidated Financial Statements of Government and Treasury Operations, Vote 130. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: That is referred to the Auditor-General in accordance with Rule 230 of the Rules of Procedure for appropriate action in accordance with Section 13(f) of the National Audit Act. Procedure under which rule?

MR NSAMBA: Mr Speaker, the section 51, mentioned under the laying of papers here, requires the minister to come before this House and present a Treasury Memorandum within six months after - Honourable minister, when you read, you will notice that section 51(2) clearly states that the Treasury Memorandum should be on action taken about parliamentary recommendations of the previous financial year; the year preceding.

Mr Speaker, what is being laid before us now is for 2023/2024. This Treasury Memorandum would have been audited by the Auditor-General during the auditing of the Auditor-General's Report in the Financial Year 2024/2025.

We are grappling with this problem in the Public Accounts Committee, where the Auditor-General had nothing, the minister never did Treasury Memoranda, and now it is being laid before us today, for what? It puts Parliament at a point where people will say, "We laid" but they are laying after almost another year - the documents they are giving here - Mr Speaker, please cross-check and guide on that matter. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I take it that 2023 and 2024 financial years are all previous years.

MR NSAMBA: No, it is the prior year.

THE SPEAKER: If you are not satisfied with that, then in 2026, when there is a Financial Year 2023/2024 Treasury Memorandum on it, and the Treasury Memorandum does not come from the minister, it is from us to make decisions here and give them. It must have originated from the Auditor-General, come to PAC, the House, and to the minister. Then the minister reports back, and we send it to the Auditor-General who raised the concerns.

Therefore, isn't Financial Year 2023/2024 a previous financial year? Unless you want to tell me in the law that, specifically, "previous" means the immediate past financial year. In my understanding, I know that there could be a lacuna, because that is what I wanted you to raise: what happens when the Auditor-General has looked at what the minister submitted? In our rules, the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline can look at it to give Parliament an opportunity again to look at it after the Auditor-General has assessed the performance of the minister through the Treasury memorandum.

All Treasury Memoranda are not created; there is no shortcut. It comes here; it is then given to the minister for finance but starts with the Auditor-General and the Public Accounts committees; it then comes here for Members to debate. The recommendations are what the minister is reporting on.

So, we have already interrogated these matters. Every new Member of Parliament should know what a Treasury Memorandum is. And then it goes after the minister has submitted, like this, no debate. We refer it to the Auditor-General, who checks to ensure that the minister did what we had - because there are several votes that could be involved. So, I think we are proceeding well unless "previous" does not mean the many years past. Next item.

4.54

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng): Mr Speaker, pursuant to Section 51 of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171, and in accordance with Rule 230 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to lay the Treasury Memorandum on the Report of Parliament on the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2023/2024 - Central Government Ministries. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: It is laid together with the other one. They will all be taken to the Auditor-General.

DR ACENG: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Treasury Memorandum on the Report of Parliament on the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2023/2024 - Uganda Missions Abroad. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Let the same be transmitted to the Auditor-General.

DR ACENG: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Treasury Memorandum on the Report of Parliament, on the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2023/2024 - Public Universities and Referral Hospitals. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: The same be transmitted to the Auditor-General.

DR ACENG: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Treasury Memorandum on the Report of Parliament on the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2023/2024 - Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: The same be referred to the Auditor-General for appropriate action. Honourable members – Are you done?

DR ACENG: I just wanted to say, Mr Speaker, that the one for Local Governments will be laid on the Table next week.

THE SPEAKER: You are giving us notice? Thank you. Honourable members, what Hon. Kivumbi and others need to know is that all this - Hon. Nsamba, I miss him, by the way, honestly. There are some Members that we joined Parliament with, so when I mix. Hon. Nsamba, who is also my friend, but is a baby, found us here.

All this, according to the law, Section 51(2), the Treasury Memorandum shall indicate measures taken by each vote to implement the recommendations of Parliament, which means we have already debated and made recommendations in respect of the report of the Auditor-General of the preceding financial year on the vote.

So, all these were presented and arose in a piecemeal manner in which the reports of the accountability committees were adopted. We are not reinventing; that is how they were. The reporting is done the same way. Going forward, and to avoid this, I think we should - the report of the Auditor-General will be considered in accordance with Article 163(5) by way of a motion moved to adopt the report in its entirety.

A motion under which the Public Accounts Committee shall be required to report to facilitate the debate and decision of the House on the audit report, so that we avoid the piecemeal. Most accountability committees, or let us say some committees, pick out what is very catchy and say, "Let us report on this one". That is why we have the piecemeal approach, but with this guidance, we shall need you to do it all so that we consider the report in its entirety, through having that motion that usually comes so that we do not cherry-picking. Next item.

DESIGNATION OF A MEMBER TO STANDING AND SECTORAL COMMITTEES

THE SPEAKER: Guidance, on the designation of Members?

MR NSAMBA: No, Mr Speaker, you have just given a communication.

THE SPEAKER: Actually, I was guiding.

MR NSAMBA: Yesterday, you facilitated the Public Accounts Committee to cover about 20 entities, and we have five ready compendiums of reports that we wanted to come and present before the House. Given the enormous work we have, we thought we would present the reports as they come. But now you are guiding that we should have a single kind of motion. I do not know whether I have got you right, but you need to guide us better, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I think I have guided you better. But the guidance will not go retrospective on what you have already done; you can bring them. However, the best thing is what I have said. Because the piecemeal approach is that we do cherry-picking, and it does not look very nice. You see the discomfort you yourself had regarding piecemeal reporting on this Treasury Memorandum.

Government Chief Whip – But if you are not clear on this, I will ask the Clerk to extract the legal provisions so that you are guided in the committee on how to proceed. But the five that you have done, you will find it on the Order Paper. Government Chief Whip?

5.01

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng): Mr Speaker, we received a new Member of Parliament from Adjumani West following a by-election. And that is why I requested the designation of Hon. James Pili Leku to the parliamentary committees. Allow me, in a special way, to welcome him to Parliament.

Pursuant to Rule 195 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of Uganda, I designate Hon. James Pili Leku, Member of Parliament for Adjumani West County, to the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Further, pursuant to Rule 165, I designate Hon. James Pili Leku, Member of Parliament for Adjumani West County, to the Committee on Government Assurances. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, am I supposed to put a question? I put a question to the proposed designation.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: The designation is approved, and we congratulate the Member. Go and enjoy the finance and Government assurances committees, led by a very able and nearly very active chairperson, Hon. Zaake Francis. He has already given me notice that they are ready with some of the assurances. Next item?

MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE POST-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY ON UGANDA WILDLIFE REVENUE SHARING UNDER THE UGANDA WILDLIFE ACT, CAP 315

THE SPEAKER: I want to guide the committee chair that if you have a summarised version – We partly heard you yesterday.

5.03

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY (Mr Boniface Okot): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. In accordance to our Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to lay minutes and a copy of the report of the Committee on the post-legislative scrutiny report of our Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry on Uganda Wildlife Revenue Sharing under the Uganda Wildlife Act. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Let the record capture.

MR BONIFACE OKOT: Mr Speaker, the mandate of post-legislative scrutiny. Rule 197(h) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament assigns to sectoral Committees the function of post-legislative scrutiny. This is intended to scrutinise the implementation of laws and the performance of the Government institutions that administer them.

Post-legislative scrutiny closes the loop in lawmaking. It asks whether a law once passed and operationalised is achieving the purpose for which Parliament enacted it and at what cost and for whose benefit.

Under that mandate, the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry undertook this scrutiny of the revenue sharing scheme established under part 10 of the Uganda Wildlife Act, Cap 315, in particular Section 64, which provides for the continuation of the Wildlife Fund, and Section 65, which provides for the administration of the Fund by the board and empowers the board to authorise the Executive Director to make withdrawals from the Fund to fulfill the functions of the Uganda Wildlife

Authority (UWA).

The Committee also examined the Uganda Wildlife Revenue Sharing Regulations 2022.

Background

The Uganda Wildlife Revenue Sharing introduced in Uganda in 1996 rests on a simple bargain. People who bear the cost of living with wildlife should share in what it earns so that conservation is perceived as a source of shared prosperity and not as a burden imposed from outside. Parliament carried that bargain into Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019 (now Cap 315) and in 2022 into regulations that prescribed how the money is declared, released, spent, monitored, and accounted for.

The test for post-legislative scrutiny is therefore, not whether the money is shared, but whether the law as written and applied delivers timely, fair, and visible benefits to frontline households and measurably reduces conflict.

The legal framework

The Uganda Wildlife Revenue sharing is not an administrative favour. It is a statutory obligation placed on UWA by Parliament through provisions of the Uganda Wildlife Act. Section 64 of the UWA Act, Cap 315 establishes the Wildlife Fund into which revenue generated through wildlife conservation is remitted, including sums appropriated by Parliament, voluntary contributions, donor funds, payments under Section 65, and fees and charges receivable under the Act. Section 65(4) authorises the board to direct the Executive Director to pay 20 per cent of the park entry fees collected from a protected area to the local governments surrounding that area as a conditional grant. Section 65(5) empowers the minister to make regulations for revenue sharing.

The Uganda Wildlife Revenue Sharing Regulations 2022:

The regulations operationalise Section 65. Mr Speaker on page 7 and 8, we indicate the key provisions of the revenue sharing regulations 2022. And on page 9, we report on the protected areas and the generated revenue for sharing.

Mr Speaker, I will proceed straight to observations, findings, and recommendations on page 11. Under terms of reference one which was to appraise the performance of wildlife revenue sharing and compliance with the revenue sharing regulations 2022. The amounts declared, revenue declared:

The revenues declared for sharing were Shs 7.3 billion in the financial year 2023/2024, Shs 5.5 billion in the financial year 2024/2025, and Shs 5.4 billion in the financial year 2025-2026. A cumulative amount of Shs 18.33 billion. The total fell by 25 per cent between the financial year 2023/2024 to 2024/2025 and by 25.7 per cent over the entire period.

Mr Speaker, we have tabulated under every protected area the shift in the revenues for sharing. Murchison Falls over the three years has fallen by 53 per cent. Queen Elizabeth National Park has fallen by 13.7 per cent. Bwindi Impenetrable has gained by 17 per cent. Lake Mburo has reduced by 0.3 per cent. Kibale National Park has increased by 34.4 per cent. Kidepo Valley National Park has reduced by 42.3 per cent. Mgahinga Gorilla National Park has increased by 104 per cent. Rwenzori Mountains National Park has reduced by 53 per cent. Mr Speaker, cumulatively there is a significant reduction of 25.7 per cent.

Mr Speaker, the Committee is very concerned that the amounts shared with the communities around the nation's largest parks have reduced by more than half without public explanation and the district budgets that depend on these grants are volatile.

Page 13. Regulation 3 provides that the funds available for sharing include $10 deducted from each gorilla permit where applicable. UWA informed the Committee that the gorilla levy figures are separate from the revenue sharing figures and that the permit numbers can be provided.

The Committee was however not shown how much gorilla levy has been shared with Kisoro, Kanungu, and Rubanda districts or whether the Regulation 3 component is being paid at all.

Under distribution among districts, UWA declared that the financial year 2025/2026 funds to 49 districts and city authorities. The 10 largest recipients received Shs 3.8 billion or 70.4 per cent of the total, which is in the table. At the other end, each of the eight districts around Mount Elgon only received between Shs 200,000 and Shs 520,000 from the park.

The five districts around Matheniko-Bokora only received Shs 13,821 and Shs 33,128 each. Such amounts cannot finance any meaningful projects. The indication is on page 13, tabulated.

Right Honourable Speaker on page 14, timeliness of declaration of release. Observations of the committee;

i) Revenue sharing is a legal entitlement of frontline communities. Declaring the funds on time is a legal duty and not a favour. Declaring the financial year 2025/2026 funds 12 days after the deadline in Regulation 3 was a breach of that Regulation, even though, some may consider it a small one.
ii) The money shared has fallen by 25.7 per cent in three years and is uneven and is too small in many districts to make a difference. UWA could not explain the biggest changes.
iii) The gorilla levy is not shown in the information provided and UWA also failed to provide that information to the committee.

Recommendations of the committee

i) UWA declares each year's funds within the 60 days set by regulations three, publishes each declaration, and informs every district and sub-county.
ii) The minister amends regulation three so that UWA makes a first declaration on time from its management accounts and a final declaration after the Auditor-General's report with any difference carried forward to the next release.
iii) UWA keeps and makes public the board approvals and declaration letters, the dates of declaration, approval, and release for each district, the amounts released and withheld and why, the park entry fees collected, the regulation 12 figures for every protected area and a register of the signed revenue sharing grants agreements.
iv) UWA publishes an explanation of the 53 per cent fall at Murchison Falls, the fall at Kidepo Valley, Rwenzori Mountains, and the rise at Mgahinga.
v) UWA prepares a schedule of the gorilla levy collected and shared under regulations three for each year and district and publishes it with each declaration.
vi) The minister amends regulation 12 so that the formula besides boundary and population also takes in into account of the number of recorded human wildlife conflict incidences and the number of frontline parishes.

Term of reference two (TOR 2), to examine how revenue sharing funds are identified, used, monitored and accounted for.

Mr Speaker, the committee discusses eligibility of use of funds and we also analysed data that was supplied of all the projects performed under the revenue sharing and on page 16 there is a comprehensive table.

So, when you go to page 16, last paragraph: The committee found from UWA and from interactions with leaders and communities that the following problems undermine the use of the revenue sharing funds;

i) infrastructure dominates in some areas; Infrastructure projects account for 707 of the 1,691 projects, that is 41.8 per cent, and for 75.3 per cent of the projects around Lake Mburo, 52.6 per cent around Queen Elizabeth, 48.8 per cent around Bwindi. By contrast, problem-animal management projects, the very purpose of the grant, are only 276 273 and Lake Mburo recorded none. UWA itself observes that the

dominant uses are infrastructure, livestock, and conflict mitigation. The committee notes that infrastructure is largely the responsibility of local governments and is costly and often cannot be completed within one funding period.

ii) Delayed and conditional release; Funds often arrive late and districts that do not account for earlier releases do not receive their next ones. So that communities who had no control over accounting failures are penalised.

iii) No audit of local governments by UWA. UWA informed the committee that it does not audit local governments and the Auditor-General audits UWA only. No one therefore verifies at project level the use of the funds released to the districts.

iv) Weak monitoring. The 5 per cent for supervision and monitoring is remitted to local governments together with the project funds. UWA stated that a monitoring and evaluation framework is provided for in its strategic plan, but the committee was not furnished with this plan, and nor any monitoring report.

v) Unauthorised change of projects. Some accounting officers change projects along the way without due process which complicates monitoring.

vi) Political interference; Some politicians often take project identification, and some local governments give funds to selected individuals for personal ventures instead of public good.

vii) Lack of community awareness. Communities are unable to distinguish between revenue sharing and compensation. Lack of awareness weakens community planning and accountability for revenue sharing fund. Inadequate information also affects the ability of the affected communities to claim for accurate compensation for property damaged and lives lost.

viii) Incomplete project data. UWA supplied project counts by protected area for seven areas only and did not supply the district and sub-county project lists showing location, costs, beneficiaries, and status. The list provides little information about value, completion, and results of completed projects.

5.2.3 The accountability Chain

Regulations 13 to 15 set out a clear chain of accountability, which is summarised in table seven on page 18. The committee's concern is that this chain is not working at the lower levels and that sanctions for failure falls on the community and not on the officer responsible, unfortunately.

Observations

i) The purpose of revenue sharing, which is on page 19, is to make wildlife valuable to the people who live next to it, is defeated when funds are delayed, diverted, politically captured, or spent on projects that households do not feel or see.
ii) Withholding an entire grant because an accounting officer has defaulted punishes the community and not the defaulting officer. Administrative failure must be distinguished from community entitlement.
iii) The regulations give UWA the duty to report but not clear power to verify and give local governments the money for monitoring, but no incentive also to monitor.
iv) There is little evidence that funded projects are reducing human-wildlife conflict or improving livelihoods because the results reporting required by regulations 14 is not consolidated and analysed.

Recommendations of the committee on TOR 2

a. The committee recommends that the minister amends regulation 6 and 7 to provide for community-driven project identification through village and parish meetings led by sub-county community development officers from an approved menu of projects.

b. The regulations prescribe a minimum share of each sub-county's allocation, for example, not less than 40 per cent for projects in frontline parishes, and discourage the use of revenue sharing money for statutory local government obligations such as classrooms, health centers that other grants already finance.

c. Any change to an approved project requires the written approval of the Executive Director and a written resolution of the community. An unauthorised change is treated as a breach of the revenue sharing agreement and a ground for personal sanction of the accounting officer.

d. The minister amends the regulations to empower UWA to set aside the funds of a defaulting local government and release them to the sub-counties concerned through an accountable arrangement while holding the responsible accounting officer personally liable for the failure to account.

e. The regulations clearly should empower UWA and the Auditor- General to audit revenue sharing funds. The Auditor-General should include revenue sharing grants in the audit of every beneficiary local government and a part of the 5 per cent monitoring allocation is set aside for joint quarterly monitoring visits by UWA, the district, and community representatives.

e. For transparency, UWA should publish the project lists by district and sub-county for the last three financial years showing location, cost, beneficiaries, and status, together with the annual reports of the chief administrative officers and of UWA under regulation 14.

f. UWA and the districts should publish a project register for each protected area giving each project's location, beneficiaries, and status, hold an annual public accountability meeting or baraza in every frontline sub-county.

g. UWA plans and funds in every conservation area the launch and the commissioning of revenue sharing projects and regular sensitisation in local languages on differences between revenue sharing and compensation and how to access each.

i. UWA prepares a consolidated monitoring and evaluation report under regulation 14 for the last three financial years assessing the contribution of the funded projects to resolving human-wildlife conflict and improving livelihoods.

j. UWA should in accordance to regulations three, declare that the 20 per cent of the protected areas entry fees collected from a wildlife protected areas separately from the $10 deducted from the gorilla tracking permit where it applies.

5.3 TOR 3

Mr Speaker, revenue sharing and compensation are the two statutory ways in which Parliament intended the State to answer the costs that wildlife imposes on frontline communities. Revenue sharing is preventive and communal. It is intended to fund projects that reduce conflict or lift household incomes.

Compensation, however, is remedial and individual. It redresses loss that has already occurred. Communities and leaders often confuse the two, which feeds the perception that UWA is withholding money that is due.

Mr Speaker, Term of Reference (TOR) 3 was fairly discussed yesterday. I will proceed to TOR 4 on page 24, which is to assess the adequacy and fairness of the 20 per cent revenue share and its allocation formula. I will go straight to the recommendations. The prayer is to increase the share from 20 to 40 per cent.

Recommendations of the committee on TOR 4

The committee recommends that:

a. the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities with UWA, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and

the Uganda Bureau of Standards, conduct a costed review of the revenue sharing rate and formula, examining options above 20 per cent, the fiscal impact on UWA and additional benefit streams such as concession fees and research and filming fees;

b. UWA costs the options of 25, 30 and 40 per cent, the criteria for Shs 1.3 billion livelihood programme and the list of districts it will cover;
c. any amendment of section 65(4) retains the conditional grant to local governments and the role of the parish, and does not transfer the implementation to UWA;
d. pending the review, the 20 per cent rate is maintained, and the minister amends Regulation 12 as recommended under TOR 1;
e. Government establishes, outside the 20 per cent, a Frontline Equalisation Grant to top up allocations to districts bordering low revenue, high conflict protected areas such as Mountain Elgon, Kidepo, Matheniko Bokora and Pian Upe to a minimum meaningful level to take effect;
f. the minister accelerates the review of the Wildlife Act, Cap 315, taking into account this report.

Conclusion

Mr Speaker, revenue sharing is a bridge between conservation and the people who live with wildlife. When it works, it turns a neighbour who suffers losses into a stakeholder who shares in the gains. The committee found that over the three financial years, Shs 18.3 billion was declared for sharing with frontline districts and that many communities have benefited from schools, water, livestock, beehives and thorn hedges. The committee commends UWA and local governments that have used the funds well.

The committee found that the scheme, however, is weakened by a late declaration, an unexplained halving of the revenues shared, the absence of any audit of local governments, a project mix that favours infrastructure over conflict mitigation, delayed declarations, uneven and volatile allocations, weak accountability, political capture of project selection, and sanctions that fall on communities instead of officers who failed them. For some districts, the amounts are so small that they cannot be considered a benefit at all.

The committee did not recommend an immediate increase in the rate from 20 to 40 per cent. It recommended a costed review alongside reforms to the allocation formula, project identification and accountability, and an equalisation grant for the most affected lowest-earning districts. The committee calls upon the House to adopt these recommendations and upon the Government to implement them so that the revenue sharing delivers what the law intends – real, visible and timely benefits to the people who live beside Uganda's wildlife.

Mr Speaker, I beg to submit. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Next?

MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE POST-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY ON SPORT (TROPHY) HUNTING AND COLLABORATIVE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNDER THE UGANDA WILDLIFE ACT, CAP 315

THE SPEAKER: Committee chairperson?

5.27

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY (Mr Boniface Okot): Mr Speaker, the deputy chairperson is supposed to present this report. You will give me just a minute.

THE SPEAKER: Usually, the committee chairperson would not say that. That would be to the vice. I am sure he was delayed by the Member of Parliament from Gweri. Do you want to be smarter than the Speaker? *(Laughter)*

5.27

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY (Mr Patrick Aeku): Mr Speaker, I cannot miss the greeting. How are you, sir?

THE SPEAKER: I know where you are going to. Please present the report.

MR AEKU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. According to the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of Uganda, I beg to lay a copy of the report and minutes of the report of the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry on the post-legislative scrutiny report of the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry on sport (trophy) hunting and collaborative wildlife management under the Uganda Wildlife Act, Cap 315.

Mr Speaker, with your guidance, I can do a brief introduction.

Mandate for Post-Legislative Scrutiny

Rule 197(h) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament assigns to the sectoral committees the function of conducting a post-legislative scrutiny over laws passed by Parliament, scrutinising the implementation of these laws to answer the questions of whether a law, once passed, achieves what Parliament intended as the object of the law, at what cost, and for what benefit, as well as the performance of the Government institutions that administer the law.

Under that mandate, the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry scrutinised the Uganda Wildlife Act, Cap 315, specifically parts IV and VII on wildlife use rights and professional hunters and trappers.

Section 35(1)(a) creates a class A wildlife use right to hunt wildlife. The right is only acquired upon application to UWA for the grant of one or more wildlife use rights under section 37 of the Act.

Further, section 51 empowers UWA to issue a person a professional hunter's or a professional trapper's licence. It is forbidden under section 52 of the Act for a person to conduct business of a professional hunter or a trapper without a valid licence.

Section 22 of the Act allows the Executive Director, with the approval of the Board, to enter into commercial and collaborative arrangements for the management of wildlife areas. Hunting is therefore a licensed use carried out by private operators under collaborative wildlife management arrangements within quotas set under the Act.

1.2 The matter before the committee

In its inquiry into persistent human-wildlife conflict, the committee received from the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) a paper reporting that nine collaborative wildlife management agreements are in force. The four private companies manage the hunting areas, and sport hunting earned the sums reported in part 5.2 of this report between 2023 and mid-2026.

The committee requested UWA to furnish it with the executive agreements, the tariff, the benefit-sharing records, and the data on quotas and offtake. UWA responded in writing on 12 October 2026, supplying the wildlife right tariff 2026/2027, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) export data for 2023 to 2025, the agreements for Kabwoya, Pian Upe, Karenga and Kalangala, and the quota and utilisation tables for four areas. Some of the information requested was unavailable. This report sets out what the committee found, what remains outstanding, and what it recommends.

Mr Speaker, the Terms of Reference are as follows:

1. To assess the legal, policy and institutional framework;
2. To examine the revenue generated by sport hunting between 2023 and 2026 and its distribution;
3. To evaluate the governance, transparency and value for money; and
4. To appraise the conservation, wildlife

trade and human-wildlife conflict outcomes of sporting areas.

Methodology, you can read through.

Mr Speaker, we have the background on this matter, which is 4.1, but permit me to go straight to the findings, observations and recommendations of the committee. With your permission, sir.

THE SPEAKER: Permission granted.

MR AEKU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Straight away, we go to the observations, findings and recommendations of the committee. The committee's observations, findings and recommendations are presented below under each term of reference.

The legal, policy and institutional framework for sport hunting and collaborative wildlife management. The findings of the committee are listed below.

Let me go to the observations of the committee on that matter.

i) A benefit-sharing regime that depends on instruments of different status, dates and content cannot give communities certainty or UWA a clear standard to enforce;
ii) Moving fees to the tariff is a good practice, but it allows fees to be reviewed without renegotiating contracts. It will only be good governance if the agreements are also updated, republished, and tabled so that Parliament and communities can see what is in force;
iii) Hunting is a use of public property. The Act should state the essential principles on which it is conducted and not leave them to contracts; and
iv) The collection of funds based on the guidelines of the board is irregular.

Recommendations of the committee on terms of reference one. The committee recommends that:

a. The minister makes regulations under the Act on sport hunting and collaborative wildlife management covering species eligible for hunting, quota setting, licensing, competitive awards and maximum term of concession, benefit sharing, reporting and accountability and give the guidelines of 2021 statutory force;
b. UWA keeps and publishes a register of all hunting agreements and addenda showing the parties, date, term, expiry, fees, the benefits-sharing ratio that applies and whether the agreement has been cleared by the Solicitor-General, and supplies the agreements that have not yet been provided. That is in Bugungu, Nakasongola, Aswa-Lolim and the other listed in the tariff;
c. UWA brings every agreement into line with the guidelines and the tariff through an addendum so that one animal fee ratio applies in every area. Communal land is treated uniformly, and the Karenga agreement is regularised;
d. UWA completes the overdue review of the guidelines and brings the review forward, taking into account this report and the experience of Namibia and other conservancy models;
e. UWA reviews the minutes of the membership lists, work plans and annual reports of the wildlife management board, the wildlife technical management committee and the community wildlife association for each of the nine areas for the last three years; and
f. The board of UWA adopts and publishes the procedure under which annual quotas are recommended under section 35(3), and the ministry confirms publicly that it is the Management Authority that approves them.

5.2, Mr Speaker, is on TOR 2: Revenue generated by sport hunting and its distribution. I will straight away go to the committee's observations and recommendations. There are so many tables explaining the different incomes and different activities that take place there.

The committee observation on terms of reference two:

i) Revenue is modest, concentrated in a few areas and apparently falling in 2026;

ii) UWA's explanation of the fee categories plausible, but it is not evidence. Only the schedule by fee category with bank records can show that every recipient has been paid in full and on time;
iii) The movement of the community development fee from districts to association and the retention of the anti-poaching fee by the operator were not decisions that Parliament or the districts were told about; and
iv) The annual payment calendar with no independence record of payment leaves land owners and associations dependent on the honesty of the operator.

Recommendations of the committee on terms of reference two.

The committee recommends that:

a. UWA prepares and publishes the schedule by hunting area and fee category for the period 2023 to 2026, of the amounts invoiced, paid, and received by each recipient with proof of payment and the full year 2026 figures;
b. The Auditor-General conducts a value-for-money and compliance audit on sport hunting revenue and its distribution for the period 2021 to 2026, including the accounts of the associations;
c. All the hunting fees are paid into a single UWA collection account or an escrow account with a commercial bank, from which UWA pays each recipient promptly with a statement copied to the CAO and the association instead of the operator paying each recipient directly;
d. UWA publishes each year the declaration of revenue by hunting area, fee category, recipient, and the dates of payment, and pays interest as the guidelines require when payments are made;
e. The 5 per cent of the animal fee for the wildlife management board and the wildlife technical management committee and any other funds that UWA holds as secretariat, are accounted for in a separate account and reported to the area board every year;
f. UWA reviews the community development and anti-poaching fees with the districts and associations so that the districts are compensated for the loss of the fee, and the anti-poaching fee is reported on and applied under the oversight of the wildlife management board;
g. The human-wildlife conflict share in the community wildlife association allocation is increased and set aside. Each community wildlife association publishes a list of projects funded from the hunting income showing the cost, beneficiaries and the status; and
h. UWA reviews the benefit-sharing ratio in consultation with the communities and the districts with a view of increasing the benefit to the frontline communities and the districts, and ensuring that UWA's retained share is justified by its costs of regulation and monitoring.

Mr Speaker, 5.3 is TOR 3: Governance, Transparency and value for money of the partnership agreements. I will straight away go to the committee's observations and recommendations.

Observations of the committee on terms of reference three:

i) Public property, namely wildlife, is being used for private gain under the contracts that the public and Parliament cannot see, for the terms that exceed those of most public concessions;
ii) Where agreements already require audited accounts, bonds and insurance, the failure lies in UWA's enforcement and it is a failure to publish, not in the absence of the rules;
iii) Allowing the Kabwoya agreement to run past its term without a recorded renewal is a serious lapse of contract management; and
iv) Some operators have been reported to harass communities surrounding the concession areas. For instance, on the Kazinga channel, the operator is alleged to have taken over the role of UWA beyond his area of concession.

The committee recommends that;

a. UWA clarifies the legal status of hunting at Kabwoya after 14 April 2025, produces any renewal and accounts for all fees received from Kabwoya since that date;
b. UWA publishes all hunting agreements and addenda, the management plans and annual summaries of each operator's financial and operational reports on its website;
c. All the new and renewed concessions are awarded competitively for fixed terms of not more than 10 years, renewable once on a performance review, with performance bonds and published performance indicators, and no extension is granted unless the board approves it on a written performance assessment;
d. UWA publishes award documents, board meetings and Solicitor-General's clearance for each agreement and extension, including the extension of Nshaara to 2030 and the promised extension at Pian-Upe.
e. UWA obtains from each operator audited books for the last three years, the performance bond, the insurance certificates, a declaration of real ownership and connected companies that supply services and treats failure to file as a ground of suspension.
f. The minister makes the approval of the Board a condition of any change in the ownership of an operator and UWA satisfies itself that the operator whose owner has died is validly continuing.
g. UWA publishes a report on the settlement of the terminated agreements (that is the Katonga, Ajai, Matheniko-Bokora and Iriir), including any compensation paid and the community entitlements.
h. UWA strengthens the role of the district by requiring that the district, through the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and LC5 chairpersons, receive a copy of each payment advice and is represented at the annual area Board; and that the Wildlife Management Board and the Wildlife Technical Management Committee are funded to meet.
i. UWA should ensure that all operators abide by the wildlife Act and the statutory instruments and refrain from the roles of UWA.

TOR 4: Conservation, wildlife trade and human-wildlife outcomes of sport hunting

Mr Speaker, permit me to go straight to the observations of the committee:

i) The justification for sport hunting is conservation and community benefit. It is not demonstrated in the data placed before Parliament and the quota data raises a doubt about sustainability.
ii) The controls UWA describes, from the data sheet to the electronic sites permits are good in principle if the records are produced and could provide transparency that is now missing.
iii) The inclusion of leopard and other sensitive species in the tariff without a published quota or policy is a risk to Uganda's standing under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife, Fauna and Flora (CITES).
iv) Sport hunting should not be presented as a solution to human-wildlife conflict, which needs dedicated mitigation measures and that serve households directly.

The committee recommends that:

a. UWA sets quotas only based on surveys not more than three years old, never above the stated sustainable yield without a written scientific justification approved by the Board, publishes the quotas and the number taken at the end of each season and suspends hunting of any species whose population is declining or unknown;
b. UWA publishes the quota and utilisation data for 2024, 2025 and 2026 for all areas, the Board recommendations under Section 35(3), and an explanation for every case in which the off-take exceeds the quota or the yield;
c. UWA publishes a policy approved by the Board on species that may and may not be hunted, including leopard, crocodile,

hippopotamus and primates, the allocation of the leopard quota of 28 among areas, humane killing, wounding and the welfare standards expected of professional hunters with sanctions for breach;

d. UWA publishes the trophy tracking data from the electronic CITES systems for 2023-2026, tagged and reconciled with the data sheets and the revenue schedule, and the system is audited by the Auditor-General;
e. UWA commissions an independent evaluation of the conservation, human-wildlife conflict and livelihood outcomes of sport hunting in at least three hunting areas covering population trends, poaching, attitudes and household benefits, using the IUCN principles as a benchmark and brings the planned study forward; and publishes the evaluation of 2005 and 2023;
f. Pending the evaluation, no new hunting area or expansion of existing area is approved, including outside the Kidepo National Park and at the Bokora-Matheniko and existing agreements are renewed only after reforms in this report are made;
g. UWA considers, in the review of the Act, whether the benefits that sport hunting provides could be earned through other nature-based enterprises such as photographic tourism, community conservancies, ranching and conservation levies so that the communities are not dependent on one source and develops within the districts a plan for the case that hunting incomes fall or are suspended; and
h. The minister issues a policy statement on the future of sport hunting in Uganda in light of the evaluation and, if the programme is to continue, the regulations recommended under terms of reference 1.

Conclusion

Sport hunting in Uganda is lawful and on UWA's account, contributes to community income and to the management of wildlife outside the national parks. The committee found that the programme has not improved the framework in the guidelines of 2021 and the new tariff, and that UWA corrected its revenue schedule promptly. Some of the addenda, notably Nshaara, reflect good practice in fee setting and governance. The committee commends UWA for protecting Katonga and Ajai.

The committee also found that the programme is not yet transparent enough nor demonstrably effective enough to justify the trust that the public and the Parliament are asked to place in it. There is no evidence of how concessions were awarded.

The Kabwoya agreement has run past its term on its face. Extension of 15 years are promised without competition. The operators have not produced audited books, bonds, or insurance. There is no proof of payment to communities. Some quotas exceed UWA's own sustainable yields and no data shows that hunting reduces conflict. Revenue of $2.9 million in three and a half years is modest, and the 2026 figures suggest a fall.

The committee did not recommend the end of the programme nor its expansion. It recommended that it could continue only on conditions that the accounts are reconciled and audited. The agreements are published, aligned and competitively renewed. Regulations give guidelines the force of law, quotas rest on current evidence and stay within sustainable yields. Payments are made through an account accountable. An independent evaluation shows that the programme delivers conservation and benefits to the people who live within the wildlife.

The committee calls upon the House to adopt these recommendations and upon government implementation. Mr Speaker and members, I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, the committee of Tourism, Trade and Industry for being the very first committee to do post-legislative scrutiny in the history of the 12th Parliament. You have set the pace and the bar very high. *(Applause)*

We generally debated these matters yesterday. Where is the shadow minister? Is it clear today?

5.50

THE SHADOW MINISTER OF TOURISM AND WILDLIFE (Mr Fred Jalameso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to take the same opportunity to thank the Committee on Trade, Industry and Tourism for the expeditious work they did that yielded this report.

I have a few additions to make:

1. Wildlife utilisation should be guided by evidence rather than commercial pressure or administrative discretion. Throughout the report, financial pressure and administrative discretion are taking root. That is why you find allocation of benefits to communities varying from one location to another. Therefore, I call for financial accountability and transparency on the side of UWA and the whole ministry.
2. This should also be accompanied by scientific sustainability. Wildlife conservation should have science at the centre of everything. The report has pointed out a lacuna during the committee's interaction with UWA. Data on some species of wildlife is not available. We have wildlife like crocodiles. How many are there, and where are they located?

We also have cats like lions and leopards, to mention but a few. Why am I bringing this up? When hunting is licensed, you find that some of these species are already endangered, like a rhino. Therefore, granting them licences to be hunted would actually create a danger or, rather, thwart the sustainability of tourism, which is hinged on our wildlife.

Mr Speaker, the committee did not clearly bring out the issue of community conservancies, where the community allows wildlife to graze on their land and they are compensated. This is being done in Botswana and Namibia. This has reduced wildlife conflict by 60 per cent.

In 1977, Kenya suspended sport hunting. What was the result? There was an increase in wildlife population by 300 per cent. However, the population of wildlife later reduced drastically in the game parks. Why? As the wildlife left the parks, the community would kill them because they were not sensitised. In Botswana, sport hunting was called "Campfire". When the Government of President Ian Khama abolished it, the population of wildlife reduced by 60 per cent.

Mr Speaker, I support the committee's report on sport hunting but with scientific guidance in reference to specific species of animals, while the Uganda Wildlife Authority exercises transparency.

This is a matter of law. The Uganda Wildlife Authority owes the community and this House accountability. Why would revenue generated from gorilla tracking not be declared? Is it backed by any law? Let the minister come and cite it here.

Mr Speaker, once again, I thank the committee chairperson, the vice-chairperson and all Members for this yielding committee report. I request the House to, in unison - and to repeat the word of yesterday - diametrically adopt the report. I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

5.56

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Ms Susan Nakawuki): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to add my voice to appreciate the committee for a very thorough and objective report.

It is true that we have revenue sharing: 20 per cent to those communities bordering our national parks and a $10 dollar per gorilla tracking permit, which has been doing great activities in the different communities. A case in point is Bwindi, where they have even managed to construct a community hospital.

The committee was concerned about the decline in revenue at the national parks and I want to pronounce myself on this. The tourism sector

is very delicate; it is fragile. Every time there is a calamity or we have a series of epidemics, the sector is greatly affected.

In the recent past, we have had COVID-19, Ebola, Marburg and Mpox. Every time we have such publicity, our tourists reduce substantially in numbers; many of them make cancellations. In fact, the private sector is also crying for help because they are being greatly affected.

What explains the fact that Bwindi has an increase in revenue but other national parks have a decrease? The fact is the proximity we have between Uganda and Rwanda. For example, when it comes to Bwindi and Mgahinga, tourists come in through Rwanda and cross into the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. So, they do not come directly into Uganda. That explains why Bwindi is usually at least a bit better off than other national parks.

I would also like to inform the committee that we are currently in the process of amending these regulations. It has been overdue. We are waiting for space to present a paper before Cabinet and then we will have the input of Parliament. We have also taken note of all the observations and recommendations of the committee, and we are going to ensure that we fast track their implementation of these recommendations.

On sport hunting, the committee has recommended that we come up with a policy statement on the future of sport hunting. We are going to work with UWA and make sure that we present a timely statement. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, these are matters that we ably discussed yesterday and these particular aspects of post-legislative scrutiny were extracted partly from yesterday's general committee report, where they even pointed out areas in the legislation where there is need for review and amendments.

Therefore, I will allow only four Members to seek clarification; Hon. Naome, Member for the elderly, Hon. Ssewungu and Hon. Rose Obigah. I was gauging their interests; the rest should hold their peace. Hon. Naome?

6.00

MS NAOME KABASHARIRA (Independent, Rushenyi County, Ntungamo): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I would also like to thank the committee. I think the youth or the young are proving it.

I will not dwell much on the report but what the minister raised has been on my mind. Can't we find a way of protecting our tourists?

When there is an epidemic or something like Ebola, can't we find a way for the Ministry of Health, these ministers, or whoever is in leadership, to sit down and agree on how to handle it? I am sure we have lost a lot of money.

This was the season, and the Ministry of Health came out and said, "Ebola." Mr Speaker, yes, I know we need protection, but we do not have to advertise that we are sick. Do you have to tell everyone, "I am sick, I am sick, I am sick?"

Mr Speaker, we also need to change the style because we are killing tourism. There are other countries which get – When we go to these countries, especially for sports, they tell us, "Uganda, you talk" and then the tourists go to them instead. We lose.

So, we can protect our health, but also protect and get - We need this money. I do not know how much we have lost. The committee did not discuss it, but perhaps Parliament should also come out, since the Minister of Health and all are here. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

6.03

MR JAMES KAKOOZA (NRM, Older Persons Representative, Central): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable minister, since you and I have been in the East African Community, you should borrow a leaf to supplement what Hon. Naome Kabasharira said.

On Ebola, there are countries which had more sick people than Uganda, but they kept quiet.

What happens to Ugandans? They call it as if this is general happiness. For instance, the incident involving the ADF, when they killed the whites; the President came out and said, "Please, I am handling that security matter." However, it was on TikTok and everywhere.

I know six companies that lost Shs 600 million – *(Interjections)*- Let me finish my point. They lost Shs 600 million, and in the end, they shifted from here to Tanzania.

Please, as the minister in charge, find mechanisms. If there is any calamity, why should anybody come and talk about it? We should prevent them. I know countries neighbouring Uganda and neighbouring Congo that had many diseases, including Ebola, but they never said anything.

Even when we had COVID-19, the President of Tanzania came out and said, "For us, we do not have it, and we do not mind." Tourists continued to go to Tanzania. We lost a lot of money, yet this is a major source of non-tax revenue for this country. We are targeting $2.5 billion. Now, we are at about $1.6 billion. What is happening? The non-tax revenue is reducing because of talking unnecessarily about matters concerning tourism.

Lastly, honourable minister, you should be concerned that non-tax revenue is not being remitted to the Consolidated Fund. The Public Finance Management Act is clear. Look at sections 27 and 28: all revenue collected must go to the Consolidated Fund and be brought here so that we budget for those institutions. How are they still sharing revenue?

Even in local government, it is no longer - Local governments submit their votes, and then the expenditure is sent back. You should internalise that. With that clarification, I will be comfortable, because all the laws we have made on finances create transparency in expenditure and accounting. However, if you leave such an institution to collect and spend at source, it will be abused. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Joseph Ssewungu, then Hon. Rose Obigah.

6.06

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu County West, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Minister of State for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, for doing a good job. I remember you were once on my side. However, do not worry; one time, we shall take over Government and accommodate you again. *(Laughter)* Mr Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Did I hear you dreaming aloud, or-?

MR SSEWUNGU: Wishes can become true.

THE SPEAKER: Or was there something you were saying?

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker —

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu, were you dreaming, or were you saying something?

MR SSEWUNGU: My aim is to take over Government.

THE SPEAKER: Okay.

MR SSEWUNGU: I will struggle until I get there.

THE SPEAKER: So, that is not a dream; it is a wish.

MR SSEWUNGU: Honourable minister, one day, you will be on my side.

THE SPEAKER: Oh, okay.

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, we must pay attention to certain species. Recently, I was in Ngorongoro Crater and was surprised to see many crested cranes there. We no longer have them in plenty here and yet; it is a national symbol of our country. The crested crane is a very strong tourist attraction and it is vanishing from our country. I pray, honourable minister, that you take all steps to protect it.

Secondly, I am a teacher. Teaching is my best profession. Many children were taking advantage of seeing these animals at the

Uganda Zoo. However, our zoo is so weak. Kindly give it more attention.

Mr Speaker, they tell us that animals in the zoo are not just picked at random and brought in. There must be a connection, a historical factor explaining why that animal is brought. Either it has lost its mother and is an orphan, or - These people who work in this ministry know the cause.

However, the zoo's growth, with species that attract tourists, including our children in schools who visit during their tours, is very important. The zoo is very weak, yet it is a very strong revenue earner for this country.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, I am interested in the crested crane as a species and a national symbol, as it is vanishing from the country. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Rose Obigah.

6.08

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I commend the committee and the minister for this wonderful report.

Mr Speaker, we were on the Floor here asking to restock Ajai Wildlife Reserve with white rhinos. I want to report that the white rhinos are back, and the whole West Nile population is jubilant. We are so grateful.

However, somehow, the number of animals in Kabalega National Park seems to be reducing. I kindly ask whether this is because of sport hunting.

We also asked the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities to gazette Mount Wati because it is earmarked for ecotourism. We still have some species there, but they are dwindling. If Mount Wati could be protected and the species restored, we would be very grateful.

I would not want to associate so much with denying facts about deadly sicknesses or diseases in this country. Tanzania denied it, but you remember it took Tanzania's President. So, it is good to face realities and overcome them. If you live in denial, a time comes when it takes you.

It is very important that we face realities, tell the truth, and treat them. It is not in the Ministry of Health's hands. You know social media; even if we keep quiet, it will come out. So, we can ensure we keep ourselves safe.

Lastly, to the committee, we kindly ask that you find time to meet with the West Nile Parliamentary Forum, as I am its Vice-Chairperson. We have sites in West Nile that could be earmarked for tourism. Thank you very much. God bless you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Dr Rude.

6.11

DR RUDE MONDAY (NRM, Bukonzo County East, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I request to give this information to honourable members. We must be cognisant of international law while we protect our tourism industry and the economy.

There are international rules and regulations to which the country is a signatory, and some of these relate to what we call immediately reportable diseases, especially the infectious ones. Therefore, countries have obligations to report, so when the Minister of Health reports, as they told us, that we have no Ebola, it means we do not have it.

The day they told us we had it, it is not that they were being alarmists; they were complying with the law as stipulated in many of these concessional agreements, regulations that the country has signed to. I thought I should give this information so that we do not always blame the Minister of Health each time they report to us that such situations are.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Achia, Hon. Obura and Member from Buikwe.

6.12

MR REMIGIO ACHIA (NRM, Pian County, Nabilatuk): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this - I thank the committee for this very

incisive report. I pray that they need to, with respect to this sport hunting, they needed to look deeper with respect to the security issues. In the case of Pian Upe and partly Kidepo, some of these sport hunters were reported to have been even the source of arms smuggling. We had a case in 2014, particularly in my constituency, Pian Upe, under the Pian Upe Game Reserve, where this happened, and I think security took charge.

Two, these sport hunters, especially some in Pian Upe, have had to put pressure on the board of the Uganda Wildlife Authority to exclude communities neighbouring the game reserve from accessing grass, fetching firewood, or even some communities, especially from Katakwi, from fishing in some of the dams inside the game reserve. They said that it affected their sport hunting business.

They have forced the board to change the 2023 regulations, which had previously provided for pastoralists to access grass and dams which were built by the NRM Government inside the game reserve. They were chased out until recently, when the President intervened and allowed pastoralists in Pian Upe to go in to graze, so the aspect of security and co-management with respect to some of these areas is an issue.

My prayer to the Minister of Wildlife and Antiquities is that regulations regarding the management and access of communities to some of the wildlife reserves, especially in the case of Karamoja, where we have such disasters, lack of water and drought, we should go back to the 1964 regulations, in the case of Pian Upe, the 1964 regulations under Section 22, which provided for orderly and peaceful movement and access to some of the resources within the communities.

Above all, it is difficult to promote these bad manners of sport hunting. I am telling my people not to kill wildlife, and then you bring these white people to shoot the animals. People ask me, "Why should you tell us not to kill these animals, and these other bad fellas come with their guns and shoot the animals?" In the case of the Pian Upe, it is contradictory. In the case of the Pian Upe, they can specifically come to hunt the Oryx, which is a totem for the Pian. How do you come to kill our totem in our land? If you are a Karimojong and a Pian kills a totem, you are punished; you will kill a bull, your clan is punished, and they sing bad, nasty songs about how you were badly brought up. This sport hunting, in terms of attitudes, is affecting our people's protection of wildlife, whereas they are the first conservationists. In some of the game reserves, we should outlaw this sport hunting, particularly in Pian Upe.

My prayer is access to grass, co-management, and conservation. We do not want to promote these bad manners of the white people coming to kill animals.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ogwang Obura.

6.16

MR PATRICK OGWANG (NRM, Oyam County South, Oyam): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to join the House in thanking the committee and the Chairperson for the wonderful work.

Murchison National Park is the largest in Uganda, and it cuts through to Oyam, where we on the front line have been conserving, and we are contributing to the $1.6 billion. I thank the committee; I have seen the recommendations are in order. However, if you look at the percentage of revenue sharing for Oyam district, we get Shs 200 million. It barely supports over four subcounties lying along the park. We have cut our appetite for game meat, and the Oyam people have decided to conserve. I pray that UWA revise that rate to ensure that Oyam is one of those affected districts, to receive quite a substantial amount.

Lastly, on employment opportunities, honourable Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, I pray and urge that the communities along the park be given opportunities for employment. When they are recruiting game rangers, let these communities be considered other than picking someone from Kawempe who has never seen a giraffe to go and protect wildlife in Pakwach.

THE SPEAKER: Buikwe South?

6.17

MR JIMMY KANAABI (NUP, Buikwe County South, Buikwe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I add my voice to applaud the committee for this comprehensive report. The committee highlighted how UWA has been licensing the professional hunters. In 2023, they licensed 17 and in 2024, they licensed 16 and 2025 licensed also 16, but they have suspended licensing in 2026.

Mr Speaker, wildlife is affecting a lot of people outside there. a case in point was in the areas of Kigaya and Kigugo, where we had a problem of hippos disturbing people's crops and many economic activities. However, according to the report, it shows that the professional hunters are understaffed. We always raise our concerns to the ministry, but we get late responses.

My humble prayer to the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities is that they give more licenses to the professional hunters so that they can cope up with this problem.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I want to put a question to the motion for adoption of the post-legislative scrutiny report of the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry on Uganda wildlife revenue sharing under the Uganda Wildlife Act, Cap. 315.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: The next one we handled concurrently under item six- there is a motion, I want to put a question to the motion for adoption of the post-legislative scrutiny report of the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry on sport hunting and collaborative wildlife management under the Uganda Wildlife Act, Cap. 315.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE SPEAKER: Next item?

ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the House is adjourned to tomorrow at 2.00 p.m.

(The House rose at 6.21 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 15 October 2026 at 2.00 p.m.)