PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - SECOND MEETING

TUESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2025

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FIFTH SESSION - 2ND SITTING - SECOND MEETING

Tuesday, 28 October 2025

Parliament met at 2.32 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 see you, Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi. According to the notification I got from the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, he is the acting Leader of the Opposition today.

On 22 October 2025, I received, with sadness, the news of 46 Ugandans who perished in a road accident in Kiryandongo on the Kampala-Gulu highway. On my behalf and on behalf of the Parliament of Uganda, I would like to express our sincere condolences to the bereaved families and wish the injured a quick recovery.

We have talked about this issue of road safety for a very long time. I believe it is an issue we need to again refocus on, especially by urging the Ministry of Water and Transport and the Uganda Police Traffic Department to ensure that there is safety on the roads. Otherwise, we cannot continue losing these lives the way it is. I learnt that another accident occurred at that same spot in the morning. We need to do something about this and I hope the Executive is following up on these matters.

In the same vein, honourable colleagues, I also received the sad news of the passing of the Rt Rev. Charles Martin Wamika, Bishop of Jinja Diocese, who passed away on 22 October 2025. He was a strong pillar of development in Jinja Diocese through the various interventions in education, health and poverty reduction that he ran under this diocese.

On behalf of the Parliament of Uganda and on my own behalf, I also wish to extend our condolences to his family, the Catholics of Jinja, the entire Catholic fraternity and the people of Uganda at large. I request you, honourable colleagues, that we observe a minute of silence in respect to the deceased.

(The House rose and observed a moment of silence.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Executive in general, for striking another deal with the World Bank, because we have been handling and praying so much here for concessional loans.

I also heard yesterday that our currency has been the best-performing currency in the region. *(Applause)* When others are facing volatility - we need to appreciate it as a country. I have been to some countries recently; they are struggling with the dollar, but here, the dollar is struggling against the Uganda Shilling. I think they need our advice on how to handle these macroeconomic matters.

Honourable colleagues, during our last sitting on Monday, Hon. Gafabusa raised an issue related to the suspension of the Executive Director of Uganda National Bureau of Standards. I have been informed that he has been reinstated. So, I do not need to go much further into that issue.

However, I have received complaints from the public. Many people always flock our offices, especially our small-scale industrialists. They are concerned about the historical leadership and governance issues at UNBS that have persisted. There are chronic delays and backlogs in the certification and processing of applications for people who want to go on the market. You are hunting people who are producing and selling without certification, but you are not helping those who are applying, especially these small cottage industries. Small and Medium Enterprises are the most affected, not the big boys.

There is also an issue of expired certificates, such as what it takes to process and renew these expired permits. This has constrained the private sector so much.

Then, there is the issue of digital confirmative stamp on SMEs and challenges related to the delivery of key functions, such as the Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC) for used motor vehicles and local meteorology services, that is, weighing scales, water and energy metres, Liquefied Petroleum Gases (LPG) gas cylinders and weigh bridges that continue to expose the public to unfair trade, health and safety issues.

There is also an issue whereby you finish paying your taxes, but then the process of UNBS releasing your container is more hectic than even paying taxes. This, of course, ends up resulting in demurrage.

I want to assign the Committee on Trade, Tourism and Industry to study these issues and engage the minister, the Board, the leadership at UNBS and report back to us within two weeks so that before we get into the budgeting process, issues of chronic delays that are affecting the public are handled.

I also understand that UNBS bought a system to identify substandard goods, which is worth around Shs 900 million. For many years, it has been on the shelf yet the Government of Uganda has paid money for it. Honourable minister, we want to know what the problem is with UNBS.

Why can't it deliver as mandated? Why are we also having a lot of interference from many sectors? How can we support them? How come the finance ministry no longer allows them to spend at source? You pay for your certification and the money goes to the Consolidated Fund, but you wait until the finance ministry releases it to start processing your permit. But you are a trader, so you cannot know about all this. It is not your problem that there are these inefficiencies.

Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry, I have guided you on the areas. Clerk, extract for them the areas I have guided on, and they should report back within two weeks. Thank you, honourable colleagues. I will start with the Leader of the Opposition. *(Members rose_)*

Honourable colleagues, what matters are you standing on? You have to state why you are standing up.

HON. MEMBERS: We are reacting.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you reacting? But I did not include –*(Laughter)* - let us move quickly. I will allow three people.

2.41

MR MUHAMMAD MUWANGA KIVUMBI (NUP, Butambala County, Butambala): Mr Speaker, foremost, for a long journey - I understand you are already in the next Parliament. *(Applause)* The circumstances bother some of us, but congratulations.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: Secondly, I am rising because my former president here used to tell us about a democratic maxim, where we say, "I hate to hear what you say, but I will die to ensure that you have a right to say what I hate to hear”. I understand that this morning, one of the most credible media houses’ - NTV, who are accredited to cover this Parliament, while they were reporting this morning, were stopped from accessing this Parliament and their accreditation cards were literally cancelled. That is why I quoted that maxima.

I understand the circumstances come from the few coverages they have had, which may have caused discomfort to some actors in this House, but it is their right.

Mr Speaker, as we approach election time, tolerance and press freedom are critical and hearing alternative views - no matter how uncomfortable we are with them, they have the right to say so.

Mr Speaker, as the head of this institution, I would like to bring that to your attention and pray that you explain why it is happening because it is a national concern. It happened this morning. This is a people’s House, and we fundamentally think that the media should access it, no matter the circumstances. That is my concern, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi. I will cross-check with the Clerk, but all I know is that we have a process of accreditation. Why do we have a process of accreditation? It means you pass through certain stages. That is handled administratively. The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker do not participate in that process of accreditation.

In fact, I need to interest myself more in the guidelines, the dos, the don’ts, and all that. So, I will cross-check with the Clerk, to know whether it is true, because it is news to me to begin with. Number two, if it is true, what could have prompted it? The Commission does not participate in that process. Yes, Hon. Linos.

2.46

MR LINOS NGOMPEK (NRM, Kibanda North County, Kiryandongo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On the matter of accidents, well, I participated in the evacuation that night, because that is my constituency. However, the challenge we have at Kiryandongo General Hospital is the overwhelming number of accident victims that we receive throughout the year.

As you know, we as members of Parliament also use that road, and in case of an eventuality, we are bound to take ourselves, or the ambulance taking us to that hospital. So, I call upon the Ministry of Health to consider upgrading that hospital to a highway referral hospital, to receive accident victims because if you notice, throughout the country, Kiryandongo General Hospital receives more accident victims than any other hospital. We also treat more refugees than any other hospital, yet our budget is thin. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Wakiso woman representative?

2.47

MS ETHEL NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I also join several Ugandans to send our condolences to the families who lost their loved ones in that accident.

Mr Speaker, when we talk about matters of accidents, it brings us back to the Ministry of Works and Transport; its capacity right now, vis-à-vis the issues coming up, and it makes us reflect more on what we would have blamed on Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) those days. However, we have talked about matters of black spots in the country and the signage - last time, we had the Kigogwa matter, where we had a truck fall and burn, and we have yet to remember our loved ones, the people of Matugga.

That brings us to the capacity, the signage, and those black spots, whereby, if need be, as much as they are highways, we construct some humps. I pray that the Ministry of Works and Transport comes in, maps all the black spots in the country, puts up enough signage, and also puts up good infrastructure for the country. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr Katoto?

2.49

MR MUHAMMED KATO (NRM, Katerera County, Rubirizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Some of us are talking about roads and signage but to me, these drivers are just reckless. If you look at this accident at Kiryandongo, you will notice that the bus driver was too reckless. Therefore, there is no way we can say, signage or what. I think the Government should come up with a policy, maybe a new policy, about driving passengers or PSV vehicle drivers. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, due to the recklessness of these drivers, recently, I was nearly crushed by a Sino truck driver. We even stopped and, you know, despite my convoy and right-of-way, he came for me and hit the car behind me badly. Then he jumped out and ran. Then we talked to the owners, but they were arrogant because they believe that everyone should get off the road for a Sino truck. A Sino truck, for them, if you see it, it means it has no brakes, it has nothing.

These guys who ferry sand are going to finish people on the roads. I have passed by Sino truck drivers, Hon. Minister of Works and Transport - Acting Chief Whip, Hon. Bahati, kindly, I request you bring it to the attention of the Minister of Works and Transport. Sino trucks carrying sand, and those that carry cattle at night, behave as if - when you see their trucks, you just know they have no brakes; so, you better take off. Dr Bwanika?

2.51

DR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimaanya-Kabonera Division, Masaka City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Regarding accidents, the Minister of Works and Transport should examine the possibility of introducing penalty points on driving permits to eliminate unworthy drivers on the road.

We have drivers with very bad records on their driving permits, but the police cannot track them because we do not have a penalty points policy endorsed on someone's driving permit. When we do that, it will go a long way to help us remove these careless, unwanted drivers on the roads. I so pray.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us now hear from Hon. John Faith Magolo and Hon. Akamba.

2.52

MR JOHN FAITH MAGOLO (NRM, Bungokho County North, Mbale): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. As we talk about road accidents, it is really a mess, particularly on the eastern route. The potholes on the highway between Mukono and Jinja are a mess. They have been there for months. They grew from potholes to drum holes, and now they are ponds. The mess that is there is really a big one. So, I pray that the Ministry of Works and Transport looks into this.

This is the entry point of most goods that come to this country, Mr Speaker. Therefore, if it cannot be taken as a priority route to ensure that, at least, the potholes are removed, where are we heading to, Mr Speaker?

I, therefore, pray that the Ministry of Works and Transport rise to the challenge over this matter. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

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

2.53

MR PAUL AKAMBA (NRM, Busiki County, Namutumba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On the issue of accidents, there is a growing culture of vehicle owners modifying their vehicles to include floodlights. At night, many times when you meet such vehicles with floodlights, you can nearly get off the road, and so many accidents have resulted from that. I pray that the Ministry of Works and Transport takes up that issue seriously, because the law does not allow modifying a vehicle to put flood lights.

Secondly, the stretch from Mbale to Iganga has no main hospital, yet there are quite a number of accidents on that road, especially the stretch from Tirinyi to Busembatia. I pray that the Ministry of Health upgrades Namutumba Town Council Health Centre III to Health Centre IV, so that, being located on a highway, it can provide first aid to accident victims on that road.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Mwijukye and then Hon. Ongiertho

2.54

MR FRANCIS MWIJUKYE (FDC, Buhweju County, Buhweju): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In addition to the accidents caused by Sino trucks, in our constituencies, they have destroyed almost all the small bridges. They are too heavy, yet the bridges are weak. The arrogance of the drivers - I do not know who owns these Sino trucks, but the Minister of Works and Transport - like you said, we need to have guidelines. I do not know whether districts are going to come up with bylaws on managing the movement of these Sino trucks, because in my constituency, we have lost about five bridges because of Sino trucks. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Ongiertho.

2.55

MR EMMANUEL ONGIERTHO (FDC, Jonam County, Pakwach): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I say congratulations. At least we are sure that our Speakers will be in the next Parliament.

Still on the issue of accidents, I want to remind us that three weeks before this accident at Kiryandongo, we had a bad one within my constituency, where we lost staff from Muni University. One was a Reverend, and it was also terrible. What comes to my mind about these trucks that get spoiled and stay on the roads for days - I remember we talked in this House about the possibility of the police having breakdowns, which can remove these vehicles, and the owners eventually pay for the breakdown services. I think that needs to be looked at, because, minus that, and particularly at night, we are going to be seeing more accidents, as long as the heavy trucks continue to stay on the roads for quite a number of days.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Waako, Hon. Bataringaya, Hon. Acon, and Hon. Ssemujju.

2.57

MS JOY WAAKO (NRM, Older Persons Representative, Female National): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I congratulate you on having gone through unopposed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Congratulations to you, too.

MS WAAKO: Thank you. Concerning these accidents, we are entering the festive season. I think the Government, especially the Ministry of Works and Transport, should take more precautions, because these bus drivers drive at terrific speed, because the more rounds they cover, the more allowances they get.

Most of them drive from Kampala to Kanungu. He wants to reach there, come back, and then take another route without sleeping at all. I would propose a policy that if such buses are going on long journeys, let them have at least two drivers. When one is driving, another is sleeping.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have students and lecturers from Hope Institute of Languages and Life Skills, Makindye East, Kampala. They are represented in Parliament by Hon. Nyeko Derrick and Hon. Shamim Malende. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)*

Colleagues, again in the public gallery this afternoon, we have students and wardens from the Islamic University in Uganda, Mbale City. They are represented by Hon. Wambede Seth Kizangi Massa and Hon. Connie Galiwango. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)* Thank you. Yes, Hon. Bataringaya.

2.59

MR BASIL BATARINGAYA (NRM, Kashari North County, Mbarara): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Congratulations upon entering the 12th Parliament. You and your colleagues have gone through unopposed, so, you pray that we join you very soon. *(Laughter)*

Every year, we budget for roads. In addition to the budget for construction, we budget for operation and maintenance. One of the most important road infrastructure pieces is marking the road. We know our roads are constructed narrowly because we have seen them when we travel outside the country.

Most of our roads, when marked with separation lines and on the periphery, remain marked for 20 years without any maintenance or renewed marking. Therefore, at the end, these Sino trucks, which we are condemning, drive in the middle of the road because it is not marked and edge out small vehicles. That is why sometimes when they meet with other big vehicles, like trailers and buses, the accidents are so catastrophic. I beg that the Ministry of Works and Transport - where does this operation and maintenance budget go to, that is not applied to mark the roads?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Acon and Hon. Ssemujju.

3.01

MR JULIUS ACON (NRM, Otuke East County, Otuke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I congratulate you on going through those heavy storms. Uganda is so blessed; we would not be dying after surviving those wars. Every day, I think a number of deaths is caused by road accidents. Otherwise, other sicknesses, malaria, and HIV, nobody fears them.

When you get up in the morning, pray while entering the car, whether you are coming back or not. If we worked on that, Uganda would be number one worldwide for surviving ordinary death.

Secondly, road humps have no reflectors. You see heavy humps, but when you reach there, you keep jumping like you are in the Olympics for the triple jump. You just get surprised. These are the things the Ministry of Works and Transport should work on. Drivers, you do not learn how to drive on the street; you must go to driving school to do all these tests, both practical and theoretical.

Our drivers learn on the roadside, and then the next morning, they compete to drive as fast as possible to make it to Lira. You cannot drive to Lira in three or four hours in a Fuso truck. I appeal to the Government to look at this very closely. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Ssemujju.

3.02

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Kira): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I congratulate you. I thought you would speak about it in your communication to inform Parliament of colleagues, especially those who are in this Parliament and have gone through unopposed. I have a request to put to you and the House. There are many things that are going on with the elections.

I saw particular machines in the media that the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs spoke about sometime here. Those of us participating in these elections do not have a clear picture of how the polling will happen and what type of technology will be used.

My request to you is to ask the minister responsible, the one who speaks for the Electoral Commission in this House, to brief Parliament on the preparations. He once said that this is going to be the quietest election in the whole world. However, he said that outside of Parliament.

It is now one month into this election; can we get the benefit of being briefed, not specifically about that prophecy, but the preparations to comfort us that we will go through this exercise very well?

Finally, the point that Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi, the acting LOP, addressed, I am aware; I worked at *Daily Monitor* before I came here. The Nation Media Group – NTV - is just one of them. They have been restricted from covering the President. Therefore, when Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi mentions Parliament, I do not know whether this is a deliberate effort to strangle that particular media institution. Can the minister responsible for information tell us if there is a crime that the Nation Media Group has committed, for all of us and the country to know?

When they are stopped from covering the President, and now Parliament follows, we do not know whether there will be a declaration to close that media institution, especially in this election period. Mr Speaker, can we be briefed about the situation of the Nation Media Group?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. On the issue of the Nation Media Group, that is not a matter that would require the minister to come and brief us on which media company a candidate chooses to cover them. I have been seeing them running - I watch NTV, so if a certain candidate does not want to be covered - there is a difference between a President and a candidate.

MR SSEMUJJU: Mr Speaker, I did not mean the NRM candidate, I meant the President.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well, if it is the President, the Minister for the Presidency will come here and tell us if we are interested in that. However, for the Presidential candidate, you choose whoever you want to cover you. Honourable Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, we are hearing a lot of speculation on how the election process will go, don't you think it would be good for us to give you a platform here to update the country and give guidance? You can also tell us the time you need to prepare for this.

3.06

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (Mr Nobert Mao): Mr Speaker, I undertake to come back with a full brief as requested by the honourable Member for Kira Municipality, because I also need to be updated by the Electoral Commission.

As you may know, the Electoral Commission acts independent of the Executive. When I get the full briefing that is up to date, I undertake to come and relay that briefing to the House. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you can make it as a matter of priority and say, about two weeks. Take your time and liaise with the Electoral Commission, because you are their political representative here. We cannot hold them accountable. It is through you that we engage with them on these matters.

Let us hear from Hon. Allan Mayanja, followed by Hon. Ssekikubo and then Hon. Nkunyingi.

3.07

MR ALLAN MAYANJA (NUP, Nakaseke Central County, Nakaseke): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I rise on a matter of urgent public importance regarding the people of Kito Subcounty, Nakaseke Central, who recently suffered a destructive hailstorm. Hectares of crops were ravaged, banana plantations put down, livestock and poultry died.

The Nakaseke District Disaster Committee report was made and submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister. I pray that the Office of the Prime Minister intervenes and rescues our people with seeds, food and iron sheets. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees?

3.08

THE MINISTER OF RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES (Ms Lillian Aber): Mr Speaker, I have taken note and I will coordinate with the District Disaster Committee to get a report, and we will be able to support the community affected. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Ssekikubo.

3.09

MR THEODORE SSEKIKUBO (NRM, Lwemiyaga County, Ssembabule): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I had come to your Chambers to address this matter to you, but since it is a matter of public importance, I was advised to proceed to the Floor.

Mr Speaker and Members, the nominations for parliamentary elections were held on the 22nd and 23rd. Like any other candidate, I went for my nominations on Thursday, the 23rd, but at the entrance, a distance from the nomination centre, the UPDF officer manned it, and this was none other than Lt Bashir Zziwa, whom I had earlier reported to this House.

He attempted to block my nomination, and at that point, the police were not with him. I went inside and was successfully nominated. As was the case with all members, after interacting with the press, we left and went back to Lwemiyaga.

From Ssembabule to Lwemiyaga, it is about 34 miles, but along the way, Lt Zziwa pursued us and blocked our continuation to Lwemiyaga, where we had left people waiting to be addressed about our next course of action.

Lt Zziwa was with a lorry of soldiers, beating up people in my procession, and eight people were admitted. We called the returning office of Ssembabule, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC), the District Police Commander(DPC).

Mr Speaker, the way it appeared, as I laid the photos, was terrible, in the sense that on the 22nd, the generals got nominated, but there were no soldiers. However, when Ssekikubo came on the 23rd, a civilian with no rank or anything – *kisaati* - a backbencher 3-1-1; the army was deployed there. What made it hard was that he drew the gun and the bayonet and charged at our procession.

Mr Speaker, this was time, provided for under the law, for candidates to go and address their people back home. We did not stop anywhere. We were en route to Lwemiyaga.

With this impunity, we confronted him, and he threatened to shoot me. Since that Lt Bashir Zziwa shot and killed Fred Ssembusi at the National Resistance Movement (NRM) primaries rally, the matter has been left there. He has neither gone to the police to record a statement nor his gun recovered for ballistics and forensic testing.

Even though I have left the NRM and contested on an independent ticket, I do not know why he is interested in me. I want to put it on the Floor of Parliament that the way he came looking for me, this Lt Bashir Zziwa wants to kill me. I want to put that here because it has happened. The first time we were attacked, my finger was injured. The bullet hit it.

Credit be given, from the national perspective - we have seen the army restraining themselves from beating candidates. At least they are using other tactics, but not physically assaulting candidates. However, in Lwemiyaga, it is the reverse. It is as if now Lwemiyaga is the Opposition of this country.

We stood here and condemned the beating of the opposition politicians. I stood myself and condemned that, and I am on record doing that. Now, it is as if something strange is happening in Lwemiyaga. When Gen. Keitirima, Gen. Rwashande, and other groups were nominated on Tuesday, there was no army.

About what happened, I beg to lay the photos. In the picture here is the Lt Zziwa standing at the entrance and also in the middle of the convoy beating people. All the trucks are here.

For respect, Mr Speaker, I thank you when you attempted to intervene in this matter. However, to see that Lt Zziwa is still not obeying the laws of this country, how many people must die before the law can take its course? Even if you remove my name, the people of Lwemiyaga deserve better representation. We are Ugandans. I am a Ugandan myself. I have not been declared non-Ugandan. Why am I being harassed?

I want to put it on record, the Government is here - why does the Government want to kill me? The whole thing is meant to kill me. Can I be told what I have done to this country? Where is the recourse? Remember, the President said that he had been told that Ssembusi, who was shot, was trying to disarm an army man, which was a lie. If the President of this country can depend on lies and falsehoods, then we were in - Mr Speaker, we were in a procession moving. Eight of my people were admitted, brutalised. I beg to draw your attention and that of the Government, save for my colleague, who is not aware that processions are allowed to go from where – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. He is the minister responsible for the nomination exercise.

3.17

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (Mr Nobert Mao): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The situation in Lwemiyaga is totally unacceptable. The laws of the country are clear. The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) Code of Conduct is something we referred to the last time. Therefore, this House is within its rights to roundly condemn any act of impunity by anybody who is carrying arms, wearing our uniform. *(Applause)*

It is not my place to start saying the Government is powerless to do anything. It is totally unacceptable. This is a contest and the Constitution is about citizens making a choice. Hon. Ssekikubo has laid these documents here. We have got the Cabinet Standing Committee on Human Rights. It has very powerful ministers. It has the Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, the Minister of Internal Affairs, the minister for security and the Attorney-General.

These are the things that undermine our standing as a country. However, more importantly, Hon. Ssekikubo is a sitting Member of Parliament. If this can happen, then it can happen to anyone.

In the past, we have found it possible to intervene. We have dealt with the police, for instance, under the Police Standards Unit. However, it looks like Lwemiyaga has degenerated to a level of lawlessness.

I undertake, Mr Speaker, to take this evidence, which speaks for itself anyway, and convene a meeting of my colleagues to talk about this abuse of power and the law. I will also raise it with the Chief of Defence Forces. In an army like the UPDF, we cannot let an individual soil the image of the army.

Concerning the President and the kind of briefings he gets, we shall also raise it with him. The President gets all sorts of briefings. There was a time when some people went and told him that I am funded by President Bashir of Sudan. For somebody to give that kind of fake information to the President is also worrying. You cannot be accused of trying to disarm a military officer, and then there are no witnesses. These are pieces of information that are easily verifiable.

Concerning whether he has been called to make a statement or not, Mr Speaker, allow me later to speak to Hon. Ssekikubo to get further and better particulars. This is something that requires urgent action. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for that undertaking, honourable minister. Hon. Nkunyingi.

3.21

MR MUWADA NKUNYINGI (NUP, Kyadondo County East, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On 10 August 2024, Kiteezi Landfill collapsed. Sadly, it left many lives lost. Property was destroyed and equally, and there was pollution of the environment.

When I petitioned Parliament over the tragedy, it directed the Government to regularly report on the progress, first of all, on the decommissioning of the landfill, compensation of the victims and other measures as a way of intervening and redressing the tragedy.

Mr Speaker, it is now more than a year, but the Government has not updated Parliament. The victims continue to demand compensation, and the surrounding neighbours of the landfill remain concerned, including me. I am a resident of Lusanja in Kiteezi, and I do not know if I will be claimed by the next collapse.

Now that I see the state minister for disaster preparedness present, we demand answers, as Kiteezi neighbours. The victims also demand answers on the progress of compensation as well as on the decommissioning of the landfill. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let the Minister for Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs report back to the House on Thursday next week. Matters of national importance have already been covered. Next item. Point of procedure from Hon. Jonathan.

MR ODUR: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise under rule 45 on questions to chairpersons and commissions. I would like to question the Chairperson of the Committee on Education and Sports of this House on how far he has conducted business regarding the petition by the teachers concerning their salaries.

Mr Speaker, I am raising this because when I went for nomination, I interacted with a number of teachers and the information they have is that this House is handling their business and so, they were looking for answers from me, which answers I could not - being a very urgent matter, I thought the chairperson who is present in the House could update us how far they have processed that petition so that we inform the teachers on the stand that Parliament has taken.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, honourable chairperson.

3.24

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SPORTS (Mr James Kubeketerya): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I also join others to congratulate you for having gone through unopposed. Back to Hon. Jonathan Odur's question, we have been handling this matter for quite some time, and can I say we are three-quarters way.

Mr Speaker, I am disappointed by the Ministry of Public Service and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. We met all the other petitioners and stakeholders. We have written three letters to the public service and finance ministries – we have another meeting tomorrow and we have actually called them to come and give us their side of the story. However, I received another call from a principal officer from the Ministry of Public Service that tomorrow, they will not be there.

Mr Speaker, tomorrow is the day we will conclude the matter and then bring the report here. Therefore, through someone standing in for the Prime Minister, can we have the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and the Minister of Public Service, so that we can conclude this matter? Otherwise, this matter was brought to the committee some time back. Uganda National Teachers' Union (UNATU) re-petitioned, and the Speaker sent the same petition to us.

Mr Speaker, we shall begin tomorrow, and our call is for the Ministry of Public Service and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to give us their side of the story so we can report back. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Public Service, what is the issue?

3.26

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE (Ms Mary Mugasa): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I also join colleagues in congratulating you and other colleagues who went through unopposed. I also congratulate other colleagues who were successfully nominated.

Mr Speaker, about the issues of the teachers, tomorrow, we are ready with our report, and we shall meet the committee. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Acting Government Chief Whip, please coordinate with the finance ministry to ensure they appear so that the committee is facilitated. Honourable chairperson, the moment they do not appear, please revert back to me as your leader in the House. Next item.

LAYING OF PAPERS

I)THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS (INTER PARTY ORGANISATIONS FOR DIALOGUE) REGULATIONS, 2025

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs?

3.29

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (Mr Nobert Mao): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the Political Parties and Organisations (Inter Party Organisations for Dialogue) Regulations, 2025 made under Section 28(1) of the Political Parties and Organisations Act, Cap. 178. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The regulations are referred to the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for processing and report back. Next - point of procedure?

MR SSEMUJJU: Mr Speaker, the procedural issue I am raising is that one of the parties that is supposed to be a member of IPOD requested to join, but it was stopped. Someone - and I do not know under what arrangement he or she was made a leader of IPOD Secretariat, because we have never seen an advert - told them they must go through a process.

Mr Speaker, as a procedural matter, may I ask - maybe you will guide the minister responsible for that area to tell us under which regulation the National Unity Platform (NUP) was stopped from joining IPOD. Otherwise, these ones have just been brought.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs -

MR MAO: I wish to state, for the record, that the National Unity Platform has not been stopped from joining IPOD. As a matter of fact, they have received clear guidance in a formal letter from the IPOD Secretariat, and I believe that at the next summit of the IPOD, they will come and publicly declare their interest and participate fully in the ceremonies substantively – *(Applause)*- and announce to the country their membership. Otherwise, we are obliged to invite, and they are invited, and they have always been invited.

Mr Speaker, I am the one who even said, “I am willing to kneel before NUP to join IPOD”. Why would anybody stop NUP from being part of IPOD? We communicate with the senior officers of IPOD. Right now, we are in correspondence with the Secretary General of IPOD. Therefore, I wish to advise Hon. Ssemujju not to base his submissions in Parliament on the opinions expressed by bloggers on *Tik-Tok.* Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Odur, do you have -

MR ODUR: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The reading of the powers of the minister to make regulations is worded in such a way that the minister, with the approval of Parliament, has to come and lay a regulation here. This presupposes that he has already made a regulation.

Mr Speaker, if you look at the law, you notice that it states in parts, *“... with the approval of Parliament.”* What he should be laying here is the draft regulation and it must be captured on record that he has laid a draft, which is now subject to examination by this Parliament.

The committee will report, and once Parliament approves, the minister will have the powers to go and make the regulations. Mr Speaker, I thought that clarification must be made. If the minister confirms that he has laid the regulation, I think he would have violated the powers that we conferred upon him.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, that is why I referred to what the minister laid here to the committee for processing. I said the committee should process, meaning they can make alterations, bring in new things, and all that, and then report back. I do not know whether the honourable minister - (*Mr Ekanya rose*) - Honourable, first go and sit on the right side of the House and then you will earn the right to talk.

MR MAO: Mr Speaker, we stand corrected that this, indeed, should be considered as a draft because there cannot be regulations until Parliament has given its approval. We stand corrected.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us have them as proposed regulations. Hon. Ekanya, are things okay in Tororo because the way you are moving today - *(Laughter)*

MR EKANYA: Mr Speaker, things can be better if this House passes a resolution dividing Tororo and giving us our Tororo District. We will celebrate and I can guarantee all other things you need for the people of Mukuju and the people of Mulanda - there will be celebration and we will invite you and Mr Museveni, the President, to come and officiate.

Mr Speaker, the practice regarding delegated legislation, statutory instruments and regulations the world over - is that the minister prepares the regulations or the statutory instrument and lays it on the Floor. If it stays for 21 days or a given number of sittings and no Member has raised an issue, it has the effect of law. This practice where we are referring the regulation to the committee to report is a new practice that we need to interrogate. When we introduce this regulation, the subsequent regulation or statutory instrument will require all of them to be sent to the committee for it to have effect of the law.

Mr Speaker, I am seeking your guidance on whether we are not reversing the practice that has been there since independence.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR BAHATI: I wanted to give my brother information that every Act s is handled differently. This particular Act says that the regulations will be approved by Parliament. Other Acts do not even say that. In this particular one, if you can read properly, you will notice that there is a provision for it and it is what Parliament is following. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ekanya, you have grown a moustache? I had not seen you properly; it is the one disturbing you. *(Laughter)*

Anyhow, Hon. Bahati has just clarified to you properly because each law provides for how the regulations are handled. We have laws where the minister is only required to lay on the Table, we have others where they do not even come here, and others which need the approval of Parliament, and the Speaker determines the process of approval. Thank you. Next item?

II) THE GOVERNMENT FACILITIES ATTACHED TO AND UTILISED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT DURING PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, honourable minister.

3.35

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE (Ms Grace Mugasa): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. This is a statement on Government facilities, which are attached to and utilised by His Excellency, the President, during presidential campaigns.

Mr Speaker and honourable Members of Parliament -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you are laying that on the Table and not making a statement? Kindly do that.

MS MUGASA: In accordance with Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda, I wish to lay on the Table a statement of those Government facilities, which are attached to and utilised by His Excellency, the President, during the presidential campaigns. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, this is just for information purposes. Please ensure it is put on our platform and in the library for anyone who wants to access it. Next item?

III) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTRE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Commissioner.

3.37

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements of the Economic Policy Research Centre for the year ended 30 June 2025. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government), for consideration and report back.

IV) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON A VALUE-FOR-MONEY AUDIT ON THE IMPLANTATION OF SOLAR-POWERED WATER SUPPLY AND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS BY THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT, APRIL 2025

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Commissioner.

3.37

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on a Value-for-Money Audit on the Implementation of Solar-Powered Water Supply and Irrigation Systems by the Ministry of Water and Environment. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government), for consideration and report back.

V) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE MUTUNDWE-ENTEBBE 132KV DOUBLE CIRCUIT TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Commissioner.

3.38

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements of the Mutundwe-Entebbe 132KV Double-Circuit Transmission Line Project for the year ended June 2024. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government), for consideration and report back.

VI) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE MUTUNDWE-ENTEBBE 132KV DOUBLE CIRCUIT TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Commissioner.

3.39

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the Audit of the Financial Statements of the Mutundwe-Entebbe 132KV Double-Circuit Transmission Line Project for the year ended June 2023. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts, Central Government, for consideration and report back.

VII) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON A VALUE-FOR-MONEY AUDIT ON REGULATION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN UGANDA BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Commissioner.

3.39

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on a value-for-money audit on the regulation of secondary education in Uganda by the Ministry of Education and Sports. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government), for consideration and report back.

VIII) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON A VALUE-FOR-MONEY AUDIT ON SCALING AND COMMERCIALISATION OF RESEARCH OUTPUTS AT MAKERERE, MBARARA AND BUSITEMA PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES – DECEMBER 2025

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Commissioner.

3.40

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the value-for-money audit on scaling and commercialisation of research outputs at Makerere, Mbarara, Busitema public universities, December 2025. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government), for consideration and report back.

IX) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF CASH-IN: PRIVATELY MANAGED CASH TRANSFERS IN AFRICA PROJECT IN MAKERERE UNIVERSITY FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Commissioner.

3.40

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements of Cash-In: Privately Managed Cash Transfers in Africa Project in Makerere University for the period that ended 31 December 2024. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government), for consideration and report back.

(X) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF GULU UNIVERSITY VULNERABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTABILITY IN CONFLICT AFFECTED REGIONS (VUCCA) PROJECT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JUNE 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

3.41

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli Central County, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements of Gulu University Vulnerability and Climate Change and Adaptability in the Conflict Affected

Regions Project for the period 1 June 2023 to 31 December 2024. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I refer the report to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government), for consideration and report back.

XI) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF IMAGINING GENDER FUTURES IN UGANDA-DFC PROJECT NO. 17-07-AU-IMPLEMENTED BY GULU UNIVERSITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3.42
MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli Central County, Bugiri): I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements of Imagining Gender Futures in Uganda-DFC project No. 17-07-AU-implemented by Gulu University for the year ended 31 December 2024.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Commissioner. I refer the report to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government), for consideration and report back.

XII) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY STRENGTHENING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND BENEFIT SHARING IN UGANDA FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3.43
MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli Central County, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Institutional Capacity Strengthening for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing in Uganda for the year ended 31 December 2024.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The report is referred to the Public Accounts Committee (Central Government), for consideration and report back.

XIII) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE AUDIT OF REDUCING CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN UGANDA THROUGH ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION IN FOREST AND WETLAND ECOSYSTEM PROJECT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2024

3.44
MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli Central County, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the audit of Reducing Climate Change Vulnerability of Local Communities in Uganda through Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Forest and Wetland Ecosystem Project for the year that ended December 2024.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Commissioner. The report is referred to the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government), for consideration and report back.

XIV) REPORT TO THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF CHARCOAL CONFLICT IN CLIMATE CHANGE'S DECARBONISATION DILEMMAS PROJECT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

3.46
MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli Central County, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Charcoal Conflict in the Climate Change's Decarbonisation Dilemmas Project for the period 1 January to 31 December 2024.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable commissioner. The report is referred to the Public Accounts Committee

(Central Government), for consideration and report back.

XV) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE NEMA PROJECT OF PROMOTING INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT APPROACH FOR CONSERVATION OF THE MOUNT ELGON ECOSYSTEM IN EASTERN UGANDA PROJECT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3.47

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli Central County, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements of the NEMA project of Promoting Integrated Landscape Management Approach for Conservation of the Mount Elgon Ecosystem in Eastern Uganda Project for the year ended 31 December 2024.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, the report is referred to the Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE), for consideration and report back.

XVI) VERIFICATION REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE UGANDA RAILWAYS CORPORATION PENSION ARREARS FOR 129 PENSIONERS

3.47

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli Central County, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the verification report on the audit of the Uganda Railways Corporation pension arrears for 129 pensioners.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I refer the report to the Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE), for consideration and report back. Sorry, honourable colleagues, I am consulting with the clerk on a small matter.

I got a call from the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development that Hon. Bahati will stand in to move the motion. Two, item 4 is covered under item 5 because the motion that was moved was one, which is under item 5. So, I need you to take note of that. I will ask the clerk to call item 5.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT TO AUTHORISE THE GOVERNMENT TO BORROW UP TO $1,341 MILLION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE WORLD BANK GROUP AND RECEIVE GRANTS WORTH $328.3 MILLION TO FINANCE THE UNDER LISTED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

3.50

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, as instructed by you, I beg to move a Motion for a Resolution of Parliament to authorise Government to borrow up to $200 million from the International Development Association of the World Bank Group to finance the Uganda Strength in Public Investment and Assets Management for Growth and Resilience Programme on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. I beg to move, as allowed by you. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Bahati, you have stood up substantively because you are acting Government Chief Whip and also acting minister for finance. *(Hon. Ssemujju rose_)* Hon. Ssemujju, what is the matter? Your friend, Hon. Bahati, has done a good job.

3.51

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): Mr Speaker, I sit on the Committee on Budget and we were summoned by the committee this morning to process a supplementary worth Shs 1.6 trillion. The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development together with his deputies were not available. So, the committee was stuck. The reason I am rising, Mr Speaker, is that the way Hon. Bahati has been fidgeting, it looks like he has no instruction to deal –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssemujju, do you doubt me?

MR SSEMUJJU: No, I have no reason to doubt you, Mr Speaker, but Hon. Bahati is making you –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order, Hon. Bahati?

MR BAHATI: Mr Speaker, the business of the House is very important and you have guided how this House should conduct its business, and we are the custodian of the rules. We are moving on very well. So, is the honourable Member of Parliament for Kira Municipality in order to disrupt and divert the movement of the business of the House in this manner when Members are very ready to consider these important projects that affect their constituencies? You know how steady I am. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, I wanted to know whether you were fidgeting. I thought you were going to address that issue. *(Laughter)*

MR BAHATI: It is him who is fidgeting on what to say about the matter.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, let us proceed. The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development had some critical issues they were handling, and they reached out to me yesterday evening. I told them that we have to proceed with these matters because they appeared before the committee and were processed. That is when they said Hon. Bahati should stand in, and Hon. Bahati has never fidgeted.

MR SSEMUJJU: My complaint was for him to state publicly that he is now acting on the instruction of the Speaker. He owes this Parliament an apology.

You are deployed by your appointing authority. When the Speaker helps you, you do not load it on him that you are working on his instructions. Can he apologise to the House, Mr Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, rarely do I get people who protect me. Today, Hon. Ssemujju has. I would like to thank Hon. Ssemujju for offloading all that had been put on me.

MR KIVUMBI MUWANGA: Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is one of the ministries that is most staffed. I have been consulting here, and it has nearly five state ministers: Hon. Lugoloobi, Hon. Kasolo, Hon. Bahati, Hon. Anite, and Hon. Musasizi.

Now, a ministry with five state ministers, all of them on a critical matter of soliciting - and their core mandate is to mobilise resources to implement the budget, and none of them is here.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable, by the time I allowed it, I considered all that, and part of the work they are doing is soliciting money to implement the budget, which we have already passed.

Let us move, honourable colleagues. I would like to set you free so that you can go for your campaigns. I would like to sort out the items we have then - honourable chairperson, because it is straightforward, it is already processed. I do not know if you want to add on anything.

I wanted to know if the motion is seconded. Hon. Ssemujju, at least you should stand by your colleague, Hon. Bahati. It is seconded by Hon. Ssemujju, Hon. Ongiertho, Lamwo, Hon. Mapenduzi's constituency usually disturbs me with the name. Hon. Okabe, Hon. Rwemulikya, Hon. Orone, Gomba, Hon. Paparu, Hon. Sowedi, by many of your honourable colleagues, and all the ministers; Hon. Lillian, Hon. Rwamirama, Hon. Mugisa, my senior, former PPS, defence, veterans, and all of you.

Honourable minister, do you want to add anything, or is the report done, and you just need the chairman to present? Please feel free.

MR BAHATI: Just to mention, Mr Speaker, that this programme will address and support the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund, the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project, Uganda Learning Acceleration Programme, and most importantly of these, Uganda Cities and Municipalities Infrastructure Development, Uganda Strengthening Public Investment and Assets Management for Growth and Resilience Programme. And as you said, the chairperson and the committee have considered this loan, and with your permission, they will be ready to report to the House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Committee chairperson, you have 10 minutes. There could be salient issues.

PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO USD 1,341 MILLION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE WORLD BANK AND RECEIVE GRANTS WORTH USD 328.3 MILLION

3.55

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ECONOMY (Mr Bosco Ikojo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Allow me to join the rest of the Members who have thanked you for coming up unopposed. I really want to congratulate you.

Before I read the report, I beg to lay the report of the Committee on National Economy on the proposal by Government to borrow up to $1,341 million from the International Development Association of the World Bank Group and receive a grant worth $328.3 million to finance the under listed projects and programme, together with the minutes of the committee meetings. I beg to lay.

Mr Speaker, you may recall that last week, a proposal to borrow up to $1,341 million from the International Development Association of the World Bank and receive a grant of $328.3 million to finance the NUSAF IV projects, DRDIP, the ULEARN Project, the Uganda Cities and Municipality Infrastructure Development Programme, USMID, and PIM PLUS, that is the Uganda Strengthening Public Investment and Assets Management for Growth and Resilience Programme.

The committee held meetings with officials from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Education and Sports, OPM, the Ministry of Lands and Urban Development and the section of the ministry that is handling the PIM PLUS programme.

We reviewed a number of documents in relation to Uganda; that is, the minister’s brief, the negotiated draft loan agreements for northern Uganda for NUSAF IV, DRDIP, ULEARN, and PIM PLUS, but the committee did not have an opportunity to review the documents for the draft financing agreement for USMID, since USMID is still under concept review by the World Bank.

Mr Speaker, the Committee on National Economy undertook its role on compliance with documents submitted to the committee in line with Rule 162 of our Rules of Procedure. The committee received nearly all documents for all the programmes targeting NUSAF IV, DRDIP, ULEARN. For USMID, a number of documents were missing since this project is still under review by the World Bank. It was last updated on the 12th of October this year. The rest of the programmes had all the documents presented to the committee, and this enabled the committee to proceed with scrutiny of the project.

In terms of alignment with the country’s strategy, the proposed projects and programmes are aligned to the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV) and specifically contribute to the following NDP IV objectives:

1. Sustainably increasing production, productivity, and value addition in agriculture, minerals, oil and gas, tourism, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and financial services;

2. Enhancing human capital development along the entire life cycle;

3. Supporting the private sector to drive growth and create jobs;

4. Building and maintaining strategic sustainable infrastructure in transport, housing, energy, water, industry, and ICT; and

5. Strengthening good governance, security, and the role of the state in development.

The project and programme descriptions

Under the Northern Uganda programme, the overview of the project is that Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF) has been implemented in three phases to date, with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) being the lead implementing agency.

The First NUSAF project was implemented with International Development Association (IDA) support from February 2003 to March 2009. NUSAF II was implemented from September 2009 to 2016.

NUSAF III project implementation consolidated the achievements of the predecessor NUSAF I and II and contributed to the operationalisation of the Uganda Social Protection Policy, 2025, under Pillar 1 of social security, by providing direct income support to poor and vulnerable households and individuals.

It also contributed to the delivery of Government commitment to Vision 2040 and the Accountability Sector Strategy Plan (ASSIP) and enabled Inspectorate of Government to foster Strengthening Transparency, Accountability and Anti-Corruption (STAAC) in the Government-aided projects.

The project was implemented in 67 districts in eight sub-regions in the Greater North covering Acholi, Lango, West Nile, Bunyoro, Bukedi, Elgon, Teso and Karamoja between 16 March 2016, when the project became effective and 30 June 2021 when it was closed. It was also financed through an IDA credit of $131.8 million. The project development objectives indicators are reported to have been achieved beyond what was planned, as shown in the summary table.

Under the number of households' beneficiaries, approximately 3,000,000 households were targeted but they went beyond to 3,031,690, which was 101 per cent delivery.

On the number of families' beneficiaries, of the 1,198,200 target, they achieved 1,772,770, which was 148 per cent. The rest are in percentages.

The project development objective for NUSAF IV

The project development objective is, "To support sustainable livelihood, enhance poor and vulnerable households' resilience to shocks and strengthen adaptive social protection systems in Uganda".

The project components

The project has five components as below:

1. Sustainable livelihood which will take about $137 million. This component comprises of two subcomponents;
   a) sustainable livelihoods enhancement in rural areas, taking $103 million; and
   b) entrepreneurship support in urban and peri-urban areas, taking $34 million;
2. Enhancing resilience and human capital development, which will take about $103.3 million.

The subcomponents under this project are:

a) Safety-net support to build resilience and human capital development, which will take $65.5 million; and
b) Disaster risk financing for shock response safety, which will take about $38 million.

3. Transformational delivery system, which will take $19 million.

This component has four subcomponents:

a) establishing the national social registry, which will take $12 million;

b) Scaling up digital delivery systems, which will take $2 million; and
c) Data-driven planning, monitoring and evaluation, which will take $3 million –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, can you go to the recommendations.

MR IKOJO: As guided, let me go directly to the recommendations. This loan is highly concessional, with all its grant elements above 60 per cent as compared to our threshold, which would have been 35 per cent.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, just go to page 35.

MR IKOJO: The committee's observations and recommendations

The status of the proposed loans at the World Bank

Table 15 states the five World Bank loans submitted to Parliament for approval. The first project is Uganda Cities and Municipalities Infrastructure Development Programme (UCMID), which will be implemented under the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.

The second project is Public Investment and Asset Management for Growth and Resilience Operation Programme (PIM PLUS). Look at the status of the projects.

The Board approved $540 million, of which $40 million is a grant. The approval date will be 4 December 2025. It was last updated on the 12th day of October. According to the World Bank documents, the project is still under concept review.

The second project, PIM PLUS is active. The loan amount approved by World Bank is $200 million on 3 September 2025 and last updated on 18 September 2025.

The third loan facility is the Uganda Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP). It is active. It was approved by the bank on 4 June 2025 and last updated on 18 September 2025.

The Uganda Learning Acceleration Programme (ULEARN) is also active. The World Bank approved $324.8 million on the 4 June 2025 and updated on the 21 July 2025.

NUSAF IV is active with $276 million and was also approved by the World Bank.

Mr Speaker, four out of the five proposed projects or programmes have been approved by the World Bank and only the Uganda Cities and Municipalities Infrastructure Development (UCMID) Programme has not yet been approved by the World Bank and it is at the last stage, which was updated on 12 October 2025. It is still under concept review.

By the time this report was prepared, the last stage of the programme was still under concept review yet the project is to be fully financed by the World Bank credit and grant with no counterpart funding from the Government of Uganda. This implies that the opinions of the creditor will affect the final terms of the financing agreement. For example, any change in the project amount in the non-refugee hosting districts will change the loan amount in the financing agreements since the window for the grant is specific to the refugee hosting district.

Further, the committee noted that the submitted documents under the UCMID programme do not include a draft financing agreement to enable the committee to ascertain the terms indicated in the brief to Parliament on the programme by the time the Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development presented to the committee.

Mr Speaker, Article 159 of the Constitution provides that the Government may borrow from any source and the terms and conditions of the loan shall be laid before Parliament and shall not come into operation unless they have been approved by a resolution of Parliament. In the absence of the financing agreement, we do not know the conditions attached to the agreement since the minister's brief only lists the terms and does not indicate the conditions associated with the loan agreement for this particular programme.

The committee recommends that the consideration for the UCMID programme be deferred to a future date when there will be a financing agreement to support the committee in the scrutiny of the loan.

Achieving the PIM PLUS programme development objectives

The committee noted that while progress has been made by the Government on selected public finance management and public investment management reform areas, the operation targets cooperatively challenging reform aspects.

The committee recommends that in order to enhance public sector efficiency and accountability, the Government should ensure that this programme is not hampered by policy reversals as well as limited resources and capacity.

The technical design of the project

The committee noted that the programme design for this programme encompasses both a programme for results and an investment project financing component and aims to address numerous challenges in different institutions affecting the implementation of public investment. Ensuring coordination of these institutions will be a challenge.

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should ensure that this programme is well coordinated and monitored across all implementing agencies to ensure the realisation of the programme development objective.

In conclusion, the proposed projects and programmes are consistent with our National Development Plan IV and their proposed loan terms are consistent with the 2023 Public Debt Management Framework and the Medium-Term Debt Strategy Financial Year 2025/2026. The projects and programmes were part of most of the recent debt sustainability analysis.

Mr Speaker, subject to the above observations, the committee recommends as follows:

i) Approval for the Government to borrow up to $840.5 million from the International Development Association of the World Bank Group and receive a grant worth $288.3 million to finance the underlisted projects and programmes:

a) $250 million for the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF IV);
b) $180.5 million for the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP);
c) $210 million for Uganda Learning Acceleration Programme (ULEARN); and
d) $200 million for Uganda Strengthening Public Investment and Assets Management for Growth and Resilience Programme (PIM PLUS).

ii) Consideration for $500 million from IDA and grant of $40 million from the WHR for the Uganda refugee hosting window for the UCMID be deferred until the financing agreement is availed to enable Parliament approve the terms and conditions in accordance with Article 159 of the Constitution. I beg to report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable chairperson. Hon. Bahati, would you like to clarify on that issue of the UCMID?

4.17
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Thank you, Mr Speaker and members of the committee for the report. When we submit a request for borrowing to Parliament, we attach the terms and conditions of these loans. To the best of my knowledge, we attached the conditions and the terms of the loan of UCMID.

Honourable colleagues, you know how impactful USMID has been across the country. Building roads in these cities and towns has been very impactful. When you go to Kabale and see what was done, as well as what is being done in Gulu and Mbale - this component is to finalise the remaining municipalities that we want to work on.

Mr Speaker, I would like to suggest that this should not be deferred because the Parliament is to approve the terms and conditions. Deferring this means deferring this good infrastructure, which we all need. Therefore, I call upon my honourable colleagues to support the position of the minister to borrow this money for UCMID instead of deferring it to the future. It is a very concessional loan; the World Bank is concessional and they have terms and conditions. So, separating one component and saying we have not approved this would jeopardise other components of the entire loan. I propose that we approve the entire loan because the terms are the same. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, from your experience, are the conditions of the World Bank negotiable?

MR BAHATI: My experience of the last six years in the finance ministry is that once you have agreed with the World Bank on a certain position, it might be very difficult to go back to the board because any adjustment will require us to go to the board again. Therefore, since there is no big diversion on the terms and conditions - Otherwise, Mr Speaker, the conditions of the loan that apply to other components are the same as USMID loans.

4.20

MR KARIM MASABA (Independent, Industrial Division, Mbale City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to join honourable colleagues in congratulating you. I am in agreement with the minister. I defer from the view of the chairperson because this is coming as one huge facility; a concessional facility, which I believe is good for us as a country - *(Interruption)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order.

MR ODUR: Mr Speaker, we are dealing with a threshold of the Constitution. It is the command of the Constitution that once Parliament sits - we are not borrowing for ourselves. Rather, we are borrowing on behalf of people who are existing today and those ones who are coming in the future, Parliament must be certain.

Even as Members of Parliament, when we go to borrow, I do not think you borrow without knowing the terms and conditions. Since the minister is here, is my honourable colleague in order to come and justify the breach of the Constitution in the very House which is supposed to protect the sanctity of the Constitution – and he swore to defend that Constitution. Is he in order? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, here, when we are debating, we give our positions. What is critical is the resolution we made at the end. However, now it will be difficult for me to say, “Ah, I have judged you; you are in breach of the Constitution.” Let us just listen to each other. What is important is what we conclude. The minister, indeed, is here; so, the minister is going to come up –

MR MASABA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My colleague did not wait to hear my conclusion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Masaba, please. Honourable colleagues, if I were going by the strict interpretation of our rules, very few people would speak here. We become accommodative; we pick all views, then we filter those views, and then after we seek guidance from the sides that are here, and come to a conclusion.
Honourable member, do not harass a colleague; let him submit.

MR MASABA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Why I was raising the argument is that this loan, I believe, was negotiated as a whole. Maybe the minister should furnish us with those terms and agreements.

I believe they are the same terms that cut across.

When you look at this money that is coming under the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID), and many of our people, Mr Speaker, for example, in Mbale City, we have people who have already been moved. People have given up their land in the areas of Moni, Nawuyo, and Maluku. They have demolished houses to pave way for the expansion and construction of these USMID roads. Therefore, each time we push, then this might not happen. If we say that the minister needs to go back and renegotiate, because this means that they have to renegotiate for just this particular project that the committee is allowing.

However, the loan was negotiated as a whole, not partially, which I believe is good to help our people because our people are looking at the infrastructure. Our people gave their land, our people moved willingly, and paved the way because it does not involve compensation of people. If you push them further, Mr Speaker, I think it will give a very bad image to the people who are waiting for these roads to be constructed.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development?

4.24

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (URBAN DEVELOPMENT) (Mr Kania Obiga): Mr Speaker, I also want to congratulate you and the colleagues who have gone through the nominations.

Mr Speaker, the terms of the World Bank loans are standard. They are not negotiable per loan as it is. These terms are carried forward from what was in the USMID; they are not any different.

Therefore, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development would not have proceeded to the Development Committee and submitted this information to the World Bank unless those terms were agreed initially. This is the procedure. The rest is the procedure of the World Bank on the issues of the projects, which are going to be taken. The concept we talk about here are the projects which are going to be taken under these loans in the various –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, did you share, for example, these conditions with the committee?

MR OBIGA: We did. That is why we proceeded to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and from the finance ministry, it came to the committee. We would not have come to the committee, through the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development unless we had submitted the terms.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Committee chairperson, would you like to say something on that?

MR IKOJO: Mr Speaker, I want this House to believe that the committee is not rejecting the approval of USMID. But we are saying, let us give it a little bit of time.

The Board is sitting on the 4th of December to approve this concept. Once the concept has been approved, I am sure that the World Bank will give us the financing agreement upon which we shall be in position to compare the terms.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yeah, that means, honourable colleagues, that the whole batch; we cannot have it in full. Why? Last time I was here in the 10th Parliament, when we approved in half and the World Bank rejected, we came back here to correct it. If it is one package under one motion – honourable colleagues, let me make it very easy for you; let us stand over this item today.

I request the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to meet with the committee tomorrow early morning and then tomorrow afternoon you come back here. We have already received the report. This is so that you remove these fears of as if we are hiding anything. For example – colleagues, let us listen to one another. If conditions of USMID have been standard all through, okay, submit them to the committee.

Tomorrow morning, give the committee comfort. Then the chairperson and the members can agree that we do not need to even sign another report. The committee chairperson can concede on the Floor, and we sort out the matter. Let us do it that way. We will have it sorted tomorrow.

Yes, Hon. Dr Omona - NUSAF is safe. They do not have anything.

4.27

THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (NORTHERN UGANDA) (Dr Kenneth Omona): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also want to congratulate you upon your very smooth and overwhelming support to the next Parliament. I want to thank you for your guidance.

First of all, it is important for all of us to appreciate. I am very happy that all of us from both sides of the divide appreciate that these loans are very important. We also do not want to move in a way that is not correct; so, I want to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that we take the advice of the Speaker. Stay this, then tomorrow morning, consult and sort out this matter so that we have these loans passed. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I have ruled on the matter. Honourable colleagues, please, let us go to item 7.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT TO AUTHORISE GOVERNMENT TO BORROW UP TO EURO 9.4 MILLION FROM UNICREDIT BANK, AUSTRIA, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF MBALE ONCOLOGY CENTRE AND U.S. DOLLARS 36.5 MILLION FROM ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ARUA ONCOLOGY CENTRE AND RADIOTHERAPY EQUIPMENT FOR THE MBALE ONCOLOGY CENTRE

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, honourable minister.

4.29

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this House considers and authorises the Government to borrow up to Euro 9.4 million from UniCredit Bank, Austria, for the construction and equipping of Mbale Oncology Centre and $36.5 million from Islamic Development Bank for the construction of Arua Oncology Centre and radiotherapy equipment for the Mbale Oncology Centre. Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Is the motion seconded? I think Hon. Jonathan Odur should be the first. *(Members rose_)* Okay, it is seconded by Hon. Masaba, Member for Butaleja, I have Hon. Ekanya, Hon. Gen. Katumba, Hon. Keefa, Hon. Bhoka, Hon. Dr Musa, and Hon. Muhumuza. Thank you.

Honourable member, would you like to speak to the motion?

MR BAHATI: Mr Speaker, you recall in the last Parliament we borrowed money to finance the Uganda Cancer Institute at Mulago. During that time, we committed that we were going to equip different centers across the country to support this cause of fighting cancer. This particular loan is in line with what Government committed then, and we are now considering different parts of the country, Mbale and

Arua. It is a loan and these resources are being mobilized. We recommend this House to approve this important facility. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, chairperson. With a major focus on recommendations.

4.31

MR ROBERT MIGADDE (NRM, Buvuma Islands County, Buvuma): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The committee is ready to report. Allow me to lay on the Table the minutes of the Committee on National Economy for considering this loan request. I beg to lay. Also, allow me to lay on the Table the report of the committee.

Uganda Cancer Institute is currently the main facility offering comprehensive cancer care services to the country of 45.9 million residents. The Institute serves over 54,000 patients, consisting of both inpatients and outpatients. Limited availability of oncology services outside Kampala creates high patient congestion at Uganda Cancer Institute in Mulago, and as a result many cancer cases are diagnosed at advanced stages due to limited early detection services, leading to poor treatment and outcomes and higher mortality rates.

Mr Speaker, the project is consistent with Uganda Vision 2040, the National Development Plan (NDP IV), and is a pipeline project in NDP V under the Human Development Programme.

The plan under Objective III of the Human Capital Development Programme interventions focuses on reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases with a specific focus on cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, trauma and malnutrition across all groups.

The Government intends to establish centres of excellence in the provision of oncology and endocrine and genetic disorders, cardiovascular and trauma services at national and regional levels, and foster regional integration, which these projects will directly contribute to.

Mr Speaker, the project is intended to improve the quality of health care in Uganda by providing specialised diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients in eastern Uganda and West Nile through constructing and equipping oncology centres in Arua and Mbale districts. It aims at supporting the Government of Uganda in alleviating the burden of cancer, which significantly impacts social well-being and economic productivity.

As we have mentioned, there will be a centre in West Nile, which is the West Nile Regional Oncology and Diagnostic Centre in Arua. Then Eastern Regional Oncology and Diagnostic Centre in Mbale. That will be a duo-therapy unit. The scope of the project is those two centres.

The Cost of Financing

The total project cost is estimated to be USD 55.45 million, with funding from the Islamic Development Bank worth USD 36.8 million. UniCredit Bank Austria is expected to provide USD 13.86 million, while the Government of Uganda will contribute USD 4.79 million towards project financing, as indicated in the table below. It is there, Mr Speaker.

The loan is semi-concessional, since its grant element is 25.92 per cent which is lower than the concessional limit of 35 per cent.

In terms of economic returns, the project's oncology services are recognised as one of the most cost-effective cancer treatments, particularly for common cancers. Early-stage cancers treated with radiotherapy can prevent the progression of the disease, thereby reducing the need for more expensive, complex and resource-intensive treatments in future. This translates into substantial cost savings for both the healthcare systems and patients. A well-developed healthcare system is a powerful economic engine for any economy, as it ensures a healthy and productive population yielding a reduction in treatment costs and enabling national savings.

In terms of budgetary implications, Mr Speaker, the project forms part of the approved budget for Financial Year 2025/2026 under Vote 114: Uganda Cancer Institute. Specifically, the project coded 1806, "Establishment of regional oncology and diagnostic centres in Arua and Mbale and the Mbarara project", with an allocation of Shs 30.7 billion under external financing. It is important to note that there is no clear commitment from the Government of Uganda under this project for Financial Year 2025/2026 as there is no amount of money set aside specifically for this project.

Observations and Recommendations

The committee was informed that Muni University in Arua and Mbale Regional Referral Hospital in Mbale had offered land to the Uganda Cancer Institute for the purposes of this project. As such, the Uganda Cancer Institute would not be acquiring land to accommodate the Arua and Mbale oncology centres.

The committee observed that whereas the Uganda Cancer Institute had been offered parcels of land for this project, the certificates of title did not reflect the change in ownership. The committee was concerned that the pending confirmation and proof of ownership of the project land sites would lead to unnecessary project implementation delays.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that the Government expedites the transfer of ownership of the offered land from both Muni University and Mbale Regional Referral Hospital to the Uganda Cancer Institute for ownership and minimise project implementation drawbacks.

The Government Counterpart Funding

The Government of Uganda is expected to contribute $4.79 million towards the total project cost. This contribution is to be applied to the project components relating to the construction of Arua Oncology Centre and Mbale Radiotherapy Unit, and towards project management.

The committee observed in the Budget for Financial Year 2025/2026 that the project is projected to be financed externally, and no Government of Uganda resources were approved for it.

Additionally, the committee received no commitment from the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development that the expected funds from the Government of Uganda would be availed and the project would not be affected by the lack of this counterpart funding.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the Government commit to avail counterpart funding and ensure that the project is implemented in a timely manner to offer the much-needed oncology services in these regions.

Mr Speaker, in conclusion, subject to the observations and recommendations presented above, the committee recommends that the proposal by the Government to borrow up to €9.4 million from UniCredit Bank Austria for the construction and equipping of Mbale Oncology Centre and $36.5 million from Islamic Development Bank for the construction of Arua Oncology Centre and Radiotherapy equipment for the Mbale Oncology Centre be approved.

Mr Speaker, I beg to report. (*Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ssemujju, then Hon. Rose Obigah then Dr Hon. George Bhoka Didi.

4.39

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): Mr Speaker, I saw colleagues here celebrating that the World Bank is going to give us more money. If you look at the people we owe money, as at the time that we passed the budget, we were owing the World Bank Shs 18 trillion, followed by China at Shs 9 trillion. That is why the budget we passed here, 38 per cent of the budget is debt servicing. Even when you look at the money so far released; the two quarters, 15 of the about

30 something trillion released so far, is for debt servicing.

Mr Speaker, that is why when we were considering the budget, our plea to Parliament was; you were allowing the Government to present a Shs 72 trillion budget, which means you were giving them permission in advance to borrow. The point I want to ask the ministers responsible is that you presented a borrowing plan together with a budget that was approved, in which you said you will borrow Shs 32 trillion.

The question to both the minister and the committee chairperson is whether these loans that you are presenting are part of the borrowing plan that was approved here. If they are, then this Parliament has very little room; you have already allowed them that you will borrow Shs 32 trillion to finance the budget. We will then be looking only at the conditions. Otherwise, we are redoing the same work that we have done. If the requirement is to look at the terms, we should restrict ourselves to that, because you have already told the Government that "Please go and borrow Shs 32 trillion to go and finance the budget," and the borrowing plan was presented to Parliament and approved.

My question is – and I want to re-emphasise - can the committee chairperson and the minister tell us whether this money is part of that borrowing plan? In the past, they have borrowed outside the budget, and then we utilise money that is not appropriated by Parliament. They present the borrowing plan and the figures, and then go and borrow beyond what was approved at the budget process. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

4.43

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (Mr David Bahati): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Hon. Ssemujju, I can confirm to this House that this borrowing is part of the fiscal plan that we approved as Parliament. Also, the projects that we are talking about were part of the pipeline projects that this Parliament said they approved during the budgeting process. So, we are not adding any to the approved budget.

4.44

MR MUHAMMAD MUWANGA KIVUMBI (NUP, Butambala County, Butambala): Now that the minister is moving in that direction, did I properly hear the committee chairperson saying that the Government could not provide proof of counterpart funding? If it is part of what is in the budget, then there cannot be a lack of proof of counterpart funding, and that is what the report said.

If the minister is taking that line, then I do not understand what the committee is saying. My simple understanding is that those do not add up.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us hear from the committee chairperson in that line.

MR MIGADDE: Mr Speaker, I was very clear. Normally, when we are processing the loans, there are two ways of establishing the availability of counterpart funding;

1. It must be budgeted for, but on that ground, the counterpart funding was not budgeted for; and
2. We normally ask for commitment in writing from the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development that they will provide for it or that they have provided for it. So, this commitment was not provided for by the finance ministry. That is why we are recommending it; otherwise, we would not.

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: That is why, Mr Speaker, the argument of Hon. Ssemujju and Hon. Bahati and the report of the committee simply fails this borrowing. On page 3 of their committee report, they have put up projects under the same docket on how they are performing and there are quite a number. Some projects are taking so many years without being implemented. The reason is that you borrow without counterpart funding.

Now, the submission of the committee chairperson, Hon. Bahati and Hon. Ssemujju, simply ties this Parliament not to take this decision.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, let us not behave as if we have not been here for long. Hon. Kivumbi, there are projects which I found that you had approved in your Ninth Parliament but up to now, counterpart funding has never been provided. We have been fighting. That does not mean you stop projects.

That is why in the 10th Parliament when I was on the Committee on National Economy, we had pushed that if they should borrow, then they should borrow 100 per cent so that the projects move. However, sometimes projects that do not need, for example, compensation, are found along the way.

Honourable colleagues, I do not want to technically shoot down such a project, basing on our technicalities, which we are trying to bring here. Hon. Migadde, counterpart funding is supposed to cover what on this project?

MR MIGADDE: Mr Speaker, you are right and many times, we have mentioned these challenges. On the other hand, I would like to note that among the requests we have, the Government is moving towards catering for counterpart funding as part of the cost for borrowing some of the loan requests we have. Probably, when it comes to the new loans, we may not have a backlog of more counterpart funding, which are not budgeted for.

However, for this, it is not the case.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, if I may ask, can we note it here because we are the ones who have been talking about issues of cancer. Our patients are dying everywhere. Even if you do this project, you cannot say implementation will start in two, three or four months. We can also agree here that as a must, in the next budgeting cycle, we provide counterpart funding for this project because we are the ones who have been talking about cancer. I do not know, but the decision is yours. – No, honourable colleagues, do not access the microphone without my permission. Hon. Rose Obigah?

4.48

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I arrived in Kampala yesterday. On Thursday and Friday, I was in Arua Regional Referral Hospital. It seems the disease tone has moved from other diseases to cancer. Mentioning Arua Regional Referral Hospital, we cover a very big area. We are 43 Members of Parliament from West Nile and that is our biggest referral hospital.

Just as you have said, we are not starting implementation tomorrow. When we were here debating about cancer becoming a scourge and its increase in Mulago Hospital, we approved funding here. We would not want to feel that you are doing this because Arua has been mentioned. I would not want people who are behaving like the devil's advocates because we are the ones who appropriate. What is difficult with us approving funding in the next financial year as a government contribution?

Mr Speaker, if we want to shoot down any funding, it should not be funding or borrowing towards cancer. I request that we accept this and look for the counterpart funding. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Bahati wanted to make a clarification.

MR BAHATI: Mr Speaker, this matter we are discussing, we know how much we are suffering because of this issue of cancer. On behalf of the Government, we are talking about \$4.5 million. We do commit that we will find counterpart funding for this project. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you; that settles the matter. *(Applause)*
Hon. Masaba?

4.50
MR KARIM MASABA (Independent, Industrial Division, Mbale City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. To confirm this, I remember I was part of the Committee on Budget and this was one of the items we discussed with the Executive Director of the Uganda Cancer Institute and we passed it in the budget.

I am kindly requesting that the honourable members join hands and we support the construction and equipping of these cancer institutes because one of the challenges that we have many of our people –*(Interjection)* – Hon. Muwanga wants to put me to order, but I request that he allows me to conclude, as a colleague. He knows I am one of those who have been fighting some of these very funny loans that the Government brings because we borrow to consume. However, this is a development project that is going to benefit millions of people. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, Mbale Regional Referral Hospital is serving the entire eastern region. When you look at the report, it is going to be an oncology centre treating cancer patients in the entire eastern region, not only Mbale. So, we need to join hands and support the construction and equipping of this centre.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I put the question that the motion for a resolution of Parliament to authorise the Government to borrow up to Euros 9.4 million from UniCredit Bank Austria for the construction and equipping of Mbale Oncology Centre and $36.5 million from Islamic Development Bank for the construction of Arua Oncology Centre and radiotherapy equipment for the Mbale Oncology Centre be approved by this House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Clerk, please extract this resolution and communicate it.

Hon. Ekanya, did you want to say something?

MR EKANYA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to seek clarification. I support this facility; we need to approve the loan –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, you are reopening the matter.

MR EKANYA: I am not going back; it is a policy issue, Mr Speaker.
The Government of Uganda signed a Development Financing Agreement with donors and the commitment was – and that is part of the position the Government took to go RAPEX – that all borrowing and financing of Government of Uganda will be budget support to avoid projects, which lead to duplication, lack of the use of country systems and lack of use of country institutions.

I am seeking clarification: When did the Government shift from budget support to project support, yet we have gone ahead to implement RAPEX?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Clerk, extract that and pass it on to the minister for finance tomorrow to respond.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT TO AUTHORISE GOVERNMENT TO BORROW UP TO EUROS 188.18 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO UNITS OF ACCOUNT 150 MILLION FROM THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND EUROS 28.31 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO UNITS OF ACCOUNT 22.57 MILLION FROM THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND AS ADDITIONAL FINANCING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF BUSEGA-MPIGI EXPRESSWAY PROJECT

4.54
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, I beg to move a motion for the resolution of Parliament to authorise the

Government to borrow up to Euros 188.18 million, equivalent to Units of Account 150 million from the African Development Bank and Euros 28.31 million, equivalent to Units of Account 22.57 million from the African Development Bank Fund, as additional financing for the construction of Busega-Mpigi Expressway project.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Is the motion seconded? It is seconded by Hon. Ssemujju –*(Laughter)* – Hon. Katumba, Hon. Rose Obigah, Hon. Keefa. Hon. Nayebale, Hon. Alanyo, Hon. Omara, Hon. Rwamirama, the minister for energy and Hon. Omona.

Can I request Hon. Katumba to be the one to speak a little to this, in a minute, on why we need this?

4.55

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Gen. Katumba Wamala): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I support that motion because this is a very critical road.

If any of you moves from Masaka, Mbarara and reaches Kyengera or Mpigi at five, you can spend one hour to come from Mbarara –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: And sometimes when you are coming from Butambala.

GEN. WAMALA: From Mbarara to Kampala or from Masaka to Kampala, you spend one hour to reach Mpigi and you spend three hours to leave Mpigi to reach Kyengera. The solution is to have this road network completed and then we shall have easy movement. *(Applause)*

This road does not only support that kind of movement; it supports trade. It is part of the Northern Corridor which we are working on with Rwanda and Kenya to support our trade.

So, Mr Speaker and Members, I highly appeal to you that we pass this to complete this project; it has been long overdue. I found it when we took over Uganda National Roads Authority but it is high time that we finished it. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, please go to the terms and conditions. *(Hon. Odur rose_)* I will allow you, honourable member, when we open up debate.

4.56

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ECONOMY (Mr Robert Migadde): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to lay on the Table the minutes of the committee in consideration of this request. I also would like to lay on the Table the report of the Committee on National Economy in considering this.

As stated earlier, this is a report of the Committee on National Economy on the proposal by the Government to borrow up to Euros 188,180,000 equivalent to UA 150 million from the African Development Bank and Euros 28,314,516 equivalent to UA 22,570,000 from the African Development Bank as additional financing for the construction of Busega-Mpigi Expressway.

Mr Speaker, the committee undertook a field visit to look at some of the scope of work covered so far. As guided, let me go to the observations; 6.1 on page 35.

6.1 Significant Cost Escalation and Payment of Shortfall on Busega-Mpigi Expressway

The committee noted that the Ministry of Works and Transport engaged the contractor, M/S China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation in a joint venture with China Railway 19th Bureau Group for the Busega-Mpigi Expressway project at an original cost of Shs 547.5 billion under procurement reference number – the number is there – without adequate detailed designs to justify the engineer's initial cost. This is a contract which was awarded before the final designs.

The designs were later submitted in November 2021, which ultimately resulted in a significant project estimated cost escalation – as you can see – of Shs 1.3 trillion, as of March 2023. In addition, the original project route alignment was realigned, as the additional work items were considered integral to the functionality of the expressway as a toll road, resulting in an increased project scope of works. These additional items included toll plazas, interchanges, service roads and link roads.

These gaps highlight potential inadequacies in technical preparation, increasing the risk of litigation since the contractor had commenced work based on revised, higher cost designs and without the project route realignment.

The project audit of financial year 30 June 2024 by the office of the Auditor-General noted the following:

Procurement of civil works contractor took over three years to conclude.

As of May 2024, the available funds for civil works under the original contract, excluding any disbursed retention of Shs 46.4 billion, were fully exhausted with physical progress at only 40.86 per cent. By the end of June 2024, certified works valued at Shs 30.8 billion had been completed by the contractor, yet no supplementary funding had been secured, risking delayed prepayments and potential legal claims from the contractor.

As of July 2024, physical progress had only reached 42.28 per cent, falling short of the projected 52.30 per cent, with the revised project completion date extended to 3 September 2027.

The total cumulative disbursement of project funds, as at 30 June 2024 against the project financing agreements, was less than expected as per the project financing agreement. As a result of the undisbursed funds, the Government had incurred commitment fees amounting to $1,548,730.68 million on undisbursed borrowed funds since the date of project effectiveness.

The committee recommends the following:

i) The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should engage the African Development Bank to establish a framework for timely fund disbursement that supports the project timeline and minimise undisbursed balances not specifically for this project but also others;

ii) The Ministry of Works and Transport should always liaise with the relevant stakeholders to ensure that there are no unnecessary delays in the procurement processes of future projects in the works and transport sector; and

iii) The Ministry of Works and Transport must ensure that all project designs are finalised before parliamentary loan approval and prevent further design modifications and cost accelerations.

Mr Speaker, like Members heard, the final design came three years later when the contractor was on site.

The Ministry of Works and Transport should develop and initialise a policy for design of roads and other transport infrastructure to avert future variations in project costs on account of weaknesses in designs. The policy should clearly prescribe the processes, approval levels and compliancy requirements for transport infrastructure to increase accountability and design processes.

i) The Ministry of Works and Transport should consider designating the engineer-in-chief as the final design owner.

6.2 Government counterpart funding

The committee noted that Section 4.06 of the draft loan agreement between the Republic of Uganda, the African Development Bank and the African Development Bank Fund of the African Development Bank Group, respectively, requires Government to make available over a period of three years, an amount totalling to €30.980 million or its equivalent in local currency as its counterpart contribution. Inadequate provision of counterpart funding adversely affects the project implementation.

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and the Minister of Works and Transport should ensure that adequate counterpart funds for these projects are provided in an annual budget of the Ministry of Works and Transport during the implementation of this project to expedite and project implementation process and achieve the desired development impact.

6.3 Compensation of Project-Affected Persons

The committee noted that the Busega-Mpigi Expressway project previously had 2,885 approved project-affected persons. Following the increase in the scope due to the realignment of the project route, the number of approved project-affected persons increased by 46 per cent, to 4,222 people. That is the area of concern, which is 591.738 acres, valued at Shs 167,782,482,641.

Mr Speaker, out of the 4,222 approved project-affected persons, 61 per cent, which is 2,585, have been paid. That is an area which is 497.94 acres acquired, valued at Shs 111,747,205,864, leaving a total of 1,637 unpaid project-affected persons, valued at Shs 56,035,276,777.

According to Section 4.03(b) of the draft loan agreements between the Republic of Uganda and African Development Bank and African Development Fund of the African Development Bank Group respectively, the Government shall cause the Minister of Works and Transport all its contractors, subcontractors and agents to commence implementation of any works on any section of a given lot under the project unless all project-affected persons in such a section have been compensated or resettled in accordance with the site-specific RAP and all agreed works and compensation schedule.
The committee recommends the following:

i. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should prioritise availing the Shs 56,035,276,777 to the Ministry of Works and Transport to complete the compensation of project-affected persons for the Busega-Mpigi Expressway project and guarantee the timely completion of this project;

ii. The Ministry of Works and Transport should ensure the contractor prioritises works in the unencumbered sections and mitigates delays;

iii. The Ministry of Works and Transport should prioritise compensation of project-affected persons within the encumbered sections to ensure that the contractor's progress/productivity is not disrupted;

iv. The Ministry of Works Transport should engage project-affected persons with disputes to ensure that they resolve the issues to enable their compensation to proceed; and

v. The Ministry of Works and Transport should engage the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to simplify the process of depositing project-affected persons' compensation with the courts of law for project-affected persons whose family disputes and court cases might delay raw acquisitions.

6.4 Development of intermodal and seamless transport infrastructure to ensure integrated movement of people and goods

The committee noted that the Government has been slow in undertaking strategic interventions in the transport network that further enhance an integrated and seamless movement of people and goods to harness the exploitation of opportunities, increase exports, and open up export opportunities in new markets. These strategic investments in the transport sector will contribute towards lowering the cost and increasing efficiency of the country's connections to regional and global markets as well as increasing interconnectivity within the country.

The committee recommends the following:

i. The Ministry of Works and Transport must ensure that this project is harmonised with other intermodal transport infrastructure within the same region, notably, the proposed Standard Gauge Railway, that is, the western route, among others;

ii. The Ministry of Works and Transport should expedite the upgrading of all pending urban infrastructure in the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area to reduce traffic congestion and its cost to the economy; and

iii. The Minister of Works and Transport should expedite the completion of the Express Development Master Plan to ensure an orderly and coordinated approach to developing expressways in Uganda.

Conclusion

This is a snake in a pot, like one may say. The construction of the Busega-Mpigi Express project is critical for national development and is in line with Uganda Vision 2040, the National Transport Master Plan, the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Transport Plan, and the Kampala Physical Development Plan. It is a prerequisite for regional integration and interconnectivity.

It is, therefore, urgent and important to ensure additional financing is required for the completion of the project.

In light of its strategic importance, the committee emphasises the urgency of securing additional financing required for the completion of the project. Accordingly, the committee recommends that the Government be requested to borrow up to EUR 188,180,000, equivalent to UA 150,000,000, from the African Development Bank and EUR 28,313,513, equivalent to UA 22,570,000, from the African Development Fund as additional financing for the construction of the Busega-Mpigi Express project to be approved by this House, subject to the above recommendation. I beg to report.

We also have a minority report from our colleagues, which is provided for in our rules of procedure, but I am sure what they are raising has been captured by the committee, but the minority report is here and I lay it on the Table.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Tebandeke - just use five minutes and we conclude this.

5.12

MR CHARLES TEBANDEKE (NUP, Bbaale County, Kayunga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is to my dismay that whenever we present minority reports, they are not uploaded in time, and it is –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, your report is uploaded. Stop quarrelling and presenting the very report.

MR TEBANDEKE: Here is the Minority Report of the Committee on National Economy on the Proposal by Government to Borrow Up to EUR 188,180,000, Equivalent to UA 150,000,000 from the African Development Bank (ADB) and UA 22,570,000, equivalent to EUR 28,314,516, from the African Development Fund (ADF), as additional financing for the Construction of the Busega-Mpigi Express Highway. The motion is moved under Rule 115 of our Rules of Procedure. Mr Speaker, allow me to introduce my Minority Report to this august House.

Mr Speaker, we do support the construction of the Busega-Mpigi Express Highway project given its crucial nature for national development as per the country's Vision 2040, the National Transport Master Plan, the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Transport Plan and the Kampala Physical Development Plan. It is wise and urgent to secure additional financing requirements for the completion of this project.

However, while scrutinising this loan request in the committee, there are gaps for the august House's attention before committing the taxpayers and our children's children to this loan, given the increasing country's debt-to-GDP ratio, quoted at nearly 52 per cent. We, therefore, dissent from the majority report for two reasons:

1. Non-compliance with the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure; and

2. Recommendations in the Auditor-General's Report, 2024, on the project.

Non-compliance with the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure

Rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament explicitly mandates a dual-committee framework, that is, the involvement of the sectoral committee under which the loan request falls.

For this particular request, under Rule 162(2), the Speaker was required to refer the request to both the Committees on National Economy and the relevant Sectoral Committee on Physical Infrastructure. While the committee was scrutinising the request, there was no input from the Committee on Physical Infrastructure. This violated Rule 162(3), which requires a report first from the Committee on Physical Infrastructure to report on issues. For example, the land issues as highlighted in the Auditor-General's report, before the Committee on the National Economy reports to this House, invalidate any approval of this particular request as it exposes Parliament to legal redress.

Issues identified in the Auditor-General's Report, 2024

Mr Speaker, the 23.7km Kampala-Mpigi project, which became effective in March 2017, with civil works starting in November 2019, had an original cost of Shs 547.5 billion.

As of June 2024, the physical progress had reached only 40.86 per cent against the target of 52.3 per cent, which led to the completion date being extended to September 2027. The Auditor-General's report highlighted some planning deficiencies that included one: the contract was awarded without detailed engineering designs, leading to a major revision submitted in November 2021. This resulted in a cost escalation of Shs 1.3 trillion by March 2023, increasing litigation risks as the contractor began work based on higher-cost revisions.

Additionally, the lack of pre-contract designs drove a 500 per cent increase from the initial cost, highlighting poor project preparation and coordination between the Ministry of Works and Transport and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Funds under the original contract have been exhausted at just 40-42 per cent completion, leaving pending payments and uncertified works.

The cost escalations resulting from design revisions require additional resources to prevent contractor defaults, interest penalties, and further delays. The above issues highlight larger systematic problems in Uganda's infrastructure projects, such as inadequate initial planning and funding shortages, which affect the entire project and hence are a problem when we borrow money without critical analysis.

Second, out of 2,885 Project-Affected Persons (PAPs), only 1,358 had been compensated. Sixty-eight billion, six hundred million paid only 48 per cent, leaving out 1,527, that is about 52 per cent unpaid; Shs 50.9 billion outstanding, citing issues of insufficient budget releases from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, family disputes, and court cases, which have directly stalled construction.

Mr Speaker, this is a clear violation of Article 26 (b)(i) of our Constitution - which we took oath to protect and defend - which mandates prompt payment of fair and adequate compensation before the taking or acquisition of property.

Regarding this project, one might ask, if valuations were done years ago, how will these people be properly compensated? Can't the Government do a re-evaluation? How can the Government occupy land without compensating the owner first, as the law mandates?

Additionally, while the committee was visiting the field, personally I visited and observed that the biggest portion of the project lies within the swamp, and the number of the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) is bigger, raising assumptions whether there was exaggeration of the number for the PAPs, and the details of the PAPs to be compensated and those that were compensated, were not revealed to the committee.

This opens floodgates for corruption, embezzlement, and swindling of government funds. I would request this Parliament to stand on this loan on the following grounds:

1. The Chief Government Valuer does a fresh valuation for all the PAPs and ascertains the current costs and adds interest for the delayed compensation; and

2. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development first tracks the release of the Shs 50.9 billion before any new work resumes on this project, as reported by the Auditor-General's report.

Mr Speaker, while we were getting briefs from the works ministry, we noticed that the old design of the same project was supposed to begin -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, at this level, you read the report; do not start debating, and adding things. You have a signed report. Kindly read the report.

MR TEBANDEKE: Mr Speaker, allow me to go by that. The earlier project was supposed to begin from Busega, and those kilometres were not considered -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, please listen to the guidance of the presiding officer. You have a written report signed by two people. Anything you are adding has no approval of your colleague who signed. I am reading your report, and we are moving together. We are on the last page; read what is in the report that your colleague signed. Now, if you add on things that he doesn't agree with and he disowns you, what would you do?

MR TEBANDEKE: Much obliged, Mr Speaker. Allow me to conclude.

We request that Uganda's Public Debt, already over 50 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), not be increased further as additional loans could strain fiscal space amidst global interest rate that hikes the debt burden.

Borrowing more for a delayed project raises commitment fees and interest costs, diverting funds from essential services such as the country's dilapidated healthcare system, among others.

Similar projects, like the Kampala-Jinja express highway, experience similar delays, showing a pattern of relying too much on loans without making necessary reforms. Therefore, approving this loan without following the Auditor-General's report could lead to more mistakes in the future. Here assigned by myself and Hon. Hassan, Member of Parliament for Katikamu South. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, would you like to clarify on - yes, Hon. Kivumbi.

5.24

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI (NUP, Butambala County, Butambala): Mr Speaker, as you are aware, I am very sensitive about this road. It is my road, including you. The minister is right because normally, on a Sunday, if I am to travel from Butambala, I have to delay and leave at midnight, because that is when I would be able to reach Kampala within a short time.

However, honourable minister, there are critical concerns. I have looked at the unit cost of this road. If you are going to construct 23 kilometres - *(Interjections)*- no, no, I know, the original kilometres were 23, then they went to 27. Now, if you are going to construct 23 originally, at this cost, each kilometre would cost $53 billion per unit cost.

Therefore, if you were to go for the 27 kilometres, it will cost $45 billion per unit cost. When you study the standard unit cost of constructing a bitumen grade 1 road across Africa, you are hovering over $2 to $3 million. Now, this is $14 million, way above what ordinarily passes. What justification does the Government have to construct a kilometre of bitumen, of whatever grade, at $14 million, over and above the normal average African cost of $3? This would be more expensive than the Entebbe Expressway, at this rate.

Two, who is this planner who planned to spend $527 billion and ended up spending $1.2 billion on a project, over and above what ordinarily passes? What kind of planning went into this?

Mr Speaker, let us score this ministry. The committee has done a good job, whatever I am reading is in the committee report. On pages 10 and 11, they have given us a number of projects for which we have approved the funds under this ministry. And on page 11, if you have a heart, it can bleed. I will just mention a few; you borrowed, in 2023, $295 million, and to date, you have not spent a penny. This is on page 11, under the project called Upgrading National Roads Project, $295 billion," dispatchment is zero; you have not spent a penny. It's on page 11 of the report.

Mr Speaker, they borrowed $108, and they spent zero; it is here. You read these zeros on page 11, where they borrowed money and did nothing.

Even under this project of Mpigi Express - honourable minister, you are my good friend, $113 billion - we have borrowed, we paid a commitment fee of $1.5 million but it's non-performing. And here you are, coming to this Parliament to give you an additional borrowing. Stampeding us at this moment.

With this rate of performance, how safe are we that this is not a ghost project that is going to take more and more money? What assurances can he give us that with this borrowing - this project is abandoned. As we speak, this project is not a going concern. The contractor abandoned it and nothing is going on, but we are approving additional borrowing at an abnormal unit cost, for whatever justification.

Mr Speaker, this is the road that takes me home, and it will take me even when I am dead. I needed it the other day. However, at this rate, this Parliament should move with a lot of caution and assurance from my friend, Gen. Katumba Wamala. Generals execute missions precisely because any mistake leads to death. But this one, I do not know how it skips the eye of a five-star general, under his watch. Mr Speaker, we must treat this project as a case study of a failed project, for which we are borrowing and borrowing to no end.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, you have said you need assurance. Let him give you assurance before you conclude.

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: Yes, as I conclude, I want to caution this Parliament - and that is why I never borrowed the sentiments of colleagues here: "Cancer, where people are dying" - yet we keep approving abnormal things.

Mr Speaker, I audited projects in Uganda, and I presented reports here in Parliament that showed that the unit cost was a concern, the consultancy fees were a concern, and the completion dates were a concern. None of the projects in Uganda is on schedule with all the expertise. This is a case study where we need to 'arrest' a ministry.

Mr Speaker, they have borrowed Shs 4.8 trillion. Look at the conclusion on page 13. They have borrowed, under the ministry, Shs 4.8 trillion. They have utilised Shs 2 trillion. They have unutilised money borrowed of Shs 2.7 trillion. It is performing at 40 per cent.

Therefore, the General here has a case to answer before Ugandans. Why should we give him money, even if it is a project that takes me home? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, before I allow anything, I want first of all the General to respond because they have said he has a case to answer. But, Hon. Ssemujju, would you like to add something before the General answers, or would you like to wait here?

5.31

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): Mr Speaker, I use Masaka Road regularly, and so, I am concerned that the Mpigi expressway has been delayed; it is a nightmare.

I would do anything to facilitate the completion of that road. We no longer go to visit our parents. You lose a whole day travelling a stretch of just about 7 kilometres.

The issues both in the main and the minority reports are almost the same, raising concerns that are also generally captured in the report on loans and grants. They actually are not limited to this particular project. Because they are general, I want to particularise my issues on this particular road, and I do not want to use the failures in other projects to delay this, even one minute. That is why I stood up.

I usually do not support loans because of – on this particular one, I think all we need is for the Government to commit, and we do investigations on the rest. If there are people who have exaggerated, we punish them. If there are people who - but also issues of construction, I am not an engineer, and Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi is a witness - the road between Seeta and Kasangati was meant to be a smaller road, but along the way - and I want to thank UNRA at that time - they said it would be difficult to return and do compensation when people have put up skyscrapers. So, along the way, they changed the design to expand it.

When you look at the road between Kyaliwajjala and Kira, where they have done - I am very happy that the expansion happened at once. That is what I want to hear from you, that you are not increasing the funding for the same narrow design - if it has expanded.

The minority report has a bit of contradiction. You want rates for compensation to be revised, but you do not want prices to escalate. I do not know how that would be achieved. You are saying compensation; it is one other area where I have a problem with many colleagues here. One time, we went to Bunyoro, where there were supposed to be roads for oil and electricity, but the colleagues on the committee were the ones inciting people about compensation.

Part of the problem we have in that sector is that – because look, you are going to spend Shs 160 billion on compensation, and we have established a very bad culture - the Hon. Gen. Katumaba Wamala knows that, in our area where he also lives - we have asked people to give land, because they are the beneficiaries of these projects.

I do not want to support any argument here to ask people to demand more compensation. At least, count me out of that. Instead, I will ask people to give land for road construction; they are the beneficiaries. I do not want to incite them to begin demanding more compensation.

All of you, colleagues, wherever you come from, ask people to give land. Why should we - Shs 167 billion compensation for a road that all of us are going to utilise, that is going to increase the value of their property within the area? Maybe when this Government that does not speak very well goes, we will go and speak to people to give land.

Otherwise, we cannot continue. The amount of money you require to compensate is what you also require to construct a road. So, Mr Speaker, I ask the Government to commit that the issues in the main report, and in the minority report, and what Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi raised, we can list them, and a commitment is made that they will be handled.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I know this road very well because I was on the Committee on National Economy when we passed it. I was also concerned about the issue of the cost to the extent that I said, no, I should even go and make a tour to see the progress of the works. General, you can have a seat for a minute. You see, number one, that road is in a swamp, so I asked a question: “When you appeared before the Committee on National Economy, Hon. Migadde, was it around 2016 or 2017? You said you are going to use columns. But now you are using - Hon. Ariko was with us - now you are filling it - it was around 14 kilometres of swamp, which they had said they would go over. The cost of compensating, and because it is a toll road, the issue was that we should maintain the other road.

We asked all these questions. Recently, when I asked, I was told the cost of doing columns is three times the cost of backfilling. I said, "So you mean these things change? But then the design and – honourable minister, another thing we talked about, which I really want you to commit to, honourable colleagues, this must be clear. We agreed that the road must feed into Kampala-Entebbe Expressway so that when you come from that road, you do not just come and first rotate again the other side. You should feed in.

Then there was also another from Ndeeba, planned. Then this one of Mityana, and we said it should be done in a way that they all feed into each other, and the bypass. However, I am told even with this one, it does not feed in. I need that one to be also assured on this road. There are many issues, but it is a very critical road.

GEN. KATUMBA: Mr Speaker, I want to thank you, and the Members, and I hope that Hon. Ssemujju's intervention has been properly captured, because I think 90 per cent of what I would say he has said. Let me just respond to a few things.

First, originally, the road did not have auxiliary roads. Now we have auxiliary roads, including some of the roads joining Mityana Road and Kasanje side. Those auxiliary roads have added to the kilometres.

Secondly, because of the realignment of the road, the bridges that have been included are quite many. I think the committee visited and they saw this, and that takes a lot of earthworks and other engineering responsibilities. So, all these are added costs, and I totally agree with Mr Speaker, filling a swamp is highly costly, because when you see the amount of hardcore which has been used to fill that road, it is highly costly; it must be.

When you inherit it, you take assets and liabilities, and this is one of the liabilities we took over, when we took over UNRA. However, I want to put it on the Floor that we commit to address all the issues that have been raised, both in the minority and main reports.

However, I also want to assure Parliament that this is going to be a toll road, so we will be able to recover the money over time. It is not just a free road like any other. Among the costs are the toll gates. Originally, it did not have these but now four gates have been included and its construction is part of the costs.

Mr Speaker, the interchange, is part of this money we are borrowing. There is a very complex interchange, which will be around Kyengera to get all these other connections linked together; the Entebbe Expressway, Mityana and the main road from the northern bypass.

If some of you have travelled along the Northern Bypass while going to Entebbe, you can even miss your flight because of the problems there, especially as you enter Busega. Therefore, all this will be treated by the interchange, which is coming and it is part of the borrowing – *(Applause)* - we have addressed those, and it will be able to unlock the gridlock at that stage. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I now put the question that the Motion for a Resolution of Parliament to authorise Government to borrow up to Euros 188.18 million equivalent UA 150 million from the African Development Bank and Euros 28.31 million equivalent UA 22.57 million from the African Development Fund as additional financing for the construction of the Busega-Mpigi Expressway, be approved by this House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Motion adopted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next item.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT TO AUTHORISE GOVERNMENT TO BORROW UP TO USD 20 MILLION FROM THE ARAB BANK FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (BADEA) FOR THE UPGRADING OF NEBBI-GOLI ROAD (16 KM)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, honourable minister.

5.42
THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (Industry) (Mr David Bahati): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that Parliament considers the Motion for a Resolution of Parliament to authorise Government to borrow up to $20 million from the Arab Bank for Development in Africa (BADEA) for the upgrading of Nebbi-Goli Road (16 KM).

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Is the motion seconded? Okay, it is seconded by: Hon. Kivumbi, Hon. Ongeirtho, Hon. Katumba, Hon. Omona, Hon. Rwemulikya, and Dr Musa; Hon. Florence Akiiki, Hon. Chemonges, Hon. Nyongore, Hon. Rose Obigah, Hon. James, Hon. Rwamirama, Hon. Okaasai, Hon. Mugasa, Hon. Judith Alyek, Hon. Tonny Ayoo, and Hon. Christine.

Honourable Minister for Works, would you like to comment?

5.43
THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (Gen. Edward Katumba): Mr Speaker, this is an 18-kilometre road from Nebbi to Goli. Goli borders the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It is one of the main trunk and highly trafficked roads in terms of trade.

We have already allocated money for the compensation for this road, which is about Shs 3 billion. Once we get this money, we will be ready to start the road. The road is very critical for trade in that part of the country.

I, therefore, request that Members highly consider this request. That will be giving us a very big breakthrough, in terms of accessibility to the DRC through Mahagi, as we are now accessing them through other areas, like in Mpondwe, Ntoroko, and other areas. I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable committee chairperson, kindly do a quick summary. Honourable colleagues, I do not want it to be an afternoon of borrowing. We can borrow again tomorrow. *(Laughter)*

5.44
THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ECONOMY (Mr John Bosco Ikojo): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report and minutes of the Committee on National Economy on the proposal by Government to borrow up to $20 million from the Arab Bank for Development in Africa (BADEA) for the upgrade of Nebbi-Goli Road (16 kilometres).

Mr Speaker, the minister has already given a preamble to the situation regarding this road. So, I will go straight to the terms and conditions of the loan.

The loan has about seven components:

1. Civil works, which will take about $16 million;
2. Consultancy services, which will take $1.4 million;
3. Land acquisition by Government of Uganda, which will give $2.4 million;
4. Audit will be $0.5 million and from the Government of Uganda;
5. Project launch, workshops, and mid-term review workshop will cost $0.05;
6. The project implementation unit support will cost $0.14 million; and
7. Contingency takes $2.41 million totalling to $20 million.

The loan amount is $20 million and the maturity period is 20 years, including a grace period of five years. The interest rate is 2.5 per cent per annum on the principal amount of the loan, withdrawn and outstanding, from time to time.

Mr Speaker, the concessionality of this loan is that the nominal value of the loan is $20 million. The present value of the loan, at 5 per cent discount rate, is $14.47 million, equivalent to Shs 52.1 billion.

The total debt service for the loan is $25.28 million, equivalent to Shs 91.02 billion, and the grant element is only 28 per cent.
Having in mind that the grant element is 28 per cent, it is lower than the concessional threshold of 35 per cent, taking it to be a semi-concessional loan.

Mr Speaker, allow me to go to the committee observations and recommendations.

The project design and review

The committee observed that the second component of this project will entail the procuring and commissioning a consultancy firm to undertake the detailed design review and the supervision of the physical implementation of the civil works.

The consultant will ensure high standards of construction, compliance and established road safety standards specifications with specific emphasis on road safety, drainage, climate risks and environmental mitigation measures.

The supervision will include all the tasks needed to ensure that all technical specifications are met during the construction phase and the close monitoring of the contractor for any deviations from the specifications consigned in the contract.

The committee noted with concern that recently Parliament approved an additional funding for the Busega-Mpigi Expressway that arose from the detailed design review that increased the project cost by 124 per cent. There is need for a detailed design of Government projects to be finalised and ready, prior to obtaining the financing as this will facilitate realistic project costs.

The committee recommends that detailed project designs of Government projects should always be updated and ready before securing a loan funding to avoid requests for additional funding in case the revised designs reveal so.

The Government counterpart funding

The Government of Uganda is expected to contribute $3 million and the minister has already told us that the money is available for that counterpart funding.

Feasibility study

The committee was informed that the road is to be upgraded from the existing Class B gravel road to Class 2 paved standard with a design life of 20 years. The committee noted that this financing was sourced based on the feasibility study completed in 2015, that is,10 years ago.

The committee observed that whereas a design review is proposed as part of the scope of the activities on account of the traffic growth in the period, the road may require to be designed to a high class, necessitating additional funding to implement the high-class road. This should be adequately catered for before signing the financing agreement.

The committee recommends that an updated feasibility study be developed to cater for design and other project changes that may be relevant to the efficient usage of the proposed road asset. This will minimise the unnecessary project implementation delays and costs that may arise after finalising the financing agreement.

Intermodal transport harmonisation

The committee observed that there is a need to observe harmony with the proposed Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) alignment. Goli border point is proposed as a terminal or a crossing point for the Standard Gauge Railway.

Northern route project – Tororo-Gulu-Pakwach-Goli

The committee noted that the Cabinet memo and the feasibility study make no mention of any harmonisation of this project with a

Standard Gauge Railway yet both projects are under the ITIS programme.

The committee recommends that the ITIS programme should accord sufficient consideration to the synchronisation of this project with the SGR and provide for the SGR terminal point while designing this project.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, subject to the observations and recommendations presented above, the committee recommends that the proposal by the Government to borrow up to $20 million from the Arab Bank for Development in Africa (BADEA), for the upgrade of Nebbi-Goli Road, 16 kilometres, be approved.

Mr Speaker, I beg to report. *(Applause)*

5.52

THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (NOTHERN UGANDA) (Dr Kenneth Omona): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I also want to thank the committee for this report.

Mr Speaker, this road is short but for a very important road. The Goli-Nebbi road, apart from improving exports to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), has been in a bad state and we have witnessed very many road traffic accidents. In fact, there was a point where almost every week, you would have a truck overturn. Now, due to the high value of the market there, as one truck is being lifted, another will be attempting to make the same risk. This shows how important this road is.

As we stand, DRC alone is a market of about $981 million for Uganda, which has actually surpassed our exports to South Sudan. I really think that with investment in this road, our exports to DRC, which earn us foreign exchange, will improve. I want to implore both sides of the House to support this loan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I put the question that the Motion for a Resolution of Parliament to authorise the Government to borrow up to the $20 million from the Arab Bank for Development in Africa (BADEA) for the upgrading of the Nebbi-Goli Road (16 kilometres) be approved by this House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Motion adopted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, House is adjourned to tomorrow at 2.00 p.m. Thank you.

(The House rose at 5.53 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday, 29 October 2025.)