



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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THURSDAY, 15 AUGUST 2024



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FOURTH SESSION - 12TH SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Thursday, 15 August 2024

Parliament met at 2.11 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 would like us to take two hours to address your matters. We will have Prime Minister's time, which has written questions and usually takes about 30 minutes, and then add one and a half hours for us to accommodate as many questions as possible. For now, let us continue with the items on the Order Paper. Next item.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER ON MONKEY POX SITUATION IN UGANDA

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of procedure, Hon. Ssekikubo.

MR SSEKIKUBO: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the indulgence, because when the Speaker sits in the Chair, they have all wide-ranging powers. So, we are happy to share in your powers by granting us the opportunity to speak.

Today is Thursday and hopefully, it is the end of the week for our Parliament because this could be the last day. As you are aware, you

have our petition wherein we were counting the 14 days, but on the Order Paper we do not see any item about the censure of the four Backbench commissioners, yet we are running out of time.

We are guided by the Rules of Procedure of this honourable House that once a matter is properly filed and lodged in your good office, we would have the courtesy to be told formally, through a notice, that this matter is coming up for debate on such and such a day, but it must be within the 14 days.

This is not a Ssekikubo motion, it carries Members of Parliament of this honourable House and the general public. They are anxiously waiting for the outcome of the petition.

Therefore, I seek your indulgence so we can get guidance on how we proceed knowing that the days are fast elapsing. As we count the 14 days it should be Monday, and today is Thursday. May we be guided by your office?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Ssekikubo. Indeed, you went on a countdown and it seems to be getting quicker. You will get guidance tomorrow. We are still within the 14 days though people interpret it differently. Some argue that the 14 days do not include weekend days while others argue that they include weekends. But we shall ensure that we play within the rules. I promise you that. We must play within the rules and we will not go outside them.

From the inquiry I was trying to make – because this is a very critical issue, which you cannot just handle alone, several consultations and verifications have to be made. You will receive communication tomorrow. Thank you.

Yes, Hon. Sarah Opendi.

MS OPENDI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Over six months ago, the Local Councils I (LCIs) in my district brought to my attention the fact that since 2021 when the Government officially launched stamps for LC1s, they have not received those stamps to date.

The Minister of State for Local Government committed to handling this matter, but the financial year ended without these LC1s receiving these stamps yet these are very important offices.

Now, when you need a passport, or a letter of recommendation, people looking for employment or students applying for the Student's Loan Scheme, need LC1 letters.

May I know what is happening at the Ministry of Local Government and why up to now my LC1s in Tororo and those in quite a number of districts across the country, and some villages, are occupying offices without these stamps yet you officially launched them in 2021?

The procedural issue I am raising is whether it is procedurally right for us to handle business as usual yet we are not receiving answers from the ministers.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister –

2.20

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Ms Victoria Rusoke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to confirm to you that we gave out stamps to the LCIs. But the few –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, there is a point of order. According to that member, it seems we do not have order in the House.

MR SSEMUJJU: Mr Speaker, this Parliament has a Speaker and a presiding officer. Matters of procedure in our rules are ruled on by the Speaker. Is the minister in order to jump up as if she has become a Speaker to begin guiding on matters of procedure? Is she in order? Thank you. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I told you that sometimes I try to bend the rules and be as accommodative as possible.

However, what Hon. Sarah Opendi raised was not a procedural matter. I have seen it on several occasions but because it is a critical matter, which affects all of us, I requested the minister to respond.

So, honourable minister, kindly respond but you should take note of the issue raised by Hon. Ssemujju. Frame your questions under procedure on what is going on here.

MS RUSOKE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I recall vividly that the Ministry of Local Government procured stamps, and honourable is not raising it for the first time because even Hon. Muzaale of Buzaaya County, Kamuli District, rose on the same issue, but we advised their chief administrative officers to write to us. We handle official matters formally.

For those who wrote to us, the permanent secretary ordered their stamps from the Government printers and they received them. Once again, I beg that the Chief Administrative Officer of Tororo writes to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I would advise the honourable minister that it cannot be Members of Parliament to follow up with your technical people. For them, once they pick these issues from the public – I think it would have been prudent if you had said, “No, Mr Speaker, I can lay a letter here that I issued to all the Chief Administrative Officers and some complied while others did not.” Then you would show us the action you have taken against those who did not comply.

MS RUSOKE: Much obliged, Mr Speaker. If you allow, I will lay. However, it is my duty to remind those who do not have stamps. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please! Yes, honourable member for Tochi.

2.21

MR PETER OKOT (DP, Tochi County, Omoro): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Our able minister should cross-check for this within the ministry because, in Omoro, stamps for all the local councillors (LCs) were withdrawn from both those in substantive positions and those caretaking in the newly-curved administrative units.

There was a letter from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government, instructing the Chief Administrative Officers not to give the stamp to those caretakers since they were not elected LCs but only appointed. Those stamps are being kept at the district and not issued to the caretaker LCs.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, we have guided the minister on what to do, and I hope the honourable minister has taken note; it does not have to be a long statement. On Tuesday, you can give us a quick update with evidence of actions taken.

MS RUSOKE: Most obliged, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, next item? – (*Hon. Amero rose*) - no, I announced earlier that we shall handle that during the Prime Minister's time. I would like us to have two hours to handle these issues.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS ON

(I) MONKEY POX SITUATION IN UGANDA

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Alioni, do you have some point to raise? No, we do not have a point of guidance – (*Laughter*) - I just need to know because I need order here. Under

what point are you standing up, honourable colleague? Is it a point of procedure?

MR ALIONI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. There is an issue that I reached out to you about, which is very important to our institution; it is about the welfare of Members of this Parliament and our staff. I reached out to you on a matter of our welfare in the canteen. We have a new service provider operating illegally in the Parliament canteen.

I briefed you that our Parliament staff used to get a meal at only Shs 8,000, but from this week they are being charged Shs 18,000 per plate. This new service provider, with information in our hands – the Members of Parliament here, used to be served a meal at Shs 14,000. However, as we talk, a plate of food is being charged at Shs 45,000. There is no evidence of any advert that was put up to have this new service provider provide services in our canteen. Are we moving procedurally right without you addressing this important issue? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, Hon. Alioni came to me on that same matter. I told him that first, I do not deal in procurement and that that is the work of the Clerk to Parliament and the technical team.

Secondly, I told him that I would get for him information; whereby I would get the contracts. Next, I watched a video in which Hon. Alioni was saying that Parliament had been taken over, how Ugandans must come and reclaim Parliament, and how food is being sold at Shs 45,000.

I checked with the Clerk. First, the contract of the previous service provider expired. Parliament ran an advert and several companies - please, honourable, we have a technical team, we do not – as members of Parliament, I think we are overstepping our mandate.

I think we are even about to ask how you clean, how you do what - it is reaching a level where some of us think that it is beyond the fight against corruption.

Anyway, for the record - and I want to be quoted – a plate of buffet for the members of Parliament together with a drink has been at Shs 13,983. This is according to the contract that has been running for many years. For staff, it has been at Shs 10,000 and I have the documents.

In fact, I had come with them because I thought I would meet Hon. Alioni earlier on and give them to him. However, he has now provoked it early.

A plate of buffet for a Member of Parliament now is at Shs 21,000 - yes, I have official documents of Parliament; the contract – but after over 10 years, a plate of buffet for staff is at Shs 13,000, which is an increment of Shs 3,000, and this came out of a procurement process.

For a Member to go out and address the public on the food we supply to members of Parliament, the Government pays for and says that someone is doing it at Shs 45,000 - honourable colleagues, I request you - if the Member had come to me and asked, “Mr Speaker, please avail me with the information I asked for.” I would have given it because that is why I came with these documents. I wanted to give them to him from here.

Therefore, honourable colleagues, I will not allow a discussion on your food on the Floor of Parliament. We will get away with discussing it but not here. To discuss how much, we pay for food for members of Parliament, I think we are going beyond. Yes, Minister of Health.

2.28

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Dr Ruth Aceng): Mr Speaker, food is definitely important but I humbly request that you listen to me also, and allow me to appreciate you for granting me this opportunity to provide information to this august House about the status of monkeypox; and allow me, from now on, to refer to it as Mpox as it is called.

Mpox is in the same family of viruses as smallpox, which was eradicated over 40 years

ago. It is believed that it originates from wild animals like monkeys and squirrels. Since the beginning of the year, more than 17,000 Mpox cases and more than 500 deaths have been reported in 13 countries in Africa, according to the African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.

The highest number of cases, more than 14,000, is in the DRC, which reported 96 per cent of confirmed cases this month.

Other East African countries that have reported Mpox transmission are Burundi, Kenya, and Rwanda, with Burundi having secondary transmission.

Mpox transmission to humans is by contact with the infected animals. Among humans, it spreads by direct contact with an infected person, and sexual transmission (with high transmission among commercial sex workers, men who have sex with men, and truck drivers). It also spreads from contaminated surfaces. Crowded settings, especially schools and prisons, increase the risk of fast spread if there is a confirmed case, because of congestion.

Treatment

Mpox is a self-limiting disease presenting with pustules. I am sure many of you have seen chickenpox. Those are the pustules. You can call it “small boils” on the skin. Often, it is also associated with high-grade fever, swelling of the lymph nodes, headache, and general body weakness. Those small boils can be anywhere on the skin or mucosal surfaces such as the eyes, mouth, genitals, or anal areas. Treatment is symptomatic depending on the complaint as there is no specific treatment for the virus.

Mr Speaker, regarding the vaccine for Mpox, there are two vaccines under consideration for deployment:

1. There is one, which is called MBA-BN. It is a two-dose regimen, currently with the US FDA, and it is approved for use in adults; and

2. The LC16, which is produced in Japan with local regulatory approval in Japan, and it is recommended for both adults and children.

Both vaccines are pending emergency use licensure by World Health Organisation (WHO).

Disease progression and outcomes

Mr Speaker, regarding disease progression and outcomes, despite the self-limiting nature of Mpox, in a number of cases the disease can be fatal and may cause death, especially in children under 15 years, pregnant women, and individuals with weak immunity, such as persons living with HIV/AIDS, which is not suppressed. In addition, the public health implications can be dire for the communities and individuals affected.

If robust interventions are not made, infection may spread and a huge patient case number can overwhelm the health system as we have seen elsewhere. Facial and body lesions among immunocompromised individuals can be disfiguring, where they severely affect the quality of life of individuals in the long term. In some cases, patients have been reported to have suffered eye complications and permanent blindness.

Mr Speaker, Mpox was previously endemic in Central Africa, especially DRC, and West Africa, but in 2020, the disease re-emerged globally. In 2023, Mpox had a huge rebound in DRC, including rapid expansion in many other African countries.

In the case of Uganda, Mr Speaker, on 24 July 2024, the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) confirmed two cases of Mpox from six samples received from Bwera Hospital, Kasese District, from suspected cases. The two cases were:

1. A 37-year-old female market vendor, who also operates a hair salon at Mpondwe Border Point. She is married to a Congolese man;

2. A 22-year-old Congolese pregnant woman from Bunywisa II Village, Bwera Subcounty, who was seeking antenatal care in Bwera Hospital.

The two individuals were admitted and treated in Bwera Hospital and have since recovered but have been discharged with no complications. This is the first time Mpox has been confirmed in Uganda. Since then, no new cases linked to the two cases have been confirmed in Kasese District or in Uganda. To date, a total of 42 samples have been collected from suspected cases, and sent to UVRI for testing, and all have tested negative by PCR.

Genetic analysis of the virus from the confirmed cases shows it is linked to the Mpox of DRC and we have its scientific classification, which I have included in your documents. It is MPXV Clade 1b, which is linked to the DRC outbreak.

Mr Speaker, it is important to note that Mpox transmission in Eastern DRC is expanding rapidly, with a new epicentre in North Kivu, that is adjacent to Uganda. This happens amidst our regular cross-border human interactions between our two countries for trade, culture and social reasons. This means the risk of importation into Uganda remains high, given the long incubation period of seven to 14 days.

There are 17 districts in Uganda that share a border with DRC, with regular movement of people and 17 gazetted points of entry as well as many undesignated land and water crossing points along Lake Albert and Lake George.

In the previous two years, there has been an influx of Congolese refugees into Uganda, for example, 23,821 refugees in 2023 and 18,423 refugees by July 2024. Furthermore, our troops are currently deployed and pursuing insurgents in eastern DRC, and they are also at risk.

Long-distance truck drivers plying the region in the interconnected routes and resting areas within the East African area are among the most at risk and could act as a quick way of transmitting the virus.

Mr Speaker, allow me to inform this August House that yesterday, 14 August 2024, the World Health Organisation declared Mpox outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. This follows the same declaration by the Africa Centres for Disease Control (CDC) as a public health emergency of continental security on 13 August 2024.

The two declarations call for concerted global and continental investment to reduce mortality, maintain stable global trade and economy, and avoid stretching health systems as seen in the DRC and Burundi.

Mr Speaker, regarding our intervention, since we identified the two cases when Mpox re-emerged in the DRC, the Ministry of Health undertook a risk assessment in anticipation of potential importation of cases. Several immediate steps have been taken to protect the population.

Following the assessment, 23 districts were classified as high-risk districts, and these were the 17 districts bordering DRC, five districts hosting refugees from DRC as well as Kampala, because of its highly mobile population due to trade and other reasons.

This guided the development of a one-year Mpox preparedness and response plan. The plan caters for the coordination of all Mpox-related activities, including risk communication for prevention, surveillance for case identification and detection, laboratory investigation, management for confirmed cases, vaccination, and research.

Mr Speaker, regarding the way forward, an emergency response mechanism, that is, the incident management system, consistent with what we used to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the 2022 Ebola epidemic outbreak has been activated at the Ministry of Health and in Kasese District.

The ministry has since reached out to the U.S. Government in Uganda and the World Health Organisation (WHO) for vaccines so that we can prioritise the high-risk groups. These are

the health workers, their contacts, and other frontline workers, but also the vulnerable ones that I previously highlighted. We are working with WHO to enhance cross-border collaboration among countries in the region for real-time information sharing and cross-border surveillance.

In conclusion, I wish to appeal to this august House to supplement the Ministry of Health's efforts by amplifying the Mpox prevention messages, within your respective constituencies. The message that we want you to carry forward is that we need to avoid physical contact with anyone who has signs and symptoms of Mpox, as I mentioned above. Remember that the pustules resemble those of chickenpox.

People should avoid sharing clothes, bedding, and other personal items with infected persons. Wash hands with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based sanitiser after contact with a suspected case of Mpox. Contacts and frontline workers should be encouraged to take vaccination when it is available.

Lastly, on that issue, suspected cases should be reported to the nearest health facility for assistance, or call our toll-free line.

As I conclude, Mr Speaker, allow me to register my appreciation and that of the entire ministry to this august House for its continued support of the health sector whenever the need arises. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Honourable colleagues, that was for information purposes. I do not know whether it should be a statement with responses and all that. However, if there are quick clarifications, we can start with Hon. Nambeshe before we move to Hon. Amos Okot. I can see the Hon. Wandwasi and Dr Otaala. Thank you.

2.43

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr John Baptist Nambeshe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank the Minister of Health, for

this statement on the public health emergency of monkeypox.

Madam Speaker - I mean, Mr Speaker - I am very sorry; I was confused because the Minister of Health is a lady. I had just expressed my appreciation for the good statement that she made yet I found my tongue mentioning you; I am very sorry.

Mr Speaker, I expected her statement to mention the challenge of the limited availability of vaccines for monkeypox. This is because, from the declarations that have been made by Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organisation, it is true that the target is about 10 million doses. However, what is available is only a paltry 200,000. That is a drop in the ocean. I expected her statement to mention that.

Therefore, I seek clarification to throw more light on the challenge that the ministry is grappling with about the limited availability of vaccines.

I would like to see a plan charting a way forward on a coordinated international response. Mr Speaker, already, the two important international players, like the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organisation, have swung into action. Could we please know the coordinated international response? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Amos Okot.

2.45

MR AMOS OKOT (NRM, Agago North County, Agago): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and the minister, for the statement to appraise the country about Mpox.

Mr Speaker, in the northern part of the country, there is a border point that crosses from the side of Orom. It is barely regulated. A few weeks ago, during recess, we were not appraised on how to differentiate chicken from Mpox. Those few cases, which – (*Interjections*) - I call it Mpox.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think some people who love pork are getting confused. Make it clear. It is Mpox. We do not have M-pork. (*Laughter*)

MR AMOS OKOT: It is not the pork people are referring to, but the monkeypox, according to the minister.

Anyhow, my point here is that during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the vaccination took place, Agago District and most of the districts in Northern Uganda received massive vaccinations, which was good. You did proper sensitisation.

However, these days, whenever symptoms of that nature occur, people's kidneys fail. Each time they are referred to St Mary's Hospital, Lacor, there are cases of kidney failure; whether children or adults. Most of the deaths, these days, are related to that.

Two days ago, kidney failures related to diseases like M-pork – (*Interjections*) - it is a point that – monkeypox -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Amos Okot, what are you up to? What did pork do to you?

MR AMOS OKOT: Mr Speaker, monkeypox is monkeypox. That is how they pronounce it. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not pork.

MR AMOS OKOT: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The point I am driving is about kidney failures. Mr Speaker, the point I raise to the minister is for her to take keen interest in why there is a rise of cases of kidney failures and that many people are falling off because of that. Try to investigate and let us know about it. This is because each time, whether young or old - and many of them are referred to St Mary's Hospital, Lacor.

I had interactions with some doctors from St Mary's Hospital, Lacor, and they confirmed that many people passed on because of kidney failure. Thank you for your time.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Wandwasi, then Dr Otaala.

2.49

MR ROBERT WANDWASI (NRM, Bungokho County South, Mbale): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I also appreciate the information given to the House by the able minister about the Mpox. However, I would have loved to hear her tell us that she is going to give detailed literature. This is because we know we are guided and helped by health workers in communities across the country, the ones that we refer to as Village Health Teams (VHTs).

If the minister could come up with the literature indicating the symptoms, through our district health officers, and then be disseminated down to the communities that can be used by the VHTs to sensitise our people.

Also, Mr Speaker, she would specify, in regions like Eastern Uganda, should people happen to sense such symptoms, where should they go for treatment? Do we mean all health centres have vaccines? We wish, or I wish to hear that. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Dr Otaala.

2.50

DR EMMANUEL OTAALA (NRM, West Budama County South, Tororo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to also add my voice to the voices of the others in thanking the Minister of Health, for this timely statement that has highlighted the problem of Monkey Pox, not only here in Uganda where it is still quite small, but overall in Africa. I want to begin with the point that 17,000 people across Africa have died. That is not a small - is it 500? Sorry, but the cases overall - 17,000 cases, with the 500 deaths is significant.

My clarification is that the other two vaccines are still under development and I am just wondering whether there is some serious engagement with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to hasten the approval of

the two vaccines under development, because this is something that needs to be pursued very seriously.

The second point, Mr Speaker, is that the monkey, the bat, and the other animals that act as reservoirs are quite prevalent in our African setting, in our African countries but what is important for us to deal with is to advise our people to stop getting in contact with monkeys and bats.

In a number of communities here in Uganda, people still enjoy meat from these animals as delicacies and that is how they get in contact with the viruses. I remember when I was fighting Ebola in that area of Bundibugyo, the reservoir again was monkeys and bats, which our people enjoy. I would like to ask the minister whether there is an engagement for our people to move away from enjoying meat from these animals, which are reservoirs for dangerous viruses. Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity.

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE: Point of order! Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, honourable member, please, we never speak on a microphone without the permission of the Speaker and I do not have anyone holding the Floor now, so I do not know where the point of order would go. Let us hear from the Hon. Dr Isamat.

2.53

DR ABRAHAM ISAMAT (NRM, Kapir County, Ngora): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am a vet by training. I would like to thank the honourable Minister of Health for the comprehensive report, which is very informative.

However, the honourable minister did mention the various ways through which the virus spreads and went to the extent of mentioning the incubation period, which is 7 to 14 days.

According to our training, we are aware that viruses can survive even outside the host, and I

want to give the example of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) virus, which takes about six months for a place to be declared FMD-free.

In this case of the Mpox virus, I think the minister has not informed us - in the case of contamination, how long does a contaminated place take to be free of the virus? We need that information for purposes of control and prevention.

Secondly, honourable minister, the composition of the team that is already on the ground trying to contain the virus from spreading - I know very well in the recent outbreak of COVID-19, it was basically the health professionals who handled or contained the situation but what arrangement is there for the veterinary professionals, given that most of the animals are actually harbouring the virus? Thank you so much. Information from Dr Ayume.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Dr Ayume.

DR AYUME: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that well-written statement and her stellar performance at the helm of the health sector.

I will speak to the issue of vaccines. Several times when vaccines come, some of us in this House, leaders, decampaigned the vaccination process yet we know that the biggest public health intervention to disease over the years, has been immunisation; we eradicated Rinderpest and Smallpox in 1980.

One thing that drives us to get vaccinated is fear but when we are coming up with a malaria vaccine - I think it will be introduced shortly, but because malaria is endemic, the turn-up will be very poor, and we waste vaccines as a country yet we are supposed to procure them. They get wasted, and it is a huge cost. What drives us is fear.

I will talk to the minister that in her next submission, she can smuggle in maybe one of the side effects as erectile dysfunction or impotence. I think it will drive us men to ensure

that the turn-up for vaccination is - (*Laughter*) - it is one of the biggest things we fear, Mr Speaker. Otherwise, thank you very much, honourable minister, for your presentation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Christine Apolot.

2.57

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT (NRM, Woman Representative, Kumi): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the minister for the statement. Mine is related to what Hon. Dr Ayume has said. I do not want to hide this; in my district, that is Kumi - although you cautioned us yesterday against referring to particular districts - whoever dies now and suffers from any disease, everyone is saying "It is the Yellow Fever vaccine that is killing us."

Across the district, it has been very difficult to explain to the people about it. I want to plead with the honourable minister to have avenues through which we can clear the misconception about these vaccines among the entire public.

I also expected the minister to give us an expectation as to when we should expect this vaccine. Also in the report, I thought that the minister would have summarised for us briefly the signs and symptoms of this disease. Sorry, I withdraw that; the answer has already been given. Thank you for your attention.

Let me now talk about - because the doctor was giving us the preventive approaches, the way forward, and the rest - I want to suggest that the Minister of Health liaise with the Minister of Internal Affairs and see how we can restrict movements between countries - (*Interjections*) - yes, now that we have registered two cases of Mpox in the country and also to see a follow-up mechanism of the two. Although the Minister said the two have been discharged without serious complications, we need serious follow-up, and then a report available to Parliament, so that we conclusively say that the two who tested positive are now free of the disease.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ogwal?

3.00

MR OGWAL GOLI (NRM, Dokolo North County, Dokolo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Honourable minister, thank you, for your presentation. I was caught with the point that you mentioned about having a good and well-coordinated approach to managing this. My prayer is that a special case of coordination should be on communication so that it does not cause alarm, especially in areas, which affect trade. You would see even inside here my brother Hon. Dr Otaala had already started miscommunication.

We should be very careful about how we communicate because apart from health, there are other effects we may have in the country and the economy.

Lastly, can we have comfort that maybe the investment we have been putting in research for vaccines could yield fruits? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Okot-Ogong.

3.01

MR FELIX OKOT-OGONG (NRM, Dokolo County South, Dokolo): Mr Speaker and honourable members of Parliament, Uganda has been recognised as a country that has performed very well in terms of controlling medical emergencies. *(Applause)* We start with the President, the medical team in Uganda, and the population. But Mr Speaker, I want to be informed today, because the major hindrance to their efforts has always been inadequate finances –

I want confirmation from the Prime Minister because this is an emergency; we had not budgeted for this emergency in the ministry - whether the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development is ready to provide adequate resources to the ministry to enable them to conduct the effective control and management of this problem. That is the issue I am raising.

3.02

DR CHRISTINE NDIWALANA (NUP, Bukomansimbi North County, Bukomansimbi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the honourable minister for, the concern about the Mpox virus. We are so grateful for the work you are doing but I just have one concern. As Dr Ayume said, at times the Members of Parliament boycott - they are not boycotting but at times confuse people when it comes to vaccines.

Parents are so worried about the multiple vaccinations, which are done on their children. This is a zoonotic disease, which can easily be controlled if we alert the community because it has not yet circulated so much in Uganda. In addition, monkeys are not so common, more especially – *(Interjections)* - you just listen to me, there are not so many African rodents.

We can control this disease by giving public health education. We can educate them on how to control this disease. I am not boycotting vaccination, but we cannot say that for every new disease people need to be vaccinated. Parents are worried about the vaccines we are giving to the children in schools.

When you look at the current situation in children today, there are increasing numbers of anaphylactic reactions. Children are having different allergy cases, so we just have to look into how to prevent diseases rather than giving new vaccines all the time. I thank you and I appreciate your work.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us hear from the Hon. Isingoma Tom, Hon. Ssemujju and Hon. Namboozee then Hon. Musana.

3.05

MR PATRICK ISINGOMA-MWESIGWA (Independent, Hoima East Division, Hoima City): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I join the rest in thanking the minister for the statement.

My observation is that over the years each time we have had an epidemic here, other than the Coronavirus, the source has always been Congo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, we have Congo, and then we have DRC.

MR ISINGOMA: I mean DRC, Mr Speaker – *(Interjection)* – and where? I need protection. Each time we have had these epidemics, the methods to combat have been more or less fire brigading. Address the problem, and immediately it is finished, we sit back and relax, and wait for another one to come.

Does the minister want to tell us which plans she has at the ministry on the sustainable and reliable mechanism of addressing the problem of epidemics as and when they come?

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

3.06

MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have three issues - maybe to join colleagues, I am one of those who are very happy with the Minister for Health. *(Applause)* It is very rare for a minister to come and provide a solution. They usually come here to cry.

The three issues are:

First, we have been investing money in vaccines under the Ministry of Information, Communication Technology, and National Guidance. We were told during the COVID-19 pandemic that that was not the only area; we were preparing for all other problems.

So, can we be told what Dr Musenero's group has done with all the money that we have put there for them to develop vaccines? They said we should forget about COVID-19 because they were developing and we would have vaccines for everything. That is point number one.

And then, this Dei BioPharma where we put money, which so far, is 732 billion. If you remember they started with the vaccine during COVID-19; they were one of the groups. Is that one of the areas where they are also going to help us?

Finally, Mr Speaker, the point he makes about DRC - because we interact with people from DRC a lot.

The question is: I have visited Nairobi sometimes, and even when they hear a rumour, they begin testing everybody entering from Uganda at the airport, at the - do we have that capacity? And is it necessary - because this is the time to begin checking people who are returning from DRC and those who are going, including our soldiers who are fighting there because each fight has brought problems.

You remember we are now paying one trillion for plundering, the other day they came with the Congolese women. So, are we sure that when they are returning we check them thoroughly such that they do not become a conduit for some of the problems you are dealing with? Thank you, Mr Speaker.

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

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE (NUP, Mukono Municipality, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do not know - I have fear, but even with that fear, allow me to join the colleagues who have commended the Minister of Health for always being alert and for coming here to alert the country about diseases even before we raise them as a matter of national importance.

I remember the day the minister stood here and warned us about the COVID-19 pandemic. At that time, it sounded like a farfetched matter. In fact, some people were telling her to sit down so that we could discuss the issue of the locusts that had invaded Uganda.

To some, it sounded very urgent and important. We did not realise then that COVID-19 would cause such a magnitude of problems for us, including claiming the lives of some of our colleagues who were present on that day when the minister was alerting us. Since then, I have learned the hard way that whenever the Minister of Health comes here to tell the country about a disease, I listen attentively. *(Applause)*

Thank you, Madam Minister. First of all, I would like to put it on record that the people of Mukono whom I represent don't eat monkey meat because a colleague during his submission brought it out on record that our people eat monkeys as a delicacy.

However, in Mukono we treat monkeys as our distant relatives. Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Betty Nambooze, Dr Otaala is raising a point of order.

DR OTAALA: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I think the pre-current holder of the Floor is alluding to my statement, which I made in good faith but referred to our people yet I did not specify - I did it intentionally by not naming specific tribes who eat monkeys but generalised because all the people of Uganda are our people.

Is the pre-current holder of the Floor in order to say that I alluded to the people of Mukono as monkey eaters?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Dr Otaala, why do you make all of us look suspects? *(Laughter)* Even now, I look like I am a monkey eater because you were not specific.

So, I think Hon. Nambooze was right to defend her people and don't count me in that group. *(Laughter)* Anyway, we know that there are people who do. So, let us not read so much into it. Thank you.

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your wise ruling. Allow me, for the sake of time, to go to my point. The issue of hand washing simple as it sounds seems to be the miracle we need all the time for every virus that has been mentioned apart from that of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV); hand washing has always been cited.

Mr Speaker, as a culture here, including some of us in church, shaking hands, among ourselves is a culture. It is high time we adopted two

things through the Ministry of Health, care of public health that we need to build a culture that discourages shaking of hands and hugging. It seems that in the modern world, we have more viruses coming up every day and contact is one sure way of spreading the diseases.

All of us here in our constituencies, during the COVID-19 pandemic, we installed hand washing centres in the markets, at offices, and everywhere.

However, when you move across the country today, most of those hand washing centres are no more. I would like to request the Minister of Health, as a matter of public health, can't we come up with a policy that makes hand washing facilities be part of the requirements that every occupier of premises and the housekeepers must observe, especially in public places?

Mr Speaker, you used to provide us with hand washing facilities at Parliament, but apart from your office and the Office of the Clerk we no longer have them. We would find hand washing points at the gate, but today they are not there.

In the markets, schools, public places, as a matter of policy, the country should maintain an infrastructure for hand washing, and then the issue of discouraging shaking of hands, especially through my dear church, the Catholic Church. It is one of the requirements that we must do during mass to shake hands as a sign of friendship and comradeship among us the faithful ones.

Lastly, maybe we shall in the future need a candidate who will be bold enough to say that if you elect me President, I will build a wall between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Musana – honourable colleagues, I am done with this side.

3.15

MR ERIC MUSANA (Independent, Buyaga East County, Kagadi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me also to appreciate the Minister of Health for a very good report.

I represent a district that borders the Democratic Republic of Congo. We are aware that we have several rebel activities as a result of the M23 activities there. Several people keep crossing the border points; moving from DRC, and coming into those districts that border DRC. Currently, in my district, we have several people who are coming from DRC to Kagadi before they are moved to Kyangwali Refugee Camp.

I don't know how the minister is ready in mitigating those other issues that may come in, well knowing that the source of the problem for our country together with a number of epidemics, are these border points - Kasese, Bundibugyo, Kagadi, and all those areas. Is there any mechanism the ministry is putting in place to manage this cross-border movement as a result of the M23 and the other rebels? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Oguzu Lee and I will conclude with Dr Bwanika.

3.17

MR DENIS OGUZU (FDC, Maracha County, Maracha): Mr Speaker, I congratulate the minister for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. She has been credited as a minister who has risen above the occasion and we congratulate her.

Just like my colleague, Hon. Musana has said, I come from a district that borders the DRC. All of you are aware that in West Nile, we have just been 110 years in Uganda because we were part of DRC, and so, we have a very strong link with the people of DRC; we have relatives, we have marriages and our people interact.

That points to a risk that because of our regular interactions, there is the likelihood that whenever there is a problem there, we will bring it to this country - aware that ambulances are needed for emergency responses that may arise in this kind of situation.

Honourable minister, you are aware that the President redirected the budget for ambulances to ROKO Construction Limited, which was not

our priority. If this kind of issue arises, how are you going to help a district like Maracha that does not have any ambulance?

I have written to you several times that our border is very porous and risky, the border road is insecure, it has never been rehabilitated.

The Ministry of Works and Transport cannot pay attention even when we report that it is a security risk; because the people who are supposed to intervene on the border including security people, cannot.

I do not know, should we now go and state these matters in Gulu during those regional meetings for the matter to be listened to?

Two, honourable minister, the issue you addressed to us on requires risk communication which was very elaborate during the COVID-19 time. For a district like Maracha, what preparation have you put in place to empower the health workers and people who manage our healthcare systems on risk communication?

How will the population know that there is a risk and they are supposed to conduct themselves in a particular way in that part of the region; since they may have challenges with the language? I mentioned that some of them speak Lingala which is a Congolese language. How do we help our people at the border to appreciate those challenges?

I would love to hear what frameworks you have put in place to address the emergency response, behavioural and other risk communications. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Dr Bwanika –

3.21

DR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimaanya-Kabonera, Masaka City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I add my voice to appreciate the Minister of Health. One of the measures to control Monkey pox (Mpox) and other zoonotic diseases is to ensure that we minimise contact between the wild and human beings. I

have seen people freely interacting with these wildlife, in our national parks and that puts our people in danger.

I believe that by this time, the Minister of Health and the Uganda Wildlife Authority ought to come up with guidelines on how to minimise contact with wildlife.

I have also seen populations of monkeys in this city moving around and swimming in the water tanks at the top of buildings; every morning, you see monkeys bathing. This also exposes our population to these zoonotic diseases.

I pray that the Minister of Health, again, and Uganda Wildlife Authority get guidelines on how to help our people, first of all, to minimise these populations of wildlife loitering around this city and also to ensure that whoever is going to have wildlife as a pet must have a licence. *(Applause)*

I see people having snakes and monkeys in their homes as pets and sometimes this exposes them without their knowledge. I want to appreciate it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister-

DR ACENG: Mr Speaker, allow me to appreciate the honourable members for their questions and concerns. I start from the point that was raised by -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: A procedural point from Hon. Naome Kabasharira.

MS KABASHARIRA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is very rare for some few Members whose names I do not want to mention, to appreciate someone who sits on that bench – *(Applause)* - Now that they have appreciated, is it procedurally right for us to continue without giving the minister a “service award”? *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think she deserves it. Honourable minister-

DR ACENG: Mr Speaker, I need to know when I should come for my “service award”.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: As long as you are ready to defend yourself before Hon. Alioni, we shall give you.

DR ACENG: He has given the go-ahead. Allow me, first of all, to start by thanking this Parliament for appreciating the work we do but also for the support that they give to the health sector. Over the years since the year 2000 when we had the first Ebola outbreak, we have been building systems.

I would like to allay anxiety; all these things you are worried about are in place. That is the reason we were able to detect the two cases in real-time.

Otherwise, if we did not have systems, we would not have detected them. In addition to the quick detection, we have built very strong laboratory, surveillance and risk communication systems; we are moving.

One of the issues why we did not come out at that time to declare an outbreak of monkey pox, we said, “We are just out of Ebola and COVID-19, we come and make another declaration-”. So, we just said that we have cases.

One most fundamental issue was not to disrupt trade among the population and to cause scare; we do not want you to be scared. We are handling the cases.

Actually, during an engagement with Members of Parliament, we wanted to meet the members of Parliament of Kasese, but they were in a hurry.

We wanted to bring it to their attention and just allay anxiety because the country and trade must move on. *(Applause)* Uganda is a signatory to International Health Regulations and whenever there are outbreaks, we do not restrict movements.

We have what we call Port Health which is a system where we carry out routine- it is part

of our health system- surveillance at the border points of entry. The people of Kasese will testify that there are screens, people, computers and vaccines at the border posts of entry and many others like Malaba; they are all there. Please, let your anxiety cool; the Ministry of Health is in control. (*Applause*)

The issue of availability of vaccines. Once an outbreak is declared a public health emergency of international concern, the entire international community starts mobilising resources, including vaccines.

So, even if the production of vaccines goes up, but it may not be adequate to cover everybody. They will start with the most at-risk areas and that is the importance of declaring a fake whenever there is an outbreak because the limited availability of vaccines will be addressed.

However, in my statement, I did not say that vaccines are under development, as alluded to by Dr Otaala. I said that they are awaiting licensing.

The research and development were concluded long ago. The one in the United States (US) is waiting for approval and then the rest of the vaccines are waiting for licensure. Immediately after that discussion is concluded, the vaccine production will go up.

Coordination between African countries- we have the African Centre for Disease Control (CDC) that coordinates us and in my statement, I clearly mentioned that it was the African CDC that first announced a continental emergency.

This was referring to the fact that there is an emergency in the African continent and they are coordinating with us. However, specifically within East Africa we also have our East African CDC that is headquartered in Kenya, and it also brings on board the East African countries together. We have our forum where we sit and discuss. In the next week or so, we shall be in Congo Brazzaville to discuss. So, the coordination is ongoing.

The border point at Orom and the kidney failure? Mr Speaker, we are sitting on a time bomb of non-communicable diseases. Twenty-five per cent of our population has high blood pressure, and it is not related to the outbreaks or the vaccines. It is related to our lifestyles, and it is something that we must handle urgently. We are preparing documentation on that, including on burning unsaturated fats.

You see this business of people eating Blue Band and fried things on the roadside: chips – those things? They use the same oil over and over. We are at risk. The young people are now most at risk. That is why he is seeing cases, but thinking it is due to the outbreaks. No, it is our lifestyle. We need to address it – including other non-communicable diseases.

Mr Speaker, I do not want us to worry about village health teams and information. It is already with them and they are doing what is needed.

Hastening approval of the vaccines? It is ongoing by the World Health Organisation.

The issue of eating monkeys and so on? Mr Speaker, I do not know the communities that eat them. We have talked about these things. I think we need to continue to educate our people.

How long does the virus stay on contaminated surfaces? For Mpox, the period is longer. The virus can survive for up to 15 days, under optimal conditions. That is why in my statement I emphasised avoiding the sharing of clothes and so on. However, on hard surfaces, it is between 24 and 48 hours. That is why we must encourage cleaning with sanitisers and making sure that we wash our hands.

The Ministry of Health works through what we call One Health approach – for the purpose of the veterinary doctor. The One Health approach brings on board the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Ministry Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities and Ministry of Water and Environment. That is how we handle outbreaks, through a One Health approach.

On the complications of the vaccines in regards to erectile dysfunction, my chairperson Emeritus will discuss it in detail with the men, but for now, I want to reassure you that the vaccines are safe.

The issue of disinformation and misinformation? We have already started addressing this. I started addressing this when I requested you to give me Members of Parliament. I have been talking to them about vaccines. We are engaging other groups, before we go full blast to the communities. However, honourable members, Uganda has 13 vaccines only – the malaria vaccine will be the 14th – on our routine schedules.

Some of those countries, like the United States, have 54-plus vaccines. What is our problem? The vaccines have kept us alive and well. We eradicated polio – you are no longer seeing people with lame legs. We have eradicated many diseases. We are in the process of eradicating –(Interjection)- can I continue talking?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please.

DRACENG: So, when I see people saying we have too many vaccines, I even wonder. We have very few. If we had many, even flu and whatever, you would not be experiencing them. So, do not worry about these vaccines. They are good. They are cheap. They prolong our lives. Instead of bringing in family planning and so on, if we had more vaccines and children were living longer, you would have women having fewer children. Let us embrace vaccines when they come, instead of giving negative information to people about the vaccines.

I will not answer for the ministry for science. I think we can invite the ministry for science to come here.

Mr Speaker, as I conclude, the issue of mandatory hand-washing, contact, hand-shaking – all those things – are in the Public Health Act. The challenge is enforcement. When we started hand-washing during COVID-19, everybody participated and all

these diseases went down. Now, they have risen.

Lastly, on the issue of resources, I have requested over and over again whether we can have a budget that is ring-fenced for epidemics. I have never got that. Now, whenever I get an epidemic, I mobilise partners and I go into mobilising resources. It is really hard. I need to be supported in that area. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Baryomunsi, you requested for a minute.

3.35

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE (Dr Chris Baryomunsi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wanted to make a brief comment – (Member rose)-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, we do not have much time. I want us to handle this statement before the Prime Minister's Time.

DR BARYOMUNSI: I would like to make just two comments. The first one is that as the ministry for Information, we are working and we are going to continue working with the Ministry of Health to intensify the campaign. Maybe I request the Minister of Health that for the health education materials which have been developed, we could produce more copies for Members of Parliament so that the Members, especially those from the 17 districts which border the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), can be part of the mobilisation to educate the masses.

The second comment – and the last one – is to reassure the honourable members that the process of vaccine development is so rigorous that there should be no fear among the Members about vaccines. Vaccines go through a process of pre-clinical and clinical trials and, then, WHO has to go through approvals, checking efficacy and the effectiveness and safety.

So, we request Members of Parliament not to fear vaccines because by the time the Ministry of Health says we have approved this vaccine, it would have gone through lots of trials - *(Interjection)*- the Speaker said there is no time. I just wanted to reassure Members that the vaccines that we use are safe and efficacious. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister for tourism, it seems your sector has been scared.

3.36

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Mr Martin Mugarra): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Indeed – when Dr Bwanika was making a presentation. The fact is: interaction with wildlife does not bring disease. We have lived – it is just like interacting with any other animal such as a dog and the cats that we love.

Mr Speaker, usually, it is as a result of eating. *(Interjection)* Yes. We have people who have been visiting. *(Interjection)* Yes, it is a –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister for tourism, can you agree on it with the Minister of Health and we get good guidance? Otherwise, we are going to have different views.

MR MUGARRA: The interaction has not brought –*(Interjection)*- yes –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, before we go to the next item, I was waiting for a minister from the water and environment sector and I did not see any. However, last night, I was watching NBS Television – a programme called *Hard Questions*, by Mr Solomon Serwanjja. They had an investigation on what is going on in Zoka Forest. There was a gentleman, Mr William Leslie Amanzuru, the leader of Friends of Zoka.

The pictures that followed – it is really painful what is going on in Zoka.

Despite the presidential directive banning charcoal burning in those areas, they were showing trailers going through roadblocks without any hindrance, trailer after trailer. There were even allegations that some of this charcoal is even exported.

According to the video the gentleman brought out, if nothing is done, Zoka Forest is going to be finished in a minute. Despite all kinds of security from soldiers, police, the different roadblocks at Karuma and everywhere, a lot is going on.

Very serious environmental crimes were listed. It was a very painful documentary to watch. I had come from a very hectic schedule at around 11.00 p.m. As I was having a cup of tea, I turned on the television and immediately saw Zoka, so I got interested.

I want to request the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to take up this matter and visit Zoka Forest. The forest is found in Adjumani. I do not want them to spread thin and then bring just a few snapshots of whatever is happening. Visit Zoka Forest and report to this House within a month because what is going on is really bad, from the videos that I could see.

Let me just allow the Woman Member of Parliament from Adjumani and Hon. Mamawi – let me just pick the three Members from Adjumani.

3.41

MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani): Thank you, Mr Speaker for bringing this thing out. I think God listened to our prayers.

The whole of the last three days, we have been spending sleepless nights. We came back from Adjumani on Tuesday and started getting news and had telephone meetings. Even this morning, we had a meeting. Therefore, we agree with your position. However, I pray that, one, a stakeholders' meeting be held at the district headquarter where we shall also participate so that we bring out more information about what has been happening for all this time.

Two, the video that was played was about the previous things that have been happening and have been recording. The recent one is just before yesterday. All the three trucks which were impounded and kept at the district headquarters disappeared. We have been asking people about who allowed these trucks to move out of our headquarters premises, more so, a fenced place. No one is taking responsibility.

We have agreed that on Monday next week, we are going for a security meeting. Through your intervention, Mr Speaker, we request Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) Headquarters and the military officers to also join us. Thank you.

3.43

MR JAMES MAMAWI (NRM, Adjumani East County, Adjumani): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Zoka Central Forest Reserve is in Adjumani East and partly in Adjumani West Constituency. This issue has been here for quite long. I raised most of these issues on the Floor of Parliament here. I am happy that today, you have seen what is happening, by yourself.

Mr Speaker, right now, we have a complete UPDF Brigade; 501 Brigade in that area. This is all happening where this brigade has settled. They are not even more than 10 kilometres away from this forest. We have different kinds of police in those areas but if you look at what is happening - Sometimes we say that maybe the Government has no interest in this forest so they should give it back to the community to manage the forest. Otherwise, we have people who need to be settled in this area, but they are not letting us to exercise our power.

They are allowing people to settle in this forest. If you look at the nature of settlement in this area, you will not like it. I do not know whether this is for Government or we do not have Government.

Mr Speaker, I am a member of the National Resistance Movement but sometimes, if you see what happens, you get confused. *(Laughter)*

3.45

MR TOM AZA (NRM, West Moyo County, Moyo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the chance. The whole of North West Nile Region is affected. The region comprises Adjumani, Obongi, Moyo and Yumbe.

Mr Speaker, there are godfathers who are seated like God seated on his heavenly throne, commanding each and everybody to cut the trees. Who are these godfathers? Trees have been felled indiscriminately and the whole area has now been deforested. We are scared that in two or three years' time, there will be completely nothing for us to talk about.

I would like to request that we investigate these godfathers. Otherwise, the civil, political and all those other elected leaders have tried their best to stop this vice but have failed. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Next item.

(II) THE OUTBREAK OF CHICKEN DISEASES IN MASAKA DISTRICT

3.46

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (ANIMAL INDUSTRY) (Lt Col (Rtd) Bright Rwamirama): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On Thursday, 1 August 2024, our attention was drawn to audio and visual content that had gone viral on social media regarding a discovered dump of carcasses of dead layer chicken in Masaka District, claiming that there was a strange disease affecting poultry in the district and warning the public from consuming chicken. Actually, avian influenza was suspected.

Globally, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is the most dangerous poultry disease since it affects humans, wild and domestic birds at epidemic levels or it can occur as outbreaks and is deadly. Newcastle Disease (NCD) and Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD) do not affect humans but kill poultry in large numbers.

At country level, vaccination against the NCD and IBD is undertaken, especially in commercial poultry units and we always encourage our poultry farmers to vaccinate regularly. Vaccination against the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is not undertaken since the disease does not occur in the country with endemic status. Therefore, HPAI is the poultry disease that is dreaded, which can cause mass death in poultry. Tests were, therefore, undertaken to check NCD, IBD and the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, which was suspected in the specimen that were collected from Masaka District.

Mr Speaker, investigations were undertaken by Masaka City veterinary officers, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (COVAB) veterinary teams.

The following were the findings:

Mr Speaker, the findings of these teams were consistent and similar, indicating that only one farm suffered a loss of more than 3,500 poultry of the same age. The number of poultry dumped in four sites was consistent with age and numbers that died on the farm. The farm is located in Kalagala village, Nyendo-Mukungwe subcounty, Masaka District. The other farms visited reported normal mortalities consistent with poultry farming.

The post-mortem reports indicate that the chickens developed bacterial pneumonia and had foreign bodies in their lung tissues. These issues were caused by overcrowding in dusty and poorly-ventilated housing conditions where poultry was being reared, leading to respiratory problems.

Laboratory findings revealed that the specimens were negative for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Newcastle disease, and Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD).

In conclusion, the birds that were dumped in four sites in Masaka were of the same age and from the same farm. Therefore, the condition

is localised and not widespread. The cause of mass deaths on the farm was diagnosed as a respiratory system infection exacerbated by congestion and dust in the poultry houses.

The farmer has been advised on the stocking rate and housing structure with adequate ventilation, seeking veterinary services to improve production and productivity on his farm.

The ministry also issued a press release on Thursday, 1 August 2024 to clarify on the situation and allay public fears over the persistent threat to the poultry industry.

Thank you, Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues for listening to me.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, minister, for being proactive. This is responding to the public messages that had come out. Therefore, there is no need to debate this statement. (*Member rose*) The statement “may” - it was one farm; you have been guided, we do not need to go to that - Honourable colleagues, when you were making rules, you gave the Speaker the latitude to weigh matters and guide. That is why you said, “may”. In my opinion, it should not be debated.

Honourable colleagues, there is a statement I wanted us to dispose of before we go to Prime Minister’s Time. When you look at item number six on the Order Paper, the Motion for Olympics was captured wrongly. I would like the Clerk to correct it. It is a statement from the minister; an update on the Olympics. I want us to handle that item before we go to Prime Minister’s Time.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE OLYMPIC GAMES, 2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Education and Sports?

3.53

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Apologies

for coming in late because of other duties. I was in Hoima this morning.

Mr Speaker, Uganda sent a total of 25 athletes to the 33rd Olympic Games in Paris, France from 26th July - 11 August 2024, comprising 21 athletic teams, one rower, one cyclist, and two swimmers.

Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues, Uganda celebrated its 12th and 13th medals in the 10,000 meters and 3,000 meters Women's steeplechase final at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games that remains one of the golden moments for Uganda.

Mr Speaker, Uganda finished 55th out of 206 countries that participated in the Olympic Games, and in Africa, Uganda is ranked sixth after Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia, Algeria, and Egypt.

Out of the 206 countries that participated in the Olympic Games 2024, only 84 countries got medals. Uganda's individual athletes performed exceedingly well, registering season best, personal best and setting national records which should be appreciated because many reached semi and finals of their competitions, which was an invaluable experience that will be important in the preparations for the next Olympic Games to be hosted in Los Angeles in the United States of America.

Honourable colleagues, Joshua Cheptegei reinstated himself as Uganda's greatest sportsman of all time, winning 10,000 metres gold medal and setting new Olympics gold record. He is now the world record holder with 26.43.1.4 microseconds and Peruth Chemutai won a silver medal but also registered a personal best and a national record after crossing the line with 8.53.34. *(Applause)*

Peruth Chemutai has become the third Ugandan to win medals at the 2024 Olympic Games, and the second Ugandan to win gold and silver at the second edition of the World's biggest games. She is the first and only Ugandan woman so far in the history of the Olympics to win medals. *(Applause)*

The composition of Uganda's team is as follows;

Athletics: Women

1. Halima Nakaayi - 800m
2. Winnie Nanyondo - 1500m
3. Peruth Chemutai - 3000m
4. Joy Cheptoyet - 5000m
5. Esther Chebet - 5000m
6. Belinda Chemutai - 5000m
7. Sarah Chelangat - 10,000m
8. Annet Chemengich Chelangat - 10,000m
9. Rebecca Cheptegei - Marathon
10. Stella Chesang - Marathon
11. Mercyline Chelangat - Marathon

Honourable colleagues, I request that we clap for our daughters. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, go on with your statement; recognitions will be made at the right time.

MR OGWANG: Mr Speaker, let me talk about the Men's team. We had;

12. Tarsis Gracious Orogot - 200m
13. Tom Dradiga - 800m
14. Leonard Chemutai - 3000m
15. Oscar Chelimo - 5000m
16. Joshua Cheptegei - 10,000m
17. Jacob Kiplimo - 5000m and 1000m
18. Martin Magengo Kiprotich - 10,000m
19. Stephen Kissa - Marathon
20. Victor Kiplangat - Marathon
21. Andrew Rotich Kwemboi - Marathon.

Mr Speaker, I have the results as recorded based on the performance of those athletes, in my statement. I beg that I do not go into each of the individual's performance.

Let me go to cycling, Mr Speaker. Uganda was represented by one cyclist and that is, Charles Kagimu (Men's road race) who finished the 77th and his personal best and set a national record in the cycling competition.

Rowing

Uganda had one rower; Catherine Grace Noble (single scull rower) and she also recorded a

national record with 7.56.10 and her global position ranking is 26th in the whole world.

Swimming

Uganda had two athletes; Gloria Muzito, 100 metres freestyle personal best, then we had Jessie Ssengozi, 100 metres, (100 butterfly) national record.

I would like to give you Africa's performance in terms of gold - in terms of the ranking.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, I request that since your statement is recorded we could just have it on record so that we save some little time for debate before –

MR OGWANG: Mr Speaker, before I sit down, kindly permit me to ask team Uganda – led by –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We shall recognise them one by one. We are going to get a list.

MR OGWANG: Thank you and thank you colleagues for always supporting us. I say all this for God and my country.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I am going to open a quick debate and I will start with Hon. Acon Julius, Kween, Hon. Chemutai – if you have “che” (*Laughter*) I will start with “che” Hon. Cherukut, Hon. Fadil – ‘Che’ Fadil (*Laughter*), Hon. Phyllis Chemutai then the rest of you are like Bakiga (*Laughter*) you are not represented in any way; we shall negotiate your fate much later.

4.03

MR JULIUS ACON (NRM, Otuke East County, Otuke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would also like to thank the Minister of State for Education and Sports (Sports), and also my colleagues, the Members of Parliament.

I would like to add my voice, to congratulate my colleagues who represented us in the Olympics in Paris this year. It was unfortunate I did not go, but I was able to follow up online and on television.

I think many times - first of all, I would like to thank the Government because during my time it was not like these days. The government has put so much into supporting the athletes and the coaches. I am very delighted to appreciate what Cheptegei and Chemutai Peruth, did; I think it is wonderful thing.

Mostly, I would like to thank every team that made it to the Olympics; being in the Olympics is not easy because you look at the population of the entire world.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Allow me to guide our visitors; we do not clap. Just listen in silence. You can be happy at heart, smile, but - because we are recording whatever is going on here. Just guidance.

MR ACON: Mr Speaker, one thing I would like to let the minister know is that Uganda can do much better in hard events. I think we lack other disciplines such as diving and gymnastics. There are so many other disciplines which we still fall apart and I think we need to include these events because we only expect medals in athletics and in boxing.

We can do better because those African countries who made it ahead of us won in other events such as diving and gymnastics.

I urge the Government to give more scholarships to athletes who cannot make it. Colleagues, one thing I would like to encourage you; let us advise our young children in all regions, because - I was talking to Hon. Okot-Ogong Felix, who was saying, why everybody “che” and I said, before early the 1990s, people from Lango used to compete, used to represent people in Olympics but the reason why we gave up – I think this is the time where we must tell every young person to do sports. Go for morning run, play football, kickboxing or boxing. This is where we can really renew or recruit young athletes. I would like to say this for God and my country. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Emma Cherukut.

4.03

MS EMMA CHERUKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Kween): Thank you, Mr Speaker. At this juncture, I would also like to thank our able minister for sports, Hon. Peter Ogwang, for the wonderful job delivered to Uganda.

Allow me, on behalf of the Sebei people, and on my behalf to appreciate Team Uganda for the work and the job well done as far as sports are concerned.

Members, when we talk of the power of the legs, the ‘ches’, the ‘Cs’ have it all. I would like to put it to you, that it is because of the discipline and hard work that my Sabinu sports boys and girls put in and that is why they were able to give us the medals courtesy of Joshua Cheptegei and Peruth;

Peruth, you are a lady like me and you make me proud. We need ladies like you.

I would like to put it to the honourable House that Joshua Cheptegei has done a tremendous job in the Sebei sub-region. He has put up schools and a training centre to train other young athletes who will replace him tomorrow.

Joshua, we cannot take this for granted. The power of your legs has put Sebei on the map of Uganda and the world at large.

I would like to put it to this House that when you are in New York - when you are in the US or any other country out of Uganda and they ask you, which country are you from, and you say ‘Uganda’, the only way they can identify you is, ‘Are you from Joshua Cheptegei’s country?’ So, Joshua, you have made us proud as Ugandans.

It is out of his efforts that Members - I would like us to have the heart to support Joshua Cheptegei’s Foundation school - we have a school in Sebei, next to the High-Altitude Training Centre that he has put up and there are some young souls that are very energetic trying to come up.

It is my humble request and plea that kindly, through you, Mr Speaker, can we support these innocent souls as far as athletics is concerned.

How I wish we as Members – (*Interjection*)- they are innocent souls - there is nobody who is guilty members but what I mean is, these boys and girls, when they mean to raise the flag of Uganda-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, can you suggest how you want us to support you? That is what Members are asking.

MS CHERUKUT: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I suggest that if we could contribute- (*Interjection*) - Members, only Shs 100,000 Members, (*Interjection*)- protection, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, you know how we usually do it here. You can bring in a list right now, and those Members who want to contribute can sign on it.

MS CHERUKUT: Those who want - those who have a heart for our people.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Because some can contribute much more than that.

MS CHERUKUT: Last but not least, I would like to bring it up as a Sebei MP from the region that it is out of this celebration - when the athletes have come back that we as Sabinu always have an opportunity to meet His Excellency the President of Uganda and in that docket, the elders of Sebei are always able to look for lasting solutions to the problems that we have in Sebei.

Mr Speaker, this last happened in 2017 when the elders were able to meet the President. However, to date, we see what our boys are doing and the medals they are bringing us - (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, honourable, your time is up and we need to give a chance to others. Hon. Everlyn Chemutai –

4.09

MS EVERLYN CHEMUTAI (Independent, Woman Representative, Bukwo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also want to join my sister and honourable colleagues, including the honourable minister, to thank Team Uganda and congratulate the able boys and girls, the gentlemen and ladies, who have made Uganda a very proud country and always the “Ches” have made it a point that the flag of Uganda is raised in the whole world.

Mr Speaker, these boys and girls come from very humble backgrounds, and it is through their efforts that they are what they are. As we speak, we have so many unidentified talents that are wasted in the villages. They have not tapped those talents. What they do now is come to the villages and form clubs but with no single support.

We have young upcoming businessmen who are supporting whoever is willing to run. So, they formed their small clubs. For example, in Bukwo, we have 12 clubs that are self-sustaining. Whoever comes in gives food; you can give clothing, or you can offer housing to those young men. What has happened of late is that the few clubs have formed an association. They now go to the district, register and then try to get support at the national level.

Therefore, I am also requesting the Minister of Education and Sports to have a special budget for these districts that have the people who run, so that they can be supported from the primary level and we have more of these talents.

I would also like to request the Government that every year, we have a Heroes Day celebration. I would have asked that maybe we set aside a day to recognise these young men. However, we can also have an element of recognising these young men who are always running up and down to make sure that Uganda’s flag is raised in the whole world. So, every year, they must be recognised with the other heroes.

I also request that maybe, if it pleases the Government, we can have some of the stadiums named after, for example, Joshua Cheptegei,

who has done the best, or Peruth Chemutai. We can have a stadium named after them.

I would like to thank, first of all, the coaches and the managers. Some of them are not paid, but they are here standing with these young girls and boys. You find that they are not on payroll, they are running up and down, and they make sure that the flag is raised. Next time, honourable minister, I request that when we have such an occasion, they should be brought to the House so that they can also be recognised for the achievements they have made.

Finally, Mr Speaker, through you, I pray that the Ministry of Education and Sports organises for the big celebration back in Sebei so that all these people from the three subregions, neighbours and all the Members of Parliament go and celebrate from Teryet High Altitude Training Centre to encourage other upcoming sportsmen and sportswomen. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Fadil Twalla –

4.13

MR FADIL TWALLA (NRM, Tingey County, Kapchorwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also want to take this opportunity to thank our sportsmen who managed to participate in the Olympics in Paris this year. In a special way, I also want to thank the Government of Uganda for supporting our athletes whenever they need help.

My brother, Joshua Cheptegei and Peruth, thank you very much for always making us happy. When we see them running, we always know that our flag is going to be raised. So, for that, we are really happy with you people. The coaches; Benjamin Njia and Peter, we thank you very much for the efforts you put – *(Interjection)*- Not Hon. Benjamin Kamukama. There is Benjamin in Sebei. These are coaches who always wake up very early in the morning to train with our athletes.

Mr Speaker, we have young talents in Sebei that we have not yet exploited. We have them at primary schools, but there are a lot of challenges in our playgrounds. When you go to primary schools in Sebei, because of their terrain, they are really in bad shape. If there is any way the Government would consider grading primary school fields, we would still get many other athletes in Sebei Subregion.

There are also pledges. Whenever these people win gold medals, the Government pledges a lot to them. They pledge cars and money, but they are not fulfilled. So, it is high time that, with this chance, the Government should make them happy so that they could also encourage other young talents to learn from them. With those few remarks, I would like to end there. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Phyllis Chemutai –

4.15

MS PHYLLIS CHEMUTAI (NRM, Woman Representative, Kapchorwa): Thank you, Mr speaker. I would like, in the same vein, to thank the team who performed wonderfully in Paris. You showed us that you are very strong boys and girls. I thank the whole team, including the coaches. It is out of your work that we have seen what we have now seen.

First of all, in Kapchorwa, when we saw these people running, we shouted very loudly. However, this affected all of us. Everybody shouted. I was in Kampala, others were in Kapchorwa, but in every house, it was Cheptegei, Cheptegei, Peruth. Thank you very much, the “Che-Che”, for performing so well.

We have a very minority group in Uganda. But see the work the minority group have done. *(Applause)* How would we have been known in Uganda since we are the minority group in Uganda? It is only because of the legs of these boys and girls that have put us on the map. I am so appreciative of this work.

When Joshua Cheptegei started the idea of running, he is my close neighbour at home. He

came to my home and asked me for support. I was not yet a Member of Parliament. I was a teacher at Sebei College. But he came to my home requesting for support. I was not happy about it and I asked him why he wanted to leave school to run. He said it was his talent and that he saw something in him that could take him very far. He argued until I said, “Okay, I will support you.” At that time, they were training from Iten in Kenya. We had no facilities in Uganda to support them.

So, I bought for him sports shoes and gave him some money to take him to Iten. I even supported him to get his first passport to take him out and I am very proud of him right now because out of him is what you have seen now.

He is a mentor for everyone you are seeing up there. Like others have said, he has started a school, called Cheptegei Junior School. Every year he sets a day for running for the young people. He takes the best ones to his school and offers them free education. –*(Applause)*–

In some years to come, we shall be having very many young stars coming from our region. In addition to that, like they earlier said, he requested me for land to put up a field. That very place you see was my land. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Switch on and conclude.

MS PHYLLIS CHEMUTAI: That is the field where the young ones are now training from. I would like to thank Peruth, Cheptegei Joshua in particular, thank you so much for mentoring all these children.

In fact, we have a very great future because of you. It is not for nothing that Cheptegei Joshua is being blessed. God blesses him, but he is also blessing others. *(Applause)*

When it comes to fundraising he is there for us, he is building churches and doing so many things.

I would like to thank Government so much for what it has done to improve the living conditions

of the runners. It has built a national high-altitude training center in Kapchorwa District, Teryet is a wonderful place. *-(Applause)-*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honorable, we need you on record-

MS PHYLLIS CHEMUTAI: I want to thank the minister here who has done great and before that I would like to thank the Vice President whom we started with the story of the National High Attitude Training Center, then came the Government Chief, and many others. Even my *Majegere* here. *-(Laughter)-*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues in the gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation of officials and athletes who participated in the 2024 Olympics that took place in Paris, France, from 26 July-11 August.

They include;

1. Mr Joshua Cheptegei Kiprui Gold Medalist and Olympic Games record 10,000m. Whoever I read, stand up for recognition
2. Ms Peruth Chemutai, Silver Medalist and National record 3000m steeplechase
3. Mr Tom Dradiga (800m)
4. Mr Martin Magengo Kiprotich (10,000m)
5. Mr Leonard Chemutai (3,000m Steeplechase)
6. Mr Stephen Kissa (Marathon)
7. Mr Andrew Rotich Kwemboi (Marathon)
8. Ms Joy Cheptoyet (5,000m)
9. Ms Esther Chebet (5,000m)
10. Ms Belinda Chemutai (5,000m)
11. Ms Sarah Chelangat (10,000m)
12. Ms Annet Chemengich Chelangat (10,000m)
13. Ms Stella Chesang (Marathon)
14. Ms Mercyline Chelangat (Marathon)
15. Ms Rebecca Cheptegei (Marathon)
16. Mr Charles Kagimu (Cycling). I think this one was among the first Africans to participate.

MR PETER OGWAG: Mr Speaker for record purposes he is the reigning champion, the number one cyclist in Africa we won a gold medal in the all African games.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Charles Kagimu.

1. Ms Chesang Grace, Coach (athletics)
2. Mr Chelangat Peter, coach (athletics)
3. Ms Batenga Nakisozi, coach (Rowing)
4. Mr Tonny Kasujja, coach (swimming)
5. Mr Sam Muwonge, coach (cycling)
6. Mr Bukenya Ishaka, (Official)
7. Mr Otucet Domenic, President Uganda Athletics Federation
8. Mr David Katende, Assistant General Secretary
9. Mr Karl Gunter Lange, Special Presidential Assistant Education and Sports
10. Ms Priscillah Ondoga, Physiotherapist
11. Ms Patricia Ayebare, Safeguarding Officer
12. Ms Leticia Namutebi, Athlete Representative *(Applause)*

They have come to observe proceedings of this House, colleagues, once again, join me in welcoming and congratulating them.

I want these athletes to see the Prime Minister in Prime Minister's Time. It is very important. So, I suspend the debate for now and then we receive business for the preceding week, then we resume with this statement.

STATEMENT BY THE RT HON. PRIME MINISTER ON GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FOR THE SUCCEEDING WEEK, 20TH TO 22ND AUGUST 2024 PURSUANT TO RULE 28 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues as the Prime Minister is coming. Hon. Cherukut talked about Joshua Cheptegei's centre which I have been promising to visit. I have not got any time but I will one of these days.

He needs your individual support but also very important for you to go there and you get that training. You can see the sizes of champions. Now for us, political champions, with our sizes - they cannot also compete with us when it comes to our sizes. So, we are champions in our own way but we can learn a lot from them in terms of health.

I urge you to support them, I have given my little support and every time he wins, I have to support more.

I am also going to support again but we can continue supporting and I think we can also work closely with the Government to ensure this is concluded and it does not remain on fundraising, but moves on to other things. He told me some time back that with his age, he plans to move to the marathon. We want him to settle down and start training for the marathons. He should not continue to fundraise for a centre. It is something we can celebrate with him by completing it. Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

4.28

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, I move under Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure, to present to Parliament the business for the succeeding week – that will take us from 20 to 22 August, 2024.

1. The Ministry of Water and Environment we will present a statement, updating the House on the weather forecast in the country.
2. A comprehensive statement by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs on the roadmap leading to the 2026 elections.
3. The Ministry of Education and Sports will present a detailed statement to Parliament on the boarding school policy.
4. Statement by the minister for disaster preparedness and refugees on the plans for people living in susceptible disaster areas of the Rwenzori and Mount Elgon, as we are approaching the rainy season.

Mr Speaker, I beg to submit.

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

PRIME MINISTER'S TIME

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

4.30

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Mr Speaker, I got a written question from Hon. Wandera Auma, Woman Representative, Busia. She stated that Busia Municipality has one secondary school (Busia Secondary School in Western Division). She said that in 2018, the President, while at Madibira Primary School, at a function, offered to help the people of Eastern Division to start a secondary school under the Government policy of having a secondary school in every subcounty or division. She stated that in 2019, the community of the Eastern Division, Busia Municipality, mobilised for the school and started it. Currently, according to her, the school has over 800 students. Her prayers are;

1. When is the Government grant-aiding the school?
2. When is the construction commencing?
3. When will the recruitment of staff, who have been volunteering since 2019, begin?

Honourable Speaker, my response is as follows.

The community school mentioned provided a land title with an area of 1.4 acres. However, on ground, it is 1.7 acres, which is still insufficient. The minimum area for the construction of a seed school is five acres in an urban area such as Busia Municipality.

However, there is a primary school neighbouring the site, which has enough land. If it is acceptable to the community and local leadership, the ideal solution would be to process one land title for both the primary and secondary schools. Then, the buildings for the secondary school would fit within the 1.7 acres, while the staff houses and playground would be located on the land near the primary school.

Mr Speaker, we request the leaders to harmonise on the land so that the Government can support this initiative. The Government will grant and build, after the issues of land are addressed.

The construction of the school will commence when the money is provided for in the budget.

Mr Speaker, the Government is engaging the local leadership on the matter, for availability of land for the construction.

Grant-aiding is a cheaper alternative, as you all know, compared to the construction of a fully-fledged secondary school, which requires approximately Shs 3.3 billion.

The second question, Mr Speaker, came from Hon. Patience Kinshaba Nkunda, Kanungu District.

She said that there is guidance from the Ministry of Education and Sports, about Government schools not to have boarding students and pupils. Many schools do not know about that policy because they have not received formal communication. Additionally, ministers and other top government officials have attended fundraising functions to build dormitories.

Her prayers are:

1. Are there special schools and districts with exemptions to have boarding facilities?
2. Are these government officials attending such fundraisings aware of the policy?

My response, Mr Speaker, is that the spirit of universal education is to increase access to education, especially for the disadvantaged children. Hence, these schools are expected to operate as day schools.

In the event that a school would like to operate a boarding section, it must follow the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education and Sports. It is entirely under the management of the school and its governance to ensure that the school meets the requirements for the operation of the boarding section. Therefore,

the boarding of learners should be optional, not a must. Additionally, schools are allowed to operate a boarding section after they have been given permission by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports.

Mr Speaker, they are expected to write to the permanent secretary using the provided application forms, which are forwarded by the respective local governments. The permanent secretary then requests the Directorate of Education Standards to carry out a compliance inspection, and depending on the findings, the Directorate of Education Standards submits the application forms to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports.

If the school meets the requirements, then, the permanent secretary issues a certificate of authority to operate a boarding facility. It is only after the acquisition of this permission that the school is allowed to operate a boarding section.

Mr Speaker, all this is meant to secure the safety, security and health of our learners. Therefore, schools which operate such unauthorised boarding sections, and conduct fundraisings, do it against the ministry's position, and they are aware of it.

Question number three came from Hon. Acrobert Kiiiza, Bughendera Constituency.

He said that "on several occasions, you have met Members of Parliament from the disaster-prone districts, especially the districts at high risk such as Bududa, Bundibugyo, Kasese, Ntoroko, Namusindwa, Buhweju, Bulambuli, etc and it has always been resolved that the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Works and Transport would urgently fix the washed away bridges and work on the damaged road infrastructure beyond the capacity of the districts. To date, according to the Member, he has not seen critical intervention, especially in the Bundibugyo District to have the washed away bridges and damaged roads worked on.

His prayers are:

1. When will the OPM in collaboration with the Ministry of Works and Transport implement the plan to have the damaged bridges and roads in Bundibugyo and other flood-prone districts?
2. Can the Office of the Prime Minister help in finding a permanent solution for River Kirumya in Ntoroko Subcounty in Bundibugyo District which has continuously displaced communities living near the river?

Mr Speaker, my response is that it is true my office has been coordinating the interventions funded and supported by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Bundibugyo District towards the construction of low bridges where possible.

In the Financial Year 2023/2024, the finance ministry through the roads maintenance grant established Shs 1 billion to support the construction of low-cost bridges and so far, two small bridges have been constructed in Bundibugyo.

However, there has been a challenge of availability and timely release of funds to implement the necessary activities, an issue that is being addressed. Two arch bridges were constructed using the Shs 1 billion road grant.

Additionally, three cable bridges at rivers Tokwe, Sandila and Nyahuka were constructed by a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) called Bridges to Prosperity and it has also supported the district by constructing bridges for pedestrians, cyclists and animal use.

3. On the flood mitigation in Ntoroko, my office, together with the World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) have supported the district with technical supervision and funds to implement mitigation interventions in the form of flood embankment construction along the river bank areas of River Ssemiliki.

The WFP provided Shs 377 million to the district for works supervised by the department of works and engineering of the district.

Mr Speaker, my office, the Ministry of Water and Environment, the World Food Programme, FAO, Uganda Red Cross Society, together with the districts of Bundibugyo, Kasese, Ntoroko, and Kisoro are currently developing a multi-hazard early warning to increase resilience and enhance early and anticipatory actions of communities to disaster incidents.

Lastly, in addition to the construction above, my office has constructed a new health facility after the old one in Bundibugyo got flooded in 2020.

4. Hon. Ojok Andrew Oulanyah, Member of Parliament, Omoro County

His prayer is that we appeal to the Government to take an interest in prioritising the setting up of seed secondary schools in war-affected areas in addition to technical vocational institutions and coding and aid-granting community schools.

My response, Mr Speaker, is that Uganda Secondary Education Expansion Project (USEEP) targets refugee-hosting districts, war-affected communities, and those with no Government-aided secondary schools in a subcounty. We have 32 new schools in the refugee hosting districts and 61 schools to be expanded, totalling 93. These are supporting the war-affected populations.

5. Hon. George Didi Bhoka, Member of Parliament of Obongi County.

He says the leaders and people of Obongi District appreciate the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries for benefiting from the agro-mechanisation programme.

Obongi District, according to him, received one four-wheel tractor and six hand-operated tractors from the agriculture ministry eight

months ago. According to him, to date, the tractor implements such as ploughs have not been purchased, hence making the tractors idle despite the farmers being ready to use them.

His prayer is: when does the Government intend to purchase the tractor implements to allow the farmers in Obongi to use the tractors effectively.

My response is that the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries supported the northern subregion with both high and low-capacity tractors, that is, the 2WD and 4WD implements to all the districts including the skilling and capacity development of the selected personnel as operators and technicians to support in the operation and maintenance of the mechanisation equipment and machinery.

For the case of Obongi, Mr Speaker, and other districts where the 4WD and 2WD tractors were delivered, other implements will be delivered. The assorted units of the tractors and implements are now under shipment and are expected to be delivered by the first week of September this year.

6. Hon. Kiiza Kenneth Nyendwoha, Member of Parliament, Bujenje County, Masindi District

His concern is about the continued falling of sugarcane prices across the country yet there is scarcity of the raw materials of sugarcane. Most millers are harvesting sugarcane at 12 months.

His prayer is, what is Government's intervention to mitigate this?

Mr Speaker, my response is that the sugar industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the economy of Uganda under the manufacturing sector contributing over Shs 300 billion in taxes annually and employing over 100,000 Ugandans directly. The annual production of brown sugar is 600,000 metric tonnes and the industrial refined sugar is at 75,000 metric tonnes. The industry also produces over 150 megawatts of electricity

from bagasse (sugar cane pulp), of which about 70 megawatts is supplied to the national grid. In a liberal economy like Uganda, the prices of commodities are determined by market forces of demand and supply.

We have recently experienced a decline in sugarcane prices and this is attributed to the following reasons;

- i) Decline in sugar prices globally. The price of sugar has declined from Shs 250,000 per 50-kilogram bag in January 2024 to currently between Shs 140,000 to Shs 154,000 per 50-kilogramme bag. This decline directly impacts on the price of sugarcane which contributes 60 per cent of raw materials. One tonne, that is 1,000 kilograms of sugarcane, produces 100 kilograms of brown sugar; at least two bags of sugar. The practice is that the farmer and the miller share the output by 50 per cent. Therefore, the farmer is paid half of the cost of the two bags of sugar produced, leaving the miller with another half.
- ii) The second one is importation of brown and white sugar by neighboring countries, especially Kenya and Tanzania, from outside the East African community duty-free. The imported sugar from global leading producers such as Brazil and India is much cheaper, and renders Uganda's sugar uncompetitive in the East African market. When there are external forces that distort the market, cane prices definitely drop.
- iii) The third one is farmers growing cane without off-take contracts with millers. Some farmers with cane fields that are not registered suffer miserably because millers prioritise crushing cane from their registered farmers and nucleus estates only.

The Government has put in place the following measures to mitigate the fall in sugarcane prices:

- a. Through the line ministries, that is the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, the Government will support farmers to register the cane fields through cooperative societies. This will enable them to receive Government support through our already established programmes like the Parish Development Model, extension services from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), NAADS, joint marketing of cane, and self-regulation.
- b. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives will support the industry to produce other products such as ethanol, paper and fertilizer to increase the incomes of our farmers.
7. Question number 7, Hon. Ojok Andrew Oulanyah, Member of Parliament, Omoro County. He says that we appreciate the Government's prioritisation of the Gulu-Opit-Rachoko Road. Government should consider it in the next financial year since the feasibility study and technical design will have been concluded by October 2024, according to Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA). His prayer is that the Government should update the House on the status and timeliness of this road.

My response, Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues, the road is a national road which is managed by the Ministry of Works and Transport through Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) and that UNRA has always included the resources for the maintenance of this road in their budget and will continue to undertake the maintenance works of the unpaved road within the maintenance budget.

The feasibility studies and detailed design for the upgrading of the Gulu-Opit-Rachoko Road, that is 91 kilometers, are ongoing and are planned for completion in this financial year. The construction works will subsequently be done once these studies and designs are completed.

I would therefore like to assure the honourable members that the Government of Uganda is committed to ensuring that the road network is developed and maintained to a high standard to support the social economic transformation of that part of the country and Uganda as a whole.

8. Question 8 by Hon. Naluyima Betty, District Woman Representative, Wakiso. Her prayer is that the Government should update the House on the delayed mass renewal of national identity cards.

Mr Speaker and colleagues, below is an update on the status of the mass enrolment of unregistered citizens and the mass renewal of the national identity cards that are due to expire starting 26 August 2024.

The National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) scheduled a countrywide exercise aimed at renewing the 15.8 million national IDs that are due to expire on 26 August 2024 and registering the 17.2 million unregistered citizens.

The same exercise aims to facilitate the extraction of the electoral register by 30th November this year.

Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues, the exercise had been scheduled to commence on 1st June this year, but experienced delays and challenges regarding the procurement and implementation of the new National Security Information System, which system is the backbone of the exercise to be implemented.

The procurement process for the vendor to deliver and implement the system was concluded and a contract was signed on 8th July this year. The contract signing marked a key milestone and kick-off of the mobilisation phase.

The following statistics are key to the planning and successful delivery of the mass renewal and mass enrolment exercise;

- (i) Unregistered citizens, the ones I told you about, the 17.2 million people.

- (ii) Cards expiring by January 2025. They are 3.7 million.
- (iii) Cards expiring beginning this month - 26 August - that is one week away, to 30 December 2025 at Shs 15.8 million.
- (iv) Delivery of data to the Electoral Commission by 30 November, like I have already told you, this year.
- (v) Original planned start date was 1st June, like I have already told you.
- (vi) Citizens registered are projected to be 27.3 million people.
- (vii) Cards issued are 17.3 million.

Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues, the following activities towards the implementation of the mass enrolment and mass renewal exercise have been completed. You will read from your iPads. The key items on the critical path of the exercise have been in place before the commencement of the exercise, and these are;

- (a) The delivery of the 5,650 biometric registration kits.
- (b) Delivery of blank cards.
- (c) The following five (05) software modules;
 - i. NID cards renewal module.
 - ii. New registration module.
 - iii. Replace card module.
 - iv. Change of particulars module.
 - v. Get 1st ID module.
- (d) Mr Speaker operationalisation of the card printing and personalisation equipment, and then;
- (e) The data centre hardware, including hardware security modules, in the data migration and the ABIS solution.

Despite the unexpected delays, the Government has taken measures to ensure that all persons eligible for voting in 2026 will have their details captured within the timelines outlined in the Electoral Commission roadmap.

The commencement of the project is expected before 15 October this year, and as soon as the equipment arrives in the country, the exercise will begin within the set timelines.

That is why the Government has extended the National Identification Card (IDs) for one year.

9. Hon. Ochero Noman, Member of Parliament, Labwor County, Abim District said, "Rt Hon. Prime Minister, allow me to thank the Government for compensating its people wherever losses occur to them like it is done with the cooperatives and the other regions on animal compensation.

However, in the case of Abim District, we are not appearing anywhere on the list to be compensated." And his people are asking why they are being left out.

According to him, it is important to note that the Ethur ethnic group of 141,000 people in Abim are Karimojong, who do not raid but are always raided (non-raiding community). They have been raided not only by the cattle rustlers, according to him, but even by the Government militia and rebel groups including the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

His prayers are that I inform the House why Abim District is not appearing anywhere on the list for war debt claimants to be compensated.

His second question is that can the Government allocate funds in the next financial year budget to cater for the compensation of the people of Abim District?

Mr Speaker, this is my last answer and response. The Government commenced the compensation exercise of war debt claimants and beneficiaries in Acholi, Lango and Teso Sub-Regions for their lost livestock in 2021. This was after verification and validation of the war debt claimants by both the inter-ministerial committee and the district structures in conjunction with elders from the community.

In that regard, it is important to note that the Government's policy is limited to compensating

the war debt claimants and beneficiaries for lost livestock. That is cattle.

Mr Speaker, similarly, in 2020, the Government commenced the verification of claimants in the Karamoja Sub-Region (including Abim) which is being conducted by the district structures; the Chief Administrative Officer, District Internal Security Officer, District Veterinary Officers, Local Councils, I, II, III, V and Sub-County Chiefs in conjunction with elders of the community and in consultation with the affected communities that are confirming genuine claimants and beneficiaries.

However, the Cabinet, in 2021 decided that given that the people of Karamoja Subregion were keeping their animals in kraals, some of which were affected - we await the Cabinet's decision on this matter.

Mr Speaker, I beg to submit.

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

Questions for oral answer. Hon. Kazini, Hon. Kabuusu, Hon. Tebandeke and Hon. Otaala.

5.03

MR FRANCIS KAZINI (NRM, Buhaguzi County, Kikuube): I thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. Eight years ago, the Office of the Prime Minister, through the leadership of the Kyangwali Refugee Settlement, settled the people of Obukinda, Kyangwali Subcounty, Kikuube District, to a place called Kyeya. And they promised to construct roads, schools and health centres for them. However, eight years later, nothing has been done.

I beg the Prime Minister and her Office to give us an answer. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister. You can see that not even a minute is spent; that is how we do the questions now. And the answer should also be short so that we get many.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the issue the Member is raising is known to me. We had a meeting recently to discuss how to have, especially the children going to school, where they would have education and we are on track. We shall provide those schools and health centres - even roads.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Moses Kabuusu.

5.04

MR MOSES KABUUSU (FDC, Kyamuswa County, Kalangala): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Early this year, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) banned the fishing of silverfish using a method which was called "hurry up".

This method had been okayed and licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture itself and many fishermen of silverfish have been waiting for further guidance from the ministry or on what to do, since most of them had procured fishing gears, including nets, boats, and other fishing equipment. So, the fishermen need guidance from the Ministry of Agriculture on how to survive, since they have no other means of survival on the lake. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I remember the Hon. Hellen Nakimuli of Kalangala, then Member for Buvuma raised the same issue.

MS NABBANJA: It is because the Members raised this question two weeks ago that we initiated a strategy to involve the fishers themselves in coming up with a strategy.

Mr Speaker, very soon we are going to open –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Procedure-

MS NABBANJA: Prime Minister's Question Time – *(Interruption)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: If we are not proceeding well-

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE: I am so sorry, Rt Hon. Prime Minister for interrupting you but I am raising a point of procedure, Mr Speaker. About two weeks ago or three, if I can remember, when this matter came up, the Rt Hon. Prime Minister promised to have a meeting with the affected Members of Parliament from the islands.

Wouldn't it be procedurally okay, if she would inform this House whether the commitment she undertook before this House was really implemented and how far they reached?

Mr Speaker, by now, I thought it would be procedurally okay if she gave us a report of the outcome of the meeting she promised to hold.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The problem is, I do not know what she was going to answer. I do not know whether that is what she was going to update us on; so, let us first give her a chance.

MS NABBANJA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable members, a number of Members of Parliament attended that meeting; we already had one and I request that when we invite you *-(Interjection)-* no, we have had one with the new Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. We even had a meeting today and she can tell you if she is here -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kayondo -

MR KAYONDO: Mr Speaker, the Parliament of Uganda is very clear and it has ways through which it communicates to its Members. I do not know whether the Prime Minister is proceeding well to stand on the Floor of Parliament and say that she communicated to the Members of Parliament – I am from the affected area.

We look incompetent and as if we are not following, that she communicated to us. Is she proceeding well?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. You are making it difficult for me because this was not a Parliament meeting; this was a meeting

between the Prime Minister and Members, and she knows how she communicates. They might be having a different method of communicating.

Prime Minister, maybe there are critical Members from the fishing communities who missed the meeting. Could you have another one specifically with the fishing community? Hon. Okeyoh –

5.09

MR PETER OKEYOH (NRM, Bukooli Island County, Namayingo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. To be sincere, this meeting never took place; none of us from the fishing community attended the meeting. Let us be honest. This issue is affecting our people and they are concerned.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR OKEYOH: Women have borrowed Parish Development Model (PDM) money, but they cannot trade.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is important – of course the Prime Minister, you know how you can be overwhelmed. I was in that office - she uses technical people who call these meetings. I think you can now call for Members of Parliament from the fishing communities.

Honourable colleagues, let me first guide you. The Prime Minister's time is protected under the Rules of Procedure. We cannot have adjoining questions; only the Leader of the Opposition has the right to reply. I have accommodated a lot but let us stick to Rule 41 as is.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I pledge that I will invite the Members myself *-(Applause)-* and that I will call you and make sure that you answer *-(Interjection)-* including you. You have always been in my office. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us take it up seriously. I had picked Hon. Tebandeke –

5.11

MR CHARLES TEBANDEKE (NUP, Bbale County, Kayunga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Close to 12 villages in my constituency in Galiraya Subcounty and Bbale, have been affected by floods.

The only school in Ntimba Parish which the Prime Minister knows very well has been submerged in the water and the offices for the beach management unit in Ntimba have also been affected.

The road connecting the four local councils of Ntimba, Kitwe and Kalenge have equally been submerged in the water. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, can your office provide our people with some relief items like food, utensils and iron sheets as permanent solutions await?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Prime Minister -

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the Member has been to my office over the same and I promised that an assessment team, I believe has already gone there because when you came to my office I promised and the Permanent Secretary was also present.

We agreed that we shall relocate some of your people to the land that was bought by the Office of the Prime Minister and the matter will be sorted. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Dr Otaala -

5.12

DR EMMANUEL OTAALA (NRM, West Budama County South, Tororo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to raise an issue of insecurity around Tororo and Bukedi generally.

Yesterday, we woke up to the gruesome murder of the late Mr Joseph Olokojo, a retired head teacher of St Peter's College Tororo. He was gruesomely tortured, burnt and left to death and finally, he succumbed to massive burn wounds at Mulago National Referral Hospital.

In the past three months, we have been witnessing a lot of robberies and murders in Tororo, particularly murders of *boda boda* riders and people who have invested their Parish Development Model money.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, your question -

DR OTAALA: My question is, what is the Government doing to curtail this level of insecurity that is now rising?

Two, the Government should take up the responsibility of helping the family of Mr Olokojo whose life has been cut short - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Internal Affairs - the Prime Minister has agreed with me that where there is a minister, I can call him or her directly.

5.14

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Gen. David Muhoozi): Mr Speaker, I have heard the concern of Dr Otaala. It is unfortunate and I will find out exactly - regarding this particular case and the measures that have been taken to investigate and arrest the culprits - also going forward to curtail and stop such incidents from happening.

Regarding compensation, my boss, the Prime Minister, will respond to it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, this issue has been awash in social media and it has shocked very many people. Kindly, before burial, you need something preliminary at least to help cool the mourners. Hon. Nangoli and Hon. Nambooze -

5.15

MR GERALD NANGOLI (NRM, Elgon North County, Bulambuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Madam Prime Minister, you may remember last week I raised an issue to do with the science teachers -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: First wait. Honourable colleagues, I get concerned when I pick a colleague and then some of you keep saying, "Now, me..." *-(Laughter)-* please, we are still here.

Maybe if you want to go, you can inform me. I will then allow you to speak and go if you want to leave me here, but let us take our time. We are going to be here and I promised you at the beginning that I am going to give you time so that we address most of your issues before we go to the weekend. *(Applause)* Hon. Nangoli, start now.

MR NANGOLI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. You may recall that last week I raised an issue of science teachers who are administrators of secondary schools, both headteachers and deputy headteachers, who are earning a lower pay by virtue of being administrators of secondary schools, and yet they are scientists by profession and training.

There is a directive to that effect that was issued last year by His Excellency the President to the Minister of Public Service to ensure that this position is harmonised effective 1st July.

We are now in August and the teachers are in a dilemma. They do not know what is happening because they have not been notified whether their salaries have been enhanced or not.

My question to the Prime Minister is to give a clear position to the country for the teachers to know because it brings a lot of problems; teachers are advocating for early retirement because of – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Public Service, some of the head teachers told me that they want to go back and become teachers because their counterparts are earning more than them yet they are all scientists.

5.17

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE (Mr Wilson Muruli): Mr Speaker, that should not happen. Indeed, this issue has come up and as Public Service, we brought it to the

attention of the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development so that it can be harmonised, it is a simple matter.

We have now - yes, it is clear because we agreed that science teachers' salaries must be enhanced and it was enhanced. Now for the administrators, it follows suit as well and we have brought it to the attention of the Minister of Finance Planning and Economic Development-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister please go on.

MR MURULI: The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development recently committed to correct that anomaly so that the administrators - and they are not very many about 550. That is going to be put right, they are made comfortable and they get the pay which is due to them. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister for Finance Planning and Economic Development, let us finish this issue, for God's sake. When can we sort this out - that is why we like young people in such positions, they are quick.

5.18

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is true that we are involved in discussions with the Ministry of Public Service to handle the matter. We got a directive from the President and together we are finding a mechanism for implementing it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, when can we be updated?

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker, I do not want to promise what I cannot deliver.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, updating includes saying we have failed or we have been able to do it.

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker, let us consult, we shall update the House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us report back within two weeks' honourable minister. Updating does not mean it is an answer we have cleared it. No, updating can be "We have not yet gotten the money", we need an update.

It is an issue which is cross-cutting in the country. With a very clear Presidential Directive, I think we can work together and on this one, you have so much support from the whole House. Hon. Nambooze-

5.20

MS BETTY NAMBOOZE (NUP, Mukono Municipality, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Madam Prime Minister, for some years now, the Uganda Railway Corporation has been inactive, and communities along the track have grown and expanded into new villages. They have, in the meantime, provisionally created access routes as a way of level-crossing points along the line at various points.

A case in point is the nine villages in Mukono municipality, which include: Kitale, Namiryango, Kyungu, Kisenyi, Katti-Kkolo, Ssenyi-Ddegeya, Kirowooza, Buwanyi, and Nsuube.

However, recently, during the rehabilitation of the line, officers of Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) closed these access routes and the villages I have pointed out in my constituency; people can no longer access their homes and at some points, they are made to pay money to bribe UPDF officers for them to cross to their villages.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question, honourable-

MS NAMBOOZE: Because of the growing population and expansion of the residential areas, especially in the metropolitan area, when is the Government thinking about gazetting new level crossings - railway crossing points for people to access their new villages that have been set up?

Secondly, what are you thinking of letting the people provisionally use these access points to access their areas, as we wait for the official gazetting of the level crossing points? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Right Honourable-

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I will provide an answer next week.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Sserubula, Hon. Komakech, Hon. Acibu Agnes.

5.25

MR STEVEN SSERUBULA (NUP, Lugazi Municipality, Buikwe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As we are celebrating our athletes, it came to my notice that in 2019, one of our medallists, Nakaayi Halimah, won for us gold in Doha.

The President promised her a car and a very good house for her parents. Nakaayi's parents reside in a remote village called Sseese in Najjembe Division, Lugazi Municipality.

As the parents are ageing, they are not seeing their promise come true. I have addressed this several times with Hon. Ogwang. I believe he can give us the answer. Thank you

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister-

5.23

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you, Honourable colleague, for asking that question. First of all, let me clear the record. His Excellency the President did agree on the following in terms of appreciating the efforts of our children who perform well.

Number one is what we call all African games. It is true he did commit to supporting her with a car. I am yet to get a directive on the house.

Number two, like our children, have won gold medals in the just concluded Olympics, H.E. the President normally supports them with stipends.

I want to confirm that that sister of mine has a stipend which she earns from the State House directly into her account every month. Honourable, my sister Halimah will be able to get her car because I am following it up with the State House Comptroller. Now – *(Member timed out)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Komakech- I am sorry, honourable ministers, in this session we do very short answers to accommodate as many questions as possible before we go into the weekend.

5.25

MR CHRISTOPHER KOMAKECH (Independent, Aruu County, Pader): Thank you, Mr Speaker, I am one of the few Ugandans who have been privileged to move the entire country. However, now that the Parliament of Uganda is coming to the Acholi subregion, we are peaceful but the roadblocks we have from Kampala to Gulu - I have lost count.

On these roads, we have policemen and military officers and they are not trailing private cars; they are trailing vehicles that are meant to harbour businesses in the region. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, what is happening in the northern region to have those many barricades that hamper business? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Internal Affairs-

5.26

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Gen. David Muhoozi): I get the concern of Hon. Komakech about the inconvenience. But lately, the roadblocks I know were for the soldiers because there had been growing indiscipline on our roads, especially using our uniforms to breach traffic regulations.

I think it has lessened but also, resolving one problem and then going into another is now what we need to do, because now we are inconveniencing other road users. Good intention but it should be time-specific.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Share it within your security circles, honourable minister.

5.27

MS AGNES ACIBU (NRM, Woman Representative, Nebbi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I read something, whereby the teaching service commission is going to employ about 6,000 teachers. However, at the same time, 5,000 teachers are applying for early retirement. In our education system, when we look at the ratio of pupils to teachers, things are not well. What plans are there to mitigate this problem in the education sector? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for education?

5.28

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank my colleague, but I request that I bring a comprehensive written answer to that question. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Acibu Agnes, make it a structured question to the Prime Minister so that it can be answered during the Prime Minister's Time.

5.28

MS BETTY AOL (FDC, Woman Representative, Gulu City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, our women from Gulu Main Market ask me, especially those fishmongers, that they want to demonstrate – marching to Kampala – because their children are at home. The good thing is that Parliament is even going to Gulu City. The women in the market join hands with the women from Kitgum Main Market over the issue of silverfish. The women have loans.

This silverfish issue is not only affecting the fishing areas but also the non-fishing areas. The women there depend entirely on this silverfish trade for their children and their survival. When they are stopped – they have the loans. What answer can you give to these women? I told them not to demonstrate until I bring this issue to Parliament as an issue of national importance. What can you say about it? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: And, if you do not, they demonstrate? (*Laughter*)

MS AOL: Yes.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, first and foremost, I want to thank my sister, Hon. Betty. I have known her since she was a councillor in Gulu District, while I was a district councillor in Kibale. So, we have known each other for that long.

I request that you continue to inform our mothers that demonstration is not always the answer. We shall handle their issue. The National Resistance Movement Government, which you all know, is an able Government. We shall handle this.

5.30

MR BUMALI MPINDI (Independent, PWD Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is almost the same as that of the honourable member. In 2016, there was a para-athlete – an athlete with disability – by the name of David Emong, who went for the Paralympic Games of Rio and won for this country a silver medal. The Government promised to give him a car and also the money that is being given to the able-bodied athletes. Until now, that man has struggled to get his entitlement but has not got it.

I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether there is a disabled medal – that it is because that medal was disabled that this disabled athlete is not getting the things that the able-bodied athletes are getting.

Mr Speaker, this Emong is also going to compete in the Paris Paralympic Games in two weeks, but he has lost hope in this country. Can I know from the Prime Minister when my athlete is getting his entitlement?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ogwang?

5.32

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang):

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Like I earlier on said, for Olympics, Commonwealth and all African Games, gold medal winners are given an award by His Excellency the President. I am aware and in touch. I am following up with the State House Comptroller on the car for Emong.

On the issue of the stipends, I am going to verify with the records. Honourable member, let us have a meeting so that I cross-check with State House. He might be receiving his stipend, but you, as the representative, might not be aware. I have the list. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable member, reach out to the athlete.

5.33

MR YUSUF MUTEMBULI (NRM, Bunyole East County, Butaleja): Thank you Mr Speaker. My question is to the Rt Hon. Prime Minister. You are aware of the project of Namutumba-Butaleja-Mbale Road. The last time you updated us, you told us that the Government had signed a contract with China Power Company and you promised that very soon, they would commence the construction process. However, to date, nothing has happened. Can you, please, update the country as to when this will commence? Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, what I am aware of is that the contract was signed. I will make a follow-up and update my brother on whether the company has already mobilised. However, we have not gone there to commission that road. Usually when they are commissioning, I get to know.

5.34

MR ELIJAH OKUPA (Independent, Kasilo County, Serere): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the Financial Year 2022/2023 and, again, in the Financial Year 2023/2024, we did approve schools for grant-aiding, both primary and secondary.

We passed a budget, but to date, apart from the circular, which was sent in July last year that they were going to recruit the teachers – for which the Education Service Commission has done the interviews – two years down the road, the teachers have not been deployed to the schools. Yet, the parents had stopped contributing because they knew that Government had taken over. May I know when the teachers are going to be deployed – because the interviews were conducted?

5.35

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, you are aware that we deploy when we have the wage. For this matter, I want to follow up with Hon. Elijah on whether we received the money. If we had received the money, we would have already deployed those teachers. The truth is that we cannot deploy when we do not have the money for their salaries.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, can you cross-check?

MR OGWANG: I can cross-check and report back.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us have Hon. Okot-Ogong and then Hon. Siraji Ezama.

5.36

MR FELIX OKOT-OGONG (NRM, Dokolo South County, Dokolo): Our able Prime Minister, you are aware that due to climatic change, Lake Kyoga has burst its banks and flooded into the cultivation fields of our farmers. They have lost land and have nowhere to settle or cultivate. Is there any plan by the Government to resettle my people in Adeknino Subcounty, Kwera Subcounty, Kangai Subcounty, Okwongodul Subcounty

and Agwata? Is there any plan to support my people to get land to cultivate? That is their livelihood.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, like I said some time back, the lakes and rivers are reclaiming their boundaries. Therefore, we need to inform our people to respect the boundaries nature has put in place. The Office of the Prime Minister, together with you, honourable member, need to go on the ground and assess the extent of damage to see how best Government can buy land for your people and relocate them as we have done in other parts of the country.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Siraji and then Hon. Bashisha.

5.37

MR EZAMA SIRAJI (NRM, Aringa County, Yumbe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the Government secured land for industrial parks in West Nile. When is the Government putting up these factories and industries so people can get employment?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the Government set up industrial parks using several methods. We have those that are under the State House, those operated by private people and those established directly by the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives. Therefore, the Member will be given information when I get to know whether it is State House, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, or private, to know how to deal with the matter. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Bashisha -

5.39

MR JULIET AGASHA (NRM, Woman Representative, Mitooma): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I have a concern from my people; my people appreciate the Government's efforts to intervene in their poverty problems, however, the challenge is

that most of the people who benefit are the same. For example, those who benefit from *Bona Bagaggawale*, are the same eating National Agriculture Advisory Services Programme (NAADs), Emyooga and now, they are the ones eating the Parish Development Model (PDM).

The question is: don't we have a system to identify who has been benefiting from the day people start to get these funds so they can give way for others to also benefit? Thank You.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, PDM, as we have always informed you here, is for the local poor; the peasants - *kukolera kulya kwokka*.

The policy is that the members of the parish appoint the parish SACCO leaders. We also have the parish development committee headed by the LC II. This was agreed upon for us to avoid those reporting to the President that these people serve themselves - *Begabila bokka* - in Luganda.

Therefore, we have an obligation as Members of Parliament to monitor and carry out oversight to help our people identify the actual people who are supposed to benefit. I request the honourable member to also get involved in this as we go through the monitoring structures such as the Resident District Commissioners (RDCs) and the local leaders. Otherwise, we have local leaders at every level. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kevin Kaala, Hon. Noeline Kisembo, Hon. Komol and Hon. Babungi. Honourable colleagues, today, I will pick all the questions. I need company, but my fear is allowing some of you and then you escape.

5.42

MS KEVIN KAALA (NRM, Woman Representative, Pallisa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Last weekend, I was in my district and I had two patients in our district hospital who I visited. To my dismay, I found out that because of overwhelming numbers in the hospital, males, females and children sleep in the same ward. It is not good.

My question to the Rt Hon. Prime Minister is: what is the plan for building new wards for district hospitals, especially Pallisa General Hospital, being an old district with very old wards since Obote's time? We do not have new wards. I would like to ask the Rt Hon. Prime Minister on the way forward.

Mr Speaker, Pallisa General Hospital houses – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister -

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I take the concern of the Member. I was an RDC in Pallisa so I know the hospital – *(Interjection)* – Yes, I have been around for some time. Like most of you Members, I am part of Pallisa. Therefore, Hon. Kaala, I request that we team up and come up with a strategy to make sure that the health ministry provides some funding so that we work on your ward.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I had allowed the Member for Kibaale, Member for Dodoth North. The doctor here wants to clarify something. Let us take advantage.

DR BARYOMUNSI: Thank you very much. I heard the honourable member saying “Female, male and children share the ward. I want to clarify that there is no problem with the male and female children being in the same ward. It is the arrangement. It is only for adults where we separate women from men. For children, we have paediatric wards for both genders.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Otherwise, some adults have bad intentions. *(Laughter)* Thank you.

DR BARYOMUNSI: In the medical world, children are up to 12 years old; from 13, you get adulthood diseases. This is for your information.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Dr Baryomunsi. We always take advantage of professionals in the House. Hon. Noeline Kisembo and then we Hon. Joseph Komol.

5.45

MS NOELINE KISEMBO (NRM, Woman Representative, Kibaale): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, in Kibaale District, we have two newly constructed health centres III which we appreciate but with no power connection.

In the design, they never put a provision for an alternative power supply like solar or a generator. Mothers are being delivered using torches and candles. What plans does the Government have for such health centres that are connected?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Which health centres are those?

MS KISEMBO: Kasimbi Health Centre III and Nyamarunda Town Council Health Center III.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: So they are two not three. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, they need power.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, you know that was my district, which I represented here for almost 10 years. Therefore, Nyamarunda has power. They could probably extend power to where they have constructed a health facility and that can even be done by the district because that is a pole supply.

Under the Electricity Access Scale-Up Project, we can have that health facility connected. I believe the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development came up with a statement yesterday, like I promised last week. Hence, under the scale-up project Nyamarunda can be covered, even Kasimbi. We only need to strategically position ourselves and make sure that the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development provides power for our people.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we only need to check because she provided the list of the health centres and schools, so the honourable colleague should follow up on those which are going to be connected.

MS NABBANJA: If Nyamarunda and Kasimbi Subcounties' health facilities are not part; I will direct them to put them there.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very good. Thank you. Hon. Komol Joseph, then Hon. Betty Chelain.

5.48

MR JOSEPH KOMOL (NRM, Dodoth North County, Kaabong): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The road from Kaabong to Kidepo, Karenga, across to Kitgum is a very busy road. At the moment, in a season like this one, when the bridge floods, it becomes inaccessible and the vehicles cannot pass. In an interface with the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) Director, in a District Roads Committee meeting, we asked a question: "When is the new bridge going to be constructed?"

The answer was that the Ministry of Works and Transport has already identified the funds to make sure that the new bridge is constructed. My question is: when is the Government going to construct this bridge to avoid it blocking – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I remember we approved a loan here to work on the Kitgum to Kidepo Road; it is a tourism road. I believe we have gone a long way to procure the contractor. I also believe once the site is handed over to the contractor, this road will be constructed. That is what I know. Kidepo to Kitgum is a priority road. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Babungi?

5.50

MS JOSEPHINE BEBONA (NRM, Woman Representative, Bundibugyo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I have been in this House since 2016. In 2019, we wrote to the Ministry of Works and Transport several letters requesting the bridge connecting Mirambi Subcounty to Nyahuka Town Council to be worked on, to which the ministry agreed.

Last financial year, the Minister of Works and Transport, Gen. Katumba Wamala, wrote to us indicating that they are going to work on the bridge and even the contractor had been procured.

The question is, when is the bridge going to be worked on since the contractor was procured? Was the contractor smuggled elsewhere? What happened? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Komol said that is not the actual road - the bridge he was talking about.

MR KOMOL: Can I give information?

MS NABBANJA: Let me answer the other question first, then he can give information. Now that she is telling us that she has some correspondences, I request that she gives me those correspondences between her and the Minister of Works and Transport so that I can make a directive. Simple.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Komol, link up with the Prime Minister and give her information. Hon. Chelain Betty?

5.52

MS BETTY CHELAIN (NRM, Woman Representative, Amudat): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I am rising up to inquire about my region, Karamoja.

We have a dam called Nakonyen. It was constructed under the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and it is said that the dam is in Moroto District.

According to my assessment, three-quarters of the dam is in my district, and the other side is in Moroto. My inquiry is, is Nakonyen Dam in Moroto District or in Amudat District?

Then we have a border issue with Sebei –
(*Member timed out*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I think by the time the idea to construct the Nakonyen Dam came up, the new district was not yet in place. What matters is the presence of the dam. I am proud that the dam has been constructed; whether it is in her district or in the old one. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Taban Sharifah, Hon. Zumura Maneno.

5.53

MS SHARIFAH AATE TABAN (NRM, Woman Representative, Koboko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, my question is directed to the Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs in charge of Veterans. We would like to thank her for coming through for our veterans in West Nile, especially mine from Koboko. You are now the queen of Koboko, not me anymore.

However, Mr Speaker, some of my veterans missed out - and I am now the lawyer in my office - because they are always coming to my office demanding to know when they will receive their payments. Please, when are they receiving their money?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister? I do not know if I will survive her now that she is even a queen. (*Laughter*)

5.54

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (VETERAN AFFAIRS) (Ms Huda Oleru): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Honourable Member of Parliament from Koboko District, for asking that question.

Indeed, the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs has paid the West Nile Bank Front and we are still in the process of concluding the payment. For those who have not been paid, the problem was on their side. They did not give us all the details we needed because when we are paying them, we want their account numbers, account holders and their ID number. However, when we were paying them, there were some who would borrow the account numbers of their relatives and send them to us.

Another one is a national ID. The national ID would not be the owner of the ID. So, when we were in the process of doing that – that is why some of their money bounced but we are still handling it and they will get their money paid. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Zumura Maneno?

5.55

MS ZUMURA MANENO (NRM, Woman Representative, Obongi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Obongi District, as known by each and every one in this House, is a new district. It is four years old now, but it does not have a general hospital.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, when shall we have a general hospital in Obongi for us to reduce on that number that has been referred from Obongi to Moyo on a daily basis? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, yesterday, they were promised electricity, if they can also be promised a hospital today, it would be a good week for Obongi. *(Laughter)*

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, Obongi District is a new district, just four years old. If you are aware, we are moving in phases and we will definitely cover Obongi and get there.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Aogon Silas.

5.57

MR SILAS AOGON (Independent, Kumi Municipality, Kumi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Madam Prime Minister, I would like to appreciate you. The people of Uganda are enjoying the road between Tirinyi, Pallisa and Kumi and we are happy. The National Resistance Movement (NRM) government has performed. The question is now about the humps.

The Members of Parliament from the region have consistently asked the same question. We know you for directing and people acting. What

are we going to do about this issue? Lives are being lost on this road. We need humps.

Secondly, we need traffic lights in Kumi Town. The town looks beautiful with the new road but the accidents are many. When are you acting Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I have never seen Hon. Aogon as happy as he is today. *(Laughter)*

MS NABBANJA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate my brother. I drove on that road and The NRM government has really done its work, I am telling you. *(Applause)* I sometimes pity those people saying suppose they went through that road.

Mr Speaker, about the traffic lights and the humps, I would like to inform the Members that the reason we work on the roads is for them to move faster to their destinations and come back alive.

Our people are indisciplined on the roads. That is why the Ministry of Works and Transport decides to put humps to reduce the speed because they cannot reduce it by themselves. However, it comes with a number of disadvantages. Sometimes if you bump into a hump and you are not prepared, you can easily get in an accident. That could even be the reason why some of our roads have accidents.

I request that I bring a comprehensive answer to that question because it is a good and valid question so that I do not just come up with answers. I will bring a comprehensive answer next week so that I also inform you of the advantages and disadvantages of these roadblocks. I will also come up with a comprehensive answer on the traffic lights.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Balimwezo, Hon. Baatom.

5.59

MR RONALD BALIMWEZO (NUP, Nakawa Division East, Kampala City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister,

because Kiteezi was closed, in your short-term intervention, you suggested using Entebbe as a garbage dump site. Unfortunately, the leadership of Entebbe has denied the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) garbage trucks access to the dump site. They are currently packed with garbage on the roadside.

Therefore, the private collectors of garbage, including residents in our communities, have begun dumping garbage on the roads, and the drains, and many have also created illegal dump sites in swamps.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your question, honourable?

MR BALIMWEZO: The question is, considering that there may be an outbreak, because of the uncollected garbage, what risk management plans do you have?

Secondly, can't you overrule so that Entebbe accepts KCCA trucks to dump garbage on the Entebbe Landfill?

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

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the fact that we have this problem calls for collective efforts. From what I know, Entebbe and KCCA had a meeting and they agreed. What the Member is stating here is different.

I had a meeting today with KCCA, that is the Minister for Kampala and Metropolitan Areas, and the other stakeholders. We have come up with a Cabinet Paper so that the Cabinet can also add their voice for us to have a number of interventions; short, medium, and long-term.

Mr Speaker – *(Interjections)*- if you have information, I can take it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not in the Prime Minister's Time. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, continue.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, we request that in this trying moment – because KCCA

produces 2,500 metric tonnes of garbage every day - It is an issue for us, the Members of Parliament, the leaders in this country, to look for a way. Now, if Nkumba refuses us to use it as a garbage dump site, I can see every area refusing, and we shall have nowhere to put the garbage.

Now –*(Interjection)* - processing is long-term - because we already have a company that has an MoU with KCCA, but the processes are still ongoing because they have so many - you know when these big companies come here, they give us so many stringent conditions. Among the conditions, they even want us to give them a solvent guarantee, which we cannot – *(Interjection)* - Yes, we cannot. They think we are a developing country and so they can bring all the conditions. We are also equally careful.

Mr Speaker, I request that you give me one more minute. The other thing is that KCCA has four extra acres not yet used at Kiteezi. There are now 15 excavators at the site. We agreed that we shall continue to fuel those excavators so that they now dig like a dome; it is called a cell, so that we can dump rubbish there. In two weeks they will be through.

Therefore, we wanted Entebbe to look at that because this is a - some of them stay here. Then, we also process the already existing rubbish because I am told that technically, we can get that rubbish decomposed and pressed so that that hill goes down.

We are also taking the example of Ethiopia because it had the same issues and they went through this. We shall have incinerators constructed. We are looking at Dundu which is very far, 42 kilometres, and we shall not go there. Why can't Members support us to relocate these people, and have that area expanded because Kiteezi is near and we have over 29 hectares? I request that this matter should not be politicised.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the other day when we heard the statement here, which you provided, Hon. Abdallah Kiwanuka made a proposal that

you could look into. He said, instead of you going to Dundu, which is indeed very far, like you said, that you relocate the families around Kiteezi to Dundu, which is already your land, so that you maintain Kiteezi and you see our best to process it.

Hon. Baatom, Hon. Richard Wanda, Hon. Godfrey Odero, Honourable - Oh, where is Hon. Nyangweso? Yes, Hon. Nyangweso - No, honourable colleagues, you will have time.

6.05

MR BEN BAATOM (NRM, Dodoth West County, Karenga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we welcome the directive by His Excellency the President to fence off Kidepo National Park. However, at the moment, elephants and buffaloes in Kidepo are destroying crops around Karenga and the neighbouring districts. What can be done in the shortest time possible, as we wait for the fence, to make sure we save the people's food in the fields? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities - Do you see the problem of being absent yet you are here? Can you repeat the question, honourable? You are here to help the Prime Minister.

MR BAATOM: Thank you very much. I was raising the issue of problematic animals and crop-raiding in Kidepo National Park. The elephants and buffaloes are destroying crops in Kidepo, Kaabong, and all the neighbouring districts where the elephants go. They also kill people.

We welcome the President's directive to the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities to have Kidepo fenced. However, at the moment, we do not know when the fence is coming, but the elephants are continuing to destroy the crops and kill people. What can we do in the shortest time possible to make sure we save the food and the people? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister - The problem of sitting near princesses is - *(Laughter)*

6.06

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES (Mr Martin Mugarra): Mr Speaker, we were still consulting on some other problematic animals. It is true the Prime Minister indeed held a meeting. We have provided a budget of about Shs 20 billion to fence off Kidepo National Park.

These other interventions may not really solve the problem. The issue is fencing because recently the UPDF managed to push these animals back into the park. I would like to thank them for that. You know, elephants always remember where they were previously. You move them today; they will go back the following day. So, I think the most important issue is fencing. Even compensation cannot solve the problem.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: In the meantime, you have not yet got the money - and the Member really agrees with you - But he says in the meantime -

MR MUGARRA: In the meantime, we have deployed additional 100 rangers. I think what we are going to do is to engage the UPDF to add some more deployments around the problem areas so that we can try to keep these elephants inside. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Richard Wanda and then Hon. Odero be preparing yourself.

6.08

MR RICHARD WANDA (NRM, Bungokho Central County, Mbale): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I salute and appreciate the Rt Hon. Prime Minister, for the work she is doing in Bududa; the compensation and the resettlement.

However, from my analysis, the people of Mbale District, who were affected by floods, have not been addressed yet - and those in Sironko. Specifically, for Mbale District, the

upper parts of Bungokho, Bumbobi and the Busano, they need to be resettled too, because the likelihood of getting floods again are very high. My question is, when do we expect the intervention that you are doing in Bududa for the people of Mbale District? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the team from the Office of the Prime Minister is in Mbale today. The National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC) together with the Ministry of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees have come up to go through the lists, because whenever we say we are going to either relocate or compensate, other people come in.

I know many people have problems, but sometimes we are focusing on a particular issue and you find other people coming from other areas, so, we have to clean the lists. They are doing that - but remember the homes that were affected when Mbale flooded were few. By the time you understand, they have brought more, or even triple the number. So, they are cleaning the lists and eventually, we shall come to Mbale and help our people.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Odero.

6.10

MR GODFREY WERE (Independent, Samia-Bugwe County South, Busia): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, last year you launched ambulances to various constituencies in this country. It happened that Samia-Bugwe County South was part of the beneficiary. When are we getting our ambulance?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, every Thursday, I am asked that question. The answer I get from the ministry is that some

ambulances were not yet equipped. So, they wanted to put some equipment for emergency so that they can be given to the people. They told me that this equipment was delivered in the country. I believe they are going to give you that ambulance very soon.

Therefore, let me find out the date so that we answer that question once and for all.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Nyangweso – Honourable colleagues from this side, wait a bit, I am still here and I will come back to this side. That is no man's land. So, you better *-(Laughter)*

6.11

MR DENIS NYANGWESO (Independent, Samia-Bugwe Central County, Busia): Thank you, Mr Speaker. To our workaholic Prime Minister, the Ministry of Health procured X-rays for various hospitals, including Masafu General Hospital, which you are very aware of, because you were our RDC one time.

The Ministry of Health has been telling us that they cannot supply the X-rays because certain civil works are to be done in those hospitals. When is the Ministry of Health commencing the civil works such that the X-rays can be installed and save our people, especially in Busia, who are accessing X-ray services from Kenya? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, what I know is that Masafu received a new X-ray. However, the space to have it installed was not there because of the radiations of that new equipment. I request that you allow me to find out from the Ministry of Health why the X-ray construction works has not yet started. I appreciate - and a state of art X-ray machine that must have –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Haji Bashir Lubega and Hon. Kayondo.

6.13

MR BASHIR LUBEGA (NRM, Mubende Municipality, Mubende): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to begin by thanking you for gracing our Ruby Jubilee for Sacred Heart Seminary, Mubende, as the chief guest. *(Applause)* I further thank you for generously contributing to our cause of purchasing a seminary bus. I am under instructions from His Lordship, the Archbishop, to thank you very much.

I come from Mubende Municipality and I would like to talk about the *boda boda* industry, which employs so many of our young people. The *boda bodas*, everywhere in the country, are victims of terror from the traffic police. They descend on them with a lot of wrath wherever you go, to the extent that many of them have abandoned their *boda bodas* to police posts and you can see them full. This is very bad. They are just collecting money. They have even resorted to road blocks in Mubende, Kattabalong, among other areas. On those roadblocks they are just collecting money from them, and they have sucked them up to their bone marrow.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question?

MR BASHIR LUBEGA: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I know you as a very assertive leader and you go via my place. What plans do you have to reign in this impunity and terror from the traffic police in this country? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister –

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the Minister of Internal Affairs is here. The President directed that all the *boda bodas* of these young people be returned to them. I am wondering why this directive is not yet implemented. So, let me direct the Minister of Internal Affairs who is here, Gen. Muhoozi, to prevail over his police officers and have the *boda bodas* given to our people. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I had already picked Hon. Kayondo.

6.16

MR FRED KAYONDO (DP, Mukono County South, Mukono): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In 1996, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni visited my constituency; I was in Primary three. I was among the children who sang for the President. *(Laughter)* In amusement, the President promised the people of Koome Island a ferry.

Koome is very famous; it connects to Katosi, which you know very well, as well as Gaba. I regret my strokes. *(Laughter)* Under the choir stewardship of Madam Naddamba, I led the choir. It is now coming to 30 years.

The Prime Minister is known for being assertive. Recently, they went ahead and even invited the Prime Minister –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Did you dance for her? *(Laughter)*

MR KAYONDO: The Prime Minister did not come. I want the “last nail on the coffin” from the Prime Minister; should the people of Koome, Katosi- because since 1996- it is coming to 30 years and yet the ferry of Koome has been appearing in budgets. There is nowhere I have not reached, except heaven and hell, just to demand for that ferry.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, as they praise you for being assertive, can the people of Koome feel your assertiveness? they have not – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, he said that they are always on the budget but they have not yet received their ferry. The man is now also about to become a *jajja*.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, that means my brother from Koome is a *muzzukulu*. These days, the *bazzukulu* have a way of enjoying. I will make sure that I link him to the President. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Katabaazi, Hon. Ekudo – *(Hon. Peter Okot*

rose_) No, MP from Tochi, you have spoken today. I am starting with those who have not yet. Hon. Akugizibwe, Hon. Kenny Auma and Hon. Nakabuye.

6.19

MR FRANCIS KATABAAZI (NUP, Kalungu East County, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me a chance and the Rt Hon. Prime Minister, for answering the questions. Mine is about the presidential directive banning wood exports.

There is an element of environmental protection in it, which is very important, like protecting the forests. However, we also have commercial farmers who plant eucalyptus and so on, for business. They borrowed money from the banks, therefore, banning export of wood, veneer and other wood products, has affected the income of so many people who are involved in this business -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question?

MR KATABAAZI: The question to the Rt Hon. Prime Minister is when they should lift the ban on commercial-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question - Rt Hon. Prime Minister, when are you lifting the ban?

MR KATABAAZI: When are you lifting the ban on commercial forests – *(Member timed out.)*

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, the President, last year on 11 June, wrote and instructed me to stop the exportation of raw materials of timber, especially unprocessed timber.

I request for one more minute so that I explain to them, because I am the one handling it. When that directive came, I had a meeting with all the stakeholders and we put a ban in June last year.

The Members of those private growers requested the President for a three-months extension period, to make sure that the timber

they had in their stores, in transit and that which was at the borders be allowed to move.

I want Members to note that those Chinese companies that you see everywhere in this country - one machine can harvest 200,000 trees in a day. The President said that we cannot- because remember last year, the temperatures in Uganda went up by 42 degrees, which has never happened.

Therefore, in order to protect our tree cover and the environment, the President said that we only allow companies that are adding value. Since that time, seven companies, among those, have applied to have factories within the country to add value to our trees. This will bring employment for the people and we shall also protect the environment.

We know there are private people who got loans and have their own forests. The President asked me to present a Cabinet paper, which we are organising, so that the Cabinet pronounces itself on the matter. This is especially for those people who invested their money and have commercially grown these trees, maybe on loans.

We also say that the environment is bigger. The people of Uganda, if we rank our lanes, it will be costlier than what we think. It is going to be a win-win situation. I request the Member to be patient because we are handling your matter.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I am really happy, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, that you have an open heart on this issue because I know many people who borrowed money and they are going to be in total trouble. They are going to lose these forests and they will be sold very cheaply because they borrowed money knowing that they can do this business. See how best they can be helped. However, I am very happy to see that your heart is open when it comes to this matter.

6.25

MR TOM EKUDO (FDC, Gweri County, Soroti): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am happy that the Minister of Education and Sports is in

the House. Soroti District has five schools that were not coded, although the parents struggled to establish them. More particularly, the one in the constituency I represent, Gweri, called Agule Primary School.

Information came that these schools had been coded but they have not been coded. The Ministry of Education and Sports sent reminders to the ministry, but nothing has happened -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question?

MR EKUDO: My prayer is, let these schools be coded.

6.26

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is true that as a ministry, in terms of our planning mandate, we carry out assessments in-line with the demands which come from the local governments. However, we also have to look at the budget line.

We did not get the money, which we had planned to use to have the schools operationalised, in the final release, in our budget. For that matter, I beg that we wait until we get additional money in the next financial year for that purpose. I thank you.

6.27

MS KENNY AUMA (UPC, Woman Representative, Kwania): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate my sister, Kevin Kaala, for appreciating the UPC government for having built Pallisa Hospital.

However, Mr Speaker, the water levels are rising on Lake Victoria and they have affected lakes like Lake Kwania and Lake Kyoga. Most of our districts, mostly from Lango Subregion – including Kwania, Dokolo, Apac and Amolatar – have been flooded. Most of the roads have been submerged, schools have been submerged, people's gardens have been submerged and even people have been displaced from their homes.

My question is: what plan does the Government have for the people who are facing such a disaster? Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is related to the one raised by Hon. Okot-Ogong, but you can note it. The Member needs to hear from the Prime Minister.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I take note of my sister's concern and we shall handle it the way we have already promised.

6.28

MR ALED AKUGIZIBWE (Independent, Buruli County, Masindi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. In 2021, during my maiden speech, I presented the issue of Masindi Hospital and we were promised that Masindi Hospital, alongside Kambuga, where my vice-chairperson comes from, would be rehabilitated in the Financial Year 2022/2023. The money was put in the budget, but not released. Three years down the road, Masindi Hospital is in a dire state. They promised that we would have Shs 50 billion to rehabilitate that hospital.

My question to the Prime Minister is: when is Masindi Hospital going to be rehabilitated to the level that the people of Masindi were promised? Thank you very much.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, at least I was a minister for health and I know that we are rehabilitating these hospitals in a phased manner. Masindi is for next financial year. Then, we will have Kagadi and Bugiri in that order. Masindi is going to be rehabilitated, I promise. Kambuga is being rehabilitated. Be patient. We are coming.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Masaka?

6.29

MS JULIET KAKANDE (NUP, Woman Representative, Masaka City): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, primary teachers' colleges were phased out. We are very much aware that every year, a number of primary school teachers reach retirement age and others do

apply for early retirement, yet there is need for continuity in the system.

The only alternative would have been for direct entry from Senior Six to university. Here is my question. When is the Government setting up the policy for direct entry from A'Level to university? You remember that primary school teachers have been entering - *(Member timed out.)*

6.30

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)

(Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, I would like to request that when we talk about teachers, you allow me to bring a formal statement to answer the question as well as why we did repurpose some of these primary teachers' colleges. I thank you.

6.30

MR MUJUNGU THEMBO (NRM,

Busongora County South, Kasese): Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I have not had a chance to speak here ever since you missed an accident. Allow me to add my voice - *(Laughter)*- Survived.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I missed it, indeed. *(Laughter)*

MR THEMBO: You survived. I thank God, like my brothers have done.

Mr Speaker, let me now turn to my question to the Prime Minister. When we were in the just ended recess, I had time to visit some primary schools. What did I discover? I found out that the school dropout rate is so huge. It is threatening. For example, in Kibalya Primary School in Nyakabingo Subcounty in Busongora South, the P.1 enrollment was 170 children. Unfortunately, P.3 had an enrollment of 60 pupils - and there is a similar situation in many other schools -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question?

MR THEMBO: Before the question, Mr Speaker, this shows that you have a 60 per cent

dropout between P.1 and P.3 - and these are children of seven to 10 years leaving school. Where are they going? My question, Mr Speaker, is: what plan does the Government have to stop this huge school dropout rate at that tender age? Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for asking that question because it is going to help me to inform honourable colleagues about the magnitude of the problem of school charges. Some of our parents cannot afford it. Some of the head teachers have made it a habit to steal - to put illegal charges in our schools and, so, for some of the parents who cannot afford, their children are chased away from school. That is why I request that, Members, we need to work as a team to stop school charges because these people are given capitation grants to use in their schools.

Secondly, we are also discovering that some schools have ghost enrolments. They know that when it comes to P.7, they will need photos of the children. So, when it comes to P.4, P.5 and so on, they start "dropping out". It is another way of - I think you understand what I am talking about - corruption. They are stealing that money from the Government, putting illegal enrolments. They inflate the number of children. Sometimes we think that they have dropped out of school when, in actual sense, they have not. It is a two-way traffic and I request Members that each one of us can play a role.

6.35

DR NOAH MUSA (Independent, Koboko North County, Koboko):

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the Ministry of Health, in its efforts to improve maternal and child health in the country, implemented the Maternal and Child Health Integrated Programme. Under this programme, in my consistency, Ludara Health Center III was considered for the project. The project scope included construction of a maternity unit, construction of a laboratory, running water for the laboratory and maternity unit and a solar system.

Three weeks ago, the Ministry of Health went and handed over this project to the district to use when, actually, the project is not yet completed. There is no running water. I want to know the circumstances under which the ministry can hand over a project which is not completed, especially a maternity unit without a water source. Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: My brother, I think you will need to hand over the project documents so that I can handle these people directly. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hellen Auma?

6.36

MS HELLEN AUMA (NRM, Woman Representative, Busia): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, my question is about electricity. Busia District is a border town that generates a lot of tax revenue in this country, but the district is very dark at night. On Tuesday, we hosted the President at a function in a school and there was no electricity.

When I moved that night around my district, many places were very dark, yet we have issues of insecurity. They kill people every day; boda boda men are being killed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question?

MS AUMA: We have poles in my district - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleague, what is your question? Switch on and ask your question.

MS AUMA: It is my humble appeal that Busia people get electricity since we already have poles. Otherwise, we do not have electricity in some areas.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: I will answer it the same way I did with other colleagues. The Electricity Access Scale-up project is the answer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: I think she needs to check with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. If not, I will check for her.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We extensively handled that issue.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I was in Busia for almost 10 years so Busia is part of me.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I am trying to buy time. We extensively handled that issue of connections and we shall come back here.

Honourable Member for Kyankwanzi, Member for Ruhaama, Member for Bundibugyo, Hon. Lagen and then the honourable Member for Koboko.

6.37

MS CHRISTINE SENDAWULA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kyankwanzi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. In Kyankwanzi, two roads were worked on by UNRA but they were not completed and UNRA moved away. They did not install culverts on these roads. When it rains heavily, water floods all over the roads; these are the Bukwiri-Kyankwanzi and Bukwiri-Ntwetwe.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I called the manager of UNRA in Hoima to come and install culverts in Bukwiri, Kyankwanzi, since the culverts are along the road, but he did not come.

My question is, why can't UNRA come back and install the culverts in these two roads? Otherwise, the roads are impassable when it rains heavily.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I request the Member to help me write that question so that I can use it to direct the Minister of Works and Transport to work on that road.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Benjamin Kamukama and then the honourable member for Bundibugyo.

6.39

MR BENJAMIN KAMUKAMA (NRM, Ruhaama East County, Ntungamo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this chance. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, this Parliament, in March, passed a resolution to construct the road from Kafunzo through Kitwe to Isingiro under a pre-financing arrangement with the China Henan International Cooperation Group (CHICO).

The one of Masaka-Mutukula has started because it was under the same arrangement but the other one has not started. I want to know when the Government is starting on that work.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister- Can you repeat the name of the road honourable colleague?

MR KAMUKAMA: The road is the Kafunzo-Kitwe-Isingiro, just 28 kilometers.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under CHICO.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, what I know is that CHICO is working on Masaka to Villa Maria, then Masaka to Mutukula. I also know that CHICO and the Government of Uganda worked on a pre-financing arrangement. I will find out and see whether the road that my brother is talking about is part of this arrangement. If it is part of this arrangement, then we shall see whether they are working in phases, like starting with Masaka-Mutukula.

Otherwise, Mutukula is an international road. It connects our country to Tanzania. That might have been the arrangement but I do not want to - Maybe I will also have that question recorded by my staff and I will come back here next week and talk about it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member for Bughendera.

6.41

MR ACROBERT KIIZA (Independent, Bughendera County, Bundibugyo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. In August last year, a heavy storm hit Kakuka Hill Secondary School in which the examination

hall, the laboratory and the computer laboratory were destroyed.

Hon. Gafabusa, the Member of Parliament for Bwamba County did report that same matter here and the Minister of Education and Sports promised that he would send a team to Bundibugyo but to date, the team has never gone there.

Mr Speaker, we are towards the examination period yet the school does not have an examination hall. My prayer is that the Ministry of Education and Sports, since it has an emergency department, should send a team so that iron sheets and other roofing materials can be provided.

My Second prayer – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

6.42

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): I thank the Member for the question raised but I also want to remind honourable colleagues that before, the Minister of Education and Sports had a component of emergency funding, specifically to cater for unforeseen circumstances.

However, when COVID-19 came, that money was taken off from our budget and as of now, I do not have even one iron sheet. Therefore, as the Minister of Education and Sports, I call upon the Rt Hon. Prime Minister to maybe use the budget under disaster to roof that school.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The Prime Minister has given a thumbs up. Hon. Lagen and Hon. Baba.

6.43

MR DAVID LAGEN (NRM, Agago County, Agago): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. We have students in my constituency who applied for the student loan to support themselves to pursue bachelor degrees at different universities.

I have been receiving calls from many students from the different universities asking when these student loans will be available to support them. I want to find out from the Prime Minister the specific dates when those loans will be available.

Mr Speaker, Agago District is a hard-to-reach district with a special interest. We have gone through difficult situations as a result of wildlife-human life conflicts, cattle raids, disasters, and a number of things. Therefore, how can the Prime Minister support such a student who is very bright, has hope for the future but their parents are not capable of paying for them at the university? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, are those students - Okay, honourable minister.

6.44

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)

(Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I want to confirm that there was a call for the applications to students to apply for the student loan scheme, which was put in the national newspapers. I also want to confirm that our students have applied. The process for the selection of those is ongoing. Maybe I will be able to ask you, Mr Speaker, to permit me to bring in the numbers which have applied since it is an online system and then we allow the process to get concluded.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, continue with the process. Let the process follow the due course. Hon. Baba?

6.45

MR JAMES BABA (NRM, Koboko County, Koboko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, there is a section of our society who are hurting, very badly. These are the coffee nursery bed operators. They were contracted by Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) to raise coffee seedlings to supply farmers since 2015. They supplied a lot of seedlings on the promise that they would be paid.

As you may recall, these people have petitioned Parliament and have demonstrated. One time, I interacted with the Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development who is here. He said he was going to put Shs 12.5 billion in the budget but up to today, these people have not been paid.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: State the question, honourable colleague?

MR BABA: Can the Prime Minister use her good office to ensure that these farmers are paid? They are hurting, they are in debts, their children are out of school - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development?

6.46

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is true that Hon. Baba has been following this matter with us and I gave him an assurance that in the Financial Year 2024/25, some money will be put in the budget. Indeed, money was put in the budget for both coffee and tea seedlings suppliers. I want to plead - *(Interjection)* - and also tobacco, yes.

When I went to West Nile, I committed there that I would find some money for the tobacco farmers. So, all these are in the budget which we have started implementing. Mr Speaker, I beg the indulgence of colleagues; that this year they will be happy.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Napak, Terego representatives and Youth Western.

6.47

MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, there is an issue concerning St Kizito Hospital Matany, which you are aware of.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, at the peak of insecurity in Karamoja Region, St Kizito Hospital suffered because they were treating all the victims of gun violence. When the President visited us in 2022, he made that promise.

In addition, the Bishop of Moroto Catholic Diocese, Bishop Damiano Guzzetti, came and camped in your office - you gave us a full day and I was there. You also gave us your word that you would follow through that commitment and that money would be paid, which St. Kizito Hospital is expecting.

I raised it here again, and the Third Deputy Prime Minister gave us words of comfort and said she would follow through. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, today, what do I tell Bishop Damiano?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I can contribute to the answer. The Bishop also gave me a letter which I took to the President, as a reminder. I think it is Shs 600 million. I talked to the President and he promised it is going to be worked on. So, you can follow up on that.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I represented the President at a very colorful function in 2022 and I have followed this matter. The President promised that this financial year, that money will be handled, but it will be paid in a phased manner, in at least two phases. Just tell the Bishop that the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, has never been a liar; he will pay the money.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I can confirm that commitment because two weeks ago, I took the letter to the President. Therefore, with the Prime Minister now also coming, I am sure the President promised; it is going to be paid. Yes, I had picked the representative from Terego.

6.50

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. We are aware that Uganda leads Africa in hosting refugees. However, I want to

know from the Rt Hon. Prime Minister, what is the progress undertaken by Uganda to host the humanitarian agency and where will it be located? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon Prime Minister.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for the information. Let me take this opportunity to inform Ugandans that the Government of Uganda competed and won to host the humanitarian agency in this country. We know this humanitarian agency will come with so many benefits, because we are a refugee-hosting country; 1.6 million refugees.

Therefore, we are working on the process to get all the required land and any other – Members, I will come here and inform you; it is still early. We just won that like two weeks ago. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you and congratulations.

MS NABBANJA: Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Youth representative, Western.

6.52

MR EDSON RUGUMAYO (NRM, Youth Representative, Western): Mr Speaker, I thank you for having had time off to have a heart-to-heart conversation with the young people yesterday at the Ndere Cultural Center. I think I have to say, we, young people, are eternally grateful.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The questions were very tough, man.

MR RUGUMAYO: We appreciate it. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, as you have traversed Bwaise, Kawempe, and Tunde areas, most likely you have noticed many abandoned vehicles stripped of their valuable scrap metal. This prompts me to ask you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, is there a plan of disposing of these vehicles? Is there a

plan for the Government to have a scrapyards or a junkyard with, let us say, a machine capable of crashing these vehicles? We need an environmental-friendly and sustainable solution for this. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, as you come to answer this question, there is something which I have been asking myself. I was told that it is a Government policy not to insure their vehicles, yet it is the Government vehicles ever on the road; up and down with very many risks. Why doesn't the Government look into that issue of insuring its vehicles and supporting the insurance sector? It is a very big sector, and in the end, I am very sure it would reduce the bill for maintaining Government vehicles.

It is something that you should look into. Maybe, you can carry out a study; do a cost-benefit analysis and guide, Rt Hon. Prime Minister.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I think what I can do is to request the honourable Member to help me write that question, because it is a very good question.

Then the policy of the Government under Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets (PPDA) Act, what I know is we dispose of. Therefore, I request that the Member writes that question so that I can look for a better answer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Think of the one on insurance. Someone in the Government can look at it. Leader of the Opposition?

6.54

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr John Baptist Nambeshe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to comment by saluting the Rt Hon. Prime Minister for the rare ability to think and quickly respond to questions, especially during this Q&A.

Mr Speaker, I would like the Rt Hon. Prime Minister to remember that the question you started with is part of the unfulfilled presidential

pledges, and it is becoming a matter of grave concern. If you go by reports - and soon you will get a report from the Committee on Government Assurances - the most appalling is putting the President at 817 unfulfilled pledges.

If Busia has issues with land acquisition then - the one million dollar question I would like to ask, who keeps the President accountable on these pledges? Is it the Vice President, Prime Minister, or Parliament?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleague, you have a committee which you supervise and that is Committee on Government Assurances.

MR NAMBESHE: Yeah - (*Laughter*) - but the point is made, Mr Speaker.

The other question was raised by honourable - I am very brief - Hon. Noman Ochero from Abim District about the compensation exercise for the people who lost their livestock during the insurgency.

This one in particular has issues because it is lopsided. It has only skewed itself to Acholi, Lango and Teso, leaving out other areas. You know of Sebei and Bugisu because of the spill over of the insurgency. Even in Busoga and Mayuge - there are quite a number of them. You had better cross-examine your records for those that are missing.

Finally, the Hon. Acrobert Kiiza Moses mentioned a number of disaster-prone districts, particularly, Bundibugyo, and he raised a concern about why you cannot find a permanent solution to some of these challenges of infrastructure like the bridges he mentioned.

Even in Bududa, where I should appreciate the relocation and eventual resettlement of the people through the compensatory approach, the challenge is the slow pace with which you are conducting this exercise.

There are people living in high-risk hills with cracks and now that the rains are on, anything can happen. Otherwise, so far, so good. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, do you have a comment?

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I have a comment about Bududa. When we came up with a strategy - including my brother, I would to appreciate you; you have really supported us. Some people do not want to leave Bududa. We have land in Bunambutye and that is the other side of Bugisu. Those people, I believe - you were not there when I was in Bududa.

Those people said, “Can we be given the money so that we look for a shop and remain in the urban areas within Bududa?” Some of them do not want to go to Bunambutye, despite the fact that the Government gave them two acres of land.

I am told that it has also attracted some politicians who are looking at losing voters. *(Laughter)* Today, the Minister, Office of the Prime Minister (Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees) is going to Bududa to make sure that we change our policy.

If somebody wants money to relocate, let us pay them so that they can go wherever they feel like going. We tagged land to the compensation exercise because we thought all of them would be relocated to the area.

I request you to help me. The challenges and delays are because some people- now, you compensate somebody- let me take this as a mountain; somebody is on top, another one is down here and the other one is here.

We cannot relocate all of them because we have paid them- I do not know how I can term this. Can you please support us so that when we come- because the money is there - all the people come, we give them the money and they leave, so that we do not lose lives again. We gazette the area so that it helps us to manage our ecosystem. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Rt Hon. Prime Minister. Honourable colleagues, I had promised that the debate would resume on the statement from the Minister of Education

and Sports as far as the performance of our Olympians is concerned.

Now that we received the statement and an update from the minister, Members can move a motion- it will be important for- Hon. Everlyn Chemutai had already reached out to me. Hon. Acon, let me finish the comment I made.

In that motion, since we usually pay tribute in a clear motion- but now, we needed an update first from the minister and we want to thank you for this very critical update. Of course, in that same motion, that is where we would thank the minister for the job well done.

Otherwise, if the motion is moved by the minister, he cannot thank himself and yet he must be appreciated. So, if there are Members interested in moving that motion, please, we shall give it space on the Order Paper so that the debate can now continue with the motion; we would be able to capture very many Members. Honourable minister, the time is up.

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I felt it necessary to inform you - because of your support to my office - that I have been recognised by the United Nations Economic Council as one of the global leaders who will be given an award. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope they are giving you a service award. *(Laughter)*

MS NABBANJA: Mr Speaker, I am humbled by your support. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS NABBANJA: I will be going to the UN next month on the 18th and so, I felt it necessary that I inform you, honourable colleagues.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we escort you?

MS NABBANJA: Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. We are all really proud of that and you, especially

the stamina you have and the time you give us. I take this opportunity to thank the ministers who are here to support the Prime Minister. *(Applause)*

I had been concerned on some occasions where you find the Prime Minister here and there are only two ministers; you get concerned but today you have- I thank you honourable colleagues for sitting for this long. *(Applause)*

The Government Chief Whip had told me to inform those who have not yet done the COVID-19 test to do so, because tomorrow, you have a special meeting. Ensure to do the COVID-19 test so that you can be able to attend the caucus.

Minister of Education and Sports, you seem to have something burning.

7.04

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)

(Mr Peter Ogwang): Mr Speaker, first of all, it is important that I thank the entire House for the support they have always given to the sports sector; it is the reason we are beginning to see fruits.

We are beginning to work for the Commonwealth Games which are going to take place in Australia. We are also going to plan for the next Olympics which are going to take place in Los Angeles.

As far as the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) is concerned, I confirm - Rt Hon. Prime Minister - this morning I came from Hoima directly to the House. Finally, the first grader has already kicked the ground to construct the Hoima City Stadium. I also inform the House about the Akii Bua Stadium, that the contract has been cleared by the Attorney-General. The senior minister will preside over that process with the contractor

However, the information for the House is that in our bid to motivate our athletes, who won the gold medal, the Minister of Education and Sports had earlier on budgeted and planned to

give a gold medallist Shs 100 million, Shs 50 million for a silver medallist and Shs 30 million for a bronze medallist. *(Applause)*

I confirm that we are going to give this money to the two who have won the medals, because it was within our budget. Thank you, Mr Speaker, and the Government, for always supporting us in terms of motivating our athletes.

I call upon all of you not only to talk about “*Che-Che*”, it is our responsibility to mobilise our children to begin competing and participating in sports. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: House adjourned to Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.

(The House rose at 7.06 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 20 August 2024 at 2.00 p.m.)