



**PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA**

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2024

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**IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA**

**Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament**

**FOURTH SESSION - 18TH SITTING - 1ST MEETING**

**Thursday, 19 September 2024**

*Parliament met at 2.10 p.m. at Parliament House, Kampala.*

**PRAYERS**

*(The Deputy Speaker, Mr Thomas Tayebwa, in the Chair.)*

*The House was called to order.*

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable colleagues. I welcome you to today's sitting. Let us have matters of national importance. Hon. Mourine Osoru?

2.12

**MS MOURINE OSORU (NRM, Woman Representative, Arua City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national concern.

Mr Speaker, West Nile has finally been connected to the national grid. *(Applause)* Indeed, we have to thank the Government for the effort. We thank Parliament as well. However, West Nile Rural Electrification Company (WENRECO) has done a lot, but not enough. We still have issues with distribution of the power lines to most of the trading centres, markets, churches – mention them.

Mr Speaker, because of that, our people are requesting to know two things from the ministry for energy:

1. Since we are connected to the national grid, how affordable will the power be? Our people are saying that if we are connected to the national grid and the power is expensive, it means the national grid will remain in the substations; and
2. The other issue is about the distribution of the power lines. As the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development carries on with mapping, we request that those other places that were not captured should be captured.

I thank you, honourable minister. I know you have been doing a lot, but this is our request. Please, help our people by answering some of these questions. We want to know how much this power will cost. Uganda Electricity Authority has to be fair across the entire country. At least, the distribution of power should be cheap, not expensive. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** For the record, I do not think we have “Uganda Electricity Authority”.

**MS OSORU:** I would like to correct that; I apologise. It is Electricity Regulatory Authority.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Very good. I wanted her to be the one to correct it. Thank you. Honourable minister?

2.15

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Ruth Nankabirwa):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the honourable colleague for alerting me that connecting West Nile to the national grid cannot be meaningful unless we do distribution – the last mile connection. This is a common phenomenon in the entire country, where we have the national grid passing through our constituencies – some little short stretch distribution lines.

In the statement I presented here last month, I explained how far we have gone and where we are going. We need to invest more money to do last mile connection, to support the value addition agenda in this country. Electricity is very critical.

The second point she has raised is about the affordability of electricity. When you connect West Nile to the national grid, it means the power that you have been using – generated from HFO – is going to be cheaper. The power from the national grid is going to be cheaper than the one you have been using, generated from HFO. So, the issue of affordability is being worked on.

Every January, Mr Speaker -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, to bring every one board, what is HFO?

**MS NANKABIRWA:** “HFO” is Heavy Fuel Oil. It is very dirty oil and power that comes from that dirty oil is expensive.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**MS NANKABIRWA:** Every January, Mr Speaker, we announce the tariffs. For four consecutive years, we have been announcing reduced tariffs. I beg Members of Parliament and the entire country to bear with us because tariff is determined by how expensively or cheaply you have invested in the generation, transmission and distribution.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. (*Members rose*) Now, honourable colleagues, please, matters of national importance.

Hon. Katali - Hon. Christine Akello, we dealt with your issue the other day. I cannot keep repeating the same issue on the Floor. Road accidents, whether in Kampala or anywhere, is what we tackled. If we handle issues, let us not resume them again.

Hon. Isaac Etuka?

2.18

**MR ISAAC ETUKA (NRM, Upper Madi County, Madi-Okollo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. I rise on a matter of national importance regarding the very poor infrastructure in Uleppi, Kati and Ambaru primary schools and Offaka Secondary School.

Mr Speaker, we follow your guidance very clearly, that before we come with any issue on this Floor, we should exhaust all options. I have engaged the line ministry, agencies and departments, but to no avail.

Mr Speaker, when you look at the schools that I have mentioned, the enrolments are high, but the structures are in a dilapidated state. To show that we started this struggle some time back, I beg to lay on Table the presidential directive, which was addressed to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports, and that was way back in 2019. Since then, no action has been taken – even when the President directed that new classrooms be constructed in these schools.

I also beg to lay on Table a letter which the ministry -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable member, today, we are going to be discussing - if you followed the House yesterday, we presented a report on the status of schools in northern Uganda, including your area. Okay? Madi-Okollo is one of those. Can we, kindly, handle it when we reach the debate on that matter? It is the third item on the Order Paper. I will give you an opportunity.

**MR ETUKA:** Most obliged.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let us have Hon. Ssimbwa and then Hon. Alero

2.20

**MR TOM ALERO (NRM, West Moyo County, Moyo):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity. I rise on a matter of national importance, concerning the National Backbone Infrastructure Connectivity Project for West Nile by National Information Technology Authority – Uganda (NITAU).

Mr Speaker, on 11 May 2019 at St Charles Lwanga Senior Secondary School in Koboko District, the President launched Phase IV of the National Backbone Infrastructure Connectivity Project for West Nile, where NITA-U was to implement the National Data Transmission Backbone Infrastructure and e-Governance Infrastructure Project to connect districts and towns across the country. Phase IV is to be extended to 12 districts of West Nile and other border points of Uganda.

My prayers are as follows:

1. May we know from the Rt Hon. Prime Minister or the minister responsible, how far the programme has progressed now that the EXIM Bank and World Bank have extended loans for Phase V of the programme?
2. I would also like to know when the programme will extend to the remote areas, hard-to-reach areas, parishes and subcounties in all the districts in West Nile, including places like Arapi, Gbari, Oyo in Moyo District where there is no internet connectivity.

Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, Government Chief Whip.

2.22

**THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obuga):** Mr Speaker, we are all aware that under the policy of rationalisation,

NITA-U had been earmarked to be rationalised. However, when the National Resistance Movement Caucus sat one week ago, NITA-U is one of the two organisations that we have earmarked to benefit from a transitional period of three years. This arises from the fact that under the Chinese loan and one from the World Bank and partly also a grant, NITA-U has been implementing the National Backbone Infrastructure Project, the phase that the honourable member is talking about.

We confidently believe that when the Bill is brought to Parliament and we pass it with the transitional clause, it will give NITA-U an opportunity to implement the projects under the Chinese loan and also under the World Bank loan which encompasses what the last mile connection that the honourable member is talking about.

So, all is not lost. We have hope that we shall cross the bridge when we get there.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Government Chief Whip, we request that the minister in charge of ICT gives us an update, especially on areas that are going to be covered, so that Members can know. Let us have it here and then the committee will follow up after.

If you could give us that progress next week on how far they have reached and which areas are going to be covered, that would be good.

**MR OBUA:** Mr Speaker, I undertake to write to the minister before the close of business today. Thank you.

2.24

**DRE LISARUTA HIGWA (NRM, Rukungiri Municipality, Rukungiri):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. We have heavy rains these days. Rukungiri Municipality was severely affected on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, when it rained heavily and crops were destroyed.

The affected areas are in the Southern Division in Ndorero Parish. Ndorero Cell, Nyakibale, Nyamayenje A, Kibirizi and Nyaruzinga were

severely affected. In Kanyinya Ward, Kataruka, Kitaziguruka, Marumba and Kafunjo were also severely hit. Crops were destroyed and up to now, people have challenges with what to eat. Even yesterday, we received heavy rains in the Eastern Division.

My prayer is to request the Ministry of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees to expedite the process of availing relief food, but also to make sure that we get planting materials like bean seeds and cassava cuttings. We need them urgently, Mr Speaker, so that we use the remaining season to do planting because it is still raining. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. The minister for disaster preparedness is here.

2.26

**THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES) (Ms Lillian Aber):** Mr Speaker, I do note the concern raised by my colleague. I would like to confirm that we will be able to deliver the food items to this community as soon as we receive a report from the disaster committee.

On the second request about the provision for planting materials, I will take it upon myself to coordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and if they have them available, they should be delivered. Thank you. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Dr Bukenya?

2.27

**DR MICHAEL BUKENYA (NRM, Bukuya County, Kassanda):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. My matter of national importance concerns Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) roads in my constituency and I suspect it affects others.

From the time the Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure (RAPEX) Bills were introduced a year ago, UNRA has not been facilitated to work on our

roads, particularly in Bukuya, the gold city, where we have a lot of gold and we are also a food basket.

Roads connecting Bukuya to Kyankwanzi and also Myanzi to Kiboga are in very bad shape. We are struggling to do business, but it has also affected children going to school. We are even worried that though in the interim, UNRA has not, when it goes, what is going to happen?

The Minister of Works and Transport is around now. The money was passed in the budget, but nothing is taking place. We are in a terrible situation.

My prayer, Mr Speaker, is that the money we appropriated to go to UNRA be given to the Authority to be doing the work in the meantime, as we wait for rationalisation to take place. If it is not possible, let the Minister of Works and Transport come to Bukuya, particularly Kassanda District - we do not even have a centimetre of tarmac - to come and take over our roads and we support RAPEX in full swing when we know that we are going to benefit. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister of Works and Transport?

2.28

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) (Mr Fred Byamukama):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I agree with the honourable member that the budget meant for maintenance of roads in UNRA had been reduced, including in budgeting, because we have a lot of debts. The contractors who did work for us were and are still demanding, and the money keeps accumulating due to interest.

However, we engaged the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, since most of these roads were not worked on in the last financial year, to ensure that we get something to work on these roads. We hope that by next month, we shall get some release to work on those roads which are badly off.

We hope that the finance ministry will collect more money, then we can solve all those problems when they give us the real budget which we need. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, next week, we are receiving a statement from the Government on its preparedness to handle disasters. That includes roads, destruction of gardens and schools, and all that. So, we agreed with the Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees that they will have an inter-ministerial meeting which will cover all aspects to see how prepared we are to handle the disasters that are going to come because of the ongoing and anticipated rains. So, I request that we follow up that issue. But honourable minister, I think you need to prepare a better feedback at that time and give us some hope.  
Yes, Hon. Charles Okello.

2.31

**MR GEOFFREY OKELLO (DP, Nwoya East County, Nwoya):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance regarding the precarious situation in Kochili Subcounty in Nwoya District resulting from the attacks of elephants.

Mr Speaker, on the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup>, that was Thursday, Omara Elvis, a 22-year-old man, was killed by an elephant just in the morning as he was digging in his garden.

Mr Speaker, as you may also recall, three days before we sat in Gulu, we had lost a young boy to the marauding elephants. In the last three years alone, we have lost five people in Nwoya District to the problem of elephants.

None of the killing animals have been identified and or relocated, and so, communities in this village are in a dire situation. The threat level is just too much, and as a result, even the opening of a school called Ogelo Primary School has become very difficult as parents have fled and by yesterday, only 30 children had reported.

My prayers:

1. Number one; that Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) does something scientific, first of all, to identify the killer elephants and remove them.
2. Number two; that the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities should expedite the issue of electric fencing with a view of covering the communities that are so vulnerable.

Mr Speaker, number three; that the ministry should make it simpler for families to claim compensation. We have the law, we also have the statutory instrument, but the other processes are too long and too complicated before people become uncivilised. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I face the same situation in my constituency. I do not know how many times, and many of you - it seems we made a law, but we did not give it a financial muscle. This business of a certain percentage of UWA collections - when you look at the money they need to compensate people; the claims versus what is provided, it is just a drop in the ocean.

I think we need to review this, honourable colleagues. We need to review this, go back and say, "No, since we made a law to do with compensation, more needs to be done."

Hon. Bahati, this is your area, because - don't you share permanent secretary? Oh, now you are totally independent, but you are related. You are friends; trade and tourism - even here the committee is the same.

2.35

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati):** Mr Speaker, we have noted the issue raised by - he is actually a member of my committee, we will take it up with my colleague, the tourism minister, to ensure that that problem is resolved.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think I should assign the Committee on Trade and

Tourism, to specifically look into this issue of compensation, because everywhere – I have heard, in my area, they have brought forms and what, but every day people tell me - no one has ever said, “I received compensation.”

I do not know, Hon. Aogon, have they compensated anyone in your area? Oh! He is from a municipality.

2.37

**MR SILAS AOGON (Independent, Kumi Municipality, Kumi):** Mr Speaker, by the time we hear a colleague asking for the animal that caused the trouble to be identified, you know that there is trouble.

For that reason, for me, the real thing that we need to do is for the Government to come and tell us clearly here, how much money has been allocated towards compensation in this year, which is about to close or that has been closed. Then for the Financial Year 2024/2025, how much? In the budget for 2025/2026, how much money is going towards compensation?

We even talked about electric fencing, but it is like it is moving at snail speed. We do not know what is happening. We are not taking this as a priority. When somebody touches an elephant, it becomes a big story, and it is a headline story. But when an elephant eats a person, that is not a story. What kind of planning and thinking is this? So I think we as a country must think categorically, clearly, to think about people as a priority. So, Mr Speaker, the budget is where the problem is. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Dr Bwanika.

2.38

**DR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimaanya – Kabonera Division, Masaka City):** Thank you. Mr Speaker, the answer to those around the parks is electric fencing. We need close to Shs 60 billion only to fence all the national parks in this country.

Not Shs 100 billion, just Shs 60 billion only. I want to ask, Mr Speaker, that the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities comes on

the Floor and present a statement on the way forward, because we have been talking about electric fencing, we are losing people and property; they should come on the Floor of Parliament and present a statement so that we get a way forward, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I was thinking, if we assign the committee, there will be more interaction at that stage because here we do not interrogate in detail. We interrogate the issue of human-wildlife conflict, what is causing it, and also compensation. I want to see if there is anyone who has ever been compensated.

Number two; when you look at that form, you should first look at the people who are usually affected. These are purely rural people. But when you look at the form, it is designed to benefit a PhD holder. It is a very complicated form to fill. Now you ask yourself - people are saying, “Bring us interpreters; people to help us fill this form alone.” When you are designing such a form, it should be easy for –Honourable minister?

**MR BAHATI:** Mr Speaker, I do agree that the committee should look into this matter. And as we look into this matter, we should remember the tourism minister has actually come here several times and stated that resources are needed for compensation, resources are needed for electric fencing.

Therefore, as we begin the new cycle of budgeting, this is a good time that Parliament can actually look into this matter.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I am giving the committee only one week so that on Thursday we have a report here. This is an issue that should not take –I know they have been going to the field, so they should be having most of the data but we have to interrogate this. Next Thursday, I will handle this issue here. Hon. Susan Mugabi.

2.39

**MS SUSAN MUGABI (NUP, Woman Representative, Buvuma):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. My matter of national

importance is about the delayed compensation of the Project Affected Persons of the palm oil project in Buvuuma District.

Mr Speaker, the residents of Buvuuma District gave their land in good faith for the good of the project. But it is so worrying that up to now; 10 years down the road; these people have not been compensated.

Yesterday, the Project Affected Persons from the villages of Bukalabati, Kachanga, and Kaziru in Nairambi Subcounty, stormed the district headquarters claiming their money because the period is long overdue. Mr Speaker, this is my third time to raise this issue here. When I raised it last year, the Prime Minister said that they are planning to compensate these people as soon as possible.

Mr Speaker, surely the Government is still planning for 10 years to compensate when they have already taken people's land? Harvesting of the palm is next year. These people do not have food or school fees because their land is their business. The Government should get serious because you cannot take someone's land for 10 years, and yet you have not compensated them while harvesting is next year.

The same palm oil project also promised palm oil out-growers maintenance fees but they have not done anything. Some of these out-growers resorted to financial institutions for loans and they are now in default.

Mr Speaker, my prayers are:

- i. The Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries should come here and clearly state the exact date as to when they are going to compensate the project-affected persons. This is because they cannot keep making promises for years; and
- ii. The Government should also inform us when they are going to disburse funds for the palm oil out-growers.

Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let me suggest that the Prime Minister, who had already commented on this issue, responds to this on Thursday next week during the Prime Minister's time. This is because she can call an inter-ministerial meeting with the ministries of finance and agriculture and we get a stronger answer. Hon. Nangoli?

2.42

**MR GERALD NANGOLI (NRM, Elgon North County, Bulambuli):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I am still disturbed because I have raised this issue several times; on science teachers who have been promoted to leadership positions as administrators, especially in secondary schools. As I speak now, some teachers have been promoted but they have declined to pick appointment letters because their salary has been changed from being a scientist to an administrator.

There was a directive from the President that this position should be harmonised. To date, it has not been brought to our attention in the House as to why this has not been solved. It is today that we want a permanent solution. Why are they declining to respond to a presidential directive this time around? Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister for Education and Sports?

2.43

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank my brother, Hon. Gerald, for raising this matter on this Floor. It is true that we have those two categories of the teaching profession, especially in secondary education; science v. humanity. As we all know, the enhancement for the science teachers has been increased in the past financial years.

What he is raising, which is true, is that the science teachers, by virtue of the enhancement of their salary, are at a higher level, as opposed to being the head of a secondary school or a deputy.



It is also true that when these people apply to take over the headship of a school, their scale is lower than what they were earning.

As I speak, the Ministry of Public Service together with the Ministry of Education and Sports has acknowledged this discrepancy. We are trying to discuss and look at how best this can be harmonised to cater for the science teacher, who is going to be a head teacher or a deputy teacher, while probably maintaining that scale, if not raising it at a higher level. Therefore, we are looking at that and he has raised it rightly.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, just pay them their salary of a science teacher and add their allowance of leadership. I do not know which discussion you want to rotate around because you have been telling us several times that you are in discussions while people are suffering out there.

**DR MORIKU:** Mr Speaker, you are very right. If it was education alone, we would have just kept them at that level and added their allowances. However, we are doing it as a whole government approach together with the Ministry of Public Service.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When can you update this House on the same, honourable minister?

**DR MORIKU:** Mr Speaker, I think you will have to give me an adequate period to come up with this because I do not want to lie.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** How much time, honourable minister?

**DR MORIKU:** One month.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One month, honourable minister. Hon. Dr Otaala?

2.45

**DR EMMANUEL OTAALA (NRM, West Budama County South, Tororo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance regarding the hiring and

deployment of teachers in seed secondary schools. As you may be aware, quite a number of seed secondary schools are either started as a community initiative or are faith-based. There are very few seed secondary schools started from scratch by the Government.

In the former two situations where the community or a particular faith initiated a seed secondary school and then the Government came to take over, you will find that there are teachers already volunteering. There are several situations where you find teachers volunteering for over five years.

Now, the problem comes with hiring these teachers. The ministry does not take into cognisance the fact that they have been volunteering for a long time. For as long as these teachers meet the minimum requirement, I do not see the reason why such teachers, who have volunteered their time to educate our learners free of charge for five or seven years, cannot be given internal interviews. Later on, if some of them do not meet the requirements, then it can be opened up.

The situation is even worse where there are caretaker head teachers. They are already on the Government payroll but their community implores them to initiate a school. There is a threat that such caretaker head teachers are indisciplined -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Prayers, honourable?

**DR OTAALA:** My prayers are as follows:

- i. The ministry arranges internal interviews for all volunteering teachers in seed secondary schools.
- ii. Those caretaker head teachers, who are already on the Government payroll, be seconded to take up this role in a more formal manner.

Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister?

**DR MORIKU:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. My colleague, Hon. Dr Emmanuel, has raised a valid point. The issue of having seed schools when the time for recruitment reaches - probably it could be opened up to everybody who can meet the criteria and is qualified to be recruited.

Mr Speaker, this financial year, the Ministry of Education and Sports has already secured Shs 111 billion in their budget for the recruitment of teachers for seed secondary schools across the country. This money has been put across all districts in the country. Indeed, it is true, that my ministry is planning, through the Education Service Commission, to recruit teachers for all seed schools.

This same concern has been raised by the Committee on Education and Sports of Parliament. Even this morning, we were discussing with the committee chairperson of the Committee on Education and Sports the possibility of having the Education Service Commission do the recruitment on-site, as opposed to coming to the centre. Mr Speaker, we are very - (*Interruption*)

**MS AMEEDDE:** Thank you, honourable minister, for allowing me to give you information. The issue is about policy, not the finances. I got to learn that when advertisements are made for the recruitment of teachers in these particular seed schools, it is an open policy: everybody applies. Indeed, the people who have been volunteering are left out.

For the people who come, some of them from far-off districts, their target is to get on the payroll. Once they get on the payroll, they run away. They are ever absent. They just abscond and seek transfer. In actual sense, they do not perform.

Therefore, the honourable member's issue is for you to strengthen the policy to give consideration to the people who have been volunteering. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, why don't you do what you are

doing for Government-aided schools? In Government-aided schools, you conduct interviews for the staff who are there. If there are those who qualify - you even do it on site.

A few months ago, Dr Kajubiri and the team were in Kiyanga in Rwoburunga Subcounty, conducting interviews with the teachers who were there. It is a Government-aided school. You could do the same for seed schools that you take over.

The Chairperson, Committee on Education and Sports?

2.52

**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SPORTS (Mr James Kubeketerya):**

Mr Speaker, I need to give more information. Before I came here, I was in the Education Service Commission and I was in charge of Bunyoro and West Nile. You would traverse those schools and get the people there.

There has been ping-pong between the Education Service Commission and the ministry. The ministry uses these headteachers to build and, afterwards, they say: "Let it be open." That is why the committee is of the view that, for the current headteachers, even if the acting ones are on Government payroll, go on-site and interview them because they are the ones who know the conditions of that place. That is what we think is going to solve the problem, but there has been ping-pong.

Education Service Commission has no problem. However, they say it is the policy, yet they are using them to compile lists of the teachers who are there. For the time being - like we were in Pakwach - money is returned. Why don't we just have one position that for the operational schools, the Education Service Commission should go and interview on site? It would solve all these problems.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** However, Hon. James Kubeketerya, we have very many teachers who have no jobs. It means that those who are already on Government payroll were cheating the Government. Instead of

teaching in Government schools, they were concentrating on being head teachers in private schools. Those ones should not be given. They are already on the payroll. Give an opportunity to new people.

If you are employed and are on Government payroll, what are you doing as a head teacher in a private school? It means you are not even attending to your job in a government school.

**MR KUBEKETERYA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think we are now getting back to – the honourable member’s view was that there are others who are used to administer voluntarily, but when the time comes, they throw them out and the ones who are taken on do not report; they just come to the centre. Let us solve that problem.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Acting Leader of the Opposition is Hon. Ssewungu. (*Laughter*) I do not know why Hon. Ssekikubo is saying “aye”.

2.54

**MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu):** Mr Speaker, we need a lot of time on this thing. We cannot exhaust it here. What we have heard from most of these schools is that there are some head teachers who are serving, but are not on Government payroll. Priority should be given to them, first. However, you find the Government sending other head teachers to run a seed school, where Ssewungu was serving before it was taken over by the Government and he is not given first opportunity to become the head teacher.

Secondly, just as she was saying, we must pay a lot of attention to the disparity between science teachers and arts teachers. As we talk now, science teachers are requesting for voluntary retirement more than the arts teachers because the science teacher was given more money. Even if he retires, the package he gets on early retirement is bigger. He remains getting Shs 1.5 million per month, yet the arts teacher is in class, earning Shs 800,000 per month.

So, who enjoys his life better? You retire and get a package of Shs 200 million and Shs 1.5 million every month, while the arts teacher earns Shs 800,000, teaching and suffering. All these need attention.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** And, they go to private schools to continue earning.

**MR SSEWUNGU:** They go to private schools and make money. You continue misleading yourselves that science is going ahead. These are the facts on the ground.

Therefore, I think you should give our committee more time to exhaust this matter. The Government must sit and see how they can balance the concerns of the teachers because the work they do is almost the same. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, why don’t you use the same process of recruiting teachers for Government-aided schools in seed schools that were already in existence – the ones that you took over? It would make it very easy.

**DR MORIKU:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think we are trying to streamline to take care of the people who have been caretaking those seed schools, especially those who have taken long and might have not got the opportunity. We agree that we will see the modality of streamlining, and in agreement with Education Service Commission.

Mr Speaker, the practice has been that those who have been caretaking at seed schools have not been left out. They have been included in the interview process. As long as they meet the criteria and have the qualifications, they normally get through. However, we are happy that we are trying to streamline the situation –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I see Hon. Rwabushaija, the Member of Parliament representing workers, disagreeing with you.

2.57

**MS MARGRET RWABUSHAIJA (Independent, Workers' Representative):**

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. If we are talking about caretakers, it is beyond. It is not just about those people who are in primary or seed schools, teaching. Even in secondary schools – I am sure because I have ever done research about it. We have over 5,000 teachers, both primary and secondary, who are caretakers.

We do not have it in the Government policy that you caretaker. Some of these people, because they are very far from the head office, are promoted by the politicians. For example, if someone was a campaign manager of an LC V candidate and the man went through, he can say: "Now, you are the head teacher of that school." However, they were not captured anywhere.

As a result, because it is not in the public service laws, they end up caretaking even for over 10 years. Yet, when they retire, they never get money for the job that they were doing. They can only say "you were a teacher". Maybe that is what you can get, but they will never be at peace with even their families, because they do not see any progression.

What I know is that we have left that to go on and over because Education Service Commission also does not also get enough time to go through the entire country. It has been on for over 15 years.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable minister, you have taken note. This is not a matter on which we are going to make a resolution.

**DR MORIKU:** Mr Speaker, I think the issue is about the seed schools. Probably, we can discuss the others.

Finally, it is true that some of the science teachers that have just received recent salary enhancement are leaving the profession.

We have received that information. We did research and collected all the information needed in terms of numbers, the reasons, and what it takes. I can assure you that the policy does not stop these teachers from leaving the profession.

The way forward is that my ministry is trying to review the policy to see how best such outcry and the manner in which the teachers are moving on can be regulated. One of the things that we are already working on is the National Teacher Policy - (*Interruption*) - can I complete?

**MR SSSEWUNGU:** Thank you, honourable minister, for giving way. Mr Speaker, thank you for allowing this information. You were chairing the House here and I raised the same matter when Hon. Muyingo was here and had brought a Bill that was referred to the Committee on Education and Sports.

The issue with the policy dealing with teachers going for early retirement cannot be ignored because it is a time bomb for the education system in Uganda. Leave the Arts teachers, Primary teachers, and Science teachers - as we talk, you cannot start a private school in your rural area and get professional teachers because they cannot get jobs anywhere.

Therefore, the Bill you brought, as Hon. Muyingo stated, does not have anything that will handle teachers' early retirement and as a result, the students are losing out. I pray that you bring that policy as fast as possible to control the migration of teachers leaving their profession. And you will not achieve it with poor emoluments and remuneration of teachers. Thank you.

**DR MORIKU:** Thank you for the information. I was coming to that point that we are bringing the policy.

Also, we have the National Teachers Council coming on board, which will regulate the teaching profession, but thank you so much for the guidance. I believe that we will do everything possible to regulate, control, and

ensure that the teaching profession becomes better every other day.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Dr Eunice Apio?

3.02

**DR EUNICE APIO (UPC, Oyam County North, Oyam):** I rise on a matter of national importance, Mr Speaker. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the catastrophic flooding that has devastated entire communities in my constituency of Oyam County North. In this particular case, I would like to draw your attention to the devastation on Otwal Senior Secondary School, which is now unable to “dormisise” students or function normally.

Mr Speaker, the school is currently struggling to open for the new term. The entire toilet system has collapsed, and no extent of drainage has taken place to help the situation, both by the district and the school itself.

Dormitory walls have collapsed, and fields of crops have been destroyed for both the school and the teachers. The situation itself is not different for the rest of the communities up to four sub-counties of Otwal, Aboki, Iceme, and Ngai.

Mr Speaker, we foresee an outbreak of diseases. It is quite imminent, and I would like to request the Government - I am glad that there is a minister from the education docket here, but also her counterpart from the Office of the Prime Minister (Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees) who spoke with me a couple of days ago and struggled hard to get resources from the Red Cross. I would like to let her know that nothing has taken place, the school is struggling, and there is no amount of support or aid that has taken place so far.

Mr Speaker, our prayer as the people of Oyam County North, the school itself, and the district is that; one, we need, as a matter of urgency, aid to have the school in a functioning condition so it can open and have the students learn.

Secondly, I would like to put across to your office that we need planting materials to restore fields of crops that have been lost across all communities. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I will allow Hon. Midius Natukunda on the same, then the minister will answer at once.

3.05

**MS MIDIUS NATUKUNDA (NRM, Woman Representative, Rukungiri):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance regarding the continuous landslides in Rukungiri District. Rukungiri has continuously experienced landslides with little attention from the Government.

In August, there was a landslide in Kyabahanga, that is Bwambara Subcounty, where we lost two children, and others were critically injured and hospitalised. Up to now, no one from the Ministry of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees has visited the area to ascertain –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, please allow the Member to speak on behalf of her people. Please continue.

**MS NATUKUNDA:** Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. Regarding the landslide that occurred in August, there has not been any attention or visitations from the Ministry of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees.

On the same note, last year, in Bwambara Subcounty, Nyabubare Parish, in the villages of Rutoma, Kyankwanzi, and Rushaya A, there were several landslides. Much as the ministry for disaster came, they managed to distribute a few relief items to the affected people, but they were left homeless, and up to now, nothing has been done.

My prayer is that the ministry for disaster visits the area, assesses the damage and compensates the affected people.

We also need to get advice on what the community can do because the area is

continuously getting landslides and we are not getting any guidance on whether people should leave or where they should be vacated to. Therefore, I kindly ask them to intervene. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Dr Rutahigwa Elisa had also registered the same, so that is sufficient for Rukungiri. Member for Bundibugyo, on the same.

3.07

**MR RICHARD GAFABUSA (NRM, Bwamba County, Bundibugyo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Bundibugyo is now a centre of all the disasters you can think about. We have a cocktail of them. From floods, landslides, and mudslides, and there is a bigger one which I raised here before. Huge land masses sinking and what we have told people is to move away from those land masses. People are now landless and homeless. Therefore, we have a category of people who need to be relocated away from those areas.

Mr Speaker, I raised this matter here and requested the Government to send technical people to Bundibugyo to find out what is causing this, because it is unusual. The Government sent a team of geoscientists from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, but up to now, we have never received a report of what is causing this. We are seeing more land masses sinking.

As I talk, in Bundibugyo we have 27 sub-counties out of which 17 are affected. We have over 5,000 people who have been displaced. If you watched the television, Members, you saw what was happening in Ntoroko District. All that water you see in Ntoroko is coming from Bundibugyo. We need a permanent solution to some of these challenges.

Mr Speaker, while I pray that Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) looks at the emergencies, and relief items and all that - indeed people need food, iron sheets and tarpaulins, we need a permanent solution. Otherwise, we shall continue having this water in Ntoroko. Imagine what that water in Ntoroko has done in Bundibugyo where it is coming from.

Mr Speaker, my prayer is for the Government to constitute a team to go to Bundibugyo. Our Chief Administrative Officer(CAO) has written reports to the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and I have copies of about four reports but for the last three months, but no response and no team from the Government has gone there.

Last week I saw a team from OPM in Ntoroko - our neighbours –but they stopped there. They were looking at the floods and were seeing where the water was coming from; Bundibugyo, but they have not gone there. Can OPM and the Government send a team to do an assessment? But we need a permanent solution. Our people are orphaned and are suffering. I so pray.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Minister for Disaster Preparedness?

**DR MORIKU:** Mr Speaker, I just want my colleague on the primary school -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** But Ministry of Education and Sports, you do not have money.

**DR MORIKU:** Mr Speaker, I just wanted to bring this to your attention and to request that I bring the document, specifically on the school facility grant that we have allocated Shs 41.46 billion this financial year and school maintenance grant has been allocated Shs 103.33 billion.

Each local government has received not less than Shs 100 million from each item and we normally give guidance.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Have they already received it and do they have it?

**DR MORIKU:** Yes. They have it. And I would like to request for your permission, to bring the list of each local government with the amount of money, to present to Members of Parliament-

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** But what was the purpose of that money?

**DR MORIKU:** That is what I was coming to. The money is meant to maintain and give

a facelift to our schools in the district and we have guided in this manner;

Each financial year you prioritise. You may – *(Interjection)* - Mr Speaker; protect me - because I am still speaking. We may not- *(Interruption)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Point of order!

**MR SSEWUNGU:** Mr Speaker, we cannot work retrospectively in this House. Yesterday you gave a directive that the Ministry of Education and Sports should go and give us three months - actually, the minister wanted one month, but I pray that she takes three months to give us the status of Universal Primary Education (UPE) schools in Uganda.

But, here we are and the minister is giving us figures which were given to districts. When you talk about Shs 80 million as money to rehabilitate schools in a district, that is almost nothing - It is nothing.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Your point of order?

**MR SSEWUNGU:** Is the honourable minister - my fellow minister in the same docket - my shadow minister - because I am a Minister of Education and Sports this side - she is a state minister *(Laughter)* in order to continue bringing figures after having given a full directive by the Speaker, that we shall get a status report where all these matters can be addressed, is she really in order?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now honourable minister, where I am finding a challenge - and I want to be honest. You know very well you used to have a budget for emergencies under the Ministry of Education. That budget and everything to do with emergencies was transferred to OPM.

Now, the money you are talking about is money for facelifts but you are saying they divert it from facelifts - No, because we are talking about emergencies now, okay? So, allow us to handle emergencies as emergencies then the

other money should also serve the purpose, moreover, it is already very little but now you want it to look like it should be the money for emergencies.

No! Where the district finds that indeed there is an emergency and they should use that money then let it be at the discretion of the district. But you remember your budget for emergencies was taken to OPM. That is why we want OPM to answer.

**DR MORIKU:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is true that money is not for emergency. I was just bringing it up because there are a lot of issues concerning school facelifts. I bring the matter to Parliament so that Members get to know what every district gets.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Sure, we appreciate that one honourable minister. And please do.

**DR MORIKU:** I am going to bring it.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What you are going to do is to lay it on the Table, and then we shall be able to put it on our system for Members to benefit.

However, we should remember the purpose; face-lift. Let us follow up on the money for emergencies. It has to be different.

**DR MORIKU:** I respect that, and my shadow minister has heard it very loud and clear that I will bring and lay it on the Table for him to see as well.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I see how you call each other shadow – you are shadowing each other. Honourable minister for disaster preparedness?

3.15

**THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES) (Ms Lillian Aber):** Mr Speaker, I have taken note of the issue raised by Hon. Eunice and indeed she confirmed that we had a

conversation on phone to find ways to provide the immediate support. I have just learnt from her that the intervention we tried to make together, did not help. Therefore, I will take it upon myself to engage and see if the ministry can provide toilets to support the students at school.

About the planting materials, still come from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries because the OPM does not provide planting materials. I will take note and also update my colleague if there is a need, they will provide it.

Hon. Natukunda, about the landslide in Rukungiri, I would like to request you to provide the names of the two children that we lost to the landslide, because it has always been a norm that the President provides support to those who have lost their people through disasters, and I will follow up with State House to provide that support.

I would also like honourable colleagues to take note that we received reports about that particular incident that happened; the landslide, and it is on our table. We are planning to deliver relief food items to the community.

On the issue of relocation, it is a general plan that we are looking at that will have to be done - you cannot do it at once because of the budgetary issues however, we will consider doing it in time for Rukungiri.

Hon. "Gabafunza"-

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Gafabusa - It is a botanical name.

**MS ABER:** Hon. Gafabusa - (*Laughter*) - that one. Yesterday, I was here and I noted that one of the long-term interventions, the ministry and the OPM has brought on board other agencies to look at avenues on how we can handle the issues of floods in Bundibugyo, Kasese and Ntoroko.

Because, some of these flooding challenges are coming up because of the human settlement and

they are bound to happen if we do not address the matter from the cause. So, we are looking at putting up a team and we have brought on board a humanitarian agency. As I speak, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is on ground. My team from office - the technical team, are already in the field to engage with the communities and come up with a report on how we can go forward on addressing the cause of these floods. But we will also provide relief and non-food items to the affected communities.

Hon. Anifa also whispered to me that she has experienced issues of hailstones in her area. Honourable minister, I have taken note and I will send a team to ensure that we collect data and be able to provide the necessary assistance and that will be in terms of relief food items. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Katali Loy?

3.20

**MS LOY KATALI (NRM, Woman Representative, Jinja):** Thank you, Mr Speaker - (*Interruption*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Just a moment, procedure?

**MS NALUYIMA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As we are still handling matters of national importance, allow me to draw you back to Tuesday's matter which I brought here concerning Kitezi's compensation and the foul water drainage that is now flowing into people's residences.

Mr Speaker, on behalf of the Government, the Rt Hon. Prime Minister pledged that we are going to be getting an update on what is being done today. Therefore, wouldn't it be procedurally right, as we continue raising these matters, also the matter of Kiteezi gets to be addressed during this moment? I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, honourable, it is not procedurally right. We are handling matters which are coming now. Therefore, any matter we promised to get an update will have its time, but these issues are being addressed



for now. So, it would be procedurally wrong for us to do that. Hon. Katali Loy?

**MS KATALI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I rise on a matter of national importance concerning disasters in Jinja District. Year in year out, Jinja District is hit by rains and we do not normally bring it here because the time I tried, we were never helped.

However, last week, in Kagoma Constituency particularly, eight villages in Nakakulwe Parish, Kisozi A, Kisozi B in Nakakulwe, Buwuma West, Lumuli A, Lumuli B, Lumuli C, and Buwuma Central were affected. On Monday, Buweera Parish in Kagoma North Constituency, Buwolero, Nakulyaku, Kizinga, Mawolero, Igombe and Idooome were hit by heavy rains. The crops and houses were destroyed. Animals were killed.

We have seven families that are homeless and on Tuesday, Buwenge Town Council Market got burned. It is not the first time. Year in, year out, it gets gutted by fire and this is the main market in Jinja District.

Mr Speaker, my prayers are that:

- i. The ministry provides these people with iron sheets, beddings, since some are homeless, food and seedlings.
- ii. As we go through the budgeting process, the Government should plan for housing or build a permanent structure in Buwenge Town Council. This is because the district headquarters are in Buwenge Rural and just next to it is the market.

Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, Minister for Disaster Preparedness.

3.21

**THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES) (MS LILLIAN ABER):** Mr Speaker, I have taken note of the matter raised by my colleague, Hon. Katali Loy -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Procedure, honourable minister?

**MR ENOS ASIMWE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Yesterday, you guided the honourable Minister for Disaster and Preparedness brings a comprehensive report so that we can all have our issues addressed. This is because we almost have the same issues; markets burning, hailstorms hitting our villages. The answer is always that there are no resources. Even where reports have been written to the ministry, we have not gotten responses.

Therefore, you had guided that she brings a report next week. I am seeking your guidance further if we cannot push all this to next week, when she brings in the report and then we can all address our issues at once. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, if you answer that there are no resources, then what is the report for? We should learn not to conclude on behalf of the Government because the law requires that the money for emergencies should be there. It is a constitution by the way; it is not anything. The Government has always provided.

Therefore, what I requested for on Tuesday was that we want to see the preparedness. Then where we see that the Government is not well prepared, we request them to get prepared; to bring in more resources from the emergency kit, which is provided for under the Constitution. That does not even need appropriation here because it is a percentage of the budget.

Members are right to raise their issues but the reason I brought it in relation to - and I can understand where Hon. Enos is coming from - It is what I had anticipated; that these issues are going to be coming up.

Honourable minister, on Wednesday, when you bring the update and inform the Members, then they will not need to come here. Otherwise, I get around 10 Members every day - You will also guide us and probably say, "Honourable members, instead of going to the Floor, please

go here and present your cases.” If we do not support it, maybe in a month, a week or two, then you can come on the Floor. That was my major - but now since we have not yet received the report, my hands are tied. I would be stopping Members in anticipation of what will be coming.

Nonetheless, I understand Hon. Enos’ concern. It is a valid one. Honourable minister, conclude on this.

**MS ABER:** Mr Speaker, I just want to assure my honourable colleague who raised the matter from Jinja, Hon. Katalia Joy -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is Hon. Katali Loy.

**MS ABER:** Yes, Hon. Katali Loy from Jinja. The Ministry of Disaster Preparedness, upon receiving the report from the disaster committee, will definitely provide the food and the iron sheets.

The issue of seedlings, honourable colleagues, is in the docket of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. I will still take note and write to my colleague.

However, I have to say this Mr Speaker. When we raise these issues in the House, it is not enough for me to take action. I take action on response based on a report from the disaster committee. So, please, get in touch with the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to write this report and I will be able to follow up. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Ameede?

3.26

**MS AGNES AMEEDE (Independent, Woman Representative, Butebo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for granting me the opportunity to present this issue. There are persons registering and extorting money from people in Butebo District, purportedly as agents of the association of Teso war victims, with the promise that they are working on their forms to benefit from the Government compensation.

My prayers are as follows:

- i. The responsible minister should come up with an explanation of the legality of these activities and save the people from such extortion;
- ii. The persons who are collecting the money from the public should be investigated and possibly the money be refunded; and
- iii. The Government should streamline and strengthen its responsiveness in regard to such activities.

I emphasise prayer number three because it has been a habit for people to come to that side of the district and extort money. A few years ago, somebody was collecting money and promised the people that he was going to take them to His Excellency, the President. Indeed, they boarded two buses, brought the people to Kampala, drove them around and told them that the program had changed. *(Laughter)*

Another incident involved people paying money that they would get chicken from Operation Wealth Creation and the chicken never appeared. I wonder why the security system does not pick up the nitty-gritties. Indeed, one Gombolola Internal Security Officer (GISO) told me -

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

**MS AMEEDE:** One of the GISOs told me that he did report this particular matter where they are extorting money in view of getting compensation from the Government, but he was not helped. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, on that issue of extortion, I got an incident when someone came to my office seeking compensation because someone had gotten money from him promising him a job. He went, and negotiated with the person because he was told that the Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker was going to give him a job, but I needed Shs 1 million. He paid the person but after that, the person switched off his phone. The man came and told me that I must pay

his money. (*Laughter*) He said they took it in my name. I was like – yes, but you should be arrested because you were giving bribes to go and influence. He said: “Now, on top of refusing to pay me, you even want to arrest me.” (*Laughter*) Government Chief Whip, the people in Butebo -

3.30

**THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua):** Mr Speaker, first of all, I sympathise with the Butebo District Woman Representative and also confirm that we live in a society where we still have fraudsters.

I would also like to confirm that when you are receiving items from Operation Wealth Creation, there is no payment; it is completely free. I also wish to confirm that the ongoing compensation by the Government in Teso, Lango and Acholi has nothing for one to pay. You go through the due processes and you are paid. For those who are yet to be paid, subject to the availability of funds, they will be paid.

I request my colleague to furnish me with details of what is happening in Butebo such that even right now we can be able to - together with you - take appropriate action with the security apparatus in Butebo and that greater region, superintended over by the Regional Police Commander. It is something that we need to take up. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, there is something - I know someone might have reached out to you. There is someone who is trying to defraud and con Members of Parliament, saying that “Transformers are ready for your projects.” That the Rural Electrification Authority (REA) has given - I think, they need money for transport.

I followed up and raised this with MTN to block the number, but, today, I received another message: “Mr Speaker, this is Eng. Byaruhanga. The power line is ready for Mitooma. So, we need three nearby poles to your place. Thanks for the advice.”

When you extend the conversation, he asks for money to buy these poles. The number is - oh, you also have the number, honourable member? He does not change the name. He only changes the number. It is 0766881917.

Now, Minister of Information, Communications Technology (ICT) and National Guidance, you registered the numbers. We were told that all numbers, which were not registered, were removed from the network.

In fact, what happened in Nigeria and other countries is that telecoms were fined heavily for numbers that were not registered. Numbers which are not registered are committing a lot of crimes; they are conning people every day. Who are these people and why don't you punish the telecoms that are allowing fraudsters to keep using these numbers, honourable minister?

This fraudster has only been changing the numbers, but he has reached out to many MPs. Honourable colleagues, how many have been - (*Members rose*) Aah, just see. And, he is stealing in the name of the Banyankole- (*Laughter*) - that he is Mr Byaruhanga.

3.33

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE (Dr Chris Baryomunsi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have actually engaged the telecom companies and they keep giving assurance that it is only authorised numbers that are in circulation, whereas such experiences indicate the reverse.

What I can pledge is that I am going to engage them, once again, because it is evident that it appears that some people access unregistered numbers.

The telecom companies have been claiming that maybe they are using numbers of dead people and so forth, but we are going to investigate with a view to putting heavy sanctions on the telecom companies – if we establish that there are still gaps where individuals can access numbers without proper registration. This is because it gives room to conmen and all sorts of people and it also has a security element.

Give me two weeks to come back and give an update on this issue.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, the chairperson, Committee on Information, Communications Technology (ICT). Thank you, honourable minister.

3.35

**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE (Mr Tonny Ayoo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You resemble the minister. Is the ICT sector for people like you; only big size? (*Laughter*)

**MR AYOO:** Mr Speaker, we engaged and realised that these people keep on using contacts or lines that are not in their names.

Now, I think what we need to do – and we should ask the ministry and the telecoms as well as the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) – is to do a campaign to sensitise the whole country so that if a conman uses a line to call you, they must provide a desk where you report to, they follow and block that line.

We need to keep on blocking those lines. It happened to me; I sent three numbers to UCC, they blocked them and they stopped. Once they use the numbers that are not theirs, it is very difficult to get them.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable committee chairperson, I lost my number and for it to be replaced, I had to go to Airtel. They took my fingerprints and my original identity card (ID). How can someone use another person's - and they even took my photo?

For this number, for example, can they give us a photo of the person and we establish it? They are allowing some numbers and I think the solution is in what the minister has said - to put very strong sanctions.

Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, Hon. Oboth, did you want to add on something?

**MRAYOO:** Mr Speaker, the problem is that the vendors who sell these SIM cards are paid and they keep on giving them out freely. You will find out that you are arresting another person, not the one using it. That is why blocking it constantly, if there is a desk, could be one very good way of stopping them.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now, that becomes my job! By the time I block it, he has conned 10 people. Okay? You have seen the number of Members of Parliament. Hon. Oboth?

3.37

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (Mr Jacob Oboth):** Mr Speaker, what you are raising is very critical, not only in the economic sense, but even on matters of security. As the Government – I agree with the Ministry of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance and your proposal. We need to create liability on the service providers, to restore sanity. No service provider will allow unregistered numbers to be used; we should have a penalty.

So, if we want to keep - because criminals in Uganda, like in any other country, are using phones. When they know that they have used this particular one, they drop it and pick another one.

As long as we still have a window, past the deadline of the time that was given that the phone numbers must be registered – this is not a small matter. People have been killed. People have been robbed. Criminals coordinate these using unregistered numbers.

The Minister of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance, who is my good friend - might think that I am now speaking like a hostile witness. It has very serious security and economic implications. If there is a need, we can look at the law, again, and come back here. This Parliament can save the situation, through legislation, to create liability on the service providers.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Oseku?

**MR OSEKU:** Thank you, Mr Speaker -

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

**MR OSEKU:** I want to make some clarifications. One is that there are categories of numbers that are not registered at all, and they are in circulation. I think for that category, Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) is directly responsible, wholly responsible. But we also have numbers of this nature, like the one you have raised, Mr Speaker.

There is another one that I have. The first time he called me, saying that the transformers were ready. Two days ago he called me to say that the water meters for my place were ready. On the same number, he calls himself Engineer Kato. I raised this matter with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development when he called the first time, and I met two other colleagues complaining about the same.

Yesterday, he called me to talk about water meters and asked me for money. So the second category is those ones. And why I am raising a concern is that there is a role that security has to play to help us. For example, people coordinating kidnaps and murdering people, cannot be tracked and yet we are also aware that a law is in place that allows tracking of some of the people who have been identified to be transacting in crime using telephone services.

That mandate is with the security, and we want to implore them that they must come in to back up UCC and coordinate with them in as far as these issues are concerned. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable minister has made it very easy for us. Hon. Enos Asiimwe, do you have anything to add?

3.41

**MR ASHIMWE ENOS (NRM, Kabula County, Lyantonde):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. There is another problem I wanted to put to the minister and possibly the Chairperson of the Committee on Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance. When I was following up on something under the Parish Development Model (PDM) - apparently people can register your phone, as in, if you abandon a line, the telecom companies register it under another person.

Now, when the PDM teams try to follow up on the money and they find this number has already been registered into somebody else's names, they will say, "We do not know this password." The previous user of the phone is not being traced. So it is also another problem, actually, in the villages.

I do not know why telecom companies cannot have new series and continue registering new users instead of recycling numbers. That one alone is creating insecurity in between. I do not know, Mr Speaker, if the minister can also pick that and find a solution.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of ICT and National Guidance, would you like to comment on that?

3.42

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE (Dr Chris Baryomunsi):** I am going to start with that number of that bogus engineer who is calling us and use it to engage the responsible telecom company for them to satisfy me in whose name that number is registered.

On Tuesday next week, I am going to convene a meeting with the Minister of Security, UCC, and the telecom companies and other key stakeholders, so that we investigate these matters deeply and find a solution. And then in two weeks, I will come back and report to the House.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Also, honourable minister, in reference to what Hon. Oboth Oboth talked about, you need to comb the law to look at how you can have punitive measures. In other countries, that is what they have done. You know, it is like banks, you facilitate money laundering, you hear they have been fined \$500 million and even close them down because people are going to die.

Hon. Andrew Oulanyah is one of our IT experts and he had stood up earlier. Let me first pick him.

3.43

**MR ANDREW OULANYAH (NRM, Omoro County, Omoro):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. When it comes to online fraud, these people just play on your mind. And in security, it is called social engineering, and I will play on your feelings. Now as a politician, you want to deliver for your people. So when I tell you that I have transformers for you, your instinct is to ask, how do I get them to my constituents?

I had a similar issue. Someone calling himself Commissioner Benjamin Ochieng, said, “I have transformers for Omoro County.” I said, which sites? He said, “We already shared them.” I said, which sites? So, it is important you do due diligence. There is a principle: if it is too good to be true, it is not true.

So if you have that instinct to spend quickly, first ask yourself. So, I request the ministry, to let us be proactive.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, give your information.

**MR OBOTH:** The information I want to give to my brother – (*Interjection*) - He cannot be my son. My age and him, I cannot be a father of a boy of that age. (*Laughter*) I think he is my younger brother. No Member of Parliament here can be my child because I am only 18 years old!

My brother, it is true that they can call you and not know the site. But I can tell you some of them even have the maps, the survey. They surveyed areas, they know, they will tell you,

“We are going to Omoro”, we are going to this sub-county, this is for this, the parish, the villages. There is a whole network between –

Either we do not know those who used to work in the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), or we do not know whether it is some surveyors. So, just continue with that but also know that Members need to be cautioned that they know even the villages where projects are supposed to be. And whatever I said is in good faith. You know that.

**MR OULANYAH:** I know that, my elder brother.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Also you remember, some of you have gone to the ministry and have been promised that they are going to bring transformers, and because of that, when they say your transformers are ready, you move quickly.

**MR OULANYAH:** I was about to conclude, but what I want to say is that for fraud there is always a catch; that with all the sweet words that I am going to give you, there is always a catch. So always look out for that catch. Because eventually, you say, “I need fuel, I need transport”, I need this. But with all those sweet words that he knows all the sites, eventually, there is a catch. Because ordinarily, he would have gone to the district. Then you have got a letter about the same. So wait for that catch.

I request the ministry and the relevant stakeholders; let us do that awareness so that people know what to look out for in front because it is dynamic.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Kivumbi?

3.47

**MR MUHAMMED MUWANGA KIVUMBI (NUP, Butambala County, Butambala):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is a related matter, actually, but not regarding - These are, I do not know whether it is in other parts of - but some people come and pluck off number plates of

vehicles. They leave telephone contacts. Then they tell you, "Place money in this place, then we will direct you where to find the number plate." And when you report to the police, they tell you, "You man, just pay and get your number plate." It is a common occurrence in many parts of the country and it is happening. These numbers are known. Why? Information?

**MS NANYONDO:** Thank you, honourable. I am a victim and when you report to the police they tell you to send the money. Immediately you send the money, that number gets off. If you call, it cannot go through. So, honourable minister, help us.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** But did you get your number plate?

**MS NANYONDO:** Yes, they direct you where it is. *(Laughter)*

**MR KIVUMBI:** Mr Speaker, it is another scam; conning the general public. And I do not feel the country can be held at ransom with such actors. May someone in the Government give us a solution to that.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let me conclude with Hon. Nyeko, on this.

3.49

**MR DERRICK NYEKO (NUP, Makindye Division East, Kampala):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is disturbing that these conmen are now targeting Members of Parliament. The local people are also facing a challenge; conmen trick them by asking for their mobile money PINs and getting money from them. The disturbing part is when you go to the Police, they ask for money so that they track that very person. This also happens when someone's phone gets lost.

Government should be in position - now that it has the mandate - to come and give us a position, especially the Ministries of Defence and Security, on what it is doing on these issues.

It is disturbing to see my senior minister, Hon. Oboth, saying that we are not his children –

*(Laughter)* - but we need to get a conclusive report on what the Government is doing because you have the mandate. We gave you all the laws that clear you to track and trace these contacts, but you are also reporting to us that the Minister of Information - you are informing us that you are literally doing nothing.

My prayer is, Mr Speaker –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, why are you doing nothing?

**MR OBOTH:** It is not true that I reported that we are doing nothing. Actually, if my young brother heard, I reported one of the challenges. Out of the work we are doing, we discovered that there are some unregistered numbers. Is that really doing nothing?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let us conclude this, Hon. Derrick.

**MR NYEKO:** Mr Speaker, it is doing nothing because the Government has the mandate and the law permits them to go ahead to track and trace these numbers, and also arrest these people.

The most challenging part is the complainants going to the police, who then get money from them to be in a position to track those numbers. If you do not have money, they cannot help you track who exactly committed these crimes. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, the honourable Minister of ICT has already promised us the action he is going to take and I am very sure he will update the House.

**DR BARYOMUNSI:** Briefly, I want to mention another form of "conmanship" in the country and I have been a victim, where somebody calls you, "Honourable minister or MP, I am a journalist working with this radio station. I want to host you online at 9 p.m. Are you available?" You say, "Yes".

Just the other day I spent one and a half hours –(Laughter) What is common with them is that at the end of the show, they tell you, “We have a project; we are supporting a child who has sickle cell disease. What will you contribute?” Like we always do as Members of Parliament, you either offer Shs 500,000 or a million shillings and so forth.

So, in this case, one of my security officers who was in the lead car - because I had told them I would be on the radio - tuned in to the radio, but there was nothing. (Laughter) They were playing music throughout when I was on the phone. So -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. [Hon. Aogon rose ] No. Honourable minister, let us conclude this.

**DR BARYOMUNSI:** We are investigating all these matters so that we bring sanity to our society because many people are taking advantage of all these to con especially leaders and other Ugandans. I just wanted to share this information for the Members of Parliament to be alert.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Betty Aol? Honourable colleagues, this cannot end.

3.54

**MS BETTY AOL (FDC, Woman Representative, Gulu City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. We should maybe now switch to something else.

Mr Speaker, I rise on the issue of the GROW project. The GROW project in full is “Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women Enterprises”. We have always seen and heard on TV about it and also gotten some training, especially for us women.

In December last year, we got some training on the GROW project but the information we received last year is completely different from what is supposed to be in the implementation.

When we were in Gulu City for the regional Parliament, there was a launch at Hotel Africana

on 28<sup>th</sup> last month and some information was given again and it varies. We now have - is it - six banks to help us implement this GROW project which is meant to support women, especially women in business.

What has actually annoyed me in this is that some of us have been sensitising and giving information to our women down there. We thought this was going to be a solution to uplift women’s businesses from where they are to some level.

At first, they said it was a credit matching grant, but now it is a loan. Well, we do not mind the loans, but you also find that the terms vary in different banks. Why don’t we harmonise the terms?

You find that you also need collateral; is it a land title? Where are the women going to get a land title when it was supposed to be a World Bank grant to Uganda? It is for 2022 to 2027; the time is almost gone.

For us, the women from the Acholi Subregion, we would fit very well in this area. Special incentives for women entrepreneurs drawn from underserved minority groups such as Batwa, Ik, Tepeth, and Benet or borrowers in the notably poverty-stricken Karamoja Subregion (10 districts) and Busoga-Bukedi (20 districts).

I pray that you add Acholi. You all know that the poverty index right now in Acholi is at 68 per cent and if we leave the Acholi women out, they will find it hard. If I, who is in the city, finds a lot of difficulty, the women in the market will find a lot of difficulties getting this very support, grants or loans. How about – (Member timed out.)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable member.

**MS AOL:** Mr Speaker, my prayer is that the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development better sit down and try to help us so that women can access this fund. Thank you.



**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Minister of Finance -

3.58

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The GROW project is an intervention that has come on top of other wealth funds which we have in place – Emyooga, PDM, the Women Entrepreneurship Fund or UWEP, etc.

Mr Speaker, GROW is aimed at supporting the women who have graduated from these other programmes. We started with Emyooga, the Parish Development Model (PDM), now you have become a little big and you need more capital to expand. These are the target groups we are lending from Shs 4,000,000 to Shs 200,000,000.

At the moment, we have six participating banks. The interest rate ranges between 10 and 10.5 per cent, depending on the commercial bank which you have entered into an arrangement with. The requirements for accessing the loan are as follows:

For instance, I am going to use an illustration of Post Bank. If you want to enter into an arrangement with Post Bank, you are required to have an account with the bank. There is a security or collateral required.

If you are in a group, the group can guarantee you. You are required, if you have been banking, to avail your bank statement for a 12-month period, a business licence, the loan budget or what you want to use the money for, your business record. Your LC I chairperson must recommend you and then also guarantee us.

The total amount, the portfolio we have put in place is Shs 180 billion. Mr Speaker, this project is being implemented by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, specifically under the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU).

I think this is the basic information I can provide to the Member to allay her fears. It is not for everybody; it is for those who have graduated - moving from one point to another. If we want, we can come to the House with a detailed statement, but in the meantime, this is the basic information I can provide off the cuff to the House. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Now, honourable colleagues, GROW - you are running after one component which has around \$186 billion but this was a project of around \$217 million. There are other components which you should also be concerned about.

Honourable minister, on Tuesday, come with a status report on the progress of the implementation of the project and I give Members time. They will debate after getting clear information so that it is not a few Members who have information and others who do not. We all have critical information. Tuesday? No, let us leave it to Tuesday.

Honourable Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, is Tuesday okay? Tuesday should be okay. There are other components which are outside the finance ministry and we are also interested in those.

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Speaker, since we have to work in collaboration, I pray that you give us Wednesday.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Wednesday?

**MR MUSASIZI:** Yes, to allow time to –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay, I can give Wednesday to the disaster ministry and GROW so that we go deeper into this. Hon Harriet Businge?

4.03

**MS HARRIET BUSINGE (NRM, Woman Representative, Hoima):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise on the issue of the River Kafu Bridge. I recall that at the beginning of this week, we handled River Kafu of the Masindi-Kampala Road. I saw it necessary to bring the

House to recall that sometime last year, the Kafu Bridge on the Hoima Kampala Road over flooded. Actually, it necessitated us to change route and take the Masindi route up to Hoima.

When you summoned the Minister of Works and Transport, he stood here and promised that after the rains stopped, the Ministry of Works and Transport would engage whoever was necessary and whatever was needed to ensure that they do constructive work on the bridge.

Many dry seasons have come, Mr Speaker, and the ministry is nowhere. If you passed there today, the water is dangerously rising and it is being worsened by the traffic diversion on the Gulu-Kampala Road because of the Karuma Bridge; all the heavy traffic now has gone to Hoima. It is dangerous.

I am here with my prayers:

- i. That the minister explains to us why he did not live up to his word when he stood here on the Floor and told Members what he was going to do when the rains subsided.
- ii. The honourable Minister of Works and Transport is among the most disciplined ministers we have. Why would he lie to the House? What programmes does he have?

I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You mean you doubt the discipline of ministers? Honourable Minister Byamukama?

4.05

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT)(Mr Fred Byamukama):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am happy with my honourable sister who has agreed that I am disciplined; and disciplined people do not tell lies.

Kafu is a very big river. It rotates from the Nakasongola side. It goes through Masindi up to the border of Kiboga and Hoima. Her issue is quite different from the one I mentioned on the Floor yesterday but one. She has been on our neck and we are happy that we have been updating what has been going on.

Currently, we have added an addendum to the contractor who is on the Busunju-Hoima Road to work on the Kafu Swamp. I must inform you that your official letter informing you of this is on the way. It will come tomorrow. We have already instructed him to take up that matter, as we look for the money to work on the other hand, which cuts from the Nakasongola side. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon Biraaro?

4.06

**MR EPHRAIM BIRAARO (NRM, Buhweju West County, Buhweju):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance with regard to the tea industry.

Mr Speaker, since the year 2022 to date, the tea industry has been facing turbulence, ranging from hiked prices of inputs, falling prices, black tea prices, and lack of regulation in the sector.

Mr Speaker, in some areas of Uganda, like Buhweju, Bushenyi, Kyenjojo, Kabarole, and Mitooma, farmers are currently uprooting their tea gardens in despair. The Government has, on several occasions, promised a tea policy and subsidy on farm inputs. My prayers are:

- i. Can the Government update the tea farmers about the progress of subsidy on inputs, especially fertilisers, which are required this season?
- ii. Can the Government inform this House about the progress on tea policy, which is lacking in our sector?

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I present.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Mwijukye came to my office on a related matter.

4.08

**MR FRANCIS MWIJUKYE (FDC, Buhweju County, Buhweju):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. You know the Government has been giving out seedlings to farmers. Buhweju is one district that has received seedlings from the Government, and so we have a lot of tea.

When the tea prices come down, the Government loses twice; the farmers are not getting money, the incomes remain low, also, the money they incurred in procuring tea seedlings that were given to farmers.

I would like to ask the Government to take this matter seriously so that we see what we can do because the tea industry is dying. Thank you. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister for Finance, these are issues of money. MPs are asking about subsidies and fertiliser.

**MR MUSASIZI:** Mr Speaker, this matter was not handled by the finance ministry.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, I am saying these are issues which involve money. We have a player in football – is he the Number 5 or Number 6? Number 6! He can be a goalkeeper; he can be in defence – he can be anywhere. *(Laughter)* However, the minister for trade should come back and respond to this matter.

Minister for information, do you have any answer?

4.09

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE (Dr Chris Baryomunsi):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I share the concerns that the honourable Members of Parliament from Buhweju are raising. Kanungu is also a tea-growing area. This matter was discussed extensively by Cabinet and a number of measures were arrived at, some of which you are reporting on, such as subsidies on fertilisers, which fertilisers will be given through the tea companies. There is also the issue of supporting tea companies and waiving off some taxes for tea companies.

Give the Government time to come and give a report on how far the Government has gone in terms of addressing these issues.

However, the tea issue is a global phenomenon, which is affecting many other countries. The reduction in the prices is due to factors which are largely extrinsic – from the outside – but the Government takes note. Give us time. The Government will come back and give an update on how far we have gone in addressing these concerns.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Government Chief Whip, I request you to capture this matter. The Prime Minister, in her responses on Thursday – this is one of the issues she can handle after consulting the ministries involved.

4.11

**DR SAMUEL OPIO (Independent, Kole North County, Kole):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of advanced national importance – *(Laughter)* – on the 47-year delay in the payment of ex-employees of the East African Community.

Last year, the First Deputy Prime Minister presented an action-taken report in response to the above subject matter, based on the committee's recommendations.

She informed the House that to address these issues;

1. The Government will be tabling a Bill on the East Africa Community Mediation Agreement to address the issues that have bogged down the payment for the last 47 years.
2. A total of 1,027 files had been retrieved from the former employees and they had been forwarded to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under the Internal Auditor-General's office for computation, verification and inclusion in the budget for Financial Year 2024/2025. It is one year down the road, the Bill has not been presented on the Floor of Parliament and it is not on the legislative agenda.

Secondly, on the 1,027 files, the Ministry of East African Community Affairs says they have not yet received the verification and computations from the Ministry of Finance,

Planning and Economic Development and, therefore, this cannot be captured in the budget. It was not captured in the Financial Year 2024/2025 budget. We have been told that if they are completed on time, it would be captured as a supplementary.

Mr Speaker, we are going into the next budgeting cycle and, still, the computations have not been done.

My prayers are as follows:

- i. The Government gives us a status report on when the EAC Mediation Agreement Bill will be tabled on the Floor of Parliament; and
- ii. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development expedites the computations and verification, with a view to presenting a supplementary budget so that these people can be paid. Some have died, others are crippled – they are bedridden – waiting for their payment for 47 years.

I beg to submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let us get a response from the Government, on this issue, on Tuesday.

Hon. Florence Nebanda?

4.14

**MS FLORENCE NEBANDA (NRM, Woman Representative, Butaleja):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance, urging the Government for a speedy intervention in a calamity that is about to befall the education sector, especially in the Universal Primary Education (UPE) schools.

Mr Speaker, you are aware that UPE caters for 85 per cent of the local population in Uganda, and there is a move to parallelise the whole process. How? We are having teachers, more especially in primary schools, who are registering for early retirement. It is affecting service delivery in most of the schools.

As I speak now, in a school of seven classrooms, apparently, there are four teachers catering for all the classes. We are facing a challenge, not only in Butaleja, but countrywide. As a member of the forum for children, we moved to many districts – Butaleja, Jinja, Arua, Koboko and Kalangala – and they are all facing the same issues.

How does this come about? The teachers, at one point, are forced to seek for contributions from the parents and we are all aware that the President came out very clearly on this matter, that there should not be any parent making any contribution towards UPE schools. We are all aware that the budget for primary schools is very small for any school to function.

We are faced with a challenge on the ground, between the offices of the Resident District Commissioners (RDC) and the headteachers in school. As I speak now, in Butaleja, we have headteachers who have been arrested. All this is affecting the services, as I have said. It is leading to an uncondusive environment for the schools.

My prayers are;

1. Who is going to teach the children of the poor if the rate of early retirement is not deterred?
2. Secondly, is the –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is that a prayer, honourable member? (*Laughter*)

**MS NEBANDA:** Request. Thank you, Mr Speaker. Another question is: is the ministry aware of what is taking place in the UPE schools?

Finally, can Parliament interest itself to carry out oversight in regard to this information that I provided and indulge the President for an immediate intervention on the state of the Government schools in the country?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Parliament has always done its oversight role. Honourable minister?

4.17

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank my sister, Hon. Florence, for raising that matter, which is on the issue of teachers. I am very much aware – that is why I am the minister for primary education. I am aware of what is happening.

Mr Speaker, it is true that out of 10.9 million learners in primary education, 9.6 million are all in public schools – that is, UPE schools – whereas the balance is in private schools. She is very right to say that over 90 per cent of learners in primary education are found in UPE schools.

Number two, she is right because the budget that we have in place is not adequate to support the schools as we expect.

Mr Speaker, to have a comprehensive compulsory universal education, we need Shs 309.1 billion for primary education only. In principle, we all agree that we need, as the Ministry of Education and Sports, to provide policy direction for implementing this vision of implementing comprehensive, compulsory universal education for our children. We all look forward to achieving that vision of implementing comprehensive and compulsory universal education for our children. What I can tell my sister is that it is true that the number of teachers is inadequate but all the same, we do provide funds every financial year for the recruitment of teachers. In our budget this very financial year, we have Shs 11 billion for recruiting primary school teachers in those districts that critically need to recruit teachers. It is also for coding of the new schools. I cannot provide it right now but we have it in our budget.

Therefore, I can assure my honourable colleague that we may not handle everything at a go but every financial year, we try to increase the budget for recruitment.

As I conclude, I want to thank her for raising that concern but let us all speak the same

language to advocate and ensure that we implement compulsory, comprehensive universal education. That will come along with recruiting enough teachers and increasing capitation grant and all that it takes to provide that education for our learners. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Grania Hope?

4.20

**MS HOPE NAKAZIBWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mubende):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance concerning the people of Mubende. Being the Woman Member of Parliament for the whole district, I am going to speak about a matter that befell three constituencies.

We have a number of wards; one is Gayaza in Mubende Municipality. Others are Kagoma, Kirangwa and Kajumiro Ward in Nabingoola Subcounty, which were badly hit by hailstorms. Many animals were destroyed.

Our people have received money from the Parish Development Model (PDM) programme and invested this money in agriculture, mostly. Crops and gardens have been swept away. Their homes have been affected badly and the people I am speaking about are now homeless. They have nothing to eat.

Mr Speaker, through you to my sister, Hon. Aber and the Government, my prayer is that the Government comes in, through the Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, to help these people with food and non-food items.

Mr Speaker, on several occasions, I have stood here on the same issue from Mubende District but in most cases - I remember it was only once that we received partial relief regarding what was stipulated to be done. Let the people be provided with non-food items like tarpaulins, iron sheets and other food items. The people should also – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable minister?

4.22

**THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES) (Ms Lillian Aber):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Hon. Hope Grania, I would like to take note and still request that the district sends a report to the ministry. However, we are also constituting a team of technical people from our office to move around and gather these reports all together, because a hailstorm is a natural disaster, so that we can see how to plan on long-term livelihood support for these areas that are often affected by the hailstorm. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Ssolo Kayemba?

4.23

**MR GEOFFREY KAYEMBA-SSOLO (NUP, Bukomansimbi South County, Bukomansimbi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand on a matter of national importance, again, about electricity distribution in Bukomansimbi.

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development is becoming an animal of progress for the people of Bukomansimbi. We have four parishes: Kassebwera, Mbaale Kinoni, Kyakamunya, Kyankoole and Kiryassaaka that have never had a single pole of electricity. We got a loan in 2022 about the same. Even my brother, the Government Chief Whip, wrote a letter to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. We have not got any response.

My prayer is that the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development should not only come with a report but also tell us about the status of power in Bukomansimbi. We would have devolved more than we are. Power is a source of revenue to the country. Why don't you bring power to Bukomansimbi and we give money to this Government? Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Minister for information?

4.24

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE (Dr Chris Baryomunsi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. We need power in Bukomansimbi and the rest of the country so I agree with him that power should be extended. True, we passed a loan request here in Parliament. I think the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development has been here in recent days to explain the progress.

There have been delays in processing this loan. Usually, there is a long distance, in terms of time, between when we approve a loan request and then the procedural steps we take before implementation starts, especially for the World Bank-funded programmes. However, the programme is still on – *(Interjection)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, I do not have that time.

**DR BARYOMUNSI:** The assurance I wanted to give the honourable member for Bukomansimbi is that one, the minister was here a few days ago clarifying that they are finalising all the arrangements to start with the implementation of that programme, which we passed here.

I am quite certain that Bukomansimbi District is among those which will benefit. Let us be patient. All of us have the same questions, which we are raising and we are patiently waiting for the start of implementation. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, let us handle item 7. We shall debate it with item 4.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE  
REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
COMMITTEE - CENTRAL GOVERNMENT  
ON THE AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT  
ON REFERRAL HOSPITALS AND  
SPECIALISED HEALTH INSTITUTIONS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE, 2023

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Kivumbi? Honourable colleagues, please allow me to

handle these matters. I have given 2½ hours to Members' issues. Kindly, let us handle this item at least - Sorry, Clerk, it is item 4. Honourable colleagues, it is not that I must take procedure all the time. It is at the discretion of the Speaker.

**MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE  
REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
COMMITTEE - CENTRAL GOVERNMENT  
ON THE AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT  
ON PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES AND  
TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Kivumbi, let me first make it clear. Honourable colleagues, you are not the first Members who have risen on procedure and as a custodian of the rules, I have given chance. Others have complied. Please, let us behave like other Members of Parliament. We are all equal in this House. I have always given you opportunity.

Therefore, I do not want to appear that there are Members who are special and others are just ordinary. Hon. Kivumbi?

4.28

**THE CHAIRPERSON, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE - CENTRAL GOVERNMENT (Mr Muhammad Muwanga Kivumbi):** Mr Speaker – Mr Speaker – Mr Speaker –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Kivumbi, you are on record. Please go on – I am not granting any points now. I am informing you, honourable colleagues. Allow me to do some work. Hon. Kivumbi, if you are not ready, you tell me. I can go to the next item.

**MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI:** Mr Speaker -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Point of order?

**MR ACHIA:** Mr Speaker, I have been in this House for the last 20 years and I know that a matter of procedure supersedes when there are competing matters on the Floor of the House like clarification or information. When a Member raises a point of procedure, that supersedes the rest. However, it is at the

discretion of the Presiding Officer to accept the procedural matter or not.

Mr Speaker, is it procedurally right for these two honourable colleagues of mine to insist, even after your guidance that they must speak when you have guided the House?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, whenever I make a decision here, the rules provide you with how you can challenge my decision. You do not challenge the decision of the Speaker by standing up, insisting, and disrupting others. No. The rules give you - because I am not the omega and alpha. That is why the rules give you a chance. Therefore, refer to rule 87 where you can challenge me. Hon. Kivumbi?

**MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI:** Mr Speaker - (*Hon. Odria and Hon. Ssekikubo rose*) - It is very difficult to proceed in this kind of environment. Mr Speaker -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, I am going to invoke rule 89 - Hon. Theodore Ssekikubo, Hon. Odria Alioni - Kindly take your seats. Hon. Kivumbi?

**MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI:** Mr Speaker - (*Hon. Odria and Hon. Ssekikubo rose*) - it is difficult for me to speak when someone is standing here. Mr Speaker, I am here to present a report of the Public Accounts Committee on Central Government on Universities and Tertiary Institutions for the year ended June 2023.

Mr Speaker, you may recall yesterday, and I will seek your special indulgence - A debate ensued here about the gap in recruitment in universities, the capacity of the staff, and the gaps. A decision was - (*Members rose*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Kivumbi, go on.

**MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI:** Mr Speaker, let me lay on the Table the report of the Public Accounts Committee for Tertiary Institutions for the year ended June 2023 and the minutes of the meeting. I beg to lay.

Mr Speaker, with your special indulgence, yesterday there was a debate that ensued here and later on, I will seek your permission to allow me, as a recap - it is not part of the report - to furnish this committee with the extracts which my secretariat has compiled on the state of staffing in all public universities.

The Ministry of Finance requested the Auditor-General to do a special audit of all universities and all Government agencies on the payroll. During that exercise, the staffing levels in every government entity was established. Therefore, that applies to universities. Mr Speaker, if you allow me - Let me first clear that one.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is okay.

**MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI:** Mr Speaker, the Auditor-General reviewed the staff establishment of the following public universities to ascertain their completeness and relevance to the entity established and noted the following:

Universities

This is how it is presented: approved structure, filled position, the gap, and the percentage of the field position.

1. Soroti University has an approved structure of 1,312. The number of positions filled is 242, the gap is 1,700, and 18 per cent of filled positions.
2. Busitema University has the approved structure of 3,559, filled positions are 503, the gap is 3,056, and 14 per cent percentage filled.
3. Kabale University has approved structure of 2,076, filled positions are 506, the gap is 1,570, and 24 per cent filled.
4. Kyambogo University which was a bone of contention, the approved structure 2,598, filled positions are 913, the gap is 1,685, and 35 per cent filled.
5. Makerere University, Kampala has approved structure of 5,835. Filled positions are 3,141, the gap is 2,694, and

53 per cent. That is why our boss was once there in that department. It is the best university - (*Interjections*) - No, there is Law Development Centre (LDC).

6. Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) has an approved structure of 2,609, filled positions are 581, the gap is 2,042, and 22 per cent.
7. Gulu University has an approved structure of 1,568, filled positions are 571, the gap is 977, and 36 per cent.
8. Lira University has 991, field positions are 265, the gap is 726, and 26 per cent.
9. Law Development Centre (LDC) 202, field positions 135, the gap is 67 and the percentage is 68.

Mr Speaker, from what I have just read, it is only Makerere University that is staffed at over 50 per cent of the approved staff structure. What this means is that for the other universities, there is very little they can do to achieve the output. For example, Busitema and Soroti Universities as well as Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), which have 14, 18 and 22 per cent staffing levels respectively are depriving learners of the much-needed services.

We are aware - the rest is history. That is the information that fills the staffing levels of all public universities drawn from a special audit done by the Auditor-General on the directive of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now, committee chairperson, maybe we will reconsider it when we are considering the whole report. However, honourable colleagues, for your information today, the top management of Busitema University visited me at my office and told me something which really surprised me, because it had never come to my attention; that we give public universities wage but we do not give them money for social security. Now, we give other Ministries, Departments and Agencies



(MDAs) wage plus pension but for public universities, we give wage, not social security.

They told me that all their little money for Non-Tax Revenue (NTR) goes to social security and sometimes, it is not enough. They are under pressure because they are being sued. How do you pay wage which has no social security?

When I got this information, I said, this is not only in finance, but it is even here when we are appropriating. How do we appropriate a component wage that has no matching social security? This means that we appropriate net instead of gross.

I called the Minister of Public Service, Hon. Muruli Mukasa, and he also said he had just known all of that. However, what I guided them to do, honourable minister for finance, was that through their forum of public universities, they should write and bring it to the attention of the Government so that it can be looked into. Honourable minister?

4.42

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Mr Speaker, I am sorry for asking the question I am going to ask. Did they disclose to you the extent of their non-wage component? Wage is normally budgeted for separately. Other statutory obligations like National Social Security Fund (NSSF), gratuity, etcetera, are under the category of non-wage.

However, what they do is that they want to pay their allowances, other obvious things and leave these statutory obligations, because they know that when they complain, you will definitely do a supplementary or otherwise.

Therefore, I really want us to go deeper into their budget and ask them what they are using their non-wage for, before we ask whether we should give them more money or not.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, what I was putting here is that, that

money should be in the budget. When their budget is being passed here, the money for social security that matches with the wage should be clearly identified as money for social security, but not just left in a pool.

**MR MUSASIZI:** Before I come, let me ask, who budgets -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have just given information, but honourable minister, can you call accounting officers of public universities and engage them on this issue?

**MR MUSASIZI:** Yes, we are going to call them but for the benefit of all the accounting officers, there is a work plan. We ask you to support your numbers with the work plan. The work plan itemises what you are going to spend on and this is done at entity level.

If we give you, say, Shs 10 billion on non-wage, you, as the accounting officer, must determine what you are going to use this Shs 10 billion non-wage for.

I would like to believe that what informs the allocations are the obvious things - you know you have statutory obligations. If you have wage, you must pay NSSF. This one should take priority under your - I will guide and discuss with them but they also need to help us. Let them not take advantage of us. Rather, they should also do what they are supposed to do before they come to us to cry for more money.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Aogon?

4.45

**MR SILAS AOGON (Independent, Kumi Municipality, Kumi):** Mr Speaker, I sit on the Committee on Education and Sports and equally the Public Accounts Committee - Central. These cries have come to Parliament and this is not the first time.

I think the Government should pull out from trying to hide from responsibility. When we talk about wages, it takes the first call of the budget. Therefore, the Government should be very clear; you are trying to prioritise other

issues, hide behind non-wage and then you tell us that, “you are supposed to plant from there”. What is it that is stopping the Government from demarcating and putting it clearly there? For instance, they could say, “This wage is coming in this size.”

It is well known that if you are going to compute for NSSF, there is a percentage; you apply and communicate. Is there any letter from the ministry that shows that you communicated to that effect? For instance, where you could have said things like, “You got Shs 100 million, 10 per cent is for NSSF, and we have added it here.” That is what we would expect from a Government that is very serious like yours. We should, therefore, take it seriously now.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Vice-Chairperson, Budget Committee?

4.46

**MR REMIGIO ACHIA (NRM, Pian County, Nabilatuk):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am not speaking as the Vice-Chairperson, Budget Committee. Before coming to the Budget Committee, I was the Chairperson of the Committee on Information, Communication and Technology. You sent us to all the public universities in the country and we found three key things:

One, some of these universities collect more NTR and they budget for it, but when they - you know, you made a statement yesterday - finance minister - when they request for this money, that money is not forthcoming. We found dire situations in Kabale, Mountains of the Moon, Soroti, Gulu, Muni, and Busitema Universities. The report was presented by the current Chairperson of the Committee on Information, Communication and Technology, Hon. Alex Niyonsaba.

There is a problem of the return of NTR and some of these universities have stagnated because they do not get their NTR in order to expand their facilities. Some of them are teaching students in tents.

Two, because of the ban on recruitment, universities like Mbarara lost very senior PhD staff who had just qualified and had come back from Europe. However, because they did not have a wage, they could not recruit and we lost them to the neighbouring countries. It was painful. Others went to the United States of America.

I think there are more issues that we could discuss with respect to these universities. There is the question of the responsiveness of the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development in returning NTR - even to expand the facilities that are there.

Secondly, the question of ban on recruitment. We are losing the most senior cadre staff - and even the application of retirement to professors in universities is dangerous because you find some of the young professors who have just come from abroad, but just because they have reached 60 years, they are treated as civil servants. Most of them are forced to retire at a time when they should provide support to young academics in the universities. How do you retire a professor at 60 years, when he is still able to support this country? They are being treated as civil servants.

Mr Speaker, I think we need a more comprehensive analysis of some of the issues facing the universities today.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Achia, when I was joining Makerere University Council, the professors were retiring at 60 years and, indeed, the argument you brought is the argument that some of us brought. We said, you cannot lose someone - a professor at 60 years is just maturing to be the real one. So, we said, no and extended the retirement age to 80 years. You retire at 60 years but you gain a contract and continue up to 80 years.

Even at 80 years, if you are still doing fine and the university assesses you and feels you are doing fine, they retain you. That is how most of these professors have remained at Makerere. We were going to lose the most prominent professors.

That is how we lost the Sebuufus. We also lost Prof. Epelu-Opio – the one we buried. Some of the best brains! And, they were being poached by universities in Nairobi. That is how you lost Prof. Luboobi, the best mathematician. Prof. Omaswa – you lost them because of a rigid policy. When we did this, we have retained the best professors at Makerere and they are doing very well and are still mentoring other people. Anyway, we are going into issues which are in the report. Let us get to the report and open the debate.

**MR KIVUMBI:** Mr Speaker, sometimes honesty is key in public service. When I presented this report, some of these universities – actually, the Government has been doing well in terms of meeting the budgets of public universities. Nearly most of them are at 100 per cent or above 95 per cent in terms of approved budget and warranted money. The report is going to reveal this.

Secondly, the Government issues a budget call circular for entities to plan accordingly – to list their priorities. So, it is inconceivable that a planning institution cannot budget for wage and others but budget for diaries and other things.

We interacted with a very dicey matter. Government universities – not one, not two – came to the Budget Committee and told us the Government was not paying for the 4,000 students. When we interrogated the figures, we realised that most of them were lying. The Government was paying for all Government-sponsored students in all universities.

They were saying the gap is there because the Government has not paid but when we looked into the figures, that was a false argument –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What this means, Hon. Kivumbi, is that when they submit their work plans and all that, we do not scrutinise them.

**MR KIVUMBI:** Exactly.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Otherwise, the finance ministry should be able to say “no, we have rejected your budget; go back and budget for social security”. However, if they submit when they have not budgeted for social security and you accept, then it means you are also not doing your job this side.

**MR KIVUMBI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think everyone needs to style up; both the Government and the ministry for finance -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Even us here – the sectoral committees.

**MR KIVUMBI:** Mr Speaker, in our other report that we shall present, we have indicted the committees of Parliament for not doing a good job in terms of the approval of the budget processes here in Parliament. However, that is for another day. I have just put you on notice that the Committee on National Economy and all sector committees are indicted in our report for failure to do a decent job – including the one on finance, where I sit.

Mr Speaker, the first part is introduction. I can skip that. I can also skip the scope. Let me go to general observations – and this will answer the first question.

The Auditor-General reported that a number of public universities experienced revenue shortfalls resulting from under-release of funds by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, as illustrated in the table below.

Kyambogo University had a budget of Shs 138.66 billion. There is a table there. The amount of money warranted to Kyambogo University was the same. It was 100 per cent warranted. So, it got all the money that it requested for.

MUBS had a budget of Shs 115 billion. It got Shs 110 billion and the unwarranted money was Shs 4 billion. The warranted money was at 96 per cent. The unwarranted was 4.0 per cent.

Makerere University had a budget of Shs 377.35 billion. It got a warrant of Shs 368,910 billion. Unwarranted amount of money was Shs 8 billion. The warranted money was 98 per cent. The unwarranted one was two per cent.

Gulu University had a budget of Shs 78.482 billion. It got the warrant of Shs 69.291 billion. The unwarranted amount was Shs 9.19 billion. The warrant performance was at 88 per cent.

UMI had a budget of Shs 36.93 billion. The warranted amount was 36.718 billion and the unwarranted one was only Shs 182 million. In terms of percentage, it is 100 per cent.

Kabale University had a budget of Shs 63.2 billion. The warranted amount was Shs 54 billion. Unwarranted amount was Shs 8.55 billion. The warrant percentage was 86 and the unwarranted was 13.5 per cent.

Lira University had a budget of Shs 30.815 billion. The warranted amount was Shs 30.776 billion while the unwarranted was Shs 39 million. The warrant, in terms of percentage, is nearly 100 per cent.

Muni University had a budget of Shs 25.940 billion. The warranted amount was Shs 24.733 billion and the unwarranted amount was Shs 1.207 billion – a warrant percentage of 95 per cent.

Mbarara University of Science and Technology had a budget of Shs 59.4 billion. The warranted amount was Shs 57.547 billion and the unwarranted amount was Shs 1.85 billion. The warrant percentage was 73 per cent.

Soroti University had a budget of Shs 24.758 billion. The warranted money was Shs 22 billion, while the unwarranted was 2.73 billion. The warrant was at 92 per cent.

Busitema University had a budget of Shs 61.5 billion. The warranted amount was Shs 52.44 billion, while the unwarranted was Shs 9.1 billion. The warrant percentage was 85 per cent.

Mountains of the Moon University had a budget of Shs 45.9 billion. It was warranted at Shs 44 billion. The unwarranted was Shs 1.8 billion. The warrant percentage was 96 per cent.

LDC had a budget of Shs 29.663 billion. The warranted amount was Shs 29.651 billion and the unwarranted was just Shs 12 million. This was a 100 per cent warrant.

Mr Speaker, the total amount of money budgeted for universities was Shs 1,058,000,000,000. What was warranted Shs 1,010,902,000,000. The unwarranted was Shs 47 billion. The percentage of the warranted amount was 96 per cent, while the unwarranted was 4.4 per cent.

The accounting officers attributed the shortfall to non-release of funds by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

#### Committee's observations

The committee observed that the shortfalls in revenue imply that these public universities could not fully finance their programmes, which, in turn, affected service delivery. The committee further observed that a total of Shs 47.116 billion remained unwarranted across the universities. For example, Busitema, Kabale, Soroti and Gulu Universities had the biggest percentage of annually leased budgets of 14.8 per cent, 13.5 per cent, 8.4 per cent and 11.7 per cent respectively, as illustrated in the table above.

The committee, however, commends the Government for the 100 per cent release to Kyambogo University and Lira University including Uganda Management Institute and the Law Development Centre.

#### Recommendations

The committee recommends as follows:

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should provide adequate funding to public universities as appropriated by Parliament to enable the implementation of planned activities.

The Accountant-General strictly enforces section 15(2) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), 2015, which requires that the annual cash flow plans issued under subsection (1) be the basis of the release of funds to entities.

#### Utilisation of the Government of Uganda Warrants

The Auditor-General reported that the majority of public universities and tertiary institutions did not fully utilise or absorb all their warranted funds which translated into underperformance and non-implementation of some of the planned activities, subsequently affecting the achievement of overall objectives of the entities, as illustrated in the table below.

Mr Speaker, the table below shows you the approved budget, the warranted money, what the universities were able to utilise, what remained unutilised, and the percentage. I do not need to go through it one by one but take note that a total of Shs 25.17 billion remained unutilised by entities irrespective of the fact that the money was warranted to them.

#### Recommendations

The committee recommends that the accounting officers should strictly adhere to the annual budget performance contract signed with the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury (PS/ST) pursuant to Section 45 of the PFMA, 2015.

The contract binds accounting officers to deliver on activities in the work plan of the Vote for the financial year submitted under section 13(15) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015.

The Government should consider lifting the ban on recruitment in public universities by Public Service. I think it has been done - *(Interjection)*. Not yet?

The argument for the unutilised warrants of Shs 25,173 billion was that this money had been for the recruitment of staff but there was a ban. So, the entities could not utilise this money and hence it was swept back.

#### Performance of Non-Tax Revenue

The Auditor-General audited the performance of Non-Tax Revenue (NTR) across public universities and tertiary institutions for the Financial Year 2022/2023 and noted that the majority of entities significantly underperformed in their NTR collections in respect to their approved targets except for Busitema and Kabale Universities and the Law Development Centre, as illustrated in the table below.

Mr Speaker, we have put a table for what NTR was approved by Parliament and what the universities collected. Because of time, Members can go through one by one - the variance between A and B and the performance. A total of Shs 37.332 billion remained uncollected, irrespective of the fact that the universities had budgeted for them.

#### Observation

The committee observed that Instruction 4.10.2 of Treasury Instructions, 2017 requires planning and budgeting to be closely linked to the budgets to reflect the entity's policies over the period covered and should represent a statement of intent against which performance is measured.

Therefore, not meeting budget targets for NTR undermines the importance of the entire budgeting process and affects the posting in the entity's accounts.

The committee further observed that universities run a risk of loss of revenue from students who do not pay full amounts of fees at the end of the year. This eventually results into bad debts which deny the university resources for implementation of planned activities. There are students who get admitted but never get to register.

Mr Speaker, this is a big issue across universities. So many students get admitted but because of poverty, they do not get to register. For you to be registered in the university, especially for privately-sponsored students, you have to first pay; admission is not enough.

So, in the audit reports, there are students in their thousands who are admitted to various universities and cannot register. A typical example of this was from Lango region. The University of Lira made a very sad submission that only four students from Lango region were able to be admitted on Government sponsorship in Lira University. Only four and all of them were from private secondary schools in Lira.

*[Text expunged.]*

Mr Speaker - you are a nationalist and you fail to get admitted to your university. I think you better do that.

Costing and implementation of outputs and activities

Unsupported Output Budgets

This will answer the question the minister was supposed - Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, you better listen because this speaks to your point.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Point of order.

**MS LINDA AUMA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to know whether Hon. Kivumbi is in order to blame the number of students admitted to Lira University on the leadership yet the admission is not done by the leaders of Lango. Is he really in order?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, since this statement was not part of the report and we are receiving the report, let it be expunged from the record of Parliament because we are - Hon. Kivumbi, please read the report. Otherwise, statements outside the report might be attributed to the committee yet they are not in the report.

**MR KIVUMBI:** Expunge them but that section is in the Auditor-General's report.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** He did not blame leaders. Okay? We are talking about the leaders and our colleagues here; you are indicting colleagues, honourable.

**MR KIVUMBI:** All right.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**DR BARYOMUNSI:** In agreement with the honourable member, are you imputing that we, political leaders, should influence admissions to public universities?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, how are you commenting on a statement that has been expunged? *(Laughter)*

**DR BARYOMUNSI:** Okay. I was just confirming that it should be expunged.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now, do you remember that you spoke for one and a half hours on air - *(Laughter)* - without - Hon. Kivumbi, move to the report then during the debate, you can give your views.

**MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI:** Mr Speaker -

The Unsupported Output Budgets

The Auditor-General reported that all five outputs assessed for Lira University were not supported by individual activity costing. Muni University had all eight outputs not supported by individual activity costing while Soroti University had two outputs not supported by individual activity costing and budgets.

Accounting officers explained that the universities prepare all the budget outputs in the programme budget system. However, by the structure of the system, all the details could not be captured.

The committee, however, noted that, despite the above justification, the accounting officer could not provide source documents for the costed outputs. Because of the new system, universities were saying the reason they do not cost outputs is because the system cannot take all the characters. But during the auditing process, there are source documents which you can avail to the auditors.

Observation

The committee observed that Regulation 11(3) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2016, requires that a Vote prepares work plans that

indicate the outputs of a Vote for the financial year while Regulation 11(2) (d) of the Public Finance Management Regulation, 2016 states that the work plans for a Vote shall indicate the funding allocated to each activity.

The committee observed that most of the entities failed and neglected to comply with these statutory provisions, which impacted the alignment of the activities to policy statements, thereby distorting the planning and implementation of Government programmes.

The committee further observed that to assess the performance of outputs, all supporting activities must be costed and quantified. Thus, failure to provide detailed costing for activities implies that the costing at the output level cannot be justified, and as such, there is a risk that entities either over or under-budgeted for those outputs.

#### Committee recommendations

1. The Minister of Finance should address the compatibility challenges of the programme budgeting system for purposes of capturing and imputing costed outputs and activities for entities;
2. Parliament should not approve budgets for entities without costed outputs and activities. The accounting officers of Soroti, Muni and Lira Universities should be held liable for not costing their respective budgets output and activities as required by Regulation 11(3) and Regulation 12 (2) (d) of the Public Finance Management Act; and
3. The Minister of Finance should continuously build the capacity of the users of the PBS dedicated to the quantification function.

#### Implementation of Outputs

Mr Speaker, the Auditor-General assessed the implementation of outputs that had been fully quantified and noted those activities had been partially implemented and those that had been completely unimplemented, as illustrated in the figure indicated in the table below.

Mr Speaker, I will not go through this table, I will only highlight two universities and let the Members read the full text of this because it is the heart of the audit.

#### Kabale University

The Auditor-General sampled three outputs that had been fully quantified with a total of 17 activities worth Shs 2.511 billion, fully implemented. Only one output with five activities and expenditure worth Shs 1.375 billion was fully implemented.

Two outputs with 12 activities worth Shs 1.36 billion were partially implemented. The entity fully implemented three activities. Two activities were partially implemented, while seven activities remained unimplemented.

Mr Speaker, this means that this entity got money, fully warranted and paid to it, and they spent it, and some activities remained unimplemented. That means that money was either diverted or there was a sub - Later on, I am going to establish the figure from the account for each university that diverted and mischarged anywhere. That is an example.

Mr Speaker, the Auditor-General, in my other report, which I have filed, needs to style up. I have provided the way this should be structured. For him to come to Parliament and tell us only Shs 2.5 billion was sampled out of the Kabale University budget of Shs 77 billion and then he goes on to say only Shs 1.3 billion was fully implemented then for the Shs 1.3 billion, he simply gives a narration of what activities were implemented, no amount of money placed - That turns a PAC committee into another audit bureau, which is out of our scope and makes our work extremely difficult.

Mr Speaker, we will beg you, at the right time, to cause an interaction with the Office of the Auditor-General because if this continues, I would have recommended to Parliament to reject the Auditor-General's report almost entirely. I was only persuaded by Members because, in our humble view, there is always room for improvement.

Later on, from other entities where we have rejected, I will let you know. I have put a full table that establishes those quantified activities. I will jump to that table and go to committee observation. This will speak to Kyambogo University.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You have 15 minutes.

**MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI:** Yes. A review of the entity's financial statement by the committee revealed that for partially implemented activities, funds were diverted to other activities which were not budgeted for, including paying for domestic arrears. For example, the committee observed that:

Makerere University Business School (MUBS) diverted Shs 5.4 billion;

- i. Kyambogo University diverted Shs 2.07 billion;
- ii. Muni University diverted Shs 173 million;
- iii. Lira University diverted Shs 486 million;
- iv. The Law Development Centre diverted Shs 109 million.

Mr Speaker, particularly for Kyambogo University, the Shs 2.0 billion, later on when you go to Kyambogo University, speak to the amount of money for part-time arrears which remained unpaid. Because the amount of money remaining unpaid on part-time arrears is Shs 2.6 billion but here you go, they diverted Shs 2.7 billion, money that would have been used to pay for arrears of part-time lecturers and they came crying to this Parliament that this goes unpunished.

Mr Speaker, that is why we have recommended, as a committee, that the accounting officers who diverted money and mischarged accounts be personally liable for the diversion. *(Applause)*

I now go to specific universities. I have already tackled Kyambogo University, which came here through a matter of national importance saying teachers are not paid. Actually, for Kyambogo University, had the auditor done a good job - Later on, we will see that they have an issue with Shs 50 billion which they cannot fully account for. We sent them to the police for

investigation - *(Interjection)* Beware, I am not debating. *(Member rose)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The honourable member is reading a committee report so, you cannot clarify. You do that during the debate.

**MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI:** Mr Speaker, long overdue payables;

The Auditor-General reported in the Statement of Financial Position and on Note 7 of the Finance Statement on outstanding payables of Shs 19.955 billion. Further, trend analysis of the payables revealed that part of the payables included the Shs 2.67 billion relating to uncleared part-time teaching allowances and Shs 11 billion relating to uncleared domestic areas accrued in the financial year prior to the year under audit.

The accounting officer attributed the accumulation of payables to the impact of COVID-19 where the university had to run three semesters in one financial year and continued budget cuts by the Government.

Committee observation

The committee noted that the creation and accumulation of arrears reflect serious fiscal management challenges such as weaknesses in the internal control system and management inefficiency in the institution. This continuous creation of arrears jeopardises overall credibility of the budget.

The committee recommends as follows:

1. That the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should provide adequate budget for domestic arrears and ensure full release of the same;
2. That an investigation by the IGG and Police on the accumulated payables amounting to Shs 19 billion be done with a view of prosecution in case of fraud. This is as far as Kyambogo University is concerned; and
3. That the accounting officer should appropriately budget for teaching allowances and also liaise with the



Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to ensure their timely payment.

Nugatory expenditure on VAT amount charged to the university, amounting to Shs 17 billion. The Auditor-General noted that M/S Baka Synergies Limited was contracted to supply e-learning materials. A review of the procurement documents and invoices issued revealed that goods were supplied at a contract price of Shs 117 million, inclusive of VAT of Shs 17 million.

A review of the URA e-receipts attached revealed that the supplies were VAT zero-rated, implying that these items did not attract VAT and no VAT was remitted to Uganda Revenue Authority. However, the university paid for those items at rates which were VAT-inclusive.

The accounting officer explained that the anomaly occurred as a result of the supplier submitting a quotation inclusive of VAT of Shs 17 million. He added that the supplier had been contacted to seek refund of the same that were erroneously paid to them.

Mr Speaker, any accountant has a chart of VAT items and non-VAT items. So, there is no way any sensible accounting officer would pay for an item that is VAT-related. We interrogated that this was deliberate and the accounting officer should be personally liable and made to pay back the same amount of money and a recovery made. They did not remit the money to URA so it disappeared in between those ones.

This was a clear case of fraud. That is why for Kyambogo University, we are beseeching this Parliament to authorise the IGG and Police to do a more thorough investigation on that university.

Delayed review of academic programmes

Mr Speaker, I am going to leave those ones for Members to read.

Inadequate practical and instructional materials  
You read this. The report on most of these

universities is there for your detailed observation. Let me now go to Makerere University.

Lack of approved work plan and work plan for overhead expenditure

Mr Speaker, I will leave you to read for Makerere University because of time constraints. However, to take note, the Auditor-General reported that Shs 127 million was paid to staff who had absconded from duty. The accounting officer acknowledged the anomaly and promised to follow up the matter with the management to have the money recovered.

The committee observed that delayed removal of staff from the payroll results in payment for services not rendered to the university, thus causing a financial loss to the university.

Our recommendation is that the accounting officers should recover the funds from the staff within six months of the adoption of this report. On the use of old vehicles, I will not speak to it; you will read it.

On understaffing at the Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute at Kabanyolo, you will read it. However, of interest to Kabanyolo, Mr Speaker, is an encroachment on the land and I would like to report on it.

The Auditor-General noted that the institution owns land measuring 650 acres in Kabanyolo with a total of 15 security guards. Inspection of the land revealed the following: On this one, Mr Speaker, I beg you to read it.

- a. The land is encroached upon and a school is being built on it;
- b. The institute land is not fully demarcated; and
- c. The land is not fully fenced, thereby prone to further encroachment.

The accounting officer acknowledged the findings and explained that the case of encroachment by the school is in court and a wall fence between the university land in Kabanyolo and Kabanyolo North is urgently needed because most farm produce is stolen from this site. However, funding constraints have limited this.

**Observation**

The committee observed that land was being poorly managed in many public universities and as such, substantial amounts had been encroached on, which could lead to loss. For this particular case, for example, the approximate value of an acre of land around Kabanyolo, at the current market price, is Shs 500 million. Therefore, having 650 acres of land worth Shs 325 billion exposed to encroachment is very risky.

How do you have a property of Shs 325 billion but you have no capacity to even demarcate it; to know where I stop, to fence off or even deploy adequate security? So, we find it inadequate.

Mr Speaker, as you are aware, for Makerere University, we have requested - I will go through Kabanyolo farm. You will read about all these farms in Kiboga and everywhere where Makerere University has prime land that has been grossly mismanaged and encroached upon. Because of time, I will not do so.

Our recommendations are:

1. That the Government should provide funds and ensure that institute land is fully secured and fenced off to guard against further encroachment. *(Applause)*
2. That Parliament should consider granting more time to the committee to comprehensively investigate matters of land management in public universities.

The second one is Nakyasasa Incubation Centre. This is a failure to maintain and operate training sites for the university.

Nakyasasa Incubation Centre is one of the training centres under CoVAB –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable member, you do not have a strong recommendation there.

**MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI:** Can I read?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You do not have strong recommendations on all these.

**MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI:** So, we can go to Makerere University Business School.

Mr Speaker, for Makerere University Business School, we have already established that it diverted Shs 5 billion, for which we have made a recommendation. The detail of what is in here is what we are trying to establish, so I do not need to read it. The same applies to Gulu University, Lira University, which I have spoken to, and Muni University because I have established the figures.

Mr Speaker, can I read a little bit of Mbarara University?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Sure.

**MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI:** The Auditor-General noted that included in the receivable of Shs 8.4 billion under the Statement of Financial Position and Note 22 of the financial statements are uncleared bills of Shs 1,127,000,000 relating to financial years prior to June 2023.

The accounting office explained that the outstanding receivables were due to failure of the students' loan scheme to pay for the students they sponsor and other private students who failed to pay tuition.

Committee's observations

The committee observed that longstanding debts may eventually result into bad debts, thereby denying the university resources for implementation of planned activities.

Outstanding payables

I think these are from statement of accounts - outstanding payables for Mbarara University of Science and Technology. I do not think they are of a general nature.

Mr Speaker, we have also noted that from Mbarara University of Science and Technology - but for diplomatic reasons, I am careful about it. There is a continued engagement of the Cuban doctors on expired contracts. Honourable colleagues, you will read about that. There is something wrong.

Busitema University

I have reported on what they have done.

Mr Speaker, in general terms, I have also reported on the student-to-lecture room ratio across universities. Honourable colleagues will read. I beg to move.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Kivumbi. Thank you, team. I think that next week, apart from Wednesday, we shall dedicate most of the work to accountability committee reports. If there are other accountability committees that have reports, they should ensure that we have them.

Clerk, ensure that the one for health is also uploaded – I think it should be. We could even receive it today so that on Tuesday, we go into the debate. Okay? That is how we shall be able to accommodate as many reports as possible.

Honourable colleagues, I open the debate starting with Hon. Muwuma, Hon. Muzaale, Hon. Ayo, Hon. Joanne Okia - let me just pick so that we sort it out early.

Clerk, kindly help me to take the names of everyone who is standing because they are the only ones that I will – (*Members rose*)- No, wait for me to first finish. These Members who have not been here will start coming in and causing chaos. I want to pick those ones who are here and are standing.

I could - I will need the list or, I can ask the ones on this side – Provide your names; you write from here. Okay? Yes, those who are standing.

Honourable colleagues, let us use a maximum of - how many are standing? One, two, three, four - we can use one hour. I can pick all of you if each one of you uses a maximum of three minutes. If you use two, the better. So, I will start with Hon. Muwuma.

5.31

**MR MILTON MUWUMA (NRM, Kigulu County South, Iganga):** Thank you very much. Allow me to thank the Chairperson of the PAC committee for the report.

Mr Speaker, there are three things and the first one is about the resources that were diverted by the different universities. We needed more clarification on whether the committee proved further and found out that there was value for money – or where this money was spent. Diverting is different, but after the diversions, where was this money spent? They could have put it on valuable programmes and projects, as universities. So, we need more clarification on this.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, there is the other point – Members were taking things personally about Lira University only attracting four students from Lango Sub region.

Mr Speaker, we have booked you to accord us space to bring a motion to do with increasing the number of students that benefit from the quota system. It is one avenue that will solve these challenges. Having an institution in an area when the locals are not benefiting adequately sends mixed signals. For us to solve that, we need to increase the number of students that benefit from the quota system. The people of Lango should be seen to be benefiting from Lira University instead of keeping it there, and beginning to accuse leaders that they are not playing their part when it is not their mandate to admit or recruit students.

Mr Speaker, there is an issue to do with students that missed their final exams in Kyambogo University and Makerere University Business School (MUBS), for failing to raise the tuition for the second semester of their third year. Having failed to raise the money, they are applying to these two universities to be given a chance to pay for the papers they missed so that they sit their papers. However, they are being asked to pay a full year's tuition afresh. Somebody failed to raise money for one semester and missed papers but now you are telling him or her to pay for a full year – (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Now, honourable colleagues, we are debating two reports, as I guided. Okay? As I mentioned earlier on, there is the one for education in northern Uganda – because it touches all universities in northern Uganda. The other report is this one.

When we are debating a report of this nature, from the Auditor-General, we focus on accountability issues. We do not bring issues which are for a sectoral committee – general issues. Otherwise, the issues of Hon. Kivumbi and the team will be lost. The report on northern Uganda is where we can bring in the general issues. Yes, Hon. James?

**MR KUBEKETETYA:** Mr Speaker, the procedural point was that we have amalgamated the two reports, but I find that the members of the education committee have also stood up to debate. So, how shall we know that? Can we just leave it open?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members of the education committee will debate the PAC report. Okay? And, members of PAC will debate education. So, you should know the limit.

Yes, Hon. Nakut has given me the list for this side and I have Hon. James Etuka, Hon. Paparu, Hon. Keefa Kiwanuka, Hon. Museveni, Hon. Tom Aza, Hon. Loy Katali, Hon. Taaka, Hon. Leku, Hon. Oloru, Hon. Charles Ayume, Hon. Pauline, Member for Lyantonde – Enos – Hon. Nakut, Hon. Adriko, Member for Ngoya, Hon. Ababiku and Hon. Janepher Mbabazi.

Those who stood – yes. We are not registering every Member here. For this side, I told Hon. Gilbert Olanya to help. Just pass on the piece of paper. As Hon. Martin - no, Hon. Gilbert is registering you. He was there. Hon. Gilbert Olanya, just pass the paper. He seems to be a lucky man. Since he is lucky - I had Hon. Joanne Okia. Hon. Martin, you are coming later.

5.36

**MS JOANNE OKIA (NRM, Woman Representative, Madi-Okollo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the committee for actually going to the regions of northern Uganda.

I would also like to thank the Government for the efforts that they have put to follow the policy of a secondary school in every sub county. One of the secondary schools, which is mentioned here; Anyiribu Secondary School, is actually slated, under the Uganda Secondary Education Expansion Project (USEEP), for a seed secondary school, which I did not see in the report.

I think most of those recommendations will be covered when this Anyiribu Seed Secondary School is taken up by the Government. The Minister of Education and Sports can tell us when this will be underway – because three secondary schools in Madi-Okollo have been slated for this.

The second point I would like to raise is about Pawor Seed Secondary School. I really want to thank the committee for shining a light on this school. Since 2018, when this school was constructed, we have complained, and written to the Ministry of Education and Sports, but nothing has come to fruition.

This school has many cracks on the buildings and many people deem it unsafe to actually sit in the buildings of this school. There is a school nearby. One of the speakers today talked about how community schools are taken over by the Government and turned into seed secondary schools. We wonder when we were under Arua Local Government, why Arua Local Government decided to take a seed secondary school in a game reserve. Pawor Seed Secondary School is situated in the - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Martin Muzaale, Hon. Ayoo Tonny.

5.38

**MR MARTIN MUZAALE (NRM, Buzaaya County, Kamuli):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and thank you, Hon. Kivumbi, for the report.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Gilbert Olanya put himself first in the row. *(Laughter)*

**MR MUZAALE:** Thank you, Hon. Kivumbi, for the report. I want to add my voice to that of Hon. Muwuma in regard to the money that was diverted. We need to know when this money was diverted, and Hon. Kivumbi, we need to know the activities that were affected.

Secondly, on the issue of staffing levels, I find it a little bit difficult to draw conclusions on this because, one, we were given staffing levels and they are, of course, worrying. It is 14 to 20 per cent with the exception of Makerere University which is at 50 something. We needed to understand, if they say the staffing levels at Makerere University are supposed to be at 5,700, what was the basis? Was it based on courses or the number of students? Do they have temporary staff that are coming in to cover up the gap? We need to have those details. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, when you go - I think he goes deep - you see, these universities have day and evening classes. The same lecturers who teach day are the same who teach evening but they are paid for the extra load for every hour at Shs 50,000.

We need to look into that issue. When do the lecturers rest to go into research and mentorship? Universities, like I said yesterday, are not like secondary schools where you go on a chalkboard and give notes and people go. No, most of it is out of your research output. That is why the ranking of our universities is worrying. The research output is what makes a university, especially if it is a public university.

Who determines these staffing levels, the way Hon. Martin Muzaale has raised it to say, the establishment is 100 and we have only 40, how are you operating? Who determines this

establishment? Is the ministry involved? Is it audited? Or it is the Council and Senate and then they finish.

I remember at Makerere University, they managed to review their courses after the President quarrelled so much on the issue of courses that were not helpful. When I was at Makerere, there was a time they brought three masters degrees; one, Masters in Evaluation under the School of Public Health, Masters of Evaluation under the School of Business, then Masters of Monitoring and Evaluation under the School of Women and Gender Studies. Nearly every college had established a Masters of Monitoring and Evaluation and you find each one will need lecturers. But you can have a Masters of Monitoring and Evaluation and specialise; cut across. For most of these universities, I think we need to have a total reset and go much deeper.

Then there is this business of opening branches. You are saying you do not have teachers, but you are opening branches. You have around 20 branches, but you do not have teachers to run one branch and none of the branches is breaking even. Of course, universities are not business entities to say they should break even. Run a few branches but run them perfectly.

It is an issue I would interest the Chairperson of the Committee on Education and Sports as a sectoral committee, to go deeper and look at how best we can get from the little we have before we even quarrel over it - Today, I was told that out of the students admitted to Busitema University, only 60 per cent turn up to register. That is a huge concern.

Then you go to the Students' Loan Scheme. How much goes to public universities versus that which goes to private universities? You look at the cost of running public universities compared to the cost of running private universities, whereby you leave students of a public university where fees is a third or a half of that of public universities, but you give slots to private universities.

When I think of this sector, it is a sector I am passionate about. You feel we should do more in terms of supervision and going in much deeper, before putting in all this money they are asking for. I am sorry I am a Presiding Officer and should not be delving so much but when you are passionate about something, you will find yourself going deep. I am so sorry about that. I was giving information; I was not debating. *(Laughter)*

5.44

**MR TONNYAYOO (NRM, Kwania County, Kwania):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I thank the Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee (Central Government) for this report.

Mr Speaker, when you look at the report of the Committee on Education and Sports and this one of PAC, you realise that universities are flying on their own, and at their interest and priority. I think Parliament and Government should take more interest in the operations of the universities.

When we have a report showing the staffing level is 14 to 30 per cent - I am wondering how the National Council for Higher Education accredits these universities when they do not have the required number of permanent staff.

Mr Speaker, I am aware that Kyambogo University has a department established to have 35 lecturers but they only have five on permanent and the 30 teach part-time. One of the reasons is that part-time lecturers are easy to manage. They can hire you because most of the people working within the Government who are more technical go and do part-time but they can hire you and dismiss you before you have been paid. Then they hire new ones to replace you and this is how these arrears are being accumulated.

Mr Speaker, from the report of PAC, there is free diversion and free accumulation of arrears. I think the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should tighten, and the Government, when implementing this report, should tighten on the universities to

ensure that they walk the talk as per the dictates of the Public Finance Management Act. If we do not do this, the issue of corruption that is not being mentioned clearly will consume the university. People will take money for themselves rather than providing money for us to train our young people. I want to support - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You have supported on record. Hon. Alyek, Hon. Olanya Gilbert.

5.46

**MS JUDITH ALYEK (NRM, Woman Representative, Kole):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the two committees for bringing these important reports to the Floor of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I would like to interest this House that it is not our failure as leaders that Lira University and probably other universities are not taking in many students. I have realised that some of our universities in Northern Uganda do not have some courses. For example, the Universities of Muni, Lira, Gulu and Soroti do not have engineering courses.

Mr Speaker, I have written a motion to that effect and I have submitted it to the Clerk to Parliament and I wish to be granted leave to present it here on the Floor of Parliament in form of a motion so that we urge the Government to interest themselves and introduce some of these courses to the public universities in Northern Uganda. This is a fact that we have to take.

On the issue of money, first of all, according to the report that has been presented by Hon. Kivumbi, money is a very slippery thing. I have seen many universities diverting money. We want further investigations done on this money. Probably, there is what is called virement. What did they do with the money, anyway? Was it spent or was it in some people's pockets? This is a very serious matter. Our universities must develop. I beg to submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Gilbert Olanya, followed by Hon. Nabagabe Kalule.

5.48

**MR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak South County, Amuru):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The strength and quality of the nation depends on the educated people. I am happy that this time, Uganda graduates more than 65,000 students every year. This is the positive way to go – *(Interjection)* – What is your problem, again? *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, protect me from the Government Chief Whip – *(Laughter)* – To our dismay, I recall the other day in Gulu when we were discussing education, students from Gulu University brought up a very serious concern about the deployment of the intern doctors. Regarding the few intern doctors who were deployed among those who completed last year, none was taken out of the 66 students who finished from Gulu University. All of them are still home.

From Muni University, none was deployed. The students from northern Uganda tabled in their special consideration because many of them completed it. They are now two years at home. You remember, COVID-19 disturbed their education. This year, if they are not deployed again, it means our intern doctors shall have wasted two more years on top of the five years that they spent at the university. Mr Speaker, I pray that the Government should take serious and special consideration of the intern doctors from northern Uganda.

About the pay – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Nabagabe? Honourable member, I hope you wrote your name. We wrote names properly here.

5.50

**MS FLAVIA NABAGABE (NUP, Woman Representative, Kassanda):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the committee for doing a wonderful job on the situation of public universities.

I have two issues. The very first one is on the delayed deletion of contract staff from the

payroll of the College of Computing and ICT training. We have a situation of such staff who continue getting money. That brings in ghost workers in our universities.

Also, we have another situation of staff who are working but are not being paid. This brings in a contradiction. While some people are crying for money, others are receiving money for no work done. This brings in a huge challenge and a conundrum that we need to sort out.

When we have staff like the part-time staff we were talking about yesterday who are doing a lot of work but are not being paid, that means that you are going to end up having very angry teachers who are probably going to fail students or bring about missing results for students. This needs to be addressed eventually.

There is also a delay in the disbursement of Non-Tax Revenue to the universities. I think this is a huge challenge in universities. It brings about very many issues. The universities cannot operate fully when they do not have the resources to function. That is why you are getting dilapidated universities and delayed payments. For example, even at Makerere University currently, the academic chairperson has not yet been appointed. You are getting so – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Etuka Isaac and Hon. Paparu Lillian - you do not need to stand up. I have the lists here. I will be picking from all sides.

5.52

**MR ISAAC ETUKA (NRM, Upper Madi County, Madi-Okollo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I want to thank the Public Accounts Committee for the elaborate report. I have one issue on the funding of the public universities. When we looked at the funding gaps, we saw that most of the universities received the funds, which were available to them but some of these were diverted. However, there are some critical areas, which are not funded in these public universities yet we crave for practical education.

Muni University has been requesting for funds from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Ministry of Education and Sports over the years to develop their Madi-Okollo Faculty of Agriculture. They have over 1,000 hectares of land. However, because of the inadequate funding, you find that most of our students go for theoretical teaching yet they have the land. That is something that we need to do for all the public universities.

Mr Speaker, as a member of the committee, I am not going to debate the Committee on Education and Sports' report. However, as you have given me an opportunity, I am just going to lay some documents about the poor infrastructure of the schools in Upper Madi County.

I am laying a letter, which was signed by Ms Nawe Molly Kamukama, a directive to the Ministry of Education and Sports to construct classrooms in Katiyi and Eteleva Primary Schools. I beg to lay.

In July 2020, a letter signed by Dr Kenneth Omona requesting for construction of schools in Upper Madi is still – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Why didn't you raise them in the committee since you are a member? Just conclude but they seem to be very many.

**MR ETUKA:** They are not very many. These are all letters from the State House and the Ministry of Education and Sports where they showed concern over the infrastructure.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. They are all captured now. We have captured them that way.

**MR ETUKA:** Thank you very much. I beg to lay. I want to end by saying that – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Paparu?

5.55

**MS LILLIAN PAPARU (NRM, Woman Representative, Arua):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank the committee for their report. The issue of the percentage of staff in the universities is truly worrying. However, there is one that we need to pay attention to.

When universities are established, they are established for a specific background. For example, Makerere was for science and technology. Looking at Muni, they were looking at agriculture. One thing I see is that these universities start introducing so many courses within a short period of time. As such, you find that in one course, maybe people are still in year one and year two and two or three courses are starting.

It is the National Council for Higher Education that gives these universities permission to start those courses. I know they liaise with the Ministry of Education and Sports but, do they liaise with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development? The more courses they have, when the students of the earlier courses reach the final years, the numbers increase and the number of lecturers remains the same. Then, we need new lecturers for the new courses.

We need to take notice of the above. For example, for Muni University, we knew it was nursing and agriculture but now they have all the courses that you can have in other universities. Let us balance that.

On the issue of the 260 acres of land at Kabanyoro, I would like to know whether it is titled. The committee was like, it is there with people encroaching. This is Government land; it is university land. Is it titled? If it is titled, then there are structures or means to make sure that people vacate this land.

One thing the committee did not mention – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Minister of Education and Sports, if I could again lend my advice on the issue



of new courses when I was still on the Quality Assurance Committee of Makerere University, we put a moratorium on those new courses. We first set standards and there were majorly two boxes to tick:

1. Do you have teaching staff? This is because the Government has not given you more money on the Wage Bill to recruit;
2. Do you have teaching space?

Therefore, if you do not have teaching staff and you do not have teaching space, you should first get clearance from the Government to give you money to facilitate the teaching of this course.

Otherwise, you are going to introduce a course and start putting the university in arrears. These are standards you can look into and give guidance. You will answer us at the end.

Dr Keefa, Hon. Museveni, Dr Isingoma, Hon. Gorreth Namugga and Hon. Linos.

5.59

**DR KEEFA KIWANUKA (NRM, Kiboga East County, Kiboga):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank my honourable colleagues, Hon. Muwanga and your committee. You are doing an excellent job. Thank you very much. *(Applause)* It is an excellent report; well represented, very informative, easy to read and things are very well illustrated. What is being presented is the heart of what we are here for; to see how things are going on, on behalf of the people we represent.

Mr Speaker, I regret that some years back, we passed omnibus reports without Parliament considering them. I hope with the information we are getting now, we can resolve that, that will not happen again.

Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi, having said that, I find it unfortunate that you are talking about these people diverting money but you are not telling us what their explanation was. Why did they divert it? It is the tradition that when a report is presented, state your findings together with what was said and we start to assess whether it is convincing or not.

As a previous lecturer, I did some part-time lecturing at Makerere University and for many years, I also lectured at Uganda Management Institute. I would like to assure you - with what has been presented regarding underfunding and shortage of lecturers - that probably there is a problem - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You used a lot of time appreciating - which was not part of the report. Let me lend you one minute because you are very generous.

**DR KEEFA KIWANUKA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Ministry of Education and Sports has done a lot of work to improve the quality of higher education. This has been given to the National Council of Higher Education. Before you start the course, they do the assessment. One of the things they assess is whether you have the necessary teaching staff.

That is why you find that where they have the core staff, they have several other part-time staff. That is why people like us, sometimes, are used as lecturers even when we are not, because of your qualifications.

They also look at infrastructure. When they are finally doing examinations, there is what we call external examination, so it does not entirely rely on the university and what they are doing. It is externally examined. That is the reassurance that with accreditation, we are getting good quality, despite the challenges that we are facing. If you do not have these ingredients, the degree can be recalled at any point. Mr Speaker, let me stop there. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Keefa, you raised an issue about our own Parliament passing reports omnibus, thus indicting the House with the way you raised it. However, you must know why it was done that way. The committees must process these reports so that Parliament pronounces itself on the reports and then we demand treasury memoranda. If you do not get treasury memoranda - if you do not adopt them here - then no action is going to be taken.

Treasury memorandum is an action-taken report on the recommendations of the Auditor-General and the House. If a committee does not process these reports - we used to have reports of five/six years lying idle and accounting officers would not mind. They would say, "No, Parliament has received a report, it will be there for 10 years and I will be retiring. I do not care".

Therefore, we said that the committees should prioritise the entities they feel are very critical and produce reports quickly. Every report produced by the committee must come on the Floor. We cannot make that pronouncement before receiving a report of the committee here.

Then those that are not adopted - we adopt the Auditor-General's recommendations and demand action to be taken on them because the committee is not doing a fresh audit. It helps in terms of recommendations being acted upon. I just wanted that to be clear.

Hon. Museveni, who is not Yoweri.

6.04

**MR WILLIAM MUSEVENI (Independent, Buwekula South County, Mubende):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank the committee for this great report. I am concerned about the levels of recruitment in these universities because this puts our quality of education in balance.

For instance, Makerere University is above 50 per cent, but others are as low as 18 per cent. Makerere University cannot handle the current number of people going for higher education. This House should plan and budget for recruitment in all universities.

Another thing that bothered me is when an item is banned but is included in the budget, funded, and then the money is swept back. Do we have planners in this country? What kind of planning is that?

There are some universities that have part-timers who are not paid, and yet the money is diverted to other items that are not known.

Committee chairperson, this is our concern. It would have been better if I had got information on where this money was being diverted to and which activities were done. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Isingoma and then Hon. Kalule.

6.06

**MR PATRICK ISINGOMA-MWESIGWA (Independent, Hoima East Division, Hoima City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would also like to thank both committees for the good reports raised. I will focus on the situation of education in West Nile. The situation of primary schools in some of the West Nile districts is very bad. The state of the schools there is despicable.

Recently, we went on an oversight trip with the Committee on Local Government and Public Service and we visited Terego and Madi-Okollo. I am seeing some of the MPs here. In one of the schools in Terego - I remember it was called Obivu Community -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, are you a Member of the committee?

**MR ISINGOMA-MWESIGWA:** No.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Did you tag along?

**MR ISINGOMA-MWESIGWA:** We went with the Committee of Local Government and Public Service. In Terego, we visited Obivu Community Primary School and we found that the whole school was operating from a grass-thatched mud-and-wattle church. The classrooms were identified through groups in the corners: P.7 was a group in a corner; P.1 was a group in a corner; P.3 - the whole school was operating from a single grass-thatched church. This was very bad.

Mr Speaker, we were not surprised to find that Terego and Madi-Okollo were some of the worst-performing districts in the last Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE). Among the last performing districts, Terego and Madi-Okollo are there. The MPs are here and they can attest.

They are competing with - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Namugga?

6.08

**MS GORRETH NAMUGGA (NUP, Mawogola County South, Ssembabule):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am debating the report of the Committee on Education and Sports, not PAC, because I am a member of PAC.

When you look at the issue that we have, for example, the quality of the structures that are constructed, some of these issues come up because of delays in contracting.

I want this House to note that we have issues with the Office of the Solicitor-General; they delay to clear contracts. When we interacted with them on the Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government), it was indicated that they take three to four months to clear a contract. When it is cleared, it takes time for that contract to reach the recipient. Therefore, we should look into issues of the Auditor-General in regard to clearance. This is the time we should look at the number of -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Auditor-General or Solicitor-General?

**MS NAMUGGA:** Solicitor-General.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay.

**MS NAMUGGA:** Mr Speaker, as Parliament, we should get interested in the issue of the number of schools that we have in the country. We have schools that do not qualify to be Government schools. You find a school that has four classrooms, from Primary One to Primary Four, but it has teachers and a head teacher. Why don't we take inventory of the schools we have in this country? We close some of these schools. The students study under trees and some have no pupils, but you are looking at the quantity or number of schools that we have; we should take an inventory.

She says that she has the number, but I remember a time when she wrote to the districts, inquiring from them about the number of schools that they have. We should get interested, if we are to improve the quality of education.

Mr Speaker, we have schools that have no libraries. You find computers and books packed in one room. We should look into those issues if we are to improve the quality of education.

The last one is the issue of teachers. I have Mateete Comprehensive School with 1,400 teachers, but it only - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us have Hon. Midius and Hon. Linos.

6.10

**MS MIDIUS NATUKUNDA (NRM, Woman Representative, Rukungiri):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As most of us -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It was students, not teachers.

**MS NAMUGGA:** The 1,400 was the number of students, not teachers.

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

**MS NATUKUNDA:** Mr Speaker, as most of us are worried about the lack of teaching space and inadequate staffing in the institutions, I can see that most of the institutions have now adopted e-learning, where students are now learning online. However, there is also lack of funding for e-learning equipment such as computers.

My colleague has talked about computers being packed in one room. I am not sure about that because I know most of the institutions lack computers and other e-learning materials to enable the students to learn or for the lecturers to teach these students.

If we are looking at funding, can we find a way to increase funding for computers and all this equipment so that we can solve the problem of congestion in these learning institutions? For

example, in Makerere University Business School (MUBS) and Makerere University, you find a lecture room that has about 300 to 500 students. If we can give the learning equipment, I think we can solve this issue. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Linos?

6.11

**MR LINOS NGOMPEK (NRM, Kibanda North County, Kiryandongo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I thank the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Government for opening up space for public universities to give employment to Ugandans and also to facilitate our children to get better skills.

I would like to commend the committee. We are talking about issues of public funds. The committee chairperson informed us that they would find Shs 35 billion or 50 billion diverted.

I recommend that this report be handed over to the Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID) for further management so that the Government and its investigative apparatus can engage those who they suspect to have swindled the money. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us have Hon. Aza, Hon. Katali, Hon. Taaka and Hon. Aisha Kabanda.

6.12

**MR TOM ALERO (NRM, West Moyo County, Moyo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I also thank the committee.

Mr Speaker, arising from the National Teachers' Policy of 2018, over 20 Primary Teachers' Colleges (PTCs) were phased out and by 2022, admissions were stopped in those phased-out PTCs. As a result, PTCs were repurposed and some universities expressed interest in having them as branches of degree-awarding centres – in education, agriculture, and so on.

Muni University of Technoscience, through the Ministry of Education and Sports, had expressed interest in repurposing Erepi PTC

in the Moyo District as a degree-awarding college.

It would, therefore, be very good if Muni University is equipped and given more financial resources for recruiting more lecturers and kick-starting Erepi Muni University Branch in Moyo District.

Lastly, in Moyo District, Moyo Secondary School, being one of the traditional schools, has a dilapidated science laboratory. We would be very happy if the ministry could allocate resources to have a brand new laboratory constructed for that traditional school in Moyo District. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Loy Katali?

6.14

**MS LOY KATALI (NRM, Woman Representative, Jinja):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I thank the committee chairperson and the members for the detailed report.

I will start with the chairperson's comment, saying they work without approved work plans. How do they do it, yet you cost the plan in budgeting? Maybe that is why they have problems with their figures and are having reallocations.

Mr Speaker, it is a habit for Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to allocate money to non-priority areas and they leave out the priority areas, such that they have lots of money to play around with. That is why we have reallocations here and there without approval.

In the case of Makerere, they talked about paying someone Shs 127 million, yet the person was not working. How do they do it? You pay the first, second, and third months – and maybe for a year – without noticing that this person is missing or is not supposed to be on this payroll. There is a problem somewhere and we need to handle this immediately.

Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, there is the issue of domestic arrears, not only in these universities but everywhere. The Government needs to make it her desire to ensure that domestic arrears are paid. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Taaka?

6.15

**MS AGNES TAAKA (NRM, Woman Representative, Bugiri):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. I would like to thank the committee for the good report.

I would like to focus on the issue that Lira has only four students, who are admitted to Lira University on Government sponsorship and that a good number of those admitted privately in most universities fail to register - *(Interjection)* - Hon. Ssewungu, please, let me address the Speaker.

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

**MS TAAKA:** Mr Speaker, my observation is that the majority of students who benefit from Government sponsorship are those who come from these good schools and private schools where parents can pay their school fees throughout. I feel that those parents are still able to pay at university. I feel that those parents are still able to pay at university. I would like to urge the Government to review the policy on Government sponsorship such that the students who are admitted are those from poor families so that we increase the number of children from poor families who access university education.

Mr Speaker, the other is about the inefficiencies in the universities. They have a lot of inefficiencies but at least they are established. I am, therefore, wondering why, as Busoga, when is Busoga University - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Just conclude in one minute.

**MS TAAKA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I conclude, we need to come out and denounce this issue of corruption in this country. Whatever is in that report - we are even seeing that the Auditor-General's Office has issues. Who is now going to audit the Auditor-General?

Everybody is complaining and corruption is now everywhere. Can we really dedicate maybe a day or a week and come out as leaders to denounce this corruption so that we start afresh in Uganda and not deny Ugandans services because of corruption? I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Aisha Kabanda, followed by Hon. Katabaazi.

6.18

**MS AISHA KABANDA (NUP, Woman Representative, Butambala):** Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I join colleagues in applauding the PAC committee for the report. I want to start with where the honourable colleague ended. Can we set a standard, maybe we say for the report to be taken as credible, the Auditor-General's report should at least be 50 per cent?

However, how can you go and audit less than 20 per cent and you want to give an overview of the utilisation of funds in a particular organisation? We need to set a ceiling.

Most importantly, on the issue of teacher-student ratio, I do not know whether we are aware that students of Mbarara University of Science and Technology are on strike - a particular faculty; the Faculty of Computing and Informatics - on grounds of learning space? They are alleging that for four years, there is a building that was completed but students are forced to study from a library. Can you imagine university students are studying from a library and a building was completed and it is not being handed over to the Government?

The students allege that the Government of - I do not know whether it is the China Government - the constructors, still demand money from us for us to utilise the building.

Can the minister comment on that and have our students go back to school?

Lastly, about the Students' Loan Scheme, I have learned that the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) was excluded from the students' loan facility. My child went to IUIU and had a medical course there when I was still struggling. We looked for that facility and they said IUIU was excluded because their fees are far too high. I wonder, would the Government just exclude people like that or they would guide on a fee structure? If the fee structure is not accommodative, would - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Point noted, honourable. Yes, Hon. Katabaazi, followed by Hon. Kabanda.

6.20

**MR FRANCIS KATABAAZI (NUP, Kalungu East County, Kalungu):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this chance. I think this system is a very good one because it gives everyone a chance to say something.

For any country to develop, the education system has to be thorough. When I observe what is happening today - those days when we were young, we used to have school supervisors. Whenever they could visit, all the teachers would be on tension. I think nowadays, they already plan. I think there is no supervision done. If there is any supervision being done, then all Government schools would be closed because most of them do not have the qualities to remain open. Many people will agree and it is not only in Kalungu, but across the entire country.

On the other issue of the seed schools being constructed, I am on the Committee on National Economy where we approve loans. When we go and visit these seed schools that are constructed, we find that the work is normally of poor quality, no value for money yet the contractors are normally untouchable. Whether it is somebody commissioning, they will have no answer. You find a new school being commissioned actually looking old.

Then the other one, for the schools that have existed and that were constructed sometime back, including universities like - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Kabanda, followed by Hon. Leku, Hon. Oloru Mourine, Hon. Charles Ayume and Hon. Pauline Kyaka.

6.23

**MR DAVID KABANDA (NRM, Kasambya County, Mubende):** Thank you, Mr Speaker and I want to thank Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi together with the committee for the very good report. However, I want to agree with Hon. Linos Ngompek and implore Members.

Mr Speaker, you remember the Hon. Mpaka's report on cooperatives. When it was presented before this House, the Presiding Officer then suggested that the report be forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID), Inspectorate General of Government (IGG) and the Anti-Corruption Unit.

When you read this report, it has many issues mostly to do with corruption where a lot of money has been diverted. I know these people outside there are laughing at some of us: "What will they do? They are just debating and nothing will happen." This is what has been happening.

I want to request you, Mr Speaker, if this august House can allow this committee report to also be forwarded to CID so that, as it did to some of our colleagues who spent months in Luzira Maximum Security Prison - We cannot decide to send our own to Luzira and leave these people because these are the thieves. Let us fight corruption within and outside. The thieves should not be only in this - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, procedure -

**MR SSEWUNGU:** I am raising a procedural matter. Two Members have raised the same, about sending reports to CID. Mr Speaker, we must be careful with what we call separation of powers. When we present reports here, they

are sent to the Government to carry out the recommendations we make. The Government carries out all that and later on, they give us the Treasury Memoranda to confirm what they have done. That is why, Mr Speaker, whenever we are going to a new financial year, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development must present the names of the new Permanent Secretaries here, based on the reports from the Public Accounts Committee and other committees of Parliament.

Therefore, would it not be procedurally right, Mr Speaker, to guide this House? We might talk about sending people to CID but our Rules of Procedure do not provide for that. That is why the Leader of Government Business is here to carry out recommendations made by this House and then they report back to Parliament. If they want to carry them to the Police to arrest them, that comes after but our recommendations go to Government. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Ssewungu, recommending for either CID or IGG is part of what the Government would report on. CID and IGG are part of the Government. If they were outside the Government, we would recommend and not direct - we do not have that power. The Government will evaluate and say, "It should go to IGG" yet we are not saying "prosecute" - because the report says, "The IGG should investigate further."

Colleagues, I think the IGG maybe would be - because the IGG reports to Parliament and can prosecute too. Yes, Hon. Ekanya.

6.27

**MR GEOFFREY EKANYA (FDC, Tororo North County, Tororo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Auditor-General's report is a report of the Government. In fact, in other countries like Tanzania, Nigeria and South Africa, they do not even wait for the report to come to Parliament. Even here in Uganda, under the Public Finance Management Act, once you commit a crime, the Government is required to take action and just report to Parliament.

Four years ago, we had a backlog and we discovered that people stealing Government money were hiding because they knew the report had to be debated - then there is a constitutional interpretation because we provided for it under the Public Finance Management Act - if you steal money at any time, whether the Auditor-General has audited it or not, it is theft.

Therefore, it is the work of the Government Chief Whip to ensure that as soon as the report comes out, it is presented to the Speaker and the Government takes action while the Public Accounts Committee is also doing - because some of these thieves die. *(Laughter)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable colleagues, let us first get the views and then we shall have a convergence of minds. Thank you. Hon. Kabanda had finished and after her, I had called Hon. Leku.

6.28

**MR JOEL LEKU (NRM, Terego West County, Terego):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will interest myself in the report of the Committee on Education and Sports. Thank you, my brother, from Hoima for informing the House about the schools in Terego.

I come from Terego where you will find over 500 pupils in one class, pupils studying under trees and the schools are in dire need of renovation; these are traditional schools. The secondary schools of Ombatini, Aripea, and Aria need renovation.

One of the hardest things to discuss in this House is education because Members themselves own schools and so, it becomes very difficult to come up with policies that can work for this country; even the Minister himself.

It makes it very difficult to debate issues that can bring government schools to a level where they can compete favourably. The traditional schools of this country are no longer attractive to the parents and the students and are, therefore, abandoned.

You will find a Government secondary school having less than 80 students. I happened to go up to Sir Samuel Baker; the school is abandoned in the bush, and has no library; it has nothing. It is totally abandoned.

One, what is the strategy of the Ministry of Education and Sports to renovate all the secondary schools in the country?

Two, the Committee on Education and Sports also talked about a school - (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, Hon. Mourine Osoru.

6.30

**MS MOURINE OSORU (NRM, Woman Representative, Arua City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the chairperson of the committee for that report.

However, I am interested in the diversion of the money. The question would be, "Did the accounting officers seek authorisation from the responsible authority for the diversion of money?" If not, then I think they are inviting corruption.

Secondly, on the issue of public universities, like Muni, most of them are challenged with inadequate funds for capital projects.

At Muni University, the whole university, as big as it is, there are no sports facilities to carry on with extracurricular activities. That means that the energy of the young people will come to waste and there is no nearby pitch for them to train on.

Thirdly, we have projects that have been ongoing for the last five financial years that have not come to an end because there is no funding. I request this august House that we make it a priority to fund our public universities such that our learners can have a conducive environment.

Mr Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the Ministry of Education and Sports that Muni University has no multipurpose health and

science laboratory. Please, may we fund such that Muni University can have more students? Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Dr Ayume and then Hon. Pauline Kemirembe.

6.32

**DR CHARLES AYUME (NRM, Koboko Municipality, Koboko):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also join my colleagues in thanking the committee chairperson and I like to listen to his reports; quite detailed and eloquent.

He, however, punched holes in what seemed to be the competence of the Auditor-General and as a legislator, it worries me if the Parliament can doubt an Auditor-General's report because it is supposed to be the epitome, apex, and temple of accounting in this country.

Secondly, on the issue of public universities, it is also becoming a habit that every region wants a particular super-specialised university in their region yet of course, that comes with a cost.

What the chairman also should be telling us is that there might be a standard for the number of human resources that is required in a university but you find in an actual sense the university does not have the necessary faculties and the necessary need for that particular kind of staff.

Mr Speaker, as I conclude on the issue of the students' loan scheme, in Koboko last year, we were only able to have 10 students taken and that omnibus decision whereby all universities and regions should not be able to take students from regions to private - I do not see how a student from Koboko will make it to the government - private would be his only way out. The Woman Member of Parliament for Butambala raised the same issue that private universities have been excluded from courses of medicine, engineering and bachelors in dentistry - (*Member timed out.*)



6.34

**MS PAULINE KEMIREMBE (NRM, Woman Representative, Lyantonde):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the two chairpersons for their detailed reports. One, as the Committee on Public Accounts Committee - Central Government observed, there is financial mismanagement at Kyambogo University.

This is not only affecting the day-to-day running of the university but also affecting the students on private sponsorship in that there is poor financial record-keeping. Some students are failing to graduate, not because they fail examinations but because they are told that the university still demands them some money.

It has happened on several occasions where you go and find that even if these students have evidence that they paid, still they will say that the university does not have the records about their finances. I think a lot has to be done at Kyambogo University.

Concerning the Committee on Education and Sports, the report says that Aria Seed School has a challenge of teachers with a teacher-to-student ratio of 1 to 1,000 learners. This cuts across, right away from primary to university because we see that it is a challenge in both reports.

Ministry of Education and Sports, it is coming to three years without enrolment in Teachers' Training Colleges (TTCs) taking place. Primary schools are struggling; they have no teachers as well as secondary schools.

I do not know whether it is done intentionally to kill the education system in this country but we are bleeding within. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Linda Auma and Hon. Santa Alum

6.36

**MS LINDA AUMA (Independent, Woman Representative, Lira):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I join my colleagues to appreciate the two committees.

I would like to say something about the report of the Committee on Education and Sports. In Lira District, I do not have an A-level school. There is only one in Erute South, that is Amach Complex School.

This is the third time I have been talking about this school; it has no library; it has no laboratory. We are in for a new curriculum that needs research, but our students cannot - I request the Ministry of Education and Sports that when they are allocating funds for the rehabilitation of all schools, they should balance.

I saw that in Lango, it was only Lira City with four schools, leaving the rest of the schools in the neighbouring districts. I request that in this coming financial year, please, consider the only A-level school we have in Lira District.

Secondly, there is a problem with hybrid contracts by ministries. These are contractors that will never listen to the engineer at the district or the education officer and they do whatever they want because they are not accountable to the district. That is why you are seeing these reports of cracked classrooms yet the Government is putting in a lot of money that can help the country for a long time. *(Applause)* They are shortening this.

I think the Government should mean what they call decentralisation, other than claiming decentralisation, yet every key project is already centralised. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Alum Santa and then Hon. Ekanya.

6.38

**MS SANTA ALUM (UPC, Woman Representative, Oyam):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Ben Franklin, one of the greatest thinkers in American history said, "Education is a great investment" meaning that if you invest in knowledge, it pays the best interest.

I thank the NRM Government for opening many schools but it should be noted that opening schools goes with investment. If we are to succeed, we have to deal with corruption squarely. If not, we are not going to see what

we are praising the NRM Government for; opening very many schools. Even during the UPC times, we did the same. However, for us, it was education for all the children of this country.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, I would like to talk about yesterday's presentation that was made by the Chairperson of the Committee on Education and Sports. He made mention of the lack of human resources and at the same time, taking money back to the Treasury.

Unfortunately, we do not have the Minister of Public Service here. If there is money for the districts and the districts are taking it back to the Treasury, why can't they recruit? Maybe, the Minister of Education and Sports can answer this.

Mr Speaker, what we are seeing in tertiary and university education just reflects what is happening in primary education. For example, in Oyam District, we have schools that are not coded. For example, Ocwa Primary School, Dokitolo Primary School, Barrio Primary School - honourable minister, when will these schools be coded?

Then, finally, on the PAC report, Shs 50 billion being unaccounted for - part-time lecturers are not paid for - *(Member timed out.)*

6.40

**MR GEOFFREY EKANYA (FDC, Tororo North County, Tororo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. You may need to look at the rules and see how we can engage the Auditor-General because the Auditor-General is an office of Parliament and their operations and procedures are guided by an Act, which we passed. Therefore, if they have a gap, how do we discuss it? It is like hitting a snake that is inside a glass; do you bring a big stick or you can use repellent? That is a matter that you may look at and guide the House on, Mr Speaker.

Secondly, the format of the audit done by the Auditor-General is also a matter that the Committee on PAC may need to discuss in relation to the budget that is availed. This is

because in audit, the Auditor-General uses private institutions, and sometimes they do sampling.

Concerning audit formats, when you are doing audits and also PAC is handling the report, you look at a number of instruments; you look at the Act established in that organisation, the budget of the institution, the procurement plan, the work plan and all those other tools. So, I think this is a matter that requires discussion with the chairperson PAC, the entire leadership and the Office of the Auditor-General. Nobody can speak for the Auditor-General apart from us who are here, because this is our institution.

Thirdly, there is the issue of universities. Mr Speaker, whenever we establish an institution, there is a certificate of financial implication that we always need to look at when we are evaluating the performance of these institutions. The certificate provides the source for at least three, four, or five years. However, sometimes, when we are evaluating and monitoring the institution, we do not look at those tools.

Finally, Mr Speaker, the Government has a policy that every subcounty should have a secondary school or a technical school. I have - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I had guided the Chairperson, PAC earlier on because he raised these issues with me and next week, I will be having a meeting between chairpersons of accountability committees and the Auditor-General. We are arranging that meeting so that we see how best we can work together. I request the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Government Chief Whip to join us in that meeting.

I have Hon. Enos, Hon. Nakut, Hon. Adriko and then Hon. Ameede. Honourable colleagues, you do not need to stand up; maybe, if you have another program you are rushing for. *(Laughter)* I have a list. I am picking from this side - I have seen Hon. Remigio Achia stand up several times; you are number 19 on the list. If you are standing up for the purpose of stretching, it is understandable.

Honourable colleagues, for those who have just entered, when these reports were presented, I asked all colleagues who were in and wanted to submit to write their names, and they have written. That is where I am reading from.

6.43

**MR ENOS ASIIMWE (NRM, Kabula County, Lyantonde):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the committees, the Chairperson, PAC, and your team, and the Chairperson, Committee on Education and Sports.

My issues mostly concern the report on education in the northern region, though there are two other issues I have picked, and one is on staff accommodation. It is a general issue. It is actually across the board, even in our areas. We still have a challenge of staff accommodation.

Nonetheless, this goes to the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. We have a unit of Public-Private partnerships (PPP). Why don't we look at the option of cooperating with the private sector? This is because most of these schools have land and so, we can partner with the private sector to build staff houses and then we see how best we can resolve this issue. I call upon the Government, and specifically the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, to look into this issue.

The other issue is our policy on one secondary school per subcounty and one primary school per parish. For us, who are in the cattle corridor, we are finding it very hard - you find families that are very far from the nearest secondary school. Somebody has to travel 10 kilometers to get to the nearest secondary school; a young child has to travel several kilometres to the nearest primary school.

My call to the Government again and the minister is to see how they can review this policy, possibly to consider population distribution. Even areas, which are densely populated are equally finding a problem of so many kids to be accommodated by one school in a parish, compared to even us who are in the sparsely populated areas. Those are the issues I wanted to raise, Mr Speaker.

I also wanted to emphasise the issue of - *(Member timed out.)*

6.45

**MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak):** Mr Speaker, I have three issues to raise. The first two speak to the PAC report and the last one to the committee report. I hope I manage in time.

One is about the unaccredited or un-reviewed programmes. It is a shame that this continues to come as an issue. Now that it is in the Auditor General's report, it is really bad that the National Council for Higher Education and some university councils do not review it; they delay. It cuts across all universities, as we have heard in the report. This points to the matter of quality which affects the employability of our graduates.

It is my appeal or my desire that we review further what the challenge is with the National Council for Higher Education, to find a permanent solution to the issue of accreditation of programmes being taught in these universities.

The second one is about the university land. It cuts across the universities, as read by the committee chairperson. I do not think opening boundaries is at the same cost as putting up a wall fence. When you open boundaries, you are making a statement that the land is yours.

The committee did not explain what to do with the encroachers, yet it is an action that is required. This is not a matter of land for public universities only. All land, where the Government sits in this country, is being encroached on and it appears no one is taking any action.

Mr Speaker, if it pleases you, you could task one ministry, maybe the ministry for lands, to give us a statement on the issue of land. Land is such a big asset for the Government. It is material in the sense of audit and accounting, so we cannot allow it to be encroached on just like that.

The third issue is – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let me allow you, since you were our secretary for this side. She was very fair; she was the secretary – where Hon. Gilbert Olanya put himself first, after coming late –*(Laughter)*– Hon. Nakut put herself at number 13. She put others first. So, I will donate two minutes to you. *(Applause)*

**MS NAKUT:** Much obliged, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the offer.

I would like to thank the Committee on Education and Sports for getting for us a detailed report. In fact, this is the first time I am seeing a committee report that even has pictures of structures that are cracked. They really went into detail. Even though the scope was too big for them, they went into detail in the areas they went to.

I only disagree with their sampling. The committee sampled four schools in Abim District, to represent the entire Karamoja. This is not a representative sample. When I was a student of research, I was told that a representative sample should be a minimum of 25 per cent.

These four schools in Abim do not represent Karamoja. It does not capture the fact that we have many parishes and even subcounties that have no school of any kind. In my district alone, we have 21 parishes that have no school. Our children walk 30 kilometres to a nearby school. So, this report is not representative.

Mr Speaker, if it pleases you, let the Committee on Education and Sports do correction on the sampling for Karamoja and they report to this House. I submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us have Hon. Adriko, Hon. Ameede and Hon. Boniface Okot.

6.49

**MR YOVAN ADRIKO (NRM, Vurra County, Arua):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this very good opportunity. I would

like to join my colleagues to congratulate this committee. Education is key for everything; that is why we are here.

Mr Speaker, for sure, I am very happy today. As the Government, we have sent a lot of money to universities, but if you go to the ground, you will see there are a lot of problems. There is no value for money at the universities, yet those people are always complaining that they do not receive money from the Government. If you take note, we have sent a lot of money.

My only advice to our ministry is that they must be on the ground. Monitoring and supervision is very important. If you monitor the programmes and the institutions, these people will make sure they give good reports.

I move around many schools and universities; you cannot get any signatures from the top people because they are always not on the ground. This means there is a very big gap between the Central Government and the universities. This is also in primary and even secondary schools.

At the secondary school level, I have Vurra Secondary School, Anyavu Secondary School, Logiri Girls Secondary School, Okufura Secondary School and Arivu Secondary School. Mr Speaker, if you go there, you will notice that there is no proper clean water source at those schools. I appeal to the Government to go on the ground.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us have Hon. Ameede and Hon. Boniface Okot.

6.51

**MS AGNES AMEEDE (Independent, Woman Representative, Butebo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to talk, generally, about one thing: the state of buildings in the universities, especially Makerere University halls of residence, is appalling. This is unacceptable.

I visited the university hostel a few months ago but I could not believe it. Not even paint! I think this is total negligence. This issue may call for

a policy shift. In international universities, the university hostels are the most expensive and, indeed, this can be replicated here.

Students on the Government scholarships are entitled to university accommodation, but I am told most of them opt to stay in hostels. Why don't you renovate these hostels, for the purposes of protecting the image of the university and the safety of the students, so that those who can afford can pay for this accommodation, other than leaving the structures of the university in such a sorry state? I beg to submit.

6.53

**MR BONIFACE OKOT (NRM, Youth Representative, Northern):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the two committees for their reports.

During every budgeting cycle, this House grapples with securing revenue to support our enormous budgetary need. There is a general outlook that the education sector is largely consumptive. I want to state on record that one of the lowest-hanging fruits or sources of revenue and foreign exchange for our country is our education and educational tourism. Uganda initially had a cooperative advantage on, over the rest of Africa.

Mr Speaker, as a matter of fact, Uganda's education sector was known for producing very prominent figures across Africa. At the time I was at school, the influx of students from the rest of Africa to Uganda was enormous because of the quality of our education, especially at the university level. This educational tourism was generating a lot of money for our economy.

Unfortunately, these trends have largely changed, including when you look at the global ranking of Makerere, which is our mightiest university. In 2016, Makerere ranked fourth in Africa. In 2020, we ranked 14<sup>th</sup> and we are now 17<sup>th</sup> in Africa. We are not even the best university in East Africa.

Mr Speaker, apart – *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us have Hon. Okupa and then Hon. Ngoya, Hon. Ababiku, Hon. Apio and Hon. Betty Aol.

6.55

**MR ELIJAH OKUPA (Independent, Kasilo County, Serere):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. We passed money here for the recruiting of teachers in the grant-aided seed schools, but to date, despite the Education Service Commission conducting interviews, the teachers have not been deployed. May we know why that is so?

Two, on the issue of universities, my belief is that when they talk about these regional universities, it is just by location. Any Ugandan should be able to go to any of them regardless of the location. That is how we shall be able to build nationalism in this country. However, people think that when a university is in Soroti, it is only meant for Iteso. No! It is only based in Soroti, but any person should be able to go and study from there.

I think that mentality should change. The location of a university does not mean you must have a quota. You should be able to go anywhere in this world. Some of us who can crisscross and study across this country feel so comfortable and free because from Teso to Kabarole to Mbarara to Kampala, you feel all round; this mentality of taking universities as a local government should stop.

Mr Speaker, on the issue of the Student Loan Scheme, I want you to give me time next week. I have a list here of students who have benefited from the loan scheme. How can Moroto District have only one student being given? Then you find a district like Tororo has been given 47. How? Karenga, one. Is that a quota? When you look at Butambala, six. Look at Serere, it has eight. But you find some districts have 75. Ntungamo has 65. How can this be a loan scheme that is based on a quota system?

Mr Speaker, next week, give me time. I will read the list to the House, district by district, and you see whether this is really a quota system. This is unfair and these were the matters that were raised. You find a district like Busia has

33. That is where the Executive Director of the Student Loan Scheme comes from. We raised that matter in the COSASE report, I thought it would be taken but they have repeated it this year. This cannot be accepted.

The Committee on Education and Sports must take this thing seriously. Mr Speaker, next week, give me ample time I want to present a detailed report, district by district, and you see. Even where you find they have given Moroto one, what is the course they have given? Science Education, Compound Engineering – *(Laughter)* - How? This must stop.

I have a case of a student who was admitted to Mbarara University of Science and Technology for Electronic Engineering. He got 16 points, but he was not picked. Instead, they gave someone something which you cannot understand.

Mr Speaker, those are the comments I wanted to make regarding this. But next week, give me the time. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Now, Hon. Okupa, we should not disturb you. The minister should give us a list. Instead of starting to say, “Where did Hon. Okupa get this from?” I was also concerned; I saw, really, the poorest student from my area, deep - colleagues who came to my area, you saw - getting marks and being admitted for engineering - they did not give him. Then I said, this is the poorest of the poorest who can get because this course would transform their family. He appealed, but again, they did not give. Now, you ask yourself, who is getting? Do I need to go lobbying? Really? Do we need to go lobbying for sure? Maybe we should start lobbying also for that.

Honourable minister, kindly share this report tomorrow because you have it. Share it with the Clerk tomorrow so that it can be uploaded for Members to access. Then, let the Committee on Education and Sports study the matter and report to the House, instead of disturbing Hon. Okupa, and then we can debate the report of the committee. That would be better.

Yes, Hon. Ngoya?

6.59

**MR JOHN BOSCO NGOYA (NRM, Bokora County, Napak):** Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I want to join my colleagues to thank the Committee of PAC for the report well-written in terms of how to improve university education.

I had the privilege of working with Kyambogo University for nine years, rising through the ranks from a tutorial fellow to an assistant lecturer.

What the committee pointed out is actually correct on this. I think our priorities are wrong. The teaching profession is the bedrock of all professions. Once you do not prioritise it, you will not get the products you need, and, that is what we are actually grappling with.

When you struggle to see lecturers going to teach in other universities, it is because there is no priority in giving allowances. How can you teach in a university in Kampala, and rely on a salary yet you are in class from about six o'clock to about 10 or 11 in the night? And then we say, “We are giving them the best.” I think we are giving them a raw deal.

That is one thing that I would want to say, and I really agree with the recommendation of the committee, that the accounting officer should appropriately budget for, but also prioritise teaching allowances, and liaise with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to ensure their timely payment.

When you go to the university, you see the education. You are talking about 30 per cent of the teaching staff on the payroll, and relying on the part-time teachers. For classes that go to about 500 students, what are we talking about? I really think we need to prioritise the kind of attention, the thinking, the planning, and the resourcing of the teaching profession. Thank you so much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Hon. Ababiku, Hon. Janepher Mbabazi.

7.01

**MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani):** Thank you so much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity.

Why is West Nile having grass-thatched schools? It is because the Government is not implementing the policy as stipulated. We have parishes that do not have Government-aided schools. So, community members put their heads together to make sure that their children are engaged. Therefore, the Government should do its work.

Two, Mr Speaker, I am concerned about the issue of Muni University. The non-completion of one of the blocks attributed to COVID-19, I disagree with it. This Government directed that construction activities continue when there was so much COVID-19. So, can we get to know why our block is not being completed?

Mr Speaker, this country is grappling with the issue of unemployment, and here we are, discussing the non-placement of workers where human resources are needed. My understanding is that we have adequate opportunities to provide employment. Fairly adequate to provide employment but here we are not employing people.

This has implications on the quality of teaching, and the quality of education, but also demotivating those who went to school. What difference are you going to make? And more so, this impacts our learners - (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Hon. Jenipher Mbabazi?

7.03

**MS JANEPHER MBABAZI (NRM, Woman Representative, Kagadi):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the committee chairpersons for the good reports.

Mr Speaker, I thank this Government for the good policies in place. Among them, are the seed schools in every sub-county. Whereas we are aware that we are supposed to provide accessible and feasible education as much as

possible, several schools have been constructed in this country, though with fewer staff, with laboratories that are not equipped and the schools not equipped.

Mr Speaker, we have so many sub-counties that do not have schools, yet we have a policy in place. I come from Kagadi, which comprises 35 sub-counties. Out of these, only 12 have the seed schools.

Mr Speaker, the good thing, in the House, we have the minister in charge of planning; honourable minister, is it really tenable to implement this policy as planned?

The other observation is that I would like to implore the Ministry of Local Government and Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to study this carefully and rethink the policy of creating new administrative units, vis-a-vis the implementation of the policy on seed schools - (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Dr Eunice Apio, Hon. Betty Aol-

7.06

**DR EUNICE APIO (UPC, Oyam County North, Oyam):** I thank the committees for their work as well but also note that the quality assurance aspect of our education system lies largely with the inspectorate of schools. That is the mechanism, to the best of my understanding, that makes all of the infrastructural, systemic, and whatever issues that we are talking about quite meaningful for the beneficiaries and to the rest of us yet the report is completely silent on the issue of inspectorates; the report on education in Northern Uganda.

In my district, and I know that this is probably the same as the rest of the country, which has about 109 Primary Schools, 184 private schools, 10 Secondary Schools, and three Tertiary schools. We have almost negligible infrastructure invested in this particular area that I am talking about- the inspectorate of schools. For example, we have only three inspectors of schools, Shs 14 million per term to round up all the 300 Schools, and zero motorcycles, they tell me they use boda boda sometimes, no vehicle.

I am wondering, therefore, if the Inspectorate of Schools is not at all important in the grand scheme of things. I submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Betty Aol?

7.07

**MS BETTY AOL (FDC, Woman Representative, Gulu City):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As a teacher by profession, sometimes I decry the situation of our education in Uganda. One, we have emphasised so much about the infrastructural areas of education but left out the software, which is also suffering. On the infrastructure, we need to be on the ground to monitor. I want to tell you the truth, that for all of this year, I have not seen the Cabinet Minister of Education and Sports in this House.

Do you remember when I talked about GROW, how Hon. Betty Amongi ran into the House? We need to take an interest in people. When you are given a ministry, you should have a lot of interest in that ministry. Otherwise, if there is no interest in the ministry, it suffers. Education is the foundation of development in any country.

When we leave out education, then we are destroying everything. We must interest the Cabinet Minister, not only to disturb the Minister of State, but the Cabinet Minister should also appear here, go to the office, and be on the ground to see the situation of education. Education is suffering very much- even the teachers, for example, we have science in health - the clinical officer - (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable colleagues, if you can remember very well this issue kept coming up and I clarified it. We cannot run away from the fact that the Minister for Education and Sports is at the same time a First Lady. Please, I wish one of you is told to resign. I know how you usually react. Taking away something small causes war and - but, she contacted us as the leadership of the House and of course, we understand the protocols related to being near the President, and these protocols are not set by us.

She asked us for permission and said, "If you want me to attend then you know the issues involved." But I can tell you, the First Lady might be following this debate more than many Members out there because some of us who interact with her regularly, know that she follows Parliament regularly. That one I must put it on record because I am among the people she usually calls and explains some issues to do with the sector.

The day we feel we need her as a must, as the leadership, we shall ensure that we convey it to her and she will come. For now, she is not here because she refused to come but we granted her permission like many of you who are not here and we permit you. Hon. Kirumira, Hon. Annet Mugisha, Hon. Remigio Achia, Hon. Moses Ogwal Goli and the Leader of the Opposition (LOP).

7.11

**MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu South County, Luwero):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As a teacher by profession, the teaching and learning environment is significant in enabling curriculum and pedagogical practices. However, in our country, seemingly so, back in the days when I was at Makerere, I remember my economics classes were always full to capacity to the point that some of us would attend classes in the middle of the door or at the entrance of the lecture room.

That takes me back to how public institutions, universities and schools are accredited. I think Hon. Nakut spoke very well on the accreditation of public universities. How often are they checked upon? Do we do appraisals and site visits to establish whether they are still coherent with the requirements of offering particular courses because what we teach and how we teach is very significant for teaching and learning to take place?

The report talks about having six students in a space of one square metre. That cannot happen in a teaching and learning environment, it is criminal in the education sector. I call upon the National Council of Higher Education to continuously check on these public universities



and public schools. We may talk so much about accountability and the Attorney-General, but the first level of accountability should be done by the National Council of Higher Education because they hold the key to bringing these schools and universities- *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Annet Mugisha?

7.13

**MS ANNET KATUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Bushenyi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. As everyone has said, according to the policy, each subcounty should have a senior secondary school; we are repeating this for emphasis. Unfortunately, every time it is raised, they tell us that the resource envelope is limited, which is very unfortunate.

I am a member of the education committee, but I request you to allow me to inquire from the honourable minister.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, rules do not allow you to discuss your report. Go on to the report of PAC.

**MS KATUSIIME:** It is outside the report, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Report of PAC?

**MS KATUSIIME:** No, of education. It is outside but it is an inquiry.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Anything outside the report is not allowed, honourable. You must discuss only issues featuring in the report.

**MS KATUSIIME:** It is Education, Mr Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let me first guide you, honourable colleague. When you go to our rules, you will notice that they talk about the content of the speech. You go to Rules 72 to 73 on the content of the speech, and I will give you your time. Contents of a speech (1) *“A speech of a Member must have reference to the subject matter under discussion.”* We are

discussing reports, not general issues in the education sector. As a member of the education committee, you are limited to only issues outside that.

Rule 204(2) does not allow you to discuss your report. Go straight to the report of PAC, that is where you can contribute. Unfortunately, these are your rules, they are not mine so anything outside PAC, you cannot bring it unfortunately honourable. It is not part of the PAC report. I wanted to give you an opportunity if it is part of the PAC report. I wanted to give you an opportunity if it is part of it.

**MS KATUSIIME:** The issue is about corruption but it was not included in the report of PAC.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Then that is PAC. We are talking about accountability, so corruption is the right thing.

**MS KATUSIIME:** During our oversight visit to the northern region, we paid a courtesy call at Sir Samuel Baker Senior Secondary School –

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Then that is out, honourable member because we are discussing the universities.

**MS KATUSIIME:** But it is in a bad situation. It is - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am sorry, honourable colleagues. I have a difficult job here but the problem is that you are the ones who gave me rules that I must operate with. We must remain within those rules. Now, you are going into your site visit but rule 204 does not allow you, my sister, unfortunately.

7.16

**MR REMIGIO ACHIA (NRM, Pian County, Nabilatuk):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have done enough exercise this evening. I have just been thinking; what is the take-home from this Public Accounts Committee report?

Listening to what the report says - and I want to thank Hon. Kivumbi for this – I will definitely agree with Hon. Kabanda. We must forward this report to the relevant authorities that have other action points. The CIID should sanction the Inspector General of Government (IGG). We cannot just talk and then leave at this point. We must take action like we have done with a few other reports.

Number two, as a matter of policy, let the Minister of Education and Sports come out clearly that our young professors should not be retired at the age of 60 years. This is also in this report.

Lastly, there is a constituent college of Gulu University in Karamoja. Ten years ago, the President established Mount Moroto University and wrote a detailed note on what kind of university he wanted in Karamoja. He said that: this university must specialise in water resources management and must look at the issue of minerals because Karamoja has over 50 commercial and industrial minerals. You should be asking us where the minerals are.

We have also started on limestone. The limestone we have in Karamoja is said to be the quantity that can take Uganda 300 years. It is over 300 million metric tonnes and we have been relying on Hima with 23 million metric tonnes to handle this country. Why don't we put that national university – (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Conclude only that point.

**MR ACHIA:** Can't we make that university - we are not interested in development studies. Bring young people to Karamoja to study minerals, water resource management or livestock health.

Honourable minister, we want that university up and running. Mountains of the Moon University, which started three years ago, is now getting Shs 30 billion. In the last five years, we have given that constituent college only Shs 6 billion to build a faculty. How come we are being bypassed every day?

Hon. Aol said that if you do not give education to some people, you are just actually killing the whole region. We need education and not education just for the Karamojong children, but education for young people who are interested in geology or water resource management for the whole of Uganda, in order to unlock the potential that is in that part of Uganda. You should be begging us to help you develop this country, not us begging you to come and do things like that. (*Laughter*)

7.20

**MR MOSES OGWAL (NRM, Dokolo North County, Dokolo):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The first is on the policy related to primary schools. We have 44 parishes but about 18 schools only. My request is to at least add some more three, which are Ocheru, Ayira and Obwola.

On the policy related to the secondary seed schools, I request that we handle Adok Seed Secondary School. I am passionate about this because it was being handled by my late Member of Parliament and that was a key area she was following up. Please, handle it. I thank you for Bata Seed Secondary School, which I thank Hon. Obua for opening but it has no electricity. Therefore, I really thank you for that argument about having electricity in those areas.

Lastly, I come to the issues of the university. I have seen the cost of about Shs 1 trillion. That is what they have said yet the gap between pupils and teachers is big. That shows you that we must have some innovative ways of handling things.

The first is: we need to use digitalisation in training. Mr Speaker, sometimes some people think I am an agriculturalist but I have really trained myself in agriculture issues via YouTube. What is the competition we are going to find in this world of universities – (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition?

7.22

**MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu):** Mr Speaker, first of all, I thank you for giving us an extensive debate on education and basically PAC. I also thank the chairperson of the committee and the Members.

Let this be on record, Mr Speaker, there is no valid reason the First Lady will give for not coming to Parliament as a minister and attending committees of Parliament. Members of Parliament or chairpersons of committees cannot be summoned by a minister. It is null and void *ab initio*.

At one time, we were invited to attend a meeting with the First Lady at Kololo as Members of Parliament of the Committee on Education and Sports, and we rejected this. As the Committee on Education and Sports, we agreed that we shall continue doing our work. The onus is on the Minister of Education and Sports failing to appear before the committee. Records will remain there.

Mr Speaker, the issue we should address seriously, and is factual, is that these universities came politically. How do we make them survive? We shall continue lamenting and crying but the products will come out and affect each and every one of us. We know what is in Makerere and Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST). There are challenges.

Some of these universities, like Soroti University, are diverting from the intention and course units that we had prepared for them, because they have to get students to study there. We have to go back and address these factors.

Mr Speaker, and honourable minister, the issue of recommendations of the committees are very pertinent. Let us look at why we have accounting officers who have godfathers - committees of Parliament make recommendations that these people should be sacked or are incriminated but they continue serving. We should not protect those people. They should leave office and be

arrested through our recommendations, the way the Kazindas were taken there and others.

Virements and mischarge should not be even appearing any further. Honourable minister, you know how we handled that. We used to work together when I was in PAC. Now, I am back there. These are areas that have directive procedures that must be followed to be carried out by an accounting officer - if you want to make a mischarge, you seek authority from the Accountant-General and then you proceed.

On page 25 of Hon. Muwanga's report, the issue of land - I do not know how you are going to direct - it will be within your discretion, Mr Speaker, whether you want to put a select committee. All these recommendations on land; getting land titles or demarcating and saving land for these institutions should be given first-hand attention. It can be either in the Committee on Education and Sports where I belong, give us time to go and carry out a status report on the land issue of institutions.

When it comes to municipalities and cities like Kampala, a lot of land is being taken over and the head teachers have nothing to say because they fear losing their jobs.

I thank the honourable minister. You look at the report by the committee of education. For the three months we gave you, you utilise them further to give us a formidable report based on this so that we solve the issue of having dilapidated institutions.

The chairperson of the Budget Committee is there. I went to that committee, as the Shadow Minister of Education - (*Member timed out.*)

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Conclude, LOP.

**MR SSEWUNGU:** I gave them my statistics on the schools in the Karamoja region and the required number of science and arts teachers. I gave them the figures. I said: "Let us look for something that can make these teachers feel happy." However, Karamoja, specifically, has challenges of children refusing to go to school and, instead, coming to Kampala. We should

put some money and prepare food for these children. It is possible.

Students in the Karamoja region wake up in the morning and peep. Once they see no smoke at school, they know there is no food to eat and so, some of them refuse to go to school. You just need a sack of maize flour and sugar and you give them something to eat at school, and they will continue to study.

Mr Speaker, I would like to conclude that all the reports given here cater for the teaching of our children. Let us make the learning environment better. There is nothing that attracts students to the school more than giving them a good learning environment – sports and music. The moment you have those; children will be at school.

Mr Speaker, as I conclude – I was a music teacher -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** But, how many times will you conclude? (*Laughter*)

**MR SSEWUNGU:** Mr Speaker, I am concluding. Hon. Rusoke employed me also – but she was winning. In music, there is what we call the training of a choir from zone level up to the National Theatre. You go on improving the motifs. By the time you come to the National Theatre, you will have exhausted everything. You cannot add anything to the dance or folk song.

We have done everything and, now, the onus is on you, the Government – not the finance minister; you have already given the answers – to see how we incriminate these thieves and get a lasting solution.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for according me this opportunity.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I would like to make a clarification, for purposes of the record, that the minister for education has never summoned the Committee on Education and Sports. She wrote, requesting to meet – (*Member rose*) - honourable member, please. I do not want us to put politics in this. If you

interpret it as being summoned - she requested and I want the *Hansard* to capture it that way. I do not want us to have a misleading record.

Now, honourable minister – I have two ministers who I want to give responses – accountability issues are not your issues. That is why you are required to give a Treasury Memorandum. Accountability is for accounting officers. They will appear before the committee and answer. Your role is to implement the recommendations, not to defend them here. I do not expect you to be responding to accountability issues, but you can comment on issues of northern Uganda. The minister for finance can also comment, generally.

Minister for Education, you have three minutes.

7.29

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to start with the good news. Yesterday, I presented about the capitation grant. The good news that I bring on this Floor is that as we were discussing yesterday, all the District Education Officers (DEOs) were compiling the list of the districts that have sent money to schools. By yesterday, more than 50 of the districts had sent money to the schools.

So, rest assured that money has gone to most districts. By the end of this week, most districts will have sent the money.

Mr Speaker, allow me to thank you very much for the passion you have for education. Thank you for guiding and making fundamental contributions to improve the sector – on issues of loans, scholarships and the new courses.

Some of the issues that have been raised need policy directions and policy reforms. For example, the issue concerning student loan schemes relates to policy.

The issue of universities and other tertiary institutions policy – this policy is under review. Some of the issues discussed here will be captured in the review of that policy.

Number three, we have the Education Review Commission that is looking at education in totality to see which direction we all wish to take. I believe that some of the issues discussed here will be captured by the Education Review Commission. Probably, on an appropriate day, we will all love to listen to the direction that we will take.

Some of the issues are also about the curriculum review, which will definitely reach this Floor.

Mr Speaker, some of the issues discussed here are related to funds for effective implementation. For example, before this Floor passed the homosexuality Bill into law -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Anti-Homosexuality Bill?

**DR MORIKU:** The Anti-Homosexuality Bill - thank you for that correction. The ministry responsible for education has gone far with the Global Partnership for Education Grant and law under the World Bank. This was a grant to support primary education, in terms of infrastructure and many other innovations.

You recall that once that law came in place, the World Bank, much as it was a grant – it was a loan which was considerate – every progress was closed. However, as leaders, we believe that when God closes one door, he will always open another.

We also have issues of funds with the African Development Bank (ADB) loan. For example, the Muni University administrative block and Muni University Multipurpose Health Science Lab Block were under ADB. However, when the project came to an end, we could not proceed with further loans. That is how the infrastructure in many universities came to a standstill.

Nevertheless, we are using the Government of Uganda funds to see how far we can take that construction to completion. For some of the things that needed funding, like coding, so far, we have 46 secondary schools and 38 primary schools for coding. Since the funds

were provided, that is what we could code. We are hopeful that come the subsequent financial year, we shall get more money for more coding of school.

Mr Speaker, some of the issues are administrative and can be handled with my ministry.

Permit me to give a few highlights on -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One minute.

**DR MORIKU:** On seed secondary schools, a lot has been said. What I can say is that among the 232 seed schools that we are constructing in the country under the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfer Project (UgIFT) and 116 under the Uganda Secondary Education Expansion Programme (USEEP), we also have nine secondary schools that we are expanding. A case in point is Mvara and Metu. I think Sir Samuel Becker is one of them, but I need to cross-check. There are many others across.

Therefore, not everything is lost. We still have funds to expand the old schools. The rationale for having the policy of one secondary school per subcounty is to bring the schools closer to the learners so that they can go as day scholars. It is the same with primary schools – to have, in a parish, a primary school. A child can run home, come - run home, come.

That was the rationale and it is - *(Member timed out.)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable minister.

**DR MORIKU:** I may not answer all that has been raised because many people raised queries and I am alone but at a subsequent time, we will respond to some of these issues.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If you could act on the recommendations of the committee, you would have done a great job. That is what they - Not more explanations, but more action.

**DR MORIKU:** Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Minister of Local Government first, then I go to the finance ministry.

7.36

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Ms Victoria Businge):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Our work is intertwined because the local government is the engine of implementation of Government programs and I would like to commit to you that we are trying our best. For example, there is a fund called the District Development Equalisation Grant (DDEG). We are emphasising that let this grant be used for at least making titles because all our schools and religious institutions are losing land to grabbers. I promise to put some of these things in writing so that you can be able to strictly monitor when you go for your outreach work.

Then I heard a lot of lamentations about the creation of new administrative units. It is the cause of why our parishes are not coded. The explanation for this is; to develop hope that they will be coded. The reason they are not coded is that they were put in place by the Electoral Commission to ease the election distances but the law says that we have to code them after the general election and the management is coded in the system and then we pass on to Hon. Musasizi for financing.

Now that the elections are coming, we are going to code them, they will elect and then to Hon. Musasizi for funding. That is the reason.

On incomplete projects. We have mounted a lot of war. In fact, some of our Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) are in prison as we talk. We join hands - and it is not only schools but also administrative units.

Personally, I have declared not to begin reporting anything to the Inspectorate of Government (IGG). The law empowers us - even you, if you find anything incomplete, call the police because these cases will meander and take years without getting finished.

Then on the wage bill, I would like to assure you that as local government ministry, we are not redundant. We have moved to even nullify illegal recruitment and we are not waiting for public service because we are the supervisors of these workers.

But I would like to clear one thing - and I am not defending the Ministry of Education and Sports but there is someone who raised a point that people who volunteer get peanuts, they are not picked.

I would like to give you an example of schools in my district, even in the neighbouring - simply inform the Ministry of Education and Sports and they will come. But those who will not measure up, who will not have qualifications will not be given opportunities. They have interviewed people in St. Joseph's Secondary School Karangura and five were dropped. They interviewed people in Kasenda Seed School but five were dropped. So, invite them, they will take - but only according to the policy. I beg to submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable minister, on the issue of DDEG, the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development is moving around giving titles. Free titles to residents, individuals, or what. Now, the little money you have for these schools and districts to help them run activities is what you are saying should be used to process titles. Why don't you work with the Ministry of Lands to give these titles? That is for you to take note of but I was - Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

7.40

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hon. Kivumbi, the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (Central Government) for the good report, and the committee which, of course, he works with.

I would also like to thank Hon. Kubeketerya, the Chairperson of the Committee on Education and Sports, for bringing out the key issues affecting the sector. Mr Speaker, I am so passionate about the Public Accounts Committee, where I served for seven years and a half as a member and I am so passionate about the Office of the Auditor-General, where I chaired the sub-committee which supervised that office for five years.

I remember way back when I was in PAC with Hon. Kasiano as Chairperson, we experienced the same situation, that Hon. Kivumbi is facing. The Auditor-General is also a human being and is prone to some gaps here and there. But being a staff and officer of Parliament, when these situations occurred, there was a way we used it to deal with them.

I would like to invite my friend, Hon. Kivumbi not to kill our officer. When we see gaps, let us have an engagement in your office before the meeting. That is how we would deal with them. Sometimes we would ask him to go back and review some files. He gets us good conclusions which would help us move forward. Please don't kill our own. I really appeal to you to support the Auditor-General's office to improve.

My point two, Hon. Kivumbi, has agreed with me on budget management, especially on the use of the non-wage budget. I really appreciate him for that. We know we have not funded these entities to the extent they would wish, but also following them; looking at them to ensure that what we give is properly utilised, is fundamental and Hon. Kivumbi does not miss any word or action on this. I would like to really appreciate him.

Mr Speaker, ever since I was taken away from the backbench, I no longer have an opportunity to speak as I used to. But I would like to thank Hon. Okupa who today, has represented a case which is in my constituency.

I have a very poor woman who struggled to educate her child in one of our rural schools in Rubanda. And this child did Physics,

Economics, and Mathematics (PEM) and scored 17 points. He was not admitted on a normal Government sponsorship. So, he applied for a loan scheme at Mbarara University of Science and Technology. Unfortunately, this boy was not taken.

Imagine 17 points from Rubaare Secondary School in the village. PEM – Sciences - you are admitted for Science but you are not taken. Here we are, the woman starts crying and as a Member of Parliament, I have to look for something small and yet we have the scheme, when we passed the Act that established the loan scheme. I used to sit somewhere there and we vehemently supported this idea. But here we are and you hear what is happening. I thank you, Hon. Okupa, for bringing up some of these things.

Lastly, commitment from the finance ministry, pursuant to the Public Finance Management Act, we shall definitely do the - you call it what? Treasury Memorandum. A statement of action which we required our accounting officers to undertake in implementation of the Auditor-General's recommendations.

The last one, Hon. Dr Keefa Kiwanuka said that last time, we passed omnibus - Mr Speaker, unless the rules have changed, the audit report submitted by the Auditor-General is supposed to spend six months in this Parliament. The moment six months pass, it is deemed to have been considered by this House, and all his recommendations and observations are carried.

I want to believe that is why you as the presiding officer had to work around the clock to beat this deadline.

Mr Speaker, thank you so much for the opportunity. I have also had a chance to share my experience and express my feelings about some of these things. Thank you so much. I submit.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable minister. I now put the question that the Report of the Committee on the State of Public Universities, Tertiary Institutions, Seed Secondary Schools and Public Sports Facilities in Northern Uganda be adopted.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Report adopted.*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, since we are going into budgeting and all that, let us give you six months to bring an action-taken report on the same. You need time for most of these recommendations.

I now put the question that the report of The Public Accounts Committee – Central Government on the Report of the Auditor-General’s Report on Public Universities and Tertiary Institutions for the Year Ended June 2023 be adopted.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Report adopted.*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable minister, you are required indeed to bring a Treasury Memorandum, as provided for under the PFMA and our Rules of Procedure.

Now, Hon. Kivumbi, on page twenty-five you were saying we think of granting you time to investigate land matters but I think you have a lot as a committee.

You have so many entities to process, so, let us assign it to the Committee on Education, which should report back. Hon. Kubeketerya, I do not know how much time you think you need. I want you to do it before going into the budgeting process. So, one month should be enough. You give recommendations so we come here and ensure we handle the issues.

Honourable colleagues, next week we have these accountability committees. I want us, indeed to avoid the situation of what Hon. Keefa said. I would like us to debate them the way we have done. So, you will have to bear with me that sometimes I will be taking you for long.

Since you have said it is okay, I am going to handle item seven but we will only receive a summary of the report. Then you have time to

go and read it. On Tuesday we start to debate on it. Just receiving so that you have time to read because when you receive a report and that same day you and you debate it, sometimes you do not internalise it.

However, I also ask the Clerk to please upload all accountability committee reports, which are ready on the system so that Members can read them early. When you are here reading, Members have already gone through, and we continue with the debate. So, Clerk, we do not have much time. Chief Whip, you had an issue? Did you have an issue? Later, okay - no, please.

**MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE  
REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
COMMITTEE – CENTRAL GOVERNMENT  
ON THE AUDITOR-GENERAL’S REPORT  
ON REFERRAL HOSPITALS AND  
SPECIALISED HEALTH INSTITUTIONS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 2023**

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable chairperson -

7.50

**THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE  
ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (CENTRAL  
GOVERNMENT) (Mr Muwanga Kivumbi):**

Mr Speaker, thank you for this opportunity and thank Members for their contributions to the earlier report. I am here to present the report on the Public Accounts Committee - PAC Central - on the Auditor-General’s report on Referral Hospitals and Specialised Health Institutions for the year ended June 2023.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, let me interrupt you. I request Hon. Nakut and Hon. Gilbert Olanya to write for me all the Members who are here so that on Tuesday when we start the debate, I give them priority because they were here. Continue, honourable.

**MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI:** Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report. I also beg to lay the minutes of the meeting. I will try to summarise this report in the interest of time. I am giving a summary of the health report. I will be quite very fast. I will leave the preliminary issues as we recall these are routine things.



Mr Speaker, I will go to the performance of NTR in regional referral hospitals. The Government expected regional referral hospitals and other specialised institutions to collect a total of Shs 34.556 billion, as NTR, from the 22 referral hospitals as per the table below. However, there are 22 referral hospitals.

We were expected to collect Shs 34.556 billion. However, only Shs 28.094 billion, which is 82 per cent, was collected, leaving a variance of Shs 5.962 billion. Out of the NTR collection of Shs 28.094 billion, Shs 26.972 billion was transferred to the Treasury, leaving a balance of Shs 1.122 billion not transferred to the Treasury.

These funds are expected to be collected to support the Government of Uganda's budget thus the collected amount are supposed to be transferred to the Consolidated Fund for appropriation by Parliament as prescribed under Section 30 of the Public Finance Management Act.

So, they are entities that collected money and never transferred it to the Consolidated Fund to the tune of Shs 1.122 billion. I will not conclude in the report, but that is illegal. Absolutely illegal to collect money and you fail to transfer.

On the table I have put down, Masaka Hospital had budgeted to collect Shs 472 million. It collected Shs 698 million, a variance that is the difference of Shs 226 million over and above what was budgeted. It transferred Shs 389 to the Treasury and remained with Shs 309 million, which was not transferred, contrary to the law.

Entebbe Regional Referral Hospital - this is a bit confusing - had budgeted to collect Shs 1 billion but it collected Shs 681 million, which is a variance of Shs 319 million. It transferred Shs 679 million, which was lower than what it collected.

Mbale Regional Referral Hospital budgeted to collect Shs 35 million. It collected it all and transferred it all.

Naguru budgeted to collect Shs 36 million. It collected Shs 233 million and transferred Shs 232 million. Naguru Hospital - (*Interjection*)- is supposed to be Shs 360 million but not billions; it collected Shs 233 million with a variance of Shs 127 million and transferred Shs 232, which was less by only Shs 1 million.

Jinja budgeted to collect Shs 886 million. It collected Shs 424 million with a variance of Shs 462 million and transferred all the money.

Mubende planned to collect Shs 150 million. It collected Shs 151 million and transferred Shs 150 million.

Fort Portal -

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable, that is a good sample; we have gotten the picture.

**MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI:** That is a good sample. So, from that table, you can see the monies as they were collected and transferred.

What is noted is at the very end where Shs 1,122,000,000 was collected and not transferred. It should also be noted that the monies that were not transferred to the Treasury, the accounting officers could not still account for them.

When you read the main report, you will find the responses of the accounting officers. Basically, the Shs 1,122,000,000, for example, in Masaka Hospital, which had five accounts where they were keeping public money, most likely, all that money was embezzled.

The committee noted that seven hospitals over performed. Accounting officers attributed the over performance of Non-Tax Revenue (NTR) to improved services, and low targets set by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development because sometimes it would set them the targets - they set low targets and increased patient numbers to the hospitals.

Mr Speaker, there is something - you will get it in the main report, for those of you who read it; that part of the increase of NTR in public

hospitals is the charge being placed on basic medical services that could ideally be so critical in diagnosing diseases; the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), other equipment and the scanners. They now charge everything to be accessed.

This increase in NTR is basically because basic accessible medical equipment in all hospitals, today, is charged and that is a key point. It is not a positive on that note.

People should not cheer up that NTR is in hospitals where you are charged when you want an x-ray, MRI and whatever equipment; those who cannot afford it, know what happens.

#### NTR transfers to the Treasury

The Auditor-General noted that two entities, including Uganda Blood Transmission Services and Moroto Regional Referral, did not transfer their NTR to the Treasury.

On the other hand, only six entities, including Mbale, Jinja, Gulu, Hoima, Kawempe, Soroti regional hospitals and the Uganda Cancer Institute transferred all their collected NTR to the Treasury.

The committee observed that underperformance in NTR negatively affects the implementation of planned activities.

The committee further noted that accounting officers who did not meet their budgeted NTR targets or budget for NTR at all contravened Instruction 4.10.2 of the Treasury Instructions, 207.

Further, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development failed to provide proper revenue targets to some regional referral hospitals. In other instances, low NTR targets were set ignoring other revenue sources like hospital private wings.

#### Committee recommendation

1. NTR targets should be set in consultation with both the accounting officers and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to enable realistic NTR budgeting;

2. The accounting officers should institute mechanisms to ensure that all billed NTR is fully collected during the period in which it relates;

3. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should always make prompt responses to requests for NTR revision by entities; and

4. The accounting officers should consider all their NTR sources at NTR budgeting to avoid cases of NTR under collection.

#### Performance of Government Warrants

The Auditor-General reported that the Government had allocated a total budget of Shs 558.107 billion to 19 regional referral hospitals and five specialised health institutions, out of which Shs 584.681 billion was warranted, which is 98.31 per cent, implying a shortfall of Shs 9.426 billion, which is only two per cent. The detailed breakdown of this figure per hospital is under Table 2 of the main report.

The committee noted that 16 entities received less than their budget. These include Mulago Specialised Women and Neonatal Hospital, Mulago National Regional Referral Hospital, Uganda Heart Institute, Kiruddu, Butabika, Masaka, Entebbe, Mbale, Naguru, Jinja, Mubende, Kabale, Mbarara, Gulu, Lira and Moroto Regional Referrals.

The committee observed that revenue shortfalls inhibited the effective implementation of the entity's planned activities and thus affecting service delivery. Revenue shortfalls further place spending pressures on entities, which promotes diversion and mischarge of funds.

The committee recommends that the Government should always fully release funds as approved and in a timely manner to all referral hospitals.

#### Utilisation of warrants

Many accounting officers attributed their underutilisation of resources - where we put ACT - you go to the main report - to late releases of resources from the ministry for

finance, the existing ban on recruitment, delayed recruitment by the Health Service Commission, excess releases by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, for example, at Mbale Referral Hospital, and delayed supply of goods and services, among others.

The committee observed that under-absorption of funds does not only distort planning and budget implementation but also denies services to other deserving beneficiaries.

The committee recommends that pursuant to Section 45 of the PFMA 2015, accounting officers should adhere to the annual budget performance contract signed with the PS/ST. This is a standard one that we have recommended there.

#### Implementation of outputs

Mr Speaker, during the financial year under review, the Auditor-General assessed the level of implementation of outputs across regional referral hospitals and other specialised institutions and noted that many accounting officers either partially implemented activities or did not implement at all, despite having received the required funds for the entities and even spending them.

Details of this, per the entity, can be found in Table 5 on the main report. Honourable colleagues, get interested in Table 5 because it is the source of abuse of public funds. This is where an entity is given money – a full amount of money – it utilises it for specific activities and outputs, but they are not implemented. Instead, they divert the money.

The committee noted that the non-implementation of planned activities implies that expected services to the beneficiary communities were not attained. It also points to cases of diversion and misallocation of funds by the accounting officer since they received the monies and spent them.

In the earlier submission by members here, people tried to justify that this diversion could be for beneficial use. It is illegal. If you are to

divert money – if you are to do a virement – the PFMA tells you how you can. Anything outside the law is illegal. The audit report we do is a financial audit. We do not do a value-for-money audit.

The committee further observed that although the Auditor-General mentioned the sampled number of outputs, which were with their respective activities, the corresponding funds allocated for their implementation were not indicated by the auditors, making it difficult for the committee to determine the level of diversion and waste.

Relatedly, some outputs and activities that were partially implemented could not be quantified due to the generic nature of reporting. For instance, Mbarara Referral Hospital had 15 outputs out of 29 activities partially implemented, but no value was attached to the partial implementation.

Therefore, the committee found difficulty in ascertaining the funds unutilised in relation to each entity.

The committee recommends as follows:

1. Accounting officers with partially implemented or unimplemented outputs should be held responsible for the action, inaction or omission that occasioned the anomaly; and
2. The committee further recommends that accounting officers should always itemise and cost activities for easy tracking and accountability.

Mr Speaker, when you go to the main report, you will notice that we have established the amounts of money that were diverted. The sums are there for each hospital – how much was diverted, mischarged and possibly embezzled.

#### Delayed delivery of drugs

The Auditor-General examined the stores' records at Fort Portal, Mubende and Mbale regional referral hospitals and reported delays in the delivery of medicines and sundries by the National Medical Store. Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital, particularly, had

delays of between 19 and 61 days. Mubende Hospital had delays of over six months. Arua Hospital had delays of nine to 46 days. Mbale Hospital, 15 to 69 days of delay. This is nearly committing people to death – when you do this.

When you read the detailed report, you notice that it is a little emotional, as you go around it. The accounting officers explained that the issues had been raised before the Parliamentary Committee on Health and they had hoped for redress. However, this persisted, which is affecting service delivery.

The committee observed that National Medical Stores failed at its duty to make prompt deliveries, which led to drug stock-outs and disruptions in treatment schedules. You can imagine people with HIV, who have specific schedules to receive these medicines. When you delay, you worsen their situation.

Further, long lead time affected the effective delivery of health care services as it creates shortages.

Therefore, the committee recommends that National Medical Store be reprimanded for the delayed delivery of drugs to hospitals. Three months is a lot of time.

#### Utilisation and maintenance of medical equipment

##### Idle medical equipment

Paragraph 5.2.2 of the National Medical Equipment Policy, 2009, on the operation of medical equipment, states that all health workers are responsible for ensuring that equipment is used well and maintained properly

However, the auditor noted that some medical equipment in some hospitals had remained unutilised, yet they were in proper working conditions.

The delays of this equipment and where they are located are found in Table 6 of the main report. I invite you, honourable colleagues, to go to Table 6. You will see which equipment in our hospitals are equipped. They are there but non-functional.

The committee observed that hospitals lacked specialised personnel to operate some of the machines, thereby rendering them idle. For instance, Fort Portal had no orthopaedic surgeon or a trained surgeon to operate the C-arm and endoscopy machines respectively, while Mulago National Women's Specialised Hospital had no renal physician and renal nurses to operate the dialysis machine even after its installation.

This was coupled with poor planning for hospitals to acquire machines without personnel to operate them. Idle machines deny the community proper health service delivery and expose the machinery to wear and tear over time.

The committee noted that the hospitals' budget for the maintenance of medicinal equipment is inadequate to address all the challenges as they fall due. There was laxity by accounting officers to address their concerns at least through seeking supplementary funding, as provided for.

The committee further observed that the Ministry of Health failed in its duty to supply and install oxygen plants and Intensive Care Units, thereby rendering the equipment non-functional. Redundancy of equipment denies services to patients and contributes to the obsolescence of the equipment.

The committee recommends that the Government should provide adequate funds for installation and maintenance. Honourable colleagues, it is painful that all the machines and ICU beds that were procured for all the referral hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic are non-functional and many of them are lying idle. You will read the full report.

For Mulago National Referral Hospital, has a capacity of 28 beds are functional, but those that are installed cannot be hung because of the ceiling are 48. Honourable colleagues, I invite you to read the full report. You have spent so much money to procure this equipment but they are rotting away.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable member. I think with that, let us go and read the full report.

**MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI:** Mr Speaker, I beg to report. *(Applause)*

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Chairperson. Well done. Honourable colleagues, please let us go and read the report, so that we debate on it. Government Chief Whip, you had said there is something you wanted to comment on and we conclude.

8.17

**THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua):** Mr Speaker, mine is to thank you for the stewardship, but more importantly, commend my big brother, Hon. Ssewungu, for providing leadership as acting Leader of the Opposition.

I wish to undertake and I commit - because from the way you provided leadership, you are a very serious Member of this House. *(Laughter)* I, therefore, undertake to inform your other friend that you are a very serious Member of this House. Thank you very much.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you so much. Honourable colleagues, thank you so much for your patience and for giving us this time; we have pushed. You know, our strategy is to push as much as we can, and then we also save some time because campaign time has already started. We always save one or two weeks off for you to be able to touch base with your voters. House adjourned to Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.

*(The House rose at 8.18 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 24 September 2024 at 2.00 p.m.)*