



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024





PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

## IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

### Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

#### FOURTH SESSION - SPECIAL SITTING - 1ST MEETING

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**Thursday, 25 July 2024**

*Parliament met at 2.06 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 special Sitting. In a special way, I welcome Her Excellency the Vice-President and the Rt Hon. Speaker, who has joined us in this session.

This Sitting is entirely dedicated to paying tribute to our brother, the late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper, former Member of Parliament for Moroto Municipality and member of the Central Executive Committee of the National Resistance Movement (NRM), where he has been serving as the Vice-Chairperson for Karamoja subregion.

He was a distinguished legislator, who represented his people with dedication. Some of us saw his videos playing on our screens today. He did this with a lot of commitment. He worked so hard during his time as a Member of Parliament, especially for the pacification of Karamoja subregion.

Hon. Aleper contributed immensely to the debates in the House, focusing on improving

infrastructure in Karamoja subregion and food security for his people – if we are to be specific. He also worked hard to ensure that children from Karamoja were off the streets of Kampala.

On 11 March 2015, Hon. Simon Peter Aleper had this to say: *“As we talk now, a new form of child trafficking is taking place, where parents take their children to the market during auction days, pretending to be buying animals and the buyers of these children also go to the market pretending to be buying animals but, in the process, you find them exchanging items and money for the children... So, what measures is the Government putting in place to control this?”*

This shows the extent to which he loved the children and his people. This problem was prevalent in the Karamoja subregion. You can get more from the *Hansard* – the records are there. You will find that, indeed, he was an astute legislator who knew the areas to focus on and the impact they would create on his community, in relation to his submissions on the Floor.

He served his party, the NRM, with dedication and supported the implementation of all Government programmes irrespective of where they were located. Even if I raise so much on what Hon. Aleper was doing for Karamoja, he was a nationalist. He had many aspects of the debate he contributed to, and issues he raised on the Floor, that covered the entire country.

As you know, Karamoja being a special subregion and having its unique issues, he was very vocal in bringing those issues to the Floor, especially when some people had the old adage that “Uganda will not wait for Karamoja to develop”. He said: “No, issues of Karamoja must be brought so that Uganda develops with the rest of Karamoja. Uganda cannot develop when Karamoja is not developing.” That is something that Hon. Aleper pushed for so much.

On 12 May 2015, Hon. Aleper, as per the *Hansard* record, convinced the House to support funding when most Members wanted to stop it. In his words, he had this to say: “In my view, I think it is prudent for this House to approve this money until such a time when somebody will come out to challenge our decision with evidence that this project is a failure. What we are getting now is that the farmers are succeeding and the project is going on successfully. I will support this project.”

These were in relation to the challenges that faced some projects to do with agriculture and the House was debating that they should not be supported. He said: “No, I am on the Government side, I have studied this very well and I will continue supporting Government positions as a true cadre of the NRM.”

He was a good mobiliser, who worked tirelessly to bring the people of Karamoja together to ensure the development of the region.

Allow me to extend my sincere condolences on my behalf and on behalf of the Parliament of Uganda to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda and the chairman of the NRM party, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the central executive committee of the party, especially members whom I see in the gallery, who had become family with him – and I am very sure they will continue being family with his family – the widow, children and the entire family of the late, the people of Karamoja subregion and the entire Uganda for losing such a gallant son at a very young age of 49. He had reached the prime. In football, we say that when you reach around 25 years, that is when you have reached the prime.

Hon. Aleper had reached the prime age of making a very focal contribution to the country’s development. May the good Lord grant the family of Hon. Aleper fortitude in overcoming grief and may the ever merciful and loving Lord grant Hon. Aleper eternal peace. *(Applause)*

*(Entrance of the late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper.)*

*The National Anthem*

*The East African Community Anthem*

*Laying of wreaths*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Clerk, read for Members in the House.

*(Laying of wreaths continued\_)*

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF  
PARLIAMENT TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE  
LATE HON. SIMON PETER ALEPER,  
FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
AND MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NRM  
PARTY

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, before I call the Prime Minister to move the motion, being a special day, the rules allow the Speaker to bring special guests. So, today, I created a special seat for the former Deputy Speaker of the Legislature who happens to also be the National Vice-Chairperson of the NRM, Rt Hon. Al-Hajj Moses Kigongo, who is with us here. *(Applause)*

Also, on the technical bench this afternoon, we have immediate family members of the late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper. They include:

1. Mrs Nadiye Scholastica –wife
2. Lokowa Trevor Aleper – son
3. Aleper Thecla – daughter
4. Aleper Meri Thecla – daughter
5. Lomuge Trisha Natalie Aleper – daughter
6. Achia Tamara Aleper – daughter
7. Nakong Tracy Sheba Aleper – daughter

They have come to witness as we pay special tribute to their fallen husband and father.

Honourable colleagues, in the VIP gallery this afternoon, we also have members of the NRM National Executive Committee. They are:

1. Hon. Capt. Mike Mukula – Vice-Chairperson, Eastern Uganda;
2. Hon. Singh Katongole – Vice-Chairperson, Kampala;
3. Hon. Godfrey Suubi Kiwanda – Vice-Chairperson, Central Uganda;
4. Mr Nasur Gaddafi – National Chairperson, NRM Youth League;
5. Hon. Lydia Wanyoto – National Chairperson, NRM Women’s League;
6. Hon. Rose Namayanja Nsereko – Deputy Secretary-General, NRM;
7. Ambassador Barbara Nekesa Oundo – National Treasurer, NRM;
8. Maj. Awich Pollar – Director External Affairs, NRM Secretariat;
9. Hajjat Medina Naham Ojale – Director Administration and Finance, NRM Secretariat;
10. Dr Tanga Odoi – Chairman, NRM Electoral Commission; and
11. Hon. Emmanuel Dombo Lumala – Director, Media and Public Relations, NRM Secretariat.

Some of these colleagues are former Members of Parliament, but we also have former Members of Parliament in the VIP gallery. They are:

1. Hon. Janepher Egunyu Nantume
2. Hon. Sulaiman Kirunda
3. Hon. Stella Namoe Nyomera

I also see Hon. Rose Akol, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) MP as well as Hon. Rosemary Seninde, the director for mobilisation at the NRM Secretariat. She is also a former minister and the former Woman MP for Wakiso.

I was reading from the list that was given to me, but I also see our brother, Mr Kato Gabriel, the National Chairperson NRM League for People

with Disabilities. I will be reading more names as they come in so that we recognise them.

Thank you, colleagues, for coming to observe the proceedings of this House as we pay tribute to our fallen colleague.

We also have several friends and relatives of the late Hon. Aleper Simon Peter who have come from every corner to observe the proceedings – others are well-wishers. We recognise your presence. Thank you.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

2.40

**THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja):** Mr Speaker, I raise under Rule 56 of our Rules of Procedure to move a motion for a resolution of Parliament to pay tribute to the late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper for his distinguished service to this nation.

Mr Speaker,

*“WHEREAS the Parliament of Uganda received with deep sorrow the sad news of the demise of Hon. Simon Peter Aleper, the former Member of Parliament for Moroto Municipality, which occurred on Tuesday, 23 July 2024;*

*AWARE THAT Hon. Simon Peter Aleper was, at the time of his demise, a member of the National Resistance Movement Central Executive Committee, where he served as the Vice-Chairperson for Karamoja region;*

*FURTHER AWARE THAT Hon. Simon Peter Aleper was a prominent figure in the politics of Karamoja, having served as a Member of Parliament for Moroto Municipality from 2011 to 2016, wherein, he boldly spoke against programmes that disrupted the productivity of the region and vehemently supported programmes that improved the welfare of his people;*

*RECOGNISING THAT Hon. Simon Peter Aleper also served in distinguished positions*

*in international organisations which have specific focus on the growth of Karamoja region such as Programme Officer for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Zonal Project Officer for World Vision International, Community Dialogue Officer for the International Rescue Committee and Moroto District Peace Monitor;*

*FURTHER RECOGNISING THAT Hon. Simon Peter Aleper has been instrumental in economic development and social progress of Karamoja region and the nation at large, having superintended the negotiations that saw the people of Karamoja agree to the establishment of a cement factory in Moroto, which became a source of employment for many;*

*APPRECIATING THAT Hon. Simon Peter Aleper was a patriot who loved his country and dedicated his life to the development of the people of Karamoja, the NRM party, and Uganda at large and, therefore, deserves the recognition of this Parliament and the State;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, Mr Speaker, be it resolved that:*

- 1. Parliament collectively conveys its deepest condolences to the bereaved family, friends, the people of Karamoja, the NRM party, and Uganda for the loss of a distinguished son of this country; and*
- 2. Parliament takes cognisance of the dedicated service that the late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper has rendered to the people of Karamoja, the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, the NRM party, and the people of Uganda.”*

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

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is the motion seconded? *(Members rose)* It is seconded by Her Excellency the Vice-President, the Rt Hon. Anita Annet Among, Hon. Robert Mwesigwa Rukari, Hon. Huda Oleru, Hon. Peter Lokeris, Hon. Gidudu, the acting Leader of Opposition – Hon. Ssewungu Joseph – Hon.

Joseph Miidi Komol, Hon. Moses Aleper, Hon. Francis Adome, Hon. John Baptist Lokii, Hon. Peter Abrahams Lokii, Hon. Albert Lokoru, Hon. Philiphs Lokwang Ilukol, Hon. Stella Atyang, Hon. Margaret Aleper, Hon. Christine Tubo Nakwang, Hon. Hillary Lokwang, Hon. Sylvia Awas, Hon. Faith Nakut, Hon. Janet Okori-Moe, Hon. Ben Baatom Koryang, Hon. Mathias Mpuuga, the UPDF Representatives and all the Members.

For the record, I looked at our principals, members of the NRM Central Executive Committee (CEC) and then members of Karamoja Parliamentary Group – because I wanted them to go on record; it is very important. Then, the Whip of Justice Forum (JEEMA) party and then the rest of us – oh, my sister, honourable minister Anyakun, I am sorry. I have been with her at church. She stood up and, so, I want her to go on the record.

I just got the list for Karamoja. *(Members rose)* We also have the minister for ethics and all the ministers for Karamoja. I am sorry, honourable colleagues.

Rt. Hon Prime Minister, would you like to speak to your motion?

**MS NABBANJA:** Mr Speaker, this is my justification. On Monday, 23 July 2024, the country received the disheartening news of the passing on of Hon. Simon Peter Aleper, the NRM Vice-Chairperson Karamoja region through a tragic road accident at Bukoona, along the Iganga-Tirinyi Highway.

Hon. Simon Peter Aleper was a Member of Parliament for Moroto Municipality in the Ninth Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Hon. Simon Peter was born on 26 December 1974 to the late Mr Meri Lochap Peter and the late Mrs Martha Lomuge. He;

1. Completed Kasimeri Primary School in 1988.
2. Attended Moroto High School from 1989 to 1992, and attained Ordinary Level Certificate of Education.

3. Attended Cornerstone Leadership Academy from 1994 to 1996, and got an Advanced Level Certificate of Education.
4. Studied at Makerere University 1996 to 1999 and obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Political Science and Philosophy.
5. Studied at Kampala International University from 2017 to 2022 and completed a Bachelor of Legal Laws.
6. Was still a student at the Law Development Centre for the Bar course.

Mr Speaker, the late Hon. Aleper was a competent professional in handling social and technical work. He was able to work in the field under emergency conditions and in a multi-cultural environment. This is ably portrayed in his career below:

1. 2001-2002: District Peace Building Monitor and Secretary to the Small Arms Disarmament Programme in Karamoja
2. 2003-2004: Community Dialogue Officer for Karamoja
3. 2004-2006: Zonal Project Officer for Northern Uganda Youth Rehabilitation Project
4. 2008-2009: National United Nations Volunteer – District Coordinator for United Nations Development Programme

The late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper underwent various on-job trainings as shown below:

1. In 1999: Training of Trainers in Conflict Resolution and Conflict Management at the Centre for Conflict Resolution in Mbale;
2. In 2000: Training in Skills and Strategies for Conflict Transformation by the Centre for Conflict Resolution in Kampala;
3. In 2001: Training in Management and Planning improvement programme on Social Sector in Mbale;
4. In 2002: Training in capacity building of Community-Based Organisations on Finance and Reporting in Mbale;
5. In 2002: Training in Participatory Rural Approaches in Kampala;
6. In 2003: Training in HIV/AIDS awareness raising and counselling in Mbale; and

7. In 2003: Training in Famine and Early Warning Systems.

The Late Hon. Aleper carried out various short-term assignments as mentioned below;

1. Support personnel for Northern Uganda Reconciliation Programme. Carried out needs assessment and consultative stakeholder workshops in the entire northern region, under the Office of the Prime Minister.
2. Conducted research on pastoral network in the Great Horn of Africa.
3. Carried out a drought assessment in Karamoja under the supervision of the World Food Programme.
4. Coordinator Karamoja Education Support Trust (KEST), a Community-Based Organisation.

The late Hon. Aleper was a hard-working member of the NRM, who rose through the ranks:

1. 2016-2021 – NRM National Vice-Chairman for Karamoja;
2. 2011-2016 – Member of Parliament for Moroto Municipality;
3. 2011-2016 – District NRM Secretary for Publicity;
4. 2006 – Subcounty NRM General Secretary;
5. 2001 – NRM Coordinator for Youth in Teso, Karamoja and Kapchorwa.

Mr Speaker, I wish to extend my heartfelt sympathies and condolences to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda and the NRM Chairman, the family, friends and the entire Karamoja region upon this great loss of a first-rate politician.

May the soul of Hon. Simon Peter Aleper rest in eternal peace. Thank you. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. Leader of the Opposition?

2.55

**THE SHADOW MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS (Mr Joseph Ssewungu):**

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am representing the Leader of the Opposition, who is out in court because of some Members of Parliament from our side, who were arrested as they were accessing their office at the National Unity Platform Headquarters.

Mr Speaker, this is a statement in secondment of a motion for the resolution of Parliament to pay tribute to the late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper, the former Member of Parliament for Moroto Municipality.

Mr Speaker, I rise to second the motion to honour the memory of the late Hon. Simon. We are gathered here today in profound sorrow and deep respect to pay tribute to a colleague who has served in this Parliament and in other capacities. His leadership was tragically cut short in a devastating accident that claimed his life.

As we reflect on the impact of his contributions, we are also reminded of the significant loss that our nation has endured. This solemn occasion serves as a poignant reminder of the lasting legacy left by Hon. Simon Aleper.

Mr Speaker, his contribution to our country was not in doubt and his loss is deeply felt by all who knew him, especially the people of Karamoja region. However, how much longer must we witness our people dying due to accidents?

Mr Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to the issue of road accidents in Uganda. Alarming statistics have shown a persistent increase in fatalities and injuries. The annual performance report released by Ugandan Police Force for the year 2023 revealed a total of 23,608 road crashes, with 4,179 being fatal and 12,487 classified as serious crashes.

Additionally, the report indicates that more than half of all road crashes were caused by over-speeding. Uganda's roads have become increasingly perilous, with thousands of

lives lost each year due to road accidents, underscoring the need for comprehensive strategies beyond law enforcement.

Facts such as reckless driving, poor road conditions and inadequate vehicle maintenance contribute significantly to the high rate of accidents. Tackling these challenges necessitates the involvement of multiple stakeholders, including the Government agencies, private sector players and the general public.

Mr Speaker, we have repeatedly urged the Government to prioritise the development and maintenance of road infrastructure. Poorly designed and maintained roads significantly contribute to road accidents. Investing in better road networks, clear signage and effective traffic management systems can reduce accident rates.

Additionally, policies promoting road safety education and stringent vehicle inspection regulations are essential. The Government must work collaboratively with local authorities and communities to implement these measures effectively.

Mr Speaker, reports of our colleague's death indicate that he was involved in a head-on collision with a truck that crashed into his vehicle. Our highways should be dual carriageways, but many times the Government says that "we do not have adequate resources to build them." It is not true that resources are inadequate; funds are often misallocated and lost to corruption.

The money lost to graft could build dual carriageways on all highways. This is a call for the Government to combat corruption and honour the legacy of Hon. Aleper. The energy being invested in quelling peaceful protesters against corruption should, instead, be deployed to fight corruption such that we can have resources available to develop our country.

It is also imperative that we address the critical issues within our healthcare system. The unfortunate passing of not only Hon. Aleper



but many others could have been prevented if we had a functional healthcare system. Our hospitals are inadequate, lacking proper intensive care units, essential medical supplies and sufficient number of medical personnel. Without immediate action, we risk losing more lives of our citizens.

A few weeks ago, Mr Speaker, the Government made a disappointing choice of redirecting crucial funds from improving our struggling healthcare systems to support ROKO. This decision, which was made by the Government, demonstrates a lack of consideration for the well-being of Ugandan citizens who should depend on accessible and high-quality healthcare.

No wonder, Hon. Aleper had been giving out some handouts, such as basins to every mother who gave birth at the missionary hospital in Moroto and this is testimony to the ailing healthcare system.

Mr Speaker, during the Ninth Parliament in which Hon. Aleper served, this House passed a motion urging the Government to provide better funding and equipment for health facilities located along major highways to adequately handle emergencies, especially for road accident victims. However, the Government did not support the initiative - *(Interjection)* - Mr Speaker, I think you need to educate the Member on the proceedings of this Sitting –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** *(Member rose\_)* Honourable member, you know that you do not access the microphone without my permission. Secondly, I have sent you a note. Please, read it and take action.

**MR SSEWUNGU:** Mr Speaker, he was also in the Ninth Parliament. I do not know whether he has mastered the proceedings of this nature in Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Uganda is among the countries with a non-functioning ambulance system. If we had a functional ambulance system that could respond to emergencies in real time, many lives would be saved. We need to prioritise the lives of Ugandans.

I am saddened by the passing of Hon. Aleper, who was my classmate at Law Development Centre. May his soul rest in eternal peace and may we all find strength during this time. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family, the nation and the people of Karamoja.

Mr Speaker, as I conclude, we need to pay more attention to the issue of marking our roads. While driving at night – even in other countries where we have gone to, such as Tanzania and Rwanda, roads are marked. They paint them so that these drivers can clearly see where they are driving.

There is a former Member of Parliament here. She is a former treasurer of the National Resistance Movement and was also formerly our Democratic Party member. She survived an accident – and that is the key. What we have along our roads is that where there is reduced speed, the police are available. There are no road signs, but they arrest people.

Most of our highways are not painted; they are lacking markings. Whenever you ask Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA), they state that, that is the work of the Ministry of Works and Transport. When you go to the Ministry of Works and Transport, they refer you back to UNRA. As a result, people driving at night lose direction – overtaking each other.

Lastly, as I conclude, may I ask the Prime Minister – this House has on several occasions asked the Prime Minister to bring a Bill on how we bring Members of Parliament and some people who have passed on to Parliament so that we pay tribute to them. I would have loved to see Fr Lokodo coming here and I would have also wished for the late Matthew Bukonya to appear here. However, the Government, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, has failed to bring a law here for us to process so that we stop these arguments: why are they bringing Ssewungu and leaving his mother behind? Why are they bringing this one and they are not bringing the other person?

We need equity and the only remedy to this is by bringing that law to Parliament so that

we pass it and know how we bring such big people. I beg to move.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**MR SSEWUNGU:** The Prime Minister has heard my other issues, but she is more interested in the seconding. Mr Speaker, I beg to second. *(Laughter)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Ssewungu, the acting Leader of the Opposition. Honourable colleagues, I am going to open up – oh, the Dean of the Independents, representing the Independents: Hon. Patrick Nsanja?

3.06

**MR PATRICK NSANJA (Independent, Ntenjeru County South, Kayunga):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Once again, my name is Patrick Nsanja Kayongo, the Member of Parliament for Ntenjeru County South, Kayunga District. I am an Independent Member of Parliament and, for the record, we are 74 Independent Members of Parliament, including the Vice-President. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, this is my second term in Parliament and in the Ninth Parliament, I was Independent as well. I got the opportunity of closely interacting with the late. However, before I go into the details, let me take the opportunity to thank you, Sir, for organising this special session.

Yesterday, when Parliament was called off, there were some disregards from a few Members, little did we know that the office of the Speaker was getting involved in the preparation of this special session. We are grateful, as Members of Parliament. Also, what must be known here is that death is a fact of life. We are grateful, Mr Speaker. Thank you.

In times like this, a lot is lingering in our minds. Having interacted closely with the late, allow me to share two experiences – giving the background for the love I have for Karamoja subregion and the Karamojong people as a whole.

Mr Speaker, in the Ninth Parliament, we lost a colleague, the then Butaleja Woman Representative, Hon. Cerinah Nebanda. I was closely involved in the collection of signatures for the recall of Parliament because, then, it was in recess. I was with Hon. Kiwanda Suubi, the then Mityana North MP.

At the time we were trying to collect the signatures from the Karamoja subregion's Members of Parliament, I can tell you that it was a good reflection because they exhibited the spirit of togetherness, collectiveness and solidarity.

The other experience I can talk about is that when I joined Makerere University for my law degree, I met a Karamojong girl with whom I studied in the same class. *(Laughter)* Mr Speaker, we have kept the friendship from 2004 to date and our friendship is like this *-(Laughter)-* tight. I can confirm to you that I did not find any difficulty in building a concrete friendship with the late and that is why most of the Karamojong Members of Parliament here are, indeed, my good friends.

Mr Speaker - *(Interjections)* - yes, she is a friend and she is around town here. I would like to borrow the wording of the Rt Hon. Prime Minister while she was moving the motion. Somewhere on page 2, in her justification – I want to quote verbatim – she said: *“The late Hon. Aleper was a competent professional in handling social and technical work. He was able to work in the field under emergency conditions and in a multi-cultural environment and this is ably portrayed in his career...”* – giving the various departments where he worked and the positions he held.

Mr Speaker, I would like to make it known to the Members here because in our interactions with the late, he used to emphasise the issue of loyalty and respect, especially when we are in a multi-party system of governance. Even in the arguments we had, we were wondering why party members were not giving enough respect to the top leadership of their parties.

We were wondering about our generation, which does not respect elected leaders. We kept wondering why up to today, members of various political parties do not accord themselves respect, even in situations like this. Other than speaking politics all the time, we have got to respect each other and respect situations, especially when we are colleagues.

Mr Speaker, just yesterday but one, the Minister of Works and Transport, Gen. Katumba Wamala, was here, making a very genuine and humble appeal regarding reasonableness and patience by the road users for the contractors who are constructing our roads. He appealed to us to always be patient with the contractors – because this is very key.

We appropriate money here, it goes to the ministry and to the various contractors, but we are not patient especially when they are doing their work. So, the appeal was that it is always important for us to give them enough time as they do the construction because there must be valuable work that is exhibited on all roads.

Actually, there are three key factors that cause accidents, the first one being over-speeding and the second one being reckless driving. Now, you would sum it all up when somebody drives negligently because, then, you do not foresee and end up dying on the spot, as it is being indicated here in the motion. It was very, very unfortunate.

Lastly, I would like to urge Members of Parliament here, especially in situations like this, that it is important and required of us not to always not do politicking because when we are here, like we are paying tribute to the late, it is typically a fact of life. For instance, Mr Speaker, we needed to attend in big numbers in the House here to pay tribute to a colleague because Members of Parliament from Karamoja subregion have always been supportive –(*Applause*)- in all matters, including our deliberations here.

I would like to officially express my dismay. We needed to attend because Hon. Aleper was a serious and competent Member of Parliament.

I would like to thank those that have been able to attend this session. Thank you so much and may God bless you. (*Applause*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**MR NSANJA:** Mr Speaker, lastly, I would like to reiterate by borrowing the wording of our Prime Minister here, the Rt Hon. Nabbanja, by extending our “*heartfelt sympathies and condolences*”, first to the area Member of Parliament for Moroto Municipality, our brother, Hon. Francis Adome, the bereaved family, His Excellency Gen. (Rtd) Museveni – the chairman of NRM – friends and the entire Karamoja region upon the great loss of our brother here, whom we termed as “a first-rate politician”. The country has, indeed, lost a first-rate politician. It is very, very unfortunate. We will stand to remember his contribution. We will keep following his deeds and most importantly, we will keep him and the bereaved family in our prayers. Thank you, Mr Speaker. May his soul rest in eternal peace. I second the motion.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, for the Members who are going to contribute to the debate, I request you to control yourselves regarding time so that we can have as many colleagues as possible to speak. These were the official movers and seconders of the motion. So, the debate opens now. I will start with Hon. Francis Lorika, followed by Hon. Remigio Achia and Hon. Esther Anyakun.

3.17

**MR FRANCIS LORIKA (NRM, Moroto Municipality, Moroto):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to pay tribute to my former colleague and brother, the late Hon. “*ASPRO*.” We popularly called him “*ASPRO*”, but most of you know him as Hon. Aleper. I would also like to thank the President for according him an official burial. I thank all the colleagues present here today.

As you have already said, indeed, Karamoja is facing a very big loss; we have lost one of the top politicians from the subregion. Hon. Aleper

was very instrumental, especially when it came to issues to do with the region. I represent the people of Moroto Municipality, but I would like to assure you that we have been working closely and we had so many things that we shared, especially plans for the region.

Recently, as the National Planning Authority was moving around within Karamoja Subregion, Hon. Aleper was very instrumental in guiding them to come up with a 10-year development plan for the region. He called us for the meetings, we sat down, came up with whatever he wanted us to share with the NPA, and he contributed very strong points, which I believe will move Karamoja Subregion forward.

Above all, I thank the Government for recognising him, because indeed, he has done a lot and he has gone at a very bad time when we still needed him. He also fought hard for the peace that is being enjoyed now in Karamoja. He was very vocal.

He was a man who stood very firm when it came to issues of Karamoja. That is why he was also known as the “rock” (solid). That means if he stood, he wouldn’t hesitate in any way. He moved forward and ensured that he drove his point home. I am not going to say much, but I thank you colleagues once more for coming to pay tribute to him. I also plead that if you get an opportunity to come to Karamoja, please come along with us so that we can send him off peacefully. May his soul rest in peace. Thank you. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Just before Hon. Remigio Achia, let me first allow Her Excellency the Vice President.

3.20

**THE VICE PRESIDENT (Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Alupo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to extend my sincere condolences to the bereaved family of my uncle, Hon. Simon Peter Aleper. I extend my sincere condolences to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, who is the Chairman of NRM, and all the NRM leaders, colleagues, Members of Parliament, and all the people of Uganda.

I met Hon. Simon Aleper in the Ninth Parliament. I did not work with him closely in the committee, but I worked very closely with him here in the plenary, because incidentally, he was not by any chance in the same committee with me.

Mr Speaker, I stand here to state that Hon. Simon Peter Aleper was a very steadfast leader who stood for very clear and correct virtues and would always stand and speak clearly here in the House and outside without mincing words.

It was therefore very easy to work with him because he would always speak whatever was in his heart. He was a nationalist who believed that all the people of Uganda from the North, east, south, west, or central, if you would like to call it, were all supposed to benefit from Government programmes equally. Whenever he would stand to articulate issues in this House, he would not narrow down his arguments to Karamoja alone, but he would widen the arguments to benefit all the people of Uganda. He believed in the NRM principle of nationalism.

Mr Speaker, as a member of NRM, rising to serve at the level of Central Executive Committee (CEC) means that he was an accomplished NRM leader. As you may note, there was a time when we used to vote for them, and he would get almost 100 per cent across the country.

So, NRM, as a party, has lost a distinguished party member who would always stand to speak in light of the NRM programmes, in the radios, in the House here, and also while engaging the members of the community. The uncle lying here believed in democracy 100 per cent. In his belief of democracy, he knew that there are special interest groups in this country, and he detested discrimination based on tribe, religion, gender, age, etc.

Hon. Simon Aleper is one of the members of NRM who would always remind whoever would like to listen that Ugandans should pursue politics of interest as opposed to politics of biology. Mr Speaker, the few times I have

sat in CEC, he has always spoken out his mind and would want to solve problems through dialogue and constructive criticism without hiding anything.

As a member of the Ateker community, Mr Speaker, as you heard me call him uncle, Hon. Simon Peter Aleper always stood out to support cultural ceremonies and campaigned for the Ateker community to work together with other cultural groups across the country. He would always remind us that these cultures in diversity should be a unifying factor, but was also always quick to intervene to say that we should attract investors and tourists to the Ateker region, including Karamoja Subregion.

We will miss his input in our forthcoming ceremonies on the Karamoja Cultural day, the Teso Cultural day, and most importantly, the biggest ceremony that we are going to host for the first time, where we had hoped we were going to tap into his rich experience in organising cultural ceremonies.

Mr Speaker, Hon. Simon Peter Aleper detested corruption in the strongest terms possible. He spoke against it in all fora and I think this House has a leaf to borrow from the strong stance that he took against corruption. *(Applause)*

I personally do not have the details on issues surrounding the accident; it is not very easy for me to delve into discussing issues surrounding that accident but we all heard that it was a head-on collision. We expect the police and the Ministry of Works and Transport to be working at getting a clear statement for all of us.

However, on road carnage, I would like to call upon all of us to be conscious and do our part because the police will tell you that it is either due human error or that it is the road. In this case, Mr Speaker, the road between Iganga and Tirinyi is smooth; this case may have been another error.

I know that some parts of the road are sometimes being widened in order to minimise the black spots. Maybe the Rt Hon. Prime Minister would like to come here with a statement on how far

the Government is taking steps in addressing those black spots.

Largely, I call upon all of us to pay attention and play our part to address road carnage. As national leaders, we have a greater input in curbing road carnage.

I thank the President for according the late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper an official burial. To answer Hon. Ssewungu's question, the Cabinet has already discussed the Bill that you were talking about. It is now in the First Parliamentary Council and will subsequently be presented by the Rt Hon. Prime Minister when it is ready.

You raised health care and other general issues. The Government will look into all of them because they are for our good.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity and I want to wish my uncle – may he rest in peace and may God sustain the bereaved. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, your Excellency the Vice President. Hon. Achia - Colleagues, I had already picked -

3.29

**MR REMIGIO ACHIA (NRM, Pian County, Nabilatuk):** Mr Speaker, I would also like to thank, first of all, your office. Colleagues, when we, Members of Parliament, heard about the accident, the first call -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, even in a special sitting, you must adhere to the dress code of this House. Please check yourselves. If you know you are not okay, do the necessary. Continue, Hon. Achia.

**MR ACHIA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thought this was a special sitting where you can allow us to relax a bit. *(Laughter)* Anyway, we are grieving.

When information filtered through the night about this unfortunate incident, the first call was to the Speaker of Parliament. I want to thank our Rt Hon. Speaker for responding to us as Members of Parliament.

She woke up in the middle of the night to get in touch with A-Plus Funeral Services, together with Captain Mike Mukula. They were able to pick the body from Iganga, have it treated, and brought to Mulago Hospital. Mr Speaker, we want to thank the Speaker and your office for that response. *(Applause)*

Secondly, I would like to thank the Central Executive Committee and the President for being in touch throughout this terrible time and quickly deciding that at his level of a member of the Central Executive Committee, he should be accorded an official burial.

I would like to correct the write-up of my brother, Hon. Ssewungu. Most of you know Tirinyi Road from that corner called Bukoona. Hon. Aleper was knocked at around 1.00 a.m. on a straight road. Before reaching where he was knocked, there are humps. He was coming from Mbale to Kampala, just 6.3 kilometres before joining the Iganga-Bugiri-Tororo Highway.

In addition, it was not a head-on collision. Up to now, the front of the car – which is at Iganga Police – is intact. It seems to me – because if it had been a knock on the side and if it was a car in motion, it would have overturned. It seems to me that Hon. Aleper had foreseen a trailer coming and moved onto the side of the road. However, the oncoming trailer – we imagine it was a trailer because of the knock on his door. He was the one driving and the tyre marks are on the side of the door up to today.

That trailer, or whatever it was, was very big because the tyre marks reached the window level of a Toyota Land Cruiser V8, and the side of the car bore blue and yellow paint marks. The car did not overturn. It knocked him on the side and he died on the spot. Hon. Ssewungu, please tell your Leader of the Opposition to correct this write-up. It is not true.

We are mourning. It is now 72 hours later but we have not received a report on the whereabouts of the killer truck. We have been told that it is unknown and it seems to me that it is going to be like what happened to late Hon. Okabe.

We want to hear from the Government how far the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the police and the CIID have gone with the investigations to apprehend the killer truck. In the circumstances, even at the entrance to Tirinyi Highway, there are cameras at that corner and along that road. How come, up to this moment, the people of Karamoja have not been told the whereabouts of the killer truck? Please, we need that statement from the Government.

At the level of Hon. Aleper, a member of the Central Executive Committee, up to now, we do not even know whether there is a specialised unit of Police following up on this truck. We have not got any information – at least we, Members of the Parliament, the Chairman of Karamoja Parliamentary Group, and the family have not got any information about the killer truck.

The longer it takes, the more it will give people room to start suspicious talk. Please quickly give us the report on this. Get information from the cameras – whichever camera is working – and give us the report.

Mr Speaker, Karamoja has lost a voice. When Hon. Aleper joined campus in 1996, or even before that, in 1994 – Actually after finishing Moroto High School, he did not have anybody to pay his school fees. We would like to thank the people of Cornerstone Academy in Luwero; they are the ones who picked him. When he went there, he performed very well and joined Makerere University. When he finished Makerere University, he joined a cadet course. He was actually in Jinja as a cadet officer. At some point, he decided to come out and pursue active politics. He was not chased.

Hon. Aleper was a counsellor who preferred dialogue. He would logically walk you through a matter, maybe because of his background of doing political science and philosophy. He always wanted to develop consensus.

He did a lot in the region. When we were in this Parliament, he was the publicity secretary for the Karamoja Parliamentary Group while I was the secretary and Hon. Sam Lokeris was the chairperson. We did a lot here.

How would Hon. Aleper like this country to remember him? Hon. Aleper was passionate about integrity. He was passionate about changing Karamoja. When he finished Makerere University, together with a few of his friends, they formed what we call the Forum for the Advancement and Transformation of Karamoja. Security told them, "Please go down on that. Are you trying to secede?" They talked them down.

Recently, he formed Karamoja Professional Association which has been active. Mr Speaker, they came to you on the issue of Karamoja Development Agency (KDA) saying, please do not remove KDA. Mr Speaker, you actually have a write-up on his ideas on why KDA should not be relieved from the law books. His passion was to transform Karamoja.

As the Rt Hon. Prime Minister said, he participated, as the - The recent reason as to why he was in Moroto was to negotiate for land for a cement factory and he succeeded. As we talk, the documents which are at the police station in Iganga are the documents that he was bringing to be signed. He had negotiated for 500 acres for a new cement factory and the documents are there. He had - (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**MR ACHIA:** The community in Karamoja -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable member, conclude.

**MR ACHIA:** The community in Karamoja signed those documents. As young people, since we worked with him every time, he was determined that we must transform Karamoja. We must work to change Karamoja. We must benefit from the minerals; the 50 commercial minerals there and change the region.

Lastly, I want to pray to the gallant NRM party. Hon. Aleper was passionate about his children. Two weeks ago, we were discussing how his son from Seeta, who is to sit exams there, would join my children who are in the United

States to study engineering because he wants to do engineering. He wanted to take most of his children for further studies.

If there is anything we can do for that family - Remember he was an orphan and his wife is also an orphan so, if there is anything we can do, it is to see that his children get education. (*Applause*) Honourable colleagues, if we can get Shs 200,000 per person, it will never go to waste. His wife is left with those children with a job as a Community Development Officer at the district. What can she do?

Your Excellency the Vice-President, the Rt Hon. Prime Minister, if there is anything that can be done, as a gallant party of NRM that loves Karamoja, and Karamoja loves this country and loves this party, please do something about creating a fund for the education of those children. All of us will be happy. Thank you. (*Applause*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Anyakun and then the honourable minister for Karamoja -

3.39

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS) (Ms Esther Anyakun):** Mr Speaker, I want to thank you for taking us through this day today. In a special way, I want to thank the Rt Hon. Speaker because when I got a call about the death of my brother, I called her and she immediately put Mike Mukula on a conference call together with A-plus and we all coordinated how to bring the body back home.

Mr Speaker, Hon. Aleper was a real dad. Hon. Aleper was a husband. When he got his wife, she had not yet completed her schooling but he did not get another one who was educated. He decided to take the one he had gotten back to school. (*Applause*) Hon. Aleper remained with the children he had; six children.

With his height and handsomeness, he did not have "stray bullets". All the children are

with his wife. That is respect for the family. Honourable colleagues, I am praising a person I have grown up knowing. What I am trying to bring here is that he was a responsible husband.

He had given his life to Uganda, the NRM party, and Karamoja. We, the people of Karamoja, consider Hon. Aleper a hero. The vacuum he has created is unrecoverable and nobody has the zeal that Hon. Aleper had, especially for the region and the party. Therefore, I want to thank His Excellency the President for according him an official burial. As the people of Karamoja, we are so delighted.

In a special way, I want to thank the CEC members. You have been there from day one dedicated, sitting with us at home and everywhere. We have realised how you loved our brother. The Members of Parliament from Karamoja and the committees, both from Karamoja and the ones in Kampala, we thank you, as a region.

Mr Speaker, Hon. Aleper has left a footprint that we can never forget. He was a leader who would speak a word the way it was. What made him speak like that was the environment; Karimojong speak words the way they are. They are very straightforward and honest people.

When he was in Parliament, I remember one day he called me and took me to his new home that he was building in the village. He did not prefer having a home in Kampala but thought of having a home first in Karamoja. That is what we call transformation. We want people who are developing their homes.

Hon. Aleper was an exemplary leader. Honourable colleagues, I want to tell you something. I went with Hon. Aleper to the same high school. When I was in senior one, he was in senior four, but you could see how he was struggling to go to school. We all struggled. We missed bullets. That is why we will forever vote for the NRM party because we no longer see those bullets in the region. *(Applause)* The few criminals there are, are everywhere. Even in Kampala, they are there

but in Karamoja, he knew what NRM did and that is why he dedicated his time to the party; because he went through thick and thin when he was growing up. He has left a legacy.

Hon. Aleper was a charismatic leader. He talked to us when we joined the Parliament saying, "Make sure you speak for the region". Today, we were seeing on the screen - every minute, he spoke about the region. Whatever transformation we have, whether it is a road or a hospital, he contributed and we shall always thank him for that.

Honourable colleagues, when Hon. Aleper died, I did not know who to call because he had no brother. He was a dependable husband. He had no sister that any of us could call to come in. This is the family. He has left them in a blank space. That is why you see my brother, Hon. Remigio trying to ask how the Government can help us to take care of the children. We know our able leader; the President, could be watching what is happening now. These children can be included in the State House scholarships. The rest can wait.

There is a quote I want to say by Brodi Ashton, "*Heroes are made by the path they choose, not the powers they are graced with*". I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

3.45

**THE MINISTER, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (KARAMOJA AFFAIRS) (Mr Peter Lokeris):** Mr Speaker, this week has been dark for Karamoja. You will see most of us not even talking, just pondering what next. The honourable lying there - I knew his parents and he grew up with my children. They used to come to my home and even when they came to university, he was studying with Godfrey Teko Lokeris, a magistrate.

All the time they were on leave, they would come there and I was watching what type of person he was. Whenever there was a problem, they would say, "Daddy, we are thinking of this and what is your opinion about it?" Struggling to talk about Karamoja.



I would advise them to take this path and not go and terrorise the people. Just speak normally and there will be people who will be at your side to talk about Karamoja and of course, the region. You know, with us who have been ministers, it is not easy even to say, we are coming out to say we want this. No, but we tell them to speak. With us who have been in the ministries, you speak on the side of your ministry, but this man was particular.

Imagine, when I was appointed to go to the docket of Karamoja, they all came, including Hon. Remigio. We were designing what we could do to make sure the place is completely peaceful. I told them, join me. We were moving to the ground. I have already addressed people in towns and should now go to the bush. I have already gone somewhere and I met groups in Kotido, Matheniko. We said we must talk to these people who are disturbing people and get the children out.

Why? Then he came and we looked at the plan they had made. It was very nice. It would come to Cabinet and Parliament, on how to develop Karamoja. Then, this time, we were lucky that some investors came there and said they wanted to construct cement factories. He was among the negotiators, and negotiated for one in Nadunget. We have finished the one which is being constructed.

They were now negotiating for another one to be built in Katikikili. He was now having protracted talks with the Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) and the investors. They finished last week and he was all the time sending information to me. Look at this, what do you think about this? I would also reply and say, maybe it should be like this and we would discuss it.

The day when he met his death, he rang me at 6.00 p.m. and said, "Sir, I have finished with these people and we have agreed." He sent me a text. I asked, when are you coming? He said, "I am coming tomorrow." Little did I know that he had started the journey at night because it was already late.

I went to sleep, waiting for them to come so that we go and sign, but what did I hear in the morning? Somebody told me, "Sir, it looks like 'ASPRO' - that is his pet name - "has had an accident." I said, is he hurt? He said, "It looks like he has even died." What? Died! That was bad news for me.

I said, let us go. We were now travelling to the office and when I went there, I found the Right Honourable Prime Minister had already known, everybody had known. People were running around in disarray to try to find a way of making arrangements to bring the body here. They said the body was already on the way and I said, that is very good.

We had a meeting in the office and I found the Right Honourable sharing. I told her, excuse me, I cannot attend this meeting because I could not hear what was being spoken and then I left. That is how the news came.

Thinking of a person you knew from childhood up to now, what he has been saying about Parliament, the man was good-hearted and consultative every time. That is what I liked about him. He is now here lying when we had expected he had now reached maturity and would be advising us but that is how nature is.

All of us here; one by one, one time we shall not be here. Where are those who were here before? They have gone. The only thing we ask God is, take us slowly but I know we shall go. For people like us, I am not of your age, as you look at me like this. That is why I call him my son yet he is an honourable.

I have been here for some time and I have also worked for the Government before. For sure it is good manners to behave well and be dexterous with what you are dealing with. I want to repeat by appealing to the House and those who are hearing, especially His Excellency. When I went to talk to these children, I looked at them and told them, "Do not mind because people die. Do not commit suicide, God will come to your side."

What I was thinking about was their education. We have been assisting these youngpeople but these are the children who have been brought to the earth. He has gone, and has left the children in our hands. I am very confident, as a Government, that we shall handle the issues of these children's education.

I even used to tell him and my son, who is his friend, that, "I came from a bush looking after cows, and I came to study. Education has shaped me. I do not drive but I sit behind, and the cars are going by themselves." (*Laughter*) "If you also study, you will be like me. You go ahead and work very hard. There is nothing difficult." That is what I tell everybody when I meet them - (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable minister. Time is up. I will pick Hon. Basalirwa - I just want to see a way of balancing. Hon. Santa Alum, Hon. Gilbert - Hon. Bwanika, I am going to pick you in the next phase. Hon. Susan Amero, Hon. Huda Oleru, and Hon. Robert Rukaari. Then I will do another round. Hon. Nambozo Florence -

Give me a chance to first run through the Karamoja group and then I come back. Let us be conscious of time.

Honourable colleagues, in the VIP gallery we have our very own colleagues, Hon. Mike Kennedy Sebalu and Hon. Robert Kibirige Ssebunya, former Members of Parliament. Thank you. Hon. Basalirwa -

3.54

**MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri):** Mr Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity and I want to join colleagues in paying tribute to the late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper. Specifically, Mr Speaker, on behalf of political party leaders and on behalf of my comrade, fellow party leader, Gen. Museveni, allow me to express my deepest condolences to him and the NRM, but also the country upon the loss of our colleague.

The Leader of the Opposition, in his remarks, did mention about accidents. The Vice-

President has said, up to now, we are not so sure about the exact cause of the accident. Mr Speaker, each time we have road accidents, the conclusions are basically reckless driving, over-speeding, bad roads and the like.

There is an angle that I want to invite this House to pay some attention to, and that relates to the issue of counterfeits: counterfeit tyres, counterfeit spare parts, counterfeit oils that we use, counterfeit bitumen and the counterfeit equipment that we use in infrastructure. These are aspects that have contributed immensely to the causes of road accidents that are being ignored, especially in the processes of investigation by Uganda Police Force.

As we remember and eulogise our brother, I invite the Government and Parliament to take a very keen interest in the impact of counterfeit and the relationship or connection between counterfeit and increasing cases of road accidents in this country. I am glad that Parliament is yet to consider a law on counterfeit and I hope, when that time comes, we will have the opportunity to address this matter extensively. I thank you and may our colleague's soul rest in eternal peace.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Olanya, then Santa.

3.58

**MR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak South County, Amuru):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the Government for according to our colleague a state burial. I was with Hon. Simon Aleper in the Ninth Parliament. I was thinking of the year that we joined Parliament in 2011. Hon. Aleper was a very straightforward man. I recall in 2013 when the list of Cabinet ministers was released, Hon. Aleper called a press conference and asked the Government and I quote, "National Resistance Movement (NRM), normally talks of sharing the cake. Where is it written that a Karimojong must not be appointed a Cabinet minister"?

Mr Speaker, that statement alone changed the look of the Government towards the people of Karamoja and true, there was no

Karimojong in the Cabinet at that time. That is why Hon. Aleper was very bold and serious - *(Interjection)* - in the Cabinet. Hon. Aleper was -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, do you mean a full minister?

**MR OLANYA:** Yes, a Cabinet minister.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** All ministers are members of the Cabinet, for the record.

**MR OLANYA:** On that note, we can talk of a full minister.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**MR OLANYA:** Mr Speaker, Hon. Aleper was very bold and he liked his region. He used to talk very positively about Karamoja.

To the family; his dear wife and children, the book of Psalms 34:18 reads, "*The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit*". The Bible also says, "*If we live, we live for the Lord and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.*" (Romans 14:8) I pray for the family to take heart. To the children, your father has gone but he is with the Lord. The Bible says that there is time for everything. In this world, all of us shall follow the same path. Hon. Aleper, my comrade, rest in peace. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Alum - I will finish the whips and then we continue with the political party whips.

4.01

**MS SANTA ALUM (UPC, Woman Representative, Oyam):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to pay tribute to the late Hon. Aleper Simon, the person I served with in the Ninth Parliament. I thank the Government for giving Hon. Aleper an official and befitting ceremony.

Mr Speaker, if there is one thing which defines who Hon. Aleper was, it is dedication; a man

who was dedicated to the family, to the people of Karamoja, to this Parliament and to culture.

When we were in the Ninth Parliament, one thing that I remember very well is his mobilisation towards issues affecting the people of Karamoja. He would come to you very humbly, requesting your support in case something is affecting the people that he represented.

Secondly, I urge those in authority. It is good we have the Vice President and the Prime Minister here. You are the people with authority. This fallen man fought so hard for the disadvantaged subregion. It is my humble prayer that you hear the voices coming from here, that he has left behind a very young family; a young widow and orphans. The Government has enough space to look after this family. May his soul rest in eternal peace. Fare thee well, honourable.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Peter Okot, Democratic Party (DP) Whip.

4.03

**MR PETER OKOT (DP, Tochi County, Omoro):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I join colleagues in paying tribute to our fallen colleague, Hon. Aleper.

I met Aleper three times. The first time was in the 2008 during a programme review for the Karamoja Integrated Disarmament Development Programme. The second time I met him in Moroto was when we were on a panel, during a recruitment exercise for an officer to oversee Karamoja under the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA).

When I hear people speaking about Hon. Aleper and mentioning his integrity, it was his niche for integrity that helped us to zero down on a candidate. We had a stalemate when two people scored the same mark and we had no idea how to separate the two and make one win. It was Aleper who advised us that, let us get back to the way each of these candidates was answering questions. And he did say that one of the candidates was straightforward. For what he did not know, he would say clearly, "I

don't know this" and he advised that, that was a sign of integrity and the job was given to that person.

The third time I met him was this year when he appeared with the Karamoja professionals before the Committee on Presidential Affairs putting their case that KDA should not be disbanded. So, when I hear people talk about how much he fought for the development of Karamoja and how much he advocated for Karamoja, I agree and for sure, Karamoja and the country have lost. May his soul rest in eternal peace. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) "Katonga" Whip, Hon. Ssemujju. *(Laughter)*

4.06

**MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso):** Mr Speaker, because you were formerly in FDC, you understand the FDC things. *(Laughter)*

Hon. Aleper found me in Makerere; he came in 1996 and I had joined a year earlier. He was one of those noisy boys from Karamoja. Hon. Oceru stood for Guild president and was very active. I hope Hon. Baka Mugabi recalls, we have grown.

One of the sad things that have happened to our generation is that we thought that by this time – I am 52 years old this year - maybe one of us would be the president but old people are not giving way. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, the National Bureau of Statistics, about a year ago, released a report they called a Multi-Dimensional Poverty Report, which defined poverty in a broader way, including looking at education and access to health and Karamoja became number one. Multidimensional poverty in Karamoja is at 82 per cent followed by Acholi. I do not know whether that is the reason that colleagues were thanking the National Resistance Movement (NRM), but that is what the National Bureau of Statistics said; 82 per cent of people in Karamoja are suffering from multidimensional poverty.

When they are sick, they cannot go to the hospital, they resort to nature; that is in the report. So, one of the things that I always teased Hon. Aleper about was their love for the NRM that has kept multidimensional poverty in Karamoja at 82 per cent.

One time - *(Interjection)* - this is a Government report, you can access it even on the internet, Hon. Lokeris. One time, the Members of Parliament in the Ninth Parliament, including Hon. Aleper, addressed a press conference at Hotel Africana and said that the worst thing that had happened to Karamoja was the appointment of Mr Museveni's wife as a Minister for Karamoja.

Those of you who were in that Parliament and from Karamoja can bear me witness. The following day, they came here to the Members' Lounge – the same people who had been at Hotel Africana - and said that the best thing that happened to Karamoja was the appointment of *Mama Janet* as a Minister for Karamoja and my brother was one of them.

I am not accusing, but only looking for answers. Maybe Hon. Lokeris who has been here for two and a half decades now can explain. What is it that endears you to NRM that has kept you – You can see how colleagues are thankful that the President has given Hon. Aleper a state funeral.

I told you last time when we were mourning a person here that, that is one of the things that he gives equitably; a state funeral. He can pick around from Karamoja, Buganda and – We should be thanking the President for giving people jobs and not a state funeral. This young man did not want to die and you are now crying that his children have remained vulnerable. You should be thanking the President for his education policies that can make children go to school, not for dishing out hand-outs, state funerals and you are a Parliament.

Therefore, as I mourn my friend – I have told you that we met when we were young people. I would like to ask and I am happy that the senior leaders of NRM, by virtue of

their appointments because most of the senior leaders were chased.

I appeal to you, when you come here, to speak about policies for everybody. If we are crying for the children of a former Member of Parliament, what about the ordinary person? You are not sure of the education of the children of a former MP after his tragic passing and we are a Parliament of Uganda?

I remember my brother, Hon. Aleper, was very noisy. Those of you who were with us at the university can testify. When we die and you have been an MP and you cannot be sure that your children will continue with education, then people say that we thank the President, thank NRM, what are you thanking them for? For the state funeral? We need to get serious. We are a legislature, a national assembly – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Ssemujju. Hon. Amero –

4.12

**MS SUSAN AMERO (Independent, Woman Representative, Amuria):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. I rise to pay tribute to my colleague, the late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper. I am privileged to have joined the Ninth Parliament together with him. One thing I know about the person lying before us here is that he was very smart, eloquent and consistent in everything he said.

Hon. Aleper was a nationalist. Today, I see the way things are moving in this country, even in this House and at the time when he passed on in that accident. Maybe things would be different in this House. The other day I listened to the list of the leaders of committees being presented in this House, maybe there would have been a change if he had made it to reach the Central Executive Committee (CEC) and attended that meeting.

The national cake is not equal and the way the appointments are being done is not balanced. In this whole House, when you look at the regions; northern, eastern and central, we have

fewer MPs than the western region. However, even then, when it comes to leadership in this House, we have very few seats because some regions have been ignored. If Hon. Aleper had made it to that CEC meeting, maybe one or two more would have also been named from our regions.

I rose on the Floor over the issue of roads in this country. I talked about the markings; it is very difficult to drive at night when the roads are not clearly marked. I do not know how much it takes to buy the reflector paint that is supposed to be put on these roads.

Maybe it could have been a problem because you cannot know where you are supposed to end when you are driving when there are no demarcations on the road. We need to stand up to this. The paint is not very expensive. I said that here and the minister said, “We do not have money.” Why should we think about money even for smaller things? What are our priorities for this country?

Mr Speaker, cases have come up on issues like accidents and we have put a lot of money from this House to buy cameras but they cannot give you good pictures to recognise what is happening. What is happening in this country? The type of pictures that come out of these cameras are below standard. Some cameras have been planted where there is no power. I do not know whether they are working or they are dummies. This House needs to do an audit on the cameras that are on our roads.

I sympathise with the family for losing a breadwinner but we cannot plan death; we cannot even know when it happens. I want to pray that the good Lord keeps you, protects you and guides you. This is not the end.

I personally became an orphan at the age of 10 years. You can make it. Stand strong, be firm and just be good as your father was. Nobody will ignore you. We shall look up to you. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Huda Oleru, Hon. Rukaari and Hon. Gidudu.

4.16

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE (VETERAN AFFAIRS) (Ms Huda Oleru):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. Many people knew Hon. Aleper as a father, a husband, a brother and an uncle. But, additionally, I also knew Hon. Aleper as former Member of this House and a member of Central Executive Committee (CEC) of the mighty party, NRM where I have been with him for now more than seven years.

In the Ninth Parliament, we were with Hon. Aleper but because we were not in the same committee, I did not have so much time to interact with him apart from sharing whenever he was contributing in this House.

However, when Hon. Aleper joined the Central Executive Committee (CEC), we have been together doing so many things that gave me the opportunity to know and understand him more. He was a lover of democracy, multi-partism and party discipline. For example, in 2016 when we went for party primary elections, Hon. Aleper contested and lost with just 28 votes. He said, "This is my party, I am not going to contest as an independent." Most of us, after losing, decided to go against our party and chose to contest as independents. He did not do that. That showed how he loved NRM, the party he belonged to. And indeed he had so many justifications as to why he loved NRM.

Therefore, today, if Members are here thanking the Commander-in-Chief, the chairman of the NRM party, and President of the Republic of Uganda for according to the late Hon. Aleper an official burial, for the peace and security created in the Karamoja sub-region, they are right. Mr Speaker, those of you who have not experienced or who have just experienced a bit of insecurity can take it lightly and just joke.

However, those of us who grew up in other countries as refugees, who have lived in this country as internally displaced persons (IDPs) - whoever you are in this country, you can stand up and thank President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for creating peace in this country. There can be no development without peace

and security. That is a cardinal role that Ugandans must look at and that is what the late Hon. Aleper based himself on whenever he was contributing to this country.

Mr Speaker, Hon. Aleper was a team worker, a consensus builder, an influencer. When he started talking, you ended up accepting everything that he said because he knew how to influence and bring you on board. One day we were going to Kyankwanzi – NALI, for a retreat. He started talking and because we left here late in the evening, we realised when we had already reached Fort Portal. We forgot that we were going to Kyankwazi and it seemed a short distance for us because everything that he said, we would pay attention. We had to make a U-turn and then start our journey to Kyankwanzi. That is the man we are mourning here today.

As a team builder, he decided to make CEC a think tank. We have a group called "undeployed" and whenever we go to CEC, that team first sits, consults amongst themselves and sees how they will contribute in CEC - some of the members are here.

Indeed, that is why, late that evening, Hon. Aleper decided to drive himself - because there was a way we wanted to contribute in this last CEC, which we did not. We were all saddened to hear the news. We couldn't speak.

That showed commitment and patriotism. Leaving Moroto at that time to come and sit in a meeting! It is the heart you have for your country; when you do not have it, you will not do that. *(Applause)* This is the man who is here.

The late Hon. Aleper was very open-minded, independent, and consistent and when he was speaking, he would say it as it is. He would not call a spade a big spoon or a spoon a big spade. If it is a spade, it is a spade.

In CEC meetings, where we would get confused, he would give us wisdom and advice. He would direct on how the discussions should move. This is the man that we are paying tribute to. He has died at a time when we wanted him more.

When issues of corruption are overwhelming this country – Hon. Aleper had called our group and said, “Members, the think tank forum of 9 plus 2, can we sit, discuss and chat a way forward?” Mr Speaker, I don’t know - It is unfortunate for the country and for members of the NRM.

Within this term, we have now lost two people. Immediately after elections were organised, our group recruited the late Rt Hon. Speaker Jacob Oulanyah into our group. We had just held about two or three meetings and lost him.

The late Hon. Aleper has been giving us guidance. Now he has gone but what I want to tell Members and the family that we are not going to let the legacy of Hon. Aleper just disappear. *(Applause)* We shall organise ourselves and take the bull by its horns, the way he has been doing it.

Hon. Aleper, our brother, our guide, the one who has been putting things right in the CEC, the one who was trying to mobilise and give direction to NRM, the one who would discuss face-to-face with the chairman of the party, the one at the last meeting when we had informed CEC that the elders of Karamoja have given 200 acres for the Commander-in-Chief, for the President and the Chairman of the party to put a demonstration farm in Karamoja - which Rt Hon. Speaker should follow up because those were his last words. He had said the land was already there and that the elders accepted that we put a model farm in Karamoja.

I think we should take it from there and do it for his legacy. My brother, rest in peace. For God and my Country.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Rukaari

4.26

**MR ROBERT RUKAARI (NRM, Mbarara North Division, Mbarara City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have known Hon. Simon for almost 10 years. For those of us who were in church today, we were reminded that we have a rehearsal for death every night; that when you sleep, you are dead. You are lucky when you

wake up. We also know that death is certain. What is uncertain is when you will die.

Hon. Simon - I do not want to repeat myself - was a good person in caucusing. Hon. Remigio was asking about the fund. Tomorrow, the NRM will announce a fund for the children because we have already passed it and some of our Members have already contributed. *(Applause)* Maybe, we shall ask the Executive through the caucus chairperson to mobilise Members from here. Tomorrow, it shall be announced officially by the National NRM Chairman.

When you talk about Hon. Aleper - I see our honourable colleagues here who are always with him and me. He did not have to announce himself that he was around because he was not a small man. He was a giant, he had a description in terms of his attire and when you engaged him, you would know who Hon. Simon was.

I am a bit constrained to say that Hon. Simon was humble; maybe a bit civil but when it came to Karamoja issues, the humility in Hon. Aleper would be put aside. We have seen it. Our honourable colleagues who are here, I remember in 2019, during the December CEC meeting, we had an urgent meeting; a short time with our national chairman. He informed us that there was no other business but when the main business was over, Hon. Aleper stood up.

The chairman said, “No, we had already agreed on the agenda”. Hon. Aleper stood up, picked up the microphone, and mentioned one thing, which I will repeat. He said, “Mr President, the LC III Chairman of Moroto has been murdered” and we all sat back and listened to the Karamoja story. No wonder the deployment - the Karamojong representation here - the deployment of UPDF and police was single-handedly pushed through the Executive by none other than Hon. Simon Aleper. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, we can only emulate his good qualities of telling the truth. When Hon. Aleper picked up the microphone, some of us would wait for what was next because of his character. He would talk about going this side and push

you to the other side on principle and in most cases, he was right. May his soul rest in peace. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Gidudu -

4.30

**MR DOMINIC GIDUDU (NRM, Older Persons Representative, Eastern):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to convey condolences to all fellow CEC members up there and our NRM party.

Hon. Aleper was a unique and rare character. He was the age of what I would say my son, and always called me “*Mzee*” whenever we met. He had that intergenerational interaction and he was co-opted in the CEC caucus, where I was - if you took the range of age, I beat them with over 20 to 25 years. We had very good interactions so that whenever we met, we would work out what to do.

About two weeks ago, I talked to Hon. Aleper. I wanted to visit my elders in Karamoja because I am a CEC member for elders and we had agreed that in August, I would be going there. This morning, when I heard this very sad news, it hit me as if it was a storm. I must tell you, this is a very sad day for CEC as the top organ, for all our districts especially those in Karamoja because he was the Vice Chairman, Karamoja Region.

The first time I saw Hon. Aleper, he was dressed uniquely. I asked who he was and they told me that is a Karimojong. I had never seen a Karimojong dressed that way. He respected culture and he looked smart in it.

Hon. Aleper fought for his people and all Ugandans. He was a good mobiliser and very forceful in his interactions. He eloquently pushed his points. For us who had an opportunity to work with him, we enjoyed those moments.

Of course, I must convey condolences to the family, his clan, the people of Karamoja and Uganda as a whole.

Mr Speaker, I must thank you for quickly finding time as much as we were in session to bring us together to speak about the life of this wonderful son of Uganda. Many of you have appealed and definitely, there are going to be responses. Of course, as you realise, every Government has an Opposition and has a leader - and to be a leader is not by chance; you must work for it.

The President has worked for it. Therefore, I send condolences to him, the Vice Chairman of the party upon the loss of one of our gallant sons. Finally, I pray Hon. Aleper rests in peace wherever he is now. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Minister of State for Karamoja, followed by Hon. Rose Lilly Akello, Minister for Ethics, followed by Hon. Lokii John Baptist. Colleagues, I am going to do a round in the Karamoja group first, then I pick from the former colleagues we had in the House. The Karamoja in laws will wait a bit.

4.35

**THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (KARAMOJA AFFAIRS) (Ms Florence Nambozo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to join my colleagues in eulogising a friend, a remarkable visionary, a trailblazer, a beacon of hope, full of compassion, with a spirit of wisdom, a strategic thinker and a man of integrity.

I met my brother in Kisozi, where the President had invited the Cabinet for a retreat, we spoke about the issues of Karamoja. No wonder, we have colleagues who still speak very ill against Karamoja. I can only stand here to sympathise with you because I think there is a corruption of integrity among some colleagues. When I spoke to the late, we were dispelling the narratives against Karamoja. When people still say “We are waiting for Karamoja to develop;” they will be waiting for Christ to return.

It is very sad, Mr Speaker, for a colleague to rise to eulogise a fallen hero but find space to discredit and disrespect a leader. It is very unfortunate. We, Members of Parliament, who



are in the first, and second term - look at some of the Members who have stayed here for some time as our seniors. However, one of the things they may want us to learn from them is to discredit and disrespect leaders. I think we are a little adamant; we are not about to speak and leave it on the *Hansard*, especially to abuse our President.

It is very unparliamentary, honourable colleagues. Whatever it is, we need to respect our leader. He is elected by the people of Uganda. Whether you want it or not, he is elected. The Bible says, "Leadership comes from God." Therefore, the election of God cannot be contested by us here. However powerful you think you are, you cannot contest God.

To the family, the Bible says in Psalm 68:5 that God is the father of the fatherless and the protector of the widows. All these words that people have spoken here and elsewhere, will culminate into a star and God will bring up destiny helpers. Children will grow; the widow will live. We, the leaders of Karamoja, will protect the widow to ensure that injustices are not made around her.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, the Bible still says in Psalm 61:2, "*From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*" How I pray that we seek solace in the Lord, because besides the family, people of Karamoja, and colleagues in Parliament here, the nation has lost; even the President of Uganda has lost a branch that has been helping him to ensure that Government moves in the right order.

I end by requesting honourable members, who have been in Parliament longer than others, please, teach us the right things and ways, and how to behave while standing before this *mic*. My brother, "*ASPRO*", rest in peace. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Rose Akello, Hon. John Baptist Lokii, Hon. Hillary Lokwang, Hon. Stella Atyang Hon. Peter-

4.40

**MS ROSE AKELLO (NRM, Woman Representative, Karenga):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to pay tribute to our brother. The late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper, lying here in front of us, was a very straightforward person. I first met him in Moroto High School. He was in senior three and I was in senior five. I was a head girl, and he was in the students' body. Therefore, my brother, Hon. Simon Aleper you see lying here, grew up with me.

Hon. Simon Aleper was a very hardworking student. By then, he had a very special friend called Ismail and they could move together. Being young in school by then, they used to come to the girls' hostel and the first thing was to ask where the head girl was. Every time, he would say to me, "You look a very good leader". Then one time I told him, we are going to read and we shall become leaders of Karamoja and Uganda. And here we were, in the Ninth Parliament where we met again.

Mr Speaker, our brother was a man of God, a mobiliser, a man of integrity and he had values. I remember one time in the Ninth Parliament he mobilised us - Hon. John Baptist Lokii, the former Member of Parliament of Napak, who is up there in the Gallery, Hon. Stella Namoe, the former woman Member of Parliament for Abim, Hon. Remigio Achia and myself on the issues of the bad roads in Karamoja.

We went for a press conference. How I wish, they played that when we were viewing him there, because he had a message, and from that time, they started working on the roads of Karamoja. Even the tarmac road was worked upon; Nakapiripirit to Muyembe Road was also worked on because of his mobilisation skills.

Mr Speaker, Hon. Aleper, was a man of truth. When he tells you something, he would have researched and got it up to the depth. We have lost an icon and a pillar of Karamoja. The whole of Karamoja is now mourning.

There were no ethnic boundaries with Hon. Simon Peter Aleper. He could move from

Amudat to Karenga, from the Ik to Tepeth, from Pian to Abim.

Mr Speaker, I thank the President of this country. Our colleague was saying why do we thank him? We as Ugandans must thank the President because of all the love, visionary leadership and strength he has put in for this country. Whether you believe it or not, it is a fact. Even somebody in the village down there who has never greeted him knows about it. *(Member timed out)* I conclude by requesting

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, here we do not add ourselves time; we ask for it.

**MS ROSE-LILLY AKELLO:** Thank you. May his soul rest in peace.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. John Baptist Lokii-

4.45

**MR JOHN BAPTIST LOKII (NRM, Matheniko County, Moroto):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me time to join my colleagues to pay tribute to our fallen colleague. I join my colleagues in sending sincere condolences to the bereaved family on the demise of our brother. I know this is a very tough and trying moment. We believe in God and He can give them the spirit of being resilient.

I have known the late “*ASPRO*”, the one we refer to as Hon. Simon Peter Aleper - since our childhood. We traversed education from the age of 10 and went through up to the university. We even joined this Parliament together in 2011. That is why the people of Moroto refer to us as political twins.

During my time with the late - I have known the late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper as a social man who would mix with all different tribes of people, who would find time to talk to different categories of people because he wanted to interact with them and get the best out of them.

Even when we were Members of Parliament in Moroto, I represented the people of Matheniko County from 2011 up to date- even when he was in the constituency, he would say he was going to have a peace dialogue meeting in Matheniko while I was in Kampala. Some colleagues would say, “No, do not go to my constituency without me.” He would call me and say, please, you are going for a genuine cause. Go and do peace mobilisation in my constituency even if I am not there.

That is the kind of person I saw in “*ASPRO*”. He was a man who was ready to work with anybody. Even during - when he lost the elections in 2016 and 2021, he did not want to antagonise anybody. He would say, “Let us respect the flag and the will of the voters by allowing the person who has been given the flag to continue the leadership.”

That is the kind of person I saw in Hon. Simon Peter Aleper. He galvanised the support for the party and united the people; those who stood including the agents of the different candidates - he managed to unite them. Recently, Hon. Aleper galvanised support of all the educated elites in Karamoja, right from degrees, and Masters up to PhD in a platform called Karamoja Professionals Association.

He was the chairman and during his time, he managed to get views from all the educated Karamojong elites until we developed a 10-year Karamoja Development Plan, which is customised to the National Development Plan.

I saw Hon. Aleper as somebody passionate about the development of marginalised regions. Then there, Hon. Simon Peter Aleper was a lobbyist. We have just heard that he lobbied for the tarmac together with the MPs of that time – *(Member timed out)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I hope we can get time to pick more colleagues - if we can use two minutes each so that we can pick more colleagues. Hon. Hillary Lokwang, Hon. Stella, then I pick Gen. Elwelu.

4.49

**MR HILLARY LOKWANG (NRM, Ik County, Kaabong):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I just want to draw the attention of the House on a Biblical view; Matthew 24:36, “*But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in Heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father...*” No one knows the day but we are pilgrims and visitors in this world. We should be prepared for any eventualities at a one-time interval.

When I see the children of my brother, Hon. Aleper, I see him- (*Interjections*)- Hon. Simon Peter Aleper, when I see his family, I see him. We should draw lessons from the late’s personality. Hon. Simon Peter Aleper had two characters; a lion and a fox. What do I mean? Being straightforward and truthful; he would call a spade a spade. Where things are good, he would calm down. Hon. Aleper was a very good administrator, a committed patriot of the party, especially in Karamoja. Whenever he came to mobilise, everyone would pay attention; no one would contradict him. He had a social character and a peace-loving personality. He was very eloquent, intelligent and sober-minded; that was him.

Mr Speaker, we need to pray for Hon. Simon Peter Aleper and his family and the people of Uganda. I want to thank the people of Busoga because in some areas, when there is an accident, people rush to loot to remove valuables from the vehicles, but most of his things are intact. (*Applause*) That is patriotism and being good.

I thank everybody who has been in the entire process to support; the Fountain of Honour, the Secretariat, the Members of Parliament, the CEC members, the National Organising Committee (NOC), and many other Ugandans. (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Stella Atyang

4.53

**MS STELLA ATYANG (NRM, Woman Representative, Moroto):** Mr Speaker, I join the rest of my colleagues in paying tribute to our brother who is lying in front of us.

Right away from the memories shared by colleagues in this House, one can affirm the truth that the late Hon. Aleper “*ASPRO*” was a unique person, a leader with unique capabilities in leadership.

Hon. Aleper was truly passionate about Karamoja. He was one of the persons fully interested to participate in all activities of the region.

“*ASPRO*” talked without fear or favour in anything related to the developmental aspect in relation to Karamoja or the country.

Mr Speaker, Hon. Aleper was one of the people who would first get themselves informed. He always searched for information. He was a person who listened to every person who talked about the development of Karamoja. He was one of the people who involved themselves in community engagements in the district and the region. You would find him deep in the villages, just like one of my colleagues alluded. You would find him participating in administrative meetings like the district service commission meetings and contributing fully.

You would find him mediating for the community like in things to do with investments that came to Karamoja.

He was at the front line, mediating, and advocating for the good of his people. You would find him contributing to many things about the Constitution of the country, the existing policies, and all other laws of the country. That is what each one of us, as leaders, should emulate, that we should always be informed before we share our views for the good of the community.

Mr Speaker, we have talked about some dreams that Hon. “*ASPRO*” had ushered. I would like to tell whoever discussed with Hon.

“ASPRO” anything about development related to Karamoja, not to let that dream die. We are here, as Karamojongs, to carry on with you and make sure his dreams are kept alive.

To the grieved family, at this moment, put your trust in the Lord. I would like to read you a Bible verse from the Book of Deuteronomy 31:8. It says, “*But the Lord is the one who will be with you. He won’t abandon you, so don’t be afraid and scared.*” So, at this moment, the Lord is with you. I pray that the soul of our brother, Hon. Simon Peter Aleper, rests in eternal peace. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let us now hear from Gen. Elwelu, and then Hon. Peter Lokii.

4.57

**LT GEN. PETER ELWELU (UPDF Representative):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also rise to support the motion on the Floor. On behalf of UPDF Members of Parliament, I pass on heartfelt condolences to the family of Hon. Simon Peter.

Now, to Simon Peter Aleper Junior, your guardian is no more. Now you are the father of that family. You need to be strong because you will live and take care of that family. I will be having an office in Moroto and Soroti. These people should not die hungry, come to my office, so long as I live –(Applause)- they will not die what - stomach. The stomach is number one - so long as I live, they will eat. Are you getting me? Come to my office.

Somebody said, “Karamoja.” Karamoja will rise and take over this world. Let me tell you this, honourable members, Karamoja will rise, and do not just say, “We know where Karamoja started from and where Karamoja is.” I would like to assure you that Karamoja will rise, and people will wonder what happened. (Applause)

Some people usually say that they will not wait for Karamoja to develop, but Karamoja will develop. The people of Karamoja will develop themselves. We have everything to develop. Everything is there. You only need to sort out your problems, including sorcery.

Thirdly, when Samuel was old, the children of Israel told him that he was now old and they wanted somebody young. When Samuel was there, Israel was okay - Peace. Then they said, “Now you are old, you can get us somebody.” Samuel cried, but God told him, “*Don’t cry, they have not rejected you, they have rejected me. You do what they want, but tell them this...*” (1Samuel 8:7) What happened? Israel from that day received a curse, and up to today, Israel is nowhere. Every time they are in war, fighting.

Somebody should not bring us a curse. We respect our elders and wish them well. They have done their part and we give them respect. Please, keep our elders. You also have elders. Do not abuse our elders. Do not demonise them all the time. You make us very annoyed by the way. Do not demonise - you have your father and grandfather, and nobody demonises them. Please, leave us out. We do not abuse them. Leave our elders!

To my brother, Hon. Simon Aleper, I do not know where you are now, and so, I can only pray to the Father in Heaven to forgive you of whatever you might have done wrong in this world.

In this world, we are all sinners. There is no saint. Please, remember one thing only that he did. If you could remember only one thing that Hon. Simon Peter did and forgive him and give him rest. Rest forever. I submit. (Applause)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, Hon. Peter Lokii.

5.02

**MR ABRAHAM LOKII (NRM, Jie County, Kotido):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also rise to support the motion to pay tribute to Hon. Simon Peter Aleper. I have known Simon Peter for long. We were in school together, although he was behind me. We have struggled together and fought to ensure he was in this Parliament. I have heard all these kind words about Hon. Simon Peter, how I wish he was hearing all these things that people say about him. But I think this brings comfort to the family to know that he was a great person to all of us in Uganda.

Mr Speaker, I know that Hon. Simon Peter has had his contribution to make. However, where does this leave Karamoja? I think it is time for us, the leaders of Karamoja, to come together again. The Bible says that people without a vision perish. This man's vision has gone with him. What does he leave us with? We need to create our own vision and see how we can move Karamoja forward.

Two, Hon. Simon Peter's struggle, while it has not been in vain, still leaves us with challenges. I thank the members of the Central Executive Committee (CEC), against the interest of my brother, Hon. Ssemujju, and also thank His Excellency, the President, because he has exercised his powers if that is where equity is. The point I would like to raise is: yes, I agree with him that Karamoja and Hon. Simon Peter in his fight has died and left Karamoja in poverty at 65 per cent. This is a fact that we should not reject.

The question is, what is the National Resistance Movement going to do, or what is the NRM Government doing in these 40 years to help us move and be integrated into the Ugandan economy?

We have heard all these interventions - the people dying of malnutrition there, are the leaders of tomorrow. Are we saying that there should be no leaders in this country coming from Karamoja? Then there is still a shortage of water.

Hon. Simon goes in pain because he has left a Karamoja with questions that have not yet been answered. Yes, the tarmac road has been brought, and we really fought for it, but it has only reached Moroto, not Karamoja. When the tarmac reaches Kidepo, it will have reached Karamoja. That is how some of us understand it.

Now, in all this *-(Interjections)* - could have been right, I am interpreting statistics, not what Hon. Ssemujju said.

My understanding is that we have lost a voice in the CEC and in his absence, it means the

Karamoja picture is not going to be in the CEC because each CEC member has a region that they represent. So, what happens to Karamoja? I am saying this because marginalisation was there even when the late Hon. Simon Peter was still alive. How much more marginalisation will be there, now that he is not there?

I would like to appeal to the NRM party and members of CEC to again stand with us to support Karamoja, and to see that the efforts and fight started by the late Hon. Simon Peter are not in vain; it is time to mobilise.

In fact, I was asking myself last night: we have been navigating and manoeuvring through all the bullets in the Karamoja region. We are here, none of us died, but the late Hon. Simon Peter just died in an accident, after going through all these years of ambushes, missing bullets, running at night to try to dodge bullets, and then on a peaceful day when he is driving for a CEC meeting, he dies?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, conclude.

**MR PETER LOKII:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. How do we move forward? We now need to come together. We now need to borrow and mount the same commitment and pressure, as leaders of Karamoja, so that things can be seen. May the soul of the late Hon. Simon Peter rest in peace.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. We can now hear from Hon. Awas Sylvia, then Hon. Nakut Faith.

5.03

**MS SYLVIA AWAS (NRM, Woman Representative, Nabilatuk):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to join the rest of my colleagues in paying tribute to my brother, Hon. "ASPRO". I managed to reach the scene where he had the accident. The road around Bukoona is a flat surface. The trailer followed and knocked him from the pedestrian lane; even after he had dodged it.

From my observation, it looked like the driver was asleep. When he got to the humps, he woke up but he could not control the lorry anymore and he had to go for our brother. That is how he died; it is very painful.

I knew him when we were still young. We grew up together, hustling in life.

We stayed in the home of Minister Lokeris, as he told you because he was the one helping us to pay school fees at a time when it was challenging. He was very humble and we used to move together to go and hustle at home, looking for fees. He taught me how to do business.

We used to go and buy maize in Namalu and take it to Tapach, in exchange for animals. We would then sell them and get pocket money. That is the man lying here. And we joined politics together.

This was his second time as a member of CEC, to show you, colleagues, that he was loved by Karamoja. Because of his character, he was a very straightforward person.

When we joined, he went to the CEC while I contested for the Vice Chairperson of the Women's League, Karamoja Region and we used to help each other financially. Honourable members, we have lost a friend, and a brother indeed.

To the family, my sister Nadiye, please be strong and take care of the children as you used to.

Love and bring all of them together. All those children are his. You just look at the face and you see it. God will help and protect you. I am appealing to the Government kindly, as other colleagues have said, please, let us help this young family, they are still growing, so that they can reach somewhere.

We have a lawyer in that family and it was his dream to have a lawyer in his family and himself to become a lawyer. So, I pray that we help them to grow. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us hear from Hon. Nakut Faith.

5.10

**MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak):** Mr Speaker, it has been a dark week for the people of Napak who I represent. This is their son, he hailed from Napak.

On Tuesday, we will bury him at Kangole Town Council in Napak. I implore colleagues, with the same love you have shown us now to join us to send him off and give words of comfort to the people who are mourning.

They have been at his home in hundreds since they heard about the sad news. The unfortunate thing is that this kind of death, even though we have had many days, cannot be properly accounted for.

The killer truck cannot be traced, the story cannot be put together and so, it is difficult to tell the people I represent what happened. That is where the problem is. We cannot reconstruct the scene.

However, we are comforted that you, the Members of Parliament, decided to come here to mourn with us. We want to thank you sincerely.

Mr Speaker, I wish also to thank you and the entire leadership of Parliament, for according us this special treatment.

I wish to thank the President of the Republic of Uganda, for allowing special treatment for our late son. We do not take it for granted. Many Ugandans die but very few get the attention we have received right now. The people of Napak are happy with the love you have for us.

"*ASPRO*" has been a great pillar as members have said; I will not repeat that. I will say just a few things about him. He indeed passed on when he was the founder chairman of the association of Karamoja elites. We call it Karamoja Professional Association (KAPA), an association he formed two years ago.

The intention of that association was to put our elites together so that we can augment our contributions to the transformation and development of the region so that we do not work in silos and for the members of Parliament to work with others in different sectors to contribute meaningfully.

He understood that to develop Karamoja needed all of us, the sons and daughters of the land. However, the founder chairman has gone when it is still in baby stages. We will miss him dearly. That association was the one that accompanied us.

The last time he appeared here, he was at the gallery a few weeks ago when the issue of Karamoja Development Agency (KDA) was being presented. The association was supporting the Karamoja group with information required to put our case to you, Mr Speaker.

He was a man, as members have said, who loved the unity of Karamoja, not only love by words but also by deeds. He would take his time and invest money in meetings to unite and keep us together.

Honourable colleagues, you are aware that even when you are colleagues from the same district, somehow, you can disagree. He organised several meetings. We have had some meetings as Members of Parliament from Napak District. The last meeting, he organised, we all became busy and it did not happen. He loved the unity of leaders. He told us that that was how we could serve the people better. That is the man who has gone.

He had a broader lens than mine. He looked at not only Napak or Moroto where he served; he looked everywhere else.

Mr Speaker, you are aware that we had Karamoja District when Uganda came into being. Moroto plus Kotido equals to Karamoja. After that, our unity ended there. We now became 12 tribes in one. But when we got too many districts, we began looking at our boundaries. We began looking at ourselves not as one people.

And Hon. Aleper has spent a lot of energy trying to unite the region. He made us go back

to a time when we were one Karamoja District. Now, we have missed him; he is the pillar we have missed.

Let me tell you what happened a few weeks ago. When the Uganda Police Force was recruiting, I was in Napak for a ceremony. He was there too. Then the people of Napak complained that their names had been missed in the recruitment process for the police force. They gave me a duty to come and complain and submit a petition to the leadership of the Uganda Police Force so that they could be given a second chance.

I came to the Police together with my district chairman to submit a complaint for the people of Napak because I knew I had their mandate, though I could not do it for all the other districts.

However, my district chairman had already informed Hon. Aleper that we were going to the Police to report that matter. He came and found us discussing; I was negotiating a deal for Napak District.

When Hon. Aleper entered, the picture changed. My mind had been narrowed to Napak but the picture changed to the entire region. Uganda Police Force accorded Karamoja a second chance after that meeting. That was him. (*Applause*) We have missed a person of that kind and so, who will look at the bigger picture? Who will look at the region? Who will look at the country? I do not know what kind of replacement we can have for such a person; it cannot happen.

He maintained a high level of objectivity in everything he did and in every meeting he had. He would look out for the facts and not for the rumours or blackmail. Actually, he was above blackmail. No amount of blackmail could lower him down. He would not believe it if you told him a rumour. He looked out for what the facts were, and he would stick to that even when he was alone.

Members here have talked about his strength being that of speaking his mind, no matter how hard it was. I want to say that that is not a strength. It is a weakness. Even though he

was a graduate of political science, he did not realise that in this business of politics, there is a level of deception that must sink into the life of someone. Perhaps – (*Interjections*) – yes, perhaps in doing that, people like him who speak out automatically breed enemies. People who are careful – that is why there is too much deception in politics. This is because, in politics, people always want to stay safe. The political science he learnt did not help him, perhaps. We mourn him. The people of Napak are in pain.

Honourable colleagues, I urge you to join us and continue to pray for us to keep strong as we manage – especially as we put the dots together to draw the picture of the accident. May God rest his soul in eternal peace.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, Hon. Komol Joseph and then Hon. Aleper Moses.

5.18

**MR JOSEPH KOMOL (NRM, Dodoth North County, Kaabong):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to request that the record be corrected. You have mentioned my name correctly but the *Hansard* is going to capture a different thing. There is a speech of mine trending on social media in Karamoja. While I realised that I was the one speaking but the *Hansard* attributed it to Hon. Emmanuel Komol. We are two Komols in this Parliament.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You are Hon. Komol Joseph Miidi.

**MR JOSEPH KOMOL:** Yes. Previously, Hon. Hillary Lokwang spoke here but the *Hansard* wrote Philipps Lokwang. Those names are alike and need to be told apart.

Mr Speaker, thank you very much. I would like to join the rest of the speakers in paying tribute to the late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper. I knew him when I was the LC V chairperson and he was a Member of Parliament. I have one Member of Parliament here who said he is a friend of the late Hon. Simon. I knew him

before I came to this Parliament. This is none other than Hon. Ochwa.

In 2011, Kaabong District had a big problem of inadequate staffing in the sectors of health and education. The teachers who had been recruited were from the districts of Kitgum, Kapchorwa, Teso, generally outside Karamoja. The same to health workers.

What happened is that every time adverts were placed in their districts, they went and applied, but we found that we had no teachers and no health workers in all those positions.

In one regional meeting, I met my brother, Hon. Simon, and told him that I was facing a big problem. I told him that we had no teachers and no health workers.

He took me aside and said, “I have a friend in Parliament. He is called Hon. Ochwa. Hon. Ochwa has a medical school and he can help you out.”

Then I told him, “We have some funders, but because our school children do not pass sciences; mathematics, and English, they cannot be allowed to join medical courses. Those who happen to pass sciences are not able to come out”.

He advised me and said, “Please do the following: go and mobilise all the students that have passed sciences.” He said he was going to talk to Hon. Ochwa, and Hon. Ochwa would drive to Kaabong District. I went and did that.

Two weeks later, somebody called and said, “I am Hon. Ochwa. I am in the district. I want to meet you in your office.” That is when I saw Hon. Ochwa for the first time. He is a brand new Member of Parliament here. I saw him being sworn in the other day.

When I got him, he first offered me five scholarships. Then I lobbied from UNICEF and others. I gave him a list of around 40 children from Kaabong who went to study at his school. Now Kaabong has no problem with



staffing in the health sector. This is how I can remember him.

My honourable colleague here talked about deployments in Karamoja. Insecurity had been a big problem. However, in many regional meetings, he spoke loudly about the deployments in Karamoja, and Government deployed. Indeed, it was because of his contributions to the regional meetings.

I want to say that he has really been good for us. Karamoja has a very big gap to fill. We have lost a prominent political leader. May he rest in eternal peace. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** After Hon. Aleper, I will have Hon. Lokwang Philiphs, Hon. Albert Lokoru and Hon. Betty Chelain and Hon. Janet Okori-Moe. Hon. Albert, please wait a bit. I said after Hon. Moses, it is Hon. Lokwang Philiphs, Hon. Albert, and then Hon. Betty. That is after Hon. Moses Aleper.

5.23

**MR MOSES ALEPER (NRM, Chekwii County (Kadam), Nakapiripirit):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I also want to join the rest of the Members who are in this House in paying tribute to the late Hon. Aleper Simon Peter.

I want to thank the Government of the Republic of Uganda for recognising him; the Parliament of Uganda, and also the Members of this Parliament, for debating and supporting the motion to pay tribute to him.

Indeed, he deserved this, though it may have been accorded to him because he is a CEC member.

Truly, “*ASPRO*” had the qualities of a statesman. He portrayed justice and ensured whenever there were matters of justice, they must be done to whoever it is supposed to be. He exercised a lot of fairness. He had virtue, because from the talk of the people and my own experience, he exercised high moral standards, and he had the wisdom.

That is why he was able to caucus very much. He ensured he participated in development and peace initiatives in Karamoja, the latest being when we had a lot of incursion from the Kenyans, where we organised meetings and he guided us because the two parties were warring and it was difficult for us to come to a consensus but he became a neutral party and made sure he guided us.

There are two things I want to say. “*ASPRO*” was a self-made person. He did not eat from a silver spoon. He struggled for himself right from a young age. I saw him hustling, what they call hustling in Karamoja, trying to pick this to make the other, until he reached the level he was.

On his boldness, I want to say this: I want to follow what Hon. Nakut said, that during my years in this Parliament, leaders at Parliament and other levels have defined respect to mean not to be told the truth. That is the definition that I have learned from the leadership that we interact with; that we observe; that respect is to be told lies every time, is to be pampered, and it is to be clapped for.

This is not what “*ASPRO*” portrayed. He would tell you - someone has just testified here - he could even tell the powers that be what was in his mind. I think that is what I want to challenge - to begin with this Parliament. Let us be truthful, as leaders, whether leaders of the House, leaders of the people at the constituency level, chairperson LCs V, ministers, etc.

Let your leadership qualities be to accept the truth to be told to you. That is what accountability is about. I think that is the best we should take from our late brother, and I truly believe that his spirit will forever live in our cherished memories and the love that we shared with him. May his soul rest in peace.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

5.27

**MR PHILLIPHS LOKWANG (NRM, Napore West County, Karenga):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I

rise to join the rest of Uganda, and Karamoja in particular to condole the loss of my brother.

We have talked about many things here. To me, I see all the words that we have said must be able to redirect our actions. He started by saying, "Karamoja has arrived" having heard the story of saying "We shall not wait for Karamoja." So, as Karamoja, we are bleeding, but in Karamoja, in such a case - we traditionally or culturally say, "*Ekarana Aleper ilereuni*" meaning that whoever is responsible for the death will come out. We shall hold the person responsible.

I want to request all of us to pick and continue with the mantle he has left, in order, to put Uganda and Karamoja in a position my colleagues said here. Karamoja is able. Not to remain behind as people say, but to be ahead.

It is so painful for one to come and laugh, and talk nonsense. Sorry to say this in such a sorrowful moment - in Karamoja, we again say that those who laugh at people at the funeral or in mourning are termed as wizards or witches, in a way. Who are you?

Just as we know that death is certain for all of us, we cannot come here and play around, bring all your dirty linen in our sorrowful state. With this, I request the Almighty to rest the soul of my brother in eternal peace.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Lokwang.

5.29

**MR ALBERT LOKORU (NRM, Tepeth County, Moroto):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join colleagues in paying tribute to our fallen hero, the now late Hon. "*ASPRO*", the *Rock*.

Mr Speaker, Hon. "*ASPRO*", in the first place, was my brother because we share a fence in Moroto. We are neighbours and we have been working together as brothers.

Hon. "*ASPRO*" was not only a leader or a politician, he had been anointed by God to lead his people to the promised land. I saw his capability when we were at Kasimeri Primary

School. We then went to Moroto High School and from Moroto High School, we went to different schools for upgrading, and he already had signs of a leader.

During his lifetime, Hon. Simon managed to unite Karamoja, and most especially the elites of Karamoja, to focus their attention on the transformation of Karamoja. He was also able to unite Uganda, because to become a member of CEC, you are elected by all regions in this country. He managed to enter the hearts and minds of Ugandans to be elected as a CEC member. And as you have heard from the testimonies of the CEC members, he has been a very capable and hard-working member.

Mr Speaker, the challenge now is: he has left us so early. The time we needed him more is when he departed and left many things undone.

Before his death, I was with him in Moroto, putting heads together to find a way of making sure that one of the companies that intended to open a factory, a clinker plant in my constituency, was to enter into an agreement with the community for the clinker to start.

The documents we were discussing while in Moroto are still with the police at Iganga. We were supposed to bring those documents here, to Kampala to share with the investor, in order, to accomplish the whole mission but now he is instead here lying before us. I wonder who is going to be with that heart that he gave to speak for the voiceless people of Karamoja and Uganda. It is a big loss to the Karamoja Region and Uganda as a nation. I do not know whether we shall get a replacement for a person like Hon. Simon Peter Aleper.

To the family, remain strong. Why? They say that death is inevitable, that death is not for one family, and that death is for everybody. It is only a question of time; all of us here are candidates of death. With those few remarks, Mr Speaker, may the soul of our fallen hero rest in eternal peace. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Betty Chelain and Hon. Okori-Moe Janet. Then I will come to Hon. Margaret Aleper.

5.34

**MS BETTY CHELAIN (NRM, Woman Representative, Amudat):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Karamoja is in darkness as we speak. We have lost a hero, mentor, leader, and the hope for Karamoja.

Personally, I speak on what he has so far done for me. Mr Speaker, I contested and came to Parliament when I was a nurse, after going through the primaries of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) but while that went on a human being came in between me to destroy my destiny.

During the destruction of my destiny, I called Hon. Aleper “*ASPRO*,” and told him that, “My brother, I am dying in Kampala and I do not know anywhere in Kampala.” He asked where I was and I told him, “I see a gate written on Makerere University” *Kumbe* I was in Wandegeya.

I told him that they had taken away my rights and that I was ready to destroy anyone. I got close to the person who had taken my certificate and handed it over to another person. I was ready to do anything. Then, he told me to cool down. “Go and sleep because it was late,” he said to me, and it was around 6.00 p.m. “We shall meet tomorrow,” he said.

My brothers and sisters, these are the young leaders of Uganda who are coming up though people are using their offices to destroy the young Ugandans. As for my brother, sorry, May your soul rest in peace.

I last talked to him on 25<sup>th</sup> June. We were talking about what would happen next - I told him that my dear, if those people were still in that office I would come as an independent because I did not want to go through what I had gone through.

Mr Speaker, this man here is a man in definition. He is a real man and a hero. He escaped all the bullets in Karamoja and died on Tuesday morning as a woman without anyone to defend him. We were not near him but he went. God see Karamoja!

Mr Speaker, leaders here rose and talked about Karamoja. We have leaders in Karamoja and they used to say, “Wait for the Karamoja to develop...,” – that was the time when Karamoja had one district. Now we have nine districts; it has grown.

Let the Karamoja leadership speak about their own problems. Do not own Karamoja yet you do not know what Karamoja is. Give us the opportunity - Government, listen to us; what we speak is the right thing but no one listens.

Now that the saviour has gone - someone whom we could call to talk to in the middle of the “*Akereket*” - you know “*Akereket*” is where the elders meet. Who will now speak in the *Akereket*? But we know another Ugandan and Karimojong man or lady will come up.

Mr Speaker, we have roads in Karamoja. There is a road called Muyembe-Nakapiripit *banange* (*Laughter*). When will that road be completed like the Moroto-Lokitanyala Road?

Mr Speaker, we have contractors who have performed well in this country but anybody who does good things, they not appreciated - (Member *timed out*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, let us hear from Hon. Okori Moe, Hon. Margaret Aleper and Hon. Nakwang Christine Tubo.

5.38

**MS JANET OKORI-MOE (NRM, Woman Representative, Abim):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to pay tribute to my late brother, the Hon. Simon Peter “Rock” Aleper.

The death of Hon. Aleper shocked all of us. Although they say, “All death is untimely”, this particular death has been untimely. We have lost him at a time when we needed him most. You have all heard testimonies from colleagues about the good deeds by him as a former member of the NRM Central Executive Committee (CEC) for Karamoja Region and as a member of the Ninth Parliament.

The late Hon. Aleper was a very resourceful person and leader who was very vibrant and assertive. Whenever he took on an issue, he would never give up on it. He was very principled and results-oriented. That is why the little you hear has been done for the Karamoja was his work.

The late championed the promises by the Government to tarmac some of the roads in Karamoja, for example, the road from Lira via Alebtong, Otuke, Abim to Kotido although it is not yet done, it was on his agenda.

He also championed the issue of the road from Soroti to Amuria, Kapelebyong via Otuke, Abim, and Kotido. Although it is not accomplished, he talked for it.

Mr Speaker, from 2010 to 2015, I was the NRM CEC Member for Karamoja. In 2015, when I sought to get a second term, that was when my brother came up and two others. At the intervention of our party Chairperson and for purposes of harmony - we are a marginalized region, and at times we do not want to struggle, we all had to step down and elected him unopposed. This is the person.

We knew he was capable and he did not shame us. He could consult even when he was a CEC member whenever there were issues and posted on all the *WhatsApp* groups. Some of us were too shy to contribute on *WhatsApp* groups.

However, considering that I was his elder sister, he would come to my inbox and ask - He did not even call me honourable, not even my name but he would say "*Maama*, what is your view on this" and we would share with him. This is the gentleman we have lost today.

As other colleagues have said, to the family, these things happen. We want you to be together and united as a family and see how to champion the legacy he has left.

We have seen some families when such an occurrence happens, they go into disarray but we pray that you will be together and the rest of us will be there. We are aware that most of the

children are in school and like other Members have said the Government and NRM Party need to do something for the children of the late Hon. "Rock" Aleper.

With those few remarks, colleagues we want to thank you for the love, and Mr Speaker, we want to thank you. I want to thank the President, for honouring our brother, and may his soul rest in eternal peace.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us hear from Hon. Margaret Aleper and then Hon. Christine Nakwang?

5.43

**MS MARGARET ALEPER (NRM, Woman Representative, Kotido):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to support the motion to pay tribute to the late Hon. Aleper Simon Peter.

There are special people in our lives who never leave even after they are gone. Hon. Aleper is one of those special people in the lives of the many Ugandans as Karimojongs were talking about it today. Even before Hon. Aleper came to the Ninth Parliament, I knew him as a very vibrant and hard-working young man. They used to be in an activist team called the Karamoja Task Force.

They were with Hon. Lokii, Dr Lim Lim and many others; that was the time I knew Hon. Aleper Simon Peter. Many colleagues have talked about the good attributes of late Hon. Aleper Simon Peter. When he came to Parliament, I made a light joke with him. I said, "We share a name, but how did you come to be called "*ASPRO*?"

To my understanding, I thought probably "*ASPRO*" meant some medicine that was in Uganda one time, and which was replaced by Panadol. He said, "Yes, if that is your interpretation, I am a problem solver." Indeed, I came to understand that he was a problem solver. He would always provide solutions to some of the challenges, particularly those that Karamoja faces as many of my colleagues have mentioned.

Mr Speaker, the person we are paying tribute to today was very friendly and sociable. He never selected interaction with anybody. While in Parliament, if you met him in the corridors, he would always say “hi” and that is why he has so many friends.

The late Hon. Aleper was organised. One of the Members today said that he was smart. In fact, he was extraordinarily smart. He was organised both in the brain and dressing.

He was eloquent, an orator and you could not argue with him. He would win in his arguments, but he was very principled too. Once he has decided on an issue or a matter, however much you tried to convince him to change his opinion, he would not. But he would adjust by saying, “Probably I give you this option.” That was the late Hon. Simon Aleper for you.

He was also patriotic. He was very committed to his work. He loved the Karamojong people. He loved his family. He loved the party and his country. He demonstrated this by the level of commitment and the performance that he has had, both in and outside Parliament. We have seen how he has been performing in the CEC, as evidenced by his colleagues in CEC. Hon. Aleper – (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us have Hon. Nakwang Christian, followed by Hon. Ngoya John Bosco, and then Hon. Ben Koryang.

5.47

**MS CHRISTINE NAKWANG (NRM, Woman Representative, Kaabong):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Death is indeed unpredictable and that is why it does not have a road map. I join my colleagues in paying tribute to my late brother, Hon. Aleper. Hon. Aleper was not just a disciplined and very nice person, he was a very patient person. Recently, if you all recall when we were talking about KDA, I remember co-chairing a meeting with him together with the Karamoja MPs and the district chairpersons. We sat until 2.00 a.m. in the night discussing and I saw patience in him.

He was a man of gratitude; he always said “thank you” even over small things and I respected him for that.

I know colleagues have said all sorts of good things about the late Hon. Aleper, but in this House, we always disagree over small issues and we start pointing fingers at each other. Hon. Aleper was not that kind of person. I am happy that today we are pouring out a lot of compliments. How I wish, this would be the spirit when we are still alive, because as of now, he cannot listen to us yet, if I had said, “Mr Speaker, you have done so wonderful”, you would multiply that by two, by three or more, and that would be better.

How I wish when we are in this House, whenever a colleague makes a mistake, instead of shouting so that the whole country and the whole world knows that it is the other one who has made a mistake, we politely call a colleague aside and say, “Please, this is good, keep up. This is bad, do not do it.” This is my appeal to all of you. So, as we send off our brother, we have a message for ourselves as we remain in this House.

Anyhow, I join colleagues in thanking the President, for giving our brother, Hon. Aleper, a state funeral. I would like to give my biggest condolence to the NRM family that is going to miss him, and to the whole House. May his soul rest in peace. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let us hear from the Member for Bokora County and then Hon. Ben Koryang.

5.52

**MR JOHN BOSCO NGOYA (NRM, Bokora County, Napak):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to pay tribute to “*ASPRO*.” I first met “*ASPRO*” in 1997. I was then in the Institute of Teacher Education, Kyambogo, and we were trying to mobilise students from Karamoja under the Karamoja Students Association. We had a meeting at Makerere. That is when I saw a mentor, a man who would stand and others listen. We then proceeded into civil society; that time when

they were disarming Karamoja, he was working with UNDP and we worked so closely.

He was a man who would allow multi-stakeholder processes to form an opinion. He would not say it alone. He would allow others to give their ideas so that something good could come up. The last time we were trying to organise to see that KDA is not repealed, I had a conversation with Hon. Ben Baatom and we wanted to mobilise students to come and watch the proceedings of the House.

The first person we thought of as an intergenerational leader, was Hon. “*ASPRO*.” We called him and said, “The KDA repeal Act is back on the Order Paper. How can we get students to come so that they can be able to listen and know it is not the Karamoja Parliamentary Group that has repealed it?” That was then the topic in Karamoja, and it was going to cost us votes anyway. So, he mobilised students from all the universities. We stormed the Speaker’s Office and had a conversation. He came to the Chambers and I know as he lies in state, he is listening as we ask the question: “What is that special purpose vehicle for Karamoja, which is the Karamoja Development Agency?”

Yesterday when we were with the family in church, the wife mentioned that everywhere they would sit, “*ASPRO*” would talk about Karamoja Development Agency. How I wish this Parliament in paying tribute, makes good that dream he had for a special purpose vehicle for Karamoja. May the soul of Hon. Aleper Simon Peter rest in eternal peace.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, Hon. Ben Koryang.

5.54

**MR BEN BAATOM KORYANG (NRM, Dodoth West County, Karenga):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. When you speak after so many people have spoken, you run the risk of not having what to say. However, Hon. Simon Peter Aleper is somebody you cannot fail to say something about because he has done many things that people cannot forget.

When we had concluded the elections and got elected to the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament, as the Vice-Chairperson of NRM and a CEC member for Karamoja, Hon. Aleper mobilised us for a meeting in Moroto. I remember two statements that he said to us. He said, “Do not expect the Government to give us everything on a silver plate, we must work for it. We need mechanisms to try to get that from the Government and if we put them to task and they do not give us today, do not give up; continue to fight until that is given.” We have continued with that spirit.

Mr Speaker, as human beings, we work with systems. In these systems, we have created positions of responsibility that we occupy.

However, when we pass in tragic circumstances like this one, these positions will quickly be replaced and as time moves on, we get quickly forgotten but the late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper is someone that we cannot forget about because his leadership in that position brought a different dimension to those positions that he held. If it was any other ordinary person, we would quickly forget.

As a way of paying tribute to Hon. Simon Peter Aleper - my colleague has brought up the issue of the Karamoja Development Agency (KDA)-several times, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) have brought supplementary budgets to Parliament and have also planned for Karamoja.

They have understood that if you want money to be given to you as a ministry, say that it is for Karamoja and the Parliament will not debate; they will just pass it.

In the last financial year, this Parliament passed a Supplementary Budget for buying tractors for Karamoja. When it was brought to the Floor - by the Ministry of Agriculture - the Members of Parliament said, “Let us pass it, it is for Karamoja,” but those tractors never reached Karamoja.

KDA is coming in as a brainchild of “*ASPRO*” that we revamp. The reason is that we want all the monies meant for Karamoja to be realised

for the development of Karamoja should be through the Karamoja Development Agency.

My colleague has mentioned that if it would please the Government, that would be one gift that it would give Karamoja in the name of “ASPRO” for us to remember him. *(Member timed out)*

5.57

**MR MILTON MUWUMA (NRM, Kigulu County South, Iganga):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. On behalf of the people of Kigulu South Constituency where my brother met his fate, I wish to convey heartfelt condolences to the nation, the National Resistance Movement party, and the family.

Like Hon. Lokwang thanked the people of Busoga, I should reiterate by thanking the people of Bukoona, specifically Kakongoka Village, where my brother perished.

The accident happened at around 1.30 a.m. but people woke up and protected - after trying to save our brother, they found him dead already, but they made sure they took security of his belongings including sensitive security gadgets that were in his vehicle until the police reached the scene.

That said, I served with my brother in the Ninth Parliament on the same Committee on Appointments. I remember that there was a testing moment when the Head of State had a special presidential nominee who had issues of integrity.

Myself, Hon. Rusoke, Hon. David Ochwa, and the late Gen. Elly Tumwine said a big no to this candidate who was before the committee for approval on the grounds of integrity. The president summoned members of the Committee on Appointments to the State House to explain the reason we are declining this approval.

We had to deploy our brother who was so aggressive in presenting to tell the President why we had objected to this approval. When the President explained, but the Member told

us afterward that, “You people, we have tried to push - for the sake of harmony and our party chairperson, let us concede.”

We came back respecting his guidance and advice and approved that nominee. Because the man was good at influencing, we finally had to comply with that recommendation.

In the Ninth Parliament, I was a chairperson of the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs. That was the time we vehemently pushed for the disarmament exercise in a bid to pacify the Karamoja sub-region.

Most of the Members from the sub-region were negative about the disarmament. But it is the honourable member lying before us who took the lead in convincing, including taking us to Karamoja to convince people to accept the peaceful handover of arms and ammunition in a bid to have peace in our country.

When things did not go well in 2016, he became a member of the Central Executive Committee (CEC). I was deployed at the NRM Secretariat but he had special traits not all CEC members had; of visiting every office at the Secretariat.

Whenever they were to go for a CEC meeting, he would move from office to office saying; “You people, what are the issues? What information do you have here? We are going to meet, what are the issues we should be sharing in the CEC meeting?” This is the type of leader we are seeing off.

On behalf of the NRM Secretariat, more so those I worked with, we thank him for being a special boss, a master who knew how to relate with juniors in that office. We say farewell to our brother. Rest in peace. Thank you for the job rendered to this nation.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, Hon. Baka Mugabi.

6.00

**MR STEPHEN BAKA (NRM, Bukooli County North, Bugiri):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to pay

tribute to a man I called a colleague, a friend, and a comrade. I first met Hon. Aleper Simon in 1996 at Makerere University.

I had entered a year earlier in 1995 and in 1997 when I contested for guild presidency, he was my supporter. What surprised me about him is that we had a candidate from Karamoja, Hon. Norman Ochero, but you can imagine at that level and time, he was not tribalistic, he was in my camp.

I think this speaks about the Karimojong; they are not tribalistic because there was another colleague here who was doing veterinary medicine, Hon. Loki who supported Ms Sarah Kagingo and not Mr Ricky Norman Ochero.

He was a minister in the guild just like me and later we met here in the Ninth Parliament. He was a nice person, I related with him so well.

I wish to concur with those who have said that he was smart - not only smart but also elegant and as you know, he was tall and handsome.

He used to dress so well that anyone would admire him; I also admired him so much because we grew up with stereotypes thinking that the Karimojong were not well-dressed.

However, this was a gentleman, very fine, handsome, tall, smart and elegant; that was Hon. Simon Aleper.

He was well-spoken, fluent, and eloquent. No wonder, as we have heard from a member from the CEC when they were driving, they were in a chat until they passed the way to Kyankwanzi up to Fort Portal. He was well-spoken, especially one-on-one would be so good; that is the Member we have lost.

Two quick ones, Hon. Aleper was a Vice-chairperson for Karamoja. Just as we have heard Hon. Okori-Moe was the first vice chairperson. Karamoja has always supported the NRM - if these people were bad leaders at the time when we created that position of regional Vice Chairperson for Karamoja, they would have antagonised our support there but they offered good leadership.

After Hon. Janet Okori-Moe, he came in and we have maintained our support in Karamoja. I wish to thank him for that good leadership at the party level.

Finally, the decorum that I have witnessed today in the House, where a Member is given an opportunity to speak out their mind without being interrupted with points of order, information, and procedure. I wish the House could be like this each day, even when we are handling controversial matters. This is how the decorum should be in this House.

Mr Speaker, the very last one is that we were castigated by Hon. Ssemujju for thanking the President, for offering an official burial to our colleague. Hon. Ssemujju should understand, and I thought it was obvious that this is the biggest honour a person can get. An honour for a death of this nature is the best we can offer to a colleague who has fallen. So, Hon. Ssemujju should let us mourn – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Now, Hon. Ephraim Biraaro.

6.03

**MR EPHRAIM BIRAARO (NRM, Buhweju West, Buhweju):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for offering me an opportunity to invite all my honourable colleagues to join me in mourning my brother.

I was sworn in with Hon. Simon Aleper on the same day in the Ninth Parliament in May 2011. We interacted on that very day and became friends since then.

In 2013, when I was made the Chairperson of the Committee on Physical Infrastructure, Hon. Simon Aleper, was also on the same day, made my vice chairperson. We worked together solidly up to 2016.

Mr Speaker, at that time, in my view, we headed the most solid and heavy committee because we had the likes of the current Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, Gen. Katumba Wamala, the very Hon. Ssemujju who was talking here, Hon. Amuriat Oboi. All these were our members and



we chaired their committee. Hon. Idi Isabirye, Hon. Migadde, the late Hon. Cecilia, and the rest; we had all these big guns.

Mr Speaker, we kept together and survived the most controversial part of Parliament to have a minority report for all the years we served because of his skills of mobilisation. We worked together and did a lot of things.

In the committee, Hon. Simon Aleper brought the Karamoja agenda and emphasised it and it was emancipated in the committee. At the same time, the Buhweju agenda was also brought up. These are the most remote areas. Mr Speaker, even in the whole of Ankole, Buhweju is still referred to as the Karamoja of Ankole so we had that driven ahead.

Mr Speaker, we must – (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let us hear from Hon. Asamo.

**MR BIRAARO:** A minute, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Sorry, honourable member. Let me give others a chance too.

6.06

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (DISABILITY AFFAIRS) (Ms Hellen Asamo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to add my voice to pay tribute to my uncle, “*mamayi*.” He used to call him “*Acenyo*.”

I first met him when he was a young man coming from university. When he came back from university, he came to work in Karamoja, which is very rare with some people. Many would wish to stay in Kampala. I was working with the Karamoja Development Agency (KDA). When people talk of KDA, I am a beneficiary. I was teaching in your constituency; Karamoja Development Agency School and it was really an area of development. There could have been a few issues of accountability, but that does not need us to kill the baby for the KDA. (*Applause*)

I want to say that when Hon. “*ASPRO*” came to especially the constituency of Baptists - many people were not going to school but he became an icon and encouraged children to go to school so they could become like him. This is because he loved himself. This man loved himself to the extent that he was very smart. If you saw him on the streets of Moroto, you would see “*ASPRO*.” He liked people and talked to the elders. I know he would come to those *Mzees*; the owners of the shops, talk to them, and would get wisdom.

When we came to the Ninth Parliament, he said, “Hon. Asamo, I came from poverty, I must buy a V8.” I asked him, “Uncle, they have only given us Shs 150 million, are you going to buy the V8?” He said, “Yes, I will make a top-up. I must drive a V8” and he bought it.

Mr Speaker, the first time he drove his V8, he came back and said, “*Otukoi*, Shs 2 million going, Shs 2 million coming back.” I said, since you love yourself, enjoy the money. He then said, “Now, I do not know what will remain for the family.” I told him, “Watch yourself; learn how to save.” He sold that car before even it made six months. I know he has died again in a V8 but he sold the first one. Those who were with me can bear me witness.

Hon. “*ASPRO*” has been a man of his word. Hon. “*ASPRO*” would tell you – there was a day we had a debate here - nobody has talked about it. I think we had the whole Karamoja team of the Ninth Parliament and “*ASPRO*” said that there must be an audit of all the money that flows to Karamoja. For his sake, we need to audit. This money is too much yet we do not see much. Where does the money go? People go there -

I remember when I used to work in Karamoja, people used to say that people go to Karamoja in grass-thatched houses and come back with white *mabaati*. Meaning we siphon from Karamoja. I worked in the whole of Karamoja right from Amudat up to the other side, mobilising for the NRM Party in 1996.

Mr Speaker, there is a lot that we need to do for Karamoja. Karamoja is not backward but people who take advantage of Karamoja should begin thinking about developing that area than enriching themselves - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Now, let us have Hon. Ariko, Hon. Akol and Hon. Naluyima.

6.09

**MR HERBERT ARIKO (NRM, Soroti East Division, Soroti City):** I thank you, Mr Speaker. I join honourable colleagues to mourn, “*mamayi*”, Hon. Simon Peter Aleper (ASPRO), the one we used to call at university, *termite*.

Mr Speaker, I happen to have been at Makerere at the same time as the late Hon. Aleper. While we were there, we used to have dreams. One of our dreams was that at a certain point - and we used to think that it would be sooner - that our cohort was going to be in charge of this country. In that group, we were congealing our ambitions around the person of Peter Ojur.

Mr Speaker, whenever we would be in our discussions plotting on what to do politically at the university, one of the most industrious persons in mobilising our students, and our team members onto a cause was the late Hon. Aleper. That is how in our group, he got the name, *Termite*. This is because whenever he would speak, he would tell us, “You know, Mr President - he would tell Ojur - the only way we can be able to take charge of the reins of power in this country is that we must work as termites. Otherwise, when termites agree that today we must build the anthill, they do it on that same day.”

Mr Speaker, the late was an astute negotiator. After the election of our colleague, Sarah Kagingo, as Guild President, we needed to form a guild government. I supported Jimbrick Norman Ocher. Jimbrick Norman Ocher had won the election. Hon. Baka Mugabi had been beaten thoroughly - *(Interjection)* - yes, we were the second. But now we needed to form a government that was strong because the

governments in Makerere always collapsed. So, there was a need to bring in Ocher and the rest of us to support the government of Sarah Kagingo.

One of the key elements was that we wanted to enter the government with Jimmy Opigo as the Guild Speaker, however, we had Hon. Betty Amongi who was also standing for guild speaker. We also had Kaggwa Stephen Kyalwaazi, who also wanted to be a Guild Speaker. So, we needed one person to drop down so that we could easily get in there.

Mr Speaker, one of the key people who convinced Kyalwazi Stephen Kaggwa to step down as deputy speaker and Hon. Betty Amongi to give way, was the late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper.

Later, even after that negotiation went through, we got into some turmoil and now we needed to bring the government down. Mr Speaker, I want to tell you that in our meetings, in room 186, Mr Ojur was occupied at that time, one of the key people who would give us a strategy on how and what to do next was the late.

He was a very astute politician and indeed one of the strategies you have said - now that Sarah seems not to be working the way we expected, let us start by making the regime collapse through resignations. The first person to resign was Mr Jim Ocher and later we had the Vice President, Mr Enoch Kibamu, resign, who had taken over foreign affairs.

What am I trying to say? As the NRM in the Hon. Simon Peter Aleper, we had a negotiator, a mobiliser, and a person who would rally people around ideas and issues. Indeed, I am sure that in our cohort, we have lost a person who was going to be the pinnacle of the next phase of Ugandan politics.

We pray that God, the Almighty, who has chosen that this is the time when his servant, termite, goes back to do the work that termites do in heaven, will be granted eternal peace. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Anthony Akol and Hon. Betty Naluyima.

6.14

**MR ANTHONY AKOL (FDC, Kilak North County, Amuru):** Mr Speaker, on behalf of the community of Kilak North and the Acholi community, I want to pay tribute to our brother and the people of Karamoja, the family members and Uganda at large.

When I was speaking with Hon. Remigio Achia, this morning we were worried that within that Central Executive Committee, the area that we call, West Nile, Acholi, Lango, and Karamoja (WALK) is not represented and that means people who sit in the Central Executive Committee - good enough we have the Prime Minister and the Vice President here - I think that voice is not heard in the country now because a lot of issues that come to the Cabinet first start from the Central Executive Committee and that means instead of waiting for the next election, something must be done as a country.

I came to know Hon. Aleper when I came to meet the late Rt Hon. Jacob Oulanyah. He knew me before I knew him. I got him slopping from that office that many people visited, and I was going up so he called me, "Hon. Akol, why are you here? You are not NRM"? And we laughed because at that time campaign was for the Central Executive Committee. Since then, he became a friend, and from the time that we were not represented in the CEC, where we had issues that we think cannot be pushed from the Cabinet, can be pushed from the CEC, we always consulted him.

For the family members, we have a lot of hope that this Government will not leave them, especially the Central Executive Committee and the President. With all the good work that this man has done in this country, there is no way that they can be left behind and I think they should be supported fully. I am seeing hope in them.

In our culture, the Acholi and the Africans, when you die and you have left children, you

are not dead. We have hope. May his soul rest in peace.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, Hon. Ethel Naluyima.

6.18

**MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Women Representative, Wakiso):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join the rest of the country's, members of the Parliament of Uganda to bring out the voice of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children to condole with the family and also the Parliament of Uganda and the rest of the institutions as they have been mentioned.

As the publicity secretary of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children, allow me to convey our appreciation to our fallen colleague for upholding great family values.

What we are witnessing today is a key lesson to the rest of the fathers in this country. Your children should know who their father is. They should be able to stand firm and copy an element of a father.

I may not say much, but I recall very well during our school times when we were young, I was a student leader at Kyambogo University, particularly the Guild Minister for Women Affairs, but we could always meet with the late Hon. Aleper at Uganda National Students Association (UNSA). Those days we did not have political parties and our concentration was more on the young people and the students and the continuity of Uganda.

When we talk about patriotism in this country, it is not all about ensuring that we are preaching, please, like Uganda, it is about our actions. Patriotism is about devotion and liking of Uganda. However, as leaders in this country, are we having those actions that will propagate patriotism in this country? Those are some of the questions we shall continue asking ourselves and which we need to act on as a country as we eulogize our fallen comrade.

As I am about to summarise, let us look at patriotism further and ask ourselves if we like

this country, the region where he is coming from, Karamoja, if they have enough minerals, and whether we have equity in the distribution and gains of what that region is about.

Let us ask ourselves such questions and fairly look at the different opportunities around employment distribution, are we having equity in all that? We shall continue and it will make sense when we pay our fallen comrade with what we are supposed to be as this country. If it means we are supposed to tackle corruption matters, let us tackle it and go by the horns of the bull. I pray as we eulogies and remember Hon. Aleper, let us take time, as a country, and think twice about how this country is, at this hour.

Those days we were talking about nationalism, patriotism, and the continuity of this country and that is what we yearned for as student leaders by then. May your soul rest in peace Hon. Simon Aleper.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us hear from Hon. Chemaswet, Hon. Migadde then Hon. Omona.

6.20

**MR ABDI CHEMASWET (NRM, Soi County, Kween):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to talk about Hon. Aleper. We have suffered with Hon. Aleper, and we had happiness with him. We became Members of Parliament together in 2011, the way Hon. Biraaro said. Then we were enjoying ourselves as Members of Parliament. Shortly we lost elections together and when you lose elections, an additional title comes in; you become a former Member of Parliament.

Hon. Aleper and I suffered by becoming former members of Parliament and if you have that title, money also becomes former, friends become former and there is a likelihood of the family becoming also former. *(Laughter)* When I met with Hon. Aleper at one time, as he was campaigning for the CEC position I asked him, "Do you know that I am still former?" How is the family former? He said, "No, I am still holding the ground."

He approached me and told me, "Hon. Chemaswet, you are an elder in that side of the Sebei Subregion, the three districts, you command very well." I said, "Yes, I will command for you" but I knew that he had no money for mobilisation and I had to lean on some good friends, Hon. Kiwanda, Hon. Baryomunsi and Hon. Mike Mukula to finance the campaigns of Hon. Aleper and he won in Sebei Subregion as a CEC member.

Hon. Aleper has been a good person. When we came in, after winning NRM primaries as flag bearers for the constituency in 2010, we were summoned to Kampala. We met with Hon. Aleper since we were new. He told me, "Chemaswet you are from Sebei" I said yes, "Where are you from?" I told him, "Ngenge, you know there?" He said, "Yes I know there." I asked him, "Have you been raiding us? Why is it that you know the area?" I had challenges by that time I contested - of course, the stigmatisation of the Karimojong, and I thought that all of them were the same.

However, Hon. Aleper educated me and told me, "No, no, Chemaswet, we are not the same. I am also suffering in Karamoja as well." I asked him, "With what?" "I am also being raided" Then I asked: "By who? Are you raiding your own home? Or what is happening?" He said, "No, we have challenges."

Most of the time, they would talk of a strong man. Who was this strong man? Of course, Hon. Lokii was the strongest man. He said "The other man there is very strong. But is he is a good friend - maybe we are here in Kampala". Now we have come to learn that, when we become Members of Parliament, we learn a lot as colleagues; we create friendships.

I was in Karanga the other day - I took my four tractors, at Hon. Philip Lokwang's place. Karimojong would queue for tractors. I am telling you, Rt. Hon Prime Minister, provide tractors to the Karimojong and they will get wealth and develop. The issue of iron sheets is a lie. I am telling you the truth. Once they get their own money, they will develop themselves. They will get the money.

You can imagine people fighting for a tractor. They nearly beat me. Why are you not coming to my garden? The tractor is not coming. But I was also suffering with spare parts. It is good that the Government has now earmarked money to tarmac Kitgum to Kidepo. That is a good start. Once that road is done, many investors will reach there. Now we are going to add an international airport, it is a good thing to go with. In fact, Karamoja will develop.

Mr Speaker, in this coming budget every parish in Karamoja - and do not forget my constituency because they also attacked me so much. That is why they call me a Kenyan. Do you know the reason why they call me a Kenyan? I ran away to Kenya, not because of Hon. "ASPRO" but I think it was because of Hon. Moses Aleper who is my neighbour. Thank you so much.

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

6.26

**MR ROBERT MIGADDE (NRM, Buvuma Islands County, Buvuma):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As we mourn our colleague, we also have to thank God. When you hear the narrative, we have to thank God that we are still alive and many of us are still in Parliament.

I remember when we were on the Committee of Physical Infrastructure, where the Rt Hon. Prime Minister was a member - the lunch we had when we visited Kakumiro at her bar - but I think it is a big hotel now - it shows you how life is and how we should conduct ourselves, whether in the Opposition or in the Government.

Mr Speaker, it draws me back to the relationship we had as Members of Parliament then and what we have now. Now, even on issues that do not require partisan debates whether in Parliament or the corridor - today I do not know what happened. In everything - parties, parties, parties - these parties were also there then but we had time for everything.

Mr Speaker, Hon. Aleper has died as a member of the Parliamentary SACCO, which he joined

in 2011 and he has done us a service in that - there are some Members, for the record, who make it difficult for us to identify who should be the next of kin or who should get the benefits? Some have three ladies, everyone is saying I am the beneficiary - (*Interjections*) - I am saying ladies - some children, these children are fighting the others, and at times we get stuck.

There are members who died long ago, but their benefits have been there for over seven years because we do not know who to pay. So, I want to thank those who are members of the Parliamentary SACCO, every time Parliament loses a member, there are chances that the SACCO loses a member too.

I request the family and the colleagues from Karamoja region, when this is all over, please find time and lead the family to the SACCO, to claim the benefits of our fallen colleague. They are processed within a single day. It does not need much. May the soul of our colleague rest in eternal peace.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let's have Hon. Omona then Hon. Babalanda.

6.29

**THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (Northern Uganda) (Dr Kenneth Omona):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join you and the rest of the country in paying tribute to our fallen comrade, Hon. Simon Peter Aleper, with whom I worked as a Member of Parliament in the Ninth Parliament. I also worked with him as a member of the Central Executive Committee of the National Resistance Movement, with whom we did a lot of work for the party and the Country.

Mr Speaker, like any other contributors have said here. Hon. Aleper was a very unique person. I have had many people say they know Hon. Aleper - he is my friend. We worked together, but I failed to know Hon. Aleper very well. He was always very busy and very serious on national matters, matters of Karamoja, matters of the party, and matters of the country.

Hon. Aleper, was very boring if you invited him for fun. And he would actually bore and irritate you if you did not want to answer questions. I am very sure those who used to be near Hon. Aleper know you would be answering questions all the time. He was always discussing matters of his area and matters of the country. He was so passionate about them that parties did not make a lot of difference to him, but it was the issues that made meaning to him.

He lived a very honourable and committed short life of only 49 years; he was a very honest person, who detested corruption and dishonesty.

In the National Resistance Movement CEC, Hon. Aleper was the tough pacesetter in all the CEC meetings. Like his friends have said, whenever there were any issues that others were timid to raise, they would want to raise them through the Hon. Simon Peter Aleper. He did not know how to backbite people because he always spoke very loudly. Very elegant, tall, handsome guy, very confident, and spoke what he felt like speaking, whether with the Chairman of the party, his constituents, or his friends.

We will miss Hon. Simon Peter Aleper, a committed cadre of the National Resistance Movement and a great leader of this country.

Mr Speaker, two things. Hon. Aleper, cannot hear us now, but his death has given us the opportunity to learn a lot from his experiences and his contribution to this country. I want to just make two quick responses to honourable colleagues who have also made submissions here in their tribute to the Hon. Aleper. One was from Hon. Joseph Gonzaga Ssewungu; the “*musomesa*.”

Mr Speaker, we should not ignore one great point made by Hon. Ssewungu on the issue of beginning to restructure our roads.

We have developed, our population has gone up and technology has improved. We need to redesign our roads like he said, to become dual carriage. For instance, Jinja Road is the only

road joining the central to the eastern and other parts of the country, yet the same road remains a single-lane carriage since it was constructed.

We now have vehicles that move at a speed of more than 200km per hour, but in those days we had vehicles that moved at a speed of maybe 80, and 100 was the maximum speed; we had the Peugeot and the Land Rovers of those days, but now we have vehicles, which move at rocket speed.

Therefore, we need to plan for dual carriage roads that will lower the chances or risks of accidents on those roads, because they are not about to stop. In fact, on the same day and on the same road, I think there were about three road traffic accidents one of which led to the death of Hon. Aleper.

Secondly, other colleagues made mention of labelling or marking the roads clearly. Mr Speaker, at night these roads are dark, and when you are confused with bright light, you cannot tell which side is the edge of the road, either right or left.

Your reference point becomes the object that is approaching, whether it is a tractor, a motorcycle, or a truck. Many of these road accidents are caused because of this and I think it is a good idea. I may not agree with Hon. Ssewungu on many things, but I agree with him on this one; this is very important. (*Laughter*)

It is true Hon. Ssewungu was a very good friend of Hon. Aleper because he was our big voice on this side; when he spoke and he was also contacted by Hon. Ssewungu on the other side, it squared up; it was a good debate and we have very fond memories of him.

Thirdly is the issue of development and vision of Hon. Aleper regarding the transformation of Karamoja. Hon. Aleper had a very good vision and shared very great visions with the National Resistance Movement on the development and transformation of Karamoja.

I do not want to believe Hon. Ssemujju in saying that Karamoja has been abandoned;

Karamoja has transformed. By the way, Karamoja is not the poorest region in Uganda now. Acholi Region is now the poorest with 67 per cent poor, followed by Karamoja.

It should also be appreciated that the National Resistance Movement has made strides towards the transformation of Karamoja and the work is ongoing. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, from the time the Kara - Tunga migrated from the current Ethiopia in around 1600 A.D., it was in the time of the National Resistance Movement that paved the roads reached and penetrated Karamoja.

A total of 68.2 per cent of Karamoja was a game reserve and all those fellows who were living there were part of the wildlife until 2002 when the National Resistance Movement degazetted that and made Karamoja a place that can be utilised and developed.

As I speak, the Government has planned and because of this penetration, a lot of investments are going into Karamoja. We have a clinker factory that was commissioned, and which is going to substitute imports for about \$380 million of the clinker that we were importing.

Imagine the jobs that we are going to create there. We already have one of the best factories producing rock tiles in this entire region, even for export and many others that are coming to Karamoja. Hon. Aleper, Hon. Lokii and I bet that in the next 50 years, Karamoja will be one of the most coveted places in Uganda with organised development and transformation.

I used to tell Hon. Aleper, "Please if you can now have land, buy or own land in Karamoja." He had become a preacher saying that all of you leaders should have a good home where you come from and spend time.

He would say, "Develop and improve yourself" and because of this, he went back to school at his old age, earned a degree in law and he was now doing his postgraduate diploma, Bar Course. This is testimony that Hon. Aleper was this kind of leader.

Hon. Aleper, may the good Lord forgive all your wrongs, and may your good deeds on earth carry you before the good Lord in Heaven. And to your family, God bless you and the same God that gave you Hon. Aleper knew that you are on earth here and the earth where you have remained will also take good care of you, especially the Government and our party, the National Resistance Movement.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, Hon. Babalanda.

6.38

**THE MINISTER, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT (PRESIDENCY) (Ms Milly Babalanda):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wish to join my colleagues and all the mourners to pay tribute to Hon. Simon Peter Aleper; a father, friend, cadre, patriot, senior citizen and an honourable CEC member.

Hon. Simon Peter Aleper was a straightforward person and corrupt free. The Government of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) under the wise leadership of His Excellency (Rtd) Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has lost a patriot. *(Applause)*

We stand with you, Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda and the National Chairperson of the mighty party, NRM, in mourning a colleague, Hon. Simon Peter Aleper.

In a special way, I thank His Excellency, the President for according him an official burial, the NRM Secretariat together with the National Organising Committee for taking the lead in organising a befitting send-off for Hon. Simon Peter Aleper.

I would like to assure you and the entire country that we are managing and we are going to do as per the directive of His Excellency, the President to accord -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, you are protected.

**MS BABALANDA:** To accord Hon. Simon Peter Aleper a befitting send-off. As I conclude, I condole with the family and I am leaving the family with this verse in the Bible, which says, “*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Henceforth, they may rest from their burdens, and their good works do follow them.*” (Revelation 14:13)

May Hon. Simon Peter Aleper rest in eternal peace. For God and my country. (*Applause*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable minister. Honourable colleagues, 44 colleagues have spoken. We have been here for four and a half hours. We had planned earlier that two hours would be enough, but I think we have seen that Hon. Aleper is special in a way that we had to extend.

The family has to go on with other functions; there are people at home waiting and they have been with us since early morning. I was at church by 8.00 a.m. and the family was there. So, you can imagine since 8.00 a.m., they have not gone home to check on anything.

So, I request that those who have not got a chance to speak, please forgive me. It is not easy being here. That is why I first picked the whole Karamoja group; it was to ensure that no single MP from Karamoja missed paying their tribute. We usually do it that way to cover the MPs from that whole region. I thank you for accepting that.

I now put the question that the motion to pay tribute to the late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper, former Member of Parliament and member of the Central Executive Committee of the NRM party, be adopted.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Motion adopted.*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable colleagues. I now instruct the Clerk to transmit a copy of the resolution together with the *Hansard* to the family of the late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper.

*The East African Community Anthem*

*The National Anthem*

*(Exit of the late Hon. Simon Peter Aleper.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable colleagues. I would like to thank you, once again for showing love and paying this special tribute to our fallen colleague. I think his family has known that indeed he had another family here in Parliament. That is very important. It at least gives comfort to know that Daddy contributed to this and that the family at Parliament still cherished him.

I thank Her Excellency, Vice-President in a very special way; she has been with us from 2.00 p.m. (*Applause*) We cannot take it for granted for a whole Vice-President to be here. We know the kind of assignments you have. This is so special.

The Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we thank you for being here all this time -(*Applause*) - and all of you, honourable colleagues and the Rt Hon. Speaker who since yesterday was at the NRM Headquarters responded to early morning calls even came to receive the body and came to the House. That is a sign of love and respect for our colleague.

Honourable colleagues, I was sharing with some colleagues from Karamoja and I found out that most of you are going for the burial on Tuesday. We would be lying to ourselves that we will be here and at peace when we have our members from the whole subregion not here; very many ministers and other colleagues told me that they would be going.

Therefore, we shall adjourn the House to Wednesday so that at least our colleague can be buried without members rushing. On Tuesday, we will attend the burial and on Wednesday we can resume House sittings. When we resume, we shall have the debate on the State-of-the-Nation-Address.

Honourable colleagues, do you want to push for Thursday? Rt Hon. Prime Minister and the



Leader of the Opposition (LOP), can you say something about it?

This is our House, we can agree. Rt Hon. Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business - it does not have to be our idea alone; we work together.

6.51

**THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN PARLIAMENT (Ms Robinah Nabbanja):**

Mr Speaker, I would like to agree with the members the reason we have carnage on our roads is because of travelling at night.

Two, when members go, maybe – Karamoja is not near –(*Interjections*) – 600 kilometres away, you cannot drive and come back on the same day. Mr Speaker, I agree with the members that we postpone up to Thursday.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

6.52

**MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu):** Mr Speaker, I also have no problem with that and that is what we desire as members of Parliament. You are helping us know the real cause of that adjournment.

However, my prayer still goes to the Leader of Government Business that whenever we see the Order Paper every week, we start with you because it is the Government that brings business to the House, but Mr Speaker, on Tuesday, you saw the Order Paper, “Designation, Laying of papers and Adjournment.” That puts us very low. We want to debate here; we want business here.

We are going to attend the burial and we shall try our best because I am the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) now. The Speaker has not yet said, “Thank you, LOP” but of course, I know, but Mr Speaker, in good spirit, let us have that. We shall be here waiting for business. Otherwise, we want an interesting

House with a good debate and move on. That is the standard we have. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I just want to clarify that it was not the problem of the Leader of Government Business not to give us business. We have business but the business we are having is for sectoral committees. You designate chairpersons of committees and then, the next day, you say, “Go and start working?” We were very cautious. That is why, the next day, we had a Business Committee and today, we had an induction for committee chairpersons to prepare them so that they can start on business.

**MR SSEWUNGU:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. In a good spirit, I also thank the Rt Hon. Prime Minister; we shall wait for you and the Vice-President.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. House adjourned to Thursday next week at 2.00 p.m.

*(The House rose at 6.53 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 1 August 2024 at 2.00 p.m.)*