



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 29 JANUARY 2025



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA
IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FOURTH SESSION - 6TH SITTING - THIRD MEETING

Wednesday, 29 January 2025

Parliament met at 2.12 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. I am happy to inform you that His Excellency, the President, has assented to the National Sports (Amendment) Bill, 2024. We thank him for having fulfilled his mandate. Therefore, I request the Minister of Education and Sports to right away commence the implementation of the law.

Do you have matters of national importance? Hon. Betty Ethel Naluyima? Hon. Tebandeke, do you have a procedural matter?

MR TEBANDEKE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Fishmongers Traders Association brought their petition here last year in February and their issues were pertinent regarding the rights of their business. The challenges they face are; brutal torturing, exorbitant taxation and others in that line. It has now been a year without their report being presented here on the Floor of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, according to our rules, petitions are supposed to last 45 days with the committees. I have never seen the chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries coming here to ask for permission for additional days. If it was done, can it again take another full year when the stakeholders are being tortured in such a manner?

Are we proceeding right? I beg for your indulgence. If it is procedurally right, guide the chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to come here and tell us why he has failed to come and present that petition to rescue the fishmongers – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I gave guidance much earlier that procedure is for the business of the day. It only applies to the Order Paper; anything outside the Order Paper - I know you want your people to see you, and that is paramount. That is why we are here; our people need to see us speaking for them.

However, I guided that for matters which you feel should be on the Order Paper, please, come to my office and approach me and say, "Rt Hon. Speaker, there is a pending matter that you have not worked on." With that, I am able to call the chairperson and verify with the Clerk whether we have already received the report and not given it space on the Order Paper and we sort it out. It is much quicker that way. I will follow up on the matter.

Clerk, verify and then update me. Yes, Hon. Sarah?

2.17

MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the President for assenting to the National Sports (Amendment) Bill, 2024 which is now an Act.

Also, remember, when we passed that Bill in this House, I think the President assented to it in August 2023. We usually have a challenge that the regulations are never fast-tracked, and it is very difficult. You have just asked the minister to go ahead and implement this law. There is no way a law can be implemented without certain sections which need regulations in place.

Mr Speaker, may I know whether we have those regulations? Of course, regulations are not for this House to actually work on, but once these regulations are made, it is courteous for the ministry or any other institution – where a Bill has been assented to by the President – to bring the regulations to this House. I have not had any regulations brought to this House in respect to the Bill that has just been assented to. I just want to find that out.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I need to first verify whether it needs regulations - No, please - As a Speaker, I will verify through my Clerk and also look at the law. I do not want to disturb honourable colleagues. You might invoice me for that advice.

Nonetheless, that is a very valid point. I am going to arrange a meeting with the Attorney-General to look at all the laws. For example, we talked about the Fisheries Law, which was passed a long time ago, but up to now, we have not received regulations and they cannot move forward.

I will have a meeting with the Attorney-General and we see to it that all laws that require regulations are brought in time.

It does not help the Government to come here and sponsor a law, then they fail to bring

regulations and the law lies there without being implemented. It is as if when you are preparing the law, you never knew that these are the regulations you will need, especially the Government Bills. We should have that ready.

I thank you, honourable member. Yes, Hon. Naluyima?

2.19

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am standing in for several parents of Wakiso, Kampala and several other districts that are affected by the marking and grading of the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB).

Mr Speaker, we are all aware that UNEB is mandated to manage the examination process and ensure that at the end of each academic year, we have credible results in this country.

Unfortunately, several stakeholders are affected in the education sector in a way that we see several lapses in the grading process of UNEB and the way it has been handling several results on board. This is evidenced in the Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) that were recently released, which affected several schools in Wakiso and Kampala.

As much as we have seen the scouting going on - which was very fine - the conduct of the examination was real and the spying network was on, but the discontentment with the results by several pupils made us feel like a lot had happened.

My prayer is that a thorough investigation is instituted in UNEB's model of marking and grading. I need that information as the Shadow Minister of Education and Sports.

MR SSEWUNGU: Thank you, honourable member, for giving way.

Mr Speaker, what the honourable member has said is very pertinent. I was a primary school teacher and it was very disturbing to find a school that has been performing for the last

10 years, posting good grades, and this time it comes out as the worst school. Members, kindly give me attention because I am giving important information.

Secondly, some of these schools have children whose parents picked them from Kampala and took them to rural schools. These very children of primary six got first class grades; aggregate four. Then those in primary seven did mocks and mid-term exams and were getting aggregate five, but now, they got aggregate 17, when the PLE results came out.

The most challenging issue with the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) – and it is the practice everywhere; when the parents complain, the child, the teacher who taught the child and the school all say that they do not agree with these marks. “UNEB, show us the scripts of our children; we are ready to pay because that is the principle.”

Even in universities, it is the principle that once there is a complaint about the marks, the school pays a cost to UNEB to find out the performance, but UNEB is rejecting this.

Mr Speaker, let us agree on this: Most of the Universal Primary Education (UPE) schools in Kampala employ teachers on a private basis because they do not have enough teachers. Then you have schools like Kampala Parents, Green Hill, and Hillside, where you are sure that the school has more staff teaching children – something is happening in UNEB that we must exhaust.

Let us not talk about our rural schools or what, but we need to find out the challenges. It is absolutely not proper to mislead anybody here – *(Member timed out.)*

Mr Speaker, as I conclude-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, this is not your time, and all of you, your time is done — *(Ms Naluyima rose_)* No, but wait, honourable member. You donated your time.

Honourable colleagues, let me tell you this: When you give information, the time allotted to you remains the same. When you have given an opportunity for information, you do not get a new slot but it is within the same time. It is very important for you to know that when you are giving someone time for information, it should not exceed a minute because they are going to take up your time. Just conclude your prayer.

MS NALUYIMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My prayer is that a thorough investigation be instituted in UNEB’s mode of marking and grading of candidates for schools in Kampala and Wakiso and the neighbouring districts and the entire country, such that, at least parents who dedicate a lot and teachers who dedicate a lot get satisfaction with what UNEB is doing. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. That is for the ministry to note. It will be at the discretion of the ministry. You have heard the concerns. Hon. Emma, please?

2.25

MR EMMANUEL ONGIERTHO (FDC, Jonam County, Pakwach): Mr Speaker, it is not my nature to insist in this House and when I do so, there is something I need to bring out. I am a member of the Committee on Education and Sports and I had the privilege of personally being there when the results of Primary Seven were being released.

Mr Speaker, we know how UNEB has improved over the years. I have been a member of the committee from the 10th Parliament up to now and we have seen the improvement in UNEB. We know, for instance, this time UNEB also had issues because the monies they needed to support the marking system were not given to them, and there were problems but that was mainly for secondary schools.

UNEB also has a complaint-management mechanism, which the parents and the schools can look at. In the release of the results, UNEB was very clear that this time in terms of first grades, in terms of the four aggregates and

the five aggregates, the number has reduced because they have tweaked their grading system a bit. The first grades have reduced, but in terms of overall performance, it has improved because when you look at the second grades, they have gone a little higher than it was before.

I want to end with this; that you know, certain regions think it is their right to be doing certain things – to be the ones performing well; it is not a right. I think if there is anything to be done, let us first allow the parents to go through the complaint-management mechanisms within UNEB. It should not be an issue for us. That is my submission. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, I think your submission, especially the conclusion, is in line with my guidance – that this is for noting by the Government and if they find any issues, as the Members have said, they will investigate but I would not want Parliament to be involved in issues of marking, grading, and all that. Government, kindly take note and listen to the issues raised by the colleague.

Honourable colleagues, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have pupils and teachers from Cheboi Child Development Centre located in Kongasis County in Bukwo District. They are represented by Hon. Chelimo Paul Reuben and Hon. Chemutai Everlyn. They have come to observe proceedings. Once again, join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)**

2.29

DR JOSEPH RUYONGA (NRM, Hoima West Division, Hoima City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance regarding the freezing of funding from USAID, which you commented on yesterday – and of course, this is mostly affecting the health sector. It has been funding programmes like HIV, TB, and malaria, and in most of our programmes, more than 50 per cent is funded by USAID.

My prayer, Mr Speaker, is that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

and the Ministry of Health see how we can be able to allocate more funds for the coming three months, because the Government of the United States of America is re-evaluating the funding to see if it will continue or stop completely. Yesterday we met and you said that somebody was handling that. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Finance, this funding gap; I saw yesterday in the news – it was all over – even yesterday it came up in the House. Are you taking some mitigation steps to plug the holes? There is a huge scare within the public.

2.31

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PLANNING) (Mr Amos Lugolobi): Mr Speaker, it is indeed a matter of grave concern for all of us. The ministry working closely with the Ministry of Health will be considering this matter and make appropriate recommendations to the Cabinet. If possible, ultimately to Parliament.

2.31

MR PAULSON LUTTAMAGUZI (DP, Nakaseke South County, Nakaseke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. *[Text expunged.]* Unfortunately, yesterday, some of my people of Semuto got an accident in a place called Bukomero and it was only Hon. Keefa who helped us because - *[Text expunged.]*

My major concern is that, as a House, we appropriate money for National Medical Stores but in all Government hospitals, patients who go there, claim that there are no medicines. We want to know, as Members of Parliament; who steals medicines from all Government hospitals? That is my prayer, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I see allegations against each other. The other day, Hon. Luttamaguzi said they do not have an ambulance, then Hon. Sarah Najjuma stood up and said they got an ambulance two years ago, only that Luttamaguzi missed the handover ceremony. Now, Hon. Luttamaguzi has said his people got into an accident.

The justification for an ambulance not being there is a bit weak. To say, “When they got involved in an accident, they were helped by Hon. Keefa’s ambulance.” What if the other one was helping other patients? I think for the record to be straight – okay? We have a mechanism in place; the Speaker is protected, and he has a mechanism. Let me ask the Clerk to verify for me with the Ministry of Health and Nakaseke District –

MR LUTTAMAGUZI: This was a pledge by President Museveni, giving an ambulance to Semuto Health Centre IV. I am a representative of Semuto, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is very good. Okay, Semuto Health Centre IV. Let the Clerk – No, please – I get credible information from my Clerk. We have officers who can verify and give me information here. Once it is not right, we hold them accountable administratively.

Hon. Ssenyonyi is saying, “...and the state in which the ambulance is,” but it is not there according to Luttamaguzi. He said it was never delivered; the President’s pledge was never fulfilled. Let the Clerk verify for me. Before we end this session, we shall have verified it with the Ministry of Health and Semuto Health Centre IV. The one for drugs – the Minister of Health is not here.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

2.36

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Mr Speaker, we need to investigate this. The Minister of Health is going to come here after the investigation and inform us if it is really true that the medicine has been stolen by various people whom we do not know right now. Thank you.

The Minister of Health will be here next week because this week, she is away with the President in his tours. She will be here next week.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Aza – Where is the minister you are talking about? You are saying she is around. Show her to me. Hon. Aza?

2.36

MR TOM AZA (NRM, West Moyo County, Moyo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity. I rise on a matter of national importance.

Business-owners in Arua, Koboko, Yumbe and Moyo have expressed their frustration over the continuous robbery of their goods in a village called Enzeva, in Arua district along the Kampala-Nebbi road.

Usually, the buses and lorries carrying people and goods along this highway are waylaid by robbers wielding guns, arrows, pangas, and so on. They normally take advantage of the darkness, the steep climb, and the potholed section of the road at Enzeva. As the vehicles slow down, they are waylaid, and all the goods are taken.

Our prayers, Mr Speaker: May I request the police to have routine security patrols? Secondly, may the police also set up a station at that black spot? Thirdly, the minister of works is here; may that section of the road be worked on so that the vehicles move smoothly. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NAKADAMA: Mr Speaker, I am going to cause a meeting with the Minister of Internal Affairs so that they can handle the issue of routine checks on that road. Secondly, I would like to call the Minister of Transport and Works to come here and inform us on when they can work on that part of the road which is also causing insecurity in that area. Honourable minister, please come here and inform the House about that.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

2.39

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) (Mr Fred Byamukama): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Since we have got the concerns through my honourable brother, I am going to get in touch with our station engineer so that he goes tomorrow and assesses the place, then we work on it, probably next week. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Nathan Itungo?

2.39

MR NATHAN ITUNGO (Independent, Kashari South County, Mbarara): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I raise this concern in good faith on behalf of parents and students.

Any time from now, the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) will be releasing a set of exams for Ordinary Level (O-Level) students who sat for those exams.

There are two categories of exams; there are those candidates who sat for exams on the old curriculum, especially those who had repeated or had failed exams. The results are about to be released. There are also candidates who sat for the exams under the new, competency-based curriculum. Parents, students and other stakeholders are concerned about the Advanced Level (A-Level) curriculum. Which combinations will be done at A-level because of lack of the curriculum? How prepared are the teachers to handle the competency-based curriculum at A-Level given that it is not yet in place? Which reading materials should candidates and the parents prepare for?

Mr Speaker, I want the Minister of Education and Sports to come clean and explain the puzzle about the A-Level curriculum.

Secondly, let the ministry be clear on our side and the side of parents; exactly what is the problem? Is it the money, or there is another issue? We want to have that puzzle sorted.

Finally, my prayer is that the ministry provides a response before releasing the results.

Otherwise, all stakeholders in the education sector are a bit confused because of that gap at A-Level, following the development of the new competency-based curriculum. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let the Minister of Education and Sports come and update us on Wednesday next week. Hon. Yusuf Mutembuli?

2.42

MR YUSUF MUTEMBULI (NRM, Bunyole East County, Butaleja): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am raising a matter that at first, I thought was only affecting Butaleja District, but upon interaction with most of my colleagues, I have established that it is national in nature – the issue of our colleagues, the councillors at the district level. The majority of them have not been paid since the beginning of this financial year. For instance, in Butaleja, they have written several letters to the ministries of local government and finance, but nothing has been paid.

Since the ministers of local government and finance are here, can they explain to us why, since this financial year started, the councillors have not yet been paid, and when will they be paid?

This is a very serious issue because these are the people who monitor the Parish Development Model and other projects at the local levels *-(Interjection)-* Information allowed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, honourable colleagues, that is not how we do it, especially on matters of national importance. I made one exception – I usually do not want to escalate it. Minister of Local Government?

2.43

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Ms Victoria Busingye): Mr Speaker, our usual heartfelt concern is that our councillors are underpaid, the little money they get is taxed, and the pay is always late and sometimes not available. As the mother ministry, we have always reflected even the

arrears in our budget, but the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development never pays us. I rest my case.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister for finance? *(Laughter)*

2.44

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PLANNING) (Mr Amos Lugoloobi): Mr Speaker, we are from the same Government with my colleague from the Ministry of Local Government. This appears to be friendly fire. *(Laughter)* What I will do is to cross-check exactly what the problem is, so that I get back to the House with facts.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, can you get back to us tomorrow morning?

MR LUGOLOOBI: I will endeavour to do that, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Tomorrow, we are starting at 10.00 a.m. Honourable chairperson of the Committee on Local Government?

2.45

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT (NRM, Woman Representative, Kumi): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I am the former deputy chairperson of the Committee on Public Service and Local Government.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: And the former LC V chairperson, Kumi District.

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT: Yes, Mr Speaker. This issue was thoroughly discussed in our committee. We challenged the Ministry of Local Government to provide details of all the arrears, which it did and all the summaries were provided here. This Parliament even approved a certain supplementary to have those people paid.

Why do we approve supplementary budgets when there are emergencies, but the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development does not respond? *(Applause)*

I want the ministry for finance to imagine how the councillors are with the little pay they are given, yet we do not even give that little amount. What are we really doing? It is also common practice that whenever committees invite the ministry for finance to discuss such matters, they rarely attend.

So, we would like to plead with them, even as we wait for them tomorrow, to come up with a clear explanation as to why we are not thinking about the local leaders. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, this is very clear. Honourable colleague, the minister has requested for tomorrow. Let him give us an explanation – because this is a statutory obligation.

You know, you get embarrassed. Whenever I go upcountry, the question from LC I leaders is to do with their low pay and even the failure to pay that little money. This weekend, I will be upcountry; these are the questions I will be answering. Honourable minister, please, save us.

Let us wait for the minister tomorrow.

Honourable colleagues, in the Public Gallery, we have a delegation of head teachers from Mayuge District. I have been given a long list. Unfortunately, there are no schools. They are represented in Parliament by Rt Hon. Rukia Nakadama Isanga, Hon. Aggrey Henry Baguire, Hon. Iddi Isabirye and Hon. James Kubeketerya. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please, join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)*

Honourable members, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we also have a delegation of lead farmers from Bukanga North Constituency in Isingiro District. They are represented by Hon. Nathan Byanyima and Hon. Clare Mugumya. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Once again, please, join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)* Thank you.

Hon. William Chemonges -

2.47

MR WILLIAM CHEMONGES (NRM, Kween County, Kween): Mr Speaker, I rise on an issue of national importance about the killing of a person called Judah Mangusho Siwa, from my constituency on Sunday evening. This person was again killed along – (*Laughter*) – This is because we have lost very many people.

This person was killed in Kapkwata, around the national park, when he had gone to collect the branches of cypress which we always get for building. He was found by Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) officers removing the branches, which has always been normal. He was beaten and died on Sunday evening. This same person lost his father through the killing, still by UWA officers about five years ago.

Mr Speaker, this is a matter that has affected the entire Sebei Subregion for many years. I remember telling you, here, that in Bukwo, about 10 cows were shot dead along the road. We brought the same matter here.

From 2021 to date, we have lost a total of 14 people and these are people killed by trained officers who earn from our taxpayers' money.

Mr Speaker, today, allow me to give more than two prayers. Our prayers – and this is not from only me; it is from the entire leaders from Sebei – are:

1. We want to know whether UWA has a different law that has been enacted to kill at will; and
2. Are they still under the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities or under the Government?

I remember last year around May, they went and cut down many acres of people's crops. I reported it here. The Prime Minister, who is seated in front here, wrote a letter, instructing UWA to stop cutting down crops and breaking people's houses until a time that the Government would go to the ground and assess the situation, including whether there was encroachment.

Mr Speaker – and, Madam Prime Minister, your letter was not honoured and everybody thinks that that letter was forged by me or us, the Members of Parliament from the subregion.

Finally, we are completely frustrated and, probably, this is the last time I will present this matter; I will not present it again. I am requesting, Mr Speaker, that before we bury this person – we have not buried and we are not going to bury him. We request that before we bury, we want the Prime Minister, the minister for tourism – (*Interjections*) – not the Speaker – and the Attorney-General to visit the ground where Siwa was killed so that we can all appreciate what is happening there.

Finally, along the same area, we have an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp called Kapkwata. We have nicknamed it “Rwanda” because it is rocky. When the Government turned the forest into a national park, they pushed people downhill. Mr Speaker, they have left people to stay near the rocks for the last 30 years. They have been in this IDP camp, but there is nowhere to dig a toilet or bury when they lose someone.

That is why I am saying that, going with the Prime Minister and the other people I have mentioned above, would help us appreciate the entire situation of my people.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, I convey condolences. Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

2.52

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

(Ms Rukia Nakadama): Mr Speaker, I convey condolences to the bereaved family for losing their dear one. I indeed wrote to the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) about that area. Before the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities went there, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) intervened. She was to report to us but later, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities were supposed to visit that place because they said that this place belongs to UWA.

I request that the people of the area be buried as we plan. Otherwise, right now, the Prime Minister who wanted to go and visit there with the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities is out of the country.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order from Hon. Chemaswet.

MR CHEMASWET: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The point of order I would like to raise pertains to the statement of the Prime Minister. I listened carefully as she talked about the letter she wrote and gave directives, behind our backs, to the UWA officials to continue murdering our people.

Secondly, she is talking of a place in Sebei, belonging to UWA. I hope you understand the issues to do with migration in this country and where individuals in Uganda found themselves. If you talk of the Uganda Wildlife Authority owning land in Sebei, then you are wrong.

Therefore, are you in order to say that the Uganda Wildlife Authority owns land in Sebei and not the Sabiny?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know how emotional such a matter can be. I do not think the Prime Minister wrote a letter saying, "Continue killing these people." I know the emotions on such a matter because I have been to the Bugisu side of Mount Elgon National Park and I was hosted by Hon. John Faith Magolo on top of Mount Wanale, where those people nearly did a second *imbalu* on me. I survived narrowly because we were on serious matters. When I heard *Kadodi* coming – (Laughter) – I had to plead that I had already done *imbalu* the Rukiga way. These guys were about to grab me – Hon. Mudimi's people; they always threaten when you visit.

On a serious note, the issue has been glaring. We have talked about this issue and I do not know why we cannot sort out the issue of boundaries of Mount Elgon National Park. Otherwise, that is where the problem is. The moment you sort out that issue, you will have sorted all these problems. If you do not – the

more you keep postponing it, the more it will continue reoccurring. And Rt Hon. Prime Minister, people say that during campaigns, the President said, "We shall go with boundaries of 1992." UWA is saying, "We must go with the boundaries of 1963."

I face the same problem in my constituency. In my area, the Bakiga in the 1950s requested space in Ankole, Bunyoro and Toro and they were given part of Queen Elizabeth National Park but these people did not reflect it within the Gazette, up to date. Recently, they were there and the National Forest Authority (NFA) came and started entering people's homes, saying, "You are in forest land," yet those people were born there from the 1950s. That was when I assigned the committee to move around and I got information from the chairperson of the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry today that their report is ready and it aims at sorting out those issues.

I know that Prof. Mushemeza and Hon. Namugga are members of the committee; so I request that on Tuesday, we have that report since it is going to tackle areas in the whole country that have such issues and the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities should come and specifically respond to this issue. In fact, Hon. Chemonges, the bodies are available. In our area, we do a funeral.

Recently, I was there and I heard so-and-so had been killed. I asked about the burial, they said "No, we do a funeral because if you go back to the park to pick the body, you will also die." So, you are left to the animals. They are eaten by animals. I think this year, they told me that they have already lost about 14 people and you cannot go to pick the body. They do not accept that they killed the person – Otherwise, you are going to be eaten by hyenas since there is no evidence. You cannot go to the park to start looking for the body.

In fact, these people know how they communicate. They say, "We were with so-and-so, we escaped but he died," and we do funeral rites and it goes like that. I think this has to stop. As we protect our national heritage,

we should be humane enough. When we are discussing that report, let us discuss it in detail on Tuesday when the committee report is brought here.

On the issue of burial, I cannot tell the Prime Minister, “Unless you go, they will not bury.” I think let us manage it as leaders. I request the Prime Minister to meet with Hon. Chemonges and discuss this issue – not here on camera. Is there something you need to clarify, Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NAKADAMA: Mr Speaker, I want to complete the statement that I was giving. Of course, I did not write to say, “Let these people be killed.” I wrote for the people to be protected. But this was a directive by His Excellency the President to the Prime Minister to handle.

Mr Speaker, as you have suggested, let it be done and I think by that time, the Prime Minister will be here to give us what she has done since the directive of His Excellency the President.

On the issue of the burial, I requested my colleague –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, please meet outside and talk. We cannot solve this issue on the microphone.

Honourable colleagues, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have students and teachers from Cruciform Life International Ministries from Busiro East Constituency, Wakiso District. They are represented in Parliament by Hon. Medard Ssegona and Hon. Ethel Naluyima. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)*

Honourable colleagues, if you check the Order Paper, item 6 has to do with moving money for Rationalisation of Agencies and Public Expenditure (RAPEX). So, when I met the chairperson for a brief today, I was told that of the votes they brought, there was no money for Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) and the Uganda Road Fund yet we have emergencies in our areas.

Now, which money are we moving under Rationalisation of Agencies and Public Expenditure (RAPEX) when the big money is remaining the other side? The minister told us that he is not able to move because we do not have money.

I told the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development that I would not be able to allow this item until we also receive the money for Uganda Road Fund and UNRA. *(Applause)* I am happy to note that the minister has taken action.

Therefore, allow me to – honourable minister, I think we shall do it when we are laying papers. I will amend the Order Paper to allow the minister to lay it so that it can be referred to the Committee on Budget then we can conclude the RAPEX issue on Tuesday, when we have these critical funds also included – *(A Member rose)* – No, there is no one on the Floor. Next item.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. As the honourable minister comes, honourable colleagues, there are some of you who register matters of national importance; I look through it and find that they are not urgent matters. They are important but not urgent and the answers they require are very detailed.

Therefore, I usually advise that such matters are taken to the Prime Minister so that she can get detailed answers. I do not want to have answers that are not satisfactory here on the Floor. For some of you, I skipped your matters because of that.

Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs -

3.04

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (REGIONAL AFFAIRS)

(Mr John Mulimba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As you may be aware, the M23 armed group advanced on Goma, DRC on Sunday, 26 Janu-

ary 2025 after capturing a significant territory earlier this month in North Kivu Province.

On Monday, 27 January 2025, the M23 announced the capture of Goma. The conflict between the M23 and the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) has escalated in spite of determined mediation efforts and progress toward the cessation of hostilities under both Luanda and Nairobi processes. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the innocent civilians, the MONUSCO and SAMIDRC peacekeepers that have lost their lives in the fighting taking place in the North Kivu and South Kivu provinces of DRC.

We are deeply concerned about the escalation of tensions in eastern DRC that have led to massive displacement of people, with likely consequential pressure on the Republic of Uganda, which already hosts more than 560,000 refugees from the DRC alone.

Honourable colleagues, yesterday, our embassy in Kinshasa was attacked, looted and burnt by rioters, triggered by the developments in Goma. The incident is a violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) and we condemn this in the strongest terms. Fortunately, no embassy staff was harmed. It has been determined that they are safe and the embassy premises are now secured.

Last evening, we received assurances from the Government of the DRC that appropriate security measures had been taken and the situation in Kinshasa is under control.

The decision to suspend Uganda Airlines flights to Kinshasa, announced yesterday, is prudent under the circumstances as we continue to monitor the situation, which is fast-changing. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is assessing practical means to provide consular or emergency services to Ugandans resident in the DRC and, as need arises, will inform the public in due course of the measures.

Honourable members, this is a protracted conflict with a long history of misjudgement and external interference. A multiplicity

of factors including ethnicity, citizenship, mineral and economic exploitation, and youth unemployment continue to fuel the conflict.

We, therefore, would like to take this opportunity to categorically state and clarify that the Republic of Uganda dissociates itself from the activities of armed, belligerent groups in the DRC. It is important to re-state the context to Government of Uganda's participation in resolution of this conflict since 2013 in order to provide clarity.

On 12 December 2013, in Nairobi, two declarations and one communique were signed, concluding the Kampala Dialogue between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the M23. The documents detailed each side's commitments, including demobilisation and reintegration of former rebels and the DRC commitment to facilitate the return of refugees.

Following the defeat of the M23 armed group in November 2013, former fighters were received in Kisoro, Uganda, disarmed by the Uganda security, their arms inspected and handed over to the Government of the DRC at Kasindi. The ex-combatants were regularly visited by DRC government officials, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism, MONUSCO, Defence Attachés accredited to Uganda, and international journalists for monitoring and documentation exercises.

It should be noted that the ex-combatants were not prisoners but refugees. Uganda Government has, in good faith, regularly shared information with the DRC Government on matters relating to activities of the M23 ex-combatants. By 2015, all disarmed ex-combatants that had taken refuge in Uganda, save for non-citizens of DRC, had been handed over to Government of the DRC.

Honourable colleagues, we commend the Luanda Process under the stewardship of his Excellency Joao Lourenco, the President of the Republic of Angola. We recognise the Nairobi Process under the guidance of former president, Uhuru Kenyatta.

We recall DRC Government's approval of East African Community Regional Force (EACRF) deployment in Eastern DRC in November 2022, resulting in success in ensuring a reduction in the M23's movement's territory by 80 per cent. However, due to disagreements around the forces' mandate, the mission was not extended and EACRF completed its withdrawal on 21 December 2023, after its mandate expired on 8 December 2023.

The 24th Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State held on 30 November 2024 in Arusha called for a coordinated approach and the consolidation of various mediation initiatives, specifically the Luanda Process and the EAC-led Nairobi Process, to be merged into one and managed jointly. We are hopeful that this initiative will be implemented to ensure a more effective mediation process toward the cessation of hostilities and a lasting peace.

Mr Speaker, as we have said before, the problems of the Great Lakes Region cannot be resolved by military means. This approach has been tried before and unfortunately, has its limits and unnecessarily prolongs the resolution of problems. His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni and the Government of Uganda remain available to participate in regional peace initiatives to ensure cessation of hostilities as soon as possible.

The Government of Uganda continues to monitor the security situation in the Great Lakes Region while taking into account the importance of the ongoing bilateral agreements with the DRC. I thank you for your kind attention.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. We wish you the best in your attempts to resolve all this.

Honourable colleagues, the minister had requested me for space because these are very sensitive matters. Please, I request – the war is going on – Rule 52(2) of our Rules of Procedure says that such statements may be debated.

In my own judgment, I know the statements have come from different corners and what they

are leading to. I would not want us to again go through many issues. Honourable minister, you will update us. You know I am the most lenient person on these matters. Next item?

LAYING OF PAPERS

(I) REPORT OF THE UGANDAN DELEGATION TO THE 53RD CPA AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE HELD IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA FROM 29 SEPTEMBER TO 7 OCTOBER 2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Before Hon. Enos Asiimwe comes, the Leader of the Opposition reminded me that he raised a specific matter which had not been covered under your statement, honourable minister. Even in the request for a statement, you never alluded to that. Therefore, let me allow him to remind you.

3.14

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for allowing my insistence because this is a critical issue and there should be nothing to hide.

I raised this matter leading to the statement by the minister, and unfortunately, there are elements that have not been covered. One of which is very critical; that Uganda's Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), for over four years, has not been accredited.

It is important for us to know what the ministry is doing about this because the link we have with the DRC is an ambassador; not even you, the minister. You might supervise these ambassadors who are our links, but we do not have one.

Our embassy got burnt. I do not know who you are in touch with and who is heading that Mission because our ambassador has not been accredited to date. Why? Did the DRC not find this person competent enough or we just abandoned the issue? It is important, even formally, for us to know what is happening in the DRC and to our Ugandan citizens, whose link should be this ambassador. This is an

aspect that you have not talked about in your statement. Therefore, I thought I should insist that he responds to that. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, LOP. Honourable minister?

MR MULIMBA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is true, indeed, that I did not mention this because I have mentioned this severally on this Floor.

Chapter 7 of the Constitution and precisely Article 122(1) states that: “*The President may, with the approval of Parliament, appoint ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions.*”

That rests the case of blame on the ministers. The ministers are aware and have transmitted to the appropriate authority who, under Article 122(1), has that responsibility. We have done our part.

That delineates from Article 123; talking about treaties. Article 123(1) states that the President or any person authorised by the President may enter into treaties.

Now, that puts a clear dichotomy and only gives assignments - what we can do and what we cannot.

Secondly, it is not true to allege that we have no representation in the DRC. We have staff in our Mission in the DRC. We may not have the head of Mission accredited but we have the deputy head of Mission who is *charge d'affaires*.

In the absence of the head of Mission, you have a *charge d'affaires*; the Mission is running. Maybe, just for your information, the DRC equally does not have a head of Mission here. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Enos Asiimwe, I think the item has already been called.

3.17

MR ENOS ASIIIMWE (NRM, Kabula County, Lyantonde): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am here to lay a report for the Ugandan delegation to the 53rd CPA Africa Regional Conference, which was held in Arusha, Tanzania, from 29 September to 7 October, 2024.

In the interest of time, I will just go through the resolutions of the conference, for the benefit of the Members.

The 53rd CPA Africa Regional Annual Conference was held in Arusha under the theme, “*African Parliaments at the forefront of addressing existential global challenges: food, insecurity, climate change, and youth unemployment.*”

We had very many workshops and the official opening was presided over by the Vice-President of the Republic of Tanzania, who made a very good speech relating to the theme of the conference. We have attached his speech to the report.

The conference made resolutions. I just want to read them for committee chairpersons to see what they can pick for their various sectors.

1. Assessment of preparedness to cope with the effects of climate change among African countries

The conference urged African governments to undertake policy reforms that will integrate climate change policies into all levels of government, planning and decision-making policies.

They also advised the African governments to consider community involvement in conducting public awareness, campaigns to educate communities about risks associated with climate change and actions that they would take.

They also encouraged African parliaments to engage fully by influencing legislation and fund allocations to alleviate poverty as a way

to mitigate the effects of climate change and all other mitigating measures. This is because the conference believes that poverty is part of the problem of climate change, so as parliaments, we need to engage fully in influencing legislation that helps to alleviate poverty.

2. Harnessing abundant renewable energy resources in Africa to speed up industrialisation and opportunities and challenges

The African governments were advised to establish financial mechanisms that can involve the private sector and international organisations, specifically aimed at supporting renewable energy projects for developing renewable energy infrastructure in Africa.

Most African governments were also advised to launch public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the benefits of renewable energy and encourage community participation in local projects.

3. Reforming electoral systems in Africa to address the mounting crisis of mistrust in political institutions

The conference advised African governments to establish or strengthen independent electoral commissions that are free from political influence and capable of conducting transparent, fair and credible elections.

The conference advised governments to review and update their legal frameworks governing elections to align with international standards and best practices aiming at ensuring inclusive participation in elections of marginalised groups, including women, youths, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities.

African governments were also encouraged to establish mechanisms for timely resolution of electoral disputes through independent judicial bodies.

Furthermore, the formation of inter-party dialogue councils and dialogue between the electoral commission and political parties to

build trust and consensus on key aspects of the electoral process. Those were the resolutions on this particular topic.

4. There was beyond numbers; re-examining the contribution of women in parliaments

African parliaments -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Enos, you are going beyond, please -

MR ENOS ASIIMWE: Mr Speaker, this is the last topic.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Procedure?

MR BAKA: Mr Speaker, the Member said he was laying the paper and under our rules, you are only limited to laying and then you sit down.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, can you take your seat? Honourable colleagues, this falls under Rule 33 of the Rules of Procedure which requires that on top of laying, the Member gives a summary, especially of the resolutions and all that.

However, now he is also going into observations. So, that is why I wanted him to conclude with a summary.

MR ENOS ASIIMWE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The last topic was about reforming the education system in Africa to address youth unemployment on the continent.

The conference had urged African governments to review and reform their national education policies to better align with labour market needs, focusing on not just academic excellence but also practical and digital skills acquisition.

They also encourage African governments to invest in digital infrastructure to ensure all students have access to modern learning tools and resources.

They also advised the African governments to increase funding for educational programmes

that can focus on entrepreneurship and innovation as pathways to self-employment and avail the youth with necessary capital to run businesses.

Lastly, they also advised the African governments to collaborate with international organisations including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank to provide technical assistance and funding support for educational reforms targeting youth unemployment reduction. These resolutions were adopted on 5 October 2024 in Arusha.

Mr Speaker, at this conference, we also had the election of office bearers and on behalf of the Uganda Parliament, I was elected as the treasurer for the Africa region, for three years, starting this year until 2028 – (*Interjections*) – Honourable members, kindly listen-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, honourable member, please stay focused.

MR ENOS ASIIIMWE: The term runs for three years but implies that, if I do not return to Parliament, whoever will be on the committee will take on the position until 2028.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Luckily, you are returning.

MR ENOS ASIIIMWE: The position is not entirely for me, but rather for the Uganda branch – (*Interjections*)

Thank you. I will return, and the people of Lyantonde will return Enos.

Mr Speaker, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Office of the Speaker for having facilitated us to attend this conference. Thank you. I beg to lay the report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Enos. According to Rule 33(3) of the Rules of Procedure, I am supposed to appoint time for debate. So, honourable colleagues, read

through the report, comprehend it, and then after, I will announce the time for debate. Thank you. Next item.

(II) REPORT OF THE DELEGATION
TO THE 67TH COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE, 3RD
TO 8TH NOVEMBER, 2024, SYDNEY, NEW
SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Enos?

MR ENOS ASIIIMWE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am here again to lay the report of the delegation of the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference that was held from the 3rd to 8th November 2024 in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Mr Speaker – of course, on delegated responsibility – I went with a delegation of eight Members on behalf of the Speaker.

The 67th Conference had a range of workshops that took place under the main conference theme of “*Engage, Empower, Sustain; Charting the Course for Resilient Democracy*”. The CPC workshops were an opportunity for parliamentarians and global experts to discuss major parliamentary issues.

The following learning and development workshops were held during the main conference:

- i) “Building bridges; parliamentary frameworks for meaningful engagement with Indigenous people.” But that one is so relevant to the Australian continent.
- ii) “The use of artificial intelligence in parliamentary processes and practices; opportunities and challenges,” which is very relevant to us.
- iii) “How can legislatures best support and promote LGBT+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender/Transsexual) participants.” But that one – (*Interjection*) – yes, listen, that one was well sorted by our legislature; so there is nothing much to discuss here.

- iv) We also had a topic on “Promoting the political participation of young women and girls.”
- v) We also had a workshop on “Gender and national climate planning; moving from commitment to scalable action.”
- vi) Lastly, we also had a conference on “Future-proofing democracy; innovations in security, and support for women parliamentarians,” which is also very relevant to us.
- vii) We also had a very relevant topic on votes versus likes, and the role of Parliament in strengthening democratic resilience in an age of fake news and synthetic media. There were so many discussions about this; I will only go straight to the resolutions of the conference.

However, I will only read or take you through the topics that are relevant to this legislature:

- i) Building bridges
- ii) Parliamentary framework for meaningful engagement with Indigenous people, this is more of an Australian continent, the use of artificial intelligence in parliamentary processes, practices, opportunities and challenges.

I encourage members to look for a report, and read through this because it is very relevant.

This workshop focused so much on legislatures integrating artificial intelligence into their processes, practices opportunities and challenges that might be presented with that.

Uganda made a case on the topic “How can legislatures best support and promote LGBT participation”. We made our comments first that we are against it and we passed a law but specifically, we tried to explain the law that we passed – that it does not stop homosexuality and is not necessarily against homosexuals. You can be a homosexual as long as you do not promote it – *(Interjection)* We tried to explain that to the international – *(Interjection)* – Yes,

I am going to explain that. Now listen to me, because you have time to come and discuss this – *(Interruption)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order. Please, Hon. Enos, stop giving orders on the Floor. There is a point of order.

MS OPENDI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. While the honourable member was presenting the previous report, you told him to lay it and you were patient enough to allow him to conclude.

Now, in coming up to lay the second report, he is taking us through the same details and even touching on controversial areas that we do not want to hear about.

Mr Speaker, is the honourable member in order to continue reading details of the report rather than laying it? He is even trying to persuade us to define who a homosexual is or what law we passed; we know the law that we passed. You do not have to take us through it. Is he in order? And considering Trump’s stand now on those groups – *(Laughter)* Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. You see, sometimes we bring controversies to ourselves. I do not know what you are doing with those issues. Just read the resolutions and that is it.

MR ENOS ASIIMWE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. When you go to the resolutions, look at Resolution No. 3.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, just lay on the Table; the rest we shall handle.

MR ENOS ASIIMWE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. First and foremost, thank you for having facilitated us for this conference and we pray that you continue facilitating the committee to attend these conferences.

I now beg to lay the report of the delegation to the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference that was held from the 3 to 8 November, 2024 in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable member. Do the same as the other report. Honourable colleagues, I encourage you to read; I will be appointing time for debate.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT TO AUTHORISE THE GOVERNMENT TO REALLOCATE BUDGETS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025 AND REVISE WORK PLANS FOR INSTITUTIONS AFFECTED UNDER THE RATIONALISATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURES (RAPEX) REFORM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister for finance?

3.32

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PLANNING) (Mr Amos Lugolobi): Mr Speaker, I am moving in accordance with Section 19 of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap 171, and Rule 56 of our Rules of Procedure, to lay on Table a motion for the House to consider reallocation in the budget estimates for the Financial Year 2024/2025 and revised work plans for the second batch of the institutions affected by the Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure Reform. Mr Speaker, I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I refer it to the Committee on Budget. They informed me that their report is ready, but I told them to wait before signing so that they can include this critical item. Let the committee process it and on Tuesday they bring a comprehensive report and we have this matter sorted. Minister, I hope we will not be late if we do it on Tuesday.

Honourable colleagues, as I told you yesterday evening, the Committee on Budget requested that we do the Budget Framework Paper tomorrow. They have just finished the report and shall do the Budget Framework Paper tomorrow. We shall start at 10.00 a.m. so that we can have just that item for the whole day and a comprehensive debate on it.

Clerk, ensure it is uploaded today so that the Members of Parliament are able to read through and make informed submissions on the Floor tomorrow.

On RAPEX, I have guided that we shall handle it on Tuesday. Let us handle one more item and we call it a day. Item No.7.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION ON THE STATUS OF THE ASSURANCE TO COMPENSATE VICTIMS OF WAR AND INSURGENCIES IN WEST NILE, ACHOLI, LANGO, TESO, KARAMOJA AND SEBEI SUBREGIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, as you remember, when the committee presented the report, the Attorney-General requested that we give him time to prepare a response. He told me his response was ready. Let us give him time to present it, and then we open the debate and have this matter concluded. Attorney-General?

3.35

THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Jackson Kafuuzi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am pleased to inform this House that it is the Government's policy to pay all war debt claimants and beneficiaries irrespective of whether they went to court or not.

I want to believe that you still remember the contents of the report which was presented while we were in Gulu; so I am beginning from there.

Our mandate, as far as compensation of all the claimants is concerned, is limited to Acholi, Lango, and Teso Subregions. The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs awaits Cabinet guidance on whether other regions that were affected by insurgencies can be brought on board.

Parliament made a total budgetary allocation of Shs 200 billion over the past four financial years, namely Shs 50 billion in the Financial Year 2021/2022, Shs 30 billion in 2022/2023,

Shs 80 billion in 2023/2024, and Shs 40 billion shillings in 2024/2025.

The Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development, in the Financial Year 2021/2022, released Shs 50 billion, in the Financial Year 2022/2023, there was no release at all. While in the Financial Year 2023/2024, Shs 71.28 billion was released and in the Financial Year 2024/2025 has so far released Shs 18.2 billion, making a total of Shs 139.49 billion.

Out of this, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs has so far paid out Shs 136 billion as follows:

- i) Shs 49.323 billion has been paid out to 17,934 people in the Financial Year 2023/2024;
- ii) Shs 16.14 billion has been paid out to 11,250 people in the three subregions of Acholi, Lango, and Teso in the Financial Year 2024/2025;
- iii) A total of Shs 1.19 billion in the Financial Year 2021/2022 and 2023/2024 bounced back to the ministry accounts due to various reasons such as closed accounts, dormant accounts, inaccurate names or inaccurate account numbers, among others.

Whereas on 5 August 2024, we reported to the Committee on Government Assurance and Implementation that Shs 119.24 billion was paid out, the figure has since increased to Shs 136 billion *n'obugwaamu* due to – (*Laughter*)

Let me repeat that Mr Speaker. I wanted the attention of Hon. Namugga; she was not following.

Whereas on 5 August 2024, we reported to the Committee on Government Assurance and Implementation that Shs 119.24 billion was paid out, the figure has since increased to Shs 136 billion due to the release of more funds for compensation in the Financial Year 2024/2025.

Honourable colleagues, the information relating to the payment of all claimants/beneficiaries is readily available on the

ministry's website, that is, www.justice.go.ug/livestock-compensation.

Please note this was last updated in September 2024. I am talking about the website because the information you find there should tally with what I am saying. It was last updated in September 2024.

Quarter 2 for the Financial Year 2024/2025 is still pending upload owing to the reconciliation of the figures being undertaken by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

While in Gulu, the report presented by the Committee on Government Assurance and Implementation raised a number of issues. My intention here is to respond to those specific issues.

Issue number one; the committee in clause 3.22 on page 11 of its report recommended that livestock compensation rates should relate to established rates of Shs 1,050,000.

Honourable members, when His Excellency, the President launched payments of war-debt claimants and beneficiaries in the Financial Year 2021/2022, the ministry was allocated Shs 50 billion, which was prorated to 27 districts and two cities in the three subregions of Acholi, Lango and Teso, with each district receiving an allocation of Shs 1.72 billion.

At the beginning of the payment process, the amounts payable were computed on a *pro rata* basis. This resulted in some payments made falling below the Shs 1,050,000, which is the value of a cow. This was later reviewed to ensure that the minimum payment amount should at least amount to the value of a cow. A top-up of Shs 1,050,000, which is a unit cost per cow, was made for all claimants and beneficiaries who had received less than the unit cost.

In Financial Year 2023/2024, the above claimants and beneficiaries in the affected districts of Agago, Pallisa, Kitgum, Serere and Kaberamaido were given a top-up amount of

Shs 307 million on top of the district's allocated amount of Shs 1.7 billion.

The committee in clause 3.4 on page 14 of its report observed that according to the Attorney-General, the outstanding liability for compensation claims, as at 30 June 2024, was at Shs 472 billion. However, upon the analysis of the same, they arrived at an outstanding liability of Shs 208 billion, leaving a variance of Shs 264 billion from the original liability, as was reported by the Attorney-General to the committee.

Further, it is reported that the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs has so far paid out Shs 119.2 billion, while the committee discovered that the Ministry of Justice had actually paid out Shs 114.7 billion, leaving an unexplained variance of Shs 4.4 billion.

Here, below, is an extract of Table 3 from pages 14 and 15 of the committee report. In response to that, we have observed that the committee, in its report, considered Financial Year 2023/2024 partially and only extracted payments and outstanding liability assessed at 50 cows, owing to the threshold set by the ministry of paying at least a minimum of one cow and not more than 50 cows for the first phase, leaving out the total claim in excess of amounts payable or assessed at 50 cows and the information relating to the claimants'/beneficiaries' entire claim.

Mr Speaker, had the committee extracted the entire information presented to it by the Attorney-General's Chambers, they would have arrived at the outstanding liability of Shs 472.72 billion as shown in the sample table below. The sample table is there—*(Interruption)*

MS OPENDI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. This is a very serious statement that the minister is presenting. I have tried to look for the report on my iPad, but I cannot actually see the report – and, he is telling us the table is there. Now, I cannot access the report on my iPad, and, therefore, I cannot see the table that he is talking about.

Therefore, would it not be procedurally right –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The report of the committee or his statement?

MS OPENDI: No, his statement. Would it not be right for this statement, by the minister, to be uploaded?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clerk, isn't the report uploaded?

MR KAFUZI: Mr Speaker, I supplied it to the Clerk's office last week.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is our problem; I am sorry. The Attorney-General gave us this statement. I do not know – my IT people – Let them upload it quickly. By the time we go into a deeper debate, honourable colleagues, it will be uploaded. Let us save time by having the minister continue. In a few minutes, it will be uploaded.

MR FAFUZI: Most obliged, Mr Speaker. My sisters are not very easy on me. I hope I will survive. *(Interjections)* Hon. Namugga. *(Laughter)*

The amount paid of Shs 114 billion, as quoted in Table 3 on page 17 of the committee's report, relates to the Financial Year 2023/2024 figures. This left out payments made to claimants and beneficiaries of Financial Year 2021/2022, amounting to Shs 4.49 billion, especially those that were fully paid.

Number three, the committee in clause 3.4(i) on page 15 of its report reported that out of the 1,900 claimants/beneficiaries in Pader District, only 800 claimants/beneficiaries have so far been paid.

We would like to report that the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs has so far, cumulatively, paid 1,118 claimants/beneficiaries, as opposed to the 800 stated by the committee's report. More information relating to the above can be obtained from the website already mentioned.

Furthermore, in clause 3.4(ii), on page 15 of its report, the committee, in Nwoya District, observed that out of the lost 8,620 livestock, the total payment made so far is Shs 177,410,947 equivalent to 169 head of cattle. This is far from the truth. Our information, which is readily available on the website, shows and confirms that the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, at the time, had paid out Shs 2,970,000,000 to Nwoya District, which is equivalent to 2,289 livestock.

Additionally, in clause 3.4(iii) on page 15 of its report, the committee, in Kitgum District, observed that of the 1,336 claimants/beneficiaries submitted for payment, only 11 were fully paid.

Mr Speaker, our information reveals that a total of 27 claimants/beneficiaries had been fully paid, 420 claimants/beneficiaries partially paid and 376 claimants/beneficiaries not paid at all – but will be paid once the resources are available.

The committee, in clause 3.4 on page 16 of its report, observed that in Oyam District, a total of 14,471 claimants/beneficiaries, were registered and that the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs issued only 6,000 data cards.

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, in 2016, verified 6,618 claimants/beneficiaries in Oyam District and equally in 2021, issued to Oyam District a corresponding number of 6,618 data cards.

The discrepancy highlighted by the committee has arisen as a result of the Attorney-General's instructions to the districts to also verify claimants/beneficiaries who took the Government to court in cases such as; Francis Ongia (formerly Betty Okello), and Delyon Johnson, which has led to the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs procuring additional data cards to cover the additional numbers.

We have observed that whereas we furnished the Committee on Government Assurances

and Implementation with information relating to financial years 2021/2022 and 2023/2024, it appears that the committee did not consider both financial years presented – and that is why they have discrepancies in their report. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable colleague. The debate ensues now. Hon. Isaac Otimgiw, Hon. Paparu, Hon. Amos Okot, Hon. Fox Odoi, Hon. Ameede, Haji, and then I will pick more. Colleagues, we have time; do not mind.

3.54

MR ISAAC OTIMGIW (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Attorney-General for the report laid.

Mr Speaker, during the sitting in Gulu City, it was also pointed out clearly during the report, as to why West Nile Subregion was not considered during the compensation of the war claimants.

People who lived during those days remember vividly how all the media were awash with the wreckage of the buses that were burnt during the Kony times, along Karuma-Pakwach Road. It came as a surprise to so many in the West Nile Subregion that the subregions of Teso, Lango, Acholi were the only ones considered. We expected a good explanation for that, but nothing has been said in the statement as to why the West Nile Subregion was not considered.

Mr Speaker, there are cases in court from West Nile. A case, for example, which the Attorney-General is well aware of – because I visited his office a couple of times on this matter – is the case of Samuel Ongeri and 39 others who lost a lot of property during the Kony war. The case has existed since 2016. It went through the Commission of Equal Opportunities as well.

To our surprise, in a newspaper dated 14 August 2023, a list of people who were going to be awarded compensation was published by the Office of the Attorney-General. Samuel Ongeri and 39 others were also included on that list in the *New Vision*. They were given

14 days to submit their account details. Those who were still alive gathered themselves and I accompanied them to the Office of the Attorney-General. When we reached there, the response given by the Attorney-General's office was, "Sorry, it was a mistake". That they were not supposed to be on the list. To date, those people are frustrated after waiting for over 10 years. No justice has been done.

Mr Speaker, the West Nile Subregion suffered a lot during the Kony war. Everybody knows it. We pray to the Government that whatever little money this Parliament appropriates is shared across those subregions, including West Nile Subregion. Thank you very much.

3.56

MR LILLIAN PAPARU (NRM, Woman Representative, Arua): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the opening remarks of the Attorney-General, he said they are only mandated to pay three subregions, that is, Acholi, Lango, and Teso. That we agree but during the Gulu City sitting, we were given feedback that the payments or the compensation for the people of West Nile was already brought to Parliament, and that we were supposed to have received updates with this feedback that is being given here. Therefore, we are disappointed because he said their mandate is only for the three subregions. That means we do not have any feedback.

Mr Speaker, in the National Development Plan (NDP) IV, we do not see the compensation. In the Budget Framework Paper (BFP), we do not see it. I do not want to debate in anticipation; I seek clarity from the Attorney-General's office whether the people of West Nile are going to be compensated or not. This is because they said that they are coming in the second phase. Yet, he has confirmed that they only have a mandate for the three subregions, as if there is going to be nothing done for the rest. It is a bit disappointing. Thank you.

3.58

MR AMOS OKOT (NRM, Agago North County, Agago): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, this report and all other reports regarding compensation are not appreciated by many people. When you hear the reports that have been presented with a lot of billions, on the ground, you barely see anything. I pity those people who say that West Nile and other people also need compensation.

Sincerely speaking, they will say that you are going to be included but they just give money to those who give them reports. However, when you go to the ground, you find a lot of cheating, corruption and unclear procedures, leaving the claimants without any proper answers.

To be honest, very many people are not satisfied with all these processes. Go to anybody; go to Agago. He has said that there is a top-up that was given – people call you and do not know where to go. Instead of going to the Chief Administrative Officer, they resort to the Member of Parliament.

When the time for the election comes, they focus especially on us who are in the ruling party. They will tell you that, "When it is time for campaigns, you talk about compensation, but when the campaigns are over, nobody talks about it."

Mr Speaker, we need to do something deeper than this. It is true we know that it is the Government's policy to compensate people affected by wars, but let it be something real. We know how we lost the animals and all the property. Some were lost to the rebels, others were destroyed by the Government soldiers and others were lost to the Karamojong warriors. Even now, the Karamojong are still stealing and killing. This January alone, I have lost five people. Yesterday, they shot somebody. So, you see the circumstances revolving around.

When will this come to an end? We are crying because we want peace. We want the compensation to be real, not paper accountability when you go to the ground, the thing is not as it is supposed to be.

If I am to quote what the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Hon. Norbert Mao,

said during the burial of the husband of Hon. Balmoyi – he was there, and he gave a very strong – should I say it in my language? I will translate thereafter. He said, “*Pegoy tipu twol*” meaning “Do not beat the shadow of a snake” because everybody was saying, “Now that Hon. Mao is the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, our animals will now be compensated.”

However, Hon. Mao just came and said, “You people, do not focus on the shadow of the snake. Look for the snake and beat it.” We do not know which one is the snake. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, we may laugh about this matter, but honestly, let us do something real. We are losing many claimants and worse still, if you come and they look at your age, they start doubting you; they say, “Go and get some letter” and they keep dodging you; even the banks themselves - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Fadil, then Hon. Fox Odoi.

4.03

MR FADIL TWALLA (NRM, Tingey County, Kapchorwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the Government for coming up with this program on compensation. However, I have noticed that the people of Teso Subregion were partly compensated.

Mr Speaker, we have the Sabinu people who live in Teso. During the selection process for the compensation, they were not included yet some of them live in Ngora, Bukedea et cetera. I want to know if the selection process was done based on tribe because some of these people still live in Teso to date.

Mr Speaker, the entire Sebei Subregion has suffered with all the civil wars that have occurred in this country but we have never been included anywhere – whenever there is war compensation they keep telling us to wait for another plan yet we have suffered a lot, and up to now, we are still suffering.

Therefore, I want to know from the Government whether we are part of this great nation Uganda or not. If yes, then why do you do this to the people of Sebei Subregion? I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Fox Odoi?

4.04

MR FOX ODOI-OYWELowo (NRM, West Budama North East County, Tororo): I thank you, Mr Speaker. There are structural and policy problems that we are debating this afternoon. Uganda does not have any policy on compensation. Therefore, what we are dealing with this afternoon is ad hoc administrative fiacre, which is an ex gratia payment. Ex gratia payment is a favour from the person donating.

Therefore, as Parliament, we would help this country if we went back to the basics and demanded that the Government of the Republic of Uganda comes up with a policy on compensation that we can progress into legislation.

That said, Mr Speaker, I now want to speak as a “*Mukedi*”. I come from the Bukedi Subregion, which is part of this country. The Holy Spirit Movement of a one lady called Alice Lakwena destabilized the people of Bukedi. We lost property and lives. Ms Lakwena’s army raided the greater subcounties of Paya, Nabwire, Sob-Sob, Kireewa, Iyolwa, Sere and went all the way to a place called Magamaga in Busoga.

I have consistently sat in this House for a total of about three years and every time the matter of compensation comes up, Bukedi is not mentioned. Why should we continue planning the exclusion of other citizens of the Republic of Uganda? Why should the people of Bukedi be excluded from this planning process? We shall vote – *(Interjection)* - I will yield, honourable member –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I will give you time.

MR ODOI-OYWELowo: When it comes to voting, we shall vote “Aye” for the

compensation of Ugandans. However, we are hurting as a people; the people of Bukedi are hurting and it is high time we spoke very rudely. We can be pretty rude and nasty, but we have tried to maintain some level of civility. However, our patience is quickly running out.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, for compensation to be meaningful, it has to be time-sensitive. We are talking about persons who lost property 20 or 30 years ago yet we are still debating whether to give them the value of half a cow, a quarter cow, Shs 1 million or Shs 800,000 – aren't we simply being the greatest jokers? I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Fox Odoi, the report of the committee, on page 19, under general observations and recommendations - their first recommendation is on the Government to put in place a comprehensive policy on compensation. Therefore, the committee picked that issue very well.

Okay, let us hear from Hon. Awas, Hon. Katali, Hon. Obigah, Hon. Chelangat, Hon. Kirumira and Hon. Christine. I have picked a bit of opposition; I will come to the NRM side. Honourable colleagues, it seems some of you want to run to pick up your children from school! Kindly be patient; I will give you time.

4.08

MS SYLVIA AWAS (NRM, Woman Representative, Nabilatuk): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

Mr Speaker, earlier in 2021 and in 2006, there was a report which was submitted to the Attorney-General's Office in regard to compensation for the animals that got lost to Kenya and Sudan from Karamoja. Some homes were burnt during the take-over of the Government.

I am surprised to see that Karamoja is excluded from the compensation list. We lost many animals under the custody of the army. We lost those animals outside the country, and

the Government promised to compensate the Karamojong for those animals. I am wondering why the Karamojong are not among those to be compensated for their lost animals.

Also, during the disarmament programme, people's houses, property and churches were burnt, and we expected to be compensated for that. The list is with the Attorney-General's office. The Attorney-General should explain why Karamoja is excluded from compensation. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, please listen to the Members of Parliament from Karamoja; they never compensated themselves.

MS AWAS: I take the information.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Katali.

4.10

MS LOY KATALI (NRM, Woman Representative, Jinja): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I would like to thank the committee and the minister for their statements.

Mr Speaker, I will start from where Hon. Fox Odoi stopped, about Lakwena. Actually, Lakwena was defeated in Busoga. We hosted the President last week; we reminded him about Lakwena and he promised to send his people on the ground.

Mr Speaker, to the honourable minister, I would like to find out two issues: first, when he talked about bounced cheques - I know the committee talked about bounced payments, and he raised the same issue. Honourable minister, what have you done about this? Is it going to continue listing people as bounced beneficiaries, or have you tried to find out the reasons why these payments bounce and tried to rectify them? This is because we need to get them out of the way since the money is supposed to be there.

Mr Speaker, if I remember well, the committee talked about some payments that were made,

but when the beneficiaries went to their accounts, the money had been withdrawn. By who? We do not know. I just want to find out from the honourable minister whether his ministry has tried to investigate and how far they have gone. Have these people recovered their money? This is important to know because the end of the day, you record them as paid. They were paid; their accounts were credited, but the money went missing. Thank you.

4.12

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Before I left the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, we went for ground checking. When we were in Teso, it was only tears; people were weeping. Whatever is compensated is just a quarter but we hear of billions being talked about on the Floor of Parliament.

We have had so many rebel groups in West Nile. Leave that alone; when Kony was causing a lot of insurgency, the West Nile people were burnt in lorries and buses, mention them. Businessmen lost trucks of things, and some died because of loans that were being demanded. I remember a family called Drabo. The wife could not bear the pain of banks torturing her left, right, and centre; she passed on.

The Committee on Government Assurance went to West Nile, and the people there were spitting fire. I just saw a parliamentary bus and joined the meeting. We, Members of Parliament from West Nile, are being accused at every funeral and function. I think the Attorney-General and the team are doing this deliberately.

Mr Speaker, we talked about the tobacco compensation here. They said that the money was ready, but it is now meandering. They are planning a clandestine movement on this money because they do not want to involve us. You want to work alone as if you are the one voted by the people. What is - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. We appropriated that money for tobacco.

Honourable minister, you will respond at once. Yes, Hon. Chelangat.

4.14

MR SOLOMON ALINGA (NRM, Too County, Bukwo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. According to the report of the minister, his focus, as of now, is within the three subregions.

However, I think that the Government should come up with a comprehensive program in such a way that all the communities that are to be considered for compensation are included.

Mr Speaker, I come from Sebei Subregion. When the famous Lakwena was crossing to Kenya, she passed through a Sebei Subregion and caused a lot of mayhem -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lakwena was not famous; infamous maybe.

MR CHELANGAT: Okay. Take it, but famous - known for causing destruction. Mr Speaker, some of our neighbours took advantage of that, raided the Sebei Subregion and displaced our people. Our people are just coming back right now.

Mr Speaker, I do not want to say who they are, but what we know is that there are some raiders within Karamoja - not every Karamojong - but there are some raiders in Karamoja and Pokot. They disturbed us and as we talk, the rate of poverty in the Sebei Subregion is attributed to that.

We pray that the Government will take affirmative action for the Sebei Subregion and compensate the affected people for their properties. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Amedde and then Hon. Siraji.

4.15

MS AGNES AMEEDE (Independent, Woman Representative, Butebo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the greater Pallisa, the raids were mostly attributed to the insurgency in Teso. People lost property and lives. My

own home was also raided. I can attest that life has never been the same in that place, and that was the beginning of poverty. My question is: honourable minister, what do we tell the Bakedi?

Secondly, the dissemination of information during the verification exercise is always poor. When you send a circular to the local government, it is at their discretion. It hardly trickles down to the people who were affected, and many people are left out.

In the future, I implore you to let this information be in the media to tell people about this verification exercise.

Lastly, recently, people have been extorting money from the community. Some people have lost as much as Shs 500,000 to people claiming to be working on behalf of the Teso War Claimants Association. What do you know about this group? Can it be regulated so that it stops extorting money from the community? Thank you.

4.17

MR SIRAJI EZAMA (NRM, Aringa County, Yumbe): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. On the issue of compensation, the West Nile Subregion has been highly marginalised. In the 80s, the West Nilers were in the bush supporting the NRM Government to come to power. They did their work, and that is why they are in Uganda now.

They lost a lot of property, including houses and cattle. Some insurgencies, like the West Nile Bank Front, the Uganda National Rescue Front II (UNRF2), and the Lord's Resistance Army, amounted to West Nile losing a lot of assets, yet none of these things that the West Nilers lost have been compensated.

When compensation is mentioned like this, they have not been considered. Effective today, we would like to know where the West Nilers have been put in terms of compensation.

If they are not to be compensated, the Government should come categorically

clear and say, "You people of West Nile are not going to be compensated in terms of the property that you have lost, as far as these wars are concerned."

Therefore, we need our right – (*Hon. Ojara Mapenduzi rose*) - (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. His time has already expired, but I will give you time, Hon. Mapenduzi. Do not mind.

Honourable colleagues, I requested the Clerk to verify for me the contradicting information we got from the different Members of Parliament from Nakaseke. Hon. Luttaguzi said that the ambulance was not delivered for over 10 years, but Hon. Sarah Najjuma said it was delivered to Semuto Health Centre IV.

I had said that I was going to request the Clerk to verify for me so that we could have a clear record here. Otherwise, it would not be good for two MPs to give contradicting information.

The Clerk has verified and given me information from the CAO of Nakaseke, Ms Sarah Nakalungi. Madam Lucy Nakyobe delivered the ambulance for Semuto Health Centre IV on 8 May 2018 on behalf of His Excellency, the President of Uganda, and it was received by Dr Richard Bernard Kaketo, the In-charge of the Health Centre. Its registration number is UBD 149H.

However, on 3 December 2024, the ambulance was involved in an accident. It is currently undergoing assessment of the damage and the district will approach the Minister of Health for assistance with repairs once the assessment of the damages is completed.

What is very critical is that the ambulance was delivered and I think the Leader of the Opposition knew that it was delivered because he said it was in the garage. Otherwise, if it hadn't been delivered, how would it be in a garage?

However, you see the concern of Hon. Luttaguzi is that they need services.

Therefore, if they could expedite the process of repair. I do not know assessing - since December 2024? It is a month. Okay, the way the Government works - the speed - but for the record, the ambulance was delivered.

Therefore, I hereby direct that you expunge the claim of Hon. Luttaguzi that the ambulance was not delivered.

Yes, I had picked Hon. Kirumira Hassan, then, Hon. Nakimwero.

4.22

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luweero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This issue of compensation is a sensitive one, especially for people in the Luweero Triangle.

Mr Speaker, we all agree that everyone affected by the bush wars and insurgencies should be compensated. But before the insurgencies in the north, in the 1980s, the people of Luweero were badly affected by the bush war, a war that brought this Government to power. And since then, our people have been going to office after office, being promised compensation after compensation but up to now, nothing has materialised.

This very Government promised to turn Luweero into Mecca, seemingly, in terms of infrastructural development, good hospitals, and roads but as we speak, the roads in Luweero are in a status you cannot imagine. Our hospitals do not have medicines. Our schools are in very bad shape, and day after day, our people are suffering and waiting for compensation from the Government, in terms of turning Luweero into the Mecca of this country.

Mr Speaker, the poverty that is affecting the people of Luweero right now is a result of things that were lost during the Bush War. Many people's businesses were destroyed. People had their cars and buses burnt. Animals were taken to the bush to feed the people who were there. After the bush war, the Government promised to compensate the people of Luweero.

Mr Speaker, as we talk about this general compensation across the country, we need to prioritise the people who were affected initially. I would much appreciate the Government compensating the people of the North, but how will the people of Luweero hear that the people of the North have been compensated yet they suffered mostly for this Government to come to power but there is no compensation coming through? Thank you, Mr Speaker.

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

4.25

MS CHRISTINE KAAYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Kiboga): Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity. The report should also be beefed with the compensation that we want. In these wars, we suffer from the loss of life and the effects on the generation. This effect on the generation affects education, ownership of property like land, health, and the entire welfare of our people.

Mr Speaker, when you look at the 10-Point Programme that the National Resistance Movement (NRM) designed immediately after they got into power, you will notice that point number six - because we who come from the Luweero Triangle have all the way been waiting for this to happen - they committed that they would restore and improve social services and rehabilitate war-ravaged areas.

However, Mr Speaker, as we talk, we are not even on the list as Luweero people. The Minister, in her response to our people, especially those who have camped in Lwamata, told them to utilise the ongoing government programmes like the Parish Development Model (PDM). If we are not included on this list, let us go by point six of the 10-Point Programme.

Let us see compensation in terms of, for example, State House bursaries. Can we see people from these war-ravaged areas benefiting more? Can we see more populations of these people benefiting from PDM? Can we receive tarmac roads? Because of the compensation - we are talking about cows and houses but

how about the lives that led to our uncles, aunties, and fathers who did not go to school and so, failed to get formal employment, and us living in funny ways - how are you going to compensate those Ugandans?

Let us just streamline this compensation programme in this line of the 10-Point Programme. Let us build the tarmac roads. Let us provide agriculture inputs to some of these areas at a cheaper cost. Let us set prices for what we have managed to specialise in, like maize. Can we, for example, say for example, that in war-ravaged areas, a kilogram of maize will cost 1,500? Because we shall not be able to compensate everybody. If we who brought this Government to power are still demanding, what are you talking about? - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Betty Aol, Hon. Okello, Hon. Auma, Hon. Kenny.

4.29

MS BETTY AOL (FDC, Woman Representative, Gulu City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The genesis of compensation, or, can I say, in the Eighth Parliament, the Acholi war-debt claimants went to court, and they said that this should be settled outside court.

I brought the file here in Parliament during the Eighth Parliament. The Langi came in after us and Teso, which is why the three subregions are being discussed. The epicentre of the war was really the Acholi Subregion, as the number of internally displaced people's camps shows.

A lot of our people died without seeing this compensation. Just last week, I was in Gulu. Some elderly people came to me with tears rolling down. You find that somebody with 30 heads of cattle is cut to 10, and the 20 is taken away. Why do you cut when they were supposed to even add more?

All these people are going to die before they receive their compensation, yet in the Eighth Parliament, we resolved that the compensation would be there. You decided to take this to VISO, PISO, DISO, or is it the GISO?

Why do we use those structures when we know that they are structures specifically for the NRM and they are very corrupt? At least some other people even agreed to give testimonies to prove that they were being asked to pay money for the yellow cards. Why don't we also involve the people who took the Government to court? You just brushed them away, the Acholi war debt claimants from the Acholi sub-region.

I do not want to be selfish that we should not expand this to other areas. We can expand it. But we should even expand beyond livestock because it was not only livestock that people lost during the war. Acholi sub-region is very, very poor because of losing livestock. We used to use it for cultivation. We used it for cultivation but all the land has now gone because it is left fallow and free since we lost the animals, which were used for farming. Acholi used to be the food basket of the country; it is no more because there is poverty.

People are buying land off. If a poor person does not put something on the land to protect it, they will just give away the land and remain completely in abject poverty. We need to be a little bit considerate because people are dying out of frustration.

4.31

MR GEOFFREY OKELLO (DP, Nwoya East County, Nwoya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This matter of compensation, unfortunately, is smaller than what it is supposed to be. We are talking about war loss, but this particular matter is only about cows, not the whole thing. The rest of the country, especially the former conflict-infested areas, deserve war loss compensation, which is much bigger than this.

Mr Speaker, the way our debate is running, it is evident that we are going to conclude without having a comprehensive and structural way of compensation. If we do not do anything by this example, the rest of the country will be looking for a cry, not compensation.

I can assure you that the mathematics in the case of Nwoya is very clear. In the books, it will read that Shs 2 billion has been paid, but

in Nwoya, it will read that Shs 177 million was paid, and that is the reality of the matter. The rest of the Shs 2 billion is stolen, honourable Attorney-General.

If you read the report, the committee found out from the ground that only Shs 177 million had been paid to claimants in Nwoya, but your record tells us Shs 2.287 billion. Kindly find out about this money that the thieves have stolen.

While here, Members of Parliament are wondering why Acholi is favoured. In Acholi, we are just crying; we have not been compensated, yet this is important.

Lastly, can we end this drama, honourable Attorney-General? Can you clearly state that we are going to end this business in two, five, or ten years so that people can do something else? Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Okello, you said that we might not address the real problem comprehensively, but the committee report, which was before you, recommended a comprehensive policy framework to streamline compensation. If you are to achieve what you are talking about, you need that. It will be up to you to vote for it or not.

MR GEOFFREY OKELLO: Mr Speaker, I agree with you but we should spend more time on doing that work.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: But it is not our work; that is the work of the Executive.

4.34

MS KENNY AUMA (UPC, Woman Representative, Kwania): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Northern Uganda was ravaged by war for over 20 years. It is the mandate of the Government to fulfil its promise because it promised to compensate the people of Northern Uganda. In his statement, the Attorney-General stated that about Shs 139.4 billion had been released to compensate the people who have been affected.

If I may ask, who are these people being compensated? This is because in the Lango Subregion, there are people who lost about 300 to 500 heads of cattle but were compensated with one or two cows only. Is that really compensation? Is that being fair to our people? Is this Government ready to compensate our people after suffering for over 20 years? The level of poverty in Lango, Acholi, Teso and West Nile is alarming. We need clarification on that.

Two, we have the issue of data cards that were issued but are being paid for. The Resident District Commissioners (RDCs), District Internal Security Officers (DISOs) and Gombolola Internal Security Officers (GISOs) are getting money from the beneficiaries to get the data cards.

I would, therefore, like to seek clarification on that because even when people are compensated, it is not enough, and they even extort the little money that our people get. Thank you.

4.36

MS SUSAN AMERO (Independent, Woman Representative, Amuria): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I thank the minister for the report that he has given. However, I would like to seek clarification on whether the Government does enough research on what they are about to implement before they do it. As everybody is yearning for compensation to take place, the process is not being handled the right way.

First of all, when we saw people registering to be compensated, even those who were not born then were registering, and that is a problem. It is a very big problem because the numbers increased yet they had nothing.

Mr Speaker, apart from that, people have spent a lot of money to do this registration; keep moving up and down.

However, I would like to seek clarification. What is the use of these affirmative ministries, especially the one we have in northern Uganda, Teso, and other areas? When such things that

necessitate a lot of money arise, the centre tags and holds onto that.

For example, the Ministry responsible for Teso Affairs would have taken the lead in this and money would have been allocated to it. But it was all withdrawn and brought back to the centre. If there are no ill intentions, why would it be from the centre here - the Attorney General's office?

We have a resident minister, the Minister of State for Teso Affairs, who should have led the verification exercise, and confirmed to them, and thereafter the money would be released after knowing who they were paying, other than sending people from Kampala who go to make allowances in hotels, come back but do nothing.

Mr Speaker, even when they talked about compensation, how do you give someone who lost their property over 30 years ago just one cow? Couldn't they work out a formula where they would look at every family in the area and give them something, then start from there, other than deceiving us that they are compensating? We are tired of this because it is a way of stealing money. Thank you. *(Applause)*

4.39

MR EMMANUEL ONGIERTHO (FDC, Jonam County, Pakwach): Thank you once more, Mr Speaker. For the record, in Gulu, it was I who stopped the Attorney-General from continuing with the report because West Nile and Karamoja had not been included.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, it was the Speaker, not you. You do not have that power; you made a request.

MR ONGIERTHO: Mr Speaker, I am continuing with my point about West Nile, and I would like to bring in a unique case for the people of Pakwach—the Jonam people. The other cases for West Nile have been presented very well, and I want to thank my colleagues.

However, for the Jonam people, most of our land is actually in Nwoya and Amuru districts. Every time the Government conducted an operation against Lakwena, they told our people, "First leave; we are doing an operation," and people went to the other side of West Nile.

What happened, and this is unique, is that as people moved to the other side and the Government continued its operations, some individuals would be eyeing the land that was left behind.

As we speak today, the Jonam people have been chased away from their land, and they are suffering because some individuals from the operations against the rebels took advantage – saw the land – and decided to grab it from the Jonam people. I know that the issues are in court. We may not go far, but the Government needs to look at it.

I am bringing it because it is also an aspect of compensation. If our people had not been moved because of the operations against the Lord's Resistance Army, probably their land would not have been grabbed. We have lost boats, canoes and fishing nets out of that, so, I think we need to do a little more as the Government.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Sserubula?

4.42

MR STEPHEN SSERUBULA (NUP, Lugazi Municipality, Buikwe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I request the Attorney-General to travel to those areas and address those people because as we were travelling, his officials could not even continue to Gulu –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you a member of the committee?

MR SSERUBULA: No, I just heard, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, are you a member of the committee? Okay, let us hear from the Hon. Kalwanga.

4.42

MR DAVID KALWANGA (NUP, Busujju County, Mityana): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My concerns are very few. From that report –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Colleagues, I encourage you that if you are a member of the committee, report yourself the way he did. *(Laughter)*

MR KALWANGA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My concerns are very few. One, I want to understand whether the Attorney-General can get us a comparative analysis so that we can compare which group and which region has benefited more from these compensations.

Secondly, is it possible for him to also get for us the percentage that has been covered? This is because when you look at the general issue as it is, it will not give us clarity on what we want to understand as Members.

Thirdly, Mr Speaker, I do not know whether it is possible to change the format of the compensation. On the ground, we just hear through whispers that “A, B, C and D got money or A, B, C and D were picked and taken to a certain bank and were given a certain amount of money”. I do not know whether the Attorney-General is aware of that. Can they change the format of the way they are doing it?

Lastly, I understand there are a lot of complaints on the compensation side, but when you look at northern Uganda and the central region, we have a lot of challenges with the people who were given the mandate. Do you remember what happened in the compensation of the cooperatives? All those issues were not settled and we need to understand what went wrong. That you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Isingoma?

4.44

MR PATRICK ISINGOMA (Independent, Hoima East Division, Hoima City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. When the National Resistance Army was withdrawing from Mubende in 1995, after attacking Kabamba, it withdrew

through Kibaale and Kakumiro districts of the Bunyoro Subregion, but when I hear people talking about compensation all the time, I do not hear Bunyoro Subregion being mentioned; I wonder why.

There was a bitter war in this subregion in those years of 1985 when the NRA was withdrawing from Hon. Kabanda’s constituency: Kasambya. So, we need to be considered and put on the list, Attorney-General, because our people suffered, and lost property. It was bad. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member for Mukono?

4.50

MS HANIFA NABUKEERA (NUP, Woman Representative, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mine is to seek clarification from the Attorney-General as to whether compensation cuts across to some of us whose land was taken by the Government and were supposed to be compensated. We were instructed to go through the land commission for compensation, whereby the land commission submitted to the office of the Attorney-General, and it was confirmed and approved that we were going to be paid. However, up to today, we have not seen any payments from the Attorney-General’s office.

Attorney-General, is it from your office that we are supposed to get compensation? Is it part of this as well?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Paska Menya and Hon. Linos.

4.46

MS PASKA ACIRO (Independent, Woman Representative, Pader): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The issue of war debt claimants has become our daily problem in the Acholi Subregion. In Pader District – I thank the Attorney-General for clarifying that over 800 people are not yet compensated. Out of those who have been compensated, they have given them a little drop of the payment, which does not still support them in any way.

People have been forced to overthink about this money because they say they are being paid Shs 1 million per cow, but out of the Shs 1 million, you find that someone lost over 30 cows and out of the 30 cows, someone is only paid Shs 1 million, or even less. How are we going to help these people get all these millions of shillings that the Government has promised?

The Attorney-General was very clear that the Government committed to paying Shs 360 billion in four financial years. As we speak, we are almost ending the four financial years and we are left with a balance of Shs 224 billion that the Government is still committing to paying. I wonder what magic the Government is going to do to ensure that this money, which they have promised and committed to paying, is paid within the time that they had promised.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, we have been given a lot of concerns in the community, whereby our people register for these claims, but when they release the names, many of the people find that their names are missing. I wonder how names get missing from the list right from the ministry. So, maybe let the Attorney-General clarify to us how people's names disappear from the register – because when they go for verification, they find that their names are missing. I want clarification from – (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Linos?

4.50

MR LINOS NGOMPEK (NRM, Kibanda North County, Kiryandongo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. During the LRA war, many individuals or communities from northern Uganda, especially Acholi, Lango, and Teso, migrated to Kiryandongo District—my constituency; Kibanda North: Karuma and Bweyale. Most of these communities or people lost their animals because they were displaced and migrated to Kiryandongo.

Mr Speaker, these people lost their animals—the groups that settled in Kiryandongo. Unfortunately, the team from the Attorney-General's office has never visited or interrogated these communities in Kibanda North.

Through you, I implore the Attorney-General's office to send a team to Kiryandongo, especially in areas of Karuma and Bweyale to come and have an interface with these communities so that they can also listen to them. In case there is an opportunity for compensation some other time, they should also be considered. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Mudimi, Hon. Chemaswet, Hon. Ababiku, Hon. Janet, the Woman Representative for Abim.

4.51

MR WAMAKUYU MUDIMI (NRM, Elgon County, Bulambuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also join colleagues to thank the committee for the report. The issue of compensation started way back in the Eighth Parliament. By then, the Attorney-General indicated that some areas like Sebei and Bugisu should be included. However, I have heard the Deputy Attorney-General saying that they are yet to prepare a Cabinet memo. After 20 years, Deputy Attorney-General, doesn't Cabinet sit?

For some of us who neighbour districts like the Teso Sub-region, once the *mwananchi* hear that funds have been given to those people, it becomes very difficult for us to explain. We even asked His Excellency, the President, recently when he was in Bugisu, and he said that the matter would be handled. However, the Deputy Attorney-General says they are yet to prepare a Cabinet memo.

We need to get a solution here so we tell the people that for us in the Elgon Sub-region, we are waiting for a Cabinet memo. That is the message we should tell the people. We have been telling them, "Wait, the Government is trying to come out," but up to now, we do not see anything. We are moving towards the elections. One of our colleagues here mentioned that one time he lost because of compensation. The time he went back for re-election, they asked him, "You said you are going to lobby for compensation for our animals. Where are they?" He is not here.

Therefore, we need to have a structured message, which we should take back to the

people, that much as the other subregions are being handled, we are waiting for a Cabinet memo. I want the Deputy Attorney-General to be clear on what I can tell my people and we end the matter. Thank you.

4.53

MR KISOS CHEMASWET (NRM, Soi County, Kween): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committee for the report. This is an emotive matter. I am a victim of this. We suffered because of cattle raiding. We suffered because of the activities of Lakwena. This is an emotive question, and our hearts are bleeding. Our people have really suffered.

Now that they are resettling, they are asking, when shall they be compensated by the Government, not only on the question of cattle but on the collapsed institutions of Government such as schools, health centres, roads - name them. We have suffered.

Let me tell you a story. In 1987, the Government by that time said, "We have now captured power and civilians should hand over the guns." You remember that very well – *(Interjections)* – honourable members, I do not want interference. I said this is an emotive matter.

The people handed over the guns. The Government of Obote by that time had recruited militias among the civilians who were protecting their property. When the National Resistance Movement (NRM) came in and said we are now free of this, people handed over guns. The following day, raids occurred. Over 50 kraals were raided of over 200 cows in Soi – *(Interjections)* – some honourable members may take it as a joke but this is the truth. If you go to Serere Bugiri, Soroti, or Bukedea, right now, those Sabinys are there.

For those who survived with their cows, as they were moving on the way, their cows were confiscated by the security forces again and taken. Their names are appearing now on the compensation list of Teso but the names "*Che...Che*" cannot again be compensated in Teso. This is where the problem is.

How do we really manage this situation? Attorney-General, you have said that Sebei is not part of your mandate. Do you need a law for it? Do you need a law?

We appreciate the fact that you have talked about the issues to do with the Acholi. Yes, very right. They suffered. Teso suffered. Equally, other subregions suffered the way Members have raised concerns, we are talking about equity in terms of the distribution of resources in this country. If we had regional referral hospitals, then we would be happy. If we had health centres iv, we would be happy. If we had ambulances, we would be so happy because that is the process of compensation of resources and equity in this country. Thank you. *(Applause)*

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

4.57

MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I am concerned about the lack of time frame for compensating the victims. In my culture, when somebody dies, a specific period of time is set to handle all matters related to that person, so that the affected members of the community can begin a new life.

My Government, you have constantly reminded us of how we have lost our people. They got chopped, they got burned and we lost our property. You have made us the leaders to keep mourning our people without a specific time. Can you sit as Cabinet and draw a schedule so that we stop mourning our people?

Mr Speaker, I am not happy about the criteria used by the Government that those who went to court should be compensated. What about the poor who were really affected? They do not have even lawyers to represent them. They do not have the money to get the lawyers but you decided to start with those who have and left out those who do not have. I am not happy. Is that our method of doing work?

You acknowledge that people died and lost property but you chose to use that method. Can we revisit that method? (*Applause*) Even the people of Adjumani went to court. Where did you put our file?

Mr Speaker, fairness and equity must be practiced. My Government, what are you doing in relation to this?

I also disagree with the position of equating service delivery to compensation. Somebody lost their dear ones. Now we want to equate that to health services and education services. Are we fair? Let us separate the two because even without the compensation, we are supposed to get these services. Let us go down and sieve the true people who suffered because of wars.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. What Hon. Charles raised earlier, in terms of the figures from the Attorney-General's office, then the figures on the ground, and the issue of those who went to court - some honourable colleagues have told me that most of the money went to the lawyers. In fact, those who went to court might even be in more trouble. Most of them were desperate; they were just made to sign and did not know whether they would ever get anything. You say, "I can sign 50 or 60 per cent" but that is better than nothing."

Therefore, you might find those who did not go to court have a better opportunity of getting something. So, Attorney-General, as you answer, we want the issue of the legal costs - are people getting the actual amount or we are here fighting for lawyers, to get huge sums of money? It is something we should look at.

I had allowed Hon. Okori-Moe, then Hon. Melsa.

5.02

MS JANET OKORI-MOE (NRM, Woman Representative, Abim): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I thank the committee, for the good report and the Attorney-General, for his responses. I was a bit disappointed when the Attorney-General mentioned that currently, they are still

compensating only the three sub-regions of Acholi, Lango, and Teso.

Mr Speaker, Karamoja equally suffered, though in different ways - (*Interjections*) - yes, wait. The type of compensation the Cabinet is going to agree on is not uniform for Karamoja, because for the rest of the districts of Karamoja, animals were lost when they were in Government custody.

However, in Abim, just like Acholi, Lango, and Teso, people there suffered the same fate. So, the compensation for a district like Abim should be the same for a district in Acholi because Joseph Kony also attacked Abim. Actually, that is the district that was attacked by Kony because they wanted medical supplies from Morulem Health Centre III, and they got them. They came when they were too tough. We lost animals, many homes were burnt down and they had a very tough lady commander called Maj. Awor, not related to the Hon. Awor we are seeing here.

Therefore, Attorney-General, when you are making compensation arrangements, I agree with the report of the committee that it should be comprehensive and there should be fairness. I want you also to use the weaknesses that have already been pointed out by honourable colleagues to make things better for the compensation arrangements that are going to be done.

Otherwise, you need to expedite the process because recently, when the President visited Abim, the first thing that he was asked about was compensation for those who lost their animals, and all of us lost. When you see the settlements in Abim; they do not like staying like that, but it was due to insurgency. There was a time the district was reduced to Abim Hospital.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Chemaswet, you made a very emotional submission, but I want to check one thing with you, which I have noted here, for clarification purposes so that our *Hansard* can be very clear. You know it is used for research. You said 200

cows in 50 kraals. That would mean each kraal had four cows. I just want to know whether that is what you meant or whether you meant that each kraal had 200 cows so that the Hansard can capture this well.

MR CHEMASWET: Mr Speaker, thank you for that. I said that over 50 kraals were raided, each having an average of 200 heads of cattle.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. What you said is different. That is why I wanted the record to be cleared. The *Hansard* is going to correct it. Hon. Melsa, then Hon. Onzima.

5.06

MS MELSA AVAKO (NRM, Woman Representative, Yumbe): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. I would like to thank the Attorney-General for this important statement. I appreciate the issue of regional balance, and the Attorney-General has clarified to the House, in detail, the number of war claimants and those who qualified to be compensated by giving us the figures.

Attorney-General, I seek clarification on the type of criteria or mode of operation the Government is using to select the few who have been compensated.

Mr Speaker, I would like to refer to the list of Ugandan traders whose names were presented here on the Floor of Parliament in 2023, out of the 23 traders who qualified after being verified and were supposed to be compensated, only a few, not more than three have been compensated. This is a contentious issue in the communities.

I am speaking as a Member of Parliament and at the same time as a deputy director of a company that was verified to be compensated because it also lost properties in South Sudan.

Mr Speaker, I was coming to your office to seek help on how families can be helped because people have lost relatives and do not know who to go to. As a Member said, they have resorted to coming to Members of Parliament, and sometimes we also get defeated on how to approach the issue.

Therefore, I implore our honourable Attorney-General to give people clear directives on how to proceed with the follow-up. For example, a meeting can be held for all the people who are supposed to be compensated so that information can flow uniformly. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. For correction of the record, we never passed a list here for compensation. These people had supplied goods and services to South Sudan, and they were demanding their money. The Government of Uganda agreed with the Government of South Sudan, that Uganda was going to lend her money to pay and then the Government of South Sudan would pay back to the Government of Uganda. So, it was not a compensation. That is why there was a verification of your supplies, and the Government of South Sudan had to approve that, indeed, you supplied them and were demanding money.

We agreed with the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development that we should expedite the process of the 23, whom we looked into. The remaining process was verification by the Government of South Sudan because we had done our job.

His Excellency, the President, asked me to go to South Sudan and I went with Hon. Matia Kasaija. We met the minister for finance and the Speaker of the South Sudan Legislative Assembly – that was last year. In that meeting, we agreed to the final verification by a joint verification committee. However, up to now, it is not in place and there is no way the Government of Uganda can pay when:

- i. The Government of South Sudan has not confirmed the number; or; and
- ii. Issued a sovereign guarantee to the Government of Uganda for a sovereign debt to be paid, regardless of the number of years.

Therefore, the minister for finance needs to come here and explain to us why they have failed to put in place a joint verification committee with the Government of South

Sudan to help these people. This is because they are dying, yet they lost property.

There are also some who supplied goods and need to be verified because they are not part of the 23. Minister for finance, on Wednesday next week, you should come and update the House on this.

Let us hear from Hon. Onzima and then Hon. Mujungu.

5.12

MR GODFREY ONZIMA (NRM, Aringa North County, Yumbe): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I thank the committee for the report. I have stood to back the position of the committee that the Government needs to come up with a comprehensive compensation policy.

When you look at how the Government is operating - just as Hon. Mudimi had noticed - others have been compensated because they went to court, yet the statement from the Attorney-General says that some are supposed to wait for a Cabinet memo. What about others?

When we talk about the loss of property to war, West Nile suffered the most. Actually, in 1980, during the liberation war, when they were chasing Idi Amin, the whole of West Nile was raised to dust. Some people ran to South Sudan, while others ran to Congo. That was in 1979, but the actual war was around 1980.

In the 1990s, people started coming back, and that is when the West Nile Bank Front was also formed. People were raided. I wish Gen. Katumba Wamala was here. We are talking about the loss of cows; people lost a lot of cows.

There was a situation where the rebels had looted a lot of cows, gathered in a place called Nyori-cheku, and were celebrating. By then, Gen. Katumba Wamala was a colonel and he was overseeing the operations. A number of them were killed. Hence, a lot of cows were lost.

Members have just talked about the loss of property. Indeed, during the Kony war, whereas we had the West Nile Bank Front at home in West Nile, the distance from Pakwach to Karuma was a death trap. If you were travelling from Kampala, it was not until you had crossed Pakwach that you would say, "Thank you, God". When you were coming from West Nile, it was not until you reached Karuma that you would say, "Thank you, God". People lost a lot of property.

Mr Speaker, you were here in the 10th Parliament. The list of people who lost lorries and buses, including the Nile Coach Buses and others, was presented here. The Government had agreed to compensate all these people, but along the way, this has been swept under the rug. We are talking about Acholi, Lango, and Teso, which is okay.

I think the Government should set minimum service delivery standards so that when we offer services, everybody is on board.

Some Members have also talked about tobacco here. In the 10th Parliament, when they talked about compensation for tobacco - because all the West Nilers who were tobacco farmers and the people in Bunyoro lost their tobacco to masterminds. The compensation had taken root for the two groups of people. When it came to compensation, Bunyoro was considered but the people of West Nile were abandoned and we are still struggling. Though, right now, we are saying the money is there.

As the Government, I think we should set a standard of service delivery. There are very many cases where items are distributed, but when you go on the ground and look at where these items have gone, you realise that most of them end up in the constituencies of ministers, not Members of Parliament.

Personally, I have stood to support the position of the committee that when it comes to service delivery, we should have minimum service standards. That must - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Mujungu and then Hon. Sharon Balmoyi.

5.16

MR MUJUNGU THEMBO (NRM, Busongora County South, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. When you listen to the talk, what punctuates this conversation is a war story.

I also note that the committee has called for a comprehensive policy, and I would like to submit with respect to the war and policy.

Most of the Members have spoken for their regions, and one would be tempted to think that this is a tribal talk - (Interjections) - I am saying "tempted", but I am not submitting that it is a tribal talk.

I would now like to speak for the Rwenzori region. Tooro region, or rather what used to be Tooro Kingdom at independence, suffered a civil war in 1962 viciously up to 1966. This war lingered on until 1982, when the main player, who is now the King of the Rwenzururu Kingdom, came out of the bush.

However, behind this story, a lot of destruction had been realised. People had been extracted from their homes and lost their properties. Many of us spent our infancy age in the bush because of that civil war.

Mr Speaker, many of the Konzo communities you see in Buganda are a result of that civil war.

In 1996, there was an outbreak of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). The story is long. ADF came in the footsteps of the National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (NALU) and, Mr Speaker, I know that you have also heard of other wars.

I agree with the Members that we need a comprehensive policy. However, I realise that maybe the Attorney-General has not done good research.

The government, in 2009, passed the National Transitional Justice Policy, which offers a

glimmer of hope to the victims of both the past and recent conflicts in the quest for justice. This policy focuses on five areas and these are: formal justice, transitional justice, nation building, reconciliation, amnesty, and reparations.

Mr Speaker, I want to think that the issue of compensation falls under reparations. Also, I want to recommend that the Attorney-General goes back and build on this policy to design a comprehensive policy.

In the financial world, we talk of a cut-off. When we talk of compensation, where do we start from?

I submit that we start from independence to date so that we stop this back-and-forward push of saying, my region, my region. That policy would guide the discussion on the compensation processes in this country. Mr Speaker, I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Balmoyi.

5.20

MS SHARON BALMOYI (NRM, Woman Representative, Gulu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. When we talk about the issue of compensation and I think about it, my heart bleeds. I want to speak for the whole nation, but in particular, let me speak for the Acholi Subregion because we are the ones who suffered the most during the LRA war.

Mr Speaker, the Government was taken to court and it accepted an out-of-court settlement. However, the Government is not walking the talk. We are closing in on the electioneering period and our electorates have already started asking questions.

Compensation has been done and I want to appreciate the Government for that, but it is not being done in the right way or the phases it ought to be done. The Government agreed to pay one million shillings as compensation for one cow. Mr Speaker, to my disappointment, people are getting Shs 200,000, Shs 300,000, and Shs 500,000, which is worth just kilograms

of meat, if I may use that. My people are crying and wondering whether the Government is only trying to undermine them. Mr Speaker, the Attorney-General should clarify to this House on that.

For those who have already got a fraction of a cow, I call it a fraction of a cow because, in kilograms, the balance of one million shillings should be tantamount to a cow going to be paid.

Secondly, for how long are we going to keep waiting? I would say I know every part of this nation has its compensation that they are claiming from the Government, but let us handle case by case. Acholi Region suffered so much, followed by Lango and Teso.

Mr Speaker, when the electioneering time comes, the Attorney-General's Office goes to the ground and starts telling people that they are going to pay them and that they should check their names and activate their accounts. People do all that, but at the end of the day, nothing comes. Before you know it, they will tell the claimants that money was entered into their accounts, but that it bounced back because the account was not active. There are so many stories. As a leader, I almost do not have what to tell my people.

Mr Speaker, may the Attorney-General please clarify this today so that when I go back home or when I get a phone call, as I often get, I have a permanent answer to this because we are not going to – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Aza, Hon. Linda -

5.24

MR TOM AZA (NRM, West Moyo County, Moyo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. If we may recall, in 2014, 20 Members of Parliament visited the border points between Sudan and Uganda, where nine Members of Parliament were arrested and detained because they had gone on a fact-finding mission on the issues of border conflict and people were being displaced. People were fighting, quarrelling, and so forth.

The issue resulted in the raiding of cattle and the displacement of people in places like Lefori Subcounty, Metu Subcounty, as well as Moyo Subcounty.

Mr Speaker, in 2018, there was another cattle raid by people from Sudan. They came and grabbed over 1,000 cows from a place called Padiga, that is, in Metu Subcounty. A whole general, Gen. Muhoozi, the CDF, went and checked on what had happened. In fact, he confirmed that, truly, cows had been raided from that place, and promises were made to the effect that there would be compensation, but up to now, the people in Padiga have not been compensated.

If you consider the issue related to cattle raids in the Moyo, Metu and Lefori subcounties, really there is a need for compensation because that is the livelihood of the people. Thank you very much.

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

5.25

MS LINDA IRENE (NRM, Woman Representative, Fort Portal City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to add to what Hon. Mujungu has just said about the Rwenzori Subregion, which was also greatly affected by the ADF war.

In 2023, I raised the issue of the Kichwamba students who were burned to ashes, and up to now, there is no ray of hope that the parents will ever be given anything in compensation for the death of their children.

Much as we appreciate the fact that the Government has tried to rebuild the Technical Institute, the families of the students who were hurt, up to today have never been compensated. My prayer is to the Attorney-General - because some of the students who are affected also come from your constituency - please, when you are trying to verify and get a list of people to be supported, let the Rwenzori Region also be considered. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Bataringaya here and Hon. Kamateneti.

5.26

MR BASIL BATARINGAYA (NRM, Kashari North County, Mbarara): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I want to build on Hon. Mujungu's submission. Earlier, Hon. Fox Odoi had talked of policy and Hon. Mujungu has brought it out – the 2009 policy. He has also raised the issue of cut-offs. In 1979, Mbarara was razed to the ground. Masaka, which is Masaka City now – *(Interjections)* - Mr Speaker, I beg for your protection. Masaka town was razed to the ground and so was Mbarara town.

During the war of 1979, the Western Axis led by His Excellency, Gen. Yoweri Museveni, and then the Axis through Mutukula led by Gen. Oyite-Ojok - *Saba Saba* razed down those two towns. When you go to - because Kasese was not being talked about as people who suffered, the good thing is it has now been brought out very well by Hon. Mujungu.

In 1979, West Nile suffered during the liberation. Then in 1980, during the general elections, West Nile was invaded by the Government forces, and the people were chased to Congo. All the MPs from the UPC political party came unopposed because there were no people to vote; the West Nile area had been razed down.

Therefore, when we talk about cut-off points, let us go to Independence and then verify what level of damage was done in each area. Even in Kampala here, some of the buildings were flattened and the owners have not been talked about. I beg that the Attorney-General goes back - we have a cut-off point and then see who lost what during these various wars since Independence.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us hear from Hon. Kamateneti.

5.29

MS JOSYLINE KAMATENETI (NRM, Woman Representative, Ntungamo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the minister for the

report and mine is a very specific clarification. The Attorney-General knows very well that three years back, he got a list of people who were recommended by the President to be compensated. They were 20 people but only one person was compensated. These are Muslims who lost their properties and cows during the 1979 war.

Last year, we got a report from his office. People were invited to Kampala, all the necessary arrangements were put in place, verification was done, and a report was submitted to the Prime Minister's Office for those people to be compensated. Most of those people have died. Even for those who had died, lists of estate administrators were requested and submitted. Accounts were submitted. Everything was done. However, up to now, they have never got any compensation.

When you read this report, you realise that he is talking about the regions he has mentioned. Should we tell these people that they are not going to be compensated? What should we tell them? We need clarification from your office. Communication is very important. When we go back, they ask us. They think we are not following this matter up.

Attorney-General, please, I have been asking you very many times and visited the Prime Minister's Office numerous times too. I really request you to give us clear communication. If possible, put it in writing because you know the people you have been dealing with. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I thought I would pick all of you but it seems if I am to do that, we shall sleep here. But, okay, let us have Hon. Kwizera, Hon. Cuthbert, and Hon. Opendi. Let me try to pick each one of you but let us try to use a few minutes so that we can accommodate -

5.31

MR EDDIE KWIZERA (NRM, Bukimbiri County, Kisoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. There are some words that must be clarified by the Attorney-General because when you talk about compensation – the Attorney-General

should be talking about compensation or payment of ex gratia – because compensation, is it on validation or in kind? The Attorney-General knows that there are a number of cases that several firms took to court and he knows that they are paying some people, not only for the value and not only outside the ex gratia, but also outside the court directives.

While I support the establishment of a policy because it will have descriptions and qualifications of who is supposed to be compensated, the failure to have a policy that is descriptive means it will be abused, and it will yield and border corruption. An example is that if someone drives on a bad road, hits a pothole and they die, should they claim compensation? Compensation out of war – you need to make reference to what war you are referring to.

With us, we were affected by the Rwanda war of 1994. When we put up a claim, it did not come to individual members. The European Union together with the Government, did it in kind. That is how we got Kisoro airport. Government can compensate in kind.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you have an airport in Kisoro?

MR EDDIE KWIZERA: We have an airport there.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it an airport?

MR EDDIE KWIZERA: It is an airport - (*Interjections*) – yes, it is an airport. We get six flights every day.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, for the record, I think you have an aerodrome.

MR EDDIE KWIZERA: I will prove that it is an airport. What I am trying to say is that Attorney-General, do we have the capacity to even compensate, for example, people who were fighting for independence, or who were fighting for liberation? We must have a cut-off point. Therefore, the earlier you bring the policy, the better. I would suggest that no compensation should be made until the policy is in place.

Secondly, the Attorney-General should update this House on how many cases were in court or are in court and what directives were given to the Attorney-General. I was a Member of the Ninth Parliament; I can say that this was an audit query.

The Cabinet established a validation committee and the ministry was represented, the civil society was represented and the Attorney-General was represented, as well as the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. That matter was handled and it is on the records of Parliament. I can produce a report of the Public Accounts Committee where people were compensated on value. When we are here, we seem as if nothing happened. So we need that policy from the Government – (*Member timed out.*)

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

5.34

MR CUTHBERT ABIGABA (NRM, Kibale County, Kamwenge): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I want to appreciate the committee for the report, and in specific terms, I want to agree that we need a comprehensive compensation policy because probably that way, shall address all areas.

I come from Kamwenge and we have been attacked by ADF twice in the year 1996, and most recently, we did not celebrate Christmas of 2003 because our people were killed, our animals were raided, and our property was destroyed. However, we did not even have a single government official coming to comfort the people of Kamwenge. That is why I am in total support of this comprehensive policy. Probably when it is in place, we will all then know where to run to.

I have seen conflicting figures in the committee report and also in the minister's report. I do not know as a House how we are going to harmonise these figures because we do not know whether it is the committee position that is right or that of the minister. A lot of these monies – people take advantage to siphon this money.

When we lost ten people in Kamwenge under the ADF attack, the President directed that each affected family gets compensated with Shs 5 million but some families up to now have never received that money. I think we need really to be serious, and come up with a comprehensive policy so that we all know where to run to when these issues happen. Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Sarah Opendi.

5.36

MS SARAH OPENDI (NRM, Woman Representative, Tororo): Thank you very much. Allow me, Mr Speaker, to appreciate you for giving time to this subject. That shows the importance that you attach to this subject matter.

We are discussing a subject that arose out of our own actions. Let us now see how expensive war is. When you have war, people will die, some people will lose their properties, infrastructure will be destroyed, and at the end of the day, some people will never be the same.

This is why we must, as Parliament, the people's representatives, really discuss the issue of transition. At some point, we shall have another leader in this country. We cannot shy away from that subject.

Regarding this issue of compensation, in 2013, His Excellency, the President directed me - he had received a list of people from my own district - I just want to inform the House that we have a challenge because I moved to all the areas where Alice Lakwena, who was leading her team, actually passed.

During the verification process, the people who were affected themselves would tell you this one is a young person and he was not there at that time. At the end of the day, you could clearly see that we have genuine people who lost their property, people who lost their lives, and people who lost animals. At the same time, we have people who were added to the list, and these are the people who are making the entire thing very expensive.

This is where the challenge is. We were able to reduce the number of people. Even sub-counties where Alice Lakwena did not reach were included, including people from my village yet I do not remember Alice Lakwena actually coming to my village. It is a challenge. Let us sympathise with the Attorney-General.

I am saying this because there was a Cabinet sub-committee of five members of Cabinet and I happened to be among those five. What came through - in studying what was going on, after the court ruling, there were about over 200 claimants on that list. Attorney-General on going to the ground to verify, if I can remember the figures, it was about 92,000 who were genuine claimants.

Mr Speaker, when we talk about this matter, we must also be aware that some people, some of them politicians, have taken advantage of this exercise, and it is now a project. It is actually an open pit from which people feel like anybody can get the money. I do not know what happened to this decision because the last meeting over this matter was held in 2021. I remember I left the Cabinet then. It is more of ex-gratia because what we are compensating now is based on what somebody is saying; it may or may not be the truth.

We had said that we give everyone a flat figure. If it is Shs 2 million, or Shs 3 million, then let it be so - *(Member timed out.)*

5.40

MR FREDRICK ANGURA (NRM, Tororo South County, Tororo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I thank you for giving the opportunity to almost all the Members here to say something about compensation and war-related issues.

I thank the Attorney-General and the committee for the report. When this matter came up in Gulu City, you will recall that many of us - whereas Hon. Sarah Opendi has said that in her district, Tororo, where I also come from, not all families were affected by the Lakwena war, we are not talking about the Lakwena war alone.

For me, who represents a border constituency that became a corridor of movement for those who were fleeing to Kenya, and those who settled in the nearby district in Kenya, they were benefiting from raiding in Uganda for purposes of surviving the other side. This is because they could not raid the Kenyans.

I have gone to the Attorney-General's office several times; he is aware. I have presented lists of those along the borderline – the Force Obote Back and many other groups. All these people were just leaving. If Hon. Ecweru was here - he has time and again, whenever he is in Tororo, talked about their movement, the coordination, the areas that were affected, and the areas that benefited them. He has always been very frank. He has enumerated this. People have listened attentively. They even kept saying "I remember it was even your group that took my animals" and many other things.

I thank my colleagues who have raised the position of a comprehensive policy that should take care of all of us. Time and again, when people hear that compensation has started in Gulu, Lango, and Teso, they ask questions. Some of these people who have been compensated on that side were also among those benefiting from our side. Let us look at how we can take care of all these areas. Now it – *(Member timed out.)*

5.43

MS PHYLLIS CHEMUTAI (NRM, Woman Representative, Kapchorwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I thank the committee and the Attorney-General for this report. I also thank everybody who has reacted to this report.

For us in the Sebei subregion, we have suffered for so many years. In fact, when you count the years we have suffered, you realise that they are more than 100 -*(Interjections)* - yes, that is true. We have suffered cattle rustling from the Pokot and Karamoja, and this dates back to the early 1920s. This fight has been on.

At first, we were fighting using arrows and spears. However, in the early 70s, guns came

in. This is what caused the people to run away from our region, escaping to the nearby country and districts. That is why you hear of Sebei people in Teso, Busoga, and in Kenya. Most of our people are still out there.

We have suffered a lot because this subregion is very small. The raids occurred every day, and every homestead was likely affected.

So, when it comes to compensation, I really do not know who will not be compensated, because every homestead was affected. That is why some Members have said that a very comprehensive policy must be developed to ensure that everybody is fairly treated.

In my district, if we are given that money for compensation, we shall distribute it to all the homesteads so that everybody gets a cow. That will be fair because everybody has been affected.

I report that the cows that my husband drove to my home as dowry were taken away that same night. *(Laughter)* They were all driven away. My mother did not see them - *(Interjections)* - yes, all of them went. It is like I was married for free – *(Member timed out.)*

5.46

MR XAVIER KYOOMA (NRM, Ibanda County North, Ibanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Phyllis, I will give a cow to your mother. *(Applause)* At least she will get something – yes, I will lobby for more. We shall deliver them to the old woman. I hope she is still alive - very good. Tell your husband that I have paid his debts. *(Laughter)*

MR KYOOMA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, especially for that *ex-gratia* to Hon. Phyllis, but also for the opportunity to submit on the subject on the Floor.

I thank the Attorney-General for the response and the committee for the report. Within the limits of what it is, I ask the Government

why they did not roll over because when the Attorney-General was reading his response for one financial year, I noted that while Shs 50 billion was budgeted for, nothing was released. Why wasn't it rolled over to the subsequent financial year?

Then, another question to the Attorney-General is: when it came to compensation of the identified and verified claimants, did you also use the pro-rata basis because you used it for districts? If yes, then, how come some claimants did not get compensated because if it is on a pro-rata basis, everyone would get within the limits of what is available? Did you also apply it when it came to top-up, as you said?

Mr Speaker, compensation is touching. My senior, Hon. Fox Odoi, said that what we are discussing is actually ex-gratia. I support the committee that we need a comprehensive policy, to that effect. If what has been identified by Hon. Mujungu is not sufficient, we then need that comprehensive policy. This is because it would imply that the criteria would be very clear. It would have the law, and if need be, would have the regulations, which would really simplify everything.

Hon. Cuthbert Abigaba, thank you for bringing up that issue. When one comes from Ankole, they will not think that it was ever affected. Hon. Basil Bataringaya raised issues here. When we were young - I am sure, Mr Speaker, you remember - Mbarara was in tatters.

There was a group of people called the Anyanya - you would not go to Mbarara. It was put down. The Allied Defence Forces (ADF) from the Tororo Subregion terrorised Ibanda and some parts of Ankole. Hon. Cuthbert said during the Christmas celebrations of 2023, the ADF activities were still going on there. Hon. Cuthbert, for your information, more than half of the people who died were from Ibanda.

Mr Speaker, in the circumstances that we need to have this comprehensive policy, we should note that even Western Nile was affected. Do not hear these issues of only northern, Teso and

some others. That would mean, considering a cut-off - all those would be catered for within the policy and the Government would handle the issue of compensation with guidance either to finality or in bits. Otherwise, minus that, it will be done in bits or piecemeal, and it will remain ex gratia without any formula. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Allow me to first pick my three colleagues from Karamoja who have been consistent.

5.50

MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak): Mr Speaker, I was here when Hon. Sylvia submitted, and when she did, Members laughed. I imagined the House needs some information which I need to give them. Not everyone in Karamoja is or was a raider. That was the information that must sink in.

In 2006, when the Government launched a disarmament exercise in Karamoja, our people were told that those who had guns should bring them. However, our people asked, how do we protect our livestock? The Government said, bring the gun and bring your livestock to a Government-protected kraal. Our people did that.

Mr Speaker, the Bokora people of Napak whom I represent here, were the first to hand over their guns. They handed over their guns and cows to the protected kraal. When they handed over their guns to the protected kraal, those communities in Karamoja that had not been disarmed ran to the protected kraal. Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) soldiers were even killed and took the cows of our people in the protected kraal. By 2010, all the animals in Bokora County were done.

In 2011, when the President went on campaign trips, people asked him that question. He said, "Don't worry; the Government will compensate." To date, no compensation has happened. Mr Speaker, there is a group of people in Karamoja who lost their animals innocently, not only in Napak but also in other districts.

Mr Speaker, as if that was not enough, every year towards the eve of the election;-December of the last year to election, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs writes to our district Chief Administrative Officers asking them to send lists of people who deserve compensation, and that has been done severally.

In the last election, in December 2020, the list was again compiled and nothing happened after the list was compiled. This year, I am sure the Attorney-General is planning, together with the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, to do the same. *(Applause)* The people of Karamoja deserve justice. I will tell you why our people are in Masindi. Do you think they took a tour there? No!

In 1978, the Government abandoned armour in Moroto Barracks. The criminal elements went to the armour and ransacked everywhere in our community. Our people ran to Masindi, where they live to date. There is a community that speaks only Nga Karamojong. They have never returned home. It was not for exploration. It was because of that criminality. Therefore, when I hear compensation being discussed and Uganda thinks that Karamojongs have compensated themselves - that is unfair. We do not have the facts and that was why you laughed *-(Interjections)* - when Hon. Sylvia submitted.

Yes, there was a civil war in this country. It did not happen in only small parts. It happened everywhere in the country. If you want us to talk about civil wars -my father's village was burned down three times consecutively. Every government that comes must burn it first. We have never been compensated and have not asked for it.

Mr Speaker, if we are thinking about compensating for political victims who suffered the political crisis or civil war arising from political change, it should cover the whole country. Every part of Uganda suffered. *(Applause)* I am interested in that policy. In fact, I recommend that the Attorney-General and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs make a consultative process for developing

that policy. I am sure you will not think about it alone. You need our input into that policy to help the country. I submit. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Albert?

5.54

MR ALBERT LOKORU (NRM, Tepeth County, Moroto): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I want to concur with the submission of Hon. Faith. This is because when they mentioned Karamoja, it appeared like Karamoja was not in Uganda.

Mr Speaker, this subject matter is very heavy and loaded. You can see the impact the war had on the people of this country. There is no region which has not spoken about the compensation. We started with livestock compensation, the submissions I supposed should have made the Attorney-General confused. He is even now wondering where to start from. He was in Teso, Acholi, and Lango. Now, all regions have submitted and brought out the challenges brought by the civil wars. Mr Attorney-General, where are you going to start from now? *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, for purposes of guidance, I think this is the right time to put things in order. We categorised the losses that the people of this country have incurred because there was a lot of mixture. Some people were burnt in buses, and other people—there were so many losses Ugandans incurred as a result of the war.

When you look at the current situation, when you speak about Karamoja losing property or livestock, some people think that it is the Karamojong who are taking away property from other people. It is not true. There are many enemies of this country. I can give you an example. Even in our army, during the disbarment process, livestock were lost in the protected kraals. Where did the animals of the innocent people go? Those people deserve to be compensated by the Government.

Mr Speaker, my question is: When will this policy we are talking about come out to guide

Ugandans on the subject of compensation? Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, the issue of Karamoja is a very sensitive one. Whereas we have had reports that some of the Karamajong are raiders and all that, if you have listened to Hon. Albert and Hon. Faith - Hon. Komol and Hon. Awasi, I am sure your submissions are in the same line.

Honourable colleagues, this House can never judge the people of Karamoja. I want to put it on record that we are not judging the people of Karamoja. Since it is sensitive, and some of the submissions might border on that, this House can never judge the people of Karamoja. We shall always stand by Karamojongs. Hon. Komol-

5.58

MR JOSEPH KOMOL (NRM, Dodoth North County, Kaabong): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank you for prioritising Karamoja at this time. I have received messages saying that compensation issues are being discussed, but we are not seeing any of you talking about compensation in Karamoja. This has forced me to stand constantly. I thank you for picking me.

Mr Speaker, in the whole of Karamoja and allow me to be specific to Kaabong District. We suffered a lot amongst the other districts. It had 2,000 heads of cattle before disarmament and 180,000 cows by around 2010.

At the moment, Mr Speaker, Kaabong District has less than 15,000 cows. In 2022, all were raided, and Kaabong District had only 5,000 cows. I want to thank the Government for the Parish Development Model (PDM) programme. With the PDM programme, Mr Speaker, the people of Kaabong have bought cows, and they have realised up to 15,000 cows.

Honourable members, look at 180,000 cows, look at 200,000 cows, and now someone has remained with only 5,000 cows but because of

PDM, Kaabong has raised up to 15,000 cows. It has been a contentious issue during the festive season; everywhere in Kaabong District, where we met people, no Member of Parliament will come back, if the animals are not compensated.

What happened? Parliament needs to understand that we are not compensating Karamoja because of cattle rustling. Karamoja needs to be compensated because the Government that removed the gun from Karamoja did not protect the cows of Karamoja. Hon. Faith and my colleague have already mentioned that, as a strategy to remove the gun, the people were conditioned to bring all their cows to protected kraals. In turn, the UPDF was supposed to protect the cows, but the raiders came and overran all those kraals and took the cows, leaving the people without any cows. In Karamoja, actually, when you talk about hunger, you talk about food production. These are the two reasons why people cannot produce a lot of food;

1. It is because they do not have traditional oxen for ploughing.
2. They cannot afford to buy tractors because they do not have cows. One person said, "If you have to help Karamoja, give them tractors, and they will produce food." If you have to help Karamoja, give them relief food. This has been shameful. When we come to Parliament and talk about relief food, it means we are not sensitising the people to produce food for themselves.

My prayer is that - it is unfair for the Attorney-General to talk about Lango, Acholi, and Teso. We pray for Karamoja to be brought on board. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, let us not accuse the Attorney-General because the Attorney-General is responding to a report, and the report covered West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso, Karamoja, and the Sebei Subregion. If he did not include Karamoja, then he was limited. Hon. Ayume?

6.02

DR CHARLES AYUME (NRM, Koboko Municipality, Koboko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think leaving out West Nile was an oversight. I remember this day vividly, March 8th 1996, I was supposed to travel to Koboko, but for some strange reason or by an act of God, I did not travel, and the Lord's Resistance Army did what it did best; there was an ambush on the Karuma Pakwach Road, where 130 people died and 70 vehicles were burnt.

Therefore, I would like to join my colleagues in supporting the fact that there should be a level of compensation to West Nile much as the LRA insurgency did not occur in the subregion but there are many people who were in transit who lost their lives and also the businessmen like Nile Star and Gateway - not the Gateway of Koboko, but the Gateway Bus Service - were always being burnt. To this date, they have not been compensated.

Mr Speaker and colleagues, I would also want to join the colleagues in support of a policy on compensation, and my question to the House and colleagues would be, is monetary compensation enough, or should we look at things beyond the monetary compensation to service delivery, recognition and so forth?

No issues like the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF), I would like to ask the colleagues from Northern Uganda to push forward so that NUSAF can come back because it was a social action fund for Northern Uganda. It may not necessarily distribute finances to an individual, but the social services that come with such a fund should not go unrecognised.

Mr Speaker, I would like to rest my case, and I pray that these resolutions are considered. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Dr Bhoka Didi?

6.05

DR GEORGE BHOKA (NRM, Obongi County, Obongi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving us the opportunity to mourn our past.

The losses that we are reflecting on, on lives, on property, on missed opportunities, rape and defilement, require us as a country to heal from our past.

The policy is good, but it must be backed by a strategy, and within the strategy, truth-telling and reconciliation are necessary. Countries like South Africa have created a National Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I want to salute the leaders of West Nile and the Acholi Subregion for initiating a process of truth-telling and reconciliation. Can that be nationalised?

Mr Speaker, this policy that we are proposing cannot be implemented without having a national strategic framework linked to the National Development Plan and other future plans with the programs and projects to ensure these things that we are talking about are linked to resources that we must appropriate as this House.

A structure is necessary, Mr Speaker. A haphazard way of providing, whether an ex-gratia or compensation, may not do much. Good enough, we have set regional ministries: the Minister of State for Northern Uganda, the Minister of State for Karamoja Affairs, and so on. These ministries were set for affirmative action. Implementation should be delivered through these affirmative action ministries. I submit. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Songa?

6.07

MR LAWRENCE SONGA (NRM, Ora County, Zombo): Thank you very much for the time. I remember in Gulu, I raised two things;

First, I gave 40 per cent for the committee because they only covered three regions and yet the whole country suffered.

Two, I question why we are calling it ex-gratia instead of compensation. Any Government that comes in place must take responsibility, and I want to thank the Government of Uganda for

taking responsibility to compensate people who suffered during this war.

Three, I also asked about West Nile's position because I talked about the several casualties that happened on Karuma-Pakwach Road in 1996. To the extent that we were using Lake Albert, we could not pass through Karuma-Pakwach.

I want to agree with the committee and the Attorney-General that we need to fast-track this policy because it is the one which is going to address all this mix of issues. If you follow our debate now, we have brought many issues right from even before independence. We need to address that in the comprehensive policy, so that the issue of compensation can be handled once and for all.

Finally, if you read the book of Deuteronomy 24:16 says that no son must suffer for the sins of the parents. We are not blaming the Karamojong for cattle rustling. We are not saying that the Acholi sat under a tree and said, "Joseph Kony or Alice Lakwena, go to the bush." Therefore, let us not mix those issues and never use phrases such as, "if so and so is in power and then another Government changes, you should destroy what is on the ground." That should never happen again in Uganda. That is my position. Thank you.

TH DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ruyonga, Hon. Christine, Hon. Mapenduzi and Hon. Namugga.

6.09

DR JOSEPH RUYONGA (NRM, Hoima West Division, Hoima City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this chance. We are talking about compensating the families and individuals, but there are some institutions which are affected by the war. I remember my former school, Kitara Secondary School, had a brand new truck, but during the war, it was taken up. Till now, it has never been replaced.

My prayer, is that as we talk of compensating individuals, let us also look at those institutions

which are suffering because some of their properties were taken during the war. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Apolot.

6.10

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT (NRM, Woman Representative, Kumi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving us the opportunity on this matter.

Allow me to thank the Government for taking a step to compensate. The only challenge is that the rate at which compensation is being handled is very slow. I also reflect on what the President directed; to have an allocation of Shs 50 billion every financial year. However, when we look at the details in the report and what the Attorney-General presented, that one has never been honoured.

Mr Speaker, this money that the President declared should be provided for in the budget, even as we are moving into 2025/2026. I believe if that money is provided, we shall have an improvement.

Secondly, in Teso, particularly the Teso Animal and Property Claimants Organisation (TAPCO), people are asking, which category of people are being compensated? Is it these people who went to court or the TAPCO group? There are a lot of complaints about that. I implore the Attorney-General to actually make a write-up to that effect so that we clear our people.

Finally, the Attorney-General talked about the discrepancies between this report and the committee findings. He made a statement that it looks like the committee did not consider two financial years. However, in the conclusion, he did not give us hope. Where there is a discrepancy, we expect the Attorney-General to guide the committee until the discrepancies are sorted out so that we have clear data about the number of people to be compensated. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Mapenduzi.

6.12

MR MAPENDUZI OJARA (Independent, Bardege-Layibi Division, Gulu City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I join my colleagues in thanking the committee.

Just like my sister, Hon. Christine, put it, right from the time the compensation started, you will realise that there are people who have been paid over Shs 30 million; there have been others who have been paid more than that, while there are people who have spent so much money, moving almost weekly, trying to pursue their payment. This is unfair.

The other interesting thing is the payment that the Attorney-General is talking about. At some point, we agreed that a cow would cost Shs 1 million, but there are people who have received about Shs 250,000 or even Shs 300,000. We have got those records. I wonder whether the Attorney-General is paying half a cow plus the tail or something. I think that needs to be streamlined.

The other thing is - I will hit you because when you speak in this room - I want to give a very personal experience. The day our cows were raided, I was physically there. The guys who came to raid the cows chased us, and we ran. Two people were killed on that day. I do not want to blame any tribe, but these are things that happened, and we know of them.

Actually, our cows were raided by two groups. First, they were raided by the people who were speaking Karamojong. Then, another group consisted of soldiers. Even the rebels came and raided - There was a time I talked about my brother, Norman Ochero, because their military detach was right in our village. These are facts we know.

Mr Speaker, what is very important - because we cannot undo - we cannot rewind the past. What we need to do is to be proactive. We need to recognise that there are people who are suffering. There are elders who are working

day and night, believing that they would be paid. If your cows were raided—in one day, 150 cows got raided, and then you have to spend over 20 years chasing, and you are paid either half a cow or one cow in a year. Is that really realistic?

Our hope was that this money would help revitalise the economy. However, if you are going to pay my father, grandfather or uncle Shs 1 million, when he lost 200 cows and he has to wait for 200 years, I think that is not realistic. I am happy with the recommendation, and hopefully, this discussion will take us to a better stage, when we will find a more comprehensive solution. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Namugga.

6.15

MS GORRETH NAMUGGA (NUP, Mawogoola County South, Ssembabule): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the time you have given us. How I wish the discussions in this 11th Parliament would take this direction. This is the best I have seen ever since I joined this House.

We have discussed this matter in a non-partisan way. How I wish all matters that are pro-people are handled this way, no matter the political party that you come from. When you look at all the areas that we are handling, almost every one of us suffered this.

My brother asked the Attorney-General, “Namugga, what are you going to say?” but Masaka suffered. Kabonera, where I come from, suffered. In the 1979 war, even 1985, we did suffer, but I have a solution.

Mr Speaker, you have seen that, starting in 2021/2022, we are giving piecemeal, even according to the budget. The funds are reduced every year.

Honourable colleagues, we should appreciate that the resources have been depleted; you have no money. You will make recommendations here but you have no money to the extent that you cannot even offer basic services to our people.

These are issues of governance. We have a very huge stock of arrears and issues of compensation. Even on government assurances, Hon. Abed has told me that we have over 80,000 commitments by the President. You have made promises all over so what can we do? Let us get back to issues of governance.

The Constitution clearly states it under the preamble. We have gone through a lot of tyranny. Hon. Sarah Opendi made a statement on transition. Every one of us is not thinking about leadership. How do we seek a peaceful change of government? You, people, cannot talk about it – *(Interjections)* - Yes, you rig elections. You beat and humiliate us.

We have political prisoners as of now, and all those will be compensations; I am telling you whether you want to hear this or not. People are suffering. Political prisoners are suffering but you are looking on. When we talk about this, - it does not concern you. You must know that when we talk about issues of national importance, this is an insecurity. These issues arose because of the insecurity of those leaders then. The same leader is doing the same things, and you are keeping quiet. We do not want to add to any other stock. Let us look forward to clearing the previous stock and look for ways of keeping peace in this country.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move that as leaders, it is our duty to ensure that governance - we spend a lot of money under the program of governance and security; every one of us is concerned. Attorney-General, can you get back to the reports of the Auditor-General? Look at the recommendations of the Auditor-General and implement some of these.

We have been compensating, but the Auditor-General talked about the minors. They are those that lost property when they were minors by then, and the Auditor-General brought out these issues. When they bring reports to the Government, where we have spent a lot of money, the Auditor-General does his work; committees of Parliament do their work, but you only implement 31 per cent - To the frontbench, 31 per cent implementation of

the resolutions of Parliament - Do we have a government or not?

Therefore, we cannot move at this pace. We should agree that everyone has a duty to protect this country, no matter their political party. I beg — *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Katabaazi.

6.19

MR FRANCIS KATABAAZI (NUP, Kalungu East County, Kalungu): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. When it comes to compensation, there are mainly two ways; either the tangible or intangible. When you talk of the tangible, the calculation is, at times, a big problem, according to my colleague and learned friend there.

The calculations are normally not well done because, at the end of the day, when someone has lost, say, 200 cows and you pay him half a cow after maybe 30 years, it is not fair. So, the tangible kind of calculation is also not right because you are not taking into consideration inflation and everything.

If somebody gave you one cow, after 30 years, you should give him maybe 20 because they would have multiplied. So, you are not taking that into consideration. I find it a bit unfair. It is not only about animals.

When it comes to intangible compensation, how do we help those who have lost everything get back on their feet? I wish this country continued with its plan, where every region had its cash crops. For example, we had coffee here; northern Uganda had cotton; eastern Uganda had tea, including *Mairungi*.

When you look at, for example, my friends from northern Uganda, you had cotton and Lira Spinning Mill. We had — *(Member timed out.)*

6.22

MR MOSES KABUUSU (FDC, Kyamuswa County, Kalangala): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have listened to my honourable colleagues,

and their stories are touching. I appreciate the committee and the Attorney-General, but as you have observed, this matter needs another comprehensive approach.

Mr Speaker, the Indians were compensated during Amin's Government, and it kept records of those who had not been qualitatively or quantitatively compensated. We enacted a law, the Expropriated Properties Act, and the Departed Asians' Property Custodian Board, which took custody of the records. Even though those governments fell, there was a programme to compensate them.

I want to task the Attorney-General to have a comprehensive approach. Even when your Government goes, there will be other governments that will compensate these people in a manner that is more understandable.

Mr Speaker, it was shocking when the honourable member said that people whose cows were taken are compensated Shs 250,000. Are those rats in Tororo? Mr Speaker, I am concerned.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is that the cost of rats in Tororo? *(Laughter)*

MR KATABAAZI: I am sorry. I have seen a rat being eaten in Tororo and I do not know how much it costs, Mr Speaker. I would like to ask the Government to compile a list. Even when this Parliament goes and the 12th Parliament comes, or when another Government comes in, where there is a list, the Government will compensate these people to their satisfaction. Thank you. Before I sit, Mr Speaker, we lost a – *(Member timed out.)*

6.23

MR WILLIAM CHEMONGES (NRM, Kween County, Kween): Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me another opportunity. When we talk about compensation, our people take this matter very seriously. I am sure right now in Sebei, everyone must be watching the screen.

It is only in Sebei where we still have fresh raids. When Hon. Kisos talked about the matter, he almost cried because we know where our cows have been going from 1980 up to yesterday. It is time to speak the truth. The truth is our cows have been raided several times. We have lost very many people and even have fresh bodies.

For example, it is not even one month since we buried people in Ngenge. The people who have been raiding our cows are the Karimojong cattle raiders and the Pokot. Mr Speaker, even when we rescue cows and put them in the custody of the UPDF, we still lose them –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Chemonges, we are talking about compensation.

MR CHEMONGES: Mr Speaker, in 2021, when we had just started Parliament, the Attorney-General brought here a statement on cattle compensation, but the report did not include Sebei. I remember I stood up and complained. I thank the Attorney-General because he went back and finally included Sebei.

Since then, the Sabiny have been happy, but we are waiting for the Government to begin the process of verification. That day, the Attorney-General promised to consent to the case that the Sebei elders had taken to court. Up to today, the elders who have been in court for many years are waiting for the consent and compensation of their costs.

Finally, on the mode of compensation, I am a bit shocked and I am sure the entire region is shocked that the Attorney-General said he is only prepared to compensate three regions, leaving out other regions. The Attorney-General should help all of us in the House to come up with a plan to compensate the entire country in piecemeal – *(Member timed out.)*

6.26

MR FRED KAYONDO (DP, Mukono County South, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In 1983, we had a chief rebel in this country – *(Interjection)* – they know him. When he was fleeing, he went through Mukono to

Katosi, which you know very well, and was then taken to Tanzania. During his journey, the people who helped him, even those who waved at him, including the sailors who assisted him, were arrested. We have never seen some of them up to today.

Mr Speaker, I always stand on this Floor. We had a ferry that was going to Koome; he went through Koome. He narrates this journey very well, that because of the war, those families suffered but up to today, they have never received anything.

Therefore, I agree with the committee that this matter should be viewed at a wider level and not consider only two or three regions. Some areas did not suffer directly, but they suffered as collateral damage.

Mr Speaker, the President, promised the people of Koome, having assisted him in the war and for the people who lost their lives, a ferry. The Prime Minister was here and promised to take me or the people of Koome to the President. Up to today, nothing has been done.

Lastly, there is a party that suffered. In 1980 - the records have it, if not bent - the Democratic Party won the elections of 1980. *(Laughter)* the Democratic Party chose to come to Parliament to seek the right direction. People went to the bush. After that the bush war, they never handed over the victory to the Democratic Party - *(Laughter)* - yet they were fighting for justice. If we are talking about compensation, the Democratic Party should be compensated, and the people who took our victory are here, and they are submitting.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think there is a consensus on this, given that their victory is being taken away. I saw Hon. Kenny Auma clapping on behalf of Uganda People's Congress (UPC). *(Laughter)* I expected her to protest, but she was clapping, so if UPC has confirmed, then the rest can be negotiated.

Hon. Isodo, Hon. Aisha and Hon. Saazi.

6.30

MS STELLA APOLOT (FDC, Woman Representative, Ngora): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the importance of this matter of compensation, and I appreciate more coming from your right-hand side. How I wish compensation was celebrated on Sunday. We did not talk about it, but it is coming from the other side more painfully. Otherwise, let me come back to the report by the honourable Deputy Attorney-General (DAG).

Number one, in 2021, when the 11th Parliament had just started, all leaders from the three regions - Acholi, Teso, and Lango - all of them including Members of Parliament, RDCs and GISOs, came together and we were asked to submit the eminent persons per district to do verification exercise. I remember for Ngora, we submitted the names of two elders.

By the time we went back to ask them how the process was going, they had been bypassed. No wonder the Attorney-General is reporting that there are misspellings of names and account details. In Ngora, we had names - every region in this country has names that are unique to it - but we had names coming from other regions. I do not want to pinpoint any specific region. People were compensated between Shs 300,000 and as low as Shs 100,000.

There is a gap in the flow of information. The ministry, no wonder, is saying, "Let us not beat the shadow of the snake." The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs does not liaise well with the districts and Members of Parliament, and now you are referring us to the website. What we want are reports for each district. In December, I met someone in Ngora who had got Shs 1,050,000, which the Attorney-General is talking about, but he has lost about 60 cows. When shall we finish?

Lastly, I already have a petition from more than a hundred war claimants from Ngora, which I will submit to the ministry. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Aisha Kabanda?

6.32

MS AISHA KABANDA (NUP, Woman Representative, Butambala): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Number one, today has been an ugly scene in which someone testifies that the Government persuaded people to gather their wealth and place it in one particular area, only for it to be taken by the government, and since then, people have been suffering. It should be recalled, that in the recent poverty index that was released, Karamoja ranks worst, it is the poorest region.

It is ugly information for a Member of Parliament to testify that they collected their cattle and handed them over to the Government, only for the cattle to be taken away from the Government without any action. The Government should urgently address the plight of those who lost their cattle. Having said that, I join colleagues from West Nile to advocate for the region.

During that time, I was studying in the West Nile, and all the time we were being escorted in the convoy by the soldiers to go to study. We were ambushed several times, people died, and many lost their property. Before that war, you have heard it from the horses' mouths that they had suffered another war. I know of a family that lost a couple of buses; one family lost all their wealth, and from that time, they have never recovered.

It is also a fact, Mr Speaker, that the players in this Government have been a constant factor. They were actors in the 1979 war and the Kony war. We are responsible; we should be able to come to the rescue of these people.

Having said that, we need to be very careful as we advocate for a holistic approach to solving this problem. I agree with you, but I keep on wondering when this Luweero war compensation programme is going to end.

For 40 years, we have been compensating people from the Luweero region. When you go and do a thorough study, you will find the same people have been compensated over time. A father, a wife, and children. It is a programme

that was designed to create, sometimes, patronage and reward people who support the regime. There has been a lot of corruption; we have had testimonies of people who have been told to sign where there is Shs 1 million, and instead, someone is given Shs 300,000.

As we say, we should develop a holistic approach. Let us be very careful that the same people who have been paid over time are not paid again. Mark you, these same people have benefited from other programmes. They are the same people who are benefiting from the school scholarship programme in the State House. They are also the same people who have benefited from the mercy of the President as he constructs houses for people.

Certain players have been selectively rewarded in this country. As you say, we do it holistically. Again, the same people will come and register and ask for benefits.

Mr Speaker, it is okay to advocate for a holistic approach, but we must not benefit the same people. Two, let us find a solution to this corruption. By the way, the Government should speak the same language. If you are advocating for advanced farming, encouraging people to move away from the traditional cows in favour of modern breeds, then why are you giving Shs 1 million for people to go and buy cows? Is there a Friesian cow that costs Shs 1 million? You cannot be advocating for advanced farming, and you are again giving traditional cows.

Find a way of compensating so that you can help them rise out of poverty. Otherwise, we seem to be speaking in tongues—advocating for one thing at one point and then doing different things. I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Saazi?

6.35

MR GODFREY SAAZI (NUP, Gomba County, Gomba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. From the emotional submissions from all Members in relation to the Attorney-General's response, this is what I have concluded. One,

we all need compensation - all the regions - for instance, in Buganda; if we are to start that, we start with the 1966 Buganda crisis, then come to the *Saba Saba* of 1979; people lost their property and lives; the Luweero war of 1981 to 1986; we need compensation.

Two, another conclusion is, from what we have submitted, Attorney-General and the Government, you have done nothing because everybody is still crying. Another emphasis is policy; we need a clear policy if we are to conclude this programme.

Lastly, in relation to the previous point, we need a policy before any further compensation. What I am saying is that we should not proceed with the compensation programme before the policy is out. Otherwise, we shall lament until the next Government. I pray that you accept my submission that the only solution is a formula through a policy, and we end this.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Bayiga?

6.37

DR MICHAEL BAYIGA (DP, Buikwe County South, Buikwe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank you for giving time to this important subject because, for the first time, I have listened to deep submissions by Members of Parliament. I think it is a good culture. I have also been able to listen carefully to the emotive submissions of Members, and this is quite important. I have observed two issues that we need to put in our national ethos: We must resist the temptation of war to change Government –(*Applause*)– and we must have a comprehensive plan to ensure that we have peaceful transitions, which are not going to call for violence or war, in order to avert this.

Secondly, I observed that we need to look at how the Government has neglected its duty. People have been submitting on Government's negligence of duty to protect their lives, animals and other property. By accepting compensation, the Government has accepted that fact.

However, there is confusion, Mr Speaker. We have been hearing people talking about ex-gratia, vis-a-vis those ones who are talking about compensation. The two are very different. We have also been hearing about people who have generated lists, which would have already been compensated. Now, it has been complicated by others who have come on board. How is the Attorney-General going to handle this? It is a complex number.

We have been hearing submissions about a decision to make a flat payment for everybody. I think it was a Government decision. I do not know at what time this one was rescinded. Then, how are we going to include more?

I have also heard Members talking about their regions. Buganda region was affected. Many people have been talking about cattle, but we are talking about loss of life, industries, coffee, cash money and so forth. Lives were lost. Children were orphaned. Those will never be seen anywhere, maybe in schools and so on. Where are they? Nobody has even ever cared to know about them.

Therefore, compensation for lives and time lost and property in terms of coffee, industries, stores, and so on, which stalled, must be brought to book.

Mr Speaker, in the Luweero-Rwenzori programme, which was absorbed into the Parish Development Model (PDM), we used to get some knapsack pumps. I do not know if that was compensation, but for us who lived in the Luweero and Rwenzori regions, those were the commodities under the Luweero-Rwenzori ministry. We were appropriating only Shs 200 million per annum for knapsack pumps, some kind of seeds, and hoes for our people.

I want to finish this with two questions because the Government is also not so rich – we are not extremely rich. Supposing this Government said, fellow Ugandans, we do not have the money, and asked for forgiveness so that we forgive those who caused the war and then we proceed because all of us were affected?
(*Interjections*)

Or, supposing this Government ceased to be or failed to make it, from whom should we have demanded for these compensations? I think we need now to look prospectively at how we can invest in our future than looking at our past because – *(Member timed out.)*

6.42

MR JOSEPH KOLUO (Independent, Toroma County, Katakwi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. The issue of compensation is a very sensitive matter. I have listened to the submissions of most of the Members. I come from Teso, and I am very confident that when these issues arose, I was mature enough, especially during the time of the overthrow of Amin, whereby the soldiers who were running took away the cattle of the people, destroyed property and some people were killed.

That followed after the barracks of Moroto was attacked, the guns taken and the same guns used to take the cows. This was followed by the LRA war – by Kony and Lakwena – and also the rebel groups that came to Teso.

Mr Speaker, if this issue is true, let the office of the Attorney-General display the lists of those people who have been compensated per subcounty so that those who lost their property believe that they have been compensated. In my county of Toroma, there is a subcounty called Magoro, which borders Karamoja. No person has been compensated for the cows they lost during that time of insurgency.

Also, I want the office of the Attorney-General to make sure that the data cards are available, especially to the people who did not have the opportunity to register because they lost their property. Getting data cards is a nightmare. I submit. Thank you.

6.45

MS JOANNE ANIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Madi-Okollo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This compensation issue was initiated when a few people from the regions of Teso, Acholi and Lango went to court. In his wisdom, His Excellency the President said

that let us not just look at these few people but compensate all those who suffered all over the country. However, the Attorney-General's office has concentrated on only those who suffered in those regions. Maybe, we need clarification if His Excellency the President meant all the areas like West Nile and Karamoja. That is the first issue.

From the report, it shows that in three years, only 25 per cent of the amount budgeted by the Government has been paid for Acholi, Lango and Teso. That means that if we are moving at that rate, it will take another 12 years to finish just those three regions.

The Government has suffered since the time of COVID-19. We cannot expect the Government to do so much. Are we going to support it to bring a loan request of several trillions just for compensation? We need to also find another way out.

My recommendation would be that the Government organises some kind of restocking exercise in each of these areas where cattle were taken. People who received cows in year one, by now, they should have about 10 cows or maybe more. The Government could initiate a restocking exercise in each of these regions so that the cows can keep multiplying and they keep giving them out to those people.

Secondly, I would suggest that the ministries involved - they talked about the ministries for Bunyoro, Teso or northern Uganda affairs. All those would be the ones to channel these names and basically handle the compensation.

Lastly, when we went to northern Uganda for the parliamentary sitting, West Nile and Karamoja kept on complaining. They kept on saying “northern Uganda” and bundling West Nile and Karamoja with Acholi and Lango. However, when you talk of northern Uganda, everyone thinks of Acholi and Lango. Teso, Karamoja and Bunyoro have ministries; can West Nile also get a special West Nile ministry? *(Interjections)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Joanne. Leader of the Opposition (LoP)? – no, he is the chairperson of the committee; he has to conclude his report.

6.48

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The issue we are grappling with is an injustice that was occasioned on people through the tumultuous change of government, something we need to remedy so that this chaos stops. The Government needs to approach this from the point of an injustice occasioned, and we are seeking to remedy this injustice.

I think sometimes the Government interprets this to mean we are just helping these people and throwing some freebies at them. Maybe that is why it is not taken seriously, as opposed to an injustice being occasioned. We must remedy the injustice; it is important to approach it from that angle.

I also see the far cry of colleagues here and the communities where we come from. Can we focus on efficacious service delivery? That is another missing link that I do hear, even from the different communities. People are saying we lost our staff and livelihood but they are grappling with one challenge too many. Can we fix those issues too? Maybe the cry will be less.

Once you deal with service delivery issues which people are struggling with, then they remember, “But you, Government, even owe us. You have failed to deliver on health care, we are struggling with education, and the roads are bad. You also owe us. You pay our money” to try and cover the gap. We need to think about these issues.

Finally, we are talking about the Government coming up with a comprehensive compensation policy. I do not know if the Government will listen this time around. Otherwise, it is good for you, Government, as well. One of the challenges that Government - Oftentimes, what they postulate is to say, as we are dealing with these, then others come up, we are not too

sure, we need to validate and all that. Let us be organised. Let us have that policy. It will save us a lot of trouble.

Mr Speaker, we were here last year during the budget process and we pressed the Government to come up with a comprehensive taxation policy - The finance ministers have run away but they promised us that comprehensive taxation policy by the end of last year, here, on the Floor. The year ended. We are in a new year. I know they will say, “Well, we are not planning to introduce new taxes this financial year”. You plan for the future. We were discussing the National Development Plan (NDP) here. It is not for one or two years; it is for several years. We need to plan. Therefore, I do not know if the Government will take it as seriously as we think it is. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, LOP. Chairperson, this is your report so you have to sum up at the end. I do not know whether we should start with the Deputy Attorney-General or the chairperson. Honourable chairperson, please, make it quick. The Attorney-General will also do a summary. Do not handle every issue.

6.52

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES AND IMPLEMENTATION (Dr Abed Bwanika): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to appreciate you for giving this report the time and allowing honourable members to debate it. The nation has been waiting for this report countrywide.

Mr Speaker, I want to touch on a few issues. One is about the figures that the Attorney-General thinks that we did not look at a certain year. We looked at all the years. The variance in the figures came about because whoever computed what the Attorney-General was presenting and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs did double counting.

The ministry capped the claimants with 50 animals or below. They also capped those who had 250 or below. Those were the two

categories. This meant that if you had 400 animals, you were given a maximum of 250. That is how they did it. That is the system they used. If you had 700 animals, you were only given 250. Two hundred and fifty was the maximum number of animals. There were two categories. The capping was 50. If you had 30 animals, you were capped under 50 below. If you had animals above 50, you were capped 250 animals below. Therefore, no person on this list is going to be paid beyond 250 animals. That is the system.

Where did the double counting come from? When the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs was computing - I am going to give an example of someone in Gulu. Her name is Anek. Her claim was 21 animals. This means she was capped at 50 below. The total amount of money that she was supposed to be paid was Shs 22,050,000 but she was paid Shs 17,900,000, and the outstanding is Shs 4,150,000. That is the outstanding.

When the ministry captured the outstanding, they captured it under the outstanding amount for the cap 50 but they also captured the same figure for the cap 250. They did not do it for only that but for almost everyone. The same figure is on the cap 250, and the same figure is on the cap 50. That is double counting.

Therefore, when you compute, you will find that there is a variance of Shs 272 billion, which they are saying is outstanding, yet they already included it. So, they did double counting. Go back to the ministry and ensure - I felt that the internal auditor-general should be the one to look through these figures. The actual amount of money that is outstanding is not Shs 472 billion. You must deduct this from what you did as double counting. That is the variance and we computed it *-(Interjection)-* that is the work of your accountants. We should not be involved. These are very easy figures to look at. We looked at them and I can give you. I have all that you submitted. That was the difference and it is a very big difference; Shs 272 billion. *(Interjection)* He knows who did it. There is no way someone in accounting does not know what double counting is all about. *[Hon. Mudimi rose_]*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Mudimi, do not access the microphone like that. Hon. Mudimi is usually our expert on figures, so let us take advantage.

MR MUDIMI: The procedure normally is that arrears or claims are validated by the government's internal audit. You have raised a serious issue here. We would like to know from the Deputy Attorney-General whether those claims were subjected to that test.

MR KAFUZI: Before Hon. Mudimi came in, I had intended to propose that, in light of his suggestion, his committee meet with our accounts people and go over this. Mr Speaker, I am not an accountant; his committee can meet with our accounts people and go over this figure so that we can come here and clarify it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just go on with your suggestion, honourable; the rest I will —

MR KAFUZI: Because when I appear before the committee, I appear with a report as it is given. He has not interacted with the accountants. So I will humbly request - you have raised something and for purposes of clarity, create time - if the Speaker agrees that your committee interfaces with the people in our accounts so that you can have the actual figures.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: What Hon. Mudimi has raised is part of the process of Government before you pay, that is what he said - before you pay, the Internal Auditor of Government should look through the figures. Did you take them to the internal auditor?

MR KAFUZI: Mr Speaker, it is not the Attorney-General who does this. These lists are generated from the district, where they are verified and forwarded to the Attorney-General's chambers. They are then handed over to the accounts section, which feeds them into the system. So, basically, any form of clarity can only come from the finance section.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General, I think that on such a matter, this is where I would request you to first crosscheck

with our accounting officer if indeed they were subjected to the Government Internal-Auditor. I think it would be more helpful that way.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Speaker, if it is your guidance, I can do the checking, but would that answer your query?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I will guide on the issue of the discrepancies. I will guide you at the end.

ME KAFUZI: Okay, most obliged.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, colleagues, we shall not finish. I have been seated here since 2.00 p.m. At least you had the chance to move around and stretch. So let us conclude.

DR BWANIKA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The second issue that the Attorney-General needed to clarify is about the many claimants that were left out in these three sub-regions.

Teso, 20,500 claimants who belonged to Julius Ochen's leadership were left out—and they are known. We met them in Soroti. In Gulu, 5,733 claimants were left out, and they are verifiable. In Kole, 8,471 claimants were left out of the program—and these are verifiable figures. So, we thought that we would comment.

In Karamoja - for the honourable members, I listened to them and some of them - we went to Karamoja, West Nile and Sebei. We did not stop in the other three sub-regions only. In Karamoja, you supplied data cards but you never picked them and the people are still there, waiting. When is the minister going to pick up those data cards? They filled them and are waiting, nobody has picked them.

West Nile needs to hear you clearly. Some of them have even gone to court, and we met them. It is the same situation in Sebei. You need to be clear. In both West Nile and Sebei, there are some entries by the Prime Minister's office.

The Prime Minister's office acts as if it is involved in compensation. It promises people

that they will be paid, but no work is going on. I thought that you needed to clarify that.

Mr Speaker, allow my deputy - just one issue she would like to clarify and then that will be all from us.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Joyce?

7.03

MS JOYCE BAGALA: (NUP, Woman Representative, Mityana): Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to appreciate the Attorney-General for the response, but to also note, specifically Pader, where he says that 1,118 people were compensated and yet the committee found out that there were 800 claimants that were paid.

We would like to look at the list because we have evidence from what we found on the ground, the people we talked to, and the information provided by the Office of the Auditor-General.

We would therefore like the ministry to present the list of 1,118 people that they are saying they paid. However, the Attorney-General's presentation concludes by saying that "whereas they furnished the committee with information relating to the Financial Years 2021/2022, and 2023/2024," it appeared that the committee did not consider both financial years.

The committee would like to assure this House that it considered all hard-copy reports presented by the office of the Auditor-General. We also got data from the website www.justice.go.ug/livestockcompensation, where all these payments related to compensation were posted for access.

The committee verified that payments that were done in the Financial Year 2021/2022 were included in the data sheet for the Financial Year 2023/2024. For example, if a claimant was paid in the Financial Year 2021/2022, in the data sheet for Financial Year 2023/2024, there is a column where the payments made in the Financial Year 2021/2022 are indicated. That is why we recommended that because of these discrepancies, there should be a forensic

audit for us to ascertain the truth about what happened especially in regards to figures. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General?

MR KAFUZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to appreciate honourable members because they were very vigilant on this matter. I wrote over 70 questions and comments because I was writing everything apart from Hon. Namugga. (*Laughter*)

In light of the discrepancies and the submission by Hon. Mudimi, I am not an accountant, and so I think it will be best explained if my finance people can interface with the committee and go over these figures.

Secondly, the honourable chairperson of the committee, Dr Abed talked about the claimants that were left out. Honourable colleagues, I need you to understand that there was an initial verification done in 2016. That is when the lists were made. But sometime later, when we had already displayed the lists and the exercise was about to begin, the President held a meeting in – there is that district between Oyam and Lira – Kole, yes! At the exact place where they buried Oyite Ojok. That is where we held the meeting.

The President then said, “Even those who are not on the list, who went or did not go to court but have claims, let them file their claims.” So, people started—yes, he actually opened a Pandora’s Box, and many more claims started coming in.

That is why you hear conflicting reports that, “for us who were initially claiming 10,000, now we are reporting 20,000.” As I speak, if we go by the list of 2016, in one subregion you have a particular figure, but because of the presidential directive, we have to print and issue more data cards so that many more applicants come on board. When they come on board, they are verified by the office of the DISO, GISO, CAO, and the veterinary officer.

We use the veterinary officers, Mr Speaker, because we used to have livestock censuses in these areas throughout the country. There is no way - if I may use an example - if Hon. Dr Abed Bwanika claims that in 1980 he was in Oyam and he had 30,000 cows, and yet the census for Oyam had a particular number. That is how you say - I think it was *Mama* Hon. Betty Aol there, who said that someone is verified with 20 cows, and then they are slashed to six.

The veterinary officers go into the records, and they inform the CAO, who fills in the final list and sends it to the ministry. We use the CAO as the accounting officer. If it is inflated or deflated, he is the person who can be held accountable. Do you understand? That is what causes the difference. That is why you are saying that some people are left out. The exercise is still ongoing.

You talked of picking data cards from Karamoja. Mr Speaker, I got a specific directive from the President on Karamoja; he says he knows the protected kraals that were raided, and that he will write and give us guidance. If you send out data cards, everybody will fill it and file a claim, including those who did not. That is what it is all about.

Mr Speaker, the issues were many, though most of them were cross-cutting indeed - issues of policy which we are going to take under advisement and several others. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I think it will be very important when we are extracting this report to also give you the *Hansard* to give to your technical people because MPs have raised many critical issues.

Now, on the discrepancy in terms of figures, the committee on page 19, honourable colleagues, proposed a forensic audit on the payment process to be carried out to address the glaring discoveries of fraud. I had warned about forensic audits because they are very costly. Also, the Auditor-General told me most of the time, he has to go to the entity that is supposed to be audited to fund the audit and

the entity says that it does not have this money in the budget, so the audit ends up dying.

Committee chairperson, what if we amend to say, “A forensic audit or any other audit that the Auditor-General feels will serve the purpose?” so that we leave it to the Auditor-General to see whether he can do a transaction audit or a special audit? Committee chairperson, do you think that would be plausible?

DR BWANIKA: Mr Speaker, we take your guidance.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, with that, I now put the question that the report of the Committee on Government Assurance and Implementation on the status of the assurance to compensate victims of war and insurgencies in West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso, Karamoja and Sebei Subregions be adopted with the proposed amendment.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: This helps us to conclude it. We do not have to go again to our committees, and meet with the accountants. The Auditor-General will see whether indeed all processes were followed. I will consult with the Auditor-General. I do not know how long such audits usually take. We shall tell him to expedite it.

However, I do not know whether we should say that before this audit is completed, no more compensation should be paid because we are not addressing issues. We would, honourable colleagues, be continuing with mistakes. I do not know. Also, this would put pressure because in about a month or two, the Auditor-General can do it. Yes –

MR KAFUZI: Mr Speaker, I am humbly requesting that we be cautious. The Government made a pledge, and it has been striving to fulfil that pledge, however small it may be. By the way, if I may tell you, the initial pledge was

Shs 10 billion per subregion, which would not even be a drop in the ocean. However, now we are talking of Shs 200 and something billion.

What I am trying to say, Mr Speaker, is that while the audit may be expedited, there is money in the budget that has been received and more is coming. My humble request is to let the exercise continue.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, but if it is littered with such a mistake, we again come back here to experience the same mistake.

MR KAFUZI: Incidentally and unfortunately, with all due respect, Mr Speaker, I am not an accountant, but I also do not believe that these mistakes exist as they are. However, I will take your guidance, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General, just let me make it very simple.

MR KAFUZI: I will take your guidance, Sir.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me make it very simple, Attorney-General. Go sit with your people. Let us not curtail you because there is starting: “Parliament stopped us. we would have compensated you. it is the Parliament which blocked you.” I do not want my colleagues here to – but go, sit with your people, read through this report deeply, and have it in your heart that maybe some mistakes were made along the way.

Before you release more money, you should look through and see how best you can rectify the process so that the next report is not repeating the same mistakes. Attorney-General, that makes it - we leave it to your volition. Go, if you have money, compensate, but look through these issues so that we do not come back here to discuss the same. It is a caution we have given as your colleagues here.

Unfortunately, we shall hold you accountable because those accountants cannot find a way here. It is only you we can have here. Yes, you are representing them, so you go and also study accounting so that they brief you very well.
(Laughter)

I thank the committee chairperson and your team. You did a fantastic job together with all Members. *(Applause)* I gave this item — I kept pushing it because I knew its sensitivity. I wanted enough time for it. We gave it over three hours. It has helped us pick very important views that are not only about money.

I wish you could also make a brief out of this to His Excellency, the President. In fact, I loved the submission of Hon. Lulume. I do not know where you are going to get these trillions. These trillions are going to cause you - the more you give the more problems you are causing, and yet you are not even having a big impact on the ground.

Honourable colleagues, our *Hansard* team came to me, and they wanted me to clarify, but for transparency purposes, I said I would make it here on the Floor.

Clarification on the Parliamentary Resolution and Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No.1 for the Financial Year 2024/2025

On Thursday, 23 January 2025, Parliament considered and approved the Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No.1 for the Financial Year 2024/2025, totalling Shs 1,050,609,000,000, to be funded from the combination of additional borrowing from the domestic market, additional non-tax revenue and the already committed external financing among others.

When it reached additional borrowing from the domestic market, despite it being captured as a source of financing, we did not indicate the amount for it. Instead, the amount which the Government had requested to be captured under additional domestic borrowing, that is, Shs 953,345,000,000 we captured it under the programmed budget, which is money we had passed for financing the current budget and not the supplementary. I want you to get me very well. We captured it under programmed budget and yet here we said additional borrowing.

We gave more or less a blank cheque to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic

Development to go and do additional borrowing from the domestic market- I will give you a chance to clarify that. Because you passed the supplementary, you approved it; you said financing sources were; additional domestic borrowing, additional non-tax revenue and the already committed external financing among others because you know we extract this from the committee report.

If this is not corrected, we shall give the Government approval to borrow any amount they want, if we do not cap it, from the domestic market. To avoid this, we need to be specific and tie the money to only Uganda shilling for additional domestic borrowing to Shs 953,345,000,000, which had been indicated from the Government proposal as domestic borrowing.

I, therefore, direct the Clerk to correct the record and transmit the resolution to the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, capping the figure to that which had been asked for. *(Applause)*

Honourable colleagues, tomorrow, - Hon. Namugga, you seem to have a concern. Let me give you a chance.

7.21

MSGORETH NAMUGGA (NUP, Mawogola County South, Ssembabule): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The reason I am concerned, you are saying close to Shs 961 billion domestic –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Additional domestic borrowing.

MS NAMUGGA: However, remember, we are the very ones who have been committing not to borrow domestically because of the consequences. But it looks as if the Shs 1 trillion, 90 per cent of it is going to be borrowed domestically. Are we helping this country in any way?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, honourable. I am coming to your report and resolution. If you approve a supplementary, you approve it with its source of financing. They showed you

very clearly and the committee captured it, that the source of financing shall be additional borrowing from the domestic market, additional non-tax revenue, and the already committed external financing among others.

Now, if you leave it the way it is, these people can go and pick all this Shs 1 trillion from the domestic market, but the Government presented figures on which source the money will come from. They presented that from additional domestic borrowing, they need Shs 953,345,000,000. That is what I want us to cap and be specific so that it is not abused beyond this amount. Okay? Thank you very much.

I direct the Clerk to correct the record and transmit the resolution to the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Honourable colleagues, I am informed that the report of the Budget Committee is ready. I want us to have an extensive debate like the one we have had today. I do not want to limit you. I want your ideas to be the ones to limit you. Therefore, tomorrow we are going to start at exactly 10.00 a.m., and that is the item we shall start with and conclude with.

I adjourn the House to tomorrow at 10.00 a.m.

*(The House rose at 7.23 p.m. and adjourned
until Thursday, 30 January 2025, at 10.00
a.m.)*