



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION - SECOND MEETING

TUESDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2023





## IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

### Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

#### THIRD SESSION - 1ST SITTING - SECOND MEETING

**Tuesday, 3 October 2023**

*Parliament met at 2.04 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.*

#### PRAYERS

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

*The House was called to order.*

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, most of you seem to still be in the constituency mood. I welcome you back, and I hope you had a good engagement with your constituents.

Before we decided on this short recess, we received several complaints from you that we were keeping you busy, and leaving you no time to uproot your opponents who were cultivating strong roots on the ground. I hope you uprooted them, and left them pleading for you to be taken back to the House. *(Laughter)*

Honourable members, I found out that there are many issues you would like to raise. Today, for example, many of you brought issues of national importance, yet we could not handle them along with the items on the Order Paper. Therefore, from now onwards, we shall handle only five issues like we have been doing.

There will be no business of using points of procedure to raise critical issues. Instead, we shall use two hours, every Thursday to raise constituency and related issues.

I would like to inform the Leader of Government Business and the Government Chief Whip that the Ministers should always be here to answer these issues so that we do not have pending items, which clog the Order Paper. Once we do it that way, we shall be smarter.

I utilised the recess to visit all my parishes. I have 27 parishes in my constituency and I was accompanied by the Mitooma Woman Member of Parliament, Hon. Juliet Bashiisha. We sensitised our people on the Parish Development Model (PDM), but also did oversight on how it was working. We found, among other issues, that money had, indeed, been released to districts, but there were some parishes which had released zero and others a hundred per cent. By the time I left, Mitooma District was at about 56 per cent in terms of disbursement.

We also received many complaints from the people including your constituents, ranging from Mayuge to Mityana districts. Most of them came through social media and I compiled them. There were cross-cutting issues including; people being charged money to be listed on computers, for filling forms and for following up.

I found out that husbands had to sign for their wives before the latter could receive money. One of the women told me that when she got the money, her husband said that they had to share it because, without his signature, she would not have received it.

In one incident, a certain lady had been denied the money because she had quarrelled with her husband two days earlier. The reason was that if they separated, they had nowhere to find her to recover the money.

I found out that people felt like these SACCOs belonged to the Government. It means that if the Government stops giving out the money, the PDM would stop, yet this is a revolving fund. Therefore, more sensitisation needs to be done.

My District Commercial Officer was clearing all the money before it was released to anyone, yet the guidelines were clear that these people were not involved at all.

Based on how we handled issues of PDM before, as a leadership, we met and decided that this would be different. Under your regional caucuses, you shall make reports like you did before, and submit them to the Committee on Local Governments, which is the focal committee on PDM. The Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Mapenduzi, will issue a notice showing the timetable for your presentations.

The committee will then process all our issues and come up with a full report, which we shall debate here, and make resolutions, then put the minister to task for an action-taken report. Based on that, we should have done some work, instead of each region presenting its issues and some of them going without any resolutions.

Honourable chairperson of the committee, we agreed that you would use three weeks to have this sorted. Let us pick all the issues and ensure they are looked into.

However, the Minister needs to keep sensitising the masses over this, because we cannot afford to lose this important programme in which we have invested a lot as Government.

Honourable colleagues, we received great news and I would like to congratulate the Government and the people of Uganda on

a successful bid to host the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027, together with our East African sister countries, Tanzania and Kenya.

We thank His Excellency the President, who took up this matter seriously and gave it his all. He went out of the way to call other Presidents and delegates, and the First Lady who indeed put in all her effort.

However, I want to state it clearly that the Rt Hon. Speaker of Parliament played a critical role in starting all this. People may not know how it all started and I do not know whether Hon. Magogo will give us all the information. When the Rt Hon. Speaker called Hon. Rukaari, other Members and I, for the first meeting, she said this was possible and asked if we could sell it to the President. We all agreed because it was good for our country.

Therefore, I congratulate her, and especially, Hon. Magogo, who is the President of the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA), the technical team at FUFA, the National Council of Sports, and everyone who initiated the idea. We would not have taken it up without your clearance. I will be receiving the names of the people in the public gallery. We also have a substantive motion on that issue.

I will also amend the Order Paper because, however much we had a motion, we had not received an official statement from Government on the Floor. The First Lady who is also the Minister of Education and Sports has informed me that she has released a statement to Parliament, which will formally be presented here. Therefore, I will amend the Order Paper to accommodate that statement before we can receive the motion.

Honourable colleagues, I also remind you that the 25<sup>th</sup> National Prayer Breakfast will take place on Sunday 8 October 2023 at State House, Entebbe from 7.30 to 11.30 a.m. Everyone is invited, including Hon. Ssemujju. (*Applause*) I will guide on when we shall do the COVID-19 test.

This year's theme is: "Fear not, repent and serve the Lord". I hope we are going to repent of all our sins because I can see a lot of sins here, but also a lot of possible repenters. *(Laughter)*

This theme is drawn from the book of Jeremiah 15:19-21 and the guest speakers will be two; Congressman Tim Walberg from Michigan, United States of America and Dr Alexander Joseph, a renowned author. The Chief Host will be the Rt Hon. Speaker of Parliament and the Chief Guest will be H.E. the President of the Republic of Uganda.

As you are aware, the purpose of the National Prayer Breakfast is to renew and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood with the faithful across the country and the world. It also gives us an opportunity to ask God's guidance as we serve the people. Invitation cards will be put in your pigeonholes; Hon. Bahati, please, ensure that this is worked on very soon.

Ahead of the National Prayer Breakfast, the Women's Forum has been organised and it will take place on Saturday 7 October 2023 at the Parliamentary parking yard from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.; all female Members of Parliament are invited.

The COVID-19 tests for the State House event will be at the Parliament Conference Hall on 5 and 6 October 2023, starting at 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Please, note that without a valid COVID-19 test result, you will not be allowed to join us for the prayers.

With those, I will just allow around two reactions to my communication, but I request that on issues of the PDM, you submit to the committee. Anything to do with the Africa Cup of Nations, I request that once we start debating the substantive motion, you make your contribution so that we have a very clear flow of handling our business. Thank you.

I will start with Hon. Ssemujju; you never know he might confirm his attendance for the National Prayer Breakfast. *(Laughter)* Then, Hon. Roland Ndyomugenyi, Hon. Timuzigu, Hon. Kateshumbwa and conclude with Hon. Mwijukye. Thank you.

2.18

**MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The prayer breakfast by the Speaker of Parliament in State House - and I have also seen a sign post outside showing another host, who happens to be the daughter of the President. I would like to use that, as you have welcomed us from recess - because I also saw in the media something I want to raise related to your communication.

The book that you gave us, which has all the names of Members of Parliament also contains Uganda's protocol. In that protocol, the Deputy Speaker is number five in the country. I saw reports on social media that you had been delegated by the First Lady, who, in protocol, as the Minister of Education and Sports, is far below you. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, you are now saying that we are going to State House where a daughter - I do not know whether the daughter has teamed up with the Speaker. The late Prime Minister, Prof. Apolo Nsibambi, spoke about presidentialism.

So, I would like to be sure that the family of our good President was furnished with information; that a Deputy Speaker is number five in the country and can, therefore, not be delegated by a minister, and also, the institution of Parliament cannot be summoned by a daughter to a prayer Breakfast. That is what I would like to find out from you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. At the National Prayer Breakfast, we invite different guests; both international and local. On several occasions, we have hosted several preachers from this country. The First Daughter is one of the preachers. I do not know whether you have ever gone to her church, but if you want to debate whether she is a preacher, who would qualify to preach at the National Prayer Breakfast or not, it is your issue. So, you can listen to the preaching and believe it or not.

On the issue of the First Lady, I want to put it very clear and on record that she is the mother of the nation. If you do not agree with that, some of us do. *(Applause)*

I would like to tell you, colleagues, that the day you start looking at honours and ranks as more important, you will lose it. For my case, I would be glad to represent you one day, Mr Ssemujju. When you are busy, inform me and I will represent you. You see, what is important is serving the nation. Even you, Hon. Macho, just invite me because in our African saying - if Hon. Macho or Hon. Mwijukye invited me to represent them - if a tall man bows to a short man, that does not take away his height. So, if I bow for Hon. Ssegirinya - and I am glad you are back - does it take away my status?

Therefore, let us just be humble, but above all, I respect the First Lady as the mother of the nation and someone I hold extremely dear at a personal level. Given an opportunity, I will again represent her and I will be proud of it. *(Applause)*

2.23

**MR ROLAND NDYOMUGYENYI (Independent, Rukiga County, Rukiga):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Although you have wisely guided that the issue of the PDM can be discussed later, there are very pertinent issues, which are happening -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, if you say that I have “wisely guided”, then you are unwisely submitting. *(Laughter)* Are you indirectly challenging me?

**MR NDYOMUGYENYI:** Mr Speaker, I am not challenging you, but the issue I am trying to raise is that there are very pertinent matters that are happening in the PDM. Waiting for three weeks, without any kind of intervention, may lead to a loss of money. The people are very frustrated in our villages and are saying that the system in Kampala is not releasing money. Others are also giving other excuses. Therefore, Mr Speaker, it would be prudent for this Parliament to urgently guide, without waiting for a formal report, on how best our people can access the PDM money.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You see, the danger with this is that I would have to sit in my seat as the Speaker and do something on your behalf, yet you went and consolidated all these ideas. The minister was also following. Some of us have interacted with him and sorted out some of the issues there and then.

My critical fear is us having a debate and issues are lost. When you have a report, you can make resolutions and put a minister to task on how far he or she has reached in implementing the resolution. Three weeks does not seem to be a long period.

Hon. Ssegirinya, I would like to welcome you back. I am glad you are looking okay. *(Applause)*

Hon. Timuzigu?

2.25

**MR MICHAEL TIMUZIGU (NRM, Kajara County, Ntungamo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for communicating issues concerning the National Prayer Breakfast.

I am one of the people making preparations for that great day for Uganda. However, since the outbreak of COVID-19, the National Prayer Breakfast has been having challenges. We have been holding the National Prayer Breakfast at State House, yet it is supposed to unite all Ugandans, including the Opposition and Members of the NRM.

Of course, being a function under the Speaker of Parliament, Members of Parliament would like to take part. So, it is our request, Mr Speaker, that your office convinces the President that this National Prayer Breakfast should be a function for all Ugandans; the Opposition should be comfortable to attend. Therefore, next time, we should have it at Kololo or anywhere else so that all Ugandans can be united.

Mr Speaker –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Timuzigu, who tells you the Opposition does not go to State House?

**MR TIMUZIGU:** Mr Speaker, I am not aware. I have been hearing that they go there at night, but I do not have evidence. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, that is our request. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is MPs from the Opposition who have been accusing other Members of the Opposition of going to State House. I do not know whether it is at night or not. So, are you proposing that we do the National Prayer Breakfast at night, so that they can come? *(Laughter)* That was on a light note.

Honourable colleagues, the President is not hosting us at his personal residence. He is hosting us at his official residence and we are the ones who requested him to host us.

The State House is a property of the Government of Uganda, and every Ugandan has the freedom to go there. I can put it to you that even when we used to go to Hotel Africana, Members were not attending.

You see, Heaven is a very small place, so only a few people will qualify to go there. So, for us who want to qualify to go to Heaven, we shall go. However, everyone is invited, honourable colleagues. If you are unable to, you can follow the event on TV. We have listened to your concerns and taken note.

*(Hon. Mpuuga rose.)* Yes, Leader of the Opposition, is it on the same issue?

2.29

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Mathias Mpuuga):** Much obliged, Mr Speaker. On the subject of the National Prayer Breakfast, of course, State House is the right place to be. I hope its cleansing starts first before the prayers because it really requires a lot of cleansing. However, that is not my point.

My point is; will the Minister of Health come to this House and share with Parliament what difference it makes to do a COVID-19 test to go to State House and not any other place? We send mixed signals to citizens regarding

COVID-19 that whenever State House is mentioned, then COVID-19 comes into play.

Can we get information on –*(Interruption)*

**MR SSEMUGU:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The clarification I am seeking from the Leader of the Opposition is whether he has forgotten that we have a very old President, for whom one way of preserving him is checking everybody. *(Laughter)*

**MR MPUUGA:** Mr Speaker, I must confess to my honourable brother that I have lost count of the age of the President –*(Laughter)*– so I do not know his level of vulnerability. I also know there are equally other old people in and outside Parliament.

On a very serious note, we need to understand what it is about the State House or the Presidency, for that matter, and COVID-19. People visiting this country need to understand whether the State House is now the epicentre of COVID-19 in the region and more so, in the country. Otherwise, the mixed signals we are sending are not good for us or COVID-19 is being used as a cover to transport some other intentions that are not declared.

Can we get clarification from the Ministry of Health, regarding this subject matter?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister?

2.33

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH (PRIMARY HEALTH CARE) (Ms Margaret Muhanga):** Thank you, Mr Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition. COVID-19 is still with us. It is not true that people test because the President is old. You are all aware that the President got COVID-19 a few months ago and beat it.

However, this is for the safety of the Fountain of Honour. Hon. Ssemujju, you know very well that the President is the Fountain of Honour. He is only one person; we are not many Presidents and so, we need to protect him.



To protect him, the Ministry of Health set up a “Scientific Committee”. This committee advised that everybody who meets the President does a test, including other Heads of State. Clearly, not many people meet the President all the time, but the few who meet him need the COVID-19 test. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, putting aside the Presidency, I think we need an update, as a country, on the status of COVID-19; whether it went away or we still have it. We would like to know. That is what I picked mainly from the LOP because some people are going to start saying, “Before you greet me, do a COVID-19 test”.

So, we need to know whether we still have COVID-19. If we could get a formal statement, it would be good, honourable minister.

**MS MUHANGA:** We shall do that next week. Nonetheless, I would like to state that I did not attend a caucus meeting some time back because I had tested positive for COVID-19. So, it is still with us. Every week, we get between 50 and 60 people who have the virus.

Even though the World Health Organisation downgraded it, it is still with us. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Congratulations upon defeating it.

2.34

**MR DICKSONS KATESHUMBWA (NRM, Sheema Municipality, Sheema):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your guidance, especially on the methodology we are going to use to discuss PDM.

Mr Speaker, if it pleases you, I request that you give us clear terms of reference for the Committee on Local Government to examine this matter so that they do not just compile our views, but interact and hear from some of the affected people and implementers. By doing so, when we report to the House, the committee has some recommendations and actions that can be adopted. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I will do that tomorrow.

**DR OPIO:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your guidance on the PDM. I would like to seek further guidance because during the recess, over and above monitoring PDM, we also went to monitor the Shs 1 billion and participated in the district road committees, and field visits as well as the district councils.

Would it not be appropriate that whereas the committee will present a report on PDM, we can also have other issues and a separate report is presented and discussed separately? Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleague, that would be good, but I do not know whether we shall get time to discuss that. We have created time for that matter on Thursday. The issues you found in your areas that need Government’s attention, will be raised on that day.

I am glad the ministers are present. I request them to come in big numbers on Thursday and answer these questions. Our Members of Parliament have just come back, they have very many issues and they would like you to respond to them.

2.36

**MR FRANCIS MWIJUKYE (FDC, Buhweju County, Buhweju):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I am excited about the prayer breakfast due to happen at State House, for two reasons.

One, that I have always fought to enter the State House. So, this may be my best opportunity to enter and stay. *(Laughter)* I have been involved in the struggle to get there. I am going to ask Ugandans who have always wanted to come to State House, to come on that day so that we enter and stay there. *(Laughter)*

Two, I am also excited about the theme on repentance. Therefore, State House is the best venue we can go to, to preach about repentance. I would be happy to be appointed as one of



the preachers so that I preach such that the challenges we have had in the State House are dealt with once and for all. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think we would have appointed Hon. Mwijukye as one of the preachers, but when we checked his record in the seminary and how he took off, we found his qualifications lacking and that is how he missed out. *(Laughter)*

However, on the issue of entering the State House and staying there, we wish you luck. Chief Opposition Whip -

2.38

**THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr John Nambeshe):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Concerning the prayer breakfast, if you were to dissect the essence of it, it was meant to seek Divine intervention to the nation's challenges that we grapple with, including sicknesses and diseases.

However, this particular one being hosted in the State House is designed with restrictions that some people should not attend, moreover the essence was that all should assemble irrespective of political affiliations, issues of health whether you have COVID-19 or not, it is about seeking Divine intervention to the country's challenges. Now that it has fallen short of its meaning, we are far from convening an annual event called a National Prayer Breakfast.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I think everyone is invited. If we find you sick, you should go to hospital and we shall pray for you, because you are sick and you need treatment.

Honourable colleagues, I am really surprised how the issue of the National Prayer Breakfast can cause all this, when every Thursday, at 7.00 a.m. in the Members Lounge, the team always holds prayers. Nearly all people who have spoken, apart from Hon. Michael Timuzigu, I have not seen any of you there.

Now, were you waiting for the National Prayer Breakfast to pray? Don't you think if you had started praying and interceding early about some of the problems, we would be okay? Please, let us not read much into this. Let us go and support each other.

2.40

**MS ANNET KATUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Bushenyi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Permit me to raise a community concern from Ibaare Subcounty, Bushenyi District, over continuous road accidents on the Ishaka-Kagamba road that has become a death trap, resulting in public outcry.

I have been approached by the local leadership, religious leaders, school administrators and other stakeholders about the Ministry of Works and Transport's stand on this death spot. At the spot between Ibaare Trading Centre and Bwoma-Ishaka road, since January, we have buried 20 people including school-going children. This is a busy trading centre followed by five primary schools –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Prayers, honourable.

**MS KATUSIIME:** My prayers are:

One, is to request this august House to direct the Ministry of Works and Transport to put humps at these black spots, at Omukatagu Ibaare Trading Centre; put zebra crossing in all these educational institutions to save the lives of these vulnerable learners. To speed limit and traffic synergies so that the lives of people are protected because such congregated educational institutions and churches need speed synergy.

Lastly, traffic mitigation measures must be instituted, including traffic police presence on the roads with speed guns.

Mr Speaker, I count on your usual people's concern because I know what concerns people is always your priority. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Minister of Works and Transport?

2.42

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) (Mr Fred Byamukama):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I condole with the families who have fallen victims. I would like to inform the honourable colleague that we noted the problem and as I speak now, after next week, our engineers will be on the ground to fix the problem such that we save our children. After next week, we shall be there to work on that problem. We are aware of it. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have teachers and students from Emirates High School, Busiro South Constituency. They are represented by Hon. Betty Naluyima and Hon. Charles Matovu.

They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please, join me in welcoming them. Thank you for coming. *(Applause)*

We also have in the Public Gallery this afternoon, students from the School of Leadership at Harvest Institute. They have come to observe the proceedings of the House. Please, join me in welcoming them. Please, stand up? Thank you. *(Applause)*

Honourable members, in the VIP Gallery this afternoon, we have officials from the National Council of Sports. The delegation comprises; Mr Ambrose Tashobya, the Chairman, National Council of Sports and Dr Bernard Ogwal, the General Secretary, National Council of Sports.

However, I have seen others like Mr Edgar Watson, our former player, FUFA Vice President, Mr Mugisha and others who I might have not noticed, but I will get the names later—is that Kiiza? And then our very own Hon. Nakiwala Kiyingi - thank you for coming.

Let us proceed, Hon. Nkunyindi Muwada -

2.45

**MR NKUNYINGI MUWADA (NUP, Kyadondo East, Wakiso):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am rising as a shadow minister

of Foreign Affairs over a bloated Ugandan delegation to the 78<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly. It has been reported that Uganda sent a delegation of 71 persons; 10 of whom were accredited and 60 not accredited, but appeared as advisors.

We heard and read that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Henry Okello Oryem, accredited his own wife while the Rt Hon. Prime Minister attended and appeared as an advisor, but not as a representative.

We have heard contradicting media reports with the voices of the Prime Minister, alleging that she never authorised the Minister for General Duties, Office of the Prime Minister.

It is also on record that Uganda has a Mission in New York, funded above Shs 16 billion, at least by last year, to cater for our engagements with the UN and equally, for months now, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not tabled a codified foreign policy for Uganda.

Mr Speaker, I pray that;

- (i) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs be directed to brief this House on how the delegation was sanctioned and the purpose of each member on the delegation.
- (ii) The Minister of Foreign Affairs briefs this House on the progress of codifying Uganda's foreign policy; that would guide our international engagements for both bilateral and multilateral engagements including the selection of who to represent Uganda at such a forum.

This was not the first time Uganda is represented, but how come we had a bloated delegation? The Opposition terms this as wasteful expenditure.

- (iii) The following persons being members of this House, the Rt Hon. Prime Minister; Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, Hon. Kasule Lumumba, Gen. Jeje Odongo, Hon. Henry Okello Oryem, Hon. John Mulimba and Eng. Hilary Onok, be directed to

come and make personal statements to substantiate their role in the anomaly cited in this bloated delegation. I beg to submit.  
(*Applause*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, the Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs has raised an issue that has been in the media for long. Therefore, let the Minister of Foreign Affairs come on Thursday and explain as requested.

The issue of statements for personal explanation, is provided for under Rule 55, it is voluntary. You cannot direct a Member – if a Member has broken any rule of this House, we have other ways of sending him or her to the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline.

However, for personal explanation; if a Member feels that they want to - now, since I have guided that the Minister of Foreign Affairs comes on Thursday with a comprehensive statement on this matter, I request that we stop at that for now and first get a statement because the minister who wrote the accreditation of all these people will explain what they were going to do and whether they went or not. Leader of the Opposition, do you still want to open it up?

**MR MPUUGA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. With no intention to impeach your guidance as well sought after, I am also aware that the Minister of Foreign Affairs did not travel as the team leader; he was actually a subordinate in the team.

He had two principals, Her Excellency, the Vice President and the Rt Hon. Prime Minister. Since matters became public, some of the comments from the Prime Minister, border on the banal. Being the Leader of Government Business, may it please you that you ask the Rt Hon. Prime Minister to appear and assure this House that;

- (i) She is in charge;
- (ii) She is aware of what took place, because being Prime Minister – and she is all-over public media explaining uncoordinatedly

her role in the botched travel. Wouldn't it be proper, with your indulgence, that she comes because we need her confidence here when she appears;

She is quoted in public media berating her subordinates, including name calling, which is uncultured of her. She must be angry; we need to relieve her of that anger by giving her this platform to share in her frustration, so that we can tell who is causing all this unnecessary noise and causing the Rt Hon. Prime Minister all manner of trouble.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable members, to begin with, whether you are a Vice President or a Prime Minister, you are accredited by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and he or she must know the reason they are accrediting you. Therefore, that is why it is very important for - honourable minister, I request you to first leave this matter alone.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs will come, but on the side of Government, some of you who have read a lot of literature, there is a book called "*Darkness at Noon*" by Arthur Koestler. In that book, this gentleman had a situation where they were fighting fire. Everyone was bringing pumps to fight the fire, but the fire was not going out until they discovered that some people were using water while others were using fuel to put out the fire; they were neutralising each other in one way or another.

On the side of Government, some are using water while others are using fuel and that is why the fire is not going out. However, in such situations, as is in many countries, if you are not steady, the Parliament usually comes in, usually with fuel not water. So, I would advise you, to use water on your side; stop the fuel. We do not enjoy these issues at all and I hope you can talk together and see a way of resolving issues in a more decent and calm manner.

The Prime Minister is here - I will give the opportunity to the Leader of the Opposition on Thursday to put it to her and I am sure she will answer.

So, let us handle issues of national importance. We go on to the substantive Order Paper. Hon. Agnes Atim – Our colleague has been indisposed, so, when you see her – and, we welcome you back, honourable member.

2.54

**MS AGNES ATIM (NRM, Woman Representative, Amolatar):** Thank you and I also thank you for your prayers.

Mr Speaker, I bring the issue of the ban on the movement of livestock across Zengebe-Namasale Ferry. This ferry is meant to be a public good and everyone is supposed to enjoy the right of movement. However, for the past few years, our people have been stopped, from the side of Nakasongola, from crossing on the ferry with their livestock, yet from the other side of Amolatar, the same livestock are actually allowed. They are told to travel an additional 310 kilometres, yet they would have moved for 15 kilometres across the lake.

Livestock trade is a major economic activity in that area. Currently, the communities on the side of Amolatar are mobilising to stop anybody or any vehicle from the side of Nakasongola. We see a brewing conflict among these communities. The district security committee has made all efforts to contact the other side of the lake, but all in vain.

I personally, intervened and talked to the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) to understand what the ban is about. I was told “it is orders from above” – it is a presidential directive. I demanded to see that directive, but to no avail.

My prayers are two-fold, that:

1. The Minister for Security should give a very clear reason for this ban – what kind of ban it is and what it is meant for – or else our people be allowed to freely cross on the ferry as it is done on the other side;
2. The Minister for the Presidency needs to undertake an investigation into the conduct of the RDC of Nakasongola who is

enforcing this ban in a very unprofessional manner.

I beg to submit. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Minister of Internal Affairs, you have been handling this issue. What is the problem?

2.57

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Gen. David Muhoozi):** I have taken note of the concern of Hon. Agnes. I request, through you, Mr Speaker, that we go back and consult because it has to do with many ministries – livestock movement is under the ministry of agriculture, while the RDC issue is under another ministry – and then, we come back with a concrete response or maybe even act before we come back here.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mainly, it is about action because I understand that on the side of Amolatar, if you do not work on this, you might also have another catastrophe. You are allowing crossing from one side and blocking from the other. That is a recipe for disaster. So, please, update the House on Thursday. I am sure you will have studied the matter. Please, consult with the Minister for the Presidency to see if, indeed, the RDC is implementing unlawful orders.

Hon. Ssemujju, did you have a point of procedure?

**MR SSEMUJJU:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The procedural issue is about what you have guided on. The Vice-President, by our Constitution, is the No. 2 and, actually, the President in waiting.

I wanted to find out, Mr Speaker, whether in this matter of quarrelling - you will not find space for the Vice-President to come and speak to Parliament on this matter. This is because the letter of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, accrediting the delegation, had her as the head. The Minister of Foreign Affairs is under the Vice-President.

So, I would like raise the issue and request you, Mr Speaker, to allow the Vice-President, who is rarely here, to come and tell us what she went through because the media reports are really troubling – that they were there seated and, then, they saw the Prime Minister in her usual style – maverick – appearing. *(Laughter)* We need the Vice-President to tell us, really – or whether she was even able to represent the country.

I am requesting, kindly. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think this is the fuel I was talking about. *(Laughter)* Honourable colleagues, let us first receive a statement from the Minister of Foreign Affairs. If we find gaps, then, we will be able to seek more clarification.

Number two, if the Vice-President – I am sure she has heard and her team has also heard. If she wants to make any statement, let her come and make it. However, for now, we need a statement from the Minister of Foreign Affairs. What is important is the purpose. You accredited people, but for what purpose? If you have accredited so and so, what was the purpose they were going to serve as part of Uganda's delegation? I think that is very critical.

Hon. Kamuntu, I see you are itching, what is the issue? You have made all signs to attract my attention – and today, it is free sitting, honourable colleagues.

3.01

**MR MOSES KAMUNTU (Independent, Rubanda County West, Rubanda):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have an emergency. You remember Kisoro Road was cut off in May. Up to today, the Ministry of Works and Transport has never intervened. As we speak now, it is cut off completely. To access Kisoro, we have to pass via Rwanda.

3.01

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) (Mr Fred Byamukama):** Mr Speaker, it is not true, as the honourable member has said, that to access Kisoro, you have to pass through

Rwanda. What I am aware of is that we had an issue – a landslide – and we had a contractor. However, because of inadequate funds, he abandoned the site. We are doing all that is possible to get money for him. Alternatively – the road is narrow; it cannot accommodate two lanes. However, the vehicles are crossing using one lane. We are working hard, as the Ministry of Works and Transport, to ensure that transport on that side moves as usual.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** But, honourable minister, how are you working hard when you have said the contractor is not on the ground? Is that working hard? *(Laughter)*

**MR BYAMUKAMA:** Mr Speaker, as I speak now, we have already given the contractor money and he requested for 10 days to mobilise and go back to fix the problem. That is the hard work I mean. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You see, honourable colleagues – *(Members rose)* – now, we are standing up here; we want to contribute on the matter. The question is: what value will you add if the contractor needs 10 days to mobilise – apart from the fuel? *(Laughter)*

Honourable minister, please, hold a meeting with the MPs from Kigezi subregion, especially Kabale, Kisoro and Rubanda. Please, ensure that you hold a meeting so that, indeed, you comfort them. Show them what you have done and what is in the pipeline so that they are able to explain to their people. *(Mr Niwagaba rose)* Hon. Niwagaba is also here; he is from the same area.

**MR NIWAGABA:** Maybe – just some bit of information. With the onset of the rains, the entire stretch of the road from Kaharo to Kabale – in those hills – has developed a fissure. And, if it goes off, the only alternative is the old Kabale Road, which you have abandoned.

Unless you make some emergency repairs on the old Kabale Road, which is a murram road – although you have promised to tarmac it for the last 30 years to no avail – very soon, you will have no heavy vehicles or trucks crossing



from Mbarara to the western region, including Rwanda. So, you better think seriously about the old Kabale Road as an alternative to the winding hilly Kabaraga Road.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, these are issues we should hold the meeting over tomorrow – with the honourable minister. Then we will see a way of reporting back about it.

In the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have teachers and pupils from Oyam Junior School, Oyam District. They are represented by Hon. Alum Santa, Hon. Sandra Ogwang and Hon. Dr Apio Otuko Eunice. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Join me in welcoming them. Please, stand up so that we can welcome you. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Hon. Atkins. You will be followed by Hon. Sarah Opendi. *(Laughter)* What is the problem, colleagues?

3.04

**MR ATKINS KATUSABE (FDC, Bukonjo County West, Kasese):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. It is great to have you back in the House; we have been missing you for a long time.

Mr Speaker, tomorrow is a great day for the people of Kasese. Our community is already on the ground to receive the King of the Rwenzururu, His Majesty Omusinga Charles Wesley Mumbere Irema-Ngoma. As a royal guard number one, I am very excited and I cannot wait.

Mr Speaker, here is the deal. First of all, on behalf of the Rwenzururu people, allow me express my deepest gratitude to Government, and specifically to the President of the Republic of Uganda, for having facilitated the release of our king.

I know, Mr Speaker, your office, including the Rt Hon. Speaker, Anita Among and all the elders including Hon. Muruli Mukasa and a lot of peace-loving and law-abiding citizens have worked all together to make tomorrow happen.

Mr Speaker, my prayers: we all know what happened and I do not want to rewind a sad story. Back home in the community, we do not have what we used to call a palace and my prayer this afternoon is to ask the Government and this Parliament that in the next financial year, I ask colleagues to support us in trying to put a voice and a formal request to allow the palace to be constructed by the Government of Uganda.

Number two, tomorrow, we are receiving the king, but he is going to be hosted in a subject's house. That is unfamiliar with kings. Allow me, Mr Speaker, to again put a request before colleagues and to your leadership to ensure that a palatial home is constructed for the king.

Everybody is invited to Kasese, and I will be so happy if it pleases you, that many of you join us in a Kasese to give the king a grand reception.

Mr Speaker, I want to appreciate you for the opportunity. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Atkins, and thank you for providing leadership as far as those issues are concerned. We wish you fruitful celebrations.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you have heard the issues the honourable colleague has raised.

3.09

**THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama):** I thank Hon. Atkins for informing Parliament about the release of our king, His Majesty Wesley Mumbale and I congratulate the people of Kasese and the entire region. I thank you for welcoming him back in such a way whereby you are organising a wonderful celebration for him.

The kingdom can write to the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and put their request whereby the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development will put it to the concerned ministry, that is the Ministry of Works –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you have a way you deal with such matters. I request you to follow up on it.

**MS NAKADAMA:** Mr Speaker, I will follow up the matter, but let him come to me and we handle as required.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, what would be wrong with a member going to the Prime Minister? Then after you come here and complain that “we look for them and do not get them.” Yet on the Floor, you are saying you do not want. Leader of the Opposition, did you want to say something about that?

3.11

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Mathias Mpuuga):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank my colleague, Hon. Atkins Katusabe, for raising matters relating to the kingdom and particularly, the king.

Hon. Katusabe is a very good man and I find him extremely decent. In his sense of decency, he found it extremely difficult to stand up to the Prime Minister and state that the release of the king, was held incommunicado for more than four years.

There were subjects murdered in cold blood, those incarcerated without charge for more than four years, and those who died in incarceration without justice. Now that this matter has come up, with a bit of warmth relating to the return of the king to his people, this Parliament is a House of neutrality. But Parliament is the firewall between the people and an eternally criminal state. States by their nature are criminal, if you understand statecraft. And when you have Parliaments, they must stand between the people and the criminal state.

Mr Speaker, will it please you to ask of the Prime Minister to come to the House and make an account to the country how matters of justice have been handled in this community; that the return of the king is not a ritual, but a restoration of the sense of dignity of the people of Kasese; an understanding that when there

are misunderstandings in this country, the gun can never be the solution. Will it please you, Mr Speaker, to instruct the Prime Minister, at the return of the King, as a sense of identifying with the people, to make a statement here on the sense of justice? I so pray. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Now, LOP, you got me scared when you said, Hon. Katusabe is a very decent man, which is why he did not open the wounds. When you started opening the wounds, I said, “Is LOP indecent?” *—(Laughter)—* yet, I know he is very decent. Please, Hon. Alioni, take your seat.

Honourable colleagues, the people of Kasese are celebrating. I do not want us to cause any anxiety in their celebrations. LOP, you can raise this matter any time, but I think let us give them a chance to first celebrate. They went through a court process and all that and whatever they agreed upon - let us first give them a chance to celebrate. Otherwise, these issues can be handled.

I know Hon. Atkins Katusabe is among the people who were very tough on these issues. When you see him speaking this way, know that he is raising the voice of his people. So, let Parliament not overshadow their celebrations by directing investigations into what went wrong and all that. But, we can look into that any time. Yes, Hon. Sarah Opendi.

3.15

**MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The rains are here with us. It is very unfortunate that within Kampala, we have people who take advantage of the rains and release sewage when we have rains, and of course, this contaminates water sources.

I have specifically, Mr Speaker, a complaint from two schools, that is, St Kizito Secondary School and St Anna Primary school all in Kabowa, Rubaga. The residents around these schools have brought to my attention that when it rains, these two schools open their sewerage and it is washed away by the rains.



My prayer is that the Ministry of Education and Sports that is charged with the responsibility of inspecting schools and ensuring that they have all necessary infrastructure in place, visits these schools.

I also pray that Kampala Capital City Authority and the Ministry of Health should ensure that the health of the people is not affected by those who are trying to use the rains to empty their sewage tanks.

I request the Ministry of Education and Sports to specifically look into this matter and give an update so that the residents who have reached out to me can have some relief. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, do not squeeze yourselves; it is free sitting today. You can sit anywhere. Yes, honourable minister.

3.18

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (HIGHER EDUCATION) (Dr John Chrysostom Muyingo):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank Hon. Sarah Opendi for drawing our attention to this matter.

The Ministry of Education and Sports technical team will work with the stakeholders including National Environment Management Authority to assess the situation and advise the schools on how to manage this situation. I submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs, this is in your jurisdiction, can you submit on this.

3.18

**THE MINISTER FOR KAMPALA CAPITAL CITY AND METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS (Ms Minsa Kabanda):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. We are aware of that situation, but we need a mind-set change in our community, because that problem started a long time ago. We are trying to work on it, and we have worked on it because it is not as it used to be. With time, I know we are going to improve.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, I am confused. You are saying, “You are trying to work on it or you have worked on it?” Which is which?

**MS MINSA KABANDA:** We have worked on it - we are trying to work on it. *(Laughter)* Mr Speaker, what I am saying is that we are trying to work on it. This has been rampant throughout because they do not have sewerage lines and this is a very big problem, but with time it will clear.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, I am going to request that the Chairperson of the Committee on Education and Sports, the Vice Chairperson of the education committee, the member who raised the issue, the constituency MP and the Woman MP tomorrow visit the schools, come back tomorrow afternoon and report to this House what you have found on the ground; we will then take it on from there. Yes, Hon. Joyce Bagala.

3.20

**MS JOYCE BAGALA (NUP, Woman Representative, Mityana):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The matter I am raising concerns a disaster that happened in Nakibanga Ward, Mityana Municipality in Mityana District.

Three schools - two of them are Government-aided schools and one is a private school. These schools have been razed by the heavy rains and hailstorms as well as Lulagala Health Centre III and the maternity ward. Actually, when this happened, there was a pregnant woman in labour. She managed to run out of the building and gave birth shortly after, which I think was due to fear. However, there also other 85 houses have been destroyed by the heavy rains, including hundreds of acres of crops.

My prayer to the Disaster Preparedness and Management Office in the Office of the Prime Minister is to help these people.

Mr Speaker, like I reported earlier to you, there is an issue where when Members of Parliament raise matters of urgency regarding disaster, but

the Disaster Preparedness and Management Office takes very long to take relief to the affected people. In this case, there are school kids that have been told to go home until their classrooms have been rebuilt.

Also, the health centre from where people are supposed to receive healthcare is down. This is why I am saying this should be taken with the urgency it deserves. Thank you.

3.22

**THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama):** Mr Speaker, I request the honourable member to give us the communication from the district. Please, lay it on the Table so that we can make a follow-up. Thank you.

**MS BAGALA:** Mr Speaker, I am laying on the Table, a letter from the Town Clerk of Mityana Municipality to the Office of the Prime Minister requesting for relief in Mityana Municipality.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Minister of Education and Sports, since these are schools and we have some emergency funds under the education ministry, can't you come in to work with the Prime Minister's Office?

3.23

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (HIGHER EDUCATION) (Dr John Chrysostom Muyingo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. There was a time when my ministry had funds for emergencies, but I think when the Ministry for Disaster Preparedness came on board, all these funds were transferred to the Prime Minister's Office. I submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, Hon. Kwizera.

3.23

**MR EDDIE KWIZERA (NRM, Bukimbiri County, Kisoro):** Mr Speaker, I would like to thank you for the role you play in promoting tourism. I also thank honourable colleagues

who go on promoting tourism in this country. I stand to raise an issue of national importance where, while we promote tourism, access to tourism destination areas is a very big problem.

We have the Kisoro-Rubuguri-Nteeko-Muko Road, which is 72 Kilometres. Both the President and the Cabinet have directed that this road be taken as a priority because, on that road alone, we earn close to Shs 300 million per day during the tourism season. Both tour operators and investors in this area are threatening to demonstrate because Government has not taken this road as a priority.

It is my prayer that Government prioritises this road and shows cause or prove that they are going to commence and when.

Secondly, as Government or Parliament, we should categorise roads into those, which contribute to economic value and those that have political value. I would think that roads of economic value should be better considered than the political ones.

The Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities is only interested in getting money, but does not look at any corresponding returns. When you go to that Ministry, you notice that they are "sleeping." Even in the appointment of the Board, the people appointed are incapable and not transparent -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now, you have started quarrelling; you have diverted from -

**MR KWIZERA:** No, I have communicated effectively. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay, you were only putting in "fuel." (*Laughter*) Anyhow, honourable minister, I used that road when I was going for gorilla tracking. I have also talked to many people who say they cannot come to that side; they would rather go to other countries because of that road. I used around three hours to move from Kisoro to Rubuguri yet, it is a very short distance. With the money you are collecting from that road, you do not you feel ashamed that it is not constructed yet?

I notice that recently, you released a list of roads to be constructed. Is it among them? If not, why? I am asking this because that road brings in money, which is being used to do other roads. Then you want people around that area to conserve the mountain gorillas, from which you keep earning money, but without looking after them.

We are losing a lot of revenue in that sector because tourists are going to other countries, but why are tourists going to other countries when Uganda has more than 50 per cent of the mountain gorillas? Why, honourable Minister?

**MR BYAMUKAMA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. We know the problem and where it came from. We were hit by the COVID-19 Pandemic and even those who had completed the contracts were demanding money that was accumulating interest. We could not take on new projects.

This road had not appeared among the priority roads, but we have received a directive from the President, which he reiterated in the Cabinet yesterday, that it should be included among the roads for which contracts we are going to procure in the next lot. I must assure honourable colleagues that the Minister of Works and Transport was present. We are going to work on that road very soon. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable minister. I am happy that you have become more specific because when you stood up, colleagues were whispering that you were going to say, "We are working on it." *(Laughter)* You should avoid being predictable that is how you handle issues. Next item. Colleagues whom I have not picked, I know your issues; I will start with you tomorrow.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE  
MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS  
ON THE SUCCESSFUL EAST AFRICA  
PAMOJA BID FOR HOSTING THE AFRICA  
CUP OF NATIONS (AFCON) 2027

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. The statement had a mistake in the title, but that has been corrected. When you go on the intranet, you might find the mistake, but it has been corrected. Yes, honourable minister.

3.28

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang):** Thank you, Mr Speaker and honourable members. His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, in April 2023, under Articles 99(1), 111(1) and 123(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, directed the Ministry of Education and Sports to assume the role of the lead agency in the process of Uganda's bid to co-host AFCON 2027 alongside Kenya and Tanzania. The football federations of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda all declared interest to co-host AFCON 2027.

On behalf of the Ministry of Education and Sports and Government, we submitted a sovereign guarantee to the Confederation of African Football (CAF) in April 2023, as part of the requirements in the bidding process. We were informed that the governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Kenya had similarly complied with the requirements as guided by the CAF.

On 27 September 2023, the CAF Executive Committee awarded a hosting right for the 36<sup>th</sup> Edition of the African Cup of Nations 2027 to the East African Joint Pamoja bid by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The African Cup of Nations is the most prestigious football tournament on the continent. It is a privilege and an honour for East Africa to host the tournament.

This will be the first time the region will host an international continental sporting event of that magnitude in the history of the three partner

states since the inception of AFCON in 1957, in Sudan. It will be also the first time the East and Central Africa (CECAFA) football zone will host AFCON 2027 in 47 years since Ethiopia last hosted it in 1976. The AFCON has been to the Western, Southern and Northern African regions, but not the East African region.

As a country and the East African region as a whole, we are blessed with this good news and the opportunity to host the AFCON 2027 football competition. This is a great milestone in fostering the spirit of cooperation in the East African community.

While the decision to pull resources and effort was strategic, indeed, three countries are still faced with challenges including infrastructure, sports infrastructure and funding against other competing priorities.

The AFCON 2027 requires a substantial investment in infrastructure for the games, accommodation, and air, water and road transport accessibility. These are expected to yield significant dividends in the short, medium and long terms.

We note that in March 2017, Uganda was able to host a one-day World Athletic Championship in Kampala. The report from the sports consultancy firm that undertook the research shows that the direct economic impact stood at \$2,622,000 overall. Furthermore, we also know that \$1.3 million out of the total expenditure of \$1.96 million was spent on local suppliers among others.

The AFCON 2027 is not just about football, but it is also an opportunity to showcase the beauty of East Africa to the rest of the world. Many tourists are expected to flock the region known for its diversity in culture, landscape, wildlife and vibrant cities, to mention, but a few.

Mr Speaker, Uganda made a commitment to the Confederation of African Football to undertake and ensure the following are implemented:

1. Execution of Government's guarantees to host AFCON 2027 submitted to CAF;

2. Sign off and the submission of the host agreement after CAF bids declaration;
3. Payment of the hosting fees amounting to \$30 million to CAF before February 2025. Each country is supposed to pay \$30 million, which totals to \$90 million as a requirement for CAF;
4. The construction of two additional stadia to host AFCON namely; Akii Bua Stadium in Lira and Buhinga Stadium in Fort Portal or Hoima City Stadium in Hoima;
5. The completion of the renovation and upgrading of the Mandela National Stadium; and
6. Securing all required funding for smooth logistical operations and delivery of the game.

Honourable members, the Ministry of Education and Sports is committed to the realisation and delivery of AFCON 2027 to showcase the potential of our country, while developing the infrastructure required to leave behind an existing legacy for the country.

I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Sports, to extend my appreciation to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, the President of the Republic of Kenya, and Her Excellency the President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

We also extend our gratitude to Cabinet, the Rt Hon. Speaker of Parliament, the Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker of Parliament, the Minister of State for Education and Sports – myself – and the technical teams at the Ministry of Education and Sports, the National Council of Sports, the Federation of Uganda Football Association and others.

Honourable colleagues, friends of East Africa, I am proud to be among those who have made history –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, are you still reading your statement? *(Laughter)*

**MR OGWANG:** I am reading the statement, Mr Speaker. I conclude by thanking you, in a special way, for being part and parcel of the entire process while in Cairo. Can we clap for the Deputy Speaker? *(Applause)* You led us and may God bless you abundantly. I say this, For God and my country.

The statement is signed by the Minister of Education and Sports, the First Lady of the Republic of Uganda. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Peter Ogwang and congratulations. I saw you spending sleepless nights with Hon. Magogo, the team from the National Council of Sports and FUFA; you guys did a wonderful job.

Colleagues, I thought that you just submit a bid, as a country, people look at your beauty and give it to you. That is not the case. I came to understand that if we want to benefit from hosting big tournaments in Uganda, we must build relationships, and give capacity to our entities – from the National Council of Sports to FUFA and the ministers.

I do not know which language to use, but at least, when a minister stands up to speak, he should have about five delegates around him. We saw one minister stand up to walk with half of the delegates and we thought that we were lucky not to contest with him.

Hon. Magogo advised us to tag along with that minister for his support because we would not win without him. When I asked “why”? I was told that his country gave him the capacity to build relationships in the football fraternity. When you go there without a network and expect to win it out of nowhere, it is extremely difficult.

I also saw the determination of a President, who spoke to most of the presidents in the region and begged them for support. I was very happy with the Leader of the Opposition; he worked and encouraged us. *(Applause)* This gave us the impetus to work harder because we were all united as a country.

This is a big achievement for the country, and I think the real work starts now. We should not just celebrate winning the bid and forget that we must deliver.

As I had guided, let us also receive the motion and have a debate on both of them at once. Next item.

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF  
PARLIAMENT TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE  
SUCCESSFUL EAST AFRICA PAMOJA  
BID, COMPRISING UGANDA, TANZANIA  
AND KENYA FOR HOSTING THE AFRICA  
CUP OF NATIONS (AFCON) 2027**

3.38

**MS SANTA ALUM (UPC, Woman Representative, Oyam):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I move a Motion for a Resolution of Parliament to pay tribute to the governments of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, for the successful joint bid to host the 36<sup>th</sup> edition of the African Cup of Nations, 2027. This is moved under Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, and the motion reads:

*“WHEREAS the African Cup of Nations is the premier international men’s football competition in Africa, organised by the Confederation of African Football and is held every two years;*

*RECALLING THAT the African Cup of Nations has been held since 1957, and participating national men’s teams play a qualifying tournament in which the first and second best teams in each qualifying group participate in the final tournament, which is held in a country determined by the Executive Committee of the Confederation of African Football through a rigorous bidding process;*

*AWARE THAT the Football Federations of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, with the support of the governments of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, presented a joint bid (the East African Pamoja Bid) for the rights to host the 36<sup>th</sup> edition of the Africa Cup of Nations in 2027;*



*NOTING THAT the East African Pamoja Bid faced strong and relentless competition from other African countries that sought to host the final tournament, including Botswana, Egypt and Senegal;*

*APPRECIATING THAT the East African Pamoja Bid was evaluated by the Confederation of African Football as the best bid, and the rights to host the 36<sup>th</sup> Edition of the African Cup of Nations 2027 was granted to Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania;*

*RECOGNISING THAT the support from the governments of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania was crucial in the success of the East African Pamoja Bid, and demonstrated the commitment of the governments of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania to meet the costs associated with hosting the 36<sup>th</sup> Edition of the African Cup of Nations in 2027;*

*COGNISANT of the benefits that will accrue to Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania from hosting the 36<sup>th</sup> Edition of the African Cup of Nations in 2027, including raising the global profile of East Africa, increased investment in sports infrastructure and social services, increased revenue and stimulating sport development as an economic and community development tool;*

*NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved as follows:*

- 1. Parliament collectively congratulates the governments of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, for the successful joint bid to host the 36<sup>th</sup> Edition of the African Cup of Nations 2027; and*
- 2. Parliament collectively congratulates the football federations of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, for the successful bid to host the 36<sup>th</sup> Edition of the African Cup of Nations in 2027."*

I beg to move.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Is the motion seconded? *(Members rose)* Okay, it is seconded by: Hon. Prof. Mushemeza, Hon.

Catheline Ndamira, Hon. Kayemba Ssolo, Hon. Gorreth Namugga, Hon. Dr Muyingo, Hon. Huda Oleru, Hon. Mwebesa, the Government Chief Whip, Hon. Allan Ssewanyana, and many other colleagues; it is seconded by majority of the Members of the House.

Hon. Santa Alum, would you like to speak to your motion? - in only five minutes. Hon. Santa Alum is the vice-captain for the Parliamentary Sports Team.

**MS ALUM:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am the Manager of Uganda Sports Parliamentary Club.

Mr Speaker, I would like to say that this is the biggest event, which is going to happen in Uganda and its sister countries.

There was widespread excitement, when the President of the CAF unveiled Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, as the best-evaluated bidders to host the AFCON 2027.

Mr Speaker, Ugandans were equally excited to see our President and the First Lady, who is also the Minister of Education and Sport receive the award.

Equally, the presidents of Kenya and Tanzania; what a beautiful and exciting sight for the three East African countries to be in charge of the AFCON, 2027.

Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues, this is the first time in the history of AFCON, that Uganda and sister countries - Kenya and Tanzania, will be hosting this event.

Before this bid, out of 54 countries in Africa, only 18 had hosted, but none from East Africa. We have the chance and we are very happy for this opportunity; it comes with a lot of benefits.

We are joining the elite countries, which have hosted AFCON and for this, our profile as a country, will improve. We shall also automatically qualify for the AFCON, 2027.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, AFCON comes with a lot of strategic and inclusive investment, and benefits to the sports sector and the economy at large.

It will give us an opportunity to carry out infrastructural development on the roads and the sports sector; we have been looking forward to this, as the Parliament of Uganda.

Many colleagues have spoken and encouraged Government to build stadia across the regions of the country. I am so happy that this time round, John Akii Bua, Kakyeka Stadium and many more, will have the opportunity to be upgraded to regional stadia.

Mr Speaker, Uganda secured this opportunity to host, will have the chance to develop training facilities, and if they are developed up to the international standards, many teams will be coming here to train for one or two months.

Mr Speaker, before I move further, allow me to thank the governments of the three countries, starting with our own government, for the support and commitment, which they put in right from the beginning.

Also, allow me to thank our leadership; the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Parliament. It was exciting to see you, our Deputy Speaker also receive the award. *(Applause)*

Also, on a special note, I want to thank FUFA. I say this with a very excited heart that you have really made us proud. I also thank the other federations in East Africa, for the insightfulness of coming together and putting a joint bid; no wonder unity is strength.

We are very happy that the FUFA President, Hon. Moses Magogo and some of the technical team are sited here. We want to salute you, and your team, for everything you have put in. Thank you, for bringing us this far. *(Applause)*

Our regards to the Minister of Education and Sports, represented here, by Hon. Ogwang.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Conclude, honourable member.

**MS ALUM:** Finally, Mr Speaker, we have immense benefits from this tournament such as building confidence, tourism, exposure and talent identification.

Previously, it has been West and North African countries – even in the English Premier League, you do not find our East African players. This is a chance for our sportsmen and in the future, for the ladies to also shine at a global level. All the focus will be turned to this country.

Mr Speaker, we have won the bid and we are the host. I want to encourage all of us to support this motion. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I will start with the seconders and each will use three minutes. Clerk, please take note of that. Honourable colleagues, do not ask for more time once you are cut off, such that we give others a chance. We shall start with Hon. Bakkabulindi followed by Hon. Kayemba, Hon. Ndamira and Hon. Prof. Mushemeza.

3.49

**MR CHARLES BAKKABULINDI (NRM, Workers Representative):** Thank you, Mr Speaker and honourable members.

Whenever an opportunity of this nature comes to a country, the country at large, benefits. From the lowest person to the highest. From the businessman, to the politicians and Government at large.

Mr Speaker, before I proceed, I join my colleagues in thanking H.E., the President of Uganda and his counterparts, the Ministry of Education and Sports, FUFA leadership, National Council of Sports and other stakeholders. I cannot forget the private sector.

Without security in the country, as one of the conditions, without the private sector coming into play to construct hotels as one of the conditions, we would not have won that bid.

The commitment of the President, and it is not the first time has led us to what we are going to see.



Mr Speaker, between 23 and 26 November 2007, we hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The outcomes of CHOGM are still being used as a ladder for achieving more.

On 26 March 2017, we hosted the World Athletics Cross Country Championship and one of the conditions before we went to Monaco to win the bid, was; do you have the infrastructure? We used the existence of hotels constructed during CHOGM and also the face value of Kampala to convince our colleagues.

So, you can see that whenever you win a bid, it gives you the opportunity to bid for more. When I heard this news as the former Minister of Sports, I looked at the infrastructure - mind you, it is AFCON 2027, not 2025. There is AFCON 2023 now, 2025 and 2027.

This gives us an opportunity to prepare ourselves in terms of infrastructure, finances and the team itself. Here, I want to say, Mr Speaker, that we want to call upon our society, to stop their negative comments. Instead of encouraging the team and other stakeholders, they will look for negative sentiments of how Government cannot afford.

You have heard the statement from the Ministry of Education and Sports when we hosted the World Athletics Cross Country Championship –(Member timed out.)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Well done Hon. Bakkabulindi and thank you for your contribution to the sports sector.

3.53

**MR GEOFFREY KAYEMBA-SOLO (NUP, Bukomansimbi South County, Bukomansimbi):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. As one of the famous footballers this country has ever got, and now, turned football agent, I join my countrymen to welcome the bid. I would like to thank all the people who were involved in this. This is a historical milestone for our country.

However, winning the bid and preparing for the AFCON, are totally different. In 2019, Cameroon won the AFCON bid, but since it was not ready, it was taken to Egypt. So, when I look around and realise the situation our country is in, especially with the sports facilities, I become anxious. If the status quo remains - we would not want the same thing that happened to Cameroon to happen in Uganda.

I say this because of our poor infrastructure, specifically the stadia. Mandela National Stadium, Namboole is under renovation. The renovation alone has taken more than two years. With that snail speed, imagine constructing new stadia within this period.

I request Government to use professionals, instead of saying, “We can give a contract to this one”. We need to use professionals to give our country the mileage it deserves.

Like is our practice as usual, I will speak to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. When we hosted CHOGM, hungry individuals and some government officials saw it as a cash bonanza. They stole all the money. I would like to request that this time round, you embezzlers –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Did they steal all the money or some of it?

**MR KAYEMBA-SOLO:** Most of the money. I request the money-hungry embezzlers - the thieves – to this time round, take leave on this, so that we can achieve our historical dream. (Applause)

Mr Speaker, before I take leave of the Floor, Let me say that we need to correct the image of our country. We are going to host people from all over the world. However, when you read news concerning Uganda, you notice that much of it is about a person who has been whisked away in a drone or/and others have been taken to prison for years. Government needs to correct the image of this country and it should start with the release –(Member timed out.)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I went to Namboole Stadium to welcome the CAF Technical Committee, which assessed its readiness and what is being done. It is one of the reasons we won this bid. They are doing a great job at Namboole Stadium. I was there personally; I was not told about this.

What you heard, regarding the delay, was on things that remained for fitting, and we received reports of containers, which were coming in.

The only thing I want our record to capture is how you were a professional footballer. *(Laughter)* I did not even see you in the Masaza Cup. *(Laughter)* I know you are a manager. Thank you, Hon. Kayemba.

3.57

**MS CATHELINE NDAMIRA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kabale):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wish to join everyone to congratulate the Government of Uganda. Allow me to congratulate the President of Uganda, the President of FUFA, and the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Similarly, I would like to congratulate the minister in charge of East African Community Affairs, who is none other than Rt Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga. *(Applause)* I would like to say it loud and clear that you have been a blessing to East Africa, and I congratulate you more and more.

The joint bid led by President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the other Heads of State, was one of its kind. It underscored the leadership of our President and his willingness to work together with other leaders in Uganda and East Africa. We congratulate His Excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, for spearheading this successful bid.

It is great for Uganda to have the opportunity to host AFCON 2027, in collaboration with Kenya and Tanzania. This will exploit the unifying power of sports, and bring more harmony, foster tourism and talent development in our region.

Recently, you heard that the State Minister of Education and Sports crying out loud on why Kigezi has not been involved in sports. I congratulate you, honourable minister. This is what we have been lacking, and from now on, we promise to participate fully if you continue doing this.

We express our delight at the AFCON returning to East Africa for the first time since Ethiopia hosted it in 1976. Imagine, I was not in existence then. We warmly congratulate everyone who played a role in making sure our country and East Africa secure this rare opportunity. They deserve congratulations.

I would like to continue congratulating you, the Speakers of our country and everyone in Uganda.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

4.01

**PROF. ELIJAH MUSHEMEZA (Independent, Sheema County South, Sheema):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable members, as my colleagues have pointed out, hosting an international event is indeed a blessing. I support this motion for three reasons and they are in the context of opportunities.

The point has been made, but I want to reinforce it. When a country has been given an opportunity to host, it is motivated and I dare say that it is forced to improve the infrastructure; this is our opportunity. *(Applause)*

The second reason is in the context of improving our economy. During the budget process, the debate is usually on the expenditure service delivery, yet the side of income is very critical. Statistically, we know that tourism has a high investment return. So, it is an opportunity for the East African countries to reap more through tourism, trade and more interaction.

On regional integration, this is an opportunity, as we usually say; to widen, deepen and tighten the integration. This is an opportunity for us, as we host, to tighten integration.

Finally, Uganda is well known for its Pan-Africanism credentials. It is an opportunity again for us to showcase how Pan-Africanist we have been. For some of us who have been espousing on the ideology of Pan-Africanism, this is an opportunity to demonstrate how hospitality and Pan-Africanism. I second the motion. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I am going to pick you, honourable colleagues and you will speak for two minutes each, so that I can have a big number speaking to this motion.

I will start with Hon. Pascal from Buwekula, the Hon. Angura and Hon. Ruhunda. The Member from Mbarara witnessed the first meeting that we had. Let us do this quickly so that we can have as many Members as possible speak to this team.

4.03

**MR PASCAL MBABAZI (NRM, Buwekula County, Mubende):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I support the motion because of these reasons. First, allow me to congratulate all Ugandans, including His Excellency the President, who was the ringleaders in making sure Uganda bids to host the Africa Cup of Nations in 2027.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Ringleaders are usually associated with crime and demonstrations.

**MR MBABAZI:** I expunge it.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, it is okay. We have known the context.

**MR MBABAZI:** Much as we are excited and so happy, it takes a lot of confidence, attention and energy for a country like Uganda to be recognised as one of the hosts of this mighty tournament.

Earlier on, one of my colleagues said that Cameroon had a chance in 2019, but was stripped of the chance to prepare to host the AFCON.

So, it is a high time Uganda embarked on infrastructure development by for example, constructing good stadia or multi-purpose stadia that will enhance and enable our footballers and other teams that will join here to participate in this mighty –*(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Now, honourable colleagues, there is some affirmative action that I want to do. I have compiled a list of MPs who were ranked and most of them were complaining that they have spoken less or have never spoken.

I am trying to scan around, but unfortunately they are not here. *(Laughter)* I want it to go on record for their constituents to know, so that - because I have a problem, MPs were saying, “I do not catch the Speakers eye.” So, I want to be on record. Recently nine Members came to my office. One of them brought a document, which he wanted me to sign to give him a trip because he, according to him, he hears that other Members travel. The thing is that I had never seen this Member.

The man was shabby, in some jeans, flats and so, I asked myself: “Is this a Member of Parliament?” Then I asked colleagues who were around whether any of them had seen that Member. All of the colleagues said they had never.

I called the Rt Hon. Speaker and asked, “have you ever met a Member called so and so?” The Speaker said “no.” However, the Member also complained that “I never catch the Speaker’s eye.”

So, tomorrow - because I have a list that I got from the newspapers - when we open debate on matters, I will be calling names of members who have never spoken –*(Applause)*– so that your people get to know that you do not always come here. It is not that we deny you a chance; you just do not come here. I have given that notice. And if you know you are among those ones, please, today I give you the opportunity. Okay, let us hear from the Hon. Angura.

4.07

**MR FREDRICK ANGURA (NRM, Tororo South County, Tororo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to second the motion and to join my colleagues to congratulate His Excellency the President and his colleagues in the region for successfully pulling off this Pamoja bid.

I also would like to thank, you, Mr Speaker. When I saw you jumping and joining the FUFA President in that celebration, I also raised my thumb. This is an opportunity for us to showcase that Uganda not only has the talent, but is also able to prepare a very successful tournament. Colleagues, we need this tournament this time to be as successful as we have prayed for long to host it. We need to work very hard, as a nation. We need to provide support resources to the managers.

We have thanked the organisers, among others, the National Council for Sports team that is up there. We have thanked the FUFA President who is there and all the other people who are interested and participate in managing and organising football. However, when it comes to budgeting we always shy away and create situations that do not encourage these people to work very hard to identify talent, put in the necessary infrastructure and be proud of ourselves, as a nation, when we are recognised as we host this tournament.

Mr Speaker, you are aware that I am one of those who are promoting young talent and time and again trying to build the capacity of our young ones by getting them to countries where they can be excellent – *(Member times out.)*

4.09

**MR ALEX RUHUNDA (NRM, Fort Portal, Central Division, Fort Portal City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I salute and appreciate your support and zeal on this matter. I congratulate the President and our young minister, for working hard in a dynamic way to see that this becomes a success, of course, with our FUFA President.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is that man young? *(Laughter)*

**MR RUHUNDA:** He is still nice-looking. First of all, the people of Fort Portal and Tooro at large, have been, for many years, yearning to have Buhinga Stadium constructed by Government.

The President of the Republic of Uganda came to Fort Portal and pledged before tens of thousands of the people in Tooro.

Honourable minister, from your statement, I have seen you talk of Akii Bua, then you said “Buhinga or Hoima.” I would like you to improve that statement by saying - you know we are like Siamese twins with Akii Bua, because we have worked together with Akii Bua right from the word go. Everything has been worked on. It is only the money and awarding the contract for Akii Bua and Buhinga stadia. So, if you are pleased to add Hoima, that is another bonus. Otherwise, please, I request you kindly, not to tag us to Hoima. Buhinga or Hoima, that will be disastrous for – *(Member timed out.)*

4.11

**MS NORA BIGIRWA (NRM, Woman Representative, Buliisa):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank you, so much, for the opportunity. Allow me to congratulate the President of the Republic of Uganda, the presidents of the Republic of Tanzania and Kenya, and FUFA, for the Pamoja bid accomplishment.

Mr Speaker, this is a golden opportunity for us as a country to hasten our financial and foreign relations.

Secondly, it is time that to set the right priorities for this docket, if we have got to excel.

Thirdly, we need to make sure that as a Parliament, we appropriate the right finances in all these consecutive financial years to this very docket.

We also need to come up with the quality infrastructure for stadia and the sports industry at large.

Lastly, Hoima City is very close to the airport and that is one of the factors that was actually

considered. Therefore, developing a stadium in Hoima would be very appropriate for this country, if we are to achieve the best. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable members, it is also appropriate to have a stadium in Mitooma. *(Laughter)* So, please, take serious note. I had allowed the Member from Mbarara, then Hon. Nebanda and then Hon. Beatrice Akori.

4.13

**MR ROBERT MWESIGWA (NRM, Mbarara North Division, Mbarara):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I congratulate the Government and FUFA. However, I would like to implore the Ministry of Education and Sports – my colleague has talked about Hoima. It is not only about stadia hosting such events, but we should also talk about the hospitality in this country. Now, when you talk about hospitality in this country, apart from Kampala, Mbarara is second.

Aware that this is a Pamoja bid, you are talking about northern Tanzania, but those people to come to Kampala, it may not be very easy. However, with the good infrastructure we have – the Isingiro Road, up to the border – we can capture attention of some people in northern Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.

It is my humble request, Mr Speaker, to the Ministry of Education and Sports to consider Mbarara hosting some of the matches. I beg to move.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable members, I do not want us to lose the focus of the motion. If we are going to show how one part of the country is more beautiful than the other, then, some of us will be disadvantaged because no one will be there to fight for us.

Therefore, while we appreciate the beauty of each and every part of Uganda, let us focus on the motion.

Let us hear from Hon. Nebanda, the Member for Butemba and then Hon. Andrew Oulanyah.

4.15

**MS FLORENCE NEBANDA (NRM, Woman Representative, Butaleja):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to join my colleagues in congratulating the President of Uganda, the Government, the Ministry of Education and Sports, and FUFA, for the successful East Africa Pamoja Bid. It is not a minor, but a big achievement for our economy. As a country, we should embrace it because of the positives along the way.

The infrastructure issue has been mentioned. I would like to appreciate and implore the Ministry of Education and Sports to consider balancing the infrastructural renovation in all the different regions; not only in the east or west.

It will not only boost the economy; it will also inspire the sports fraternity in the regions, in terms of training and participation in the various games at international level. As far as I am concerned, most of the countries have been able to nurture talent by putting up a favourable infrastructure in the different regions.

That is why you see that besides the top leagues, there are local leagues. It is not only for football. So, I would like to request that they consider netball too. As I speak, in Butaleja District, we have our very own playing in the She Cranes as a goal defender.

Therefore, by constructing the sports infrastructure, we nurture and promote more sports talents in our country. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, Member for Butemba.

4.17

**MR PATRICK BINGI (NRM, Butemba County, Kyankwanzi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will begin by thanking the governments of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, for their successful bid. I am in support of the motion because of some of the benefits that are going to accrue from this wonderful bid.

Of course, majority of the issues, like infrastructure development and integration,



have been talked about. However, I also would like to bring to the attention of this House, the fact that none of us is not interested in leisure, fun engagement and experience.

Ugandans work day and night, and the opportunity to host the AFCON games is going to make people get the opportunity to relax. This is very important because a fresh mind will always produce better results.

Mr Speaker, there is also an opportunity that - of course Government is expected to do some improvements on our road infrastructure as well as the health and medical facilities. Why? Somebody talked about the international image and so, I do not think my Government can endure the embarrassment when certain issues are not fixed.

When this is done, even after the AFCON games, we stand to benefit in case there are improvements in medical facilities, road infrastructure, accommodation facilities and the rest. Thank you.

4.18

**MS BEATICE AKORI (NRM, Woman Representative, Agago):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to convey my heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, for steering this country in a productive way. That is why we are seeing the evidence of what is happening in our country.

Personally, I am not a sports lady, but, through the parliamentary sports and games activities, I am going to set a record in this country –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What record?  
(Laughter)

**MS AKORI:** In 3,500 metres, Mr Speaker.  
(Laughter)

Mr Speaker, I would like to allay the fears of my honourable colleague, Hon. Kayemba, about corruption. I would like to inform him that Government has put in place agencies – there are structures handling issues of corruption.

Therefore, issues of corruption will not arise in this matter. Let me also inform you, honourable members that fighting corruption is a collective responsibility. It begins with you. We all need to put our feet down to fight corruption. I beg to submit. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us hear from Hon. Andrew Oulanyah, the Member for Ibanda to be followed by the Hon. Dr Nsaba Buturo, Hon. Feta and Hon. Mpindi.

4.20

**MR ANDREW OULANYAH (NRM, Omoro County, Omoro):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya upon winning this bid.

Uganda hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), is going to host the Pan-African Parliament, the Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers' Conference, the Non-Aligned Movement Conference, the G7 Summit and, soon, the AFCON.

This, I believe, is a very big vote of confidence in the ruling Government. So, I thank Government for this because it is a sign of peace, stability – and the spirit of East African integration is alive and well.

Mr Speaker, Uganda will be investing about \$30 million, but when you look at the previous hosts that have put in money, you realise that South Africa got \$1.2 billion into its economy in 2010, while Egypt got \$1.5 billion, in addition to building and renovating 13 stadia. Therefore, we are very optimistic that this is not going to be an activity in vain.

My appeal to Government and the people in charge is for them to make this as inclusive as possible. Let this not be in the hands of a few individuals. Let this be an event that will benefit the whole region – it should benefit East Africa and Uganda. It is my prayer that sufficient guidance on the roadmap, in terms of how we can tap into the opportunities, is shared out with the populace. Thank you. (Applause)

4.22

**MSJANEKABAJUNGUBAINOMUGISHA (NRM, Woman Representative, Ibanda):**

Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I stand to support the motion in respect of the Pamoja bid. I also congratulate the President of the Republic of Uganda on this successful bid, of course not forgetting FUFA and the sports fraternity.

The AFCON bid has come with a lot of benefits, especially for our youth, like inspiring them. As you may be aware, sports are part of employment; they boost employment and this is going to come with that benefit.

I stand with gratitude and support for this bid because I know it is going to boost our economy and reduce unemployment, which issue the youth have always raised on this floor.

I know it will be great for Uganda and her neighbouring countries as far as tourism is concerned; we are going to benefit. I thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity.

4.23

**MR MPINDI BUMALI (Independent, PWD Representative):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join colleagues in congratulating Uganda as a country, but also to thank His Excellency the President and the leadership, including you, Mr Speaker.

I also thank the President of FUFA and his team because if it was Uganda alone bidding to host this event, it would not be easy. That good working relationship with colleagues within the region that made them jointly bid for this is an indicator that they are working together.

I appeal to Parliament that we are celebrating this victory, but it comes with a lot of money that must be appropriated by this Parliament. This issue of giving money at the last minute may cause us problems like what happened in Cameroon. We need to provide the money that is needed so that this process is done in time.

I also appeal to Members here and outside this Parliament that this bid is for all Ugandans. We

should not turn it political. Let us support it and mobilise our people because everyone is going to benefit from this. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

4.25

**MR GEOFFREY FETA (NRM, Ayivu Division East, Arua City):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I join my colleagues in thanking the President for leading this struggle.

I also thank you and the President of FUFA. In the celebrations, I saw the spirit of togetherness and achievement after a very long struggle. I want to thank the leadership of this Parliament for providing that leadership.

Mr Speaker, this *Pamoja* Bid is a result of the spirit of comradeship in East Africa and I want to appeal that we take this on so that next time we are able to work together as a team.

Uganda alone will not be able to manage because of the infrastructural challenges that have been raised here. In 2005, a Ugandan called Dorcus Inzikuru won the 3000 meters' steeplechase. In honour of that person, the Arua District Council named Barifa Stadium after her and Government pledged to construct a stadium called the Dorcus Inzikuru Stadium. 18 years later, there is not a coin spent there.

I take this opportunity to ask the minister; what plan does your ministry have in this regard because the region has the second busiest airport in this country and it is lying idle? We are not using it. If you had constructed a stadium there, we would be able to host these games from there.

By and large, I want to thank all the stakeholders for playing a dedicated and patriotic role. This shows that this country –(*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Kazini?

4.27

**MR FRANCIS TWINOMUJUNI (NRM, Buhaguzi County, Kikuube):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. First of all, I



want to thank God for blessing Uganda with the opportunity of hosting the AFCON. I also thank the President and his counterparts for allowing their countries to host this important tournament. It is really an achievement for our country and I must thank Ugandans because they have been praying for it.

However, Mr Speaker, I want to say that Uganda cannot be complete without Bunyoro and Bunyoro has got its history. I therefore request that the honourable minister does whatever it takes to ensure that Hoima Stadium is considered because of its historical background. King Kabalega was a historical king and every Ugandan who studied history knows it. I therefore pray that we consider all the stadiums stated in the statement; Akii Bua, Buhinga and Bunyoro. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

4.28

**MS JOSYLINE KAMATENETI (NRM, Woman Representative, Ntungamo):** Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity to join my colleagues in congratulating Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya upon winning the bid to host AFCON 2027.

Mr Speaker, I appreciate everything that you are doing for this country, especially this Parliament. We should use this opportunity and make a deliberate effort to allocate enough funds to the Ministry of Health to rehabilitate and equip our hospitals to avoid the embarrassment of air-lifting people to other countries in case of any emergencies. I am very sure you cannot do anything without equipped hospitals. People will fall sick, get involved in accidents, and so many other things will happen so, as a country, we need to use this time and prepare.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Okeyo?

4.30

**MR PETER OKEYOH (NRM, Bukooli Island County, Namayingo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the Minister for East African Community Affairs and the Minister of

Education and Sports for this bid. It is a clear manifestation of the East African spirit. No wonder it is named *Pamoja*, which is a Swahili word meaning unity; the spirit of togetherness that has inspired our region.

It is my humble prayer, Mr Speaker, that this opportunity does not go to waste as it is going to promote local service industries. We are going to showcase our arts and crafts as well as the rich history of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and the entire East African region. It is therefore my prayer that this bid be an eye-opener for the economic transformation of this country and the entire region. I thank you.

4.31

**DR JAMES NSABA BUTURO (NRM, Bufumbira County East, Kisoro):** Mr Speaker, there are two issues I want to raise and one of them is the power of unity. What this situation has brought to our attention is what unity can achieve. I pray that our Government invests in unity among its people and in the region.

The second issue, Mr Speaker, is a concern. Kenya and Tanzania finish their projects in time while Uganda does not, simply because of the disease that has really damaged us. I appeal to Government to deal punitively with those officials who are likely to interfere with the progress that we want to see in our country up to 2027. That is the greatest danger we face.

Mr Speaker, some of our officials are dishonest and they are looking forward to stealing the resources that this Government will provide. This is a huge matter of concern. Otherwise, I welcome the success that we have had and I commend our President, his colleagues and all those who were part of this big story that we are discussing. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Huda Oleru, Member for Adjumani and then the Member for Busia.

4.33

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (VETERAN AFFAIRS) (Ms Huda Abason Oleru):**

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I thank the Heads of State of the East African Community for supporting this *Pamoja* bid. Specifically, I thank President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for creating peace and security in this country. 30 years ago, Uganda would not have tried to bid, but today she can bid and succeed. I thank the President for creating peace and security. *(Applause)*

I would like to allay the fears of Members of Parliament in the area of infrastructure. Early next year, we are hosting the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit and so, some of the infrastructure issues will be addressed, especially roads and having better hotels.

Government will use the remaining time to put up infrastructure and other things to handle this Summit. Honourable members, let us be hopeful that we are going to succeed.

Mr Speaker, I would like to request you to support Members of Parliament to work hard in our constituencies so that we can come back because this tournament is going to happen in 2027. I am speaking through experience. Honourable members, if you do not make it in 2026, when people are celebrating, you will be hiding in your houses. I have ever gone through this kind of scenario. When you fail, it is –*(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I have already picked the Members to speak. Hon. Ababiku and then Member for Busia.

4.35

**MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity given to me. I join the rest in appreciating our Head of State for the excellent stewardship, coordination and collaboration with other Heads of State.

There are lessons to learn from this and one is pro-activeness. Mr Speaker, as a country,

we need to increase our revenue so that the infrastructural development of this country is enhanced comprehensively.

Two, we need to proactively develop sub-regional centres for any opportunity that may come. Mr Speaker, there is now competition between the cities and sub-regional centres. We want all regions in this country to develop.

Mr Speaker, when it comes to budgeting, I pray that your guidance is taken seriously so that the areas which are not developed are targeted. We need to embrace development as a team. In addition, we cannot have these monies without increasing our revenue. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I made a commitment on behalf of the country in terms of financing and all the required items and facilities for AFCON. We shall work very closely with the Committee on Education and Sports to ensure that, that money is provided. The commitment I made on your behalf was on the issue of financing. Some countries have taken the opportunity and ended up not fulfilling it. We do not want to embarrass our colleagues in the region because they met their end of the bargain.

Honourable colleagues, when we were interacting with the Minister of Sports from Kenya, he said he was sorted. Every year, he is assured of KShs 15 billion, which is over Shs 370 billion, from a tax they put on betting and lottery. While our people are selling their boda bodas, this is an area that other countries have targeted to develop their sports sector.

Yesterday, I had a chat with the Director, Economic Monitoring in the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to look at that issue and find out how other countries are doing it so that we do not beg. Companies make billions out of our children, including school fees yet our sports subsector is not helped. Honourable colleagues, we are going to look at most of these areas.

I will pick the Member for Busia, Hon. Tinkasiimire, Commissioner, Hon. Amede and Youth Representative, eastern. Then, I will go to the other side. Honourable colleagues, I know everyone wants to speak in this debate. Can I reduce the time to one minute so that I can pick many of you?

4.39

**MS HELLEN AUMA (NRM, Woman Representative, Busia):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As an athlete and footballer, I would like to say something on this motion. I remember there was a year Uganda was supposed to host, but we did not because of other factors that included infrastructure, security, medical services and so on, which issues my honourable colleagues have already mentioned. Mr Speaker, since we have three years until 2026, I am very sure we shall have fixed these gaps.

Mr Speaker, allow me to talk about tourism; this is not only about the AFCON. I know people from other countries will be coming to tour and as you are aware, Uganda is one of the best countries that anyone would love to visit and tour. This is a very big opportunity for Uganda. This is not only about football; this is going to create integration in our country. I beg to submit. Thank you.

4.41

**MR BARNABAS TINKASIIMIRE (NRM, Buyaga West County, Kagadi):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I also thank the minister for the good statement he has made which includes the construction of Hoima Stadium. I would like to thank everyone who has made a contribution to the successful bid of this tournament, particularly the sports fraternity, the President, your office, Mr Speaker and the Office of the Minister of the East Africa Community Affairs, Hon. Rebecca Kadaga.

All these show us where we should put our energies, as leaders of this country. We need to invest more time in leadership, cooperation, integration and ensuring that we stop being just

Uganda, but rather East Africa and Africa so that we are stronger.

Mr Speaker, as we prepare for this tournament, let us also prepare for the negatives that are likely to come with it. My mind was drawn to an event that happened at the World Cup where one country flew in with a plane carrying the flag promoting homosexuality.

They had to return, remove the flag and come back.

We must be prepared, as a country, to put our stamp on the ground that we shall not allow such activities here. Warn the participating countries and even those coming to watch that this will not be tolerated in this country. Terrorism—(*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Tinkasiimire. Yes, Hon. Silwany.

**MR SILWANY:** Mr Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to first of all congratulate His Excellency the President, the Rt Hon. Speaker, the Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker, the Minister of Education and Sports, the President of FUFA and everyone who participated in this. Mr Speaker, this is a time that we as Ugandans should embrace unity because sports bring us together.

I have seen several negative comments by young people on social media. I want to call upon all Ugandans to desist from this. People are going to benefit from these sports activities that we are going to host here. People are going to do business in transport and food and this is something that is going to uplift our economy.

Let us stand strong, embrace it and let every Ugandan support it. Whether you support Government or not, let us stand together in this because this is our unifying factor and it is an opportunity that has come once in a very long time.

I just wanted to add my voice in regard to unity—(*Interjection*)—but I had given. Yes, let him seek clarification.

**MR DAVID KABANDA:** Mr Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the team you led to Cairo. There is an issue I wanted to clarify on. Hon. Silwany said that there are negative comments on social media. There are no negative comments on social media because every Ugandan welcomed this bid and we are ready to host this tournament in Uganda.

Therefore, when Hon. Silwany alleges that there are negative comments, the people who gave us this tournament and are watching will say Ugandans did not welcome it. No, there are no negative comments.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What I am picking from Hon. Kabanda is that some Ugandans were cautioning us not to abuse this opportunity and embarrass our country. However, everyone welcomed it apart from the one called Mabirizi who said he is going to court. *(Laughter)*

**MR SILWANY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wanted to give Hon. Kabanda information concerning Ugandans such as Mabirizi. Much obliged, thank you so much and let us stand together. United we stand and win as Uganda. We have already qualified to participate and I know Uganda may even take the African Cup of Nations, *insha-Allah*.

4.46

**MR MAURICE KIBALYA (NRM, Bugabula County South, Kamuli):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I add my voice to whoever has congratulated those that participated in the bid to have Uganda host the AFCON 2027. There is no international gathering or conference that can pull crowds like when we host games.

In 2027, I am very sure Uganda is going to host people that it has never hosted before. It is going to have a population that will disorganise the whole set up of Uganda. This is the time and we have three years to prepare for this.

Mr Speaker, I have heard colleagues suggesting that the stadium should be in Fort Portal, Hoima or somewhere. This is not an event for

Kampala, Fort Portal or Hoima alone. It is for Uganda as a whole.

We need to see the Ministry of Education and Sports coming to do some renovation work at Bugembe Stadium so that when a participating country comes, they can go for training in Jinja and stay there for two days as they prepare to come and play at Namboole or Nakivubo stadia. We should not have all countries in Kampala alone as if Mbale or Jinja are not waiting.

This is an opportunity for every region to benefit. Let it not be centralised in Kampala as if they have only come to visit Kampala. We want every region to benefit in whichever formula.

We have seen countries jetting in five days, a week or eight days in advance. Take them to Mbale, Gulu and Mbarara so that they train from there. Those people will benefit from the different sectors - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Onen -

4.48

**MR BENARD ODOI (NRM, Youth Representative, Eastern):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to join my colleagues in thanking the President of the Republic of Uganda, Parliament, FUFA, the National Council of Sports and the team that has worked so hard to deliver this *Pamoja* bid.

Mr Speaker, the *Pamoja* bid has come at the right time because as a country, we have been struggling to even qualify for the matches. Many of our young talents have gotten a huge opportunity to showcase their talent and attract bigger clubs. In the wake of this, I would like us to be aware of the words of the CAF President who said, "Whereas this has been given to East Africa, it can also be taken back."

I would like to draw our attention to 2020 when Uganda, as a country, withdrew from hosting the AFCON beach soccer games. This calls for unity in preparation of what is needed to host these games.

Again, our focus, as a country, should be on the readiness of our national courier. Shall we wait for 2027 when all the bids for transporting players across the East African region are taken by other airlines yet as a country we are blessed with Air Uganda?

The other aspect is the Standard Gauge Railway. When we have matches here and in Kenya or Tanzania, how are we going to transport our supporters – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Amedede. *(Member rose.)* Hon. Kabanda, you have submitted.

4.50

**MS AGNES AMEEDE (Independent, Woman Representative, Butebo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to congratulate Government for winning the bid for AFCON. As a member of the Government Assurances Committee, I would like to emphasise that we are grappling with executing Government programmes or projects. Therefore, to maximise the benefits that come with this tournament, we need timely execution of all the infrastructural enhancements and this will only be possible if roles are given on merit. Honourable Minister, please advertise and assign people roles on merit and out of expertise.

Secondly, the bidding of works should be open because single sourcing has been a problem in this country. I beg to submit, thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Paska Menya, Hon. Sekabira, Hon. Rose Obigah, Hon. Susan Amero and Hon. Gorreth Namugga.

4.52

**MS PASKA ACIRO MENYA (Independent, Woman Representative, Pader):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I join my colleagues to congratulate you, the Speaker and the President of the Republic of Uganda. I also congratulate our honourable colleague, Hon. Magogo.

I thank the Almighty God. It is because of him that Uganda is going to host this big tournament; we should not take that for granted.

Mr Speaker, I support this motion because of the goodness it will bring to our country. Uganda is going to reap big from these games, but my humble appeal is to the ministries, most especially the finance ministry. Let us do everything with transparency. Whatever Government gets as a result of investing in this should be open and fair to every Ugandan. Let us – *(Interruption)*

**MR MAPENDUZI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Apart from telling the finance ministry to provide whatever is needed to prepare, Ugandans are eagerly waiting to hear and know what role the Government wants them to play. For instance, in Gulu, we want to hear what role Government wants us to play because in 2017, when Government failed to get money to prepare for the East African Secondary School Games, we mobilised resources and built Pece Stadium. Therefore, we again want to see how we can position ourselves and play a role.

I would also like to say, Mr Speaker, that when you go to a place like Arua City –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Sekabira?

For those of you who can share the two minutes, you would have made my job easy. *(Laughter)*

4.54

**MR DENES SEKABIRA (NUP, Katikamu County North, Luwero):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I support the motion on the Floor, as presented by Hon. Santa Alum. I also congratulate Ugandans on winning the bid and celebrate the legends that led the team to that victory.

I have two issues that are sports related. The first is about Nakivubo Stadium because it is a facility we look up to; it was established in 1926 and in 1954, the British Colonial Government improved the stadium in memory of the Ugandans who lost their lives in World War II. Under the Nakivubo War Memorial Act, it was refurbished and improved to that standard. However, I have learned that the stadium lost its identity and it is now called



Ham or something like that. I would like the minister to clarify that.

Secondly, the other member states that are co-hosting have improved their Standard Gauge Railway. Tanzania is at phase two, Kenya is 80 per cent done and I do not see us ready in terms of developing the transport infrastructure. I therefore would like the minister to commit, on behalf of the Government, on the progress of the Standard Gauge Railway because we badly need it to facilitate us to move from place to place to watch and support the teams that are going to participate in the tournament. Thank you.

4.56

**MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The day I saw you so jovial, joining your friends and dancing, I knew that there was something beautiful coming to this country. I congratulate you.

I thank my big sister, Rt Hon. Rebecca Alitwala. From the time you became the Minister for East Africa Community Affairs, it has been well with this country.

I congratulate the President of this country and I want to be on record and say that when my big brother, Hon. Magogo, was in Terego, he said that the stadium there is the biggest in the whole of Greater North. *(Laughter)* I am yet to get a message from him on how he zeroed down on Akii Bua Stadium and put Terego second, after indicating that this baby district had a superfluous stadium. I will be grateful to take information back to Terego that it will have one of the country's training stadiums.

Mr Speaker, the captain of the She Cranes is from Terego. You can imagine the good things that are there. *(Laughter)* I beg that there is serious training in Onduparaka and Arua Hill – you know how these boys thrive – so that they join the rest of Uganda.

I do not want to forget about the bad roads we have in Lira; Lira and West Nile have the worst roads. I am on bended knee as I ask to have these roads worked on. *(Laughter)* Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Colleagues, there are good things in Terego, including Hon. Rose Obigah who can stand on bended knee. *(Laughter)*

4.58

**MS SUSAN AMERO (Independent, Woman Representative, Amuria):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join the rest of my colleagues in supporting this motion.

First of all, I thank His Excellency the President for being at the forefront of bringing such an event to Uganda and putting a lot of effort in issues of security in this country. I am sure that is the confidence that made these countries accept that Uganda is able to host this function.

I also thank the President for appointing young ministers. From the time Hon. Obua took over as the sports minister to now where Hon. Ogwang is, sports is taking the right direction. I pray that even in the next Cabinet reshuffle, he puts competent people in the right ministries instead of us fighting with people who do not understand what they are doing. I beg to submit.

4.59

**MR BOB OKAE (UPC, Kwanja North County, Kwanja):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join my colleagues in supporting the motion. However, I have two concerns:

First, I call upon the education ministry to take the lead. Whenever activities like these come up, the ministry does not take the lead. We have a lot of problems with the road fund money and there is a lot of confusion with this money being taken to the districts because the ministry has failed to take the lead. I, therefore, call upon the education ministry to take the lead in this programme.

Secondly, I need commitment from the minister on the issue of Akii Bua Stadium; I have heard people talk about other playgrounds like the one in Terego and yet Akii Bua Stadium has been there for years. *(Laughter)* We may talk about it here, but at the end of the day, we may never see anything happening. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable member, today we are discussing stadiums not playgrounds. *(Laughter)* Otherwise, Mitooma would have qualified.

5.01

**MS GORRETH NAMUGGA (NUP, Mawogola County South, Ssembabule):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is to remind colleagues that I am the shadow Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology. Everyone has been thanking the Government and the President for the good work. However, I take this opportunity to thank the Leader of the Opposition and my team for the good work. I thank my president, Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, for appointing such a competent Leader of the Opposition. Thank you, Hon. Mathias Mpuuga, for the leadership that has brought this tournament because it is an achievement of the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament. *(Applause)* We must appreciate the leadership on either side. Thank you, Mr Speaker –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** But I did. Do you remember that I appreciated the Leader of the Opposition?

**MS NAMUGGA:** Yes, in addition, as a minister too. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, I implore the Government to support the private sector. We have a lot of domestic arrears; close to Shs 3 trillion. How I wish we prioritised payment of domestic arrears to our private sector because hotels are suffering. If we are to give money to the sports sector, we should also pay domestic arrears such that we boost the private sector.

I saw a report from the Tourism ministry that stated that hotels in the central region are performing at 38 per cent. We should investigate what is causing this. All over the country, the performance of the sector is at 46 per cent. That means there is a lot of work to be done, Mr Speaker.

Secondly, we have heard several complaints from the National Council of Sports, but they have been praising the Minister of State for

Education and Sports (Sports). I kindly request that you shape the leadership in all institutions that support the sports sector.

Federations have been suffering. You give money to the sports sector, but it does not reach them. I implore the ministry to ensure that some of these – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Macho and Hon. Ebwalu.

5.03

**MR GEOFFREY MACHO (Independent, Busia Municipality, Busia):** Mr Speaker, you are a great man. *(Laughter)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** From now onwards, I will not joke with the shadow ministers; Hon. Mpuuga's Cabinet. *(Laughter)*

**MR MACHO:** I join my colleagues to appreciate H.E. the President of this country, the Speaker and you in particular. When I saw the Speaker hosting the President of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), I knew there was something coming to this country.

Mr Speaker, let me not forget the Ministry of Education and Sports, particularly a competent minister called Peter Ogwang. At the same time, I appreciate the National Council of Sports Chairperson, Mr Ambrose Tashobya as well as Dr Patrick Ogwel. There are people in offices making things move and their success in bringing this great tournament to Uganda and the African continent has brought a very big problem to the Opposition of this country because we are going to host it when Gen. Museveni is newly elected as the President again. *(Laughter)*

This win gives confidence to the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Government and shows that it is capable. It was because of the peace, stability and confidence that other presidents – *(Interjection)* – Mr Speaker, I seek your protection.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** But you are the one inviting trouble and then you start –



**MR MACHO:** Mr Speaker, for Uganda to host this tournament is demonstration of the confidence of partner states in East Africa. I therefore pray that we promote our culture *kama tunawongea Kiswahili kwa bunge zetu, nakwongea Kiswahili kwa watu yetu, wajue kwamba East African region, ni region ya kuwongea Kiswahili kwa jili sisi ni waswahili. Asante.*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Ogwang, I have seen you clapping for Hon. Macho, but the way he has praised you today is the same way he will roast you tomorrow so, you need to be alert all the time.

5.06

**MR JONATHAN EBWALU (Independent, Soroti West Division, Soroti City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I congratulate all Ugandans and this Parliament.

We started with the National Sports Bill, which became an Act and now we are moving very well in a polarised country between the oppressed and oppressor, between this group and that group, between the NRM and this group. It is only sports that has been able to bring us together and I pray that we invest in sports because success does not come overnight. It comes –(Member timed out.)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Conclude, honourable.

**MR EBWALU:** In conclusion, Mr Speaker, I appeal that we invest in sports such that we continue being together and so that when a person from Arua is speaking, he will say, one Uganda, one people. If a person from Moroto is talking, he will say, one Uganda, one people so that we come together. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, if the people of one Uganda one people have failed to get together, I do not know how we shall explain it. (Laughter) Hon. Magogo will be given three minutes on this issue.

5.07

**MR MOSES MAGOGO (NRM, Budiope East County, Buyende):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. First and foremost, I congratulate every Ugandan on this achievement. Having been in charge of the football federation and then we qualify for AFCON after 39 years, we thought that was the biggest achievement. I believe that hosting the African Cup of Nations is even much bigger because it affects so many people, not only in Uganda, but also in the region.

I would like to provide more information and please, allow me some time because the debate which was going on needed more information.

For us to be able to bid successfully, our bid was hinged on certain points and it was awarded on those points. It is not just about us. Football is a highly regulated industry and we cannot sit and make certain decisions and change them.

One of the points is that we have eight international airports in the region and that was a key point because teams would like to fly in from wherever they are coming from. It is not a point that we can change. Whatever decisions we make should bring that in context.

Secondly, each country promised to have three international stadiums. This is because in the event that one fails, the two can still have the six stadiums that are required. We already have Mandela National Stadium. Therefore, as a minimum requirement, we need to have two other stadiums and they do not have to necessarily be 40,000 seaters. They could be 20,000 or 15,000 seaters.

The general infrastructure of sports in this country needs to be looked at, at this moment because as we consider the international facilities, the footballers we use come from villages and districts. Therefore, if we are addressing the problems, we might not need international stadiums in all the cities we are talking about. However, it is possible to upgrade the infrastructure which is in the regions like Mable Municipal Stadium, Bugembe, Pece, West Nile and the whole country.

We have had the FUFA Drum; a competition that has shown this country how fans of football can turn up for football. It is going to be difficult for us to put up a stadium in a place where we struggle to raise the numbers.

Sincerely speaking, I want to go on record and mention that Lango, Acholi, West Nile, Bunyoro, Toro and Busoga have been coming in big numbers to the stadium. These are not factors that we are going to ignore.

Mr Speaker, as we get happy and excited, this is the beginning of work. We do not have a lot of time and therefore, among the prayers that I will make, I request that we ensure that the stadiums are managed under turnkey projects where we get one provider like the one that was got for the indoor stadium in Lugogo. This is the same contractor that did the stadium in Senegal in 17 months. All they need is a sovereign guarantee and an area where to put a stadium and within 17 months, they will give you the keys to the stadium. This would eliminate some of the challenges we have with slowing down our projects, procurement and corruption.

I would also like to mention that this is our moment. When we hosted CHOGM, there were certain tax waivers that were made to ensure that the facilities are available. We think this is the moment to waive taxes on equipment for sports and for private investors who are investing in sports facilities. *(Applause)*

I would like to conclude, Mr Speaker, by saying it is another opportunity to use sport or football to make sure that we have full integration of the East African community. *(Applause)* We have seen the Schengen states that include 27 countries and all you need is one visa to enter these countries. Why do we go through immigration when we are going to Tanzania and Kenya? We believe this is an opportunity.

Mr Speaker, allow me to thank His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda. Everybody has thanked him, but as a person who was in the kitchen, it is important for me to inform this august House that there was a lot

of work in terms of diplomacy and behind the scenes for us to win this bid. *(Applause)*

There were a number of calls made. Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker, you were with us and you received messages from the people at CAF, including the President of CAF, for the job well done by his Excellency the President.

I take this opportunity to thank the Minister in charge of Education and Sports, *Maama* Janet Kataha Museveni, because she signed the letter which was the minimum requirement as a guarantee that this country has the ability to host the Africa Cup of Nations.

I also take the opportunity to thank the leadership of this Parliament; the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, Rt Hon. Anita Annet Among Magogo – *(Laughter)* – for the work behind the scenes. There was a lot of work that was going on behind the scenes. No wonder, in your presence, Mr Speaker, the President of CAF asked me to thank the Speaker of Parliament with the words, “Thank your wife.” *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to thank you because you led us very well and made an emotional speech before the executive of CAF. For the information of the Members, the Deputy Speaker assured the executive of CAF that he was not yet born the last time the region of CECAFA hosted this. It was very emotional. I saw the body language and realised that we were going to win the bid.

Allow me to also thank Hon. Ogwang, a very able minister in charge of sports –*(Applause)*– who happens to be a striker on the Parliament team and I am the midfielder who feeds him. You could see that this team was not going to fail.

I conclude by thanking the Federation of Uganda Football Association, my colleagues who worked tirelessly, the football federations of Kenya and Tanzania together with the Governments of the three East African states and conclusively, the East African Legislative Assembly for the motion they passed to approve the bid to be brought across the region.

In the presence of the Minister of East African Community Affairs, please take our congratulatory message to you and the Community for the work they are doing. I beg to submit, thank you very much. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Magogo. The Leader of the Opposition?

5.16

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Mathias Mpuuga):** Much obliged, Mr Speaker. Hon. Magogo was my captain at the university –*(Interjection)* - Only Hon. Oboth can ask because he plays no game other than – *(Laughter)*

For some reason, during his tenure, we were a very successful team. Therefore, I am speaking about a friend of old and would like to congratulate him for his struggles. He only disappointed me by picking a “yellow card” rather than a “red card”, but for the rest, we are good buddies of old. *(Laughter)*

The next World Cup will be hosted by three giants – *(Interjection)* - Just listen.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, please.

**MR MPUUGA:** Canada, the United States of America and Mexico. That speaks to the changing nature of this game. Beyond being a game, it has a lot of returns to the hosts.

I take this opportunity to congratulate CAF for being foresighted. If each of the 54 African nations - if I am not mistaken - is going to host the biennial competition, you need 108 years to be able to do a round robin across Africa and give each country an opportunity.

Given the returns that go beyond sports, I think CAF should use this to awaken to the reality that it is no longer feasible or even smart to give this biennial event to a single nation. I do not think it was done because the individual East African nations were less able. I think that looking beyond sports to unite nations is a very good thing so, I congratulate CAF for the insight.

Thirdly, the next civil war will be fought over stadia that will host these games and I think FUFA can do it smartly. Of course not every stadium will be able to host. However, like the President of FUFA and one honourable member observed, we can use this chance to enhance the quality of our sporting facilities.

For instance, you have not had any haggling about Masaka Recreation Grounds, but you know that over the last two financial years, the Government has been advancing funds to rehabilitate it. Some of these could be acclimatisation facilities for the various nations. The job that FUFA and the Government have is to work around them fast and make them known to all and sundry because nations have the liberty to choose where to acclimatise from. The Government should also enhance infrastructure that will feed into these facilities.

Otherwise, the rest of the matters that make us look like the orphans of the region can be worked on, like the issue a Member talked about; our Standard Gauge Railway which is still on paper. Our Metre Gauge Railway belongs to the Stone Age and it needs to be looked at.

If the infrastructure around Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area is worked on in earnest so that we do not have a boda boda public transport system then everybody will be happy with Uganda. Otherwise regarding the rest of the politics that comes with it, it is upon the Government to realise that it is a chance to market Uganda, stop abusing the rights of the people, speak to your opponents and sort out the politics that divide the nation.

Football, as a universal sport, should be able to unite and draw us closer to each other so that we are not the pariah of the region in terms of accommodating and tolerating one another. Mr Speaker, I congratulate the nation once again. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Leader of the Opposition. Honourable minister, conclude.

**MR OGWANG:** Mr Speaker, first of all, I would like to begin by thanking all honourable colleagues who have given comments in support of the statement and motion which has been moved here.

Like the Leader of the Opposition said, sports is a unifier and for that purpose, I would like to inform you that Uganda and *Pamoja* bid will not fail. We will do what it takes to make sure that Uganda and East Africa produce the best tournament of this kind in the history of the African Cup of Nations.

The following are my observations:

One, as the Minister of Education and Sports, we have a plan to construct regional stadiums. There is one of us who has asked here: can we walk the talk?

When the time for appropriation comes, give us the money. Most times we talk, but when time for giving money comes, the priorities get lost. Mr Speaker, you have just stated the solution here; we need to look at having a sports fund.

How do we tax these betting companies? Like you correctly said, it is happening in Kenya. This will help us to raise money to develop infrastructure across the country.

Regarding the question of Buhinga versus Hoima versus Akii Bua, we have a plan as a Ministry of Education and Sports to fulfil the presidential pledges. Buhinga and Akii-Bua are priority number one for our Ministry of Education and Sports and for that matter, let us not “eat ourselves”. We will work on those projects as time goes on.

The other issue which was also pertinent here was the question of Barifa Stadium. During the time we were making the sports law here, there was an issue about these specific facilities. One of the colleagues from West Nile stood here and said that Barifa Stadium land belonged to the National Forestry Authority. It is on record, yes, I am speaking with authority and I know what I am talking about.

For that purpose, I would like to request you for two things. I am aware that West Nile, as the President of FUFA has said, is one of those regions that we really need to take into consideration, based on the fan base. However, can we avail land which has no encumbrance? That is the most important thing which we must discuss.

The other issue that has come up is the question of timely execution of projects. Friends, the construction of a stadium is not an activity that you can give any other company to do. Like the President of FUFA said here, we have companies that have proven experience to construct stadiums within the required timeline and that company is already in Uganda. I would like to commit that the Indoor Arena of Lugogo will be constructed by that company called Summa. It is a Turkish company.

For that purpose, if they request to help us construct the two facilities that we want the Government to undertake, in my considered opinion, let us not waste time on issues of procurement because as of now, we are time bad to execute this project. It is important that we handle that at that time.

Last, but not least is the issue of Nakivubo. Friends, there is the Nakivubo War Memorial Act -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, honourable, you do not seek clarification while walking towards the Member, please.

**MR OGWANG:** Hon. Ssekikubo, you are my very good friend. I was asking -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Member might run off thinking he is being grabbed.

**MR OGWANG:** I was answering on the question of Nakivubo. I have not come here to amend the Act so that the name is changed. I hope I am clear there. We have one stadium called Nakivubo War Memorial Stadium and if the private developer has put in his name, it does not mean that the Act has been amended. Colleagues, we are the ones who make these

laws here. For that purpose - Hon. Sekabira, we have one Nakivubo, which is a stadium under the Public-Private Partnership arrangement.

Thank you, Rt Hon. Speaker. Once again – (*Hon. Ssekikubo rose*) Hon. Ssekikubo, I have not given you permission. There was the last one on the issue of the National Council of Sports. The shadow Minister of Science and Technology from the Opposition said that there is an issue of leadership in the National Council of Sports.

I am directly responsible for supervising the National Council of Sports and I want to tell Parliament that as of now, the National Council of Sports is doing extremely well. There are a few challenges which I am handling administratively as a minister.

Secondly, regarding the question of funding to the federations, all the subventions we get from the Government are sent to the respective federations and that evidence can be produced if Parliament needs it.

Colleagues, I congratulate all of us as East Africa and CAF for giving us the hosting rights to host the Africa Cup of Nations. I say all this for God and my country. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable minister. Colleagues, I now put the question that a motion for a resolution of Parliament to pay tribute to the successful East Africa Pamoja bid comprising Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya to host the Africa Cup of Nations 2027 be adopted.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Clerk, please transmit a copy of the resolution together with the extract from the *Hansard* of this motion to the relevant ministries, departments and agencies for action. Hon. Kajwengye, you had a procedure matter?

Honourable colleagues, let me put it on record that I am a very patient fellow and whether you behave like - I just take it easy. However, I would request - We have been here.

I have picked over 40 Members who have spoken. Now a Member who has just entered - without me mentioning a name - wants clarification, has procedure, order, has everything that can be. I have not mentioned the Member, but you know yourself. Please, let us continue running our House honourably.

**MR KAJWENGYE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this chance. In mid-August, the Bill entitled, “The Explosives Bill, 2023” was read on the Floor and forwarded to the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs for processing. The committee started on the process, but the House was sent on recess which affected the time that we were allocated. I now move under Rule 141(1) of our Rules of Procedure to request for an extension of time. I beg to move.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable, I know that we had given you this assignment and within one week or a week and a half, we went into recess. It is important that indeed, we give you three more weeks to conclude the business. Thank you.

## LAYING OF PAPERS

### I) BI-ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT OF INSPECTORATE OF GOVERNMENT, JANUARY – JUNE 2022

5.31

**MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri):** Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Bi-Annual Performance report of the Inspectorate of Government, January – June, 2022.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable commissioner. It is referred to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for consideration and report back within 45 days.



## LAYING OF PAPERS

II) BI-ANNUAL PERFORMANCE  
REPORT OF THE INSPECTORATE OF  
GOVERNMENT, JULY – DECEMBER  
2022

5.32

**MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri):** Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Bi-Annual Performance Report of the Inspectorate of Government, July – December 2022. I beg to lay.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I refer it to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for consideration and report back in 45 days.

III) BI-ANNUAL PERFORMANCE  
REPORT OF THE INSPECTORATE OF  
GOVERNMENT ON INCREASING  
CITIZENS' TRUST IN PUBLIC  
OFFICE, JANUARY – JUNE 2023

5.32

**MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri):** Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on Table the Bi-Annual Performance Report of the Inspectorate of Government on increasing citizens' trust in public office, January – June 2023. I beg to lay.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I refer it to the relevant committee for consideration.

IV) BILLS PASSED AND THE REPORTS  
CONSIDERED BY THE EAST  
AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
(EALA) FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 2022  
– JUNE 2023, PURSUANT TO RULE 36  
OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

5.45

**THE FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (Ms Rebecca Alitwaala Kadaga):** Thank you, Mr Speaker and good afternoon.

I come here in fulfilment of the Statutory obligations under Article 123 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, Article 65 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community and Rule 36 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament on laying the Acts of the Community and Bills under consideration by the EALA.

I hereby lay on Table the Bills and reports considered by EALA for the period June 2022 to June 2023.

Uganda is a Partner State of the East African Community. You are familiar with the membership; the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Burundi, Republic of Uganda, Republic of Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Rwanda and Republic of South Sudan.

Somalia has applied to join and negotiations are underway to consider their admission.

Article 9 of the Treaty establishes the critical organs and institutions of the community and the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) is one of the key organs of the community.

The functions of EALA are spelt out in Article 49(2) of the Treaty including, among others;

1. Enacting laws of the Community
2. Approving the budget of the Community
3. Overseeing the general functioning of the Community

The Assembly has various standing committees for the effective and efficient discharge of its functions. EALA has 63 Members and 12 Ex-officio Members. It has nine elected Members from each Partner State. Currently, we are in the Fifth Assembly.

It is a strict requirement, under Article 65, to maintain good working relations between EALA and Partner States' national assemblies through transmission and exchange of all relevant records of debate of sessions of the Assembly, laying Bills and Acts of the Community to this House, among others.

A number of Bills are still undergoing the various processes and, upon assent, the same will be brought to the attention of this august House.

I, therefore, would like to lay;

1. The East African Community Customs Management (Amendment) Bill, 2022. The Bill is to amend the Customs Management Act to streamline and rationalise customs administration, operations and procedures and to provide for related matters. I beg to lay.
2. The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2022. This is to appropriate a sum of \$2,620,800 out of the budget of the Community to meet additional expenditure for the organs of the Community for the financial year ending 30 June 2023.
3. The East African Community Surveillance, Compliance and Enforcement Commission Bill, 2022. This Bill provides for the establishment of the East African Community Surveillance, Compliance and Enforcement Commission, pursuant to Article 21(b) of the Protocol on the establishment of the East African Monetary Union, to provide for the functions, powers and governance structure for the commission and to provide for related matters.
4. The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2022. This is to appropriate a sum of \$91,579,215 out of the budget of the Community to meet expenditure of the organs and institutions of the Community for the financial year ending 30 June 2023.
5. The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2022. This is to appropriate \$6,299,685 out of the budget of the Community to meet the additional expenditure for the organs and institutions of the Community for financial Year ending 30 June 2022.
6. The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation (No.2)

Bill, 2022. This is to appropriate a sum of \$2,731,626 out of the budget of the Community to meet the expenditure for the organs and institutions of the Community for financial year ending 30 June 2022.

7. The East African Community Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022. This is to amend the East African Community Competition Act, 2006 to streamline the provisions on mergers with the international practice on competition; to confer legal personality on the authority; to empower authority to impose and collect financial penalties; and to provide for related matters.
8. The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2023. This is to appropriate \$771,872 out of the budget of the Community to meet additional expenditures of the organs and institutions of the Community for financial year ending June 2023.
9. The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2023. This is to appropriate \$16,408,045 out of the budget of the Community to meet additional expenditures of the organs and institutions of the Community for the financial year ending 30 June 2023.
10. The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2023. This is to appropriate \$103,842,880 out of the budget of the Community to meet expenditures of the organs and institutions of the Community for the financial year ending 30 June 2023.

I beg to lay. They are all here, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, a number of reports have been considered by the EALA. I beg to lay;

1. The report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the oversight activity to assess the performance of the tourism sector in the EAC, 25 – 28 October 2021.

2. The report of the Committee on Accounts on the oversight activity of the East African Health Research Commission.
3. The report of the Committee on Accounts on the Audited EAC Financial Statements for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2020.
4. The report on an oversight activity on implementation of the protocols and laws governing EAC institutions.
5. The report of the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment on the on-spot assessment of the status of the implementation of the EAC One-Stop Border Post and the Hydro-Electric infrastructures of Elegu/Nimule, Kobero/Kabanga and Rusumo Hydro-Electric Infrastructure, 25 to 28 October 2021.
6. The report of the Committee on General Purpose on the East African Community budget estimates for revenue and expenditure for the Financial Year 2023/2024.
7. The report on the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution to assess the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol for prevention, control and reduction of small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, 27 – 30 September.
8. The report of the Committee on Accounts on the benchmarking mission on the mandate of the national assemblies and implementation of recommendations of parliaments on annual audit reports, 24 to 26 January 2022.
2. The budget speech of the East African Community for the Financial Year 2023/24 by the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers.
3. The report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolutions on assessing the measures instituted by Partner States for the safety and security of the movement of people and goods on Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika.
4. The financial Statement for the year 2022-23. The Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline; the report of the committee on the assessment of status for ratification and implementation of EAC protocols and EAC laws by the Partner States. I beg to lay.
5. The report of the Committee on General Purpose to assess the progress made by the Inter-University Council for East Africa in the harmonisation of education systems in the EAC. I beg to lay.
6. The report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources on the oversight of the activities of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission and Lake Victoria Fisheries Commission.

I beg to lay.

The Bills under consideration by the East African Legislative Assembly and those pending assent are all intended to strengthen the EAC bloc and the ultimate beneficiaries of the *wananchi* of East Africa under Article 5. It is our current responsibility for the Partner States, Uganda inclusive, to popularise the Community for the common good of all East Africans. It is in the above perspective that I call on all Members to publicise and popularise the EAC integration agenda and readiness for the ultimate pillar of political federation.

The submission of the supplementary budget for financial year 2022/2023.

1. The report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution to assess the progress made in the development of the draft EAC Refugee Management Policy, 14 – 17 March 2023.

It is imperative to note that upon passing of any law by the EALA, such a decision takes precedence over national laws on matters pertaining to the Treaty. In the discharge of this mandate, the Legislative Assembly has continued to schedule these Bills towards

that agenda. Under Article 65, the Clerk to Parliament is required to submit a record of all relevant debates at the Floor of Parliament to strengthen and concretise our relations with the Community.

Mr Speaker, I expect that the Committee on East African Community Affairs and the Plenary will review these decisions, make comments so that we can assist in the integration. I do not know whether I can move now to the other subjects.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You can take your seat, Rt Hon. Thank you. The problem we find with Rule 36- most of this is finished business; already concluded. But honourable colleagues take it on. The relevant committee, please, use it in your work because it is very critical information. We shall ensure that honourable colleagues receive this information.

I want to amend the Order Paper. The Minister for East African Community Affairs has made a request. There is a statement she wants to present to the House from the motion raised by Hon. Dr Samuel Opio. It is a very critical statement. "A statement to Parliament of Uganda, on the payment of pension, gratuity, interest, and other terminal benefits to the former employees of the defunct East African Community." I felt that we should use this opportunity so that she can present it. Clerk, can you call it?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE  
PAYMENT OF PENSION, GRATUITY,  
INTEREST, AND OTHER TERMINAL  
BENEFITS TO FORMER EMPLOYEES  
OF THE DEFUNCT EAST AFRICAN  
COMMUNITY

5.45

**THE FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (Ms Rebecca Kadaga):** Mr Speaker and Members, I come in observance of an undertaking we have made regarding my ministry to update Parliament on the progress made towards the payment of pensions and other retirement benefits of former employees. I will not delve

into the background; it is well-known. However, the collapse of the original Community left a number of challenges, cardinal of which was the obligation to pay terminal benefits to former employees.

As a minister addressing this challenge, the Heads of State of the former Partner States of the defunct EAC signed the East African Mediation Agreement on 14 May 1984, conclusively to deal with the division of assets and liabilities of the former EAC, including payment of benefits. Interestingly, Uganda made two attempts to domesticate this agreement. The first was in 1990; a Bill was published, but never brought to the House for consideration.

The second was in 2004; another Bill was printed but again it was not brought to the House; so Uganda did not fulfil that particular obligation. However, Government invoked the provision of the Pensions Act, Cap 281, which had been amended by the Pension Decree No.6 of 1978, now the Pensions Act 286, Laws of Uganda, to safeguard the pensionable rights of the former employees of the defunct EAC.

The formula adopted in the calculation of the pensions, gratuity, and other benefits did not in any way deviate from the formula provided under the EAC Pension Act. There is a consent judgment which I have here, in which a number of the employees took the Government to court, and judgment was entered by consent. It is here; I want to lay it as Annex 1. *(Interjection)* No, that is illegal advice. There was a consent judgment; I will lay it also.

However, after we last met here, I established a multi-sectoral ministerial committee, and we have been busy trying to unravel the issues around this agreement. However, I have the opinion of the Attorney-General on the subject. I will lay it here.

The obligation to pay the employees the terminal benefits was until 2015 vested in the pensions authority, that is the Ministry of Public Service. So, my ministry inherited this responsibility in July 2015. Since then, a substantial number of cases have been handled,

amidst a number of challenges. The matter has been severally litigated on, and there are orders, counter-orders and consent judgments on the same subject.

I am confident that with the support of this House, my ministry will ultimately pay and clear all the outstanding legitimate claimants.

I would like to give the status of the verification and payment to the former employees of the EAC since July 2015. The ministry conducted field visits with a view of verifying all claimants all over the country to ascertain those with legitimate claims for payment.

Secondly, the ministry has variously issued public notices through print and the local media to notify deserving claimants to present their relevant documents for processing and payment.

The ministry established a pension desk at the headquarters to attend to all claimants on a daily basis and receive their claims. As I indicated, I stood at the instruments of the Pensions Committee, comprising the Ministry of Public Service; Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs; and Bank of Uganda, and charged them with coming up with measures that will ensure the additional pension payment is concluded.

The committee sits regularly to deliberate on those emerging issues and come up with a way forward.

My ministry has engaged various stakeholders, including the Attorney-General, the Ministry of Public Service- the parent ministry, the Pensions Authority, the Bank of Uganda, Finance ministry, the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP), the Criminal Investigation Department, the Office of the Administrator-General, the Administration of Employees of the EAC, and many others, in a bid to find a lasting solution to this impasse.

We are now engaging the Cabinet. Mr Speaker, I am now going to finally present a Cabinet paper to domesticate the East African

Mediation Agreement, despite the time frame. For whatever it is worth, I am going to do that.

Arising out of these interventions, the ministry has been able to trace, verify, validate, and pay a total of 423 pensioners in Financial 2019/2020, and 2021/2022. In 2020/2021, COVID disrupted part of the work, but in the Financial 2023, 347 files have been verified and cleared for payment. Only 163 claimants worth Shs 149 billion were physically traced and paid.

This was attributed to the failure by the remaining 184 to present the required relevant information such as letters of administration obtained from competent courts of law, bank accounts, TIN numbers, and question of supply numbers as by law required.

In 2023/2024, the ministry verified an additional 31 files worth \$93,000. Another batch of 1,297 files have been retrieved and are being verified at the ministry for onward submission to the internal audit unit.

Upon conclusion of the audit exercise, a supplementary budget request will be made to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to pay the claimants that will have been cleared. The funds will include the 31 claimants already cleared. Three hundred eleven claimants have been paid through the Office of the Administrator-General. The number would have been much bigger if there were no internal fights and disagreements among the beneficiaries' families.

Mr Speaker, the 2011 pension scam in the Ministry of Public Service also affected the payment of the former employees. Current statistics show that a total of 48 pensioners were affected through fictitious payments. The ministry has, through engagements with the Office the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and the Ministry of Public Service retrieved the 48 files initially held by the CID to facilitate the processing of payments for the pensioners. So, we are working on them.



In the case of *Uganda v. Jimmy Rwamafa & 2 others*, the Anti-Corruption Court found that there were ghost payments of the former employees of the EAC. This, in a way, affected the discharge of payments to some legitimate claimants.

Regarding the defunct East African Airways Corporation, out of the total 624 claimants, 474 have been fully paid. One hundred and fifty are not yet paid because the ministry and their lawyers failed to physically trace them. The former employees under this category were represented by Sozi & Partners Advocates. See *James Bahinguza & Others v. the Attorney-General*, Miscellaneous Application No.763 of 2003, arising out of Civil Suit No.1010 of 1996. This is Annex 3.

Mr Speaker, a copy of the consent judgement for the airline people is here and I beg to lay the document on the Table.

The monthly pension payroll from the Ministry of Public Service had 708 pensioners during the decentralisation of pension payment. It was validated through verification, but it remained with 415 eligible pensioners. This number includes those who have retired from the ministry. All the monthly pensioners under our vote are getting their monthly pension from the ministry. The rest were deferred back to the Minister of Public Service with a view of putting them on the payrolls of their right votes for retirement.

The ministry has engaged many stakeholders, but as I have said, I am now going to proceed to the Cabinet to domesticate the East African Mediation Agreement.

Mr Speaker, the point of contention has been on the quantum and the formula. All our research and findings indicate that the formula under the Pensions Act is what is being used. I know the beneficiaries are not satisfied and so, I would like to ask the Cabinet for additional support so the Government can do something for them. Otherwise, clearly, they are not satisfied.

There is no discrepancy in the current formula and the one used under the Pension Act.

Mr Speaker, the processing of pensions is continuous and we are doing all we can. As I have already said, our challenges are the following:

First, there is lack of freely available, authentic and verifiable documents, taking into account the time lag.

Secondly, this matter has been heard by different stakeholders such as the EAC Secretariat, Public Service, the Attorney-General, Bank of Uganda, Auditor-General, DPP, finance, Administrator-General, Courts of Judicature. It is really handled by very many people.

Thirdly, sometimes there are multiple claims and some are not genuine, but we shall sort them out. Even those who are fully and genuinely paid by the Minister of Public Service now come to the ministry to say “No, we were not satisfied; we still want more money”. This is a matter we need to handle politically to ensure these Ugandans are given something commensurate to their service.

I would like to conclude by saying that we are immensely concerned about the public outcry and I am doing my best together with my team to ensure that the beneficiaries are all paid. Thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable minister. Hon. Opio, do you have any comment on this matter?

**MR SAMUELACUTI:** Thank you very much, honourable minister for that presentation. I believe this will go a long way in addressing the challenge.

The clarification I seek is that there are some former employees whose files may not have been retrieved as of now, and there are those with issues regarding their computations. Can they present themselves at the EAC offices? Can there be a desk set aside to facilitate these issues so they are addressed at that point? Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Cecilia Ogwal, Hon. Aogon and the Member for Kiboga.

5.56

**MS CECILIA OGWAL (FDC, Woman Representative, Dokolo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the statement given by the Minister of the East Africa Community Affairs. However, we do not have a specific timeline and that raises concerns. As she rightly pointed out, this process started in the last Parliament and we realised it was a very urgent matter, but the Ministry of Public Service has since failed to address the issue.

Now that it has reached this far, and she has actually made it clear that the only way this matter can be handled is through political means, I would like to ask the First Deputy Prime Minister to put a timeline. I am aware of some of these members who started with us when we raised the matter in the last Parliament - and - I think one or two have already passed on. Mr Speaker, it is very sad if some of these people passed on before receiving their benefits.

Therefore, I would like to urge the office to do everything possible to give us a timeline. Can you give a timeline of six months or at least one year so that we can give them hope that something will be done? Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. The good thing is that this is an update from the debate that we had; we said we should get continuous updates and I can see some progress being made. However, like Hon. Cecilia Ogwal said, I have heard you are going to Cabinet to make some proposals and all that, but we would like to know from your own assessment the progress being made and how long this may take so we can at least have some answers for these families. Hon. Aogon?

**MR AOGON:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I would like to appreciate you for having this matter on the Order Paper. Secondly, I appreciate the honourable minister for the effort towards serving these people so that they are paid.

My concern is that we must learn from what we have seen from this particular occurrence. How can we fail to get people who are supposed to benefit from a certain payment as a country? To me, this is not a matter for the current minister, but it is the people who were there before her.

Mr Speaker, what is the purpose of record keeping? Where did the records go? Whichever Government office one joins, he or she is asked, "Where were you born, the date, parents and the village?" How can we then fail to trace these people who are disappearing? Has there been an attempt to announce these issues on the local radios so that information is spread? What are we doing to support such families?

Mr Speaker, don't you think we need to have a Bill brought to this House for us to domesticate that agreement which failed to be domesticated those days? If we are talking about the changes in the pensions formula, how are we going to do it without this matter coming to the House?

I am seeking clarity on these matters that I have raised. What is it that we can do to help these people? Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shadow Minister for East African Community African Affairs - Honourable colleagues, I want to pick five Members.

**MR KATABAAZI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank my counterpart from the other side for the -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** ...and you are proudly associated - I can see. *(Laughter)*

**MR KATABAAZI:** I would like to thank her for making the effort to see that those people are paid.

Mr Speaker, there are just two issues I seek clarification on: The first one is; during the calculation, how are you going to consider the fact of inflation which is changing from time to time?

Secondly, there is a certain company- the other countries already paid the former workers of

the East African Community, but ours, there was a company which was charged with that and that money disappeared. Have you made an effort to see that money being recovered? I know the Government; you are doing a great thing to see that people are paid. However, there is somebody who stole that money. Thank you very much.

6.02

**MS CHRISTINE KAAYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Kiboga):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Thank you, honourable minister for updating us, as well as prioritising the payment of the people who once worked for these companies.

My first concern is failing to identify the 150 people. Probably the contracted legal firm needs to come up with other mechanisms for finding out these people otherwise the print media may not be enough. However, I call upon all of us to take it upon ourselves to always announce within our electorates, the need for those who feel they need to be paid to approach the Ministry.

Mr Speaker, there was an issue of multiple claims. This one is disturbing us also in other sectors, especially land where you find that the family has failed to agree, but each and every member of the family feels like they should be the ones to claim.

I pray that the Office of the Auditor-General comes in to help this Ministry to ensure that the rightful people access the money. Otherwise we are bound to find people who are not entitled to receive this money. I beg to submit.

**MR OSEKU:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also want to thank the Rt Hon. Rebecca Kadaga for the update report that she has given us. However, the clarification I would like to seek is whether she has come across a one Professor Otimong from the East in Bukedea who claims to be holding claimants' files. A good number up to about 400 or so he claims.

And at one point when I spoke to him, he expressed that they have fears of handing over

their files because they think that some people will somehow play around with their files and they get lost.

The last time I spoke to him and informed him that the Minister had been to the House and a call was made for all the claimants who are able to go to the Ministry and present their cases, he said that he was headed there with a team to meet the Minister.

The clarification I wanted to get is if the Minister is aware and if indeed this professor who claims to have information was able to reach her. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Otimgiw, you have been here since 2:00 p.m.

6.05

**MR ISAAC OTIMGIW (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi):** Mr Speaker, we appropriated Shs 9.2 billion towards the compensation of this exercise, and we understand the verification started from the year 2000 on that matter.

I do again acknowledge what the Shadow Minister has stated that our respective neighbouring countries have already finalised their process of paying some of the claimants.

The Minister was supposed to come to the House and inform us about how much money will be needed to finalise with this claim. I do not think that we have got that report. Therefore, could the Minister highlight how much money will be needed to finalise the payment and, have they verified the right claims that they need for this? Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, time is bad on my side. Right Honourable?

**MS KADAGA:** Thank you very much for the queries. Honourable member for Kole, I want to assure you that anyone who is making claims will be welcomed by the Ministry.

They can continue coming; they can come today, tomorrow, and every day - it is continuous.

That one is not a problem; I welcome them. Regarding the timeline, as I indicated that I am going to the Cabinet to finally - after 40 years - domesticate the East African Mediation Agreement. (*Applause*)

I have informed you that the Bill was drafted in 1990 and was never brought to this House. In 2004, it was not brought, and so that is why I am saying am now finally doing it. (*Applause*)

I am finalising my Cabinet Paper, in a very short time- Actually it will come here because it must be done here.

And it will be as soon as possible because I do not want to see those old men running around looking for money.

I know Professor Otimong; I have met him and I did not know that he is holding files, but I have met him. I have had two meetings with him together with my officials, but tell him that if he brings the list of those files that he is holding, they will be safe in my hands. You ask him to bring the list so that I work from my side; he can hold the files.

The imposters: You know Uganda has many imposters on land, in this and that, I do not know how I can guarantee that there are no imposters. In fact, I already told you in my statement that this scam in the Public Service, there were imposters and they were paid money from the Ministry of Public Service. It is something we all need to work together to resolve.

Inflation: That is why I want to go to the Cabinet to see that we can do justice to these people. I cannot give you a figure right now, but I am going to make some proposals which will be considered and eventually they will come here because you will have to appropriate them.

Hon. Aogon, you asked- What did you ask Hon. Aogon? (*Interjection*) Yes, but it was in my statement. The Bill is coming; it will be done here very quickly. I do not want to preempt what is going to be in the Bill, but it will come here. Yes. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Rt Hon. for that update and please, keep us updated. We are waiting for that Bill so that we handle this matter. You know it is painful to find you are saying money is available, but there are no people to take it. It is very sad. Next item.

PRESENTATION OF ACTION-TAKEN  
REPORTS PURSUANT TO RULE 220  
OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
ON INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE  
UTILISATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY  
BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR  
2021/2022 BY THE MINISTRY OF TRADE,  
INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES FOR  
RENT OF NEW OFFICE PREMISES

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, according to the *Hansard*, you were given two weeks; please, give us action taken reports.

6.09

**THE MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (Mr Francis Mwebesa):** Mr Speaker, updates on the action taken on the investigations into the utilisation of the supplementary budget for the Financial Year 2021/2022 by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives for rent of the new office premises.

On 28 September, 2022, I received a copy of the resolutions which were duly discussed and adopted by Parliament on the 29 August 2023.

The communication was addressed to the Rt Hon. Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business; the honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; the Head of Public Service; the Secretary to the Cabinet; the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Treasury; the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives; the Auditor-General; the Accountant-General; the Solicitor-General; the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs; the Commissioner-General of Uganda Revenue Authority, and the Executive Director

of Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority.

Consequently, I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister, copied to all the relevant ministries, departments, agencies of Parliament, and the required actions thereto. As of today, I await responses from the ministries, departments and agencies regarding the matter of action taken.

I lay on the Table a copy of the communication to the Prime Minister, for your information and action.

Signed Francis Mwebesa.

**MR SSEKIKUBO:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Once we take a position, as Parliament, or come up with a resolution, the ball goes back to the Government, which usually communicates through a Treasury Memorandum, on the action taken on the resolutions of Parliament.

However, today, this comes up as a resolution of Parliament on one particular individual and report, yet it is usually compiled through the due processes of the Prime Minister, so that Parliament gets into the details of what actions Government has taken on our resolutions.

Are we procedurally right to pass resolutions and ask the Government for responses two weeks later, yet there are many other serious resolutions we passed and expected the Government to come back with actions taken? Short of that, won't we appear to be interested in a particular report and person? I fear that we may look bad. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I read through the *Hansard* when that report was presented and the Speaker gave a clear warning.

First of all, for clarification, Treasury Memoranda is only for Auditor-General reports. Rule 220 of our Rules of Procedure gives the House powers to require a minister to report back on action taken on decisions of Parliament. It can be one week, two weeks

or a month, depending on the urgency of the resolution needed.

From the *Hansard*, what the Clerk gave me, and what the minister knows, he was given two weeks to take action. It is more than two weeks now. So, we are procedurally right and within the rules. This is not an Auditor-General's report; this is a report of a committee of Parliament, which is provided for under Rule 220 of our Rules of Procedure.

Honourable minister, I have listened to your response. For ministers to take seriously the resolutions of Parliament - any ministry which has issues of accountability that Parliament has pronounced itself on, and no response has been given to Parliament on action taken, it will be difficult for us to process your budget. (*Applause*) You will get your budget from the Executive.

Parliament will use its authority of appropriation. So, the ball is in your court. If you want a budget for your ministry, go and take action as Parliament instructed. Thank you.

House adjourned to tomorrow at 2 o'clock.

(*The House rose at 6.15 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday, 4 October 2023 at 2.00 p.m.*)