



# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2024





## IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

### Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

#### FOURTH SESSION - 24TH SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Thursday, 3 October 2024

*Parliament met at 1.59 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.*

#### PRAYERS

*(The Speaker, Ms Anita Among, in the Chair.)*

The House was called to order.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I welcome you to today's sitting. During yesterday's sitting, the House stood over the consideration of the Uganda National Kiswahili Council Bill, 2023 pending streamlining and harmonisation between the two ministries; the Ministry of Education and Sports, and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. We would like to get a report from the Leader of Government Business to that effect because the Bill is ready and we are ready to proceed. Let us hear from him.

2.01

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati):** Madam Speaker, we would like to seek your permission for the two ministries to be given an opportunity to reconcile internally in Cabinet on Monday, then we will consider this Bill next week when we have harmonised it.

2.02

**MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. In the same spirit, can we hear from

him because yesterday, he promised to report back here on the issue of a requirement for a national identity card to register marriages? He promised to come and explain today why they have brought it into existence.

**THE SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, maybe to bring you on board, we have the Uganda National Kiswahili Council Bill, 2023. Kiswahili is a subject, which is examinable. However, when the Bill was sent for preparation, it was sent to the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development. The Bill was sponsored by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, but the minister did not sign it.

We do not know whether it was deliberate or not. That is why we are saying, is it under the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development or the Ministry of Education and Sports? The House insisted that it should be under the Ministry of Education and Sports.

2.03

**MR DENIS OGUZU (FDC, Maracha County, Maracha):** Madam Speaker, you have brought out the issue well. There was a legal question, which these two parties should have gone out to settle before they returned here with the Bill. Ideally, the minister should move to withdraw this Bill so that it is introduced in a proper way. Otherwise, if we proceed with it, you must brace yourself for a legal challenge. This is a notice to Parliament.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is okay.

2.04

**MR ASUMAN BASALIRWA (JEEMA, Bugiri Municipality, Bugiri):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. About these Bills, there is always discussion in Cabinet. I do not know why the Front Bench wants to put us in a very big dilemma and make us appear ugly. I think it is important for our colleagues on the Front Bench to eat humble pie and make us appear tidy. Otherwise, we are going to have a very big problem.

Madam Speaker, this is not the first time we are facing this scenario. I remember even when we were discussing, I think it was the National Health Insurance Bill, we almost fell into the same problem. I do not know what kind of discussion actually happens in the Executive when matters of this nature come up. They should guide us.

**MR BAHATI:** Madam Speaker, on the point of marriage that the acting Leader of the Opposition yesterday asked about, we requested Hon. Norbert Mao, who has wedded recently *—(Laughter)—* to tell us why people who are wedding require national IDs. He was informed. I am going to cross-check in a few minutes and see whether he is coming.

On the question of Hon. Basalirwa, we do not want to make Parliament look untidy. That is not our intention and that is the reason we are saying, we will go back to Cabinet and harmonise it. This is part of the legislative process. Where there is any question, we go back, harmonise and come back when we are okay.

We have listened. The House is saying this Bill should be accommodated under the Ministry of Education and Sports. We shall go back, and if it requires to gazette it afresh or to go through a process that will make the process neater, we will do that. That is the reason we are asking for only two days. Monday is just two days from now. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is why Hon. Lee was saying that you move to withdraw the Bill officially.

**MR BAHATI:** Madam Speaker, I think that decision can be made after we have consulted; whether we are going to withdraw or not. However, what we are committed to is to ensure that the voices from the House are heard and we will respond to them. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** There was also an aspect where somebody sponsors a Bill but you send it without a signature. How do we confirm that it is authentic? Who owns it?

**MR BAHATI:** On behalf of Government, I would like to apologise that, that was an error. For every Bill that comes to the House, a signature should be appended to it.

2.07

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am glad the minister has conceded on one element to say that an error was occasioned and the Bill was not signed. That should never happen because I am sure, you have teams that help you put these things together.

The minister has also said that they are going to consult within Cabinet to determine whether or not to withdraw the Bill. I do not think that there are two ways around it because the law is the law. I do not think you can sit, agree and say we shall not follow the law. As it is now, we have two options: Government can be humble enough, acknowledge a mistake that was made and withdraw the Bill or, as Parliament, we use our prerogative to throw the Bill out, which will make you look shabby.

Therefore, we are only helping you as Government to say, concede and withdraw it. You need to reorganise internally so you withdraw what you brought before us here. Go back, sit and get organised; which ministry is bringing this Bill, make sure it is signed and so on. If they do not want to do that, we will use our power as Parliament to throw it out.

**THE SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition, on top of that, our committee chairpersons should also exercise procedural prudence to make sure that the Bill is fully

signed or has all the ingredients that it requires to be processed.

**MR SSENKYONYI:** I agree, Madam Speaker, because there are many gatekeepers. The first gatekeeper is the minister who brings the Bill. Once the technical people put it together for you, you ought to realise that there is an issue. The second gatekeeper is at the committee stage. The third and final gatekeeper is here, in the House.

We did our good gatekeeping here, in the House, to say there is a problem. We hope that it can now be reversed in a very nice way. As the Government, do not put us in a difficult situation, to say: “We are going to see whether we withdraw or not.” If you do not withdraw, we shall do the legal thing to say: “We have rejected it.” I do not know if that is what you want.

**MR BAHATI:** Madam Speaker, if I may, allow me to lend a hand of assistance to the leader of the incoming government – probably, which will happen after a hundred years. *(Interjection)* The Government works in a certain way. As a minister, I cannot come here and withdraw a Bill. I have to go back to the Cabinet, we harmonise and come back when we are organised. We are committed to bringing it back. Thank you.

2.10

**MR IBRAHIM SSEMUJJU (FDC, Kira Municipality, Wakiso):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The problem starts with the laying of papers. In the past, we had a minister who said, “I beg to lay” when he had nothing in his hand – *(Laughter)* – but the *Hansard* captured him as if he was laying something.

We need to scrutinise the documents that are being laid on the Table because that is where the problem starts. When a minister presents a Bill for the first reading and says, “I beg to lay”, the technical people who are helping the presiding officer may, quickly, have to check because these ministers have laid “air” before.

Madam Speaker, you have two issues with this particular Bill. The first is how it was introduced and accepted by Parliament, without obeying the Rules of Procedure. The second issue, where Hon. Bahati says the Cabinet needs to – Madam Speaker, our rules do not encourage Members to storm your Chair, like Hon. Kiryowa Kiwanuka is doing. I am addressing the Chair.

There are two issues, Madam Speaker, with this particular Bill. The first is that it did not meet the technicality of being accompanied by a memorandum signed by the minister.

The second one – Madam Speaker, allow me to disagree with every colleague here who says that this Kiswahili Council should be moved from the gender ministry to the ministry for education. That is why, yesterday, I wanted to make my submission. I disagree with the whole idea of creating a council. We study English, and all of you here speak English. Is there a council for English? You speak your languages; Luganda and others. You cannot be the same Parliament supporting rationalisation and you are allowing the Government, in a lazy way, to begin creating a council. *(Applause)*

I do not know how this Government works. We should thank God that we still exist. *(Laughter)* If you want to popularise a language, just introduce it and make it compulsory in schools. You have 12 million children in primary schools. Why do you bother Parliament the whole afternoon by debating the creation of a council - on whether it should be here or there for purposes of promoting a language?

Train teachers to teach everybody – like for some of us who went through rural schools, we were beaten to speak English. However, we are here, as Parliament, allowing this lazy Government to carry us along – that you want to promote Kiswahili, therefore, a council should be created!

Madam Speaker, that is the submission I intended to make yesterday. We should reject the creation of the council. If it exists, we should abolish it and assign this Government

the responsibility to go and, administratively, promote Kiswahili.

Do the soldiers who speak Kiswahili have a council in the military? Really, I do not want to be part of this lazy business.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, as we wait for the harmonisation between the Leader of the Opposition and the Attorney-General, let us have the next item.

#### BILLS FIRST READING

##### THE MARRIAGE BILL, 2024

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, as you are aware, the right of a private Member to initiate a Private Member's Bill is enshrined under Article 94(4)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, and operationalised under Rule 121 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

Honourable members, whereas Section 76 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, requires a Bill, at the first reading, to be accompanied by the Certificate of Financial Implications, this particular Bill was not granted a certificate. In the absence of the certificate, Section 76(4) of the Public Finance Management Act provides that the Certificate of Financial Implications shall be deemed to have been issued after 60 days from the date of request of the certificate.

Pursuant to Rule 128(1) of the Rules of Procedure, I now invite Hon. Sarah Opendi, Woman MP for Tororo District, to table her Bill for the first reading.

2.17

**MS DORCAS ACEN (NRM, Woman Representative, Alebtong):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon. Sarah Opendi, who is the mover of the Bill, is currently unwell; she had a minor accident. I am here, on her behalf, to move a motion for the first reading of the Bill.

**THE SPEAKER:** Sorry about the accident.

**MS ACEN:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the Bill entitled, "The Marriage Bill, 2024" be read for the first time. I beg to lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

#### BILLS FIRST READING

##### THE MARRIAGE BILL, 2024

**THE SPEAKER:** In furtherance of Rule 121 of the Rules of Procedure -

**MR OGUZU:** We need to examine that Bill because the rule says the Bill must be accompanied by a signed memorandum. We must establish if it is signed properly.

**THE SPEAKER:** We will do it. Honourable members, the Bill is going to the committee. (*Members rose*) If you do not want the Bill, collapse it from there. Let us not suffocate anybody. That is like causing a miscarriage. [*HON. MEMBER: "Motion."*] There is no motion.

In furtherance of Rule 129 of our Rules of Procedure, the Bill stands referred to a joint Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and the Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development. The Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs will take the lead on this Bill and they will report as per Rule 129 (2) of the Rules of the Procedure.

Can we get feedback from the Attorney-General? (*Member rose*) Procedure on?

**MR SSEMUJJU:** Madam Speaker, the introduction of the Bill means that all the attendant documents -

**THE SPEAKER:** The Bill was introduced and it is now scheduled for First Reading.

**MR SSEMUJJU:** Yes, because when it came to the requirements for a Certificate of Financial Implications, you read the rule and explained how it has been handled. This means that even

the memorandum must not be assumed to have been brought to Parliament. You have told us, “I have brought a Bill” and also gone ahead to tell us, “Here is the signed memorandum” and sign - and she submitted it independently of the Bill. Do not assign the Speaker a responsibility that is yours, as the mover of the Bill.

Madam Speaker, the procedural issue I am raising is whether you should not make the same judgement on the memorandum accompanying the Bill like you have made on the Certificate of Financial Implications.

**THE SPEAKER:** *Hajji*, the memorandum is part of the Bill and it was attached when it came for introduction. It is there. You are part of the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. Wait and handle it in the committee. Attorney-General?

2.21

**THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka):** Madam Speaker, I am rising to clarify on the issue of the Uganda National Kiswahili Council Bill, which was raised in your opening remarks.

One, I can say without fear of contradiction that the memorandum that we are dealing with was signed.

Number two, the issue of where the Bill should reside was interrogated and considered and there was a concerted view in Cabinet that it should be in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

However, for us to be able to give a coherent and well-organised answer, we can defer this to next week and come back and answer all these questions appropriately with the relevant evidence. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Clarification?

**MR OGUZU:** Mr Attorney-General, thank you for your information. The record we have was from the Office of the Clerk to Parliament and the Clerk is the custodian of records of Parliament. We have examined that document

and it shows that there is no accompanying explanatory memorandum signed by the minister who proposed the Bill.

I am told that when a question of law has been raised and is brought to the attention of the Presiding Officer, it must be resolved before we proceed but you are making a claim without substantiating it with evidence which would support it.

Madam Speaker, if you do not resolve this matter well, it is going to raise questions about the chair you are occupying, because it has serious implications for the admissibility of this matter. I would pray for you to excuse yourself. These people must withdraw, and in the alternative, the Attorney-General must prove -

**THE SPEAKER:** Excuse myself and leave the chair? *(Laughter)*

**MR OGUZU:** No, I mean, do not put yourself in a - because the public is watching. The document was examined here; it was verified and there was no signature. So, at what point was it signed and how did it get introduced to the House? These are questions that will be raised.

To save face, I think the most honourable thing to do is to withdraw. I remember a similar matter arose and Attorney-General, we came to negotiate with you and we agreed the thing would be – We did not speak about it to expose it unnecessarily. Now there is repetition.

It is becoming a culture that the rules of this Parliament can be breached by anybody under the watch of the presiding officers. I think that is uncalled for and it will be an indictment on this Parliament. I do not agree with that.

**MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA:** Madam Speaker, I have said and I will repeat: that what I have asked for is to come back with the relevant documents. Now, if my colleague wants me to present them now, I can say I do not have the file now but the thing is that the documents I know will exist and I will come

with them. The minister who sponsored the Bill will bring them.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, after consultation between the two – and we must work as a team in the House - we will give Government up to Tuesday. Short of that, come and withdraw your Bill. If you do not withdraw your Bill, we shall help you as a House. Yes?

**MR NIWAGABA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am referring to the Marriage Bill, which you have referred to two committees jointly.

**THE SPEAKER:** A decision was already – You are my personal Attorney-General. Now, on something that has already been decided upon?

**MR NIWAGABA:** That is why I thought that I would bring this procedural matter and maybe you will reconsider your decision.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Niwagaba, first wait. It was already passed. Next item?

MOTION SEEKING LEAVE OF  
PARLIAMENT TO INTRODUCE A  
PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL ENTITLED,  
"THE MAGISTRATES COURTS  
(AMENDMENT) BILL"

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, Article 94(4)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 and Rule 121 of the Rules of Procedure, grant a Member leave to introduce a Private Member's Bill. It is right that Hon. Kiwanuka Abdallah, Member of Parliament for Mukono County North, seeks to exercise his constitutional obligation. We now invite you under Rule 122(1) of the Rules of Procedure.

2.27

**MR ABDALLAH KIWANUKA (NUP, Mukono County North, Mukono):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a motion seeking leave of the House to introduce a private members' Bill entitled, "The Magistrates Courts (Amendment) Bill".

*"WHEREAS Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 empowers Parliament to make laws on any matter for the peace, order, development and good governance of Uganda;*

*AND WHEREAS Article 94(4)(b) of the Constitution and Rules 121 and 122 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament permit a Member of Parliament to move a Private Member's Bill;*

*AWARE that Article 129 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 creates the Courts of Judicature including the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, High Court of Uganda, and other subordinate courts as Parliament may, by law, establish through which judicial power is exercised;*

*NOTING that the Courts of Judicature are granted specific pecuniary and geographical jurisdiction, including the Supreme Court which is designated under Article 132 of the Constitution and section 4 of the Judicature Act, Cap 13, as the final court of appeal, the Court of Appeal, which is granted a dual function under Article 134(2) and 137 of the Constitution to be an appellate court from such decisions of the High Court, as may be prescribed by law, as well as being the Constitutional Court of Uganda, the High Court which is granted unlimited original jurisdiction in all matters and such appellate and other jurisdictions as may be conferred on it by the Constitution or other law under Article 139 of the Constitution and Section 14 of the Judicature Act;*

*FURTHER NOTING that other subordinate courts have also been granted specific pecuniary and geographical jurisdiction over specific matters including Magistrates Courts which are granted jurisdiction under Section 207 of the Magistrates Courts Act, including the Chief Magistrate Court with a pecuniary jurisdiction over matters of a value not exceeding Shs 50 million, Magistrate Grade I with a pecuniary jurisdiction over matters of a value not exceeding Shs 20 million, and Magistrate Grade II with a pecuniary jurisdiction over matters of a value not exceeding Shs 500,000;*



*CONCERNED that currently in Uganda, the Judiciary faces a number of challenges, including case backlog, which according to the Annual Judicial Report, 2022 currently stands at 50,592 cases being cases that have not been determined for more than two years and 168,007 cases being cases pending determination by various courts;*

*FURTHER CONCERNED that case backlog is highest in the High Court circuits with a case backlog of 19,824 cases out of 33,222 pending cases while the lowest case backlog is before the Magistrates Courts which have only 11,231 cases;*

*RECOGNISING that case backlog at the High Court is attributed to various factors including the low pecuniary jurisdiction for Magistrates Courts which has resulted in the filing of several cases and matters in the High Court;*

*COGNISANT that whereas the majority of cases are filed in the High Court, the High Court is not widely spread out in Uganda, owing to the limited number of High Court judges who are currently 72, serving 132 districts of Uganda compared to the Magistrate Courts, which are widely spread out in the country and consist of 82 gazetted magisterial areas, with 301 Magistrate Grade I Courts and 77 Chief Magistrate Courts;*

*FIRMLY CONVINCED that there is a need to amend the Magistrates Courts Act, Cap 16 to increase the pecuniary jurisdiction of Magistrate Courts as a means to reduce case backlogs in the High Court;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Parliament grants me leave to introduce a Private Member's Bill entitled, "The Magistrate Courts (Amendment) Bill", a draft of which is attached hereto;*

*AND do order the publication of the Bill in preparation for its first reading."*

I beg to move, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Is the Bill seconded? *(Members rose)* It is seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Ssewungu, Hon. Wilfred, Hon. Francis, the Opposition, and also Hon. Pro-Poor, Hon. Museveni, Hon. Baka, and the Member for Bunyole. Do you have something to say? I thought you were saying something.

**MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA:** No, Madam Speaker. I was just calling out for your protection from Hon. Ssewungu because he was coercing me into seconding a Bill whose content I do not know. *(Laughter)*

**THE SPEAKER:** No, you will get the content during the committee scrutiny. Yes, the seconder, Hon. Mutembuli - Honourable members - Do you want to justify your motion? He did justify. He combined everything. Honourable members -

**MR KIBALYA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Recently, we have been suspicious of two colleagues and yesterday, they sat in front there and you said it was free sitting. Today, I entered the House and from the beginning, you did not declare free sitting but they have insisted on sitting on the Front Bench and near the most prestigious instrument in this House. We are very worried about their motive; as to why they insist on sitting -

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, if you are suspicious of anybody, the Presiding Officer is not suspicious. You never know they may be appointed ministers in the night. Maybe these are the next ministers to be appointed - *(Laughter)* - Honourable member for Bunyole -

2.35

**MR YUSUF MUTEMBULI (NRM, Bunyole East County, Butaleja):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. In accordance with Rule 60 of our Rules of Procedure, I hereby second the motion seeking leave of this House to introduce a Private Member's Bill entitled, "The Magistrates Court (Amendment) Bill.

Madam Speaker, this Bill -

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Aogon, what is the problem?

**MR AOGON:** Now that there is suspicion in the House, normally - We saw, during the times we had turmoil in this House, during the amendment of the Constitution, there was something that was done. The Sergeant-At-Arms positioned people to guard the Mace strategically. Madam Speaker, is it procedurally proper that we guard this Mace because I am suspicious?

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, all the Members of Parliament I have here are "honourable." I am not suspicious of anybody. As far as I know, our Mace is very safe. Do not live that kind of life, live a free life. Go ahead.

**MR MUTEMBULI:** Thank you, Madam Speaker -

**THE SPEAKER:** I would like to warn you people. This business of "Order", "and "Procedure" when somebody is defending a serious motion, we should not - Let us leave a person to finish what is presented.

**MR MUTEMBULI:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. As I said, under rule 60, I am seconding this motion seeking leave of the House to introduce a Private Member's Bill entitled, "The Magistrates Courts (Amendment) Bill.

Madam Speaker, I am supporting this and seconding it because it is long overdue. The last time we had an amendment of this Act regarding pecuniary jurisdiction of the Magistrates Courts was in 2007, under Act 7 of that year, and I want to report that, that was the very year I started legal practice.

Therefore, for the last 17 years, we have not had any amendment yet our economy is growing and there is more need for us to have matters handled by the Magistrates Court. The lawyers who are here and have been in practice, know very well that there are cases that are in a High Court that, in most cases, are supposed to be handled in the Chief Magistrate's Court.

For instance, imagine handling cases of Shs 60 million, Shs 70 million - and as we are aware, the High Court has unlimited jurisdiction, meaning it has a wide jurisdiction to handle several cases. Now, bothering it with the cases of Shs 100 million and Shs 200 million, in my view, is a disservice to this country.

As my learned friend, Hon. Abdallah, has already mentioned, most cases are before Magistrate Courts so, by us enhancing the pecuniary jurisdiction of the Magistrates Court, we shall be doing justice to this country by having all those cases as follows: Chief Magistrate Shs 200 million, Shs 100 million for Magistrate Court Grade I. That will be good. This, in one way or the other, will lead to dispensation of cases expeditiously in those lower courts.

Otherwise, if you look at the High Court, it has so many cases. Magistrate Grade I can easily dispose of their cases because they are just Shs 20 million. How many cases are Shs 20 million? The economy is growing. For example, go to the Commercial Court, we are handling matters of billions.

Instead of the High Court concentrating on such cases, they are also bothered with the cases of Shs 60 million and Shs 80 million. I think by enacting this amendment, in one way or the other, we are allowing people to easily access justice and have cases disposed of expeditiously, as opposed to -

You can imagine there is a matter I fixed in the High Court and we are supposed to handle it towards the end of 2025. The reason is that there is too much for the High Court to handle. I think once this is done, the issues will be resolved and we shall have a reduction on the backlog. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** So, it reduces the backlog - Thank you.

2.41

**MR WILFRED NIWAGABA (Independent, Ndoorwa County East, Kabale):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. We have all along advised the Executive Arm of Government, particularly before my junior colleague, but now senior because of his position, came. The last time we had told them to do the amendment by a statutory instrument to increase the monetary jurisdiction of Magistrates Grade I and Chief Magistrates in a way to curtail the backlog in the High Court. You can imagine the High Court sitting to determine a matter of Shs 51 million with our currency devaluation.

Therefore, I support the motion and I invite my brother, the Attorney-General, to concede and actually go and prepare the statutory instrument, without even amending the Act itself. This is because the motion is in good faith and it is intended to help the administration of justice.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable members, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have students and teachers from Yumbe Primary School; all the way from Yumbe. Please stand up. Where are they? Join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)* Hon. Odria, can you greet and wave at your people. Thank you so much.

In the Distinguished Stranger's Gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation of film crew members from Compassion International Uganda. They are in the process of documenting an inspiring story and a documentary featuring Hon. Lucy Akello, the woman Member of Parliament representing Amuru District. *(Applause)*

She is a proud alumni of Compassion International and her journey comes all the way from there and the support for the girl-child. She is also a *Ssabakristu* of the Parliament of Uganda, leading the Catholic Church. We are very proud of you, Hon. Akello. I will give you chance to greet your people.

Honourable members, I now put the question that Hon. Kiwanuka Abdallah be granted leave to introduce a private Member's Bill entitled, "The Magistrates Courts (Amendment) Bill."

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Rule 112(3)(4) of the Rules of Procedure, the Clerk is hereby instructed to support the Member in ensuring that the Bill comes for the First Reading.

In the public gallery this afternoon, we also have pupils and teachers from St Catherine Junior School located in Mukono Municipality. They are represented in Parliament by Hon. Bakireke Betty Nambooze and Hon. Nabukeera Hanifa. Where are the children? Please stand up. They are here to witness the proceedings. *(Applause)* Hon. Akello?

2.45

**MS LUCY AKELLO (FDC, Woman Representative, Amuru):** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to say something small about Compassion International and the journey I have walked with them.

My story with them started when I was just in Primary four, a pupil at Kyambogo Primary School. I had just come from a very devastating, difficult journey and life in Gulu then, as a result of the LRA conflict. I was among the many children, or few, who were picked up by Compassion International who paid my school fees up to senior six. By the grace of God, I got Government sponsorship to go and study in Makerere University. That is how my sponsorship ended.

I actually thought that was the end of my journey with them until I attended the National Prayer Breakfast in the United States. As God had planned, I actually sat next - because when you are there, you are given a number to sit on the table. Where I sat, next to me was actually the founder and the director of Compassion International.

When I turned to introduce myself, he introduced himself first to me. When I heard about it, it was so emotional and from that time, they decided that my story and the work that I do would be documented for the rest of the world to see and also support their work.

With this, I thank you, Madam Speaker. In this House, we are two beneficiaries of Compassion International; Hon. Margaret and I. I am not sure whether she is in here but that is what I wanted to say while paying tribute. They can probably once again stand up for recognition; the team from Compassion International, all the way from the United States. *(Applause)*

We will be traveling with them to Amuru to see where I come from and also document everything there. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. This is a call to all of us. If you have something extra, give a helping hand. You never know where it will end up. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Compassion International and kindly continue supporting us. We appreciate the support that you give to us. I know Hon. Elijah is one of the beneficiaries as well.

2.48

**MR ELIJAH OKUPA (Independent, Kasilo County, Serere):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Like my sister stated here, she has benefited. Personally, I have also benefited from Compassion International by them providing - They were the first people to provide piped water in Kasilo County.

In the village where I come from, they sponsor over 300 pupils. They educate them and it is not only that village. There are about five villages in Kasilo County that Compassion International has helped. They are helping pupils and the vulnerable by providing water. They are also helping the churches. Therefore, I thank them once more on behalf of the people of Kasilo County in Serere District. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. On behalf of Uganda, we would like to thank you very much for the support you are giving to Ugandans. We do appreciate it. Whatever you can do, please kindly do it for the good of the Ugandans. We wish you well and God's blessings. Next item.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO COMPLY –

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, if we are to give every beneficiary then we will move out of the Order Paper. Can we return to the Order Paper?

**MR NAMBESHE:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to join the colleagues who welcomed the humanitarian organisation of Compassion International.

Madam Speaker, you are setting a very good precedent that when we get guests, as it has just happened – and I have witnessed it incidentally in other jurisdictions, for instance, the neighbourhood parliaments of the Republic of Tanzania and even Kenya. Whenever guests come or even school children, the area Members of Parliament are given a minute or so to welcome them. What you have just done is wonderful and I stood up to salute you for that, Madam Speaker. From here, roll it down to others. I beg to submit.

**THE SPEAKER:** Have the Yumbe people gone? Hon. Melsa, please greet the Yumbe people.

2.52

**MS MELSA AVAKO (NRM, Woman Representative, Yumbe):** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for this golden opportunity. I am very humbled. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome my people from Yumbe District; the teachers, the pupils, the stakeholders like parents, the PTA; all who are here. You are most welcome to Parliament.

This is the Parliament of Uganda that belongs to everyone. *(Laughter)* I am very happy that you have come to observe the proceedings of Parliament. It is my pride. Please learn a lot from here and when you go back, go and educate those you have left behind. And please vote Avako Melsa. *(Laughter)* Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Pupils, you have heard – Order, Order. Hon. Alioni is a Member of Parliament. Now, Hon. Alioni, please greet our people from Yumbe. Please go with Hon. Melsa and take a picture at the steps with the pupils.

2.53

**MR ODRIA ALIONI (NRM, Aringa South County, Yumbe):** I have been longing for this opportunity - (*Laughter*) - but for now, let me greet my students from Yumbe. *Assalam alaikum*. You are most welcome. I am waiting for the right opportunity to come on the Floor here and present my main matter. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay, thank you.

2.54

**MR SIRAJI EZAMA (NRM, Aringa County, Yumbe):** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It is a pleasure to have these gallant pupils from Yumbe Primary School in this Parliament of Uganda. This is one of the best performing schools in Yumbe District. You can see from the way they have appeared. They are very smart and very organised, and their performance is also very excellent. We are proud of them. It is a pleasure to have them in the Parliament, and they come from my constituency. I am very grateful. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Members. Next item.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON  
THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE  
GOVERNMENT TO COMPLY WITH  
INTERNATIONAL EXPORT MARKET  
REQUIREMENTS FOR DRIED CHILLI,  
WILD AQUATIC PRODUCTS AND  
COFFEE

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, Rule 220 of the Rules of Procedure requires ministers to submit to Parliament an action-taken report detailing actions that have been taken by the relevant ministries or ministers following a resolution or questions that have been raised by the House. Pursuant to Rule 52(1) of the Rules of Procedure, I now want to

invite the honourable Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

2.55

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (Mr Frank Tumwebaze):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving us space on the Order Paper - (*Interruption*)

**MS SUSAN MUGABI:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of last month, I raised a matter of national importance concerning the delayed payment of the Project Affected Persons of the Palm Oil Project in Buvuma District. These people gave in their land for the good of the community.

**THE SPEAKER:** How is it related to what we are discussing?

**MS SUSAN MUGABI:** Madam Speaker, the procedural matter I am raising is that since the minister – At that time, the presiding officer, the Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker guided that the Prime Minister will come here and give us a statement about the delayed compensation of the Project Affected Persons of the palm oil project.

Now that the Minister for Agriculture is here, isn't it procedurally right that the minister gives us an update about the compensation of the Project Affected Persons including when they are willing to give the maintenance funds for the palm oil out-growers? Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, can I first have the statement of the minister on what was asked? You will then come in to ask your question. He has not heard. (*Laughter*)

As of now, first give me the statement and then you will answer all questions related to agriculture.

**MS SUSAN MUGABI:** Much obliged, Madam Speaker. I will be back on the Floor.

**MR TUMWEBAZE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for your guidance that we follow one

item at a time. We shall also get to that. Thank you.

I make this statement to Parliament under Rule 52(1) of our Rules of Procedure to brief the House on the actions taken by the Government in regard to complying with certain export market requirements for agricultural products originating from Uganda.

This statement is for information purposes, but also to request and seek support of the august House in mobilising our farmers and exporters to understand these export requirements such that they mainstream them in their agricultural production systems.

Madam Speaker, the statement is about:

- i) Two export protocols signed with China at the recently concluded forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) where Her Excellency the Vice President of the Republic of Uganda led the Ugandan delegation.
- ii) On the launch of the countrywide registration of coffee value chain actors and farm mapping for purposes of creating a traceability system for our coffee and related products and thus, enable compliance with the European Union Deforestation Regulations.

The recently signed protocols for export of dried chillies and wild aquatic products between the Republic of Uganda and the People's Republic of China.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries was part of Uganda's delegation to the recently concluded 9<sup>th</sup> Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held in Beijing from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The ministry had, prior to the forum, been actively engaging with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China to have clearance for Uganda's dried chillies and wild aquatic products to enter the Chinese market. Thankfully, there was agreement on the key issues of concern for both countries.

It is worth noting that it is an international norm that before any country exports products of plant origin to another country, a scientific assessment must be undertaken to understand the risk of introduction of new or exotic pests into the importing country. In the same way, it is a requirement to ensure that products of animal origin are fit for human consumption. This is the primary reason for having protocols in place.

The lack of protocols in place meant that our products could not enter the Chinese market and if there were to, they would move through non-designated trade routes and consequently reach China as if originating from other countries. In other words, it would be exported by smuggling.

As part of the engagements and outcomes of the forum and its associated side events, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and fisheries (MAAIF) of Uganda, and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) on behalf of the Chinese Government, signed two protocols and these were:

1. Protocol on inspection, quarantine and sanitary requirements of wild aquatic products including Nile perch fillets, headless and gutted Nile perch, fish maw, fish skins, fish scales and silver fish products to be exported from Uganda to China. For purposes of the protocol, wild fish aquatic products refer to wild aquatic animal products and their processed products, marine plants such as algae, which are fit for human consumption, but do not include live aquatic animals, breeding materials of aquatic animals and plants, or the species prohibited by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.
2. Protocol on inspection, quarantine, and sanitary requirements for export of dried chillies from Uganda to China. The protocol formalises an agreement on the export of dried chillies as it opens up the door to accessing one of the world's largest chilli consumer markets.

Madam Speaker, the signing of the two protocols or agreements streamlines the export of Uganda's products in those two areas I have mentioned directly between Uganda and China. It implies that Ugandan registered dealers or traders will be recognised by the Chinese customs authorities and allowed to export products without going through tedious and shoddy channels operated by manipulative middle men. This will translate into better export value and income to individual dealers and the country.

I felt this was good news for the Members and the people they represent.

Export procedures of the two products

Madam Speaker, as the elected people's representatives, I request you to amplify our voice as Government and we collectively guide our people (prospective exporters of dried chillies and wild aquatic products above) as follows:

1. All prospective export companies must apply and register with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China.
2. For purposes of process facilitation, all intending exporters must formally write to MAAIF (The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries) expressing interest to export to the China market. That is the procedure dictated by the other side. The ministry will cut out a pre-audit on the export compliance status of the various establishments and thereafter, recommend the entity to GACC for registration on the database. GACC means the General Administration of China Customs.
3. A dedicated task unit of technical officers will be created in MAAIF by the Permanent Secretary to expeditiously handle and facilitate this process of export registration and compliance with GACC.

4. Our embassy in Beijing and the consulate in Guangzhou are also ready to help our intending exporters with other support and advisory services like business-to-business negotiations, marketing and translations, among others.

I salute our embassy in China and our Ambassador, Hon. Wonekha and her team, and the consulate in Guangzhou for their commercial diplomacy efforts. We should applaud them; for sure it is right.

As Government, we will continue (through bilateral engagements) to negotiate with the Chinese authorities to conclude the other pending protocols on avocado, meat and castor oil, among others.

European Union market requirements on coffee and others

Madam Speaker, each international market has requirements that we need to satisfy, as a country, before our products are admitted. As you may be aware, the European Union is one of our key markets, especially for coffee accounting for over 60 per cent of our coffee exports. A key requirement for the EU market is compliance with the European Union Deforestation Regulations, famously known as EUDR.

On 5 December 2022, the European Parliament approved the EUDR aimed at ensuring that supply chains remain free from products contributing to deforestation and forest degradation. The regulation targets seven commodities and their derived products namely: cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, soya, wood and rubber, whether imported or produced within the EU. These commodities will be prohibited from entering the EU market if they are produced on land cleared of forest for agricultural purposes after 30 December 2020.

The EU regulations came into effect on 29 June 2023 and will come into application on 30 December 2024. However, Madam Speaker, yesterday after I had written this statement, we

saw an adjustment published by the EU giving us an extra 12 months to allow us transition, and I think it was a good step. We welcome it. The regulation is part of the broader efforts intended to combat climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. That was their justification for the law.

Noting that EU represents a primary export market for Ugandan coffee, and that the deadline for compliance to EUDR is 30 December 2024, the ministry, Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA), private sector players in the coffee value chain and development partners have prioritised the registration of coffee value chain actors so as to enable traceability of our coffee and prove that our source farms have not contributed to deforestation. It is also to prove that our coffee farming is environmentally friendly and sustainable.

Madam Speaker, the EUDR specifically requires that all products exported or imported to the EU market are:

- a) Deforestation-free – the production of coffee was done on land that was not subject to deforestation or forest degradation after 30 December 2020;
- b) Produced in accordance with the relevant legislation of Uganda;
- c) Accompanied – (*Interruption*)

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, procedural matter?

**MS KAAYA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The procedural matter I am raising is whether the minister is not a procedurally wrong to give us a response when a petition on the EU directives has already been shared with the Committee on Agriculture, where we expect the minister to share what he is bringing here to the committee such that we can harmonise the findings of the committee later, here in plenary? Is the minister procedurally right not to share this with the committee that has been given the responsibility?

**THE SPEAKER:** It does no harm. You are pre-empting the ruling of the Presiding Officer.

Let him present. The Presiding Officer will rule.

**MR TUMWEBAZE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. There is no conflict – the petition is not in any way conflicting with this. I am giving you information that you really need. May I proceed, Madam Speaker?

**THE SPEAKER:** Please.

**MR TUMWEBAZE:** Thank you.

- (c) Accompanied by a due diligence statement containing geolocation data, adhering to traceability standards that enable buyers to trace each batch of coffee back to its designated land plot.

Madam Speaker, our newly enacted National Coffee Act, which this Parliament passed – and for which I am grateful – already provides for the establishment of a national register for coffee value chain actors. This partly answers the compliance requirement in (b) above.

Registration of coffee value chain actors is an essential precursor to the creation of the national traceability system. Such measures are vital for supporting our coffee farmers, enhancing sustainability, improving market access, and ensuring compliance with both local and international regulations.

It is worth noting that the issue of traceability is becoming critical to all markets, as consumers are increasingly aware and, therefore, need to know the source of what they consume. This is not just for the external markets, but also our domestic markets as well.

I would like to emphasise, Madam Speaker, that this registration process is being conducted free of charge by Uganda Coffee Development Authority and partners, and it is not to serve any other purpose apart from enabling the development of the value chain and access to global markets.

When farmers are profiled or registered, extension outreaches and information



dissemination is easy, in addition to fulfilling the requirements of the EUDR.

How will the registration be carried out?

Madam Speaker, a dedicated technical working group has been established to oversee the effective implementation of EUDR regulations. This group comprises representatives from UCDA, MDAs and the private sector.

A geospatial monitoring and evaluation system and farmer registration application has been developed. This innovative system will capture geolocation data for all production plots, where coffee or related products are cultivated.

A team of enumerators will carry out the registration process, on behalf of UCDA and the industry players. All coffee value chain actors, including farmers, traders and processors, will be registered. The enumerators will record essential details of the value chain actors, such as their name, farm name and location, type of coffee grown – Robusta or Arabica – among others.

In addition, enumerators will map farms or gardens by recording their GPS coordinates. UCDA will store and manage the data collected in partnership with NITA-U and will ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act, which this Parliament enacted, during the collection, storage and management of the data.

In addition to the efforts towards retaining the existing markets, the Government of Uganda will continue efforts to promote agricultural products such as coffee to emerging markets including China, Middle East and Maghreb, among others.

Appeal

Madam Speaker, it has become clear that we cannot continue to produce in disregard of the needs of the consumer. As such, we need to ensure that for as long as we are not producing for subsistence, market standards have to be followed right from inputs, through planting, growth, harvesting, processing and transportation.

As leaders, we have a huge role to play in ensuring that we mobilise and sensitise our people of these emerging trends and ensure that they are ready for the market.

Madam Speaker, I, therefore, appeal to you and all leaders (political, cultural and religious), the coffee value chain actors (farmers, processors and others) and district local government leaders to support the upcoming registration exercise for coffee. It is crucial for ensuring continued access to international markets and effective mapping of coffee farms.

Further appeal goes to all those who intend to invest in the agriculture sector, particularly farming, to ensure that, moving forward, all agriculture expansion adopts sustainable production practices that preserve the environment.

Madam Speaker, as the Government continues to negotiate international markets for our agriculture products through the various demographic channels, let us play our role of ensuring that we satisfy those markets in terms of both quality and quantity.

We can only win by ensuring that our products are market-responsive. Honourable colleagues, I appeal to you to amplify this message in your respective constituencies. If we can act right and act together, our people will win.

I thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to submit.  
(*Applause*)

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable minister. As Hon. Christine had already intimated, and for us to have an in-depth examination of this, we will send this for legislative oversight to the committee, which will report back to this House after having an in-depth legislative oversight.

**MR NAMBESHE:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. The clarification that I would like to seek from the minister is on what his actual statement alludes to. The registration, as you said in your statement, is not to serve any other purpose apart from on-farm support

for the farmers, traceability, extension services, and maybe regulation and planning.

However, in my sub region where we are growers of Arabica coffee, farmers are holding your ministry and UCDA in suspicion, especially now that they are to establish and maintain a national register for farmers. Is it not about levying a tax on them? That is one of the concerns.

The second one is that your statement, especially mentions acreage – that they have to establish the acreage of the farm. In Mount Elgon, Bugisu and Sebei, we have a challenge of land fragmentation. The farming is being done on very small plots. I do not know whether it is an ulterior motive to edge out those small-scale farmers. That is another concern. Could you, please, draw clarity on that?

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have said that this must go to the committee. We want an in-depth examination of this and if we feel we should go to the committee, then we shall follow it up to the committee because I do not want to pre-empt what the committee is going to report - I have said I have referred it to the committee. Check Rule 87 of our Rules of Procedure. Honourable members, please. Let us just - Dr Bwanika, you are not known for that. Next item.

MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON COMMISSIONS, STATUTORY AUTHORITIES AND STATE ENTERPRISES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF UGANDA INVESTMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

**THE SPEAKER:** The issues of agriculture - Hon. Susan, your issue is coming under the Prime Minister's Time where all the ministers will respond to the issues that are being raised.

Honourable members, you will recall that yesterday the House stood over the consideration of the reports of the Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State

Enterprises (COSASE), pending responses from the minister. Members had a number of issues but there was nobody to respond. Now, the Floor is open since we have the minister in charge of investments present.

Hon. Masaba, I hope you remember the issues in the report.

3.20

**MR KARIM MASABA, (Independent, Industrial Division, Mbale City):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I beg to be guided because one was supposed to come under matters of national importance, and the others were concerning - but still under Uganda Investment Authority.

**THE SPEAKER:** Investment Authority report.

**MR MASABA:** On the report, Madam Speaker, some of the issues that I did not address related to the money that is supposed to come to Mbale Industrial Park, for infrastructure development including roads and culverts. About Shs 66 billion had been budgeted for both Kapeeka and Mbale Industrial Parks and Shs 32 billion which was not released was meant to come and do work in Mbale. Perhaps, the minister can enlighten on why Mbale Industrial Park was left out.

One of the key projects that was supposed to be done is a drainage channel that runs around the industrial park, to prevent it from flooding. Some work was done by the investors; they just did manual digging with machines. The channel was supposed to be constructed, but this has not been done.

As a result, some of the houses that are along the border with the industrial park have collapsed. The land is collapsing because it is about 10 metres deep and about a kilometre above the industrial park. That is one of the key issues that I needed the minister to clarify.

The second was about the renovation of the one-stop centre in Mbale. Perhaps the minister can give more information on when it is

supposed to be done because it was budgeted for but the money was not released yet the same Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is the one responsible for these releases. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Then the strike of –

**MR MASABA:** Madam Speaker, the other issue concerns the management –

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Tumwebaze, we have issues concerning agriculture, so, please, do not go far.

**MR MASABA:** The other issue concerns the management of the industrial park that was handed over to the investor, Tian Tang Group. There have been several allegations concerning the selling of this land. An acre is going for about \$150,000 to \$200,000, yet this is supposed to be free.

Those of you who have been following what has been happening in the media, actually, the Chinese have started fighting against each other because of the allegations that once they come and set up the factories, they are supposed to give shares to the management and the chairman, Paul Zhang. A lot has been going on. Perhaps, the minister can enlighten us.

I am told - because some of them approached me - that they have even been prevented from going to see the President. They have raised queries on several occasions and have failed to reach out to the President to be helped.

The locals cannot access the industrial park or get land in the industrial park. Maybe, the minister can tell us how Ugandans can get land because many have tried and have failed to get land in the industrial park. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Naluyima.

3.23

**MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso):** Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. Before I go to my matter on

page 29, through you, the minister needs to clarify to us, about the land at Namanve, the only land remaining for the National Forest Authority, which is right now bearing the tree seedlings.

The last time I was interacting with the management that side, they indicated that again, Uganda Investment Authority was threatening to take over that land. Matters of the environment are very key in this country.

Madam Speaker, my matter is about the expiry of appropriations and this needs now also to be handed hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development because the report indicates to us that the Accounting Officer had to retain some funds and later on, those funds were - it was a query by the Auditor-General as it was mentioned.

That money up to a figure of Shs 800 million, which was an unspent balance but again it could not be - it indicates here it was irregularly transferred to the project account. We wish to know -and it goes hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development's way of managing - because many times we have projects that are pending and it does not only apply to Uganda Investment Authority but it also happens to other Accounting Officers.

First of all, Uganda Investment Authority; how did they finally handle it because it is a query that that money was not transferred to the Consolidated Fund but then later on - the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development needs to tell us. Many times when accounting officers have projects midway - how is that money - because at times it is not reverted yet contracts are done, and later on, it is a query to many ministries, departments and agencies of Government. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Nakabuye.

3.26

**MS JULIET NAKABUYE (NUP, Woman Representative, Masaka City):** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Mine is connected

to the delay of the project that was planned at Namanve. Whenever an investment is done, always there are expectations. And always, we find that the targets are being set. Whenever delays are being experienced, it means that what is being intended cannot be achieved.

Madam Speaker, it is very alarming to see what was indicated in the report - it stated that there was interference from Government agencies such as UMEME and the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). Whenever a project is to be set, normally a visibility study is supposed to be carried out. In the visibility study, we expect to foresee the challenges that could be incurred. It is a very big problem to see that such an investment being set up by the Government can end up not being fulfilled just because of the delays, which would have been foreseen at the visibility study stage.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, the report recommended that Government accounting officers should always follow the priorities. Uganda, like any other developing country - our income is a bit low compared to the demand. We have to be very sensitive while setting priorities. This implies that if we do not follow what had been previously said and –

**THE SPEAKER:** Let us be brief so that the other people contribute.

**MS KAKANDE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, but prioritising items as they were set is very important and should be considered.

3.28

**MR JULIUS TUSIIME (Independent, Rwampara East County, Rwampara):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Before I submit, I would like to thank you so much, on behalf of the basketball team, for hosting us in a noble corporate engagement in Bukedea. *(Applause)* You are truly an asset to Uganda and the people of Bukedea.

Madam Speaker, I want to speak to two things. One is on Non-Tax Revenue (NTR). From the Auditor-General's report, we realise that the Uganda Investment Authority projected

that they had a surplus of 10 per cent in NTR collection. However, in their reporting, they noted that Shs 0.41 billion is what they had actually issued out in the form of receipts to the tenants and occupants of the Authority land.

They also noted that they had arrears. Whereas the auditor captured that Shs 0.46 billion was money that they collected, out of that, Shs 0.23 billion was not disclosed, neither was it transferred to the Consolidated Fund.

Madam Speaker, my concern is that in the statements that were reviewed, that money was not seen as money in transit, neither was it reported on. Therefore, is it an issue of collusion at the Uganda Investment Authority? Where is the Shs 0.23 billion? My prayer and recommendation is that we include that Shs 0.23 billion be refunded by the agency.

I would like to also speak to the issue of the implementation of outputs. The Uganda Investment Authority had two outputs and each output had five activities. As an agency, their money was all warranted and released, but in the report, we realised that they did not fully implement the activities as they had earlier planned. Is it a question of poor workmanship or you do not follow your work plan as an institution?

My recommendation is that we ensure that a proper work plan and due diligence are done to ensure that the money warranted and received is put to good use.

Madam Speaker, allow me to receive information from Hon. Dr Apea. Thank you very much - *(Interjection)*

**MS AGNES ATIM:** Thank you, Madam Speaker and Hon. Julius Tusiime. I just want to give information about the warrants and budget performance. You could have maybe read from another page, but on page 3, only 58 per cent of the Budget was warranted and released. Therefore, that brings the question of our role as Parliament in appropriating this Budget. I also saw an addition that even the 58 per cent that was released was not all implemented.

Madam Speaker, I am not seeing the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, but I am glad that the Rt Hon. Prime Minister is here.

**THE SPEAKER:** The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is here.

**MS AGNES ATIM:** Thank you very much. I think that since we are dealing with finance today, let the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development tell us if there is still a need for this House to be appropriating money. The reason is always that we operate a cash budget. If you operate a cash budget, then make a realistic budget.

Secondly, make a realistic revenue projection. We cannot be rotating year in, year out. You bring the Budget to the House. You give us your revenue projections. Didn't you know you would not collect the money? Otherwise, we are going to blame ourselves and MDAs, yet the biggest animal here is the release of the money we appropriate in our national Budget. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** You are talking about the release; not all that was released to UIA was consumed. Isn't that so?

3.33

**MR OJARA MAPENDUZI (Independent, Bardege-Layibi Division, Gulu City):** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I am happy that the honourable minister is here because yesterday, I raised an issue.

Madam Speaker, you are aware that for the last few weeks or months now, the Uganda Investment Authority has been in the media, not for very good reasons. Even yesterday, the media got flooded with different kinds of negative stories. We are aware that the Uganda Investment Authority plays a very critical role, especially in promoting and facilitating investment plans, as well as advocating for a competitive business environment.

I would like to hear from the honourable minister whether this constant negative

energy that we see being written daily in the newspapers, is good for the face of the country, especially as far as the promotion of investment is concerned.

It is important that the ministry addresses some of these issues because it has very bad implications, especially for those who want to invest in this country, but are reading and seeing only negative stories.

Finally, I know that some years back, when I was chairman of Gulu, the Uganda Investment Authority got in touch with Gulu District Local Government. At that time, we were not yet a city. The intention was to establish an industrial park. We did our best and provided land. Unfortunately, 13 to 14 years down the road, the whole thing went quiet.

Recently, I started hearing goalposts being shifted that we are going to have the industrial park in Nwoya. It would be good for us to be assured where exactly we are going to have this industrial park. Do we still have a plan of having an industrial park in Gulu City and if so, what do we need to do? How far has the ministry gone in trying to handle that? Thank you very much.

3.35

**MR MILTON MUWUMA (NRM, Kigulu County South, Iganga):** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. About the eight industrial parks, Iganga had been identified as one of the areas, which were to benefit from this programme of having an industrial park, specifically at a place called Busowobi. The Uganda Investment Authority, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the former Rt Hon. Prime Minister, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda kept visiting that place and engaging stakeholders in a bid to establish an industrial park.

Recently, we were told that positions changed. So, I would like to make use of this debate today to know exactly what is happening to this industrial park. Is it there or has it died a natural death? If it has died, what is the way forward; we feel this is one way of changing

the trend where Busoga has been rated as one of the poorest regions in Uganda. We felt the industrial park would address some of these challenges we have. Thank you.

3.37

**MR PIUS WAKABI (NRM, Bugahya County, Hoima):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Eight years ago, the Government secured land in Kabale Subcounty in Hoima District for the construction of an industrial park. The Government paid money and relocated people, but currently, this land is being encroached on by some people in Government –(Interjections)- it is not for today. I will come with evidence next time, but my question is –

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay, say, “The land is being encroached on by people.”

**MR WAKABI:** The land is being encroached on by unknown people. *(Laughter)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes.

**MR WAKABI:** My question is: “When is the construction of the industrial park going to take place?” That is my concern. It has taken a long time and people are waiting. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

3.38

**MR IBANDA RWEMULIKYA (Independent, Ntoroko County, Ntoroko):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I need clarification from the honourable minister. First, I thank the committee for the report.

Fort Portal was one of the areas that were gazetted to be given an industrial park that would serve the entire region; Tooro/ Rwenzori region. Land was secured and it is still there up to now but since that time, there is nothing taking place.

This industrial park would boost the entire region. Given the fact that we border Congo, it would boost our trade between Uganda and Congo and bring economic activity to that region, but unfortunately, up to now, nothing is taking place.

Can I now get information from you, honourable minister, when something will be done to ensure that the industrial park in Fort Portal that would serve the entire region is going to be constructed? Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. We have information from -

3.39

**MR MOSES ALEPER (NRM, Chekwii County (Kadam), Nakapiripirit):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. From the submission made by the last three colleagues, it is clear that the Uganda Investment Authority has spent a lot of money just acquiring land, which is left idle most of the time. And this is the case in many regions in this country. There was land that was acquired in Napak District so many years ago, they put mark stones on it but up to date, nothing has happened in that place.

Therefore, the information I would like to provide is that other than those places that have been named, it is actually in every region in this country that such land has been acquired. This shows a trend of just getting money, throwing it there and things just staying. The money is sunk and wasted all the way. My questions are: “Why is this trend going on? Is this an eating method or what? What is this?”

That is what I want to hear about from the minister. One time the honourable minister was awash in the press talking about how she was being demonised. This should possibly be an opportunity - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Can we have a list of all areas where they have been getting land and an update on what has been done in these areas? Could the minister come up with that statement because it is not in the report? Pro-poor?

3.41

**MR BARNABAS TINKASIIMIRE (NRM, Buyaga West County, Kagadi):**

Thank you, Madam Speaker - *(Interruption)*

**MR OGUZU:** Who have you -

**MR TINKASIIMIRE:** Whereas I know that the poor people may not - *(Interruption)* – establish – *(Interruption)*

**MR OGUZU:** I do not know who is supposed to speak because we have land issues that I need to address. So - *(Interruption)*

**MR TINKASIIMIRE:** I am the one holding the Floor.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Tinkasiimire is the one on the Floor. Are you the pro-poor? It is him that we know who is pro-poor. I will give you time.

**MR TINKASIIMIRE:** We know his brand; Information Technology (IT). When they talk about an expert in IT, you should rise but on issues concerning the poor people - *(Laughter)*-thank you, Madam Speaker.

When they establish these industrial parks, people acquire plots in them. They are largely meant to promote industrial growth in that particular area.

In addition to what you have asked the minister to provide, we would also be interested in knowing the people who acquired plots, like companies, because they have made it a business. They go to Namanve and apply for plots. A plot in Namanve is very expensive. Using company law, they trade it and you find that a company that acquired land in 2002 in Namanve has nothing because it has sold it over and over. So, we would be interested in having the minister also give us that list.

Secondly -

**THE SPEAKER:** Do the regulations of the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) allow you to acquire land and sell it?

**MR TINKASIIMIRE:** They distribute - companies apply for plots and when some of them apply for them, they commit themselves to developing them but others never develop them; they instead trade them. At the end of the day, they keep in that bonanza of trading Government property -

**THE SPEAKER:** The Woman Member of Parliament has information.

**MS NABUKEERA:** The information I would like to give is that when you acquire land through the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA), you are given that land. However, there are instances when another applicant applies for the same land and then you find that two people holding onto the same land.

Secondly, two land titles are issued on the same land. Thirdly, they resell the land yet the rules do not allow them to sell such land. That is very obvious in Namanve.

**MR TINKASIIMIRE:** The reason we are asking her for an inventory is because it would help the Government and the Parliament to make a good follow-up through our committee. This is because people who have since first applied for these plots of land have sold and transferred them and nothing is taking place.

My major and biggest concern is those industrial parks that have been established in rural areas. We are interested in the Government also delivering the infrastructure like power, water and other necessities that would at least provide – and of course the internet to make it easy for them to be real industrial parks.

They buy land as an industrial park but it remains a forest. Who is going to go into a forest with no power, water, roads, with nothing? Which investor is going to go to that place?

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, Hon. Goli.

**MR OGUZU:** Madam Speaker, you gave me an opportunity.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Goli and then Hon. Oguzu Lee.

3.46

**MR GOLI OGWAL (NRM, Dokolo North County, Dokolo):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The honourable minister visited Dokolo and we managed to give her land; they did not

buy it. We gave the Government land for an industrial park.

They have not yet done much on it but I also appreciate that their budget is not handsome enough to do all the industrial parks. I propose that the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) enter into an agreement with the local government on how to use the land, not them taking the land.

In the agreement, they should agree on who is going to do what - UIA needs to do the planning and design of the park. After designing it, we, in Dokolo, will start working on the infrastructure by tapping into the resources that they have given us for infrastructure.

We need support on incentives like power; good power coming up to Dokolo. The other issues of dividing the land and giving it out; leave that to the local government so that it is not given to anybody just like that. So, I propose that we need to rework and start working. Otherwise, the budget for UIA will not allow the development of these industrial parks the way they are now. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

3.48

**MS AGNES AMEEDE (Independent, Woman Representative, Butebo):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to seek the indulgence of the minister on some policies.

To begin with, the country has had a soft spot for foreign investors as opposed to local investors, giving them more incentives. The question I am asking the minister is: what is it that you have done to improve foreign investors, and to encourage foreign investors? Honourable members – *(Interjection)* – local versus foreign investors. Sorry, honourable members, there are issues associated with only encouraging foreign investment. For example, capital flight.

The other issue I would like to raise is the location of industrial parks. It is good to encourage industries in every district, but the Uganda Investment Authority has to guide on what type of industries should be in particular locations because this is a time bomb for

environmental issues. You have seen a school besides an industry, and there are public health concerns.

The other question is the calibre of investments we are attracting. When you walk along these industries, you see a column of workers that you can rightfully say that they are mostly casual workers, who earn little, and the trickle-down effect is low. It would be very good if most of these industries were employing an army of graduates or diploma holders. That way, we would have the growth of the country sped up - *(Member timed out.)*

**MR OGUZU:** Madam Speaker –

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Lee, I am coming to you.

**MR OGUZU:** My concern is about – *(Hon. Sauda Kauma rose\_)*

**MS KAUMA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to take this opportunity -

**MR OGUZU:** Is her name Lee?

**THE SPEAKER:** You have become Mrs Lee.

**MR OGUZU:** She must formally express interest – *(Laughter)* - so that we can see how to deal with it.

**THE SPEAKER:** Leave the lady to speak first.

3.51

**MS SAUDA KAUMA (NRM, Woman Representative, Iganga):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I take this opportunity to move a motion since most of my colleagues are asking about where their industrial parks are, like in the case of Iganga, what the land should be used for. It is my humble prayer that we give the minister time to respond to whatever they have put forward - *(Interjection)* - since we are going to Prime Minister's Time, such that we put in our queries because we have so many issues that we want to give the Prime Minister. Thank you.



**MR OGUZU:** Madam Speaker, I have a policy issue to raise. The motion was not seconded. Since it was not seconded – (*Hon. Kauma rose*)

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I appreciate there is a motion. I do appreciate it, but the Leader of the Opposition has a right, under our Rules of Procedure. We are also mindful of the Prime Minister's Time. We will give this side the three people to say something. The acting Leader of the Opposition of yesterday was here, and then the Leader of the Opposition - but Hon. Lee was on the Floor. Today, the Prime Minister is ready to answer all your questions.

3.54

**MR DENIS OGUZU LEE (FDC, Maracha County, Maracha):** Madam Speaker, thank you for your judgment and your insistence on these procedures. I have a policy issue. There are so many foreigners coming into this country that it has made me question whether the investment code is still effective in addressing issues of investment in this country.

We have foreigners who come - someone comes with \$1,000 - they are everywhere setting up shops in our villages. Are those investors? The minister should tell us because the local people are competing -

**THE SPEAKER:** There is China Town –

**MR OGUZU:** You have helped to bring in a live example. We need to know who an investor is. If those people have been licensed by the local authorities, have you given them guidance? Maybe you need to consult with the Attorney-General on how they should handle such people. It would seem in this country when your colour is brown, you are said to be an investor. Or if you are coloured, they just give you a permit to be an investor. You need to tell the country.

Two, we need to understand the policy on acquiring land. In some places, some people are supposed to donate their land for free. In others, the land is supposed to be bought.

This financial year we appropriated money for buying land I do not know, in Kabale. How special are some regions compared to others that the land from certain regions is supposed to be taken freely, while others are supposed to be paid for?

Thirdly, madam minister, your ministry is one of the major contributors to low tax revenue in this country. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development - in a report a few days ago, said the Government is foregoing Shs 2.9 trillion in tax expenditures. It means there are tax exemptions given or tax waivers for all in the name of attracting investors.

Isn't it time you reconciled with your colleagues, ministers, that we qualify who must be an investor? Many of these people come, they exploit the tax incentives and run away. We have supermarkets that have been closing after exploiting tax benefits. So, it is important you work with your colleagues to determine who qualifies and who should not qualify so that we have a code which works. Most importantly, your code is not protecting the land rights of the people.

I would want to know that the board has now been suspended or disbanded. How is that sector going to work? Shall we expect a situation where maybe Hon. Kasaija will bring any opponent of his and put him as chairperson? How is the board going to work? There is a tendency – if I feel there is a threat, I can -

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, we cannot talk about Hon. Kasaija when he is not in the House.

**MR OGUZU:** The Office of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development - are we going to see a situation where anyone can just bring their competitor or within which we appoint board members so that there is efficacy?

We know our embassies are supposed to execute commercial diplomacy; they are not excelling in that. How is your ministry coordinating with the embassies to ensure Uganda attracts direct foreign investments? Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Mpuuga, Hon. Ssewungu and LOP but there is a procedural matter.

**MR IDDI ISABIRYE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. With due respect to your earlier ruling, yesterday you stayed the debate on this report after its presentation, awaiting the responsible minister to be in the House before Members can talk about investment issues in their constituencies. Investment is an engine –

**THE SPEAKER:** It was not about investment issues in their constituencies but in regard to the audit findings.

**MR IDDI ISABIRYE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Members, I invite you to page 18 of the report that was presented, it shows a lot of incomplete projects. If you read the five-year strategic investment plan, you will realise that it talks about domestic investment of about \$1 billion. Looking at the journey that we have travelled –

**THE SPEAKER:** What is the procedural matter?

**MR IDDI ISABIRYE:** The procedural issue I am trying to raise is whether it is procedurally right for Members to be given an opportunity to raise issues of investment before we consider closure of debate on this matter.

**THE SPEAKER:** The Rules of Procedure that we have dictate that the Prime Minister's time is at 4.00 p.m. It is you who made these rules. I would allow you even to debate this up to 5.00 or 6.00 p.m., but there is Prime Minister's time. We can continue after. Yes, Hon. Mpuuga, but only one minute.

3.59

**MR MATHIAS MPUUGA (NUP, Nyendo Mukungwe Division, Masaka City):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have two brief issues. One is to inform the honourable minister that the land in Masaka was offered. We are still hunting rats, it is there. Come and clear it for investment.

The second issue - I have a direct pecuniary interest under rule 94. The minister is aware that local investors are mistreated. In Namanve, I have a citizen who has over 10 acres because there is both Governmental and private land. The so-called investors have parcelled out the land –

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Charity, it seems Hon. Alioni wants to sit next to you. So, Maj. Alanyo should change the location for proper coordination.

**MR MPUUGA:** The minister is aware that land has been parcelled out and priority is given to foreign investors, but the foreign investors have made it impossible for the locals to access their land. One such case I brought to the attention of my friend, the honourable minister because when they directed the foreigners to give a portion of land for access, they gave the local investor a footpath.

They told her to pay \$300,000 for access or else, sell them the land. The minister needs to assure us that they are in charge and that they are sensitive to the interests of the local investors that have land adjacent to Government land and therefore, go ahead and help them access this land. Otherwise, the outgoing board deserved to be out yesterday. I hope the minister follows up on these issues because they are the ones asking for that money.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, Acting Leader of the Opposition of yesterday –

4.02

**MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you to the minister, I would like her to know that the reason the Speaker referred this debate to today was to ensure that she is around. Yes, yesterday you were supposed to be around because there are a lot of accountability issues and grey areas in your department and ministry under the Uganda Investment Authority.

For example, pay attention to page 8, Shs 31.5 billion was spent on activities to be done and

nothing was done. For example, if you look at the design, construction, and/or the building of access roads, drainage, and sewage plants, all these are behind schedule, and that is Mbale.

When you go to the design and the construction of the sewerage treatment plant, there is no sign of any activity starting, yet money was released.

In addition, when you go to the industrial parks, it is a white elephant. What is shown here, madam minister - your accounting officer must be behind bars by now and if not, together with you. *(Laughter)* I am telling you, I have no kind words because while I was the Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurance, Madam Speaker, we visited these industrial parks. They are white elephants. You might take things lightly, but once the Speaker gave this, take time and look at – *(Interruption)*

**MR OGUZU:** Madam Speaker, I think that statement does not –

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable member, before you present the point of order, I refer you to Article 164(2). Matters of accountability of funds that are being released by the Government are by the accounting officer, not the political head. So, Hon. Anite should not be behind bars; it should be the accounting officer.

**MR OGUZU:** Madam Speaker, the Member from Mbale highlighted that issues are emerging from the industrial park in his area. A few days ago, we saw Kapeeka's various products being exhibited from the industrial park there. One of my colleagues also talked about the industrial park in Namanve, from where we are getting many products.

Is it in order for Hon. Ssewungu to misinform the country that the industrial parks are completely white elephants when there is evidence that something is being done? I think this kind of checking of the Government must be informed and based on facts. This is what I would like to invite my colleagues to –

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, there are industrial parks. I think you need to take a tour of the Kapeeka and Mbale Industrial parks and see how beautiful they are. They give a lot of our people jobs. I can ably talk about where I come from, Mbale. It is doing very well. It is not a white elephant per se. Maybe in others, there could be challenges that need to be worked on.

**MR SSEWUNGU:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am an English teacher and, unfortunately, some Members like Hon. Lee can use words I have not put in my statement. I said “white elephant” not completely. There is a difference between a white elephant and not it being completely a white elephant.

Leaving that aside, political responsibility can make you go behind bars. We had Hon. Mukula, one of my good friends from the Teso Subregion who once went to prison. Hon. Mukisa too - I think he passed on or is he still around? These people were arrested and taken to jail because of political responsibility, and, you will not run away from it.

Why I am talking about industrial parks - and I want to complete my submission as a former LOP of yesterday. There is a report that will come on this Floor from the Committee on Government Assurances talking about industrial parks.

The moment that report is tabled here, you will believe what I am saying. They are saying that industrial parks are performing well but the intended beneficiaries are not benefiting. Those two things are different. You might put everything in place, you show them in pictures or in the newspapers but when the value intended for the people working in them is nowhere to be seen.

Therefore, when we talk to the minister for investment, Hon. Anite – with whom we came together here and who is now ex-officio – we are requesting you to take time and read this report in depth. Look at the accountability issues and do something with your accounting officer. That is why the Speaker has supported my submission on Article 164. Otherwise –

**THE SPEAKER:** He also talks about the aspect of the locals. Hon. Anite, he is talking about the locals being denied the opportunity to be in those areas.

**MR SSEWUNGU:** As I conclude, do not expect any cosmetics from me, as Leader of the Opposition. I am giving you realities. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** As the former Acting Leader of the Opposition -

4.08

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi):** Madam Speaker, I do appreciate Hon. Ssewungu, who held fort yesterday for a few hours. Clearly, he enjoyed the role and played it very well.

Very quickly, Madam Speaker, one of the issues in the report is outstanding payables. For Uganda Investment Authority's (UIA) case, it is Shs 1.9 billion. When I was still the Chairperson of the Committee on Public Accounts (Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises – COSASE), every entity that we interacted with had outstanding payables. The challenge, normally, is that these outstanding payables are for things like rent and services that the entity has consumed from small businesspeople. It is bad manners when you consume, be it a good or a service, and you do not pay.

Honourable minister, encourage these entities - it is good you are also from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. When you disburse money, as a ministry, to entities, debts and payables should have the first call on their budgets.

Normally, they will say: "We don't have enough money." Why are you consuming the services of businesspeople who have got loans from banks and, so, their businesses are crumbling because you are not paying? It is just wrong and needs to stop.

Secondly and finally, I have captured an element of staffing gaps of about 47 per cent.

The accounting officer, in the report, responded, saying management and the board were in the process of recruiting. I wonder because what we are seeing in the press is that this board has either been fired or it is in the process of being fired. Perhaps, the minister will clarify what, exactly, is happening because this is also problematic.

The minister says the board needs to go because they are corrupt. In the press, the board says the minister is the problem. So, we are confused on our end, yet we expect this entity to deliver on behalf of the citizens of Uganda. Hopefully, you clarify that. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Students, do not go. Honourable members, in the public gallery, we have teachers and students from Uganda National Students Association, Bududa District. They are represented by Hon. Isaac Modoi, Hon. John Baptist Nambeshe and Hon. Nandutu. Thank you very much for coming. *(Applause)* Hon. Isaac, do you want to say something? Just greet them.

4.11

**MR ISAAC MODOI (NRM, Lutseshe County, Bududa):** Madam Speaker, we are privileged to receive our students and teachers from Bududa. If there were only three things that they could ask, they would be:

- i) Harmonisation of the curriculum;
- ii) Effective resettlement of their parents; and
- iii) Good governance.

Thank you very much *-(Interjection)-* and voting back Hon. Modoi. *(Laughter)*

4.12

**MR JOHN BAPTIST NAMBESHE (NUP, Manjiya County, Bududa):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the teachers of the secondary schools in the disaster-prone district of Bududa for having brought these young ones to this august House. I salute you.

I receive you all with open hands. I know this should inspire you so that, tomorrow, you yearn to also be here. May God, abundantly, bless you. *(Applause)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Amen! In the public gallery, we also have students and teachers from Bokwe Primary School in Masindi District, represented by Hon. Dr Florence Asimwe and Hon. Aled. Join me in receiving them. *(Applause)* Where are they? They have left.

Honourable members, in the meantime, the minister can respond as we get to know the students. Honourable minister, you have a short time within which to respond. You also need to talk about the waiver. To whom do you give a waiver? Do you give it only to the ‘red’ people or everybody?

But before you say that, in the public gallery this afternoon, we have pupils and teachers from St Catherine Junior School, located in Mukono Municipality – those ones went?

We also have teachers and students from Yesu Akwagala School from Kalungu. They are represented by Hon. Gonzaga Joseph Ssewungu and Hon. Sekindi – he is the former Acting Leader of the Opposition. Join me in receiving them. *(Applause)* Wave to them. The ladies are behind.

4.15

**MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the good precedent. I also welcome my fellow teachers from Yesu Akwagala, Kyamulibwa. Here, I am deliberating very well. *(Laughter)* Thank you very much. You will take the explanation back home, regarding how you have seen me here. *(Laughter)* God bless you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable members, can we hear from the minister?

4.15

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PRIVATISATION AND INVESTMENT) (Ms Evelyn Anite):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to, first of all, thank the committee for the report that they have presented to the House. A report that has led to the questions that have come from my

colleagues. Thank you for all your questions. They are very valid.

I have just been asking myself: should I be a diplomat or candid Anite? However, I realise that I have to be myself. There is no way I can pretend about the facts. I am going to say everything and whatever I say is true. You can hold me to them.

First of all, I agree with the recommendations of the committee entirely. I commit that for the issues that are financial in nature, we will -

**THE SPEAKER:** She agrees with the observations and recommendations.

**MS ANITE:** Yes, and that we will come up with the Treasury Memorandum within six months to make good of the recommendations and observations of the committee.

Now, to the issues that my colleagues have raised, I will start with the first person, Hon. Karim. You asked why Mbale was left out. I want to make it very clear to you that Mbale was not left out. We actually did the budget for Mbale, Kapeeka and Namanve industrial parks. The only challenge was cash flow. That is why we have not even released the money for the two industrial parks – Mbale and Kapeeka.

However, for Namanve Industrial Park, that was a loan, which was approved by the Parliament of Uganda and the money is available. I will speak later about that project since there was a question about it.

You asked a question about the renovation of the One-Stop Centre. The challenge has been cash flow. We did a budget as Parliament, but we did not get the exact release for the One-Stop Centre in Mbale.

You talked about selling land in Mbale Industrial Park. Madam Speaker, I would like to give information, as far as the concession on Mbale Industrial Park is concerned, that it is an investor called Mr Paul Zhang, who came to this country as an industrialist and his first industries are in Mbalala around Mukono.

Mr Paul Zhang came to Uganda, went to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, and requested to be allocated 619 acres of land in Mbale. Therefore, the President directed the relevant ministries, which is the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and my ministry as well, to work with the Attorney-General's office to sign an agreement to lease the 619 acres to Mr Paul Zhang.

The understanding and the condition is that the Government provides the infrastructure for the industrial park but Mr Paul Zhang would have to travel abroad and attract investors to that park.

Madam Speaker, that park was land that the Government acquired from Bugisu Cooperative Union, and we paid for it. However, the land was encroached on. There were squatters who were planting *mayuni*, sweet potatoes and maize, among other things, for about 10 years, until the Government got Mr Paul Zhang, who has now established 50 factories in that industrial park.

Madam Speaker, I thank you very much for recognising the efforts of the industrialists in that industrial park. Therefore, there is no land for giving out to any investor in that place. We have leased it out for five years until the investor fails. I want to say that he is on time, he has not failed and we have 50 factories there; which are in steady progress.

Madam Speaker, I continue to the next question about the failure to access the industrial park. Of course, it has been privatised. The government leased that entire land, so, one cannot just wake up from their house and walk into that industrial park. The public land is that of Namanve Industrial Park, which you can wake up and walk into.

Hon. Betty Naluyima, asked a question about the land at Namanve, the only land for the National Forestry Authority (NFA), that the Government wants to take away. Hon. Betty, I would like to assure you that that is not going to happen under my watch because I

believe in protecting our environment and so does the President of the Republic of Uganda. *(Applause)* We shall not take that forest land. I am very honest about it and you can say "ah ah" but the truth is, we will not encroach on the forest land. Be assured!

Madam Speaker, Hon. Betty Naluyima again asked another question about the Accounting Officer releasing Shs 800 million. Everyone in this country has heard me talk about the corruption in the Uganda Investment Authority. There is nobody who does not know that there is corruption there. Even I, as the minister - where is Hon. Ssewungu? Hon. Ssewungu said that I should be behind bars. For saying that corrupt people are there?

Madam Speaker, my heart is bleeding that the corrupt in Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) are getting protected. They are corrupt, they have to be behind bars like yesterday. However, they are getting protected, what can poor me do -*(Interjections)*-Nothing!

Madam Speaker, allow me to proceed to a question from Hon. Juliet - I have done my part as the minister responsible. I know the extent to which the law empowers me. The law empowers me that if I am not sure - if I detect corruption -

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, order!

**MS ANITE:** Madam Speaker, thank you. The law empowers me that if I detect corruption I should speak about it or report it. I have done that under my signature and reported the issues of corruption in the Uganda Investment Authority, to the Inspector General of Government (IGG's) office and the IGG has written back to me that they have started investigations. I have done my part.

Madam Speaker, allow me to continue. Hon. Juliet asked a question -

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, can we listen? We are going to Prime Minister's Time.

**MS ANITE:** Madam Speaker, allow me to rush to save time for the Prime Minister's Time. There was a question from Hon. Juliet, that the project at Namanve is not being done in time. That is true. The project is lagging. It is at 50 per cent. It should have been completed by the 19th of January this year, but we are behind schedule. Today we are in October and the project is only at 50 per cent. When you speak, they say you are bad.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Tumusiime, asked a question about the Non-Tax Revenue (NTR) of 10 per cent, and that we have not released the money. On that point, I agree with the committee's recommendation and observations.

Hon. Dr Atim, that we appropriated a cash budget and they did not spend the money. I also agree with the recommendation that the Accounting Officer should be held responsible – (*Interjection*) - yes because you did your part and released the money, which was not utilised. Madam Speaker, you did allude to that fact too.

Hon. Mapenduzi, I would be very excited if you told me where the land is in Gulu because there is a huge interest from people who actually want to do an industrial park in Gulu. The last time I wrote to the Gulu District Local Government, they told me they did not have land and in the Acholi Subregion, the only land that was availed to us was in Pader.

Madam Speaker, the unfortunate bit of it is that as Government, we have not gotten money to do the infrastructure development in Pader. I apologise to the people of Pader. We will make good by making sure that we mobilise more resources to do the project there.

**THE SPEAKER:** Can you finish?

**MS ANITE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. There was a question from Hon. Milton, that I should give the status of the industrial park. He is talking about the land in Iganga. The land that the former Prime Minister, Rt Hon. Dr Ruhakana Rugunda had started negotiating about with the people of Iganga, is available.

However, the challenge was that we did not have money to acquire that land. To that extent, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda guided that we must go to areas where people can make local government land in their districts available free of charge.

Madam Speaker, I would like to report that when we wrote to the local governments - I personally did land mobilisation - we were able to get land in 28 locations in the 18 zones of Uganda. I thank the Member of Parliament for Masaka because I was looking at a nationalistic character, regardless of the political party - I reached out to the former Leader of the Opposition, and he made land available in Masaka. I assure him that we will develop that land.

Hon. Pius said that in Hoima District, land has been available but there are Government officials who are - Hon. Pius, if you can just tell us those Government officials who are - you can even come and tell me in secret; you might be fearing - I will read their names out. (*Laughter*) I need to know who in Government is taking this land. In Hoima, the truth of the matter is that it is an oil region; we want to develop that industrial park.

Hon. Ibanda, the Fort Portal Municipality land - we have land in Kabarole, and it is for the Fort Portal region. However, it has wrangles between the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the Uganda Investment Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, especially the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO).

We have been wanting to solve the issue. I reached out to my senior colleague, Hon. Frank Tumwebaze and we are working on how to get the case out of court because the former Member of Parliament dragged us to court and we want to resolve that matter. Now the matter is in the hands of the Attorney-General who is here.

Hon. Moses Aleper said that the Uganda Investment Authority has spent a lot of money

acquiring land. Hon. Aleper, allow me to educate you that we have not done that. The land that we have got from the people has been free of charge.

Hon. Tinkasimire said, “Promote industrial growth in industrial areas - the people sell land - this is corruption” and it is true.

Today you saw, my senior colleague, Hon. Matia Kasajja summarily dismiss - the current Leader of the Opposition - by the way, congratulations, said that – yeah, because I did not see you. *(Laughter)*

Madam Speaker, the truth of the matter is that Hon. Matia Kasajja decided to take the action he took today of summarily dismissing the board because there was a sale of land, resale, double allocation, complete and total mismanagement.

He thought the power you gave to him under Article 5 of the Act empowered him to remove - and so, he was dismissed and is appointing a new board.

Hon. Amos said that UIA should enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the local government. We took that discussion because His Excellency, the President guided us that we must work with the local governments to make land available such that we do not limit growth in our local government areas.

We would like industrialisation to happen everywhere in Uganda such that you can – *(Interjection)*- even in Sembabule, make land available regardless of the corner of Uganda you are in. If you have land available, my job as the Minister for Investment and Privatisation is to encourage Ugandans and also ask foreigners to come and put their money in that land because we do not want to discriminate against the growth of Uganda by concentrating development only in the capital city, but rather want it to happen in every local government, and I am happy to work with the local governments. *(Applause)*

Hon. Agnes, you have raised the point and said the Government has given more incentives to foreign investors. I would like to tell my colleagues that the incentives that you hear us talk about are given by law. And there is nobody in this land other than the Parliament of Uganda that has the mandate to make the law.

Therefore, the incentives that we have, that we talk about, are what you have permitted us to talk about. However, if the need is that we must give more incentives to the Ugandan investors, then we will come back here and ask you to amend the Investment Code Act to allow us to offer more incentives to the Ugandan investors.

However, as it is, I cannot work outside the law to reinvent the wheel of Parliament that I respect and give incentives to others, outside the law. Therefore, what we are earmarking is within the incentives.

I am only left with three questions and then I will sit down. What type of industrialists should be attracted and in which particular areas? And who is an investor?

Madam Speaker, you cracked a joke when said, “Is it the person who is coloured; who is red? You actually said the person is ‘red’.

No, an investor is defined by law and it is this Parliament that defined it. For a local investor, you should have an investment licence and for you to qualify to have an investment licence, you should have a minimum of \$ 150,000. If you are a foreigner, you should have an investment of \$ 300,000. This law was passed by the Parliament of Uganda and is well-defined.

The question that Hon. Lee raised; he said that he sees so many coloured people, who go into their villages and set up shops. My response to that question is that the investors are defined.

If you see anybody doing trade, ask Hon. Bahati because that is under the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives and Ministry of Internal Affairs (Directorate of Citizenship



and Immigration Control) not the Ministry of Investment and Privatisation.

I do not agree that they should go and do petty trade - how did they come to our country and why are they there? Who gave them the trading licence? Those are the questions you ask to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives and Ministry of Internal Affairs.

I do not agree with the question Hon. Lee asked about the 26 – (*Interjections*) - no, that my ministry is actually contributing to a Shs 2.9 trillion loss. I would like to educate my friend that the Ministry of Investment and Privatisation - only industrialisation – (*Interjections*) - please do not distract me, let me talk to him.

Industrialisation contributes 26.5 per cent to the GDP of the country. Therefore, we are actually contributing more than so many other sectors. And that 26.5 per cent is only from manufacturing. (*Applause*)

Madam Speaker, you asked Hon. Ssewungu and I have answered him. Hon. Joel - the Leader of the Opposition - I have already answered him. Thank you for listening to me. (*Applause*)

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Anite. When you allocate land in an industrial area, it is presumed that after five years - if you do not use the land, it is reclaimed. Do you warn the person before it is reclaimed by the Uganda Investment Authority?

**MS ANITE:** Madam Speaker, by law, we have a set period for which you should develop the land, which is 18 months. If you do not develop the land allocated to you by the Government within 18 months - whether you are a foreign or local investor - and many Ugandan investors are in this room - if they do not, we withdraw the land. I will give you an example: we withdrew land from local investors in Parliament here and also outside when the 18 months elapsed. However, to answer your question directly, we give warnings, written warnings but because of the corruption that I talked about, the Attorney-General is struggling -

**THE SPEAKER:** Let the Minister finish.

**MS ANITE:** Because of the corruption that was taking place in UIA, the Attorney-General is fatigued with having to battle cases in court for double allocation and not following the right procedure that we need to address urgently. He even told me he is fatigued and, we must stop it. I really thank God that Hon. Matia finally acted and cleaned up and hope shall clean the rest of the thieves.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Chairperson, do you have anything to say? Let me hear from the chairperson of the committee.

4.35

**MR ALLAN MAYANJA (NUP, Nakaseke Central County, Nakaseke):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. We thank you for giving us space to consider this report.

On behalf of the committee, I thank the whole House, for the good deliberations it has made. They were on point. I also thank the members of the committee for their good work.

I appeal to the minister that under Rule 220 – action-taken reports - we do –

**THE SPEAKER:** Actually on this one, we need a treasury memorandum

**MR MAYANJA:** That is it! Madam Speaker, as committees of Parliament, we do our part by observing and drawing recommendations. Unfortunately, the will from the executive and the Government to implement these recommendations face challenges.

Therefore, to the Executive, we have done our part and it is now your turn. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Oshabe, you had something to say?

4.36

**MR PATRICK OSHABE (NUP, Kassanda County North, Kassanda):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The minister, while talking about matters of the law, kind of indicated that she is working within the existing law. However, while she was indicating that, she

hinted at the fact that there are loopholes within the law, yet the people who bring laws to Parliament to amend are ministers, and who are here.

Therefore, I would like to hear from her on when she is coming with the amendment of the Investment Code Act or whichever law needs to be made so that Ugandans are part and parcel of these benefits, incentives and everything. When are you coming back with the amendments?

**THE SPEAKER:** Maybe we need to cite one loophole in one section that needs to be amended. Yes, honourable – there is Ik. Have you ever heard -

4.37

**MR HILLARY LOKWANG (NRM, Ik County, Kaabong):** Honourable minister, I have something very sensitive. I thank you for what you have just said. I have been getting information that some of these companies recycle the same money they use for registration. For example, when one company comes to the country and they have \$150,000, they call colleagues, they give the same company and trade with the same money, and then the company earns some interest. I have been getting that information. Of course, we have been talking about corruption and that is also corruption. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, Hon. Anite?

**MS ANITE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am hearing the information that the honourable Member of Parliament from Ik is giving for the first time, but I would not dismiss it. I will have to talk to him and investigate and follow it closely.

Then, you asked me about the law - we will bring the memorandum for sure. Then, we had started the process of amending the law. Our focus was to close bribery and corruption in the investment area, but now Members have interest and will process and amend the law so that we increase more incentives for the local investors.

**THE SPEAKER:** When do we expect the amendments?

**MS ANITE:** Madam Speaker, we were so advanced. Maybe I should briefly consult with the Attorney-General.

*(The Member consulted with the Attorney-General.)*

**MS ANITE:** Madam Speaker, the Attorney-General says that we are ready with what we are working on, which is the corruption and the bribery bit. We could bring that. Maybe then if Members deem that we should amend and bring more incentives, then we will bring it in the House, but we are ready.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable members, I now put the question that the report of the Public Accounts Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises on the report of Auditor-General on the financial statements of the Uganda Investment Authority for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2023 be adopted by this House.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Report adopted.*

**THE SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Section 53 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, the Clerk will extract the resolutions and the House will expect a treasury memorandum to the effect within six months. Next item.

STATEMENT BY THE RT HON. PRIME MINISTER ON GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FOR THE SUCCEEDING WEEK, 8 TO 10 OCTOBER 2024

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in the public gallery, we have teachers and pupils from Divine Way Nursery and Primary School in Kigulu County North, Iganga. Please, honourable wave to your people. You are most welcome. *(Applause)*

We also have pupils and teachers from Abaler Primary School located in Amolatar. *(Applause)* Rt Hon. Prime Minister?

4.41

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

Madam Speaker, I move under Rule 28 of our Rules of Procedure to present business for the succeeding week:

1. The Minister for Presidency will present a statement on the commemoration of the National Independence Day;
2. The Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries will present a statement on the commemoration of the World Food Day, selected for 16 October 2024;
3. There will be a statement by the Minister of Education and Sports on the commemoration of the World Teachers' Day;
4. The Minister of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance will present a report on the progress of the implementation of the National Data Transmission Backbone Infrastructure Project by NITA-U funded by China Exim Bank and World Bank and the details of areas earmarked to benefit in the next phase of the project.

That is all, Madam Speaker, I beg to submit.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister. Honourable members, the Prime Minister has given us a notice of business for next week, for the preceding week, and we will gladly wait for it.

We also want the reports of RAPEX in the House next week. Thank you. Yes, Hon. COW –

4.43

**THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr John Baptist Nambeshe):**

Madam Speaker, I thank you and the Rt Hon Prime Minister. She has dutifully submitted the business of the succeeding week, week in, week out. However, it has become a ritual.

I have keenly gone through all the items of the businesses of the succeeding weeks, and it is hardly implemented. One time, even one of those was a Bill which was given for the succeeding week, but it took two years - the Animal Feeds Bill. Madam Speaker, it has become a ritual – (*Interjection*) - as I give my colleague - let me conclude this point and then you come in.

Madam Speaker, this kind of practice undermines the integrity of this House. It should not be taken lightly because the Rt Hon. Prime Minister might be taking it for granted and taking the House for a ride. Moreover, this is serious business which should feature and get space on the Order Paper of the preceding week.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. COW, let us give the Prime Minister a benefit of doubt – I am on the Floor. She has given us what she hopes to bring in the preceding week and she will bring it; I believe in *Majegere*. She is going to bring it. Next item?

## PRIME MINISTER'S TIME

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, can we have the next item? (*Hon. Ssekikubo rose*) It is okay; you will bring it. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, go and speak. Sergeant-At-Arms? Rt Hon. Prime Minister, can I have you on the Floor? Rt Hon. Prime Minister? - (*Hon. Ssekikubo rose*) which way? Rt Hon. Prime Minister, can you start?

4.48

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

Madam Speaker and honourable members, we got a question from Hon. Byakatonda Abdul (Workers' MP) and his question are that;

One, what is the current status of the project to establish a referral hospital in Pallisa?

The second one was that what are the reasons for the delay in the implementation of the promise to establish a referral hospital in Pallisa?

The third question, Madam Speaker, is what are the specific timelines and milestones set by the Ministry of Health for the commencement of the completion of the referral hospital- that is in Pallisa District?

Madam Speaker, my response is-

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I want you kindly to listen to the Prime Minister. Whoever wants to draw accountability, please let us listen to the Prime Minister. I want to assure you; no amount of intimidation will move me away from my jolly mood and I will not suspend anybody. If you want suspension, nobody will. Go ahead (*Laughter*).

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, I believe that was a light moment. My responses to Hon. Byakatonda Abdul's questions is as follows: The Government is not aware of any specific project aimed at establishing a referral hospital in Pallisa.

Currently - Madam Speaker, this time, my responses are voluminous. So, I request that you allow me to summarise.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, please do.

**MS NABBANJA:** Let me go to question two. Since Members are going to read. Question number two came from Hon. John Amos Okot-Agago.

His prayer is that what are Government plans to fence Kidepo Valley National Park to mitigate elephant invasion in areas around the National Park.

Madam Speaker, despite concerted efforts aimed at preserving and managing elephants within Kidepo Valley National Park, incidents and conflicts involving straying elephants and humans are on the rise. This trend is primarily linked to the availability of resources that influence seasonal movement. Elephants naturally migrate in search of water and food. In Kidepo, the scarcity of pasture and water, especially during dry periods, exacerbates the situation. This inherent behaviour can result

in heightened elephant activity on community lands at specific times of the year.

Madam Speaker, investing in electric fencing for our protected areas is the only conservation measure but a step towards safeguarding our national heritage, ensuring sustainable development and the well-being of our community.

Electric fencing has been identified, as I have already told you, as a highly effective measure in mitigating these challenges. It serves as a deterrent to both wildlife straying into human settlements and unauthorised human entry into protected areas.

Successful implementation of electric fencing in other countries like Kenya and South Africa has demonstrated significant reductions in human-wildlife conflicts and poaching incidents.

Madam Speaker, His Excellency the President recently directed the honourable Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities to prioritise the fencing of Kidepo Valley National Park starting the Financial Year 2025/2026.

In response to this directive, the ministry has commenced initial surveys and studies for designs, costs and fence alignment. Extensive consultations with local communities to ensure their concerns and suggestions are incorporated into the project that will be undertaken this financial year are ongoing.

In the interim, we are continuing to manage the human-elephant conflict through chilli fences, patrols by rangers, community wildlife scouts and beehive fences.

The third question came from Hon. Gilbert Olanya and he gave a narrative that His Excellency the President issued an Executive Order stopping massive tree cutting in Northern Uganda.

That as he spoke that time, there was continuous tree-cutting in Acholi Subregion, the army officers and other security officers were the

ones escorting the charcoal dealers and he wanted to find out the plan for helping the President in enforcing this Executive Order.

Madam Speaker, my response is that on 19 May 2023, His Excellency the President issued Executive Order No. 3 banning commercial harvesting and trade in charcoal in Northern Uganda and North Eastern parts of Uganda (Karamoja, Teso, Lango, Acholi and West Nile). This followed the uncontrolled cutting of trees for charcoal burning in the above-mentioned places that left the entire landscape almost bare.

The line ministry, that is the Ministry of Water and Environment through the Forestry Sector Support Department (FSSD), District Forest Services (DFS) and the National Forestry Authority (NFA) has put in place the following measures to implement the ban;

- i) On 27 September 2023, the Minister of Water and Environment provided comprehensive guidance to districts on how to implement the ban effectively.
- ii) We stepped-up enforcement.
- iii) There were awareness campaigns that were intensified.
- iv) Engagement with Uganda Revenue Authority.
- v) Withdrawal of forest produce movement permits.
- vi) Strengthening the Criminal Justice System.

Madam Speaker, while significant progress has been made, challenges persist. These include impunity among some illegal traders, community collusion with perpetrators, logistical difficulties in enforcement, and the need for greater public support.

Nevertheless, the Government remains committed to addressing these issues through ongoing engagement, capacity building, and resource mobilisation.

The Government remains dedicated to implementing the ban on charcoal from Northern Uganda under HD Executive Order No.3 of 2023.

Question number 4 came from Hon. Juliet Achayo, Member of Parliament, Ngora County. She said that in an effort to stop the degradation of the fragile ecosystems, H.E. the President directed that all persons who are hither-to occupying wetlands to vacate them. And that the people of Ojukai, Komolo, Agule, Atoot – and those other villages in Ngora County appreciate the environmental concerns and are willing to obey the presidential directive and stop cultivating the wetlands.

However, for a long time now, their livelihood has been revolving around the wetlands and as such, the directive is likely to render them vulnerable and destitute. Her prayer was that can Government immediately find an alternative means of survival for the affected persons?

Madam Speaker, the Government has promoted three interventions, including restoration and management of 936 hectares of degraded Agu wetland in Agu, Odwarat Subcounty and associated catchments, improved agricultural practices and is providing alternative livelihood options in the wetland catchment and strengthening access to weather and early warning information targeting local communities.

In appreciation of the commitment by Ngora Local Government, the Ministry of Water and Environment has provided alternative livelihoods.

- i) A water retention reservoir of 10,000 cubic metres was established to support the regeneration of Agu wetland and up to 1,000 households, who voluntarily left the wetland have since started receiving alternative livelihoods that are making them more resilient to climate change.
- ii) The Ministry of Water and Environment also constructed five fish ponds and stocked them.
- iii) The ministry has also established a mini-irrigation scheme that benefits surrounding communities by growing and marketing

horticultural crops such as cabbages, water melon and carrots.

Communities in Agu were also provided with the following alternative livelihood benefits as listed below.

1. An automatic weather station was established which provides farmers with early warning information, that is impacting their productivity and strengthening resilience to climate change impact.

Question number 5 came from Hon. Nkwasiibwe Zinkuratire Henry (MP Ruhaama County). That on 20 August 2024, Law Development Centre released notifications to applicants who have been admitted for the academic year 2024/2025. Majority of the applicants were however denied admissions without any remedy whatsoever. He personally made inquiries with the Director, LDC's office and was informed that they only admitted applicants that had a CGPA of 3.6 and above from their respective Universities.

Furthermore, that there has been no remedy provided to those applicants that have not been admitted despite LDC having issued no notices for the said mark at university in order to apply and join.

It should be noted that it is only LDC with the monopoly to teach the Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice and nobody can practice law in this country without this diploma.

His prayer is that what is the legally required mark for one to join Law Development Centre for a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice?

My response, Madam Speaker, is a bit lengthy and I request you to be patient.

The entry requirement for a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice at Law Development Centre is proof of completion of a Bachelor of Laws degree from an accredited university in Uganda. This applies to applicants that have studied LLB from Uganda.

Depending on the number of applicants vis-a-vis the institutional capacity, management admits applicants based on their LLB academic performance. This was emphasized in an official communication published on 22 August 2024.

Previously all those who were not admitted in an academic year of their application would automatically qualify for deferred admission to perhaps the next academic year.

His prayer number 2 was, what is the fate of those who have not scored the said Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.6 at the university level? Does that mean they are automatically denied a right to practice law since the Law Development Centre (LDC) has the monopoly to teach the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice?

Madam Speaker, this is my response. Law Development Centre admitted a total of 1,500 students to study the Bar Course in academic year 2024/2025. This communication was published in a statement on admissions to the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice programme for academic year 2024/2025, on 20 August 2024.

The statement further clarified that out of the above 1,500 students, only 1,260 students are new or fresh students, who have never attended legal practice training. This means that the 240 students are repeating the course. Out of the 1,260 students, 597 had earlier on been given offer letters in the last academic year (2023/2024), to join the legal practice training in this academic year, 2024/2025, without the need to reapply.

The Law Development Centre (LDC) management had no option other than respecting its earlier commitment. This implies that only 663 students were admitted from the fresh applicants of the academic year 2024/2025.

Madam Speaker, the use of a Cumulative Grade Point Average was purposely to admit a number of students within LDC capacity,

in compliance with Schedule 4, Regulation 9 of the National Council for Higher Education Checklist of Quality and Universities Capacity Indicators for Assessment of Universities and Programmes, under the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, 2001. What was applied was a percentage of 28 per cent of the best performers at each university, not a CGPA of 3.6.

Madam Speaker, management has engaged other stakeholders, especially policymakers, the Attorney-General and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, to come up with short-term, mid-term and long-term measures to deal with the students that were not admitted this academic year. The short-term measure is to have a second intake in January 2025, which can accommodate all the 1,643 students that were left out during the academic year 2024 admissions.

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has written to LDC management, confirming that it has no objection to the admission of students for the January 2025 intake. Accordingly, LDC will run two intakes in this academic year, 2024/2025.

The Attorney-General, who is present here, has also written to the management of LDC, authorising it to proceed with the second intake. LDC is accordingly going to admit 1,643 students that were left out due to capacity constraints.

Madam Speaker, the Government is in further discussions with all the stakeholders to have a long-term strategy to the increasing students' enrolment. LDC and Uganda Law Council are planning to hold a national stakeholders' conference on legal education to inform the strategic direction for the future of legal education and training in Uganda, to address the limitations of LDC in light of the growth in numbers of those who wish to study and practice law.

Prayer No. 3 by the honourable member is: how can LDC account for the funds that these applicants have paid as application fees, since they have been unfairly denied admissions?

My response, Madam Speaker, is that LDC, as an institution, does not receive any application fees from students. All the payments are received by the Government of Uganda, through Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) and, as an institution, LDC does not have an account where it accesses the application fees. These fees go directly to the Consolidated Fund.

Besides the above, application fee is a non-refundable fee used to facilitate the admission process. This was done, though a big number was unsuccessful. The fee, therefore, was properly applied to its use and cannot be refunded. Payment of an application fee is not a guarantee for admission. Once an application or an applicant is unsuccessful, he or she cannot demand back an application fee on account that he or she was never admitted. And, this is a standard practice in education management and administration, globally.

Hon. Godfrey Onzima, Aringa North, Yumbe District

He noted that the Ministry of Water and Environment has been implementing rural water projects, under the Integrated Water Management and Development Project. He said that in his constituency, they had considered three areas, and in all these areas, the water sources were drilled. These were in Rodo, Lobe Town Council and Awoba.

He said that when he went to the district, the information he got from the water department was that the ministry had said that they were only going to work on one water source at Lobe, yet in Awoba, there is Kei Seed Secondary School, where there is only one borehole which the secondary school, primary school and the community share. He also said that at Rodo, there is only one borehole, which is also shared by a health centre III, the community and Kei Primary School.

His prayer was: is there any other Government programme under which these other two sources, which were already drilled, can be taken on?

Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Water and Environment is implementing the Integrated Water Management and Development Project across the country. Subcomponent 1.2 of the project targets construction of water supply and sanitation systems in refugee-hosting districts in Western Nile and northern Uganda.

The refugee-hosting districts that were targeted to benefit from the project include Moyo, Madi-Okollo, Terego, Yumbe, Adjumani, and Lamwo in West Nile and Kiryandongo District in the mid-western.

A total of six solar-powered water supply systems in six rural growth centres of Awoba, Rodo, Goboro, Lomunga, Lobe and Nyori were planned to be constructed in Yumbe District.

Furthermore, Enyau Gravity Flow Scheme will cover part of Ariwa Sub-county, including Zone 5 of Bidi-Bidi Refugee Settlement. A total of 26 sanitation facilities will also be constructed along the water supply system in Yumbe District. Due to foreign exchange losses, the project is not able to implement all the activities as had been planned.

Furthermore, the feasibility studies and detailed engineering designs have recommended the inclusion of water treatment processes due to the quality of the underground water that required full-scale conventional treatment that was not envisioned at the project proposal.

The inclusion of the water treatment processes ultimately made the system costlier as compared to the planned cost. As a result of these changes, the project had to be reprioritised by reducing a number of systems to be implemented across the project districts to match the available resources.

The water supply systems that were ultimately chosen for implementation are those that provided the highest impact. I mean those with high yielding borehole sources and covering large populations. Therefore, this reprioritisation affected the mentioned rural growth centres of Nyori, Rodo, and Awoba.

Madam Speaker and Members, with available funding, the project will therefore construct the three solar-powered water supply systems of Goboro, Lomunga and Lobe, and Anyau Gravity Flow Scheme which will also cover parts of Ariwa Sub-county and Zone 5 of Bidi-Bidi Refugee Settlement in Yumbe.

Government will continue to source for finances to construct the remaining three solar-powered water supply systems of Rodo, Awoba and Nyori in Yumbe and the other systems that have been left out in other districts as well. The designs for all the systems have been completed and will be implemented as soon as funds are available.

Hon. Byakatonda again, the question is: Why are pensioners attached to Mbale Hospital have discrepancies in their pension payments whereby officers with same seniority, that is, title and duration of service, but who retired in different years, would be paid a different monthly pension?

Madam Speaker, my response is a statement of law and facts:

- i) The Public Service Pension Scheme is an un-funded PAYGO and non-contributory, Defined Benefit (DB) Pension Scheme. The Scheme rules are provided under Article 254 (1) of the 1995 Constitution, which for avoidance of doubt, states that, *"A public officer shall, on retirement, receive such pension as is commensurate with his or her rank, salary, and length of service."*
- ii) Article 254(2) on the other hand, provides that, *"the pension payable to any person shall be exempt from tax and shall be subject to periodic review to take account of changes in the value of money."*
- iii) The parameters and formula used to compute pension and gratuity are further provided by the Pensions Act, Cap 89, and Regulations therein. And these are:



- a. Regulation 4 of the Pensions Regulations which states that, “*Subject to the Act and these Regulations, every officer holding a pensionable office in the service of the Government, who has been in such service in a civil capacity for ten years or more, may be granted on retirement a pension at the annual rate of one five-hundredth of his or her pensionable emoluments for each complete month of his or her pensionable service.*”
- b. Regulation 18 provides the general rule as to qualifying service and pensionable service and specifically considers the pensionable service to include the period of appointment to a pensionable office to the period of retirement under pensionable circumstances.

Madam Speaker, I request that Members go through all that.

Let me go to the last question from Hon. Lamwaka Catherine, Woman Representative, Omoro District, on the status of coffee production in Northern Uganda.

The northern region has just started growing coffee as a value-chain enterprise with the advocacy and sensitisation by His Excellency the President, in the region on the four-acre model, but the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries has stopped distribution of seedlings to the farmers this year. The demand for seedlings and readiness of farmers is being frustrated by difficulty in accessing seedlings.

Her prayer; what strategy and assurance can the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries give to bring on board coffee farmers in the northern region, particularly Acholi and Lango sub-region that have just rolled on coffee farming?

Madam Speaker, my response is that the Government is currently implementing the Parish Development Model (PDM), whose adoption brought along a policy shift from the hitherto distribution of inputs to farmers, to

now farmers acquiring inputs on their own with support from loans obtained from the parish-based SACCOS financed by Government Grant.

The strategy under PDM is to push funds into the parish-based SACCOS from where farmers can borrow and acquire inputs of selected enterprises.

Madam Speaker, Government continues to support existing new potential farmers across the country and in particular, the coffee-growing districts of northern Uganda, through ensuring availability of quality seedlings through certification of nursery operators.

There are currently 14 certified nursery operators spread across the districts of Northern Uganda. Farmers have been encouraged to buy coffee seedlings from certified nurseries with the enterprise funds being accessed from Parish Development Model (PDM).

Madam Speaker, provision of tailored coffee extension services through regional managers and coffee extension officers attached to each coffee growing district. There is also a coffee technical officer or engineer for the regions, and these will continue to guide the farmers, both existing and prospective, on proper agricultural practices, post-harvest handling and coffee processing.

The Government has also planned to procure and distribute value-addition equipment in the form of solar dryers, cover-crop seeds, and motorised pulpers. The above interventions demonstrate our continued commitment and efforts to support the development of the coffee sub-sector in northern Uganda and other parts of the country. I beg to submit.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, for the elaborate responses. Honourable members, just a quick announcement before you-. When you come into Parliament, even when you are here-, I kindly request you to check your pension, who your next of kin is in the pension. I have a reason why I am saying that and I want you to

check who your next of kin is, in whatever you do, either in insurance or what. I have had a lot of problems with that.

I want you-, even if you leave this institution, you leave honourably. Other people should not be the ones to benefit from what you have struggled for. Therefore, you must go and check, who by mistake-, you could have by mistake put somebody else. *(Laughter)* It is time for a reflection now. I am serious about this. That is number one.

Number two, this is the Parliament of Uganda, where we expect decorum and respect for each other. However, I also would like to thank the Government that we built the National Theatre near. Now, if you are not somebody who can go by decorum and respect for each other, just cross over to the National Theatre. It is always open 24/7 hours.

Number three, when you go out there and you are given something, do not come and do accountability by playing to the gallery. You are doing accountability for the monies that you have been given, to come and make noise in that Parliament. This Parliament will remain.

As the presiding officer mentioned last week, it is the Speaker who decides which item must be on the Order Paper. Rule 25, the Order of Business: *“The Speaker shall determine the order of business of the House and shall give priority to government business.”*

That is okay. Still on the same:  
*“The Clerk shall, on instruction of the Speaker, draw up the order of the business of a sitting.”*

I am just reminding this House- what caught as passed shall never see this Order Paper. Hon. Niwagaba.

5.31

**MR WILFRED NIWAGABA (NRM, Ndorwa County East, Kabale):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the Prime Minister for the answers she has given. I have two issues-

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, ask the Prime Minister your questions, do not bring procedure.

**MR NIWAGABA:** One relates to the Ministry of Works and Transport. There is a lot of extortion on the weighbridges in Lukaaya and Mbarara by the officers in charge of those weighbridges. The extortion is ordinarily targeted against our traders with medium-sized vehicles-

**THE SPEAKER:** Rt Hon. Prime Minister, is the health minister here?

**MR NIWAGABA:** I want you, Prime Minister, to take interest in that matter and ensure that the extortion stops. Because they are charging people Shs 200,000 per crossing, and they do not do that to foreign vehicles, which in most cases are much more heavily laden than our vehicles.

The second one relates to my friend, minister, Hon. Frank Tumwebaze of agriculture; our scientists in National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), especially those who retired between five years ago and today, have never received their pension. These are people who did a lot of good work for us, especially for food security.

What is happening to the pension of those scientists who retired and had been attached to NARO? Can we get an explanation? Most of them are really in a sorry state.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker and honourable members, I have taken note of the Member's question. I promise that if there are officers who are extorting money from our people, they will be prosecuted. We only need evidence. You know how serious these days the Government is, especially me. We shall handle those thieves, squarely.

**THE SPEAKER:** NARO. Hon. Minister, Tumwebaze.

**MR TUMWEBAZE:** Madam Speaker, NARO was established by the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) Act and so, its

officers have terms and conditions they serve on. It should not be a problem to process their retirement benefits.

I need to check if I can get details from my brother, Hon. Niwagaba, whether those are retired scientists from NARO or the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAIF). Whichever the case, I am open to receiving their details. I will follow it up and I will ensure they get supported and get their benefits. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Dr Bwanika.

5.35

**DR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimaanya-Kabonera Division, Masaka City):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries did present here on the regulations of the European Union (EU) in terms of registering all coffee farmers. Rt Hon. The Prime Minister, Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) needs money to do this work. They have been waiting even for the release that we provided for in this year's Budget. They are only relying on development partners. When are you-

**THE SPEAKER:** Members, let us go straight to the question. Two minutes.

**DR BWANIKA:** When are you releasing and providing the money so that UCDA will do the work, which is very important?

**MR TUMWEBAZE:** Madam Speaker, UCDA was provided Shs 13 billion in this year's budget for traceability and as far as I know, they are ready to start. They have started; I commissioned it yesterday. They need more money and we have communicated that to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. We have also received support from the partners. Money to start off the exercise is available, but we shall certainly need more money to cover the entire country.

5.36

**MR JOHN-PAUL LUKWAGO (DP, Kyotera County, Kyotera):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, Kalisizo

Hospital, the Kyotera District referral hospital, has not had a functional x-ray machine since 2019. I brought this matter up here last year and the Minister of Health promised that the x-ray machine would come. Up to now, there is no machine.

Secondly, we are aware that the activity on Sango Bay land is on but compensation for our people has not started. So, when is the compensation going to start, Rt Hon. Prime Minister? Thank you.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker and honourable members, I have been to Kalisizo Hospital and I truly saw that the x-ray machine is not functional. The Ministry of Health brought in some equipment and I believe the minister will answer whether Kalisizo is one of those that will benefit.

On Sango Bay, the compensation has been delayed a bit because of lack of funds. However, the President directed that we get money from a certain source which is going to give us money probably next week, and the compensation will be done.

However, we request you to prevail over the farmers because some of them are now encroaching into the project area. They are going to be compensated, but let them allow the investor to start planting because his seedlings are outgrowing, which is not good for our economy. Thank you so much.

5.38

**MS SUSAN MUGABI (NUP, Woman Representative, Buvuma):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mine is about the delayed compensation of the palm oil Project-Affected Persons, who gave out their land 10 years back, but up to now, they have not been paid. These people do not have food and shelter, nor can they get school fees for their children because their land was their investment.

The other issue is still about the palm oil project. In the Memorandum of Understanding with the oil palm outgrowers, they said they would be giving them a maintenance fee. However, up

to now they have not done anything and these people got loans.

Early this year, on 4<sup>th</sup> April, the President gave a directive to the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, in collaboration with the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to make sure that these people get paid and their maintenance fees are released.

Can we get a commitment, as the people of Buvuma, on when these people will get their money and when the maintenance fees will be released to the outgrower farmers? We need a commitment and an update from the Government. They should also consider the time frame. Thank you.

5.39

**MS CHRISTINE KAAYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Kiboga):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mine is somehow related. On the expansion of the Busunju to Hoima Road, some people gave in their land titles but for eight years, the titles have never been brought back. So, we are asking when the Uganda National Roads Authority will return the land titles, if, in any case, they are still safe. Thank you.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, when I was coming from Kyankwanzi recently, I was stopped by some of those people. Therefore, the answer is that I directed UNRA, before your question, to give me an update on where these land titles are and why our people have not yet been compensated, despite their titles being taken. I had already got that from the community. I promise that next week, I will have an answer for you, honourable member.

**MR TUMWEBAZE:** Thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister and Madam Speaker. It is true that the President directed the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to prepare money for this compensation; Shs 6.5 billion was required to compensate for 3,426.5 hectares of land acquired. In the Financial Year 2023/2024, Shs 3 billion was earmarked for the compensation.

We have been pursuing to get this money; as soon as it is available, we shall pay it out. It is an issue of money delays. The land is known and data is available. I beg that we tell the people to be patient; they will be compensated. They have been verified.

5.42

**MS NAOME KABASHARIRA (Independent, Rushenyi County, Ntungamo):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. It has been about nine months since the Government put an animal quarantine because of Foot and Mouth Disease, specifically in my constituency which is in Ntungamo district. So, the whole of Ntungamo District is under quarantine.

I thank the Government for giving vaccines and they have vaccinated all the animals. I walked all over my constituency because people actually depend on animals. There is no Foot and Mouth Disease but the markets have been completely closed. People cannot sell their animals, yet they have to pay school fees. They literally depend on animals. May I know why these markets cannot be opened, yet people have vaccinated their animals?

Secondly, Madam Speaker, we have been hit very badly by hailstorms, particularly Keina Ward, Rwentobo-Rwahi and other villages in my constituency. Actually, it swept away all the onions, which our people depend on mainly in a place called Rwahi – for those who know those areas.

The roof at Keina Primary School, which is a government school, was swept off by the wind. May we get immediate help, if you can, Rt Hon. Prime Minister? Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries?

**MR TUMWEBAZE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The question of FMD quarantine is a district case by case. We have sent out vaccines to those affected districts. We have clearly written to the District Veterinary Officers and the Chief Administrative Officers. It is up to them to confirm that they have vaccinated

in the areas, to confirm that the disease has dissolved and to confirm that they are ready to lift the quarantine.

When they report that to us, the Commissioner immediately lifts it. They have not done it. For districts that have done it, we have lifted them.

Therefore, I appeal to you, Hon. Kabasharira; help us help you. Let us task the CAO and DVO of Ntungamo to give us returns on the vaccines we gave them. If there is no case of any disease, we will open them, even today. So, it is a case by case basis because they are the ones doing disease surveillance in the district.

Let me follow this up with you and we will give you a solution. I beg to submit.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Aleper? We have to balance the boat.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, I have heard the minister's answer, but I want him to also take note that some of our officials are corrupt. There is a way they benefit from the canteen. *(Applause)* –

**THE SPEAKER:** Quarantine.

**MS NABBANJA:** Yes, quarantine- *(Laughter)*. I direct him to pick up this matter and go to Ntungamo so that he can establish whether they are not playing around with our people's incomes. I am told that some benefit from these restrictions.

**THE SPEAKER:** Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I am also told that some parents fail to take their children to school because they cannot sell the cows due to the same thing; it is also an effect.

**MS NABBANJA:** I request Hon. Kabasharira - I have been to Ntungamo many times with you; our people are affected by that flood and many other areas by the way, the other day you saw the Member of Parliament talking about Kakumiro.

I request that- we need to look for a way for you people to reach my office because there

are so many requests that we can now have a comprehensive way of handling these disasters. There are those we cannot manage because the money is limited - so that we can see those in actual need rather than waiting for questions here.

I operate an open-door policy. Whichever Member of Parliament comes to my office- it is only today that I was delegated by the President and I missed the Members from West Nile. Today we released the 2024 National Population and Housing Census results and I was presiding over that function.

I request even other Members - your people should not wait when they have issues. The Chief Administrative Officer or the District Disaster Committee gets a letter because that is what we follow, we send our technical people and give support to your people. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

5.47

**MR MOSES ALEPER (NRM, Chekwii County (Kadam), Nakapiripirit):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand here to raise a matter of national importance and a very urgent one as such.

This concerns the authority of the Minister of Water and Environment, Hon. Sam Cheptoris, authorising an investor in the name of the International University of East Africa (IUEA) to ferry charcoal from Acherer in Nakapiripirit District to Kampala.

This practice followed letters and directives to the Deputy Resident District Commissioner (DRDC) of Nakapiripirit vide letters dated 27 September 2023 and 9 April 2024 which were guidelines concerning the clearance of symbiotic burning of charcoal and a directive to the DRDC to allow IUEA to transport over 700 bags of charcoal from Acherer in Nakapiripirit to Kampala.

However, the Resident District Commissioner of Nakapiripirit, in his letter to the minister dated 27 September -*(Member timed out.)*

Thank you. However, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) of Nakapiripirit, in his letter to the honourable minister dated 27 September 2024, him and his security team observed that the authority has been misconstrued and abused by the said investor and he has embarked on indiscriminate and mass clearance of land vegetation to carry out commercial charcoal burning under this pretext.

Again, as observed by the RDC and the District Security Committee, this conduct clearly breaches and defies the existing laws governing the conservation and management of the environment and Executive Order No.3 of 2023 issued by His Excellency Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda.

This act of massive land clearance will surely deplete the already disadvantaged vegetation in Karamoja or the area and will obviously lead to catastrophic consequences from land degradation and this will be evident with these current climate change challenges confronting the world.

My prayers

1. The minister should come and explain himself over this matter.
2. I dearly pray that you, Madam Speaker, should constitute an ad-hoc committee to investigate the matter and also find out how the investor acquired this land and carried out this indiscriminate vegetation clearing. I beg to move.

Before I sit, I want to lay down some of these documents.

One, a letter to the honourable minister by the RDC Nakapiripirit dated 27 September 2024, with reference to the extensive commercial burning of charcoal at Acherer village.

Two -

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Aleper that is a very important aspect. You would bring it as either

a petition or a motion that would give you sufficient time or write to the Prime Minister on that aspect so that you get a sufficient response to that effect because it is a very serious matter.

**MR MOSES ALEPER:** Much obliged, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I want you to bring a petition or write to the Prime Minister who will in turn tell her minister to respond to it. If it means going on the ground and having that clarified, it will be done.

**MR MOSES ALEPER:** Much obliged, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** When you cut trees in Nakapiripirit, it affects me in Bukedea.

**MR MOSES ALEPER:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. I have ruled on it. Hon. Kajwengye, Hon. Edakasi - I will come for the two of you.

5.53

**MR WILSON KAJWENGYE (NRM, Nyabushozi County, Kiruhura):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question goes to the Prime Minister. A year ago, the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) started implementing the 2019 Act by compensating people whose crops have been destroyed by wild animals.

In my constituency, Nyabushozi, I have five subcounties that share direct borders with the Lake Mburo National Park and when they were effecting the law of compensation, they made regulations. They spelt out which animals destroyed which crop so they could follow to compensate.

Unfortunately, it is important that the Prime Minister gets to know that the people making regulations left out some animals like impalas and zebras that they do not destroy crops. My people have listened to the President and have cultivated and planted modern pastures for dairy cattle.

These pastures are eaten by zebras and antelopes. They cannot be compensated because the antelopes and zebras are not considered to be destroying crops and pastures are not crops; it is terrible.

They invest in money and this is something - so, I want to know when these regulations are going to be amended so that my people can be compensated. Thank you,

**THE SPEAKER:** Attorney-General-

5.54

**THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. We shall engage with the Minister of Tourism to understand how these animals were determined as those that do not destroy crops but I think it may have been an oversight and we shall broaden it and correct the regulation as quickly as possible.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Edakasi and Hon. Ibanda-

5.55

**MR ALFRED EDAKASI (NRM, Kaberamaido County, Kaberamaido):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me an opportunity. Allow me to address my urgent question to the Rt Hon. Prime Minister. There are traders from Kaberamaido who trade in cattle. Ever since the directive that affects Balaalo was instituted, these traders have always been affected. It should be noted that there are no Balaalo in Kaberamaido.

Kaberemido also happens to be in eastern Uganda. We happen to use the gate from Zengebe that goes through Namasale, Amolatar. As I speak, since Saturday, 28 September 2024, I have traders with a truck, UAT 371Q that was returned by soldiers from Amolatar to Zengebe and have been there since Saturday.

As I speak, they have already lost some animals and they have not been allowed to cross the lake. This morning, I spoke to the DPC of Nakasongola, and he said that these traders have their permits, and they fulfilled all the requirements. The exception is that they have

not been allowed to cross the lake. The reason being given is not clear. I am told that a one Afande Keith Katungi, was the one who gave a verbal order that those people should not be allowed to cross. I asked if there was a written document to that effect but up to now, there is no written document.

My prayer is that the minister responsible should help at least in the interim to allow these Ugandans to leave Zengebe and return to Kaberamaido where they came from with their animals. If there be any investigations to be done, those people have the addresses. I have given all the details to my Resident District Commissioner and the DPC of Nakasongola. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you so much. Agriculture –

**MR TUMWEBAZE:** Madam Speaker, animal movement is governed by law. Anybody moving animals whether for trade purposes, marriage or customary practices, if you have a permit from where you picked the animals, and you have clearance to where you are going, including the northern region, because the northern region has not been stopped from trading cattle.

On the Balaalo - nomadism indiscipline; the Executive orders prescribed how we can deal with it. There is no enforcement officer who should stop anyone moving with a permit; be it a police officer or a soldier, they have no right to do that.

Let me get the details from the honourable Member of Parliament and we shall get to know which officer stopped them and I will report that officer to the Rt Hon. Prime Minister for disciplinary action. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Congole – *(Laughter)*

5.59

**MR IBANDA RWEMULIKYA (Independent, Ntoroko County, Ntoroko):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. I would like to thank the Rt Hon. Prime Minister, for

the relief. In fact, Ntoroko was devastated for a very long time, but we are beginning to get some relief from UN agencies and your office. We thank you so much. Although the relief is not enough - Bundibugyo is also facing the same.

Leaving that aside, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we have this oil road of Karugutu–Ntoroko which is 56 kilometres and linked to Rwebisengo, eight kilometres. This road has been in the Government programme since 2016. All other oil roads were constructed apart from Karugutu-Ntoroko. We have trucks that go to Ntoroko Landing Site. You know, we have one border point that was constructed by the Government and it is doing a lot of work, but vehicles do not get there on time. When are you having this road constructed, Rt Hon. Prime Minister? I have written to the Speaker about the same. Do you remember the letter I wrote to you? You also communicated to Gen. Katumba Wamala, the Minister of Works and Transport, but up to now - people want to hang me over that road.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, when is the work on this road beginning? I beg to submit.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**MS NABBANJA:** Let me use this opportunity to inform the people of Ntoroko not to hang you. Ntoroko-Karugutu road is a priority road. It is only that we are limited by resources. We should have even gone to another level of procurement.

I will give you details since we are always together in the office and everywhere -(*Laughter*)- No, he is a brother. That is why I have not had an opportunity to speak like this with other colleagues. He and I are very close. We shall see what to do and make sure that we involve the Ministry of Works and Transport to make sure that that road is given priority.

**THE SPEAKER:** So, follow your sister.

6.02

**MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. While the Prime Minister was away, she delegated Rt Hon. Nakadama. However, when I raised the matter of Kiteezi, on when the affected people would be compensated; those who were in the buffer zone and those whose people have not yet been recovered - the 12 bodies which are still under the garbage, we were informed that we should wait for the Rt Hon. Prime Minister to give us the response.

I would like to ask, when are we getting compensation for those people living in the tents?

Two, are you thinking about a monument for those bodies that have not been recovered up to now? Three, what is the plan for the garbage in the city? Do we have technology in place right now that is going to handle matters of garbage? I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, this morning at 8.00 a.m., I had a meeting over the same matter. We have received money from the Government. We have 233 people who are still in the tent at the campsite. We have 171 homesteads who are going to be compensated tomorrow. They are not going to be compensated, because we have three categories. We have those who were tenants; those who were renting from those houses that got affected.

We have those whose houses were destroyed for us to access the garbage site that had collapsed. They are 20 in number. We have those that are in the buffer zone.

Madam Speaker, tomorrow we are going to decommission because we want our children to study. This is because we took over their playground at Kiteezi Primary School. For the tenants, we are going to give Shs 2 million to each family so that they can go and buy some small things and live.



We are also going to make sure that the landlords - those that have houses in the buffer zone, the Chief Government Valuer will evaluate and the process is still ongoing. The evaluation of the 20 houses is done. Remember, some of them died, and we do not have anybody claiming. All the people who were in those two homes died.

So, we do not know who to compensate from the two homes, all the people who were there, died. So, we do not know how to compensate. Members, the Government is committed to making sure that our people *-(Interjection)-* those who are now in the tent can go and have where to rent. That is what I can say.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Clarification? *(Mr Byarugaba rose\_)* The clarification is from the Leader of the Opposition (LOP). Then, I will come to you.

**MR SSENYONYI:** This is a very quick follow-up. I am glad something is coming through from the Government, because we have been pushing each time those people have been desperate *-(Interjection)-* before you get excited, honourable colleague, I am thinking about the Shs 2 million. Maybe the Prime Minister could break down and adumbrate what, exactly, the Shs 2 million is going to do.

I began by appreciating because something has come through, but I am saying that Shs 2 million for people who have lost everything is too paltry. I do not know how you came up with the calculation for the Shs 2 million. Maybe we could have a better understanding because, for us, who keep interacting with these people and their urgent needs and challenges, Shs 2 million is a paltry sum. Maybe you could guide us so that they know that for this Shs 2 million, you can pay rent, replace this – I do not know. Help us to understand how you came up with the Shs 2 million figure.

**THE SPEAKER:** There is another clarification before you speak, Prime Minister. But, remember we are talking about the tenants – people who were renting.

**MR BYARUGABA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today, I led a delegation of Members from the presidential affairs committee to the place. I had the pleasure of meeting with the Acting Executive Director (ED), Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and some staff from the Prime Minister's office.

One of the most disturbing issues that I saw – a bit very unfortunate – is that these people have been herded into three small tents. These tents are extremely hot. They asked me: “Chairperson, kindly, go into the oven and stay there for about five minutes.” Of course, I could not. It was very unfortunate.

The women stay alone, the men stay in another tent and the other one is for the mothers. It is sad. I thought that maybe before we even do all those issues, can't we at least get about 230 tents? It is not asking much from the Government. This is so that each family, at least, gets a separate tent. It is a little bit inhuman for the time being.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable committee chairperson, that is a good suggestion, but what we are saying is that we want to decongest the area. The best is to get the money, give it to them and they go.

Yes, Prime Minister?

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, you have answered. Honourable members, it is because of the situation that those people are in the tent. Two, the honourable member's suggestion of giving them other tents – you know, we can easily get cholera in that place. It is over-congested.

Secondly, they are staying in a school. We want that school and the children who are in that school to have some kind of place where they can also play, like it is in other schools. The Lord Mayor and many other leaders were in my meeting. Even the Member of Parliament – I do not see him here. I usually do not meet my colleagues on the other side, so, sometimes I do not know them properly. *(Laughter)*

Hon. Nkunyingi was also present when we made this decision, in good faith. We are saying: let everybody get at least somewhere to rent – to free and decommission that place. It is in good faith, my brother. You, as the Leader of the Opposition, can also make some contribution. People have been contributing.

I want to conclude –

**MR SSENKYONYI:** Madam Speaker, the matter we are dealing with is a very serious matter; it is a matter of life and death. People have died and many are still buried under that garbage. Several people have been to that place. I went, together with a couple of leaders, and donated items and so on. I am not sure if the Prime Minister is in order to turn this into a jocular matter. You are the Government and that is why we are tasking you.

For us to say, one, we appreciate the Shs 2 million, but it is too little, please, add to it, and she is saying “no, you also go and contribute and add to it”, I get the feeling that you are abdicating your responsibility. That is why you are in the Government. Is she in order, Madam Speaker?

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, when we have a situation like the one in Kiteezi, let us have a giving heart. All of us can give. Actually, Leader of the Opposition, I want to give a contribution myself. *(Applause)*

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, the question that was originally asked was about how the Shs 2 million was arrived at? Maybe what the Rt Hon. Prime Minister is saying is: let us first start with that and then we continue as we decongest the school.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, each part of this country has got a rate. We depended on the rent rates that were provided by the district of Wakiso. We depended on the rent rates in that area.

So, I would like to inform you that, as me, I already contributed Shs 200,000 per person. *(Applause)* You can go and find out. I went there and contributed – and many other people

have contributed. I said this in good faith, my brother.

Members, I also want to tell you that the Government is coming up with long-term solutions. We are in touch with a number of investors. There are those who want to start urgently and have that place decommissioned. Remember, we also have four acres the other side, at Kiteezi. We are going to hand over these sites very soon.

The Attorney-General is going through the –*(Interjection)*– this is the Prime Minister's question time; I do not have those breakdowns, Members. When you ask me, I answer the way I know at that particular time. If you want a concrete answer, you write and, then, I do everything for you.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, this is not an examination. *(Laughter)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, let us decongest the area and have our children studying.

Honourable members, in the public gallery, we have pupils and teachers from Adwenyi Primary School, Serere District. You are most welcome. *(Applause)* That is in Kasilo County where Hon. Elijah Okupa, the longest serving person in the House, and Hon. Adoa Hellen, the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (Fisheries), come from. The Floor is yours.

6.15

**MR ELIJAH OKUPA (Independent, Kasilo County, Serere):** Thank you, Madam Speaker and the honourable members of Parliament, for welcoming the pupils and the teachers and some parents from Adwenyi Primary School in Kadungulu Town Council in Kasilo County. This was the best school in Kasilo last year in the Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) – *(Applause)* - I hope they will do it again this year.

Madam Speaker, allow me also this opportunity to ask some two questions to the Prime Minister before I go to escort them out

of this place. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I want to thank Government for the two Buyende, Kaberamaido and Kagwara (BKK) ferries to connect Buyende, Bukungu, Kagwara in Kasilo and Kaberamaido.

**THE SPEAKER:** For once, clap for the Government. (*Applause*)

**MR OKUPA:** Last month, the two ships were lowered. Unfortunately, because Government owes contractors a lot of money, Terrain Services that was constructing the dock has withdrawn because they have not been paid their balance of Shs 2.9 billion. They cannot complete the work yet His Excellency the President is supposed to go and commission these ferries in November, on his tour to the Eastern side.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, can you use your powers to direct the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to release this money such that it is not an embarrassment to Government, such that the contractor goes back on site and completes this project properly?

Finally, again I want to thank the Government for starting the students' loan scheme under the Higher Education Student Financing Board. This is a list of the students who have been provided for, for this loan scheme. The unfortunate part is - when we adopted the report of the Committee on Public Accounts (Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises - COSASE) we realised there was unfairness in the distribution. This thing was supposed to be on a quarterly basis.

However, it is surprising that there are districts that have been given 65 slots and others one. We do not know where this unfairness is coming from. I can see in:

- i) Karenga, only one person;
- ii) Kapelebyong, four;
- iii) Lira, they are 25;
- iv) Mbarara, 36;
- v) Ntungamo is 75;
- vi) Wakiso, 75;

- vii) Amudat, three;
- viii) Amuria, six;
- ix) Buliisa, three;
- x) Bushenyi, 39;
- xi) Busia, 58;
- xii) Buvuma, three;
- xiii) Serere, eight, and
- xiv) Hoima, 21.

Last time we said, let us be the last. I have a list for all these districts. This is very unfair because this was intended to harmonise and bring equity. When you look at where the Executive Director comes from, there are 58. Why? That was the same problem in our COSASE report.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, before they report, call these people to order and let this thing be equitably distributed on a quarterly basis. The population census has just been released today. You will get to know the population. Even where the honourable minister comes from, they are very few.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we beg you. There is even a student from Kasilo who got 16 in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics (PCM). He is admitted to Mbarara University. He applied for engineering and he was left out. We want to request you to take action. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. In the COSASE report that was presented by the Leader of the Opposition now, Bukedea had only one like this. Even the name of that one who was coming from Bukedea was not a *Kiteso* name. (*Laughter*)

6.20

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS)**

**(Mr Peter Ogwang):** First of all, Madam Speaker, I want to thank my able Prime Minister for giving me the opportunity to answer the question, which has been raised by Hon. Elijah Okupa.

Honourable colleagues, I want to draw your attention to the fact that the Higher Students

Loan Scheme is always advertised in the national newspapers.

Number two, those students are advised to apply online.

Number three – (*Interjections*) - Madam Speaker, can I be protected? I thank Hon. Okupa for raising this matter but I would also be much more interested in finding out if it is Katakwi, how many students from there did apply? If you are saying in Katakwi, three got, maybe - even if it is 10 and one got, then there is a question. However, if we are saying that in Wakiso, 200 or 300 have applied, and 50 or 60 have got, is there a problem with that?

I want to say this, honourable colleagues that the system we are using as the Ministry of Education and Sports is an extremely good system. It helps all of us to get the most competent and most qualified – (*Interjections*) - I know that there is demand for us to take more and we have always asked for more money for us to admit and take more students.

As of now, I want to implore Hon. Okupa here that I am available. I can get the list he has, cross-check with the Secretariat and then report back to Parliament, if need be. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, let us work towards helping our country – (*Applause*) – let us work towards helping Uganda, the President, the Executive and the Legislature in checking. Maybe, he is a whistle blower. We must thank him for bringing it up. Go back and check what is outside there. Maybe, the technical people are not telling you or us the truth. That would help us really. We cannot continue covering people when they are doing wrong things. It is in good faith.

**MR OGWANG:** Madam Speaker, I thank you for that candid talk but I also want to say, like I did allude earlier that I will be interested in getting this information from Hon. Okupa and go back to the ministry so that I can correlate with the information he has if it is true and get back to Parliament.

Madam Speaker, I would like to request that you permit us entirely to come and make a presentation, as the Ministry of Education and Sports, as far as the subject matter is concerned.

**THE SPEAKER:** I want Hon. Elijah to lay that on the Table. I want a report of COSASE for last year when Hon. Ssenyonyi was the committee chairperson also to be looked at. It will give you the trend and you come with an informed decision. It helps us because you are helping the Prime Minister.

**MR OKUPA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to request my brother that I bring this in good faith following what we discovered in COSASE. I was part of that team. I gave the example of one young man who was admitted to Mbarara. He applied and was not taken. There are a number of cases. Hon. Musasizi here raised the same issue regarding Ibanda.

Madam Speaker, allow me to lay on the Table the list of the Higher Education Students' Financing Board list of successful loan applicants for the Financial Year 2024/2025. I beg to lay.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please lay. Honourable minister, we want an analysis of admissions. Kindly report back to the House.

**MR OGWANG:** Madam Speaker, I will also be able to bring, like I did say earlier on that I will download the entire list of those who applied in each district vis-à-vis what has been taken. I also want to remind you that the demand is overwhelming, yet the financing envelope is small. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Elijah, the principal of equity.

6.32

**MR NATHAN TWESIGYE (Independent, Kashari South County, Mbarara):** Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I would like to give the minister more information. I sit on the Committee for Education and Sports. Apart from districts complaining about the number of students who are admitted, so are

the universities. Some students who apply to some universities are not admitted.

A private university will have 200 students admitted to that university. A government university or public university, nobody's admitted there. I can give you that information in writing and lay it on the Table on Tuesday. Therefore, what my honourable colleague and House are talking about is correct that there is an issue, we call it "A comedy of errors." There is a comedy of errors in that scheme.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the ferry - (*Hon. Muwanga rose*)- No, the Prime Minister has not answered about the ferry. Let us have the ferry answered-

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker and Honourable colleagues, I request the honourable member to help me with more information so that I can make a directive. That ferry or the dock area will be worked on to completion.

**MR MUWANGA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. On the question of the loan scheme we had tackled earlier, let us be fair.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thought we had ruled on that.

**MR MUWANGA:** When you look at the matter, Hon. Okupa said, we need a more independent investigation than the minister can do. When you talk about districts like Ntungamo and Isingiro, when we live in Uganda; you know the senior minister and that very ministry comes from there. Sending a junior minister to investigate that matter is asking for too much.

The only natural way we can get a comprehensive report; you either refer this matter to the sectoral committee or The Committee on Public Accounts (Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises) (COSASE) to give us a more independent investigation that can go to the core of this problem and we treat for once and for all.

Madam Speaker, I beg for your indulgence.

**THE SPEAKER:** We have committees that do oversight. The Committee on Education and Sports does oversight, and it will give us information to the effect. Since COSASE has already done it - (*Hon. Muwanga rose*)- No, I have not given you time. The Committee on Education and Sports will handle that aspect and report back to the House. Hon. Jennifer?

**MR PETER OGWANG:** Madam Speaker, I beg for your indulgence- because you are the woman MP for Bukedea does not mean that the people of Bukedea should not benefit from the services of the Government of the Republic of Uganda. I am aware that my senior minister is the Minister of Education and Sports and she comes from Ntungamo.

It should not be said that because the Minister of Education and Sports, comes from Ntungamo, then people from Ntungamo should not benefit from the service of this Government. I want to put this on the record. Hon. Kivumbi, for the student's loan scheme, they applied and they are entitled to.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have already referred it to the Committee on Education and Sports. At the same time, it is not a crime for the minister to come from Ntungamo. If anyone from Ntungamo qualifies, let the person benefit. Shouldn't I get in Bukedea? Now, let me also ask about issues from Bukedea. My MP- (*Laughter*)- Hon. Jenifer, I will come to you-

6.34

**MR BOSCO IKOJO (NRM, Bukedea County, Bukedea):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Prime Minister. I have two issues. One, over ten years ago, the Ministry of Water and Environment carried out a design for Bukedea Gravity Flow Scheme. This scheme was to be implemented in three phases; In 2015, the Government of Uganda procured a loan from the African Development Bank to implement phase one of this scheme.

The Government had promised that the three phases would be completed by 2025, but

up to now, it is only one phase that has been completed. The scheme-

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon. Prime Minister-Bukedea-

**MR IKOJO:** The scheme was meant to benefit over 262,000 people from the Districts of Sironko, Bulambuli, Bukedea, and Kapchorwa. Since the implementation of that scheme, the ministry has never shown any effort or come to this House to tell us the fate of the other two phases, two and three.

Can the Prime Minister tell us when the people of Bukedea are getting phase two and three? That was meant to be constructed in the greater subcounties of Malera, Bukedea, Kachumbala, and Kidongole.

Secondly, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, two years ago, the Ministry of Works and Transport did a procurement for the contractor to construct a bridge to ease transport between Bulambuli and Bukedea Districts, around Tajar. Up to date, there is nothing on the ground. On the same note, the same ministry did the procurement of a contractor to rehabilitate a road from Bukedea Town Council, up to Malera roundabout. Up to date, there is nothing on the ground. People are expecting these two ministries to respond to that.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we are interested in knowing the fate of all three projects. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you so much, my MP. You mean I should not benefit. They are saying Bukedea has a stadium. It is a personal stadium, not for the Government.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker and honourable members, the matter our brother is raising is critical. I request him to put that question in writing so that I could get answers from the concerned people, with details. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Jenifer, Member for Kazo?

6.35

**MS JENIFER MUHEESI JENIFER (NRM, Woman Representative, Kazo):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity. My question goes to the Prime Minister. The coffee farmers have gone beyond the 14 districts you are talking about. On that note, we thank the NRM government that has led even other districts – *(Interjections)* - I beg to be protected.

Since the Parish Development Model (PDM) funds went to coffee farmers, coffee has improved in many districts. However, the problem that we are facing is post-harvest handling. I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to come up with a plan on how we can handle that, especially on fertilisers, tarpaulins and many more.

The second one is our road - the only road that we expect to be tarmacked; the Kyegegwa-Kazo road. The works were supposed to be started in July, but up to now, nothing has been done. I beg to submit. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Prime Minister?

6.36

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (Mr Frank Tumwebaze):** Thank you, Madam Speaker and Hon. Jennifer from Kazo. I am happy to hear and I surely know that there is a great coffee revolution.

Many nursery beds have been - the demand is so high. So, as the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) and actors, we shall continue to offer advisory on post-harvest handling, grading of our coffee and harvesting of our coffee. I am happy to note that the compliance so far is encouraging, but we shall continue to offer advisory. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Francis Mwijukye and then Hon. Feta.

6.37

**MR FRANCIS MWIJUKYE (FDC, Buhweju County, Buhweju):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question to the Prime Minister is concerning the Buhweju tarmac road. Buhweju is the only district in Ankole that has no tarmac connection. So, the connection of Buhweju and the surrounding districts of Mbarara, Ibanda and Sheema is a problem.

This road is not only a presidential pledge or a manifesto, but it is a priority in the National Development Plan III. The Prime Minister has talked about this road, and the President has called it a priority road many times, but the road construction is not taking off.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, who is delaying the start of construction on this road? Who is sabotaging the Government? Who is sabotaging the development plan?

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, all the processes to have that road tarmacked are almost complete. The Minister of Works and Transport, through the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA), already identified a contractor; China Railway 18<sup>th</sup> Bureau Group Co. Ltd.

The Attorney-General's Office has given guidance. What remains is bringing that pre-financing project to Parliament, we pass it and they start working.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Feta?

6.39

**MR GEOFFREY FETA (NRM, Ayivu Division East, Arua):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I thank the Government for the rehabilitation of Karuma Dam. However, the traffic that the road has been holding is not able to go through the alternative road that has been proposed.

Yesterday, we sat, as part of the West Nile Parliamentary Caucus, and requested the Government to grant us access through

Kikomanyombo to Tangi because the matter we are talking about is affecting livelihood, businesses and sick people. We urgently need a response from the Government on this matter.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister, when are you causing a meeting with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities to address this matter? Thank you.

**MS NABBANJA:** Madam Speaker, as you are all aware, the old Karuma Bridge was constructed in the early 50s. We are trying to rehabilitate it so that its lifespan can extend, as we put a new one, financed by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Due to that rehabilitation or repair, the Government stopped vehicles from using that bridge. So, there are alternative roads:

- i. Through Hoima-Buliisa-Para up to Pakwach; and
- ii. Through Murchison Falls National Park. He talked of a very complicated name – Kiko -

**MR FETA:** That road is from Masindi to Kikomanyombo gate. It goes to Para and exits at Tangi to Pakwach.

**MS NABBANJA:** Yes, there is also another route, from Rwenkunya, where we have a ferry; Masindi Port. We put another ferry on Masindi Port to facilitate the big traffic which was almost 3 kilometres on both sides. Therefore, I report that at least the vehicles have greatly reduced. I am told that it is now – (*Interjection*) - you will get a chance.

Madam Speaker, I am told that all the buses and passengers that go through Kikomanyombo do not pay. Reason being, that the buses take many people.

The other issue is that the reserve came into force in 1962. Since that time, we have attracted tourists. According to UWA, the many small cars - if allowed to pass - are more than 300 daily. The UWA officials cannot give security to people in those small cars, since there are

elephants along that road; it is dangerous, according to them.

Secondly, they also say that once the many vehicles go through there, they create a lot of sound and the animals will run away. Getting these animals to come back will take us 15 years, and yet these tourists come to see the animals.

Thirdly, they have no control of people throwing out materials; maybe food or anything else. They can easily kill the animals. Those are the explanations they gave me, but the President directed me that those explanations should be brought to Cabinet on Monday. That is why I had caused a meeting with our West Nile Members of Parliament but it was not possible and I am really sorry. I cannot tell you that we can have it tomorrow because maybe – I do not know whether I have the minister for tourism around -

**MR FETA:** Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I would like to make a clarification. We have been passing on this road and paying for it dutifully without asking the Government to grant us access when we had an alternative. The records are there. UWA should not tell us lies. The vehicles we have been using to pass through the park have never been attacked by either an elephant or any other animal.

Secondly, as we pass through the park, there is a regulation of not more than 40 kilometres. If you exceed - anybody who exceeds that speed pays. The Members here who have exceeded that speed have been made to pay.

Thirdly, the passenger buses; does UWA have control over whether those passengers will throw rubbish or not? What about a small vehicle that will be carrying one or two people? This is the appeal we are making. It is a sensitive matter that has put us, as leaders from West Nile, under pressure. We are appealing to the Government to look at our point of view. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, you did not get the time and have a meeting with the Prime Minister.

As leaders of West Nile, get time and have a meeting with the Prime Minister and have that resolved. That should be done next week. Hon. "SACCO", do you have anything to say? - Both Lango and West Nile. All the affected areas – Yes -

6.45

**MR ROBERT MIGADDE (NRM, Buvuma Islands County, Buvuma):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Like you called my name, of course, I am not "SACCO", but I chair the Uganda Parliamentary SACCO, where many colleagues here are members.

Madam Speaker, some time back, the Uganda Parliamentary SACCO purchased land with a plan to prepare a decent place for its members two years ago. The UPDF acquired this land compulsorily, deployed and blocked our access.

The Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development pledged on this Floor that we were supposed to be paid last financial year. The land totals 258 acres, valued by the Government Valuer at Shs 33.5 billion. To date, this money has not yet been paid. Every time, I interact with the Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, he directs me to finance. I am praying that we get a response from the Prime Minister because the Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs has given me a number of empty promises. So my question is, when are we going to be paid? This is members' money. If not, when is UPDF vacating our land?

6.48

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (Mr Jacob Oboth):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, for gracing me with this opportunity to respond to a matter for which I am already accused of giving empty promises. This is a very critical matter because we are, like myself, I am conflicted because I am a member of the Uganda Parliamentary SACCO.

The UPDF did not go to that land out of convenience but was for strategic reasons. It is true that we are there. Honourable chairperson of the SACCO, we do not have any intention



of vacating the land and what Hon. Robert has said is true that the matter is now at a higher level.

This House has engaged with the Government at higher levels and I think would need the Rt Hon. Prime Minister to give the directive to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to avail the funds. But all the processes are done. We are only waiting for your directive, which you are coming to give here now.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable member – did you get the answer? The answer was it is being handled at a higher level. At a higher level - *(Hon. Migadde rose\_)*

**MS NABBANJA:** Higher level is between the Prime Minister and the President. And you know that the Prime Minister is an able Prime Minister.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members – you mean you do not get tired. House adjourned until Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.

*(The House rose at 6.50 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 8 October 2024 at 2.00 p.m.)*