



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION - FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 09 JULY 2026



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIRST SESSION - 8TH SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Thursday, 9 July 2026

Parliament met at 2.26 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, I welcome you to today's sitting. As I told you yesterday, today we had a Business Committee meeting, where we agreed on the schedule of the business and the calendar. We shall update you and share the calendar with you once it is fully polished up with the recommendations that were made by the Business Committee.

We want to have a harmonised way of conducting business; for example, ensuring that since you are a member of both the Standing and Sectoral committees, we should not have a schedule where you appear on both and you start moonlighting – jumping from one committee to another.

I thank the Speaker and the Prime Minister, who presented the business which the Government has for us. I also thank the Leader of the Opposition and his team, the Government Chief Whip, the committee chairpersons and whips of the different political parties. The whips are very important people here because they are the ones who mobilise for us, Members.

Is Hon. Ismail Kasule, the whip for Alliance for National Transformation (ANT), here? Now, he has not whipped himself to be here. *(Laughter)* I wanted to have a chance for the whips to stand up and be known by the rest of the honourable colleagues. It is very important.

For the Chief Opposition Whip, Hon. Mwiru, everyone knows him. The rest of the whips can introduce themselves. Where is the Democratic Party (DP) whip? Ah, he is outside whipping others.

Where is the Uganda People's Congress (UPC) whip?

2.30

DR EUNICE OTUKO APIO (UPC, Oyam County North, Oyam): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable colleagues, congratulations upon making it to the 12th Parliament. My name is Hon. Eunice Otuko Apio. If you are happy with me, you can start with "Dr". I am a scholar as well. That is why I use that "Dr". Most importantly, I am the whip of the UPC party, which is one of the oldest parties in the country. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, we certainly have a track record. We are the go-to party for lessons, you know, for development and everything.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleague, do not start recruiting from the Floor. *(Laughter)*

DR OTUKO APIO: I welcome everyone and look forward to associating and interacting with

Members. We are 12 Members of Parliament. We have lent one of our members to the other side, to help the Government to draw lessons from UPC.

All the best for the next five years. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. DP whip? It is important to know these honourable colleagues. You know, you usually meet colleagues in the Chamber, but some are very powerful people here. *(Laughter)*

2.31

MR PETER OKOT (DP, Tochi County, Omoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Colleague Members of Parliament and the Frontbench on both sides, my name is Okot Peter. I represent Tochi Constituency and, by the grace of God, I am the whip of the Democratic Party. *(Applause)*

Looking at this country's history, either your grandfather or your father was once a member of the Democratic Party. *(Laughter)* A few weeks ago, even the President of this country, His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, mentioned that he had formed a foundation with the Democratic Party.

So, we look forward to working with every party that has over the years been developed in this country. As the oldest party, our doors are open. For those who have jumped out of the party, we welcome you back home. *(Laughter)* We continue working for this country.

Thank you very much. We join hands with you to see that the 12th Parliament delivers for this country.

Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I think the whip of the National Unity Platform (NUP) party is Hon. Betty Nambooze Bakireke – sorry. She is the chairperson of the caucus. The Chief Opposition Whip whips his party and then other Opposition parties.

The one for FDC is Hon. Anna Adeke Ebaju. I am sure you will be seeing her very often.

We had a very good Business Committee meeting, and we shall be giving you updates along the way. One of the issues that we looked at is reinstating some of the business that – oh, People's Front for Freedom (PFF) has two Members! Who is the whip? Hon. Betty Aol? Yes. She is always here. When I do not see her, it is for a very critical reason. So, we also have PFF.

Honourable colleagues, we discussed the issue of reinstating businesses that had lapsed under the 11th Parliament. We have assessed all the business and, next week, on Tuesday, one of the commissioners will move a motion, with support of the honourable colleagues from the Business Committee, to have that business reinstated.

The most critical business is the Auditor-General's reports. The next report from the Auditor-General will come in December. So, between now and December, the accountability committees would have no business. So, we are going to reinstate the reports so that they can start afresh for six months.

They had done around 100, out of the 500 reports. They will have around 400 reports to process. From our interactions, we are going to work out a mechanism to ensure as many reports as possible are processed by the committees.

Honourable colleagues, Rule 244 of the Rules of Procedure requires that a legacy report for the previous Parliament should be presented. Yesterday, someone sent it to me. Today, it was again raised in the Business Committee. The report is prepared by the Clerk, and it is ready.

Of course, by our Rules of Procedure – rule 244 – it should be presented in the first seven sittings of the House.

However, honourable colleagues, the challenge that we got – and you will bear with us – is that the commission was not yet fully constituted.

So, when the Clerk prepares this report, it is first submitted to the commission, the commission adopts it and, then, it is laid on the Floor. The report is ready and we are going to have the first Parliamentary Commission meeting, where it will be adopted, and we bring it here, as a requirement of the rules. Kindly bear with us, honourable colleagues.

For matters of national importance, today is the Prime Minister's time, and that is why I put a few items on the Order Paper, so that we can have up to two hours of your colleagues interacting with the Prime Minister and the honourable ministers present.

You have a lot of issues to do with your constituencies, and with the country. Therefore, today is your day. Let us go through this quickly so that we can enter into an interaction where you raise your issues with the Prime Minister.

You do not need to have it booked. It will be spontaneous. I will be picking on you, depending on how you look at me. *(Laughter)*

I can now see some have started winking, some are doing –

Yesterday, as I was chatting with Hon. Namboze, an MP was raising their arm. It is not a classroom. However, we have MPs with disabilities who are not able to stand up. That is the sign they use, but for you, other colleagues, you should be able to stand up, look at me with mercy and a smile, and then, you immediately attract my attention.

That is how we are going to do business. Now, I thought we were moving very well. Hon. Isaac Otimgiw - because I wanted us to go to the next item, so that we do these two items and move quickly.

2.38

MR ISAAC OTIMGIW (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi): Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, it is a brief one. It is just a slight issue on the Parliamentary Commission that you mentioned earlier.

It is within the Parliamentary Rules and Procedures that the Commission should be updating the House. However, to my surprise, throughout the entire 11th Parliament, we hardly received any report from the secretariat of the Commission regarding the activities and how they are managing our House.

Therefore, I would like to get information from you explaining why they do not report. We do trust the Commission. They work for us, but why is it that, as a House, we cannot get a report on their duties and activities, yet we give them a lot of powers?

Are we going to be getting those reports in this 12th Parliament, so that we keep them in check? We all know what happened in the 11th Parliament, regarding our Commissioners. We want to keep these Commissioners in check in the 12th Parliament, so they do not embarrass us. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you poking me and the LOP? Honourable colleagues, we are going to have the first Commission meeting, okay? I can tell you, we are going to follow the law and the rules to the letter. Whatever we are required to do under the law, we are going for it. That is a commitment I want to give to you.

You will be here to assess us because we are open. Next item.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER ON THE LOCAL COUNCIL AND WOMEN'S COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2026

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, before I call the Minister, I just wanted to add on something, which Hon. Namboze raised. I touched it briefly yesterday, but I think I needed to have brought it out clearly. So she raised it today in our Business Committee meeting. I am sorry for diverging from some of the details here.

So it has been a practise that whenever we start a Parliament, it is always good to give Members a chance to make their maiden speech without

interruption, even if it takes as long. However, Parliament is a House of record.

I do not want to force you to speak, and you end up standing here and sending greetings to your voters. It can also be described as maiden, but we are a House of record. So to improve on that, we agreed as a leadership of Parliament that that will be done from what I told you yesterday, State of the Nation address, starting on Tuesday, where each one of you will get three minutes uninterrupted.

Go and prepare. If you want to read, you will read.

If you want to talk off-cuff, you will do that. You know? If you want to shake, you will be allowed to shake. But I am very sure that none of you has stage fright. If you stood before voters and you got the votes, how can you fail to stand before this Parliament so as to address the nation? So we shall do it that way.

Like I guided yesterday, we are looking at taking up to four to six weeks, and in that way, you will be able to raise issues to do with your constituents.

Therefore, go prepare, and we start on the State of the Nation address and the response from the Leader of the Opposition. We start on it on Tuesday.

Yesterday I guided, and I appreciated the Minister for Local Government on the statement she presented on the Floor, and I requested that it should be enriched by the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs. I requested the Deputy Attorney General to go - because they are in the same area.

Yesterday I did not want the Minister for Local Government to make commitments on issues beyond her ministry. Some of the questions I was getting were to do with the Electoral Commission. I do not want the Minister of Local Government to make commitments on behalf of the Electoral Commission that she does not supervise.

Therefore, Attorney-General, you told me you prepared an additional statement on top of what the Ministry of Local Government had done. This is the time, and then I will open up.

2.44

THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Jackson Kafuuzi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. This is my maiden speech – *(Laughter)* - for today. I had not yet finished.

Mr Speaker and honourable members, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to make this statement on the Programme for the Conduct of Elections of Administrative Units, Councils, specifically LC I, LC II, and Women Councils and Committees.

The term of office of the Administrative Unit Councils and Women Councils and Women Committees expired on 23 June, 2026. The Government has, since 10 July, 2023, been extending the term of office of Administrative Unit Councils and Women Councils and Committees for a period not exceeding 180 days at a time, in accordance with Regulation 12D of the Local Government Council Regulations, specified in Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act, Chapter 138.

I therefore wish to brief this august House on the key activities, dates, and arrangements under the electoral programme scheduled by the Electoral Commission.

One, verification of residence and compilation of registers. The Electoral Commission appointed Monday, 6th July to 10th July, 2026 as a period for registration of willing village residents who intend to participate in the Administrative Unit Council elections at the village level, that is, this week ending tomorrow.

During the same period, the Commission is compiling the village women's council register for the purposes of conducting elections of women's councils and committees.

The Commission has urged all eligible and willing residents to appear in person at the

designated registration centres within their respective village or cell of residence to register or update their particulars before the close of the exercise on Friday, 10th July 2026.

For emphasis, the registration exercise covers the following:

- a) The compilation of village council general register for purposes of electing the LC1 Chairperson and approving members of the village executive committee;
- b) The compilation of the village women's council register for purposes of electing village women's committees;
- c) The registration of willing village residents and willing women residents in separate register books provided by the Electoral Commission;
- d) The registration of willing women residents in both registers to enable them to participate in both elections.

Mr Speaker, I notice the statement is not yet uploaded, but I handed it over.

The registration exercise is free of charge and is conducted from 7.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. on each appointed day.

A person qualifies to be registered in the village council register if that person:

- a) is a resident of Uganda;
- b) is ordinarily resident in the village of registration;
- c) is 18 years of age or above at the time of registration; and
- d) is willing to be a member of the village council.

For the village women's council register, a person must be a female, a citizen of Uganda, 18 years of age or above, and ordinarily a resident in the village of registration.

A person appearing for registration is required to provide the following particulars to the village election officer:

- a) names;
- b) National Identification Card, National Identification Number (NIN);

- c) Age;
- d) Gender;
- e) Village of residence.

Display of voters' registers

The display of the village council register and the village women's council register will be conducted from the 13th to 14th of July 2026.

The display of the registers shall commence at 8.00 a.m. and end at 6.00 p.m. at a designated public or open place in the respective village.

During the display period, voters are urged to turn up and verify the correctness of their particulars, including names, NIN, or application number, age, gender and village of residence.

Residents are further urged to report to the village election official the following categories of persons for removal from the register:

- a) The deceased;
- b) The underage; and
- c) Those who do not reside in the village.

Village women's committees: composition, nomination, campaigns, and polling.

The village women's committees shall comprise five members, namely:

- (a) Chairperson;
- (b) Vice Chairperson;
- (c) the Secretary;
- (d) Secretary for finance.

The Electoral Commission has appointed 15th to 19th of July 2026, as the dates for nomination of candidates for election to the village women's committees.

The nominations shall be conducted at the respective subcounty, town council, or municipal division headquarters by the subcounty election official from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on each of the appointed days. In the case of cities, nomination shall be conducted at the respective wards.

For emphasis -

- a) an aspiring candidate for any of the village women's committees must be female. Do I need to over-emphasise that? Must be female, ordinarily resident in the village, a citizen of Uganda, and aged between 18 and above;
- b) an aspiring candidate must be registered on the village women's council register;
- c) no academic qualifications are required; and
- d) no nomination fee is required.

Campaign meetings for the village women's committee elections shall be held for three days from the 20th to 22nd July 2026. The campaign meetings or public rallies shall be held between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on each campaign day.

The Electoral Commission has appointed Thursday, 23rd July 2026, as the polling day for the election of the five members of village women's committees.

The polling shall take place in a public or open place within the village and shall be by voters lining up behind the nominated candidates, their respective portraits, representatives, or symbols in accordance with Section 123 of the Local Government Act.

Election of parish or ward to national level for women council committees

The parish or ward women's council shall consist of all members of the village women's committees in the parish or ward.

The subcounty, town, or division women's council, which shall constitute the electoral college at the level, shall consist of members of the parish/ward women's committees in the subcounty, town council, division and a representative of women with disabilities elected from among women with disabilities in the subcounty, town council, or division through their structures.

The district or city women's council, which shall constitute the electoral college at that level, shall consist of the chairpersons of the

subcounty, town, or division women's councils and a representative of women with disabilities elected from among women with disabilities in the district or city through their structures.

The election of executive committee members from the parish or ward level to the national level shall be conducted in accordance with the programme attached as Appendix B to this statement. I will read through.

The issuance of nomination forms to aspiring candidates from the parish or ward level to the national level shall take place alongside the display of the respective Electoral College registers.

Composition of village or LCI Executive Committee

Each village or LCI shall have an Executive Committee consisting of 11 members:

- a) Chairperson;
- b) Vice-Chairperson, who shall also be the Secretary for Children Welfare;
- c) General Secretary;
- d) Secretary for Information, Education and Mobilisation;
- e) Secretary for Security;
- f) Secretary for Finance;
- g) Secretary for Production and Environmental Protection;
- h) Secretary for Youths;
- i) Secretary for Women, who shall also be the Public Health Coordinator;
- j) Secretary for Persons with Disability; and
- k) Secretary for the Council of Older Persons.

Nomination of candidates for village or LCI Chairpersons

The Electoral Commission has appointed 15th to 19th July, 2026 as the dates for nomination of candidates for election as village or LCI chairpersons. The nominations shall be conducted at the respective subcounty, town council or municipal division headquarters by the parish election official from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on each of the appointed days.

These elections shall be conducted under the multiparty political dispensation. Political parties and organisations are therefore urged to prepare accordingly. Aspiring candidates for election as village or LCI chairperson may collect nomination forms from the parish election official of the parish in which the village is located from 9th to 14th July, 2026.

An aspiring candidate for village or LCI chairperson must be a citizen of Uganda, aged 18 years and above, a resident of the village where he or she intends to stand, and registered on the respective village council register. No academic qualifications are required for election as village or LCI chairperson, and no nomination fee is required.

Campaigns and polling for LCI Chairperson

Campaign meetings for election of village or LCI chairpersons shall be held for eight days from 20th to 27th July, 2026. The campaign meetings or public rallies shall be conducted from 7.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. on each campaign day.

Campaigns shall be conducted and limited to the village of the respective candidate. No candidate shall be permitted to hold physical campaigns outside or beyond his or her village.

Polling for the election of a village or LCI chairperson shall take place on Tuesday, 28 July, 2026 in a public or open place within the village, commencing at 7.00 a.m. and ending at 7.00 p.m. The election shall be conducted by voters lining up behind nominated candidates, their respective portraits or symbols, in accordance with Section 123 of the Local Governments Act.

For clarity, the following programmes shall guide the voting day:

- i) 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.: Assembly and verification of voters by the village election official or presiding officer.
- ii) 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.: Voter education and briefing of voters on voting procedures by the village election official or presiding officer.

- iii) 11.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.: Voting by the electorate lining up and counting of votes.
- iv) 11.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.: Filling of Form EC10 and declaration of Chairpersons-elect.
- v) 12.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.: Nomination and approval of Executive Committee members by the Village Council and filling of Form EC11.

The following members of the Village Executive Committee shall be nominated by the elected village chairman from among members of the Council present and approved by the Council, one by one, by show of hands:

- a) Vice-Chairperson, who shall be the Secretary for Children Welfare;
- b) General Secretary;
- c) Secretary for Information, Education and Mobilisation;
- d) Secretary for Security;
- e) Secretary for Finance, and
- f) Secretary for Production and Environmental Protection.

The following members shall join the Village Executive Committee by virtue of having been elected chairpersons of their respective Village Committees for Special Interest Groups:

- a) Chairperson of the Village Youth Council, who shall be Secretary for Youths;
- b) Chairperson of the Village Women's Council, who shall be the Secretary for Women and also the Public Health Coordinator;
- c) Chairperson of the organisation for Persons with Disabilities at the village level, who shall be Secretary for Persons with Disabilities Affairs; and
- d) Chairperson of the Village Council of Older Persons, who shall be the Secretary for the Council of Older Persons.

Election of Parish/Ward or LCII Chairperson and Executive Committee Members

Members of the Village Executive Committees in the respective parish or ward shall constitute the Parish Council for the purpose of electing the

parish or ward LCII chairperson. The election of the parish or ward LCII chairperson and approval of the Parish Executive Committee members shall be conducted in accordance with the following programme:

1. Compilation of parish/ward LCII voters' register – 29 July 2026.
2. Display of parish/ward voters' register - 30th to 31st July, 2026.
3. Nomination of candidates for LCII - 3 August 2026.
4. Campaigns for parish LCII Chairperson - 4th to 9th August, 2026.
5. Polling day for election of parish/ward LCII Chairperson - 10 August 2026.

The issuance of nomination forms to aspiring candidates for parish or ward LCII chairpersons shall take place alongside the display exercise, scheduled for 30th to 31st July, 2026.

Compliance with the Law and Electoral Guidelines

The Electoral Commission has issued comprehensive guidelines to enable stakeholders to participate in the entire electoral programme. The programme is progressive in nature, moving from the village to the parish level for administrative units and from the village to the national level for Women Council committees.

I therefore urge all aspiring candidates, political parties, organisations, voters and stakeholders to acquaint themselves with the relevant laws and guidelines to appreciate their respective roles and responsibilities before, during and after the elections.

Facilitation of Ad hoc Election Officials

The following is the payment schedule for the ad hoc election officials handling the electoral process:

- a) Sub-county Election Official is Shs 546,433 per month. This one is deployed for two months because the exercise is for July and August 2026 *-(Interjections)-* So Shs 546,433 per month.
- b) Parish Election Official is paid Shs 288,125 per month for two months.
- c) Village Election Official (VEO), who does the registration and the display of the register, is paid Shs 10,000 per day for five days, which is Shs 50,000 per person during registration. The VEO is then paid Shs 10,000 per day for three days during the display exercise.
- d) The Presiding Officer is paid Shs 30,000.
- e) The Polling Assistant or Enumerator is paid Shs 20,000.
- f) The Election Orderly Officer is paid Shs 20,000.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, Government remains committed to ensuring that the elections of Administrative Unit Councils and Women Councils and Committees are conducted in accordance with the law and the programme issued by the Electoral Commission.

I therefore urge all Ugandans to participate in this electoral programme peacefully, responsibly, and in accordance with applicable laws and guidelines. This will ensure smooth and lawful, orderly elections.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, the Deputy Attorney-General. We are going to debate. I will pick a maximum of eight people because these are straightforward things. We shall do it jointly. All of this is under the statement issued by the Minister of Local Government.

Before that, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have pupils and teachers from Good Hope Nursery and Primary School from Butaleja District. They are represented by Hon. Sarah Annet Logose and Hon. James Waluswaka, an engineer. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me once again in welcoming them. *(Applause)* Thank you.

Colleagues, also in the public gallery this afternoon, we have Mr Andrews Asani, a student

from Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School, Basingstoke, United Kingdom. He has come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming him. *(Applause)*

Colleagues, also in the public gallery this afternoon, we have members of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Mental Health, a cross-party platform established by Members of Parliament to strengthen parliamentary leadership, advocacy, policy action and accountability on mental health matters in Uganda.

The Forum is currently hosting the 4th Mental Health Awareness Camp at Parliament under the theme, “Advancing Mental Health through Policy Action”, with Development Partners and Stakeholders from Different Parts of Uganda. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)*

In a special way, I want to thank the Chairperson of the Forum, Hon. Rose Obigah, for the good work. *(Applause)*

Honourable colleagues, I will start with the shadow Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development –

Hon. Tebandeke has a point of procedure?

MR TEBANDEKE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is also my maiden speech as you preside over the House –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not on procedure. Procedure is not a -

MR TEBANDEKE: I congratulate you, Mr Speaker. *(Laughter)*

In the same vein, I call upon my previous candidate in the contest to support you, and we line up behind you, Mr Speaker.

The Order Paper displayed shows the Statement by the Minister was meant to be presented by the Minister of Local Government. I am aware of the collective responsibility. If the Attorney-

General presents the statement, won't it step on the rights and responsibilities of Hon. Nameere, the Minister of State for Local Government, who is available in the House? Is it procedurally, right? Is it with the consent and honest faith of my sister, Hon. Nameere?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Tebandeke, were you here yesterday? Since you were not, and you did not bother to follow yesterday's proceedings, I can refer you to the *Hansard* on why the Attorney-General –

To make it very easy for you, Hon. Tebandeke, yesterday the Minister presented – Hon. Tebandeke, can I have your attention? Yesterday, the Minister of Local Government presented a statement. The issues were mainly related to the Electoral Commission. We felt that in answering those questions, we needed the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to come in and give additional information.

This is an additional statement in addition to the one the Minister of Local Government presented. The design of the Order Paper had to remain as it was yesterday. Thank you.

Hon. Naluyima, followed by Hon. Paparu Lillian, Hon. Alinaitwe, and then Hon. Zahra. I am going to pick you, honourable colleagues, to balance it off.

3.13

THE SHADOW MINISTER FOR GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Ethel Naluyima): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Allow me to appreciate the ministers for their presentation on this matter. However, allow me to also draw attention to matters regarding Women Councils.

I also add to the prayer which the Minister of Local Government forwarded earlier. We really need public holidays. Let the 23rd of July be dedicated to the women of this country who make up over 51 per cent, as a public holiday for them to elect their representatives.

Mr Speaker, given that I am the Shadow Minister of Gender, Labour and Social

Development, I also pray and plead for the working population of this country. When you cross-check, how many of us have been able to return to our preferred villages to register ourselves? If you cross-check among us here, many of us have not yet registered. There is no option for e-registration.

I pray and request that the Electoral Commission, at this hour on this fourth day, re-plan how best they can handle the working population. They should make provisions for Members to register as soon as possible.

I also request that we reconsider the fact that we are talking about an ordinary resident. Are students in the boarding section also going to be considered as ordinary residents? What mechanism have we put in place to ensure that someone, for example, the Hajji who has three residences, on the polling day, only goes to one residence? During Youth Council elections, we saw some people voting from one area. Then, they are quickly rushed by a van to another area to vote. How are we controlling such elements from occurring?

Finally, Mr Speaker, we are requesting that the Electoral Commission keep a close eye on its presiding officers and election managers who are already moving around. Instead of staying in one place, they are already moving to certain residences. They go and ask for all those people they wish to enter into that register. I had such instances in Nakaseke.

Also, there are some electoral officers who have decided to hide the main register. We have had that happen in Makindye-Ssabagabo where they provide a simple exercise book for the people and decide that they will register them in it. We pray that we get a mechanism to handle some of those matters and that such are rectified. I beg to pray.

3.16

MS LILLIAN PAPARU (NRM, Woman Representative, Arua): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I have an enquiry for the Attorney-General. I read on one of the communication channels of the Electoral

Commission that they would be using the old electoral officers who were already trained and not retrain them. Some of these officers are no longer residents in the areas. They have moved on.

I would like to know what plans do they have? In case they pick new people and do not intend to train them, how will these people perform?

Secondly, I have a university in my constituency whose students they intend to register as members of the nearby village, not necessarily the university village. How can that be handled?

3.17

DR SYLVIA ALINAITWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Rukiga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to inquire about the timing of the exercise, especially for those of us who are highly involved in it. Is it going to be a public holiday? Can we be given time to go and supervise? These are very important offices, and we should not let them be done poorly. We need to make sure that we have serious people on the ground to supervise the exercise.

Secondly, these offices have, for a long time, been poorly facilitated in terms of the pay of the Local Council (LC 1) chairpersons and the place they call their office. Most of the LC 1 offices are run in people's homes, under trees, bars, alongside roads and so forth. Isn't it high time the Government gave some budget for rent or construction of a space to call the LC 1 chairman's office? Most of us have been pushed to build offices for these villages, and yet we are also financially constrained.

We need to respect these officers and give them a place to work from, so they stop working from home and risk their families' resources. For instance, when visitors come, they have to provide food and drinks. Also, it is to make the people who go very comfortable. My father was an LCI chairman for many years, and his office was a dining table, which was inconvenient for all of us in the family.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a very critical point, Hon. Sylvia, but I request that we limit ourselves to electoral matters as of today. I am sure the Committee on Public Service and Local Government has taken note of that. Hon. Zahrah?

I can see all of you are looking at me while smiling. *(Laughter)*

3.21

MS ZAHRAH LUYIRIKA (NUP, Makindye Division West, Kampala): Thank you, Mr Speaker. For the record, my name is Zahrah Luyirika, Member of Parliament for Makindye West and the shadow Minister for Kampala. On that note, I rise to seek clarification from the Attorney-General.

Allow me to draw the Members' attention to the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) (Amended) Act, 2020, in which Sections 38, 39, 40, and 41 were designed to work in tandem for the good governance of the capital city.

The Attorney-General has given a brief about the elections, and now we are in the process. He has talked about the ward and cells (village) administration, but skipped a very important matter in the KCCA Act about the street committee's constitution. That is, Section 41 of the KCCA Act. I request to understand whether the Government rendered that section irrelevant in the Act or if they intend to operationalise it in the meantime. If so, can we know when they can give us feedback such that that matter is not rendered irrelevant?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am trying to see if there is an honourable colleague from Karamoja - I know why I am doing that. I have a short time - honourable colleagues, first sit. We do not usually spend much time debating such statements because we are not going to make a resolution that we can extract. I usually want to do a representative arrangement, picking from each sub-region. For example, I have already picked from Rukiga and West Nile; like that.

3.22

MR EMMANUEL ILUKOL (NRM, Bokora County, Napak): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to also emphasise the registration bit. I lead a county that borders Abim, Kapelebyong and Kotido. There are villages like Aolio that are shared. Sometimes, you find that the LC1 chairperson does not know where he belongs. Therefore, he registers people from Abim and Napak, so we often find confusion about where it belongs.

My prayer to the Minister of Local Government is to find a way for them to open the border for us so that we can know where some of our LC1 areas belong.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you seen what I was emphasising, honourable colleagues? The uniqueness of some areas. Let me pick the honourable member behind Hon. Acon - yes, sir. I am sorry, I do not know his name, but he will introduce him to me. I am now going to pick the ones whose names I do not know. Therefore, if I know you well, then I am not picking you. *(Laughter)*

3.24

MR WELLBORN OTTOBER (NRM, Aruu North County, Pader): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Ottober Wellborn Odiya is my name. I represent – *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, you can see why I could not get his name much earlier - maiden speech, go ahead, honourable member.

MR OTTOBER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I represent the people of Aruu North, Pader. This is my maiden speech. On a special note and on behalf of the new Members in this Parliament, I appreciate you for giving us ample opportunities to air our views. Can we appreciate the Speaker? *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, Members are proposing that, if the law permits, we also need the Chief Whip of the “freshers” on the Floor of Parliament.

I come from Pader, and I would like to raise some important issues regarding the matter we have on the Floor. In my constituency, I have two parishes: Got-Okong and Omega. I also have 12 villages in Acholibur Sub-County.

I would like to express my appreciation to this Government for paying all chairpersons their honoraria. They all have official stamps, but, sadly, the names of these villages and two parishes do not appear on the Electoral Commission's list for elections to be held in these administrative units. It is my prayer that these villages and parishes be considered. Thank you.

3.28

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE, (NUP, Mukono Municipality, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have a few observations. For issue number two, it states that one of the requirements is a National Identity card (ID) or proof that you have applied for one. However, a village register is a register for residents, and this is an election for residents.

Whereas the national ID is for the national election, people would go and register in areas where they do not reside, but originate from. Some people do not have these IDs, and some have not even turned up to apply for them, but still, they are eligible to become voters in their villages. Therefore, what is the Attorney-General proposing for such citizens?

Two, I have observed that in this House, we have a Member of Parliament for Workers. At the district, we have a councillor for workers, but at the lower governments, we do not have councillors for workers at LC III or at municipalities, we do not even have a secretary for workers at the LC1.

I would like to inquire from the Attorney-General when they intend to give workers' representatives at all government administrative units.

Third, the issue of elections for women's councils. I have seen in No. 7 that, on polling day, the Attorney-General and the Electoral

Commission propose that voters converge at polling stations by 7:00 a.m. and remain until 4.00 p.m. I do not know what provisions there are in place to manage these polling stations, since people will be camping there for a whole day.

However, if we were consulted, I would have proposed that, instead of having the village council sit on election day, we hold the village women's council elections on that day. If we are given a public holiday, the women would utilise the same opportunity of having our elections on a public holiday; then the chairperson elected would be encouraged to organise for the village council meetings where they would appoint their ministers on other dates.

If you permit me, Mr Speaker, I would use this opportunity to give notice to this House under Rule 59 of our Rules of Procedure for a notice of motion. This notice is based on the fact that for over 20 years now, local governments at the lower level -the Electoral Commission has not been acknowledging the creation of new administrative units for a long time.

Where we have new districts, municipalities, sub counties and new town councils, we have very big villages which are not easy to govern. Whenever our people gather and resolve to create a new village, the Electoral Commission does not recognise them. Mr Speaker, I intend to move a motion urging Government to acknowledge and recognise the creation of new administrative units. You would consider something like an LC II. At parish, today, these are the points of service delivery. This is where the Government provides for a primary school - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Nambooze, time. You have given notice for the motion, and now you are going into its details. Why don't you bring the motion and I give you space on the Order Paper? We have an honourable colleague from Lwengo who was a parish councillor. Let me give him an opportunity, and then Workers' MP comes. A parish councillor is now a Member of Parliament.

3.33

MR EMMANUEL KIYIMBA (NRM, Bukoto Mid-West, Lwengo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Since it is my maiden speech, allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate you upon retaining that seat, as we are also retaining these seats. Congratulations. I thank our Attorney-General for the clarification he has given.

However, on the same note, I have heard that the registration exercise started on the 6th and ends tomorrow. Mr Speaker, as you see us here, we come from different villages, and some Members of Parliament come from far.

I am requesting that you adjourn Parliament early today so that we can drive back to our constituent villages. *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, when you say we adjourn, I cut you off - we adjourn. Continue and conclude your point. Do you want us to adjourn?

MR KIYIMBA: Not now. You adjourn the time for us to fix time for driving and we register ourselves in the village registers. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General will make me understand, I am a registered voter in my constituency. We have just finished the elections; you mean I must first go back to Mitooma to register? The Attorney-General will help clarify that. I had allowed the Workers' Representative.

3.35

MS FIONA NAKKU (Independent, Female Workers Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Through you, I seek clarity from the Attorney-General on whether the Government has undertaken civic education for the general public. This is because our constituents are calling us to know what positions are there. I request that there should be robust civic education on the LC 1 elections. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Amelia Kyambadde?

3.36

MS AMELIA KYAMBADDE (NRM, Mawokota County North, Mpigi): Hello. I rise on the matter of the uniqueness of my area, where I have an island called Buyiga, Mr Speaker. Normally, on voting day, the electoral personnel get there very late, people vote late, and sometimes it is difficult to bring the results back to the mainland.

So, I seek the intervention of the Independent Electoral Commission or the Attorney-General, through you, Mr Speaker, to have affirmative action for the management of the elections on the islands.

I rest my case.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us have the Member for Ntoroko and then Hon. Kirumira.

Now, honourable colleagues, I can see that many of you are really anxious. I don't have 10 microphones so that I can pick you at once. It is like a lottery. So, kindly, bear with me.

3.37

MS JENNIFER MUJUNGU (NRM, Woman Representative, Ntoroko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Attorney-General for the statement, but I would like to ask the Minister of Local Government a question. We have had a long-standing border dispute between Kabarole District and Ntoroko District. This border dispute involves a parish called Nyamisingiri, which has got five villages.

Mr Speaker, we have visited the Ministry of Local Government and met with the officials. It has been more than 15 years, but this dispute has not been resolved. Recently, when we were in the Ministry of Local Government, they promised to take quick action so that that matter could be resolved, especially during this time of elections of the local councils.

So, honourable Minister of Local Government, I would like to inquire: how far have you gone with that dispute over Nyamisingiri at the Kabarole-Ntoroko border? The people of

Nyamisingiri are eagerly waiting because they want this matter resolved before we go into the elections. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Hassan Kirumira?

3.39

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luwero): Thank you. Mr Speaker, any election period attracts violence. During our just concluded elections, we had many cases where goons were beating up people, polling stations were swept away and, in some areas, elections never took place.

Mr Speaker, our villages have a peculiar situation because LC 1 elections are very competitive. And as we speak, there is a lot going on in the campaigns at the village level. My question to the Attorney-General or the line ministry – the Ministry of Local Government – is: how are we prepared, in terms of security, to conduct the village elections?

Lastly, Mr Speaker, it is on record that some public officials are threatening people at the village level, saying that this election is for NRM. I was very happy when the Deputy Attorney-General mentioned that it is a multiparty dispensation and democracy. Now, if we believe in multiparty democracy and this election is for all parties, why are public figures threatening our people, saying this election is purely for NRM and that NRM people must be elected? I have evidence for this. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Attorney-General? The Woman MP of Kayunga was asking – (*Ms Nameere rose*) – okay, you can agree on who comes first. The Woman MP of Kayunga was saying that you have not yet paid the electoral officials for the 2026 elections.

MR KAFUZI: My OG, Hon. Nakweede?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

MR KAFUZI: She is starting from where we stopped. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: She asked: how are these ones going to work when we have not yet cleared the debts of the other people?

MR KAFUZI: Mr Speaker, let the minister for local government go first as I harmonise with Hon. Nakweede.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think it should be a national problem. It is not a Hon. Nakweede problem. (*Laughter*) Let us be quick. I have a maximum of seven minutes for this.

3.42

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Ms Justine Nameere): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for according the Ministry of Local Government ample time to dissect these matters that are very important to the people that sent us here. These matters regard the very last mile of governance for our people.

Mr Speaker, the issue of boundary disputes is very notorious. In almost every subregion, there are boundary disputes. However, this is the official position from the Ministry of Local Government. Whenever and wherever local government boundary disputes exist, they are handled in conjunction with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development conducts a scientific survey to open the boundaries, while the Ministry of Local Government handles the community perspective of the conflict and public engagement.

The Government remains committed to ensuring an amicable and lawful resolution of such disputes.

Permit me, Mr Speaker, to inform you that the senior minister, Hon. Balaam Barugahara, and I are planning to write to all Members of Parliament to request that they inform us of such disputes – including those involving Parish Development Model committees – so that we

can resolve them accordingly. Many of them have been ongoing for a while. The previous administration keeps mentioning them, but the physical engagement on the ground sometimes does not come to light.

So, honourable members, you are going to hear from us officially. For some who had already communicated to us before today's communication, the senior minister is on the ground, besides resolving issues of corruption, also engaging with and addressing boundary disputes. We actually have a meeting tomorrow for the Bugisu subregion, at 2:00 p.m., and part of the agenda is boundary disputes.

On the issue of politicians intimidating candidates from other political parties, which my good friend, the Haji from Luwero, raised, I would decry that as well. Personally, as the Minister of State for Local Government and Woman MP for Masaka City, I have about five paid announcements on CBS. The announcements are clearly telling people, "Go and vote for good citizens to be your LCI chairpersons, no matter the political party." That is what my announcements are saying, yet I am a member of the NRM and even a woman MP on the NRM ticket.

Therefore, if the Minister of State for Local Government can encourage people to embrace good Ugandans, whether they are from other political parties, I do not think any other politician should be intimidating our people that, as a must, by hook or crook, they must vote members of a given political party.

I kindly urge the honourable member who raised this matter, this is a serious matter bordering on crime, to provide us with that evidence so that we can engage the political leader who is intimidating people. It is a crime.

Mr Speaker, the honourable Woman MP of Wakiso raised the issue of men with more than one wife regarding exactly where they would vote. With more than one wife, like Hon. Nsamba is saying, living in different LCs, he is probably an authority on the topic. These men will have to choose exactly where to live.

In law, the Attorney-General could back that up, but I think in law we have what they call a principal holding. So, the *Haji* will have to decide, okay, even if it is a Christian who has many wives, they will have to decide – (*Interjections*)- the Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs is saying the men should choose the younger wife. She is probably the younger wife in her arrangement.

The issue on the elections of LC I majorly surrounds the factor of residence. Where do you live? Where is your residence? If that husband chooses his principal holding or residence, he will have to be registered in that area. The Attorney-General will expound on what the law says about those who might want to vote in more than one area, but I suppose that is criminal. He will expound on it.

Mr Speaker, we have a major issue that I even heard Ugandans debating on the radio, and I welcome the Members of Parliament who have brought it to light in this House. The issue is villages with schools located in those areas, especially in the urban centres.

Now, we do not want a situation where a candidate is going to use the numerical strength of schools to unfairly overpower a genuine leader, an organic leader from the village. For example, I intervened in an issue in Kumbu, Masaka, where someone wanted to register students from a certain university so they could come and vote for that particular chairman.

However, some of these students come from far as Tanzania, Kampala, and Mbarara to study at that university. In one or two years, those students will be gone, and the village will be stuck with a bad candidate as a result of unfair numerical strength from aliens. Therefore, the village chairperson and the village leadership shall be voted for strictly by residents of that village.

Members of Parliament and honourable colleagues, I kindly request that in case this august House permits a time for recess or a break, please use it to pass on this information that the people who are going to vote for the

LCIs or the committees, both at LCI and II are strictly members, people that reside in that village. Most of the legal questions shall be answered by the Attorney-General, but I wanted to mention -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, can you conclude?

MS NAMEERE: I conclude by answering Hon. Zahara. She raised a very important question that many times is not addressed, and I can see even in this document it was not addressed, but I happen to have an idea. She is talking about the street committees.

Mr Speaker, the Local Government Act, sections starting from 50 to about 57, grants the village councils delegated power to appoint given small structures depending on the role. Some of those structures are to help in sanitation, *bulungi bwansi*, or security.

Mr Speaker, this country was thrust into indescribable pain when a person playing for the national rugby team was mistaken for a thief and murdered in cold blood. If the street committee of that particular street where the boda boda stage was located had an active defence secretary, an alarm would probably have been raised, and that activity would have been brought to a halt.

As such, they are very important in countering mob justice and in disseminating information related to sanitation. I would like to assure Hon. Luyirika that they are not provided for by the “law”. However, they are provided for under the local councils’ delegated powers. The KCCA Act also provides for them in terms of delegated power. It grants the village councils the power to form different committees for specific roles. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think what Hon. Zahara wanted was that, as the Government, you look into that issue, and that is what I expected. Confirm that you will look into it.

MS NAMEERE: Yes, Mr Speaker, we are going to look into that issue. I want to assure

her that even the *boda boda* stage leadership is exactly under that line of leadership of those delegated committees under the local councils. We are going to look into it. Please write to us and invite us to your jurisdiction so that we can work together to buttress these committees in your area of representation. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Attorney-General?

MR KAFUZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I noted a number of issues. The first was a suggestion that the 23rd of July should be made a public holiday since it is designated for women’s council elections. I do not have the authority to make that declaration. Through the Prime Minister, I will take it up to the Cabinet and see what comes back.

The other was that the Electoral Commission should extend the registration period beyond Friday, which is tomorrow, to enable us, the Members of Parliament and the working class, to go and register. Mr Speaker, we are speaking of ordinary residence, not where you come from. That means you are at liberty to register and vote from Nabbingo Bataka where you reside, despite the fact that you come from Mpara Subcounty, Kyegegwa District. It is ordinary residence.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, but Attorney-General, we expected the Members of Parliament to go and mobilise on top of – so, is it possible to extend, or it might not be possible?

MR KAFUZI: Mr Speaker, the extension would have financial implications. Secondly, maybe to combine this issue with the question someone asked earlier about civic education. The Electoral Commission has been running programmes through radio stations in our areas. We believe the people are aware. In all honesty, I do not think there is a Member of Parliament who needs more than 24 hours to travel from here to his/her place. It is possible that any of us can leave Kampala tomorrow, go to Moroto and register at their place if they think they should register from their constituency.

For purposes of this exercise, an ordinary residence is where you reside. You reside in Bataka Village, Nabbingo, that is, where you register.

In all honesty-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Attorney-General, continue.

MR KAFUZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My brother, Hon. Nsamba- The other question was - *(Hon. Oshabe Nsamba rose_)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, remain in your position when you are seeking a point of clarification. When you are asking - and at the same time coming for the microphone -

MR KAFUZI: Hon. Zahrah Luyirika indicated that in Makindye-Ssabagabo Municipality, someone has hidden the voters' register. We are going to follow up on that. I am glad you have brought it to our attention.

Someone asked, will the Electoral Commission recruit new people for the voter exercise? I want to read a schedule which I did not read earlier. It is just four paragraphs.

- (i) Recruitment of subcounty and parish supervisors was done on 25 June 2026.
- (ii) Recruitment of village election officials was done between 22 June and 1 July 2026.
- (iii) Display of names of recruited village election officials at parish/ward level was done on 2 July.
- (iv) Finally, the training of village election officials at parish level was done on 3 July.

The issue of students has been answered by my colleague. Students are not residents. We do not expect them to vote from where they are.

Will MPs be given a public holiday? Mr Speaker, I believe we will be given either a recess, depending on the administration of Parliament. That will be your decision.

Will the local councils be given offices? Mr Speaker, that is not a matter I can respond to at this time. It has a financial implication, but I will take the concern to the Cabinet through the Prime Minister and the Government Chief Whip for discussion.

Mr Speaker, you know, the good thing is that life is dynamic; things change. We tend to see new things and want to adjust accordingly. You have highlighted something new which we should take into consideration.

Mr Speaker, the issue of strict committees has been responded to.

On the issue that two parishes in Aruu North County are not probably gazetted, we will take time and find out through the Electoral Commission. That was raised by Hon. Ottober. If I understood correctly, that name means, "I have died well" *-(Interjections)-* When he is called, I was born well -

Mr Speaker, the Electoral Commission does not recognise the creation of new administrative units. The decision for the creation of new administrative units comes from the Cabinet. The more administrative units we create, the bigger the charge we impose on the Consolidated Fund.

Mr Speaker, when you create more administrative units - villages, parishes and subcounties - it is a process, and it should come from the Cabinet.

Another question was: has the Government carried out civic education for its citizens? Yes, we have been educating people through the media.

On Buyiga Island, Hon. Amelia Kyambadde said the polling officials arrive late. This is not just for that particular island and probably other areas, but we have taken time to train them. We believe that this time, we will be more vigilant to make sure they arrive on time for the exercise to be conducted smoothly.

On the issue of the border dispute between Ntoroko and Kabarole districts in Nyamisigiri Parish, yes, there might be a border dispute, but the parish is known, and the villages are known. Both elections in the village and the parish shall take place. Meanwhile, the local government will go ahead to determine where the parish falls; whether it is Kabarole or Ntoroko.

How are we prepared security-wise to manage the election? Earlier, when I read, I spoke about orderlies. We shall have security officers to manage the exercise. We have even set aside a budget for them. They will be paid for that day.

On the issue of public figures intimidating individuals or people, that is criminal. It is not allowed. We are in a multi-party dispensation. We are holding the elections under a multi-party dispensation. When I was reading the statement, I stated that you can stand behind your symbol and people line. At least all the parties will be represented.

On the matter of one with many wives; whether you have many wives or not, these are adults who make their own decisions. The question is ordinary residence. I live in Nabbingo, Bataka Village. I might have another wife -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it you might have, or you have? *(Laughter)*

MR KAFUUZI: Hon. Ethel, which one is your village? I might have another wife – *(Member spoke off the microphone.)* Ordinarily, they vote from where they reside.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General, conclude. I am sure you have done a great job.

MR KAFUUZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. That was it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Nsamba asked whether the chairpersons will take oaths in the local languages. Otherwise, the pain of the English language-

MR KAFUUZI: We will make a statement to that effect. We saw what happened during the recent swearing-in exercise.

Mr Speaker, someone whispered something to me about local council chairpersons who lose and do not want to hand over the stamps. That is another thing we are going to take up seriously. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next item? The Leader of the Opposition comes in before the minister. I picked the shadow minister. The Leader of the Opposition should always give me a sign and it is not automatic. I always wait for the Leader of the Opposition to give me a signal that he wants to contribute. Next item?

Honourable members, I need to urgently address the matter concerning the Minister of Water and Environment.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER ON THE RECENT CLIMATE OUTLOOK IN THE COUNTRY

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Colleagues, at 4.00 p.m., if the Prime Minister enters, I will stop everything and handle Prime Minister's Time. So I want to take advantage now for the Minister of Water and Environment to present her statement quickly.

4.04

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER AND ENVIRONMENT (ENVIRONMENT)

(Ms Beatrice Anywar): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. I am making a statement regarding the effects of climate change and the status of the weather forecast on behalf of my senior minister, who is still engaged.

Mr Speaker, I have a large version that has been uploaded to the iPads of the honourable Members of Parliament. However, for time reasons, I have a summarised version that I will present. Honourable colleagues, access the detailed statement from your iPads.

At the onset, Mr Speaker, I would like to notify the honourable members that we are going to put the members of Parliament on our list where you will get daily updates on the weather forecast. *(Applause)*

This brief has been prepared to update you on the weather patterns expected in July 2026 across the country.

My Ministry of Water and Environment, through the Department of Meteorological Services, produces weather and climate forecasts and information for various sectors, including aviation, marine transport, water resources management, agriculture, health, national defence and security, disaster preparedness, and other developmental activities, to support planning and decision-making for sustainable development.

The forecasts are generated and disseminated at different timescales, including six hours, 12 hours, 24 hours (daily), 10 days (Decadal), 30 days (monthly) and 90 days (seasonal), and other tailored weather and climate information depending on user needs. For easy interpretation and uptake of seasonal forecasts, especially by the farmers, the forecasts are usually translated into 35 local languages, depending on availability of funds.

Mr Speaker, as you are aware, Uganda experiences two major rainfall seasons, namely, March – April - May (MAM) and September – October - November – December (SOND). However, Northern and parts of Eastern Uganda usually receive substantial rainfall during the months of June-July-August (JJA). The two major rainfall seasons are separated by two dry periods: December to February and June to August in the southern sector.

On 28 May 2026, the ministry released a monthly weather update which follows the June – July - August (JJA) 2026 seasonal forecast. In the JJA seasonal forecast, we indicated that rainfall would be suppressed across the country during the JJA season, partly due to the developing El Niño (sea surface warming) over the equatorial Central and Eastern Pacific

Ocean. As a result, the rainfall recorded during June 2026 across the country was largely suppressed, as was predicted.

Rainfall outlook for July 2026

Mr Speaker, the rainfall outlook for July 2026 over Uganda indicates that Northern and some areas of Eastern Uganda are expected to receive occasional (on and off) light, isolated rainfall. In contrast, Central, south western areas around Lake Victoria, and some parts of Eastern Uganda are expected to remain predominantly dry. Overall, some parts of the country are expected to experience below-average rainfall during July 2026.

Temperature outlook for July 2026

Mr Speaker, the temperature is expected to be higher than average during the month of July due to predicted dry conditions, largely influenced by the ongoing development of El Niño over the Equatorial Central and Eastern Pacific Ocean.

What are the impacts?

Mr Speaker, the expected weather conditions in July 2026 are expected to result in several impacts, particularly on climate-sensitive sectors:

- i. Agriculture and Food Security. We are likely to have reduced crop yields, increased stress in livestock, and increased risks of pests and diseases that thrive in warm, dry conditions.
- ii. Water and Environment. The expected impacts include water shortages, increased wildfire risk, and loss of biodiversity.
- iii. Health. The expected impacts include heat-related illnesses, waterborne diseases and poor nutrition.
- iv. Social impacts include food insecurity, conflicts over limited resources and migration from one place to another in search of water and food.
- v. Economic impacts include reduced household income and increased food prices.

Advisories

Mr Speaker, in response to the expected weather conditions, the following advisories are recommended:

- i. Communities are encouraged to practice water conservation strategies. Let us use our available water sparingly;
- ii. Our people should promote efficient use of water for domestic and production purposes;
- iii. Promote public education on heat safety. We need to take shelter seriously because the heat will have a great effect;
- iv. Communities are encouraged to use supplementary irrigation for those with access to water resources;
- v. Communities are encouraged to use available food sparingly or efficiently. Maybe we can stock some if we still have granaries like Northern Uganda; that is, if we have the food.
- vi. We also encourage continued dissemination of early warning information to our constituencies and all Ugandans.

Future outlook

Mr Speaker, the outlook indicates that dry and warm conditions are also expected to prevail in August 2026. Given this, the outlook is for a dry season in August as well.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, the dry and warm conditions are expected to affect agriculture, water resources, public health, ecosystems, and the livelihood of our people. Effective planning and adaptation measures need to be engaged now to reduce the impact.

I encourage all of us to make good use of this forecast for planning and decision-making. This information should be used to guide rain-fed economic activities, that is, the planting season, to improve livelihoods and economic welfare in our communities. It should also be considered alongside other weather updates regularly provided by the Ministry through the Department of Meteorological Services.

I am happy, as I said, colleagues, that Members of Parliament, we have discussed with my team, you are all going to be put on the list and be updated daily.

Mr Speaker, my ministry will provide detailed weather updates for August 2026 at the end of July 2026, and release the seasonal forecast for September, October, November, and December 2026 at the end of August 2026.

Finally, the ministry appeals that we get supported with enough resources to acquire specialised equipment, to put in place a comprehensive system— those ones will be done, and I think when we are sorted from the Cabinet we shall bring it to this House, so that we are given that opportunity to acquire updated scientific machines that can give real-time forecasts to our people. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Colleagues, we are going to suspend debate on the item for now, because it is already time for the Prime Minister. If you read Rule 43, you will find it very instructive. I don't have much I can do about it, and after the Prime Minister's time, we can go ahead.

STATEMENT BY THE RT HON. PRIME MINISTER ON GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FOR THE SUCCEEDING WEEK, 14TH TO 16TH JULY 2026, PURSUANT TO RULE 28 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

4.19

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, pursuant to Rule 29 of our Rules of Procedure, I present the Government business for the succeeding week of 14th to 16th July 2026.

1. Mr Speaker, as I told you in the Business Committee, the Food and Agriculture Regulatory Authority Bill, 2026 is ready. I will present that next week.
2. We shall have statements by the Minister of Health on the status of the Ebola virus disease outbreak in the country.

3. And then a statement by the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development on the results of investigating or investigations into the recruitment company which allegedly lured Ugandans with false employment in Thailand. Mr Speaker, I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Right Honourable Prime Minister.

PRIME MINISTER'S TIME

4.20

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, as you are aware, our rules provide that we have written responses and those that are instant. I will begin with those that are written.

Question number one came from Hon. Tom Aliti Candia, Maracha East County, who said that some districts are surrounded by refugee-hosting districts such as Koboko, Yumbe, and Terego, and, as a result, refugees access public and private services in these non-refugee-hosting districts such as Maracha, Moyo, and Arua. On top of that, the non-refugee-host districts have a number of unregistered refugees settled in their districts.

His prayer, Mr Speaker, is that the Government change the policy and support refugee-impacted districts in major projects that benefit refugee-hosting districts. They also need to benefit from projects such as the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP), which supports social protection and socio-economic transformation.

Mr Speaker, this is my response:

Development projects under the refugee hosting windows are designed for all districts, cities and urban councils, transit areas and communities that host refugees, but these keep changing depending on our open-door policy. Refugees are free because you know that refugees are free to move. Where assessments confirm refugee settlement in new areas or districts, such areas are included in the refugee

programmes and both refugee-hosting and transit districts provide integrated services such as health, education, water, livelihoods to benefit both refugees and host communities.

Mr Speaker, transit districts do not permanently host refugees but provide passage and so funds are therefore allocated for health, education, water and other services. Maracha District qualifies as a transit district and is eligible for support. Government shall undertake an assessment of the current number of refugees in Maracha and take appropriate action.

Question number two came from Hon. Dennis Namara, where he says, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the people of Muhorro Town Council, particularly residents of Kyamajaka LCI, have been gravely affected by repeated chimpanzee attacks resulting in loss of lives. While the Government initiated compensation processes, tenants have raised concerns of being cheated and unfairly treated.

1. His prayer is that the Government provide assurances that the compensation process for affected tenants is conducted transparently, with full disclosure of survey and valuation reports and equitable treatment of all claimants?
2. And could the Government further clarify what measures it is taking to resolve disputes among tenants who feel undervalued and ensure accountability in the compensation exercise?

Mr Speaker and Members, my response is that the compensation process for tenants on land in Muhoro, Kagadi District was conducted with the involvement of all relevant Government institutions to ensure transparency.

Officials from the Department of Surveys and Mapping under the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development carried out a detailed survey. The Chief Government Valuer conducted valuations of all land and property interests. Those who accepted, signed agreements and were duly compensated.

For those who initially resisted, teams revisited and conducted fresh assessments with additional reports released. Some still claim that the values were inadequate. The majority of tenants have received compensation and vacated.

This demonstrates the Government's commitment to transparency, disclosure, revisiting disputes and accountability through the Chief Government Valuer.

I got the third question from Hon. James Ongu Tar, MP Kwanja North. He stated that the Rt Hon. Prime Minister, full mechanised maintenance of the 47-kilometre unpaved national road from Nambyeso Subcounty, Aduku Town Council to Inomo Town Council, all in Kwanja District and connecting to Teboke in Apac was done more than seven years ago. The road is now in a very deplorable state.

His prayer is: will the roads be repaired? If so, what specific timelines and milestones is set by the relevant ministry for commencement and completion of works?

Mr Speaker, my response is I am confirming that the above-mentioned road is a national road under the Ministry of Works and Transport, specifically under the Lira station. The Ministry of Works and Transport has carried out the assessment and found the road to be in bad state.

Maintenance has been programmed in quarter one - this quarter of Financial Year 2026/2027. Mobilisation is currently ongoing and works will commence on Wednesday, 15 July 2026. The work will include one:

- i) Grading the entire 47-kilometre stretch; and
- ii) Support gravelling or murruming, and drainage improvement works.

Question IV came from Hon. Peter Kiti, T'oo County, on the issue of escalating shortage of primary school teachers, which he attributed to the implementation of the National Teacher Policy, 2019, the delayed operationalisation

of Uganda National Institute for Teacher Education, the phasing out of Grade III and Grade V teacher qualifications, the closure of some Primary Teachers Colleges, and the need to restore teacher training capacity, recruitment, development, welfare and retention.

Mr Speaker, the National Teacher Policy, 2019 was intended to professionalise the teaching profession by raising standards for teacher education, training, management and continuous professional development. The review of the policy is due to the process to address the raised concerns, including restoration and expansion of primary teacher training capacity.

The Teachers Act, 2026, which was assented to on 21 May 2026, provides a legal basis for strengthening regulation, professional development and management of teachers. The Act also supports the restoration and expansion of teachers' training capacity. The implementation will be undertaken through the National Teachers' Council, whose establishment process has commenced. Government wishes to clarify that the Uganda National Institute for Teacher Education is operational.

Mr Speaker, the Government remains committed to ensuring an adequate, professionally trained and equitably deployed primary teaching workforce to support our human capital development. I beg to move. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. Honourable colleagues, I referred you to Rule 43 of our Rules of Procedure; it is important you read it. The maximum time you have in this session is one minute, and it is one question. Please, be seated. *(Laughter)*

The *modus operandi* for this is a maximum of one minute. This is the only session where I limit the Prime Minister in terms of answers. I would encourage you to write to her if you want structured answers. The Prime Minister also has one minute to answer the question.

I have Members who came early and registered that they want to ask these questions as matters of national importance. Do not mind. The problem is you always want to speak now and then leave me here. *(Laughter)* We are going to remain here together; no rushing. If the Prime Minister is tired, the ministers are here. You can see them. You are welcome, Rt Hon. Lumumba. You can see the ministers are here and they are ready to answer the questions.

You will forgive me; let me first read from the list I have, then I pick more from you because most of you are already here. I will start with Hon. Awany. She will be followed by Hon. Amaniyo.

4.33

MS CHRISTINE LANYERO (NRM, Woman Representative, Nwoya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise under Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleague, we are on Rule 43, Prime Minister's time. Shoot the question right away.

MS LANYERO: Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of national importance about the issue of elephants. I come from Nwoya District, which borders Murchison Falls National Park. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we have been having elephants terrorising our residents, the neighbouring districts and road users.

On the 26th, an elephant killed – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You see? Honourable member, switch on the microphone and conclude. Ask what you want.

MS LANYERO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me just wrap up my prayer very fast. Forgive me, honourable members. It is my first time in Parliament.

One, I pray that the ministry in charge expedites the electric fencing around the park area. Two, that the ministry enhances funding to Uganda Wildlife Authority so that they may

employ more rangers and buy more equipment to help them stop the elephants from coming to the road and community settlement. Three, the ministry expedites compensation for the affected people – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Madam Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, Murchison Falls National Park covers Nwoya, Pakwach, Kiryandongo and Buliisa districts. So far, more than 100 kilometers of electric fencing has already been done. The work is still ongoing.

Secondly, on compensation, especially those who live in areas with wildlife, once somebody has been affected by either elephants or anything, they need to report to the Police. Once they report to the Police, it is easy for investigations to begin.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam Prime Minister, I request that you use a maximum of one minute in answering.

MS NABBANJA: Remember, Mr Speaker, you gave her time to ask three questions. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Madam Prime Minister. It is just one question on elephants. The rest can get the detail –

MS NABBANJA: No, but I have to get it – she brought up three issues, which I am repeating. If it was one issue, for me, even half a minute is enough.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just respond to one question. We shall handle the rest later.

MS NABBANJA: Okay. Members, there is need for us to go through that process so that compensation can be done. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Prime Minister. Now, honourable colleagues, I am going to pick around two or three senior colleagues who will show how it is done. We will pick lessons from them. Yes, Hon. Eddie Kwizera.

4.37

MR EDDIE KWIZERA WA-GAHUNGU (Independent, Bukimbiri County, Kisoro): Mr Speaker, thank you very much. NIRA is a functional national body. However, sometimes, they are not working in 40 per cent of the districts. I would like the Prime Minister to tell us when NIRA will be fully functional in the whole country. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That was not more than thirty seconds. Madam Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, we do not have NIRA offices in only 24 districts. The challenge has been the Wage Bill. We need Shs 7 billion to cover the gap, which I believe we shall cover in the next budget.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Sekabira?

4.38

MR DENES SEKABIRA (NUP, Katikamu County North, Luwero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. DOT services was contracted to construct Luwero-Kiwoko-Butalangu Road at a cost of Shs 93 billion. However, to date, the road is incomplete. To make matters worse, a section of the road between Kiwoko Roundabout and Don Fuel Station, is carved off. The soil was excavated and the dust is too much.

When will this road be completed? What intervention plans can DOT Services implement to ensure that the dust is at least controlled? Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I traveled on that road three weeks ago. I found out that almost 69 per cent of it is now covered. The section of the road that still remains is from Kiwoko up to Butalangu. The contractor is on site. The challenge was money, which has been given to the contractor. I believe he will complete the work in the near future.

3.40

MS BRUCE KABAASA BALABA (NRM, Rubanda County West, Rubanda): Mr Speaker, Rubanda District General Hospital is being constructed by the UPDF Engineering Brigade. Rubanda District Local Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Defence and payment was made in full. The MOU that was signed has expired yet only 22 per cent of the works have been done. When will the UPDF renew the MOU to continue the construction so that the people of Rubanda get services?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker and members, the fact is, when we started with the UPDF Engineering Brigade, there were a few challenges here and there. They preferred to start with AFCON stadia because they had time limits. They withdrew most of the workers to make sure the stadia are completed in time. As you are aware, we are hosting AFCON next year. By December, all these other - I also have a Health Center IV from which they withdrew staff. That is Kissito Health Centre IV that is being upgraded, but I am aware they will go back and complete the civil works in those districts.

4.41

MS SHEILA AMANIYO DRAVILLE (NUP, District Woman Representative, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the consideration. My matter concerns the disruption of Nation Media Group, which was raided by armed forces on 28th June 2026. Up to now, we have not heard a statement from the Government about the raid and when they are planning to address the issue. We have thousands of people employed by that media house. Instead of rendering them unemployed, we are saying it is – *(Member timed out.)*

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I am aware that the Minister of ICT and National Guidance has held a number of meetings with the Nation Media Group. Now that she is here, can I request that you allow me to invite her to give the answer?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam Prime Minister, I request that when a minister is here, you do not need to walk over. Just direct the minister so that we save time.

4.42

THE MINISTER OF ICT AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE (Ms Justine Kasule Lumumba):

Thank you so much, Mr Speaker and Rt Hon. Prime Minister. It was a security-led inquiry, which was instituted by His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda.

We have held discussions, and we are coming to the conclusion that Nation Media Group was sold to Mirambo Holdings and Taarifa Limited. The takeover by the new investor is ongoing. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kinyamatama? Colleagues, be near your microphones. I do not want to lose time. Can I have a Member who is ready? *(Laughter)* Let me have Hon. Biara.

4.43

MR EMMANUEL BIARA WEPUKHULU (NRM, Bulambuli County, Bulambuli):

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. My question to the Prime Minister is about the people who have been resettled in Bulambuli Constituency. These people have been promised compensation for the last two years. They were shifted to Kween District without proper accommodation and clear no clear demarcation of the land that has been promised. What I hear is that there is about Shs 57 billion that was allocated for compensation. Instead of looking for land, which even has encumbrances and other difficulties, why can't you give this money directly to the people to look for land and other basic needs?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I remember that yesterday I talked about the same. I think the Member was not in the House. I told you that the challenge we have is that almost all

the land in that area is encumbered. When you find a large piece of land, it often has many encumbrances. I am the one who told you that we have Shs 56 billion to buy land – and it is not compensation. It is compassionate support by the Government so that we do not lose more lives. The issue is going to Cabinet on Monday. I will come back and give you an update.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member for Rakai?

4.45

MS JULIET KYINYAMATAMA (NRM, District Woman Representative, Rakai):

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rakai District is extremely water-stressed, yet since 2016, there has been a Kagera Water Project that was meant for Rakai and Isingiro. That project, as I talk now, is fully complete in Isingiro District but not in Rakai, yet it was fully funded. We want to know when that project will start in Rakai District.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is the minister for water. Next will be Hon. Anywar, followed by Hon. Kungu.

4.46

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER AND ENVIRONMENT (ENVIRONMENT) (Ms Beatrice Anywar):

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am aware of the project that the honourable member for Rakai is alluding to. Indeed, we have been doing a bit of securing, but the project is on schedule.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Anywar?

4.47

MR RICKY ANYWAR (NRM, Agago West County, Agago):

Thank you, Mr Speaker. We have a major economic road stretching from Gulu City to Moroto Town. It covers over 10 districts. The Government of Uganda has promised to tarmac that road. The community would like to know when the work will commence.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister? Is there no minister for works? Can

I request that the Prime Minister sits in the middle so that she finds it easy rather than having to move a lot.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, it is helping me to be fit. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh, very good. *(Laughter)*

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, that is a priority road. We included it in our manifesto, and the moment we get money – the designs are already complete - that road will be worked on.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kungu, followed by the honourable gentleman in grey.

4.47

MR SAMUEL KUNGU (NRM, Kigulu County, Iganga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The national health policy provides for at least one health centre III per every subcounty with a population of at least 20,000. Kidaago Subcounty has a population of over 28,000, but with no health centre III. I want to know from the Prime Minister when the Government will consider Kidaago Subcounty since it meets the threshold for a health centre III.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next will be the Member for Kiryandongo.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, it is true the policy of the Government is that we have a health centre III per subcounty and, so far, 1,780 subcounties are covered. We have a balance of 488 subcounties, and we are in the process of getting money so that we can cover the same health facilities under UgIFT II. We shall depend on you, Members, so that this work is done and everybody enjoys the benefits of the NRM Government. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I had allowed the honourable gentleman in the grey suit.

4.49

MR JOSEPH OGWAL (NRM, Dokolo North County, Dokolo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My issue is on electricity. My constituency

is in darkness. Less than 30 per cent of the constituency has benefited from the rural electrification programme, and my people are asking – they voted massively for NRM, at 82 per cent – why is it that electricity cannot be extended to Dokolo North.

At the moment, education is very poor *-(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, rule 43 requires you to raise only one issue. Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the Government of Uganda is committed to making sure that we take electricity up to the parish level in this *kisanja*. So, that district will be covered. Therefore, I direct that the Ministry for Energy and Mineral Development goes to that district to ascertain the gaps that are there and then we see how to handle them.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kiryandongo, followed by the Member for Rwampara.

4.51

MS JOVIA KATUHIIME (NRM, District Woman Representative, Kiryandongo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Kiryandongo District is hosting close to 200,000 refugees, especially the Nuer Tribe and the South Sudanese have caused insecurity in Kiryandongo District, especially Bweyale Town Council.

I would like to report that 50 cases have been reported to the Police by the Office of the Prime Minister. This year, in May, over 10 people were killed.

My prayer is for the Government to provide Kiryandongo District, especially Bweyale Town Council, with an army detachment to - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, will you be able to give Bweyale an army detach? *(Laughter)* You have the power.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, security is paramount for every Ugandan. Therefore, I will conduct a meeting with the Defence Ministry and Veteran Affairs, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, to ascertain whether the threat needs a police post or a detach. That will depend on how the situation will be assessed.

4.52

MS KANSIIME ANNAH (NRM, District Woman Representative, Rwampara): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mine is a simple one to the Prime Minister. In my district, at the beginning of this year, we got a disaster which destroyed schools and property of the people – crops and homesteads. The district wrote to the Ministry of Refugees and Disaster and Preparedness on the 12th of February. It is now almost eight months, and they have not received any response.

I want to know how long it takes for the Ministry of Refugees and Disaster Preparedness to rescue the people.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should not ask how long it takes. Ask the Prime Minister to deliver on what you need.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, it is true we got reports that the district of Rwampara got a problem – but we got this through Parliament. The district delayed sending a request through the necessary departments, up to the Permanent Secretary (PS) – from the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), who is the chairperson of the disaster committee in the district. We received this letter around April, and you are aware that that was almost a transitional period. But now we are back in the office; we are going to handle that issue.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I will be sorry, since we are moving fast, I might not get your names quickly. Yes, I had allowed the honourable lady, then my brother who represent persons with disabilities

4.54

MS EUNICE NAMATENDE (NRM, Woman Representative, Bugiri): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and congratulations. My question to the Prime Minister is: I have a bridge in Bugiri District that connects Bugiri to Butaleja. The Government of Uganda promised to work on that road 30 years ago. Recently, I visited the bridge. They had only worked on it 50 per cent, they abandoned it with the materials, and nothing is taking place. I request that the Prime Minister comes in and answer that, and then the Government takes action.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, that is a strategic bridge. I direct the Minister of Works and Transport to go to Bugiri specifically for that bridge, come up with a report of what happened, get an answer, and act on it immediately.

4.56

MR ROBERT SSEWAGUDDE (NRM, PWD Representative, Central): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to get data from the ministry for gender, about the Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women Enterprises (GROW) project. My concern is, women with disabilities have never benefited from that project. Can we get data from the ministry for gender through the Prime Minister?

4.57

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (MS Jacqueline Mbabazi): Mr Speaker, right now, we are looking into the GROW project. The GROW project has \$20 million to be spent by December next year. We are working on it very quickly and we shall include PWDs. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I also request the ministry to prepare a statement on GROW to update these Members because we should be operating across the country.

MS MBABAZI: Okay, Mr Speaker.

4.58

DR TOM ALITI (NRM, Maracha East, Maracha): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am now the Chairman of the District Roads Committee for Maracha District. Maracha District shares 40 kilometres of the national, international, and security road with the Democratic Republic of Congo. That road, for many years, was being maintained by the District Road Fund yet it is both a national and international road.

This year, when I became chairman, I said we shall not finance the maintenance of that road. I would like to request that the Ministry of Works and Transport take over the maintenance of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)-Maracha road, effective this financial year.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is our Vice Chairperson, Committee on Budget, and congratulations.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, my brother from Maracha has already directed. So, it is simple for me to transfer that direction to the works ministry for action.

4.59

MS MASTULA NAMATOVU (NRM, Woman Representative, Kamuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My concern is on the issue of the stalled development of the modern markets that the Government had started on for all municipalities. Now that there is the issue of the trade order implementation, many have been displaced, but without an alternative space for them. When are we getting the modern markets for municipalities that did not get an opportunity, like Kamuli, and Iganga?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Local Government? Honourable colleagues, I am now going this side, so this side you can be seated. I will come back to you later. That is how I do. I have to balance both sides.

4.59

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Ms Justine Nameere):

Mr Speaker, there are 20 new markets that are underway. So, many of the municipalities and

divisions, especially the urban centres - though the divisions that do not have markets - have been slotted to get markets. However, the sub counties that have not yet been authorised to officiate as administrative units are not part of them. There is a moratorium from Cabinet on new administrative units - Government is concentrating on – *(Member timed out.)*

5.00

MR EDWARD MAKMOT (NRM, Agago County, Agago): Mr Speaker, in the Greater North, there is looming famine And we have reports that some people are already starving and so there is eminent threat of death. What emergency plan does the Government have to avert this potential loss of life due to famine?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, like I told you when we were in the Business Committee, we already have a problem of famine in Karamoja because for them, since April, they have not seen a drop of water or rain. We are currently handling Karamoja and the neighbouring districts.

We have already prepared a cabinet paper, which is on the agenda for Monday. But now that I have got this information, I will also inform the Cabinet that the problem is bigger. However, in our assessment, we are saying that the Ministry of Agriculture and Local Government - we are going to have a meeting and can see how the country can quickly procure seeds.

5.02

MR STEVEN SHYAKA (NRM, Entebbe Municipality, Wakiso): Mr Speaker, our children are dropping out after Primary Seven in Kigungu Ward. We do not have a nearby Government Secondary School; the students have to walk over 12 kilometres. The other thing we are seeing, the fishermen in Kigungu, Bugonga, Guda, Nakiwogo, are having a challenge with the Shs 12 million or Shs 8-million boat or gears, the engines, and proper nets.

I would recommend that the Government considers a special support window for fishing communities just like PDM and *Emyooga*.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, we got a petition sometime back and the Ministry of Education and Sports is mapping and coming up with an idea of getting land in Entebbe Municipality where we shall put the school. That area and Kawempe in Kampala. There is no school in Kawempe, I do not know where Hon. Madina is, but she brought a petition to the President and the President directed that we identify land where we can put up a school.

People in Kawempe do not have a school. They travel for almost 14 kilometres. Because they did not have a Member of Parliament who approaches us, and now that Hon. Madina is here, we are going to handle it. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kakooza?

5.04

MR JAMES KAKOOZA (NRM, Older Person's Representative, Central NRM): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have listened to what the honourable Minister of Water and Environment has updated us on, but climate change is affecting the entire cattle corridor. So, where we are, Mr Speaker, we are in a terrible situation.

My question is: is there any immediate measure that can help the cattle corridor people and the water-stressed areas all over the country?

Mr Speaker, in the next season, you might not find people in those areas. We started facing the dry season in May. Actually, what you read yesterday, the production of dairy farming is affected terribly. Is there any immediate measure between now and September?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, we already had a meeting yesterday. This came from Hon. Enos, the Member of Kabula County. He came to my office, and I quickly organised a meeting involving the ministries of water, agriculture and local government. We are going to have another meeting on Tuesday.

The few water bowsers in the country will be provided so that the communities - if you are a cattle keeper, you must have some little support in terms of fuel. We are going to provide a few water bowsers that are in those two ministries for you to survive during this period.

Mr Speaker, I did not answer the question relating to fisheries. I remembered while I was seated. Mr Speaker, the President came up with an idea of supporting our people; the fishermen, because to them, a boat is more expensive than even PDM. Therefore, we are currently organising them into SACCO groups so that the Government can give them support to buy boats and the right fishing gears.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. There is an honourable member seated at the back. He is being covered. He is seated at the back; yes that one. Thank you.

5.07

MR SADALA WANDERA (NRM, Bugweri County, Bugweri): Thank you so much, Mr speaker. Before I came to Parliament, there was a drainage system; a trench that was put up by the Ministry of Works and Transport in Idudi Town Council.

Mr Speaker, Idudi Town Council is on the highway going to Busia at the border. That road is so busy, and we get accidents almost on a weekly basis.

Mr Speaker, I talked to the ministry before I came here - actually, it was Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) at that time. However, they kept on promising that they would put it in the budget, which they have not done. *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you see the problem of giving stories? Here we shoot directly. Please ask your question. Honourable member, you were saying, "Now that you are here - *(Laughter)*

MR SADALA WANDERA: Now that I am here, I want to ask the Prime Minister to ensure that something is done so that we avoid deaths of our people on this road. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I request the Member to put that in writing to help me to direct the ministry to go and put that right. Idudi is a very busy trading centre.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. There is an honourable colleague on the frontbench; the first lady on the frontbench and then the Member for Makindye-Ssabagabo

5.09

MS JOYCE AAYOO (NRM, Woman Representative, Abim): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. My question to the Prime Minister is: on 15 May 2025, a budget proposal was laid in this House, and there was a debate on the compensation for restocking. Among the restocking districts, Abim was included in the Shs 80 billion. However, on the final list, Abim District is missing. My question is: why is Abim removed? When will Abim be reinstated? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the restocking programme is taking place in three sub-regions. That is, Acholi, Lango and Teso. I have been to Abim and Abim is in Karamoja so Abim was never on the list. That was a lie. It is my office that is directly charged with this responsibility.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, in the Prime Minister's Time, there is no information, no clarification. Those are your rules. Member for Makindye-Ssabagabo, followed by Hon. Tebandeke, Hon. Ayagalachi and then Hon. Kaluya.

5.10

MR DAVID SSERUKENYA (NUP, Makindye-Ssabagabo Municipality, Wakiso): Mr Speaker, one, I want to know the status of the allowances for the medical interns that are due to be deployed in a week's time.

Two, I want to know the status of the allowances of the senior house officer, and three, the status of the backlog of the interns for the cohorts 2024/2025 and 2025/2026. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Members, you are aware this question has been recurring in this House. We have prepared a Cabinet paper, which will be discussed on Monday. We shall come back here and report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Tebandeke?

5.11

MR CHARLES TEBANDEKE (NUP, Bbaale County, Kayunga): Mr Speaker, UPDF operations have intensified on the water bodies across the country. Section 13 of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act provides surveillance to be done by the surveillance unit.

The intensification is more on the number of boats per landing site. Section 121 of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act provides that the minister shall make regulations in consultation with the stakeholders for Parliament to approve.

Mr Speaker, I want to know the legal implications of such operations, the mode and the tool used by the UPDF to determine the number of boats per fishing landing site.

I also want to know when the delayed regulations will be laid here on the Floor of Parliament for approval. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, only answer one question amongst the three. Choose! That is how Prime Minister's Time works.

5.12

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (FISHERIES) (Mr Robert Migadde): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. This is true. The cases are rampant.

On the 24th of June, I had a meeting with the Deputy Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and the Commander of the 155 Marines Battalion on the same to harmonise our work.

As far as regulations are concerned, the Directorate of Fisheries Resources in the agriculture ministry is going for a retreat from 16th to 17th to conclude on the regulations. By the end of this month, the regulations will be ready.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kaluya and Hon. Ismail?

5.13

MR ANDREW KALUYA (NUP, Kigulu County South, Iganga): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. There seems to be a new strain of malaria affecting largely children below the age of 15. It seems this malaria strain is resistant to the current medication, and children are beginning to lose their lives.

Mr Speaker, through the Prime Minister's office, I request that the Ministry of Health comes up with clear sensitisation information that we can use as a community to understand ...Ministry of Health comes up with clear sensitisation information that we can use as a community to understand exactly what is going on and also give us measures on how we are going to deal with this problem. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, yes. The Prime Minister has assigned the Government Chief Whip.

5.14

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Ms Jane Ruth Aceng): Mr Speaker, that is true. The malaria-resistant strains were detected more than two years ago, and mechanisms have been put in place, first of all, to revise the test kits to be able to detect them. Secondly, various medications have been introduced. Above all, the Village Health Teams and the Community Health Extension Workers are sensitising the population. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ismail Kasule, and then Hon. Ayagalachi.

5.15

MR ISMAIL KASULE (ANT, Hoima West Division, Hoima City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. For the record, I am Ismail Kasule, the Whip of the Alliance for National Transformation.

Mr Speaker, I understand there are different projects going on, but which are not football-related, though they are to supplement the AFCON 2027 that Uganda is going to host together with the other countries, Kenya and Tanzania.

My attention is drawn to the infrastructure projects like roads, hospitals and hotels, especially in areas where the tournament will take place like Hoima, Masindi, Lira and Kampala. I wish to the Prime Minister to inform us on the progress of the projects that are not football related but are crucial for AFCON to take place. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, let me start with the hotels. You are aware that we are supposed to upgrade our hotels to meet the international standards. Shs 101 billion was put in place, through the Uganda Development Bank (UDB), and we are encouraging our hotel owners to take that window so that they can upgrade their hotels, especially in areas of Hoima and some parts of Lira.

Secondly, on the upgrade of health facilities, the Government is upgrading the health facility of Buseruka to a health centre IV, which is almost at the level of a hospital, so that those who are traveling from Kabalega International Airport in case of anything - we are upgrading Hoima Referral Hospital to meet international standards. We are also upgrading Masindi Hospital because we shall have a training ground in Masindi, which is also being upgraded. We are also upgrading another facility in Hoima City.

In Lira, we are almost at 80 per cent. We have Namboole, which is almost at 30 per cent and we hope by the end of December, everything will be in place. Let me tell you, Mr Speaker, Uganda is committed under the wise leadership of H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni to host AFCON in 2027. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, if you find it helpful, you can bring a statement to update the nation on the Floor. Hon. Ayagalachi?

MS NABBANJA: I direct the Honourable Minister of Education and Sports to come here with a statement to update the House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ayagalachi?

5.18

MR JAMALI AYAGALACHI (NUP, Bukooli County North, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, for the past three weeks, Bugiri Main Hospital has had no essential medicine, forcing many patients to buy medicine from private pharmacies. My question to the Prime Minister is: given the urgency of the matter, is how soon can you cause the NMS to deliver medicine to Bugiri Main Hospital so that our people's lives are saved?

Mr Speaker, when it comes to issues of health, this Government must know that we do not need explanations; we need action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I want to inform the Member that on top of the provision of essential drugs to Bugiri Hospital, the hospital is going to be rehabilitated, refurbished and equipped, but National Medical Stores (NMS) will provide essential drugs before the end of next week.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

5.20

MS EVELYNE NINSIIMA (Independent, Woman Representative, Rubanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Does the Prime Minister agree with me on the fact that the Muhanga-Kashinda-Kahararo seven-kilometre Road that was de-tarmacked four years ago should be tarmacked as soon as possible? It is on the Kabale-Rubanda Road and at the moment, there are several accidents. Actually, two weeks ago, as I drove back to Rubanda to do the Government programmes, I almost got an accident. My prayer is that the road should be tarmacked and if not, at least to have murram as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister. She will be followed by the honourable lady from Karamoja. Is that Karamoja? From Obongi, sorry. Then, Hon. Emma.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the road our sister is talking about is one of our priority roads; it is a tourist road. The minister will go down there and check on that road. There is also another that was talked about yesterday. The minister will go there and find out. My direction now is that he should go and work on that stretch.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Member from Obongi?

5.22

MS HARRIET JOYO (Independent, Woman Representative, Obongi): Mr Speaker, Obongi District is linked to Adjumani to Obongi using the MVA ferry. However, as I talk, the MVA ferry is operating on only two engines instead of four, which is a potential risk for the people given the increase in the flow of traffic.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I want to kindly request the Prime Minister to have a response as to when we shall be rescued or given ferry operation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Works and Transport is offering, Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

5.22

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (WORKS) (Mr Siraj Ali):

Mr Speaker, my name is Siraji Ali. I am the Minister of State for Works and Transport (Works). The Laropi Ferry is currently undergoing maintenance that is why we are getting these delays but it will be resolved in about three weeks' time. The ministry feels that the safety of the people comes first, so we are making sure that the ferry is well-maintained before it can be operationalised.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Emma?

5.23

MS EMMA LOKUBAL (NRM, Woman Representative, Nabilatuk): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have one request for the bridge to be installed on the Lalachat Seasonal River and Nataha River in Nabilatuk Town Council. When these rivers are full, we cannot access anything. Like I was seated here, I was not prepared to speak, but my people are sending messages, "Please, can you get up and raise the problem of the bridge?" (*Laughter*) I am kindly requesting the Government to repair the bridge. You know, sometimes when we raise issues in Parliament, we say we shall never wait for Karamoja to develop. We cannot develop when we are all struggling to develop. First, leave Karamoja to be handled.

Mr Speaker, I request the Government to work on the bridge of Lalachat - (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Rt. Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the honourable from Nabilatuk District – what I want you to ascertain is whether that bridge is on the Ministry of Works road, access or district road. From there, we shall take the next course of action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, I will request the member to write to you so that it is much easier for you.

Yes, honourable Member, then followed by the Member from Sheema.

5.25

MR DENISH OPIYO (DP, Nwoya County, Nwoya): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity. Mr Speaker, on the 16 of June 2026, we woke up with a sad news of the demise of two young citizens: the late Dennis Okot, aged 40 years, and the late Robinson Achire, aged 48. They were killed by Uganda Wildlife Rangers from Murchison Falls National Park.

Mr Speaker, this was just one of the so many unreported cases of extra-judicial killings by wildlife rangers. My prayer -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleague, you have been here listening. I request you to just go to the question. That long introduction is not helpful.

MR OPIYO: Much obliged, Mr Speaker. My question to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister is that a statement be presented to this Parliament -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, that is for me to decide, not the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has understood your point. Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, you need to look into the issues of alleged extra-judicial killings by wildlife rangers.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, these questions have been here for long. That was why we came up with the Standard Operating Procedures. Once somebody is attacked either by wildlife or they have been arrested poaching - because some of your people go poaching - they are taken to police.

Members, going forward, I request that we report these matters to the Police and then compensation will be done. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sheema, followed by Hon. Joan Namutaawe.

5.27

MS ADRINE KATUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Sheema): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mine is on food security. Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Sheema District and other districts that plant Matooke, are currently experiencing severe drought and our bananas are ripening at an abnormal time.

I would like to request - I heard an honourable member from Northern Uganda say, "*They are suffering from famine*". Can we have alternative markets? Can we have alternative ways of keeping our food safe, may be in the fridges so that our Matooke, in times of such a glut, we would have them stored or given to those markets or areas where people are suffering from famine. Sheema District and so many other districts are suffering from the same.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt. Hon. Prime Minister.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the proposal the member made is a long-term plan. I cannot deceive on the floor of Parliament that tomorrow we shall quickly get you fridges. But the idea is taken note of; it was a very good and welcomed idea. You know how we process our policies in the Government. That idea can go through the ministry of agriculture for further management.

However, as we speak now, by the way, I am a farmer - the fact is our bananas are ripening at a high speed because of the weather conditions.

Currently, I know in those areas where we grow bananas, people are using the bananas to feed their cows now. Therefore, I want to suggest that the business community in the country takes advantage of the bumper harvest in Western Uganda and take this Matooke to those areas that are currently not having food.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Joan Namutaawe, followed by Hon. Gilbert Olanya and then this honourable gentleman, the one in a black suit.

5.30

MS JOAN NAMUTAWA (NUP, Woman Representative, Masaka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. There is an outcry from Ugandans buying new cars. For one to secure a digital number plate, it takes one month and beyond. Can we know the cause of this problem, Rt Hon. Prime Minister? Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Works and Transport. Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, kindly help me, the minister did not get it well. Honourable minister, how can we have a quick processing of digital number plates?

MR SIRAJI ALI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My senior minister was here and he indicated that the backlog would be cleared in a period of two weeks; we stand by that position.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Gilbert Olanya. No, just a clarification. Honourable sir, you have just come and sat near me so that I can pick you. That is not how I pick colleagues here. Kindly settle, we shall see what to do for you. Yes, Hon. Gilbert Olanya.

5.31

MR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak County South, Amuru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, we have our gallant sons and daughters who work diligently in Somalia. Others are brought back and unfortunately, others were killed. I would like to know the government plan in paying the arrears of those ones who were not paid from Somalia up to now. And for those ones who were killed, I would like to know the Government plan on the compensation to those families. I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt. Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker in February this year, I was delegated by the President to go to Ethiopia and meet the African Union, because as you are aware, we had taken a long time when our soldiers were not being paid.

I am happy to report that the African Union and our partners have since supported the Government of Uganda to pay our people. I would like to get the names of those people who are affected, especially those who died while on duty, so that the process of compensation can be done properly. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Bukwo District?

5.33

MR MUZAID KHEMIS (FDC, Arua Central Division, Arua City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have a question to the Prime Minister. We are aware that on 27 of August 2024, this Parliament was given a report by the Committee on Quality Assurance on the new cities, and one of the key recommendations that they had put was the issue of low allocations that has got a correlation with service delivery.

I wanted to know how far they have reached as of now. This is because there is low allocation of resources for the new cities. What strategies have the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Office of the Prime Minister laid to address the problem of low allocation for the new cities that had -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just for record purposes, which committee did you say the report was from? Just switch on.

MR MUZAID: Government Assurance and it was on 27th August. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister for Finance on behalf of the Prime Minister.

5.34

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Ariganyira Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The question the member is raising is budgetary, and Mr Speaker, appropriation is a process, which starts with the Executive and ends with Parliament.

Therefore, the allocation we gave to the cities, municipalities and all other votes of Government was already approved by this House. There is a difference between what we need and what we can afford. I can say that we gave municipalities and cities what Government could afford at that time. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Bukwo District?

5.35

MS EVERLINE CHELANGAT TETE (NRM, Woman Representative, Bukwo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I was in the Ninth Parliament, and I was the Vice Chairperson of the Greater North Parliamentary Forum that comprised Karamoja, Teso, Lango, Acholi, Sebei and Bugisu.

As we talk, those other regions are being compensated but Sebei has been excluded. I would like to ask my friend, the Prime Minister, why is Sebei excluded? What criteria was used to leave out Sebei region?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister - or your friend can find you at the office. I can get another question from Busiki as the Prime Minister consults.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, for the cattle compensation, we are compensating areas that had a problem of Kony and areas that lost cattle during that period, and the earlier war.

So, this was an agreement between the President - because this compensation has been on for the last 10 years, under the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. Now, the President directed me to be in charge. Perhaps because we have done it quickly, everybody may think their area should also benefit. This has been on for the last 10 years. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Busiki, followed by Hon. Sowedi Kitanywa.

5.37

MR JOEL WAISWA AZALWA (IND. Busiki County, Namutumba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Namutumba District is composed of 20 sub-counties with Namutumba Town Council being the business hub for the district.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I would like to bring to your attention that it is coming to close to two months when there is no power in Namutumba Town Council.

Mr Speaker, businesses are closing and people operating machineries like maize and rice processing machines are almost closing. Therefore, I would like for the Prime Minister to intervene in this matter so that we – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister for Energy and Mineral Development on behalf of the Prime Minister.

5.38

THE STATE MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (MINERALS) (Phiona Nyamutoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We shall establish a team from UEDCL to go to Namutumba and take action immediately.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Sowedi Kitanywa followed by Bukedea followed by Lugazi.

5.38

MR SOWEDI KITANYWA (NRM, Busongora County North, Kasese): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, NIRA is currently issuing out national identity cards to citizens in the country, but they are doing it at the NIRA offices in the different districts. Unfortunately, there are districts where people have to travel like 200 kilometers to reach the district headquarters.

What plans does Government have to ensure that these identity cards are supplied at either sub-county or parish levels? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a countrywide problem.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker and Members, there are some questions, which I request members to write and one of them is this very one, so that we can give you a better answer to benefit the whole country. So after here, I will get in touch with him -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then you can answer on Thursday in written form. Yes, Bukedea.

5.39

MR DAVID BEECHAM OKWERE (NRM, Bukedea County, Bukedea): Thank you. Mr Speaker. As you may know, Bukedea District is the open gate to Teso. We have been having a challenge of River Sironko where water floods to Bukedea District. However, there is a bridge between Sironko and Bukedea, which has become a death trap. Almost every week, whenever people try to cross to Bukedea for business purposes, we end up registering a lot of deaths when people fall into water. We request the Prime Minister to see that this is taken into – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Works? I think works did not get the question well. He was -

MR ALI: Uh, Honourable Speaker, I would like to ask that the question be asked again.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I request you put it in writing to the Minister for Works and Transport, Hon. Beecham, okay? Thank you.

Honourable ministers, I request that we be very attentive because you are here to help the Prime Minister.

No, let me go this side a bit. I had picked Lugazi, then I go this side and on a selfish note, I will start with Mitooma because he speaks for me; I cannot ask. Hon. Arthur Kazoora has to speak for me too. We are starting with Lugazi, Hon. Arthur Kazoora be rehearsing. You are next.

5.42

MR RICHARD SSENTEZA (IND. Lugazi Municipality, Buikwe): Mr Speaker, thank you very much. Section 16 of the Political Parties and Organisations Act Cap 178, curtails certain categories of people from participating in elections. We are fully aware that we are going to have LC elections and in Lugazi, we have villages fully comprised of the police barracks and hospitals.

If we are to expound Section 16, UPDF, UPF, Uganda Prisons and anybody that is fully operational or owned by Government are barred from participating in bi-partisan politics. What therefore, is the fate of those LCs that are fully comprised of hospitals and police barracks? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Right Hon. Prime Minister.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker and members, they will go to the polls and vote the people of their choice because they are also citizens of Uganda. They have a constitutional right to elect leaders of their respective villages; they will vote. That is the answer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, before Hon. Kazoora comes in, from the Order Paper, Prime Minister's time should take one hour and that is why you see me putting you on pressure to be quick, so that I can get as many of you as possible because I am really feeling guilty. I am looking around and each one of you is looking at me as if I have not picked them. You see, everyone is sending me a warning. I can see those who are warning me. Some feel - it is not personal, okay? I am ready to be here even up to ten.

So, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I want to request, maybe we wait for the other debate on the statement of Hon. Anywar, since the Prime Minister is here with ministers and it is our first time and you have been having very many issues - to gives us more time together with the ministers and to continue receiving your questions. Until she gives me a sign that as a

human being, she cannot go on – very good. *(Applause)* So, colleagues, we are still here. Let us be patient. I am going to try my level best to pick you.

5.44

MR ARTHUR KAZOORA (NRM, Ruhinda South County, Mitooma): Mr Speaker, I want to congratulate you since it is my first time to speak. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, there has been an issue for the last 25 years; the Kabwohe-Kitagata-Rukungiri-Mitoma Road. The money for this road has been earmarked for several times in the budget and removed. During my campaign and several other MPs, I promised them that if I do not deliver this road, I will never go back. *(Laughter)* Can you protect me? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, can you protect Hon. Kazoora and myself, by extension?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker and honourable members, the Speaker is protected and the member are protected. The road that he is talking about is one of our priority roads and it is in our NRM manifesto. It is in our NDP IV and I promise that that road will be worked on. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I will do Karamoja and Namisindwa. Oh, I remember Hoima was among the first people in my office. Let us continue, colleagues. The Prime Minister is still here.

5.46

MR FRANCIS ADOME (NRM, Moroto Municipality Moroto): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Moroto Regional Referral Hospital serves all the neighbouring districts close to Karamoja sub-region. Currently, they are faced with the challenge of oxygen yet the UPDF Engineering Brigade, three years ago, was contracted to construct an oxygen plant. They abandoned it right at the tail end when about to hand it over to the hospital.

My kind request to the Prime Minister is to request the UPDF to come and at least

complete the project so that we can be able to save the lives of the people who are in that referral hospital. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, do you want - yes, the Government Chief Whip is under your office. So, it is the same team, but I want to save time. I can be getting another question from Namisindwa; they will answer them.

DR ACENG: Mr Speaker, it is true the construction of some oxygen plants has not been completed, but the UPDF Engineering Brigade has them in plan and they will complete them as soon as they are done with what they are doing currently.

5.48

MS PEACE KHALAYI (NRM, Woman Representative, Namisindwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to seek a statement from the Prime Minister regarding Namisindwa District. The looming landslide disaster, where over five hundred villages are at risk of landslides, and the five hundred villages have cracks. Due to the forecast of heavy rains, I request the Prime Minister to give me a statement on whether they are aware of these cracks, following the weather forecasts.

Equally, Namisindwa District is the only district in the whole of Uganda that does not have a Health Centre IV although the constitution promises health for all. Distance to health is like a death sentence. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. Hoima, followed by Buwekula.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker and members, I remember yesterday I gave you the reasons why we have not yet relocated our fellow Ugandans who are at risk in the dangerous enclaves of Mount Elgon and Namisindwa is one of those. Namisindwa Health Center IV or Health Center III will be upgraded to Health Center IV among those I have talked about under UgIFT II.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hoima, followed by Buwekula and Nyanzi.

5.49

MS BEATRICE WEMBABAZI (NRM, Woman Representative, Hoima): Mr Speaker, this being my maiden speech, I rise on a matter of national importance concerning the continued land conflicts and illegal land evictions happening in my own district in a village called Rwabunyonyi in Buraru Sub-county. Many people have been killed - two people were killed in 2024, and there has been destruction of people's properties. Even when the Honourable Minister of Lands came to intervene and gave directives, gunshots were exchanged that day.

Mr Speaker, my prayer to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister is to take *-(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, how are you going to help the people of Hoima with the land problem? I hear there were even gunships when the minister went to *-(Laughter)*

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I know the issue. That is an area where I also hail from. There have been conflicts in Hoima District because big people from here in Kampala invaded it because of the oil discovery. Because of the effects of oil, people have taken it upon themselves to grab land from the poor people.

What have we done? The Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development has been to that area many times. A number of steps have come up. The President was also involved. There is some progress. I request the Member, because the village called Buraru that she is talking about - I was there myself. Maybe there are other things that are - I think I will need to get in touch with my sister and we see what other new things have come up.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Buwekula, then Dr Opio and then Hon. Nyanzi.

5.52

MR DEDAN MUBANGIZI (NRM, Buwekula South County, Mubende):

Thank you, MR Speaker. There is another representative for Buwekula. So, that should be put clearly on the record.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: By the time I call you, honourable member, then I am already seeing who you are, and I know your name; I only chose to call you by constituency.

MR MUBANGIZI: Yes, most obliged, Mr Speaker. There is this scourge in the cattle corridor that all of us have seemed to jump. Yes, there is a dry season and it is true that we need water bowsers, but there is a scourge of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). I am aware you are a farmer, and this must be affecting you as well. It is true that in the last years, Government has been paying for the vaccines. Today in Mubende District, the last cycle *-(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister for Agriculture, on behalf of the Prime Minister? Honourable colleagues, you have one minute each. Do not go into details.

5.53

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (FISHERIES) (Mr Robert Migadde):

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Vaccines are available, but many of our people are failing to match the Shs 10,000 contribution. Please, let our colleagues talk to their farmers and mobilise them. Vaccines are available.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Migadde, I propose that you meet MPs from the Cattle Corridor. Honourable colleagues, the issue of Shs 10,000 started from here, because you heard people saying “we have the capacity to buy our own vaccines, but the Government is stopping us”. The Government then said: “Let the Government buy them and meet the cost of the officers in charge, but at least give your contribution.”

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you can give more clarification – but it started from here.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, you are aware that Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) has been affecting our markets globally. So, we came up with a policy, as the Government, to be the ones in charge of vaccines. In order for us to have enough vaccines in the country, we agreed that our farmers should contribute, especially those in areas with the outbreak. This has helped us to cover a number of areas, and we have not had a shortage ever since we introduced this idea.

My brother from Buwekula knows how we did it for him to become *-(Laughter)* – yes, he is my neighbour. We mobilised farmers and people, and he is now in Parliament. *(Laughter)* We need to mobilise our farmers so that we eliminate FMD so that those farmers can access markets. Otherwise, there will be a quarantine in that area.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, can I propose that you organise a meeting between the ministry for agriculture and the MPs from the Cattle Corridor to appraise them, and then they go and mobilise their communities.

MS NABBANJA: Noted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

5.56

DR SAMUEL OPIO (NRM, Kole North County, Kole): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The finance ministry has been implementing a crop insurance programme under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP), where they contribute Shs 5 billion every year towards the premium so as to protect the farmers from the impacts of drought and harsh weather.

In Kole North, more than 1,000 farmers registered for crop insurance in 2023, 2024 and 2025. They suffered losses and were supposed to be compensated. A small percentage of

them has been compensated, but the largest percentage has not been paid.

Can the minister for finance tell us what arrangements are there to ensure that these arrears for crop insurance are paid, and to increase the budget for crop insurance under the ministry for finance?

Thank you.

5.57

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Henry Musasizi): Mr Speaker, Hon. Acuti has carried this question forward for the last three or four years. I would like to request him to come to office tomorrow at 7.00 a.m., and I give him a proper answer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: But, honourable minister, it is for the benefit of the whole nation, including the people in Mitooma. *(Laughter)* Would you like to update the House one day about this?

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker, if I am to explain and give useful information to the country about the agricultural insurance scheme, which we are running under the ministry, I need to come here with a detailed statement. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I will be glad, so that we can all know about it. This is an interesting scheme. I had already allowed Hon. Nyanzi. He will be followed by Hon. Ogama from Madi-Okollo.

5.58

MR PATRICK BINGI (NRM, Butemba County, Kyankwanzi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will begin on a positive note by thanking the Government. Last year, they upgraded some health centres II to health centres III. Two health centres in Kyankwanzi – Kisala and NALI – were beneficiaries. We got maternity units. The projects were completed in December last year. However, since then, these facilities have not been operationalised because we lack equipment.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, when are we getting the equipment because when it comes to matters of life, even one minute counts?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, Hon. Nyanzi is aware that I presided over the official commissioning of those facilities – very smart and well-constructed by the Government. The then Minister of Health can tell you that it was a consortium: we built the infrastructure, the Ministry of Health equips and then the Ministry of Local Government recruits staff.

Now that we commissioned those facilities last year – I know the Minister of Local Government was supported to recruit staff for one year, who will be taken over by the Ministry of Health. Equipment is in the budget for Financial Year 2026/2027.

6.00

MR ISMAIL OGAMA (NRM, Lower Madi County, Madi-Okollo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to raise a question pertaining to the family of the late Hon. Abiriga. I handled this issue of the Abiriga family with you here when we were all backbenchers and I am glad you are back as the head of the House.

I would like to know from the Prime Minister - it is over eight years now - when we laid the late MP to rest in his ancestral home subcounty, there were about five pledges made to the family. Out of those pledges, only one was fulfilled within three months after the burial. When do you intend to take action on these unfulfilled pledges? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have hijacked the microphone, honourable member. Honourable colleagues, it was so sad. That corner, where Hon. Ismail Ogama is standing, is where we used to sit with the late Hon. Abiriga. So, it is a very painful experience – reminding us what happened to our colleague who was slain.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the family has been reaching out to us and I am sure to you, also. When can we help them out on the situation they are in?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, Hon. Abiriga was our brother. May his soul rest in eternal peace. I request Hon. Ogama, who is my friend, to come to my office tomorrow and we handle this issue. *(Applause)*

6.02

MS JUDITH NAGUJJA (NRM, Woman Representative, Buvuma): Mr Speaker, the Government approved the solar mini-grid project from which Buvuma is supposed to benefit. I understand work was supposed to commence last March. I would like to know what is causing the delay. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Energy and Mineral Development? When I call a minister, you should know the Prime Minister is the one who has guided me.

MS NYAMUTORO: Mr Speaker, I am going to get in touch with the colleague and substantiate the facts of the matter with more information. We shall definitely have action taken. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I had allowed Hon. Sarah Kityo Babirye, Hon. Mutekanga and the honourable gentleman here.

6.03

MS SARAH KITYO BABIRYE (NRM, Bukoto County East, Masaka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have a question. I kindly request the Prime Minister to update us on the road in Masaka District, which benefits my constituency as well. It is called Mitemula-Musansala-Nakiyaga Road going to Masaka District Headquarters, and Kyambazi-Kyanamukaaka-Lusakalwamese-Dimo via Mulema Road.

I also wish the Prime Minister updates us on the issue that we requested - we do not have any Health Centre IV in my constituency. So many other areas do not have Health Centres III. Thank you so much.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker and Members, I remember that word *Mese* yesterday. She asked

about that road yesterday and the minister gave the answer. So, I will go to the health facilities -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, she did not ask the question yesterday. I did not give her an opportunity.

MS NABBANJA: She asked the Minister of Works and Transport who was here.

MS SARAH KITYO BABIRYE: Mr Speaker, allow me to clarify. I talked about a different road when the Minister of Works and Transport was here, which is a local government road. We are, however, requesting it to be upgraded and brought to Central Government. It is a completely different road. The one I am talking about now is a Central Government road. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, now that she has clarified, I direct the Minister of Works and Transport, Hon. Siraj Musa Ali, to get in touch with Hon. Sarah Kityo Babirye and find out how we can handle that issue.

Secondly, like I already told you, we are getting a facility to work on the 488 sub-counties without health facilities under the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers (UGIFT) Programme II, once and for all.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Origumisiriza and then Hon. Mutekanga.

6.06

MS ENID ORIGUMISIRIZA ATUHEIRE (NRM, District Woman Representative, Kabale): Mine is unique but of national concern. We are seeing moral deterioration in our nation. Partly, it is brought about by uncensored technology and uncontrolled use of language. A small spark can set a great forest on fire. Likewise, our careless words as leaders can do harm and divide our communities.

Madam Prime Minister, – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Origumisiriza, the challenge you had was that you went into too much detail. Then, you switched on the microphone yourself. Our system is automatic. If you do it yourself, you will be cut off - no maiden speech. - I am reserving it for the State of the Nation. Can I request that for a question of that nature, you write to the Prime Minister to give a written response after consulting different Government agencies? Thank you, Hon. Origumisiriza.

I had earlier allowed Hon. Rwakoojo of Gomba. There are, however, those who are moving quickly. There are those who do not know how to fight the way some of you, honourable colleagues, move. So, let us have Hon. Robina Rwakoojo, the District Woman Representative of Gomba and then we go to Hon. Mutekanga. I am about to come back here.

6.08

MS ROBINA RWAKOOJO GUREME (NRM, District Woman Representative, Gomba): Mine really was on the Foot and Mouth Disease. People are vaccinating in pockets. As a result, the disease remains there. You asked the Prime Minister to hold a meeting with us. I am grateful for that. Thank you.

6.08

MR ZADOCK MUTEKANGA (NRM, Buhweju County, Buhweju): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Buhweju is closed again. The only road that connects Buhweju to DRC through Rubirizi and Katerera is closed. The road situation in Kasyoha Kitomi Forest is very bad.

As you know, the road situation in Buhweju has been terrible. In the past, His Excellency, the President, got stuck there. He walked for six miles. Later, in 2022, the current Prime Minister of Uganda, Ms Robinah Nabbanja, also got stuck for two hours. In 2025, the current Deputy Speaker of this Republic got stuck in the roads for over three hours.

Mr Speaker, the Buhweju people are waiting. They even had to – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Madam Prime Minister, that is why I am not going to Buhweju these days despite the invitation. The situation is really bad.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the fact is, the President of Uganda has directed that we work on the road that connects to Buhweju from this other side of Mbarara. I am forgetting the place - *(Interjections)* - Bwizibwera-Nsiika-Nyaka –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nyakambu.

MS NABBANJA: Nyakambu-Nyakashaka-Nyakabirizi-Buhweju Road. *(Applause)* I got stuck in Buhweju. The UPDF supported me with a helicopter to come out of there. Why? It is because the mudslide had covered the road. The President has directed my office to coordinate the Ministries of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Works and Transport to have that road worked on this financial year.

6.11

MS AGNESS KHAINZA SHIUMA (NRM, District Woman Representative, Bududa): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. My concern cuts across. It is still about the bridge. The district headquarters, which host Bududa Hospital is inaccessible because of a broken bridge that has taken years to fix.

Some of the hospital staff fear to come to work. Even the staff members who reside in town cannot access the hospital. Hon. Balaam, the Minister of Local Government, and Hon. Nameere, the Minister of State for Local Government, are about to go there. They are going to face the same situation. The improvised diversion is overdue.

Madam Prime Minister, is there any action that has ever been taken about this broken bridge? I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Which bridge is that?

MS KHAINZA: It is on River Tsutsu as you cross from Manafwa.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam Prime Minister? Oh, the Minister of Works and Transport is here. He is the one who should go there.

MR SIRAJ MUSA ALI: Mr Speaker, I would like to request Hon. Khainza to write to the Ministry of Works and Transport so that we can address this matter with the urgency it requires.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable gentleman there and the Member behind you in yellow. I can see the elderly colleague beside the lady, as well.

6.13

MR RICHARD WANYAMA (NRM, Samia Bugwe Central County, Busia): Mr Speaker, I urge the Government to address the issue of Busia Town congestion and prioritise the construction of the Mulwanda Border Point.

The congestion in Busia Town has paralysed local businesses, stifled cross-border trade and threatened human life. Accidents happen every other day. I seek your response.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: To get my response? *(Laughter)*

MR RICHARD WANYAMA: No, from the Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, Busia is part of my life. I stayed and worked there for almost 10 years. I know what he is talking about, and the President pledged that we have an alternative route. It has been a problem of money. We should have done this earlier. I am going to coordinate the Works Ministry, the Finance Ministry, immigration, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs so that we can put our heads together because the other side of Kenya was worked on.

6.14

MR PATRICK OBURA (NRM, Oyam County South, Oyam): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity. Allow me to draw the attention of the Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker, Oyam District is the food basket for Lango subregion. As we talk, the abandoned national road, especially the one connecting from Minakulu-Mitakyo-Kamdini-Loro to Oyam District headquarters is not accessible.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, Lango Subregion is supportive of other areas in terms of food. These roads are impassable. Trailers and trucks are stuck inside those subcounties. We call upon you to do something. Relatable, the road from Namasale, Ochero, Dokolo to Alebtong needs the attention of the Ministry of Works and Transport.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Works and Transport?

6.15

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (WORKS) (Mr Siraj Ali): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to let the honourable member know that the Ministry of Works and Transport is waiting for a budget release so that these roads can be rehabilitated.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I had already - the other honourable colleague.

6.16

MR GEORGE KASAJJA (NRM, Bulamogi North-West County, Kaliro): Mr Speaker, I want to follow up on the issue of malaria. In my constituency, there is an outbreak of malaria. For the last three months, I have lost about 50 people to malaria. Whenever they ring me, the issue is malaria. I want to appreciate the former Minister of Health for the research they conducted to find a new strain that is causing the deaths.

Mr Speaker, what I did not hear is whether the Government has come up with a new drug, which can treat – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Government Chief Whip is standing in for the Prime Minister.

DR ACENG: Mr Speaker, you may recall that in the last Parliament, we agreed to work on a malaria elimination strategy. In that strategy, there was the introduction of new drugs. There is what we call chemoprophylaxis, giving medicines to people prior. We are increasing the scope of indoor residual spraying and many other interventions. Therefore, all the issues you are raising, including the bed nets, have been worked on and funds are being mobilised.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Baatom, Hon. Eunice Otuko and Hon. Marshall.

6.17

MR BEN BAATOM (NRM, Dodoth West County, Karenga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Last financial year, the Minister of Works and Transport came to the House and promised that there would be procurement of road equipment for the 16 new districts. Unfortunately, the financial year has closed, and we have not received the equipment. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we need a response to that.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Procurement of new equipment for districts! Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development seems to have some details.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I presided over a function in the Ministry of Works and Transport when we provided equipment to the 16 new districts. I am wondering which district is being talked about –(*Interjection*) - we gave equipment to Karenga. However, there are those other two pieces of equipment that we did not give. The wheel loader and a water bowser. Those are coming.

MR BAATOM: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we received only a grader and a wheel loader. The rest of the equipment has not been delivered to the 16 districts.

MS NABBANJA: They are being manufactured in Japan. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am happy the process is ongoing and -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Eunice?

6.19

DR EUNICE OTUKO (UPC, Oyam County North, Oyam): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I would like to believe that the 67-kilometre road stretch that is referred to as the Ayer-Bobi Road, which is part of the vital infrastructure of the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) is still part of the AFCON works. I say this because there is not a single bit of work that has taken off on that stretch of road.

I would like to hear your commitment, on behalf of the Government. Is that stretch of road, which is the vital connection between Akii-Bua Stadium in Lira City and Gulu Airfield in Gulu City, still part of the AFCON works as scheduled?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the Egyptian company has already been contracted to work on that road. They are starting very soon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Marshall and then the honourable member from Kibale.

6.21

MR MARSHALL ALENYO (Independent, Jonam County, Pakwach): Thank you. Mr Speaker, Opak Rwot Charles, Abok-Pabok, Ature Brian today are at Hon. Nyamutoro's constituency in a hospital, caused by the crocodiles, which attacked them yesterday.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we were supposed to have a boundary opening exercise with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), but it has not taken place up to now. There is a big dispute over the boundary between Jonam County and the park, and it is causing a lot of issues. Even today, the crocodiles are attacking our constituents. I want the Prime Minister to comment on that exercise and the compensation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities is here to support the Prime Minister.

6.21

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES Ms Susan Nakuwuki: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank Hon. Marshall for this question about compensation. The process is outlined in the Uganda Wildlife Compensation Regulations, 2022, and apparently, they are undergoing review so that we can handle the gaps, which exist like the delays and the hectic process of verification.

I would like to inform you that by the end of the last financial year, which was June, the Government had already compensated people worth Shs 4 billion, and already Shs 3.6 billion has been approved for compensation. Therefore, compensation is underway and there is nothing to worry about.

Also, Uganda Wildlife Authority has done some work regarding the electric fencing of Murchison Falls National Park, which I know comes - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the Member's other concern was boundary opening between the communities of Jonam and Murchison Falls so that you resolve those disputes.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the ministry is directed to go to the Member's constituency in a week's time. We cannot allow people to be killed by crocodiles just like that. Open the boundaries and this can be done by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development. There is no way you can stop crocodiles from affecting the communities.

I already told you about the electric fencing; that more than 100 kilometres has already been fenced, but this has not stopped the crocodiles from attacking our people. Therefore, I direct you, madam honourable, when you go back to the ministry, to come up with an answer in the next two weeks.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, can you allow me to ask something along that line regarding the boundaries between the Elgon National Park and the people of Sebei and Bugisu. I raised that issue several times. When I was a Government Chief Whip, I nearly underwent *imbalu* at Mount Wanale. Those guys wanted to capture me, and they said, "Sir, are you sorted?" - *(Laughter)* - "Even if you are sorted, if you do not sort out our issue, we can sort you out another time". I said, "My goodness!"

The dispute on which survey to go with: the survey of 1963 or the survey of 1992 is a very big issue. If you go to the one of 1960s, you will find that the whole of Mbale City is part of Elgon National Park. The President had promised that if you went with the one of 1992, at least you would be able to protect the national park the way it is now. While we fail to sort it out, people continue to encroach on it.

Then there is Ruhija in Rubanda where the whole subcounty which is not even part of the national park - they said this is a national park. Therefore, in an area where you would have five-star resorts because of mountain gorillas, people cannot. Once developers come, they run away. I have been there with Hon. Musasizi, Hon. Kabaasa and Hon. Kikafunda.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you need to give this issue of boundaries with the national parks serious attention. You will solve many issues across the country. *(Applause)*

I had already picked the Member for Kibale *(Hon. Nabadduka rose)* Wait, I am trying to see who is smiling best this side. *(Laughter)* Hon. Kiruluuta and Hon. Elem, the one on the Front Bench; there is an agreement we made and I am going to fulfil it. I communicated it through the Opposition Chief Whip.

6.27

MS ANNET NABADDUKA (Independent, Woman Representative, Kibaale): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My prayer to Rt Hon. Prime Minister is, since I was born, Kibaale District has experienced land-related conflicts regarding

land ownership, land grabbing, overlapping land titles, and these issues have greatly affected Kibaale's agricultural production and peace for the people of Kibaale. We really need the office of lands to come regarding land conflicts in Kibaale.

People do not have anything to eat as they are being vacated by insecure landowners claiming that it is their land. They are being - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I was a Member of Parliament for Kibaale District, and I know we have historical issues of absentee landlords. Almost half of that issue has been handled, but we still have gaps. Where you see that we have gaps is because the absentee landlords cannot be located. Our great-grandparents made titles in 1900 and the 1960s, and other people who inherited do not know whether they have land titles. Therefore, the President is coming up with a new idea which may solve our problem.

However, remember we have systematic land demarcation. Already, over 6,000 hectares of land has been compensated, which we are going to give to those *bibanja* owners. The process is on, but it will take some time because of those peculiar issues. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development has been at it. Even as I speak, people continue to identify these absentee landlords and take them to the Ministry of Lands, which then compensates them through the Uganda Land Fund.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Nkerettanyi?

6.30

MRYUSUFKIRULUUTANKERETTANYI (NUP, Kalungu County East, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My issue goes to the Minister of Works and Transport. Previously, the people of Kalungu had been promised that the road from Lukaya connecting to Bukomansimbi via Lwabenge – This road mainly connects coffee farmers, and we know

these are coffee-growing districts. However, it has been named the dustiest road in the district.

Previously, all my predecessors had been promising the people that the roads are going to be worked on, but up to now, we have not gotten any remedy. I would like the minister to tell us when that road is going to be tarmacked, such that the coffee farmers - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of State for Works? Honourable colleagues, in this session, you can ask the minister directly.

6.32

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS (Mr Siraji Musa Ali): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to tell the Member that I will cross-check with the technical team in my ministry then we will have an appropriate answer for you. It would also help if you could put this in writing and drop a copy of the letter in my pigeonhole so that I can follow it up.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Elem?

6.32

MR LEO ELEM (UPC, Moroto County, Alebtong): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have two seed schools in Moroto County, which are in cataclysmic state. One is Agora Seed Secondary School, coded by the Government in July 2018. Up to now, no construction has taken place. I really feel bad for the girl-child in that school.

Secondly, Alebtong Comprehensive Seed Secondary School was put in the budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026 but one year down the road, no construction has taken place. My question is, when will the construction of the two seed schools start? Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Right Honourable? Minister of Education and Sports has just - oh yes. Hon. Phyllis Chemutai's maiden speech as a minister.

6.33

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Ms Phyllis Chemutai):

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. About the seed schools the Member has talked about, that is Moroto and Alebtong Seed Schools, I will make a follow-up on them. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, I had picked the Member for Rukiga then Hon. Okia, Hon. Kenny Auma, and Hon. Sharifah Aate.

6.33

MR PATRICK KATABAAZI KICONCO (NRM, Rukiga County, Rukiga): Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we have two roads under the Central Government. One starts from Kabale Municipality and ends at Rushebeya in Rwamucuucu, and another one that starts from Muhanga and goes to Kebisoni in Rukungiri. Those roads have not been maintained for the last three years, and the one from Muhanga to Kebisoni particularly has a Government pledge for tarmacking for the last 30 years. We need an update so that we can also report to our people. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I used that road recently when we had gone to bury for Hon. Hanifa Kawooya together with the minister for finance. It is really bad. Honourable minister for works?

MR ALI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am going to consult with the technical team in the ministry and then I will have an appropriate answer. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Okia?

6.35

MS JOANNE OKIA (NRM, Woman Representative, Madi-Okollo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Three villages in Madi-Okollo have been submerged with floods since

2022/2023 when the Government constructed an irrigation plant in the neighbouring Pakwach District. Flooding in the three villages affected hundreds of acres of land and the district wrote a disaster report during that time. The affected persons have been waiting for compensation; they already opened bank accounts. For four years, they have not had access to the land because it is completely submerged. During elections, people swam across the same village just to reach their polling stations. When are those people going to be compensated?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I know that problem. I was in Wadelai Irrigation Scheme, and yes, those people are suffering. Can you write to me so that I get the action taken? Those people have really suffered for quite some time. I was in Wadelai in Pakwach District, myself. We shall act.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Auma Kenny and then Hon. Achia.

6.36

MS KENNY AUMA (UPC, Woman Representative, Kwanja): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Government came up with a policy of building a technical school in every district throughout the country. The district where I come from does not have a technical school. My question to the Prime Minister is: when will the Government construct technical schools in the districts that do not have technical institutions? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Right Honourable?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, now that I have the Minister of Education and Sports here, and I know that the policy is a technical institute per district, Kwanja will receive. However, let the minister come here and commit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Or the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development can make it easy by committing to when he will give money.

MS PHYLLIS CHEMUTAI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I know the policy for technical schools is there, but the problem is -

6.39

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FINANCE) (Mr Amos Lugolooobi): Mr Speaker, the construction of technical vocational schools is in the National Development Plan and is part of our sequencing plan for these investments based on the availability of resources.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable member for Koboko followed by Hon. Achia?

6.39

MS AATE TABAN (Independent, Woman Representative, Koboko): Thank you, Mr Speaker and congratulations. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I have seen a couple of districts and subregions receiving hoes. West Nile, in particular, has not received any and my people of Koboko have suffered severe drought. Right now, we do not have food. When are we going to receive some hoes in Koboko District where I come from? Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister for agriculture, and then the Member for Bugweri will follow -

6.39

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (FISHERIES) (Mr Robert Migadde): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The hoes distribution started towards the elections with some parts of Buganda. It is ongoing, subject to availability of resources by Ministry of Finance.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Achia, the Member for Bugweri, and then the Member for Kassanda.

6.40

MR REMIGIO ACHIA (NRM, Pian County, Nabilatuk): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On Wednesday, 23 May 2025, the PS/ST, Mr

Ramathan Ggoobi was in Algiers and signed an access facility of 800 million. Part of it was to tarmac Namalu, Nabilatuk to Lochapeli Junction road. If I read from the document, he said Isingiro -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, ask your question because it is one minute.

MR REMIGIO ACHIA: The question is, when will Nabilatuk-Namalu-Nabilatuk 43-kilometre Kapeli Junction Road start, since the money is already available with us?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Works and Transport?

MR SIRAJI ALI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to request the honourable member to put this in writing so that we can follow it up with the ministry. Honourable member, if you could get an extra copy of this letter and put it in my pigeon hole -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bugweri?

6.41

MS STELLA MARIS NANKWANGA (Independent, Woman Representative, Bugweri): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As the Government policy says, every subcounty should have a health centre III. Idudi Health Centre III was constructed by the late Kirunda Kivejinja who later handed it over to the Government through the district.

However, it has no budget line yet and they are getting medical supplies and health workers from other facilities. My question to the Rt Hon. Prime Minister is: when does the Government intend to create a budget line so that this health centre receives direct funds from the Government? Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Government Chief Whip?

6.42

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Ms Jane Aceng): I will assume you are asking for a line for medicines so what you need to

do is to write to the Ministry of Health and inform them. Then, they will come and assess the facility. If it meets the criteria for a health centre III, it will be given drugs.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Member for Kassanda and then Member for Kumi.

6.42

MS REBECCA ATUKUNDA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kassanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I am happy that my friend, the Prime Minister is around together with the ministers.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, I know the people of Kassanda District are watching right now because their road has become a problem. When I talked to the Minister of Works and Transport, he told me that we still have three years to construct Myanzi-Gambwa-Kassanda-Bukuya-Kiboga Road. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, when will the road be constructed?

Another issue is that we have a problem – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the road she talked about is our national priority. It is in our Fourth National Development Plan (NDPIV) and a priority road in our manifesto. It starts from Myanzi-Kassanda-Bukuya up to Kiboga.

The Minister of Works and Transport has been maintaining this road in a motorable state. However, those people want to see a tarmac road. Therefore, if we get money - he is here - that road is a priority. The President promised the people of Kassanda District. Please, look for money. *(Laughter)*

6.43

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT (Independent, Woman Representation, Kumi): Thank you very, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, as other areas like Madi-Okollo District are grappling with floods, Teso sub-region is

hit hard by drought. Aware that the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Government cares for its people, what plans does the Prime Minister have to supply seedlings and planting materials, especially cassava to the people?

As I speak, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, all the gardens are very dry. Do you have plans to cater for your people? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, then I will follow with the honourable colleague with the rosary and the lady at the back near the light.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, as I told you at the start of this session, the Office of the Prime Minister has drafted a Cabinet paper basically to handle drought-stricken districts in Karamoja and the surrounding areas. However, from what I have seen, it will be for the whole country almost. An answer will come thereafter.

6.46

MS TOPISTA ACAMFUA (Independent, Woman Representative, Zombo): Thank you, Mr Speaker and congratulations. On 11 October 2025, the President came for a campaign in Zombo District. During the rally, he confirmed to the people of Zombo that work on Goli-Paidha-Zombo-Warr-Vurra Road would commence in April this year. He said that the same contractor that would do work on Nebbi-Goli Road would continue to Zombo. Has the contract been signed? If not, how long do we have to wait as the people of Zombo District? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ministry of Works and Transport.

MR SIRAJI ALI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I can confirm to the Member of Parliament that the Goli-Nebbi Road is a priority road, which the President has promised and that it is in this year's budget. We are just waiting for budget release for the road works to start.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. We are about to conclude. Yes, the honourable lady.

6.47

MS RUFINA CHEUTIC (NRM, Woman Representative, Amudat): Mr Speaker, my concern is about education in Karamoja, especially Amudat District. The illiteracy rate in Amudat District is at 95 per cent and this is wanting.

The NRM Manifesto of 2026-2031 of elevating the society into high-middle income may not be achieved in Amudat District. I believe this would be achieved through education, honourable Minister.

For this reason, I call upon the Ministry of Education and Sports to code the following schools that have not been coded for the last 10 years. Number one is Achorichor Primary School – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, can I request that you write. I invite Hon. Ruteraho, Hon. Kanaabi, Hon. Nabawanuka and the Leader of the Opposition.

6.49

MS LILLIAN RUTERAHO (NRM, Woman Representative, Isingiro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am so humbled for this. My question goes to the Prime Minister.

Isingiro District hosts refugees and we have two camps: Oruchinga and Nakivale Refugee Settlements. These days, they have directed the Development Response to Displacement Impact Project (DRDIP) to only sub-counties that are hosting refugees. In the past, it has been the whole district.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, is it possible to revise that decision such that we also get DRDIP projects as it had been? Thank you so much.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the DRDIP II projects are starting now. I would request the Member to bring her well-structured issue to the office because that DRDIP is under the Office of the Prime Minister.

6.50

MR JAMES KANAABI (NUP, Buikwe County South, Buikwe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have one question for the Prime Minister. I would like to know the status of Lugazi-Kiyindi Road. It has appeared in National Development Plan phases one, two and three and now we are in phase four.

Another issue is that the Government has started revising salaries for – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister. Honourable colleagues, under rule 43, you ask one question. If you start going into different areas - Minister for works.

MR SIRAJI ALI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would request the honourable member to write to us so that we can address this matter. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think Hon. Lugoolobi should know about this road much better. Hon. Lugoolobi, do you have any information? I know you are a neighbour - the minister is right. You cannot come and commit on something to which you do not have information.

6.51

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PLANNING) (Mr Amos LUGOOLOBI): Mr Speaker, I am fully aware of this road as it is very important within the Greater Mukono Sub-region. It is included in the National Development Plan as one of those roads that we are marking for financing in the very near future. The President has actually written a blue letter about this road.

6.52

MS SUMAYAH NABAWANUKA (NUP, Mubende Municipality, Mubende): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to request the Prime Minister to provide a durable solution to the problem of frequent power shutdown within Mubende Municipality. This is a constituency that also harbours the Regional

Referral Hospital, where your constituents are beneficiaries. It also affects people's businesses. Kindly find a solution to that.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Energy and Mineral Development? Rt Hon. Prime Minister, you can -

6.53

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (MINERALS) (Ms Phiona Nyamutoro): Mr Speaker, it is unfortunate that there was a shutdown. I have just received that information now. UEDCL is going to visit the site and work on the matter. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, Hon. Sumayah Nabawanuka is a neighbour. When there is a shutdown in Mubende, it affects us in Kakumiro. The fact is that there has been an unprecedented shutdown of power in that corridor. This is caused by the old power line. We had come up with a strategy to install more transformers because the towns are growing. Mubende has exploded; it has the biggest population now in that part of the country. So, there is need for us to put more transformers. Madam, *ndi ku gwe. Ngenda kulagira.*

We need more transformers and to remove the old poles because they are always down. This will enable our people to have reliable power supply. It is not there, that is a fact. Kindly go to the ministry and tell the minister that there is need and because of this transition from Umeme, they never used to look after their power lines.

It is not only in Mubende but also here in Kampala where we are staying. Therefore, there is need for us to do exactly what I have told you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Eugenia Nassolo, please, just do a quick one.

6.54

MS EUGENIA NASSOLO (NUP, Rubaga Division South, Kampala): Mr Speaker, thank you for this opportunity.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I represent Rubaga South Constituency and the people I represent want a permanent solution from Nateete to Busega road, Nateete–Nakawuka; if you know where Nateete Police Station is - Mr Speaker, I think that is where you pass when you are going to Mitooma. We need a permanent solution. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: All of us are being conscripted. *(Laughter)*

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, Nateete, Nakawuka, Kisubi and Mpigi, I presided over a function in 2024 when that contract was being handed over to CCCC. They started working on that road, but the speed is quite annoying, not only for the Members who are using that road but for the whole community.

We had a meeting over the same with the Ministry of Works and Transport and there was a problem of compensation. The people near the road agreed with us that they would allow the contractor to pass and compensation will be - But when they started construction, the same people said, no. That is the reason for the delay.

At that time, we did not have enough money to compensate and you know that road passes through a highly expensive area. That is the major reason. The money to construct that road is available but we have a problem of money to compensate the PAPs. We have put money in the budget and now that Hon. Msasizi is here, I am told he is also *gumite*. Make sure we conclude that matter so that people of that area are saved from dust.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Joan Aloba? Colleagues, in my calculation, I try to ensure that I balance the threshold of NRM, the Opposition and the Independents.

6.57

MS JOAN ALOBO ACOM (FDC, City Woman Representative, Soroti City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, could you tell us the immediate Government interventions for Soroti Regional Referral Hospital to restore services?

The theatre in Soroti Hospital broke down a few weeks ago and currently, there is no surgery taking place at the referral hospital. There is a very long queue and very many women are dying or being taken to other places to ensure that surgeries are done. The electricity connections in the theatre experienced a short circuit and it caused electric shocks to the doctors in the theatre. This is an emergency.

Could you give us a permanent solution for Soroti Regional Referral Hospital? We are so tired of complaining for the last 10 years - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Government Chief Whip?

6.58

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Dr Jane Aceng): Mr Speaker, for the immediate issue, all regional referrals have development budgets. They should take action for the immediate issue. For the long term, there is a plan to rehabilitate and refurbish Soroti using JICA, and it is already approved.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Njeru, shadow Minister for Energy, then LOP.

6.59

MR MOSES MUSANJE (NUP, Njeru Municipality, Buikwe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, there are two military entities having a go at it in Njeru Municipality Stock Farm. When I was trying to read the newspapers, my glasses broke and I did not get their names.

Historically, this land was leased to the stock farm in 1948. The lease was to last until 2048. The land was about 1,096 acres. Today, the people of Njeru Municipality and all cattle

rearing members of the country are afraid. They do not know the status of Njeru Stock Farm. I would like – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for the question. Njeru Stock Farm, like he has said, is strategically located and because of that, so many people want to take advantage.

This matter involves a number of big people and the President has taken interest. As you are aware, there are some evictions that took place last week. This stock farm will be saved. That is what I can say.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. LOP.

7.01

THE OPPOSITION CHIEF WHIP (Mr Paul Mwiru): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the Prime Minister for attempting to respond to the questions as raised by Members. I would like to appreciate her in areas where she has given sufficient answers.

However, I would like to expound on the question of attempting based on the question asked by Hon. Peter Kiti, Member of Parliament for T'oo County, Bukwo.

You will all agree with me that the issue was about escalating shortage of primary school teachers. Personally, I am from a humble background. I was a member of the National Unity Platform manifesto committee. What we found out, Mr Speaker, is that if you go to the structure in terms of the grading of schools, there is Grade Two, Grade Three and Grade Four. The staffing in Grade One is between 12 and 16, while Grade Four is between eight and 12. However, because of this policy, the teachers have actually fallen out and there is a shortage now. You meet a school that has three teachers, pretending to be teaching.

The answer given by my good friend, the Prime Minister, is not sufficient, in my view. Maybe she should promise an audit so that we get to

know what the problem is. The Government is sending money to primary schools where there are less teachers, as per the structures.

Two, Mr Speaker, I want to ask the Prime Minister: when are election petitions going to be disposed of? According to the law; the Parliamentary Elections Act -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable LOP, I trust you on the rules. In this session, under rule 43(14), you are not supposed to ask the Prime Minister questions. You can only reply or comment. So, do not ask the Prime Minister more questions – and, these are your rules.

MR MWIRU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. There was a question on refugees. There is a difference between “refugees”, “asylum seekers” and “illegal immigrants”. What has happened in most of those porous borders is that – we actually have no problem with the people whose category has been ascertained as “refugees” accessing services. The problem is that there are people who have illegally migrated to those areas and are flooding the areas.

The request would be that you interest yourself in the issue, together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs. I have seen, in some instances, where there have been operations and many have been repatriated to their country. We are looking toward a time when that issue is expeditiously handled.

On the question of road construction, there seems to be a general answer from my brother, the honourable minister. I would seek the indulgence of the minister because it has now become a routine that a minister comes and says, “I will do something”. Maybe a comprehensive report or statement should be made so that we can be in position to deal with the issues as they have been raised. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we usually do it – if my memory serves me right – when we are coming to the rainy season: the status of roads, generally. Hon. Ali has done a fantastic job.

(*Applause*) Honourable colleagues, Hon. Ali has not been in our politics where he would have to campaign and all that. (*Applause*) He has been a very good lawyer in his chambers. For him to have the courage to come here and do the work that he has done, I really applaud him. (*Applause*)

Honourable Prime Minister, I am being given information that you have answered 79 questions. (*Applause*) This is a record. I really thank you because you have shown that you have a helicopter view of the whole country –(*Applause*)- and nearly on each and every sector in the country. That is not for everyone. I really appreciate you for that and for being generous because by our rules, she should give us only one hour but she has given us two-and-a-half hours. (*Applause*)

Honourable colleagues, I know you might not be happy that I did not pick you, but we are human beings. There is next time.

I request, honourable colleagues, that Prime Minister’s Time stops here, but that we conclude the statement of Hon. Anywar. I can pick a few honourable colleagues – around four – and we conclude it. If, in today’s session, you have already submitted, do not stand. I usually want to give other colleagues a chance. I will start with the two honourable colleagues in that corner.

(*Members rose*.) Hon. Achia, you have already spoken. Hon. Anywar, you have already spoken. I know that honourable gentleman at the back has not spoken. Hon. Kirumira, you spoke. Please, let us go back to Item No. 2 and conclude the debate on that statement and have it out of our Order Paper.

Hon. Mapenduzi, I know how I called you to rush – that I am starting with you – but you have seen the situation. On Tuesday, I will start with your motion because I need the Minister of Local Government to be here.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I want to thank you. Just allow me to conclude this statement. Honourable member, I will start with you.

7.07

MR BRIAN KAPYAGON (Independent, Kongasis County, Bukwo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Concerning the statement that the minister made -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have two minutes.

MR KAPYAGON: Thank you. Uganda National Meteorological Authority confirmed that Sebei subregion received around 150 millimeters of rain, against the normal 400 millimeters. That is a 60 per cent deficit. As a result of this, our gardens failed, water is gone, livestock are dying and hunger is also here.

Our prayer to the minister is that we declare Sebei subregion a vulnerable climate zone, under National Development Plan IV (NDP IV), and then, perhaps, we approve funding which will involve trucking water and drilling boreholes. We could also have veterinary drugs so that we can save the livestock in Sebei subregion.

Above all, I am happy that the Office of the Prime Minister has released relief food to the people of Karamoja – and this is a prolonged drought that is affecting the people of Sebei subregion. My request is that we provide relief food that can cover almost 120,000 households across Sebei subregion. I thank you.

7.10

MR ABDUL BISASO (NRM, Kassanda County South, Kassanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. While the minister was speaking, she outlined the expected adverse effects of climate change and she talked about reduced crop yields, water shortage, increased diseases, food insecurity, conflicts over natural resources, etc.

Can the honourable minister inform this House of the specific interventions, budgetary allocations and implementation timelines that the Government has put in place to mitigate these impacts, particularly for vulnerable rural communities that depend on rain-fed agriculture? I thank you.

7.11

MS SARAH ITUNGU (NRM, Woman Representative, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. When the honourable Member of Parliament was discussing the issue of climate change, she talked about disaster preparedness. In my district, there are subcounties called Nyakatonzi and Munkunyu. In the last two weeks – I think climate change might bring insecurity issues. The cultivators and the farmers had issues where cattle were cut and the farmers' crops were eaten by the animals.

I request for an immediate intervention on this issue. If we can have cattle farmers given more water drinking points in Nyakatonzi Subcounty, it would help solve the fights between the cultivators and the cattle keepers. Thank you.

7.12

MR EMMANUEL BANYA (NRM, Koboko County, Koboko): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. This is my maiden speech. I do not want to congratulate you because you have already gotten a basket full of congratulatory messages. I know if it was money, you would be rich by now.

In regard to the statement on climate change as raised by the minister for environment, I request that for West Nile especially, we consider some appropriate irrigation schemes, especially for coffee and cocoa farmers.

In recent times, we have mobilised many farmers to embark on cash crop production, mostly coffee and cocoa. The former Member of Parliament for Koboko County, Hon. James Baba, lobbied the Korean Government and they are constructing a factory for processing cocoa in Koboko. Many farmers have now taken up the enterprise. Unfortunately, the crops are withering because of bad weather.

I appeal to the ministry to save those farmers from being discouraged from embarking on a new cash crop and then it fails at the beginning, so that at least something comes out of this and we proceed with the enterprise. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. You are again becoming many; aren't we going to sleep here? (*Hon. Kirumira rose*) No, Hon. Kirumira, you spoke. When I speak of those who have spoken today, know that I will not pick you.

7.13

MR SOLOMON OSSIYA (NRM, Toroma County, Katakwi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is also my maiden speech. I would like to make a few comments and thank you, honourable Minister of Water and Environment. My comments are specifically on the issue of early warning systems.

The early warning systems for this country seem not to be working. The science for early warning is there because a number of times, you will find these reports are coming out. If you go to the website of the Ministry of Water and Environment, you will find these reports actually there.

However, the issue that we have right now is the last mile. Is this information reaching the people? Is it in a language they understand? Is it action-oriented for them to be able to know that they have delayed and they should plant their seeds now? Is it timely? These are the issues that farmers, who we all represent, are grappling with every single day.

Some of us who come from pastoral areas like Teso and Karamoja find ourselves in situations where we need better and more accurate information. Could we also know the density of your systems? You might have a high density in certain areas and a low density in areas like, for instance, the cattle corridors in Karamoja, Teso, and some places even in western Uganda.

If the ministry lacks this density, let them improve it. For me, if information on early warning is not available on time, it is like post-mortem, and the farmers lose. To plant a seed, you need information to know when to plant that seed and how to plant it. Thank you, Speaker.

7.15

MR IVAN KYEYUNE (NUP, Nakasongola County, Nakasongola): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am addressing the remarks given by the Honourable Minister on climate change. For several years, the cattle corridor has been facing similar problems, yet we are blessed with three water bodies.

Our farmers in the areas of Nakasongola, Nakaseke and Ngoma would not be facing such adversities from drought if the Government was willing to dredge irrigation schemes from Lake Kyoga. A big water body can provide us with water. We have River Kafu. If we can connect dredging systems from Kafu, the people of Ngoma can get water.

Many wetlands can be desilted for such water to flow from River Kafu, River Lugogo and Lake Kyoga to such areas, if the Government allocates a huge budget to desilt many dams. There is a dam in our district that was constructed in 1971, which is now full of mud. The cattle can no longer access it.

If the Government can help in dredging more valley dams and desilting the old ones that are filled with mud and sand, the people in the cattle corridor may have chances of their animals surviving the drought. Thank you very much.

7.17

MR RONARD MUTEKO (Independent, Bunyole East County, Butaleja): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Because Butaleja is prone to floods, there was a plan by the Government to put up a dam around Busiu area to control floods. They were supposed to put up a six-megawatt power dam. I request that this project is revived to help the people of Butaleja. Thank you.

7.18

MR VINCENT OPITO (UPC, Dokolo South County, Dokolo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to give my views on what the minister has given us, pertaining to climate change.

She made mention of the issue of adaptation. Dokolo is one of the districts that has been affected heavily, but I know the rain patterns are poor. We received early rains this year, but receiving it does not mean we are going to get available rain.

I wish the District Forestry Officer would work hand in hand with the ministry so that we establish nursery beds for trees. We have district roads; we could even plant trees along the road reserves. This would help us to reformat the ozone layer that has been destroyed.

Secondly, we have antecedents. There are signals that show we are not going to get rainfall. There is need for the Government to plan in advance because we have a crisis this time. I beg to submit.

7.19

MR KARIM MUSA (Independent, Aringa North County, Yumbe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The issue at hand is insecurity at the border of Uganda with South Sudan, which happens quite often, including last year and early this year. It happened again yesterday.

Sixteen of my people; 12 men and four women have been abducted by suspected South Sudanese armed forces. I am wondering whether there is a strategic security plan at the border so that we can avert insecurity there. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think this was caused by drought, honourable member – (*Laughter*)- considering the topic we are on. We can link this to the drought in South Sudan. Hon. Lucy – (*Hon. Kirumira rose*) No, I will come back to the LOP at the end.

7.20

MS LUCY AKELLO (FDC, Woman Representative, Amuru): Thank you. Mr Speaker, I would like to add more on the early warning system as a country, as alluded to by my colleague, Hon. Solomon of Toroma.

Early this week, I read that we are expecting El Niño rains. I would like the minister to tell

us whether this is coming, and if so, how ready we are. How prepared are we because we know what El Niño is.

Secondly, what I know is, Members of Parliament have been champions of tree planting and the ministry has been assisting and giving tree seedlings to us. This programme has stopped for a while now. I would like to know whether there is still a plan to continue with this because as Members of Parliament and leaders, if we are at the forefront, many of our people will actually plant trees. Thank you so much.

7.22

MR JOSEPH MUGENYI (NRM, Burahya County, Kabarole): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I had really stood for a long time. I thank you for selecting me now. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Like how I have really sat for long.

MR MUGENYI: Mr Speaker, mine goes to the minister in as far as disseminating information about climate change is concerned. I was watching TV and saw a message about climate change. It is as if Government is still in analogue; they are not digitalised to notify the country about climate change.

Mr Speaker, climate change is a very key ingredient in this country as far as the economy is concerned. As we talk, my people of Burahya in Kabarole have issues of animals running away from the forest, coming to look for food in people's homes in the areas of Kasenda Subcounty, Busoro Subcounty and Kasenda Town Council. People are suffering.

The ministry should be more serious in disseminating information about climate change so that people can prepare accordingly. They have already talked about foods that are growing very fast. Matooke is turning yellow every day. Coupled with our poor roads in Kabarole, a bunch of matooke is now between Shs 2,000 and Shs 3,000. It is very alarming. Household incomes are so low, and I request the minister to take it serious. Thank you.

7.23

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. We are looking for solutions to overcome the weather change and climate challenges. We should not only reclaim the wetlands; we should leave forests to regrow. Hills and mountains should be left. We should get people out of our mountains so that our trees can grow. Then the dangers we are facing right now would be reduced.

I do not know what farmers are going to do. Whatever we may replant in the second season may totally dry up. I kindly beg for quick action to give farmers maize, soybeans seeds and others for the second season. Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Member for Ntoroko, the honourable colleague in a blue suit, Hon. Acon and then Hon. Kasukaali.

7.25

MS JENNIFER MUJUNGU (NRM, Woman Representative, Ntoroko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the minister for the statement on climate change. Climate change has not just started, it has been on for quite a long time.

Climate changes have affected Ntoroko District so badly and created permanent damage in Ntoroko District. As we talk, it has been five years since Ntoroko got flooded. The floods displaced Kanara Subcounty and for five years, people have been living in internally displaced camps. Mr Speaker, the Government promised to buy them land so that they can be resettled but up to now, we are still waiting.

I also want to bring it to the attention of this august House that Ntoroko should be given special treatment. We are under partial lockdown because of Ebola. The border and the local markets were closed. Coupled with the long spell of drought, people are living in very bad conditions. There is no income at the moment. People lack food and there is a lot of hunger.

Therefore, I call upon the Government to support Ntoroko people, especially with food supply as we look for better solutions to the problems that I have stated. I thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, as you have heard about Bududa, if something is not done for the situation in Ntoroko, the district might be submerged in the next 10 years. They have already lost nearly 10 per cent of the land. I know someone who had many square miles of farmland. Now they have just one. Even Hon. Rugumayo, our colleague here, had their land totally submerged because they are in a valley. All the water that comes from up - Once it rains for five to 10 years, you will feel the impact.

Hon. Mujungu, I have been working with your colleagues from Ntoroko. I know the Prime Minister's Office has done a good job; they identified a certain piece of land. I am sorry, as the Speaker, I am not the one supposed to be doing this. Since I have been working with colleagues who come to me seeking intervention, I should give this information.

The issue was that for the first land they identified, the Government Chief Valuer had given it very low rates whereby the people who were supposed to sell it refused. The Prime Minister has written to the Government Chief Valuer to again study the matter and come up with –

The land has already been identified, and the money is available. We have been working with your colleagues and we are going to continue working with you to see how to help the Ntoroko people. So, you can see how we do our work beyond the Table here, honourable colleagues.

Yes, I had picked the other honourable colleague.

7.28

MR PATRICK KITIYO (Independent, Kapchorwa Municipality, Kapchorwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is my maiden speech, and I ride in the protocol as earlier on.

I congratulate you upon attaining your second term.

On the issue of climate change, we, the people of Sebei sub-region, always experience harsh cattle rustling and raids from our neighbouring communities. It is even worse right now because thousands of cattle come from Kenya, from our sister tribes of the Pokot in Kenya, and the Karamojong on this side. They pile pressure because of these harsh conditions.

In so doing, we struggle for the few resources that we have on this side of the sub-region, yet history from the 1970s has it that during dry spells, we lose a lot of cattle and lives due to cattle rustling.

Mr Speaker, this afternoon, during the Prime Minister's Time, we were unfairly left out in the restocking, resettlement, and compensation part. This is not just something that we need to cry over. It is a human rights issue. For now, we, the Members of Parliament from Sebei sub-region, are – *(Member timed out.)*

7.30

MR JULIUS ACON BUA (NRM, Otuke East County, Otuke): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. For the record, my name is -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just wait, Hon. Acon. Hon. Kitiyo, let the Government Chief Whip arrange a meeting between the MPs from Sebei sub-region and the Prime Minister. You can even write to the Prime Minister and ask for a meeting. Prime Minister Nabbanja is always open. Anytime you need her, she gives you time.

MR KITIYO: Most obliged, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, Hon. Acon.

MR ACON: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Climate change is almost universal. Both animals and human beings are suffering. Honourable minister, you know that some villages in Otuke do not even have clean water. The wells where animals and human beings compete are all drying up.

In Otuke town, the population are still lacking water, honourable minister. Fortunately, electricity was extended two months ago to Otuke. This electricity has to be connected to pump water but we cannot use it. So, honourable minister, I am begging you please, could you help people of Otuke town? If the village people cannot get clean water urgently, let the town people get water connected from electricity. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues who are new, you need to know about Hon. Acon, one of the Members we are proud of. He represented Uganda in 1998 and in 2000 at the Sydney Olympics, doing 800 meters and 1500 meters, and we celebrated him here. He was inducted into the "Olympian for Life" Hall of Fame. *(Applause)*

Whenever we have athletics in the East African Parliamentary games, we are always assured of medals because when the rest of the MPs from other countries are running, he just jogs and he gets gold. *(Laughter)*

Hon. Acon, I need our team to participate in the Rwenzori Marathon. Hon. Sarah and Hon. Dr Kiyonga will host us very well. I will ensure there is enough water for you, honourable colleagues. *(Applause)* Hon. Kasukaali?

7.33

MR METHUSELAH KASUKAALI (NRM, Mwenge Central County, Kyenjojo): Mr Speaker, I heartily appreciate the Minister of Water and Environment for the good submission and appreciate the proper assessment that she has been making in terms of projections of what will happen.

After this assessment, I expected to learn from the minister what arrangement there is between the Ministry of Water and Environment and the Ministry of Relief and Disaster Preparedness because clearly, you can see there is a problem. With this dry spell that is expected to continue from the projections that are being made, there is a problem that we are going to get into in terms of food production and water scarcity. This will lead to lack of food and an insecurity

problem because a hungry person is an angry person. We are going to have many issues down there.

I would expect our minister to show us what preparations are there in coordination with the Ministry of Relief and Disaster Preparedness in terms of supporting the farmers who are going to be adversely affected by the dry spell.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable member from Kisoro, then Mubende. Honourable colleagues, we need to go home. I have been seated here since 2.00 p.m. Of course, our senior, Hon. Ofwono Opondo has to speak.

7.35

MR PETER KITI (NRM, T'oo County, Bukwo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My name is Kiti Peter, MP T'oo County. I want to correct the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) and the Prime Minister; they were saying Tochi, but it is T'oo County.

I have two issues. One, Mount Elgon National Park is regarded as a water tower but if you go to Sebei right now, people are dying of drought yet water is flowing day and night. The water from Mount Elgon feeds Lake Kyoga, Lake Victoria, and lakes in Kenya but the people of Sebei are dying of drought.

I am imploring that as we protect the national park, we should have water for production for Sebei region as we protect the water tower. I think that will be a big motivation for our people because as we tell them to protect the forest, they will be getting water.

Second is the issue of weather forecast. I think we have a problem. In fact, honourable minister, allow me to use this. I sometimes prefer my old people to predict the weather rather than relying on the weather forecasts which are late. When the rains start, the meteorological department predicts El Niño. When it disappears, they predict drought but when I was trying to do research, I found that automatic water weather stations in Uganda – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable?

7.37

MR NICHOLAS OWINO (NRM, Tororo North County, Tororo): Mr Speaker, I am Owino Nicholas Simon, representing the people of Tororo North County but my people call me Jafufa because I have trained them on vegetable growing to bring them out of poverty. I must say that Tororo North is ready for growth.

However, when we were celebrating, there was a storm that destroyed people's crops; watermelons and tomatoes. People had started going to the markets but the rains destroyed the crops and now we have a burden of giving them seedlings so that they can get back. That mind set change was ready; people had adopted it.

I request the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to give us - as we are waiting for the coffee that the Government is trying to introduce as a cash crop, ours is vegetable farming. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member from Kisoro?

7.39

MR SAM BYIBESHO (NRM, Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Kisoro has been facing a lot of challenges in terms of the refugee influx and it so happens that these people go for medication to Kisoro Main Hospital. When the Government is budgeting, they normally budget for the people of Kisoro, not including the refugees' influx.

At the same time, we have a challenge of extending water and electricity to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), which has been constructed. My question is, when is water going to be connected to that good facility in Kisoro Main Hospital?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the problem is drought - *(Laughter)* - because we are discussing drought. Whatever you ask, I link

it to the drought. Therefore, this drought has denied people at Kisoro Hospital water.

Honourable colleagues, what I am saying is simple: let us stick to the topic. We have already finished the questions for the ministers and the Prime Minister. We are now on the statement from the Minister of Water and Environment, on the prevailing weather conditions over Uganda in July.

Elder, I will come to you later. Colleagues who have spoken, I told you; I know you. Honourable member from Bunyangabu, then Mubende.

7.41

MS SARAH KABAROKOLE (NRM, Woman Representative, Bunyangabu): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and congratulations. I would also like to thank the minister for the statement. I have realised that my people in Bunyangabu are suffering from drought and in the next few months, we are going to lack food. We are *Matooke* growers and it is ripening every day, meaning in the next few months, we will have no food.

I request that we get cold rooms and preserve this *Matooke* for the coming months, because it is very possible to get cold rooms. If people who have money can afford to buy these cold rooms for themselves, how about the Government? Let us look into this, and we will preserve this *Matooke* and other foods for our people.

7.42

MS HOPE GRANIA NAKAZIBWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mubende): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to join my colleagues in congratulating you upon resuming your seat as the Deputy Speaker. I appreciate the honourable minister for the statement and also thank you, once again, for according this topic this much time because it deserves it.

Mine is a suggestion. I understand we have several programmes in this country aimed at maintaining Uganda in Climate-Smart Agriculture. I also understand that some projects

and interventions have been implemented before. My suggestion to the ministry is to make very good analysis to enable them know the areas that are highly impacted.

Most of the time, they only look at areas that are affected by mudslides and floods. You will never find Mubende flooding. However, when it comes to a time of drought, cows die. People look at their cattle dying and they have no solution.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, it is my prayer that the Ministry of Water and Environment works hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Agriculture to make a clear assessment such that we have equitable distribution of such interventions that are aimed at curbing the impact of climate change. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you and congratulations on being Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Health.

7.44

MR WILLIAM TAYLOR TIYO (NRM, Ayivu Division East, Arua City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am Eng. Tiyo Taylor William Odaa, representing the people of Ayivu Division East, Arua City. I thank God for answering my prayer that you retain that seat. Congratulations. (*Applause*)

I appreciate the presentation made by the Minister of Water and Environment, especially the pledge she made at the beginning that they will start updating parliamentarians with weather forecasts. My recommendation would be that they take an extra step to ensure that the media houses also get their updates from them as a ministry.

Mr Speaker, much of the weather forecast goes on in the media houses. I do not know the source of their information; they risk misleading our people.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, and congratulations on being appointed Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Physical Infrastructure. We have a lot of hope in you.

MR TIYO: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Our elder, Hon. Ofwono Opondo.

7.45

MR OFWONO OPONDO (NRM, Older Persons Representative, Eastern): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am concerned. I know we are discussing Hon. Beatrice Anywar's statement but, as Gen. Masiko and I would say, these things are interlinked.

On the 26th of last month, none other than the Vice President of Uganda marshalled all the Members of Parliament of Bukedi, took some to Tororo and others to Katakwi, to launch coffee distribution. At that time, she assured us that she had gotten the weather forecast from the Government and that the rains would start at the end of that month. When we went to Tororo, she had a full truck of seedlings; 50,000 that were being distributed to prospective farmers. What do you think has happened to those coffee seedlings?

Therefore, I think there is a big problem of coordination within Government. It is becoming increasingly difficult to rely on official statements by government officials, including, unfortunately in this case, the Vice President. Now, how can we even attempt to rely on the statement of the Minister of State for Water? (*Applause*) This is a very serious matter.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Elder, please go on.

MR OFWONO: This is part of the indictment on our glorious NRM; that it seems to me that people who represent the Government are lax. I call upon the Members of this Parliament, and particularly the ones from NRM, to tighten the supervision of the Front Bench. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Retired Sergeant Otim?

7.48

MR BERNARD OTIM (NRM, Maruzi North County, Apac): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for that kind recognition. It is on that note that I come with a not very pleasant word for the Minister of State for Water and Environment.

About 2007 when I joined the Uganda Police Force, the minister was on the Opposition side. I am sitting here not because I am in the Opposition; I am NRM.

That time, the minister led a strike in protection of the environment and some lives were lost. That is how she got her name, *Mama Mabira*, and I think that is how the President became interested in her, because she would protect our environment. Today, as we speak, I expected the minister to have more powers to protect our wetlands that are being encroached upon every passing second.

However, as far as I can remember the science that I was taught in primary school, there is a big connection between climate change and the destruction of the environment. Honourable minister, when are you going to come here on this Floor to tell us how much effort you are putting into protecting the wetlands so that we do not cry about climate change?

In Apac where I come from, we have enough swamps and we should not be crying over water, but people are encroaching every day, and the minister is here, not giving us direction. I pray to the minister that the energy which you had when you were in the Opposition, now that you have full power; Government power, please use it to protect the environment. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, you have support from the people of Maruzi. Hon. Naturinda and the LOP.

7.50

MR ELIAB NATURINDA (NRM, Ndoorwa County West, Kabale): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to state categorically that the Ministry for Water is a beacon of hope, especially in the agricultural sector. Unfortunately, that hope is

not being found. I want to implore you that, as the ministry – personally I am an Irish potato farmer. I grow Irish potatoes in Kabale but I am counting millions of losses. My manager just called me and said, “Boss, I think this season, no money.”

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your manager calls you, “boss”? *(Laughter)*

MR NATURINDA: Yes. I want to encourage you to find out whether the technical staff at the ministry are sleeping on the job. We are paying them a lot of money. I want to implore this House to pass a resolution that if your staff are not doing their work, we can find a way. Maybe the President can also bring soldiers so we can go and check that department so that we can see how things can move forward.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I wish we could translate the way we are speaking into serious action. When the minister goes for wetland encroachers, we are the first ones here to come and say, our people – I have received many petitions. I request that we get committed.

Hon. Eliab, I know the President has been talking, especially about those people who are planting Irish potatoes in the wetlands of Kabale on Katuna Road and Ruhanda. I hope when the minister goes to remove them, you will be there to support her.

Now, someone is saying that is a special case – *(Laughter)* – I remember, for those who were growing rice in Bukedi, the Members of Parliament (MPs) here caused trouble. I hope we can support the minister. We do not have special cases, I hope, when it comes to that.

7.52

MR KENAN OPIO (NRM, Busiro County South, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have a brief question that goes to the honourable minister. As somebody who comes from the urban areas, what are your plans to ensure that urban green spaces are expanded? Are you considering biodiverse parks? Are you going to look into green roofs? What is the plan on lowering pollution?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The Leader of the Opposition (LOP).

7.53

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luweero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to thank the honourable minister for a very good ministerial statement and my honourable colleagues for their substantive contributions on this ministerial statement.

The minister has informed the House that the Government issued the June, July and August seasonal forecast as early as May. Seemingly, they predicted what is happening a few months ago. That means that they had enough time to plan and swing into action to protect our people.

The ministerial statement came very short of what action plan the Government has put in place to mitigate climate changes. We all know that climate change is an interplay of so many factors, like some honourable colleagues have mentioned; human and natural factors. However, our people need to act after seeing the Government acting on these issues.

We expected the line minister in charge of climate to bring on board other ministries in terms of what we call an inter-ministerial approach. As we have noted, it affects the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Ministry of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees as well as Ministry of Local Government.

I would like to know whether our district disaster committees were brought on board when it comes to this very issue. That is why, Mr Speaker, going forward – *(Interjections)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Go on, LOP.

MR KIRUMIRA: Mr Speaker, going forward, when we predict climatic changes in our country, we need to bring on board all the concerned parties, including our people because they need to act after seeing the Government swing into action.

I am very happy that this Parliament passed a loan on the 10th of June related to irrigation. I hope such plans will help support our people to move out of this pandemic we find ourselves in. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister? Some are genuine in nature. Just be brief. We shall follow up most of them with the sectoral committee.

MS BETTY ANYWAR: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I just want to thank honourable colleagues for the concern and input into the paper I presented to Parliament.

Mr Speaker, as you rightly said, most of the concerns of the Members are cross-cutting, which need inter-ministerial interventions. However, what has stood out, because I cannot go into them one by one as guided by the Speaker, is that what we have given in our report are the realities in our constituencies.

As the Ministry of Water and Environment, with this report, we give the information for other Government sectors and stakeholders to plan and prepare in advance. This is a forecast and it has many consequences. If we were to start from where people are generally talking of the drought which is affecting both animals and crops, we would still want to understand what causes the effect of climate change itself. What went wrong? That is another huge topic.

We are dealing with it. We are mitigating and trying to adapt. How do we adapt ourselves to an already spoiled situation? That is where the Government comes in with inter-ministerial interventions. That is when we give this information to you, Members of Parliament, such that as a country, we all help to plan.

We say, use the available water sparingly. How? We do not have the luxury. We clearly indicated, in my report, that the effect of climate change will even cause conflicts among communities. This has been already alluded to by honourable colleagues here. There are conflicts between the cattle keepers and the farmers. This makes no difference between who is who. I like quoting some Luganda proverb, "*Salumanya*

ne nnalumanya." Whether you knew about it or you did not know about it, we are all caught up in the effect.

Therefore, as the Government, we have intervened in many areas but as Ugandans, let us protect our sources of water. I am happy with my Rt Hon. Speaker who has always been an advocate of the protection of our environment so that we ensure that we have enough water. We advise our people on how to adapt.

What type of crops can match the changing environment? Members have raised this. It is the Government, of course, to go ahead and supply drought resistant crops to help our people and we are already looking into that.

Let me answer just a few that I had marked here. I would like to say to my honourable senior colleague, Hon. Lucy Akello from Amuru, that we used to give seedlings to Members of Parliament as a ministry under our agency of National Forestry Authority (NFA) by then. It has now come to our ministry because of rationalisation and we are already planning for that.

Honourable colleagues, we feel that if you join in tree planting, all our constituents will plant trees. I kindly appeal to colleagues that we need to lead by example.

We have gone ahead to see how to establish regional seedling plants in our areas so that you do not have to travel far away to buy or even get seedlings for the constituencies. You and I together can establish this.

Please, reach out and see how we can combine efforts and secure quality seedlings to go and plant in our constituencies. We are willing to work together while we also plan for a modest budget that will make that happen.

Therefore, friends, when we come with this in our budget, those are the areas we feel we need to have a combined effort and secure.

There is some confusion on the mandate of the Minister of Water and Environment. Colleagues, water is life. We cut across with

other sister ministries. So, as Government, we take responsibility because the Office of the Prime Minister coordinates and directs us on what should be done by individual institutions. So, friends, if there is need for irrigation, which you have consistently put out here, we work together with Ministry of Agriculture.

The Government has put money to ensure that the sources of water for our cattle in the cattle corridors are put in place. We have interventions from Nexus Green Limited. These are projects which are running all over the country to make some interventions. Some small irrigations are done by my ministry, but the big ones are done by the Ministry of Agriculture and we are all being coordinated by the Rt Hon. Prime Minister. We have heard your cry.

As you guided yesterday, Mr Speaker, it is time that we gather all these concerns and start the 12th Parliament with action, knowing where the most critical areas are. Friends, we cannot do it at a go, but we can only go in bits as we budget for what is available in the resource envelope.

The ministry and the Government are open to listen to all these concerns you have put together. I will sit down with my technical team and pick those areas that need quick interventions.

A colleague had a request about the connection of water to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Although it is not drought related, as a ministry and since National Water belongs to my ministry, it is of national concern. Mr Speaker, I have taken interest in that and I will try to connect with my team to see if there is anything that can be done to quicken up that request so that we serve our people of that constituency.

I wanted to talk on – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Conclude, honourable minister.

MS ANYWAR: Thank you. I did not have the time for all that but I appreciate the interest and note that issues of climate change or water and environment have no colours. I am happy with the way we are handling this and it should

be maintained. The budget that is needed to deliver this much needed service to our people should be cross-cutting. There is no politics here and I pledge that my office is open.

Colleagues, do not waste time to come all the way. Please pick my number and WhatsApp. If there is an issue in your constituency, reach out to me on WhatsApp. I will sit down with my technical team and we will try to respond. You do not have to move around or come and labour to ask for this because the Government is here and willing to serve its people. That is why we are there and the President is very passionate about this.

On the wetlands, as I conclude and sit down, please, let us all move together, including our voters. Let us talk the hard talk. We are trying to reclaim what has been destroyed. Our wetlands are the source of the rains. Our forest covers give us rain and they are about to give us money in carbon credit.

Please, talk the hard talk. Advise our people. His Excellency the President has said that those in the wetlands need to be evicted but we have to give them an alternative source of livelihood.

The President added that those people should organise themselves and go into fish farming. This is a programme which is running. Our voters are not going to go into the wilderness, the Government has planned for them. Let us evict them together with you, the Members of Parliament, but give them an alternative source of livelihood.

Therefore, go and organise them. Some are willing to give their titles, like what the President directed on Kabale and Bukedi regions, among others. Those are the areas of special focus. So, when we come to tell the people, instead of planting rice, please go into fish farming, we are willing to have our people helped so that they earn more money in fish farming than rice growing.

My colleague from Kabale talked about potatoes. We need to be conscious that we are not destroying the environment. That is

my humble request. We are here to serve our people together. For God and my country.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I wanted to request the Rt Hon. Deputy Leader of Government Business on the issue of an emergency situation at the border between South Sudan and Uganda and the people who have lost their lives. Maybe you wanted to make a comment on it.

DR KIYONGA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Members of Parliament, first, on behalf of the Government, I would like to express my gratitude to all colleagues following this intensive debate on the effects of climate change that we have all articulated.

On Monday, we will have Cabinet and I am going to discuss with my colleague, Hon. Anywar, to see if she can be given room to articulate this problem we have been discussing so that the Government can take action as early as possible.

Regarding that situation on our border with South Sudan, again, this is very unfortunate and it is not new. Actually, it has been recurring. I am also going to link up with my colleagues in security, defence and internal affairs to ensure that actions are taken to protect our people. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable. Colleagues, I thank you for being here. I can see it is 10 minutes past eight o'clock. This is the price we pay for getting a platform. We are elected to talk. Your Chair here is supposed to give you that chance and one way of doing it is by holding you for long. There are colleagues who came to this House and left without talking after five years. So, for you, if you talk even once, you have already broken the jinx. *(Laughter)* That is why even in the last Parliament, on Thursdays, I usually extend beyond the time so that colleagues who are patient - because there are those who are not patient.

Someone has the audacity to even tell you: "Rt Hon. Speaker, I want to speak and go."

(Laughter) That is why when I always tell you, "please, wait", you should wait. Take your time. Why are you rushing? You want to leave me here! So, I want to thank you for being here up to eight o'clock. *(Applause)* I hope it has been worth it.

Also, we usually make Thursday the day for Members so that you raise your issues and ministers can have a chance of going to Cabinet on Monday. Okay? I request the Clerk to compile the numbers of all ministers and permanent secretaries and share them in a statement on Alfresco.

Also, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, encourage all ministers to be on our WhatsApp group of the 12th Parliament. For some of the issues, you could resolve them from there. I usually read, although I comment less. I request that you encourage them to be active.

In a special way, I want to thank the minister for finance. *(Applause)* You know – and I want to say this from my heart. The ministers for finance used to be the busiest but this minister has been with us here from two o'clock up to now. *(Applause)* I used to ask: you are busy, but it is Parliament which facilitates your business. The finance ministry needs Parliament more than any other ministry. So, you have started on a good note of being here. Your minister of state is also here.

Our minister for environment has been here. The minister for energy is here. Our ever humble sister, Hon. Phyllis Chemutai, is here. I also have my sister, the minister for people with disabilities. She has always been with us. *(Applause)* I thank all ministers who are here.

In a special way, I thank the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister who came in by 2.00 p.m. She was already here and taking notes. *(Applause)* We never take it for granted.

I also thank the LOP. The Leader of the Opposition went earlier on because one of his big supporters – he told me that Hon. Kivumbi had been granted bail – *(Applause)* – and, therefore, he was needed to go and sign the bail

documents. That is why he left but he is always here with us – and the Chief Opposition Whip.

Honourable colleagues, I want to thank you.

We are going to adjourn the House to Tuesday at 2.00 p.m., and we shall have debate on the State-of-the-Nation Address. I will link up with the Leader of Government Business to see whether we can keep giving responses to some of the issues or we wait and respond at once. We shall agree on what she thinks will work best.

ADJOURNMENT

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank you, honourable colleagues. Enjoy your weekend. The House is adjourned to Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.

(The House rose at 8.18 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 14 July 2026 at 2.00 p.m)